



The Village of Friendliness – Since 1870

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of March 27, 2023.

MDOT Bridge Work – I'm fielding some questions about the scheduled MDOT work and the proposed detour route. MDOT rescheduled the meeting to speak about the detour. Because this is a serious concern for the business owners, once I find out more information, I will issue a **public notice** once we have the detour plan available. My goal is to supplement MDOT's communication and get it issued direct to the community. More to come on this topic.

Police Training – The Douglas Police Department recently participated in active violence training. The training is mandated by the state for all law enforcement agencies. In addition, the Douglas PD is participating in CPR and AED training with the Saugatuck Fire District.

Channel Condition Survey – Area municipal managers have received word that the Army Corps of Engineers is planning to do condition surveys in Holland and Saugatuck as early as next week – weather and workload permitting. The information gathered in the condition survey will be the first step in developing a dredge plan for the channel.

Annual Lead Service Line Replacement Report – The City submitted its annual lead service line replacement report to the state this week. The report tracks the City's requirement to replace five percent of the City's known lead service lines per year. The City reported seven service line replacements in 2022 which is less than the five percent requirement. In 2023, the City has several replacements already scheduled. We are working on our Drinking Water Asset Management grant to quantify the total number of lead service lines to replace. We estimate there are approximately 900 known or unknown water service lines in the City. Mathematically, we have to replace up to 45 service lines per year to keep on track with the mandate.

Wayfinding – New wayfinding signage for the downtown and Blue Star corridor are being developed to unify directional signage and declutter the signage in the right of way. The signage will have the new color scheme from the City's logo and better direct visitors to key points of interest throughout the City.

Buoys – The navigation buoys are being prepared for installation. The City had to replace several buoys and DPW are getting those buoys prepped for installation. Buoys typically are installed around Mother's Day and are removed by Halloween.

Sidewalk at Douglas Beach – New sidewalk connecting the bathrooms to the beach steps was installed this week. It also looks like the beach has grown significantly from several years ago.

Planning and Zoning Position – Interviews were held this week for another candidate for the Planning and Zoning position. The most recent candidate holds the designation of American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). The AICP is a nationwide independent verification of planners' qualifications and holds designees to a pledge to uphold high standards of practice, ethics, and professional conduct. AICP planners are required to continue to pursue advanced professional education to hold their designation.

Councilmember Freeman – This week I gave Councilmember Freeman a tour of Douglas. The tours are given to all new Council Members and it gives me the opportunity to provide insight into City Council topics and information about City issues so that the Council Member is up to speed on topics. The tours cover a variety of topics such as utilities, parks, facilities, streets, waterfront, and new projects.

That is all I have for now. Have a good weekend.

Rich LaBombard
City Manager