



*The Village of Friendliness – Since 1870*

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of April 3, 2023.

**Flooding and Erosion** – This week I toured several locations throughout the City that were impacted by this week's successive rainstorms causing flooding and erosion. A resident stopped and expressed their concern about an area I was not aware of on Ellis Street. There are also locations on Wall Street, Water Street, Union Street, and Garandana that we have been monitoring. Staff will work with engineering to identify locations and propose solutions in the coming years. Solutions may include installing an underground storm drain to move storm water to the river or installing curb and gutter to direct storm water to a nearby catch basin.

**Ad Hoc Parks and Recreation Committee** – The City is seeking 5-7 resident volunteers to represent the City of Douglas in the development of the next five-year parks and recreation plan. The appointment will require a one-year commitment and attendance at joint meetings with the City of Saugatuck, Saugatuck Township, and Saugatuck School District. If interested in applying, please see the City Clerk to fill out an application. Selected applicants will be appointed by City Council. The meeting schedule is still to be determined.

**Compliments** – I want to thank the community members who stopped by City Hall and provided compliments to our DPW crew. Twice this week, residents stopped into City Hall to provide positive feedback about the DPW staff. A resident even brought cookies for the crew which were much appreciated. Compliments aren't just limited to the DPW crew, many of our staff receive positive feedback throughout the year, but this week the positive reviews were directed toward DPW. Great job crew!

**Trail Extension** – As the Blue Star Highway trail extension project is gaining traction, we have been reviewing engineering and interlocal agreements needed to continue the trail from Douglas, through Saugatuck, and connecting to the existing trail in Saugatuck Township. The project is anticipated to start in 2024, but the work to get to a designed project and secure funding has already begun. Saugatuck and Saugatuck Township have been leading the project. Only a small portion will involve Douglas and will continue the trail from Blue Star Highway at Main Street and cross the Blue Star Bridge.

**Blue Star Bridge Navigation Lighting** – The project to install navigation lighting on the Blue Star Bridge hit a snag this week when the engineer informed the three community managers that only one bid was secured for installing the lighting. We will continue to work with the engineer to seek additional quotes so that the project may proceed. All three communities have contributed to a fund to install the navigation lighting. The Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority identified bridge navigation lighting as a goal for the authority.

**Planning and Zoning Offer** – As reported last week, interviews were held last week for the Planning and Zoning Administrator position. We made an offer to a Michigan native living out of state. The candidate accepted the offer and has planned a tentative start date in early May. I will formally introduce the candidate at a City Council meeting in May.

**City Council Meeting** – The City Council held its regular meeting following a budget planning workshop #3 on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and approved the following items:

- First reading of the updated Ethics Ordinance
- Social District Permit for Wild Dog Grille LLC
- Town Crier Race Special Event – June 17<sup>th</sup>
- Storm drain / sidewalk project at 333 Blue Star Highway awarded to Compton Inc. of South Haven
- Invasive aquatic weed treatment for harbor awarded to Aquatic Doctors
- Created an ad hoc committee for Parks and Recreation

**Public Art** – Thursday, I met with Maryjo Lemanski and the CVB to discuss the progress on cleaning City-owned public art. As a public asset, public art requires routine cleaning and maintenance to keep it in good presentable condition. In addition to scheduling cleaning, which will be coordinated by the CVB, I received an update on the plan to install QR codes on each piece to provide information about the sculpture and the artist. Name plaques and solar lighting are proposed for each location. The City of Douglas owns six outdoor sculptures. The “Pyramid” which was recently donated to the City, will be installed this spring.

**Address Assistance** – The City Clerk is requesting residents provide their Post Office Box number as well as their physical mailing address for election related documents. At the last redistricting, many addresses in the community were reassigned to another community causing a great deal of reworking of addresses to get residents assigned back to Douglas. The Clerk’s office has many of the mailing addresses sorted out, but there may still be outliers that need correcting. You may provide your P.O. Box and physical mailing address to [clerk@douglasmi.gov](mailto:clerk@douglasmi.gov) or [info@douglasmi.gov](mailto:info@douglasmi.gov)

**Distinctly Douglas** – We are looking for high resolution photos for the City’s website that are “*Distinctly Douglas*”. Artistic high-resolution photos of events, people, parks, parades, blooming flowers, sunsets, sunrises, wildlife (oh deer!), walks along the beach, boats, pets, sculptures, smiling faces, wonderful places, etc. that communicate the distinct feeling of the Douglas community would be appreciated. By submitting photos, you must agree to allow the City to place selected photos on the website. We only ask that the photos be taken within the City of Douglas. Photos can be sent to [info@douglasmi.gov](mailto:info@douglasmi.gov) with the subject line “photo submission”.

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

Rich LaBombard  
City Manager