



The Village of Friendliness – Since 1870

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of April 10, 2023.

MDOT Bridge Work – I learned this week that MDOT has delayed the start of the bridge work on Blue Star Highway at exits 41 and 36. The new start date proposed is May 30th to allow more time for utility relocation work. The regional stakeholders will participate in a meeting with MDOT on May 10th to talk more about the detour route and bridge closures. I understand that the interstate on-ramps from Blue Star Highway onto I-196 will remain open at exit 36, but the off ramps from I-196 to Blue Star Highway will be closed until fall. More information will be shared after the MDOT meeting.

DPW Supervisor Position – With the promotion of Ricky Zoet to the Director of Public Works position, a vacancy was created in the supervisor role. The job description and salary study have been completed and the vacancy is posted in the Commercial Record. I anticipate the first review of applications will be in early May with the first interviews scheduled before the middle of the month. The job announcement is also posted on the City's website.

Centre Collective Site Plan Review – Residential Site Condos – Stakeholders met this week to review the submittal for Center Collective's residential site condos. The developer is proposing to develop 19 condos in the residentially zoned property adjacent to St. Peters Drive. The site plan review committee is comprised of representatives from the City, KLSWA, Fire, and other local utility providers. The information provided to the developer in this meeting helps to streamline the review process in advance of the plans going before the Planning Commission.

Westshore Site Plan Review – Residential Site Condos – Stakeholders met this week to review the submittal for Westshore's fifth addition of residential site condos by amending the Planned Unit Development. The developer has proposed to develop 22 condos with an entrance off McVea Street.

Easter Parade – In the Monday morning staff meeting, it was reported that there was an excellent turnout for the Easter Parade and egg hunt over the weekend. Warm temperatures and sunny skies brought an estimated 200 participants to the event.

Boat Launch – This is a reminder to the boating community that annually on April 15, daily launch fees are required for users of the City's two launch sites. Annual passes are available at City Hall for those who use the launches more frequently.

Road Edges – DPW will be working this week to restore road edges impacted by erosion following the successive rain events a few weeks ago. Maintaining the road edges is necessary to ensure the longevity of the road. Pavement edges that aren't supported by gravel backing will crumble more readily and cause the pavement to fail sooner.

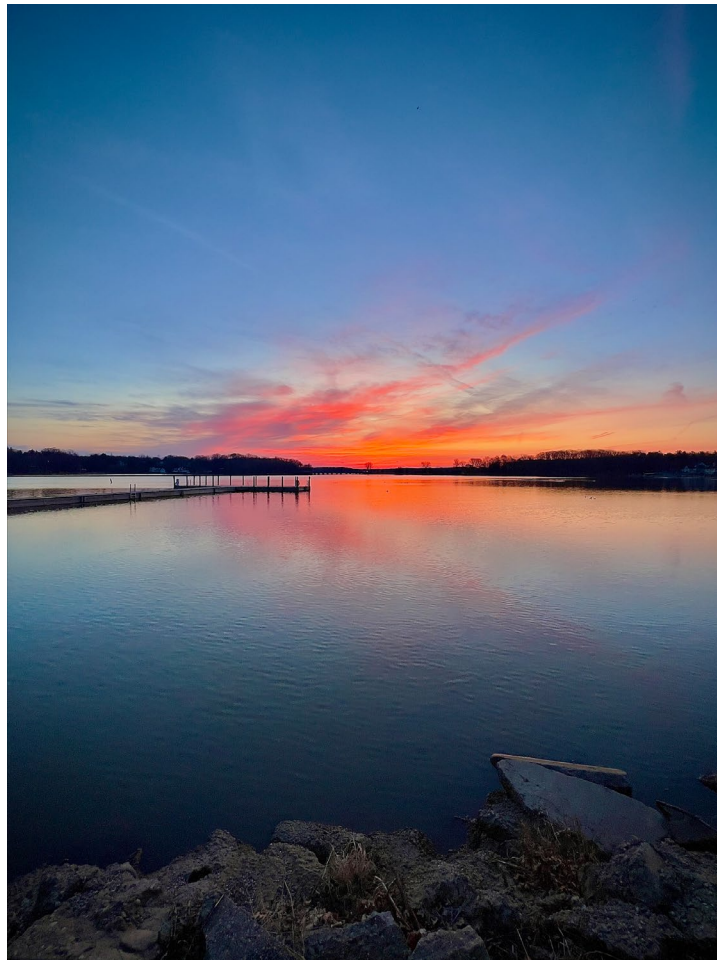
Westshore Path – Work is beginning on the path in the Westshore development that will link up the Ferry / Center Street intersection to Lakeshore Drive. The path is being constructed as part of the Planned Unit Development.

Public Art – Staff worked with Maryjo Lemanski to finalize the site of the newly acquired sculpture called “pyramid” for the City of Douglas. The work will be installed near the police department. The City agreed to pour the concrete pad that the pedestal will be mounted on.

Road Resurfacing Projects – The City held a preconstruction meeting this week with the contractor hired for road resurfacing projects. The five-year road plan has identified portions of Randolph Street, South Street, and Wiley Road to be resurfaced this June. The contractor is aware of any event and detours that they will have to work around.

Wayfinding – Work continues on developing wayfinding signage for the downtown and Blue Star Highway. A conceptual plan is prepared and ready to be presented to the Downtown Development Authority.

Distinctly Douglas – Thank you to everyone who provided photographs last week. City Hall is asking 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, boating, pets, sculptures, smiling faces, wonderful places, etc. are requested. The photographs should convey the distinct feeling of the Douglas community. By submitting photos, you 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 with the subject line “photo submission”.



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

Rich LaBombard
City Manager