



The Village of Friendliness – Since 1870

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of May 8, 2023.

MDOT Bridge Work – I learned this week that MDOT realigned the schedule for bridge work, and they will be starting work at exit 41 in June and expect to wrap up that project by the end of August. Exit 36 work will start after exit 41 is completed and they anticipate work there to continue until mid-November. The City has some upcoming road projects that have been moved up in schedule to not create conflict with detoured traffic.

The detour route for **exit 41** (proposed for June 1 to August 22) is:



The detour route for **exit 36** (proposed for August 23 to November 17) is:



Celebrate Public Service Employees – Please join me in thanking all of our public servants for their dedicated work and commitment to providing services to the residents of Douglas. Public Service Recognition week is celebrated in the first week of May since 1985 to honor the people who serve our Nation as Federal, State, County, local and Tribal Government employees. We have a wonderful team here in the City of Douglas. Thank you for your service.

Blue Star Drain and Sidewalk Project – Work is well underway for the drain and sidewalk project near the Dunes resort. The best news we received is that the water main located below the work will not have to be lowered to avoid a conflict with the new drainage structure. We anticipate that will shave a week off the project.

Planning and Zoning Administrator – The City staff welcomed Mr. Joe Blair as the new Planning and Zoning Administrator on Monday. Joe started his first day with introductions and a tour of the City. During his first week, Joe rotated between departments to learn about roles and responsibilities. He spent time with the City Manager, interim Planning and Zoning Administrator and the Chair of the Planning Commission. Thursday, he attended his first meeting of the Planning Commission.

DPW Supervisor – Congratulations to Greg Salinas on his promotion to DPW Supervisor to fill the role vacated by Ricky Zoet when he was promoted to Director of Public Works. Greg has been an employee of Douglas Department of Public Works for almost five years. Three internal candidates applied for the position. The City received no applications from the public.

Budget – The budget preparation is in the final stages and will be presented to City Council in the next budget workshop. The City is required to adopt the budget by June 30th of each year after a formal budget hearing.

Fire Board – The Saugatuck District Fire Board will be holding a joint meeting with all three municipalities on Monday, May 15th at 5:00 at the Fire Hall. This is a public meeting to discuss the Fire budget.

Renaming Point Pleasant – Douglas Marina is the intended new name for Point Pleasant Marina after a City Council discussion on May 1. The renaming was to reinforce that the marina is a public marina owned by the City of Douglas. City Council plans to take official action through resolution for the renaming at the next City Council meeting on May 15th.

Branding – I spent some time this week reviewing the notes about the new Douglas logo in preparation for a newspaper article describing the development process of rebranding the City.

Insurance Review – The City had a routine insurance inspection this week. The City received kudos for keeping our insurance claims low. Per the inspector, we are one of the lowest in claims in his entire territory. This is one of those cases where a low score matters.

Beach Cleanup – Jars Cannabis Company gathered a group of volunteers and cleaned up debris along Douglas Beach and Oval Beach the week of May 8th. The Jars community engagement coordinator reported they collected, “7 full bags of trash, 3 tires, a broken surfboard, 2 broken chairs and a ton of evasive mustard garlic!” Thank you, volunteers!



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

Rich LaBombard
City Manager