



City of the Village of Douglas Administration Review Week of April 8th-12th, 2024

A Message from Saugatuck Township: Construction Begins on Blue Star Hwy Roundabout Wednesday, April 10th

On Wednesday, April 10th, the Allegan County Road Commission will begin construction on a new roundabout at the intersection of Blue Star Highway and Old Allegan Road. The intersection will be closed during the construction period with plans to reopen to local traffic on July 22nd. Covering a span of 0.33 miles, the single-lane roundabout is designed to optimize traffic movement efficiently and improve safety at the intersection. The approximately \$1.5 million project is funded through an MDOT safety grant, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant and local match funds from the Allegan County Road Commission and Saugatuck Township.

During construction, a detour for Blue Star Highway will be established via Route I-196.

Designed by LRE Engineers, the roundabout includes four road islands, two of which are extended, and a 45 ft diameter center circle. With 23 ft of the center circle consisting of a mountable apron, the roundabout is designed to accommodate the types and volume of vehicles that currently frequent the road, including large trucks and emergency vehicles.

A traffic study completed in 2021 indicated a need for the inclusion of additional safety measures at this intersection given high seasonal traffic and the potential for increased pedestrian activity given plans to construct a non-motorized path along Blue Star Hwy.

A roundabout was specifically recommended, as roundabouts are recognized as a Proven Safety Countermeasure by the Federal Highway Administration for reducing speeds and conflicts, minimizing severe crashes, and offering more crossing points for non-motorized traffic.

In addition to the roundabout construction, the project includes the installation of an approximately 500 ft section of non-motorized trail on the west side of Blue Star Highway, as well as a pedestrian crossing south of the intersection. A concrete landing pad will be installed on the east side of Blue Star Highway in preparation for a future path connecting pedestrians to the Township's River Bluff Park.

Concurrently, Saugatuck Township has partnered with Viridis Design Group of Grand Rapids on a landscape design for the site. "Our goal was to integrate sustainable solutions into traditional infrastructure practices, seamlessly blending pedestrian and vehicular safety and circulation with the local ecology and artistic community" said Viridis landscape designer, Lindsey

Gadbois. Design features include low-maintenance, drought resistant plantings such as dune grass, with hardscaping in the center of the road island.

"The location of the roundabout, with its proximity to Downtown Saugatuck and a growing Blue Star business corridor, presents an opportunity to create a welcoming gateway into the Saugatuck Township community," said Daniel DeFranco, Saugatuck Township Manager. This is the first time that the Allegan County Road Commission has partnered with a municipality on a landscape design for a road improvement project.

For inquiries or further information, interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the Allegan County Road Commission or Saugatuck Township.

What is the New Sign at 200 Blue Star Highway? On February 20th, 2024, the Douglas City Council and the Douglas Brownfield Authority met together with Williams & Works, to discuss the results of the 200 Blue Star Highway public survey and public input session. Three conceptual designs were presented to the group and have been forwarded to the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a requirement for our clean-up grant. Residents who attended the meeting asked if the City could place a sign at the site indicating any progress that has been made. The sign was placed this week and states, "We're Moving Forward," and shows a depiction of the conceptual design that received the most support, with an explanation of where we are with the USEPA grant process. This project is going to take time, but we are indeed moving forward and will continue to make significant progress on the site. We appreciate everyone's patience.

The Douglas Brownfield Authority will meet in May to discuss the status of the project and USEPA grant with PM Environmental who is working with the City on the grant compliance.

415 Wiley Road: The City reissued requests to rehab the building at 415 Wiley Road with the goal of moving City Hall and the Douglas Police Department to the site. Seven proposals were received, and the City Council will be discussing them at a scheduled workshop meeting on Wednesday, April 17th at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. No final decisions have been made.

Earth Day Events:

1. Saturday, April 20th, 2024: Please join the City and the Downtown Development Authority for a downtown beautification day from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Our primary focus will be prepping the bump outs downtown for new mulch and plantings. The meet up location is Douglas City Hall. Rakes, bags, gloves, gardening tools, and water will be provided to all volunteers.
2. Monday, April 22nd, 2024: The Douglas Department of Public Works will be hosting the Douglas Elementary preschoolers at Schultz Park where they will plant four new trees on the property together. The children will also have a chance to "touch a truck" and learn more about the public works vehicles. This event will start at 9:00 a.m.

2024 Leaf and Brush Pick-Up REMINDER: This is a reminder that leaf, and brush pickup will for 2024 will commence in April. Please remember to follow the guidelines in the flyer that was sent to all public road residences. If piles are not in compliance with the leaf and bush program, they will not be picked up and a door hanger may be placed indicating what was found and correction action necessary, by the Code Enforcement Officer or Department of Public Works.

- Leaves must be unbagged (paper yard waste bags accepted).

- Leaves and brush **must be separated** and placed behind the curb or road edge of the paved portion of the roadway; however, it must be reachable with the leaf truck or grapple claw.
- Leaves and brush can be placed out up to, but not earlier than, three (3) days before scheduled pick-up. Leaves and brush placed out after 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled day will not be picked up.
- Brush must be stacked neatly in the same direction parallel to the road.
- Leave and brush piles must not exceed 8-feet in length, 6-feet in width, and 4-feet in height. If the pile exceeds the required size, please separate them into multiple piles.
- Branches cannot be larger than 6-feet long and 6-inches in diameter.

Pick-up Schedule for the month of April is as follows:

East of Blue Star Highway

April 16th: Leaf and Brush (First pick-up on April 2nd-Complete)

West of Blue Star Highway

April 9th and 23rd: Leaf and Brush (First pick-up on April 9th-Complete)

For future pick-up dates, please refer to the leaf and brush pick-up schedule and guidelines.

Upcoming Meetings, Events, & Notices:

Monday, April 15th, 2024: Budget Workshop #2 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall

Monday, April 15th, 2024: City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall

Tuesday, April 16th, 2024: Douglas Harbor Authority Meeting at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall

Tuesday, April 16th, 2024: Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority Meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Saugatuck Township Hall

Wednesday, April 17th, 2024: City Council Workshop Meeting at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall (Subject: 415 Wiley Road Proposal Responses)

Thursday, April 24th, 2024: Douglas DDA Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall

City of the Village of Douglas City Council:

Cathy North, Mayor

Randy Walker, Mayor Pro-Tem

Neal Seabert, Councilmember

Jerry Donovan, Councilmember

John O'Malley, Councilmember

Greg Freeman, Councilmember

Matthew Balmer, Councilmember

City of the Village of Douglas Contact Information:

Website: <https://douglasmi.gov/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/douglasmi.gov

City Hall: 269-857-1438

Police Department Non-Emergency: 269-857-4339
Saugatuck Township Fire District Non-Emergency: 269-857-3000
Department of Public Works: 269-857-2763
Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority: 269-857-2709
Saugatuck-Douglas District Library: 269-857-8241

For emergencies, please call 911