In our last newsletter, we were reflecting on the beauty of the winter season and looking forward to the warm spring sunshine. No one could imagine what this spring would bring and how each of our lives would change in what seemed like an instant. The COVID-19 virus has caused upheaval in the lives of thousands of Saginaw residents and their families – now and always, our thoughts are with those who are personally affected.

Throughout this time of great uncertainty, the energy, resilience, and commitment of our employees and our citizens is inspiring. City of Saginaw employees moved quickly to adapt, continuing to advance and accomplish the essential services of the City while balancing commitments to family, friends, and themselves.

During this overwhelming and difficult time, our employees have shown up and stayed true to the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of our city. Many community members have gone above and beyond to lend a hand to those in need. For all this, we are forever grateful.

This continues to be an unprecedented time for everyone; each day brings a new set of challenges and uncertainty. This edition of our newsletter focuses on the dedication and commitment of the employees and others who have gone above and beyond for the citizens of Saginaw.

There is no doubt that we as a community and organization will sustain and thrive again soon. Once again, thank you for your dedication and demonstrated support for one another, for our citizens, and the community we serve.
When the coronavirus pandemic closed the doors to City Hall this spring, the City of Saginaw continued to carry on with essential city business and quickly moved to remote, virtual meetings. This allowed our leaders and committee members the ability to carry on with city business via virtual teleconference and remain transparent, allowing citizens the opportunity to participate in the meetings if they desired. Thanks to the efforts of the Technical Services team, the City held all public meetings using Webex technology for its virtual meetings.

"Overall, I think it’s worked very well and everyone’s adjusting accordingly," said City Manager Tim Morales. "Our Technical Services team quickly found the best option for the city and got everyone on board with the software and technology. The virtual meetings allow us to continue city operations and keep our citizens connected."

The first virtual council meeting was held in April. After working with each member to ensure the meeting software was properly downloaded, our Technical Services team performed several tests and developed a list of best practices for participants. This included one-on-one test runs with members to ensure their sound and camera would function properly as well as communicating instructions and virtual meeting protocol to members.

"There is a whole new dynamic involved with virtual meetings," said City Manager Tim Morales. "There were some challenges in the beginning. But all things considered, I am very pleased with how we as a city have transitioned."

The virtual meetings have proven to be productive and beneficial for members and for citizens. In an effort to remain transparent, the City offered a phone number for residents to call to provide their public comment during meetings. They can also email the City with comments. The virtual council meetings can be viewed on SGTV or on the City’s YouTube channel.

City Manager Tim Morales is very appreciative of the team’s leadership during this transition, "This couldn't have happened without the help of our Technical Services team. I appreciate their wisdom and leadership to maintain these virtual meetings and making sure everyone was trained and comfortable with the technology."
Proposed Budget Approved for FY 2021

The Saginaw City Council approved the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 at the May 18, 2020 City Council Meeting. The fiscal year for the City of Saginaw is from July 1 to June 30.
The FY 2021 proposed budget reflects the City’s commitment to provide quality services to residents, while preserving the City’s long-term financial viability. The total citywide budget is projected to be $124.81 million which represents a $4.56 million, or 3.8% increase from the 2020 approved budgeted levels. The General Fund Budget for FY 2021 is projected to be $36,273,633.
Yolanda M. Jones, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, commented on this year’s budget, “The economy has forced everyone to make adjustments to the way they live. As our community changes, so does the City of Saginaw as an organization. The budget is a fluid document, and this is an ongoing, ever-changing process. Although approved, we must constantly monitor and adjust the budget as necessary. We will continue to present these required adjustments to council for approval.”
City Manager Tim Morales commented on these efforts, “As the city moves through these unprecedented times surrounding COVID-19, there will be changes that will occur. But I am confident that the city can navigate through this challenge. City administration has worked diligently over the past 10 years to build stability to its financial position. The city has a healthy fund balance to see us through this crisis.”
The FY 2021 Proposed Budget is available on the City of Saginaw website at https://www.saginaw-mi.com/pdfs/2020-2021-Proposed-Budget-Final.pdf.

Flower Power

Along with the Saginaw Downtown Development Association, the City of Saginaw has purchased 19 gorgeous new flower pots for Downtown and Old Town Saginaw. THANK YOU Abele’s Greenhouse and Garden Center for replanting the 16 pots from 2019.
THANK YOU to our Public Services team and the Tri-Cap employees who will be maintaining the plants throughout the summer!!
Reggie Williams II Appointed to City Council

Saginaw City Council has appointed Reggie Williams II as the new City Council Member to replace former Council Member Clint Bryant. Reggie Williams II was one of five applicants who were interviewed at the March 2, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Williams is currently the Chief of Police for Buena Vista Charter Township. Prior to his position in Buena Vista, Reggie served the City of Saginaw as a Detective Sergeant and Public Information Officer for the Saginaw Police Department. Reggie is active in the Saginaw Community as an Executive Board Member for the LaMarr Woodley Foundation, Executive Board Member for the Ojibway Region Boy Scouts of America as well as an Executive Board Member for the Saginaw Salvation Army. Reggie received various awards and honors as a Saginaw Police Officer, including several Meritorious Service and Meritorious Unit Citations. He has also been recognized at the state and local level for his community service.

Born and raised in Saginaw, Williams worked for 21 years with the Saginaw Police Department until 2017 when he became Buena Vista’s chief of police.

“When I worked here in the City, I was a prevention specialist. I spent a lot of time engaging with our community, our families, and our youth,” he says. “I enjoy sitting down, listening, and trying to figure problems out. I’m hoping that my experiences from policing and engaging with the community will help me in my decision-making and working with my peers on the Council.”

Welcome back, Councilman Williams. Thank you for your service to the citizens of Saginaw!!

It's Time: Complete the 2020 U.S. Census

In mid-March, each household across the country received a letter from the US Census Bureau with instructions on how to participate in this important count of all residents. It is easy and secure to fill out the Census, and it’s vitally important to the future of Saginaw. There are only nine questions and for the first time, you can fill out the Census questionnaire online.

Saginaw Mayor Floyd Kloc commented on the importance of the 2020 Census, "I cannot stress enough the importance of the upcoming 2020 census. For every 56 people not counted in Saginaw, we lose about $1 million in federal funding—that’s $1,800 per person. Counting every person who calls Saginaw home is vital to our future ability to provide services." Saginaw has joined with other members of the Saginaw County Complete Count Committee to develop and implement an effective 2020 Census awareness campaign for Saginaw. Visit https://2020census.gov/en.html for more information.

"Counting every person who calls Saginaw home is vital to our future ability to provide services."
Construction Update from Engineering

It's summer in Saginaw and you know what that means...road projects!! Recently, Beth London, Deputy Director of Public Services, and the Engineering Division provided City Council Members and citizens with an update on future road and construction projects in the city. Mill and resurfacing projects will soon begin on N. Carolina Street, Adams Boulevard, and N. 6th Avenue. There will also be several ADA sidewalk ramps installed and sidewalk replacements in the city during 2020. Citizens will also notice work on several railroad crossings and complete reconstruction on Niagara Street and Hardin Street.

The mission of the City of Saginaw is to provide high quality services to ensure an inclusive, safe, and vibrant community in which to live, work, learn, and play. Improving our roads has been and will continue to be a key priority for the City of Saginaw. Although these projects can cause detours and travel delays, we realize that better roads enhance travel and safety in our neighborhoods and ultimately lead to the long-term greater good of our community.

Thank you to our Engineering Division for your efforts in the City of Saginaw!

You view the construction presentation on our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofSaginawMI

Hardin Street Construction Begins

Niagara Street Is Almost Done
The City of Saginaw was pleased to once again host a Neighborhood Association Action Group (NAAG) meeting for area residents. The meeting was held on Tuesday, June 16 LIVE under the pavilion at Bliss Park.

The June NAAG meeting allowed residents from area neighborhood groups to reconvene once again to learn, discuss local neighborhood issues, solve problems, and reconnect with one another. The agenda for the NAAG meeting included updates from local law enforcement and the fire department, the City’s plan for reopening, and Saginaw’s “Best Kept Yard” program.

In addition, participants at the noon NAAG meeting were able to treat themselves to a delicious lunch from favorite food trucks like Ruth's Grilled Hot Dogs, TNT Authentic Mexican, 3 Lil Pigs BBQ, and Woody's Hot Dogs.

John Stemple, Director of Neighborhood Services and Inspections, worked with many Department heads, staff, and community leaders to coordinate the NAAG meeting. Stemple commented that he also wanted the meeting to be a celebration, “We, as a community, have experienced many challenges in the past six months. The June NAAG meeting allowed our neighborhood groups to come together, while six-feet apart, and celebrate. Not only all that we've done, but all that we plan to do.”

Recognizing Saginaw’s Best Kept Yards

The Saginaw Neighborhood Recognition Award program is back and underway for 2020. The Neighborhood Recognition Awards are intended to thank those residents and business owners who take pride in their properties and care about the look of their neighborhood. One award from each Neighborhood Quadrant will be selected for June, July, and August. Monthly winners will be notified by the City of Saginaw S.C.E.N.I.C. Division. Monthly winners will receive a recognition certificate and a yard sign to display in their yard. One grand prize winner will be chosen from the monthly winners and announced at the October Neighborhood Association Action Group meeting.

Scott Nizinski, Code Enforcement Inspector, helped develop the program in 2018 and is proud of the impact the program has made throughout the city, "The contest is a way to recognize those properties that are well-maintained and a bright spot in their neighborhoods. This program recognizes exceptional work and acknowledges those residents that help make Saginaw beautiful."

Visit www.saginaw-mi.com/residents/neighborhoodassociations/ for more information.
Saginaw residents are encouraged to get out and move like never before at our new free outdoor fitness facility. The modern redesigned Fitness Court is located near Celebration Square in Saginaw.

The outdoor fitness court is possible due to the generous partnership between the City of Saginaw, the National Fitness Campaign, Saginaw County Parks and Recreation, and the Saginaw Community Foundation.

This unique court is the first outdoor fitness facility of its kind in the Great Lakes Bay Region and one of the select few in the state of Michigan.

“Health and wellness are priorities for the City of Saginaw” said Tim Morales, City Manager “Being selected as the first location in the Great Lakes Bay Region for a Fitness Court enhances our efforts to promote well-being for residents and visitors in Saginaw. Our Fitness Court is located in Celebration Square near tennis courts, walking trails, and bike paths. We’re proud that we can partner with the National Fitness Campaign to offer this unique exercise platform and provide free access to fitness for everyone.”

The Fitness Court® is integrated with shock-resistant sports flooring and features 7 functional fitness zones. In the current COVID-19 environment, the City of Saginaw encourages citizens to take extra steps to stay healthy. The fitness court outdoor gym also provides valuable benefits, such as sunlight, fresh air, and an easier opportunity to social distance than in an enclosed, indoor environment.

Phil Karwat, Director of Public Works, commented on the valuable partners who supported this project, “The Public Works Department is committed to providing innovative services that contribute to a healthy community. I want to thank the numerous sponsors who supported this project. This truly was a team effort from businesses and organizations across the entire Great Lakes Bay Region. It shows their commitment to improving the quality of life for our citizens.”

To learn more about the 2020 program, visit the NFC website and view a preview video at: nationalfitnesscampaign.com
We had to share this great story from a mom who was deeply touched by **Dave Zoromski**, a member of our Maintenance and Service team. Thank you Dave for making this little boy's day!!

"I wanted to share with you about one of the guys on the crew that replaced my water lines Monday. My son has autism, epilepsy, and cerebral palsy...because of this people tend to avoid him or not interact with him because doesn’t really talk or play quite like other kids. He really loves heavy equipment and spent the morning watching the guys from our porch...it was pretty much Disneyworld for him. The guy driving the CAT came down on his break and just sat and talked to my son about the CAT...he really made his day. When he asked me if it was ok to show it to him...he picked my son up and carried him because his mobility is limited. Having someone treat my son like he is any other kid meant the world to me as a mom. My sweet little boy is still talking about this."

Thank you **Dave Zoromski**--the City of Saginaw is proud of you!!

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Saginaw Fire Department members helped in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. In early April, firefighters from Engine 4 assisted members from the Saginaw Tuscola Medical Control Authority and Region 3 unload ventilators received from the Strategic National Stockpile for our region. Thank you to all our firefighters for playing such a major role in our fight against Covid-19.
Our Community Cares

Mike Shabluk, owner of Erie Custom Signs in Saginaw, developed a prototype and quickly went to work in April making specialized face shields for the Saginaw Police and Fire Departments.

Jimmy E. Greene, CEO & President at ABC Greater Michigan partnered with other local leaders to give away nearly $9,000 in McDonald’s gift cards and Happy Meals to local families and children in April during the COVID-19 crisis.

Saginaw Community Foundation, TV5, and other local organizations sponsored a Mask Giveaway event earlier in May. Thousands came from across Mid-Michigan for the mask giveaway. Over 30,000 protective masks were given away during the event which was held in various locations throughout Saginaw including the Dow Event Center and Claytor Head Start.
Flood Assistance

When flood waters raged from the Tittabawasee into the Saginaw River, members of our Public Services, Water Treatment, Fire, and Police Departments quickly joined together to develop a thorough emergency plan to insure the safety of our Saginaw citizens. There were many anxious moments when we were uncertain how high the flood waters would rise, but this team was ready with a plan. Thank you to our EMERGENCY SERVICES team for your efforts!

Saginaw K9 Officer Deebo was called into action to help rescue about 50 people from floodwaters in Saginaw Township. The Saginaw Police Emergency Service Team’s rescue vehicle helped rescue people from their homes after rising floodwaters made roads impassable by regular vehicles. Deebo and his handler made several trips into the neighborhood picking up stranded persons and pets and getting them to higher ground.
Justice For All

Saginaw community, clergy and law enforcement came together in June for peaceful yet POWERFUL demonstrations for justice and unity.
Storm Proof

On June 10, strong winds whipped through Saginaw, tearing down trees and power lines throughout our city. We appreciate our Fire Department and Streets Division who worked non-stop for days to clear the debris and put out the flames left in the aftermath of this devastating storm. To all of the Streets and Fire employees, we say--"THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!"
Convenience Station Is Back For Residents!

The City of Saginaw was pleased to reopen the convenience station on Saturday, June 13 for City of Saginaw residents. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the convenience station was closed in April and May. Although residents were lined up well before 8am with truckloads of materials to drop off, our Streets Division did a GREAT job handling the situation. We even had residents comment on Facebook about the teamwork!!

We want to THANK our entire Streets Division for their efforts at the Convenience Station!!

**CONVENIENCE STATION**
For the city of Saginaw

**WHO**
The convenience station is open to city residents only. Residents must show a valid Michigan driver’s license or identification as proof of residency.

**WHAT**
You can drop off items including recyclables, building materials, furniture, trash, and other miscellaneous items. Yard waste and brush can be dropped off during the winter months.

**WHERE**
The station is located behind the Public Works building at 1435 S. Washington Avenue.

**WHEN**
It is open on the second Saturday of the month from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

**HOW**
Bring your items during the times that the station is open and drop them off at the back of the building provided.
Human Resources News

New Hires

Haley Goist, Police Department
Richard Helpap, Maintenance & Service
Clayton Smith, Maintenance & Service
Mark Gutowski, Maintenance & Service
Dylan Jaime, Environmental

Retirements

Lonnie Webb, WWTP - May 20, 2020
Linda Armintrout, Fiscal Svcs. - April 30, 2020
Michael McGill, Water Treatment - April 24, 2020
Michael Hagen, Traffic Eng. - April 23, 2020
Lynn Hagen, Fiscal Svcs. - April 23, 2020
Ralph Martin, Fire - March 5, 2020

HOW TO PROPERLY WASH YOUR HANDS

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water
5. Dry your hands using a clean dry towel.
Human Resources News

How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering

WEAR YOUR FACE COVERING CORRECTLY
- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Do not place a mask on a child younger than 2

USE THE FACE COVERING TO HELP PROTECT OTHERS
- Wear a face covering to help protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms
- Keep the covering on your face the entire time you're in public
- Don't put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, clean your hands

FOLLOW EVERYDAY HEALTH HABITS
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available

TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTH FACE COVERING CAREFULLY, WHEN YOU'RE HOME
- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in the washing machine
- Wash your hands with soap and water

Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, both of which should be saved for health care workers and other medical first responders.

For instructions on making a cloth face covering, see: cdc.gov/coronavirus
The City of Saginaw is committed to safety for all residents and making the City of Saginaw an enjoyable community for all. Please remember these guidelines when celebrating the 4th of July.

Fireworks are only allowed in the City of Saginaw on the following dates/times:

- 11am to 11:45pm on June 29-July 4, 2020
- September 5-6, 2020
- 11am on December 31, 2020 until 1 am on January 1, 2021

Fireworks Safety Tips

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.

Have a safe and HAPPY 4th of July!
Dates to Remember

City Offices Closed -- Friday, July 3
Federal and State Taxes Due--July 15
City of Saginaw Taxes Due --July 31
Michigan Primary Election-- August 4
City Offices Closed -- Monday, September 7

The greater your storm,
the brighter your rainbow.