

Mayor's Report January 22, 2026

The solid waste, aka garbage collection contract expires March 31st so we are preparing an RFQ to collect bids. We are not expecting any major changes in services from our expiring contract. Residents often ask about a curbside recycling program. It is available at extra cost but it is subject to a minimum number of households committing to the extra fees and we have never been close to the required number for households signing on to make it viable. Recycling services are available nearby and Monroe County sponsors events throughout the year for items like tires, liquid waste, etc. We will inquire about recycling but are not likely to make it mandatory for all households in the next contract.

Representatives from the Planning Commission, the DDA, the Building Office and I met with Mike Lucarelli in a pre-Planning session to review the process and timeline for Lakeside Development Plan. Mike will be presenting a site plan to the Planning Commission to review. The site plan approval is what officially changes the usage of the property from residential to a commercial property. Residential is currently a legal non-conforming use limiting the activity to only what is permitted in a residentially zoned property. Downtown Mixed Use opens up the property to all activities permitted in a DM zoned properties which is restaurants, stores and many other commercial uses listed in our zoning ordinance.

You may have seen that the Monroe County Road Commission has announced that they can no longer supply road salt to other entities as their usage has been up significantly this winter. Thanks to Dave Gautz for proactively filling our bin while we could still get it. Our usage is also up so we can't apply salt to every street but our DPW crew will keep working to plow the snow and salt key intersections and problem areas. Please keep in mind that salt does not work in extreme cold like we are expecting but will work as temps climb past the low 20s. Be careful out there. We are at the mercy of brutal Michigan weather for now.

As a reminder, Saturday June 27th is the day for our annual Luna Pier Freedom Festival celebrating the 250th birthday of our country and the 100th anniversary of the opening of the original pier and dance floor in 1926. We need volunteer help starting with committee members to help organize the event. Contact me or City Hall if you can share your organizational skills for this great cause.

Respectfully submitted,
Mayor Gardner