

Mayor's Report

April 9th, 2026

As you may have seen, crews are beginning work soon to repaint the water tower. We learned of the project just this week when the project leader stopped in to inquire about parking equipment in the parking lot by the ball diamonds for the duration of the project which could range from three to six weeks depending on weather conditions. I asked about the logo and the original plan was to repaint exactly what is there now, which is our old logo. I reached out to Chris Schmitt from South County water and sent our new logo with the guidelines for usage. They were unaware our official logo had changed but will forward it to the designers and attempt to paint the new logo instead of the old one.

Another project moving along is the installation of the new NEVI fast chargers at the BP gas station. After delays, canceled then reinstated funding, it is good to see this moving forward at a rapid pace. The crew is very experienced at installing chargers and they are against a tight schedule so we are supporting the project on our end. Thank you to Dave Gautz for resolving a sanitary line location issue within minutes of being contacted resulting in no lost time. Four Red E chargers with two plugs each will power NACS (Tesla) and CCS1 vehicles for full coverage of nearly every EV out there. Red E, based in Detroit has an extensive network of chargers and offers excellent reliability and performance that I can personally attest to. Average charging times using these chargers is in the range of 20-30 minutes giving travelers time to shop locally or enjoy a meal at one of our fine restaurants. As a frequent EV road tripper, I know this is an ideal location for charging with great amenities available 24/7, a safe area, access to a Great Lake and some of the best tacos on the planet.

I am meeting with the contractors to coordinate schedules and secure supplies for a fast turnaround on the lighthouse upgrades. The initial plan is to close one restroom at a time to strip out the old material, install the wall tile first, epoxy the floors, install the dividers, then move on to the other restroom. We will need to supplement with portable restrooms until the project is complete. The contractors are securing materials and checking schedules before we meet so once the project starts, it can move without delays.

I have been fielding many questions about our boat ramp, docks and low water levels. The DPW crew is working on the docks but weather and water conditions are a challenge. Low water is making it difficult to install and secure the docks. The mouth of LaPointe Drain is very shallow and will limit egress in and out of the channel depending on wind direction. Dredging is beyond our means right now but we will seek public access grant opportunities. The marina has not sold yet but I look forward to partnering with the future owners when it does to see if we can leverage funding opportunities wherever possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Mayor Gardner