

Message from the Mayor



I dedicate this month's column to a request that city residents stop using their toilets as trash receptacles.

A five-year-old sewage pump at the Michigan Avenue pump station, a pump with a life expectancy of 15 years, is already worn out from handling an inordinate amount of non-fecal matter flushed down city toilets.

My council colleagues and I approved purchase of two pumps last month for \$35,000. But they won't arrive until early December. Until then, the city hopes to get by with a single pump in the two-pump system on Michigan Avenue.

If this sounds familiar, it's because I wrote about it in the St. Louis Sentinel two years ago.

"Twice in the last few weeks the Michigan Avenue pump facility had to be unclogged," wrote Public Services Director Keith Risdon two years ago. "DPW and Water Department personnel removed one pump to clear wipes and rags clogging the impellers and found that the pump (only 18 months old) has suffered scoring and damage from this clogging."

The root cause of the problem is unauthorized material flushed down St. Louis toilets. "People continue to flush items into the sewers which eventually settle into the pump station wet wells or settle in the pipes," Risdon wrote. "I recently assisted DPW with a blocked sewer. We were out from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. trying to locate and clear a blockage which was causing backups into residences. Once the blockage was isolated, attempts to clear it failed so DPW had to try to cut through the blockage. The depth of the sewer exceeded the reach of our equipment. Had we not been able to cut it loose a contractor would have been required to excavate the line. Fortunately the blockage was cut, and it was found to be an accumulation of wipes and rags."

The best solution is to stop flushing things into the sanitary sewer system which do not belong there, said City Manager Kurt Giles.

"Costs for maintenance, repair and replacement for our sewers come directly from our sewer rates. As the efforts required to maintain, repair and/or replace increases, rates too would be required to increase to cover those costs."

So how is a person supposed to remember what can be flushed and what shouldn't?

That's easy. Anything that's not human waste or toilet paper should never be flushed. Thank you for your attention to this matter

Downtown News

This summer has brought tremendous success to St. Louis.

Over the summer, downtown gained some new businesses that have made great strides in the community. Gone Bananas has delved into the community and offered several fun and engaging events. The new indoor Gratiot Market location has hosted multiple fun, themed events. And, new businesses such as No Bull Graphics, My Friends Boutique, and Mill Street Peddler have opened their doors to the community and taken on our small town with pride.

Beyond business growth, our streets have come alive with creativity. If you take a stroll through town, you'll spot the colorful painted crosswalk by the community pool and Frosty Cone—a volunteer project that has brightened our summer. Look up, and you'll see local artwork proudly displayed as part of the *Gratiot Downtown Art Expo*. Keep looking skyward as you approach M-46, where brand-new welcoming banners now greet visitors and residents alike.

As we head into fall, the fun continues! Get ready for cooler weather, autumn colors, and plenty of community spirit. Downtown will be decked out for *Homecoming* on September 19, when the parade fills the streets with school pride. Then, on October 30 from 3:00–5:00 p.m., join us for *Downtown Halloween*, where kids can trick-or-treat at local businesses. Traditional trick-or-treating will take place throughout the city on October 31 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. Be sure to follow the *City Hall St. Louis, Michigan* Facebook page for regular event updates—you won't want to miss the many activities our businesses and neighbors have planned.

If you have an event you'd like to share with the community, please email eburton@stlouismi.com.

Farewell



After nearly 12 years of dedicated service, we bid a fond farewell to Maria Roberson, who joined our city team in October 2013.

Over the years, Maria has been a cornerstone of our Utilities Department—bringing not only expertise and reliability, but also a spirit of collaboration and kindness that has left a lasting impact on both colleagues and residents. If you've ever called or stopped by City Hall about your utility bill—or just about anything else—chances are you've talked to Maria, and you probably left with your questions answered and a smile on your face.

While we're sad to see her go, we're excited for the new adventures ahead of her. Best wishes, Maria—you will be missed!

St. Louis High School Homecoming



Friday, September 19, 2025

St. Louis High School's Homecoming parade is Friday at 5:30 p.m. followed by the football game at 7:00 p.m. The Homecoming dance is on Saturday night.

Visit the schools webpage for more details at stlouisschools.net

Property Tax Information



Remember!

Property Taxes are due
September 15, 2025 by 4 p.m.

Contact the Treasurer's Office
at

989-681-2137 with any questions.

Board Vacancies

The City has the following Board and Commission Vacancies: Board of Review, Housing Commission, and Library Board.

Interested citizens can contact the City Clerk at 989-681-2137 ext. 1050 for more information.

Thank You!

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Farmers Market



The Market will be open every Thursday from June through October from 2-6 PM.

Gratiot MI Market is now located at

201 N Mill St. St. Louis.

Please contact Sara Piaskowski at 734- 249-3961 or Lisette Smith at 989-824-0152 or email us at gratiotmimarket@gmail.com with questions or ideas.

Brush pickup for the month of September begins September 8, 2025.

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