

The City Chronicle

Newsletter of the Alpine Village



Gaylord City Hall ♦ 305 E. Main Street ♦ Gaylord, MI 49735 ♦ 989-732-4060 ♦ www.cityofgaylord.com

Fall 2026

A MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER, KIM AWREY

Thanks to a positive vote from our citizens, the city continues to utilize the street millage to make major improvements to the city's infrastructure. Over the last few weeks, we have finished an upgrade to N. Center Ave that saw replacement of aging sewer infrastructure, new sidewalks to match Main Street and a remill and resurface of the entire roadway from Main Street to Fairview. This fall we should see improvements to city streets that will be utilized for detours during the DDI project that is starting next year. Next summer will bring a watermain extension from Maple Street to Pines45. This project is critical for water quality of the residents in that area and needs to be in place before the construction of MDOT's planned sidewalks/pathways from Little League Drive to S. Townline. 2027 and 2028 will be hectic construction seasons for residents and visitors alike. MDOT's diverging diamond and bridge replacement project will run from Meecher Drive to Wisconsin Avenue, allowing the city to upgrade old water and sewer mains in this area. Through funding from MDOT's TAP grant the city is also able to provide lighting, delineated sidewalks and other safety features from Murner Road to the 1-75 interchange. A remill and resurface of M-32 from Murner to Meecher is also included with this work. 2029 will bring our focus back to city owned streets that are very much in need of repairs, starting with North Ohio.

Elkview Park was completed last summer and has been a huge success for the city. The park sees lots of activity in our playground, picnic area, pathways leading to Aspen Park and of course the viewing platform for the elk herd. The tourism bureau and the OCCOA have partnered with the city to install a camera, so anyone with an internet connection can view the herd as well. It has been a smashing success! This project would not have been possible without the support of a \$692,000 SPARK Grant and contributions from the Gaylord Area Tourism Bureau.

The city's park and recreation committee is busy with improvements needed to the skate park and the property surrounding the community center. These projects are not something that our limited general fund has the capacity to pay for, but we are continuing to gather information, complete potential designs and look for alternative sources of funding to make these projects a reality.



MEET OUR NEW CITY CLERK

Andrea Boguth was appointed to City Clerk to fill the vacancy created by the previous clerk, Jen Molski. In addition to her role as City Clerk, she is taking on the role and responsibilities of Zoning Administrator for the City.

Andrea moved to Gaylord in 2006, originally from Howell, and has been happy to call Gaylord home since then. Prior to her employment with the City, she worked for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Gaylord Community Schools. She looks forward to her new chapter serving the community as well as working with the residents, city officials, and staff.



A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF POLICE BLAKE HUFF

Following my appointment as Chief of Police effective July 1, 2026, it is an honor to lead the dedicated officers and staff of the Gaylord Police Department. As autumn arrives in Northern Michigan, our team is shifting focus toward fall safety, back-to-school traffic enforcement, and preparing for the upcoming winter season. Autumn brings increased seasonal travel, fall festivals, and changing road conditions across the City of Gaylord. Our commitment remains firm: delivering proactive, visible, and community-oriented law enforcement service to everyone in the "Alpine Village."

STATE ACCREDITATION ACHIEVEMENT

The Gaylord Police Department is proud to announce that it has officially achieved Full Accreditation through the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC) and the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP). Earning state accreditation is a major milestone that places GPD among an elite group of law enforcement agencies across Michigan. To achieve this designation, our department underwent an exhaustive professional audit, proving compliance with over 100 rigorous operational, administrative, and ethical standards. This achievement reinforces our ongoing commitment to transparency, enhanced safety, reduced agency liability, and modern policing best practices across the Alpine Village. Achieving MLEAC accreditation is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and integrity of every officer and staff member within the Gaylord Police Department. This status isn't just a badge of honor; it is an ongoing promise to our community that we will uphold the highest standards of modern policing every single day.

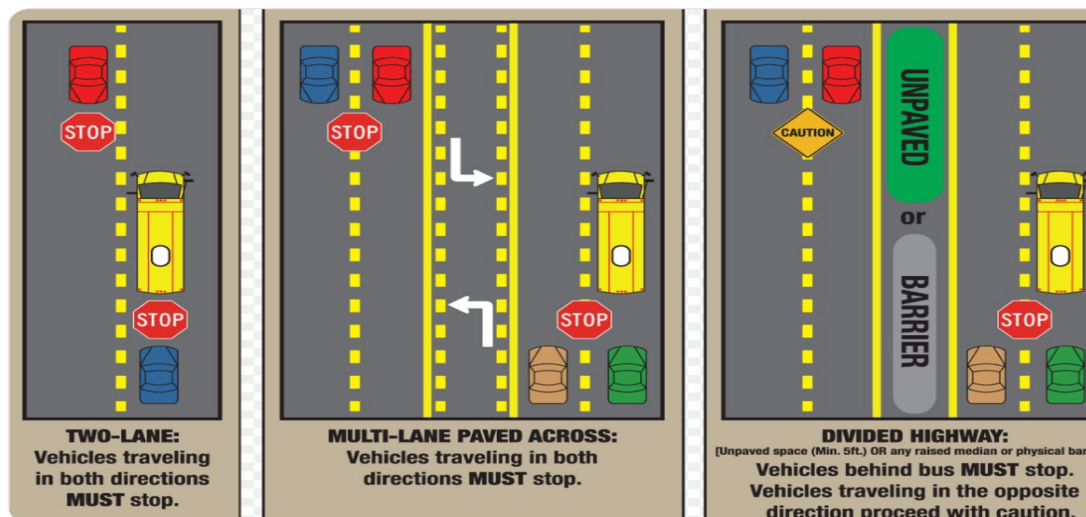
TRAFFIC SAFETY

- **School Zone & Bus Safety Enforcement:** With local schools back in session, officers are actively monitoring school zones along main corridors and school safety zones. Drivers are urged to slow down, observe posted speed limits, and strictly follow Michigan school bus light protocols:



Flashing Yellow Lights: Indicate the bus is preparing to stop. Drivers must slow down and prepare to stop—never speed up to "beat" the stop-arm.

Flashing Red Lights & Stop-Arm Extended: Drivers travelling in both directions must come to a complete stop at least 20 feet away from the bus. You must remain stopped until the red lights are turned off and the bus resumes motion.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Our DPW will continue to pick up compost/lawn bags until the first snowfall. Leaves, lawn rakings and pine needles must be bagged. Please remember that tree branches or bags need to be of the size that one person can handle.

Compost bags for grass cuttings, leaves, pine needles, and small twigs are available to City residents free-of-charge as long as supplies last. For those of you in the fall who rake leaves to the curb line; the City DPW asks that you leave such yard waste at the top of the curb or in the terrace areas. Such waste that is deposited into the gutter pan only blocks the roadway and plugs up the storm drains. Your assistance and cooperation is appreciated!



SIGNS: Garage Sale Signs may not exceed six (6) Square feet in area and may be posted for no more than seven (7) consecutive days.

Garage Sale Signs shall be posted on private property only with the permission of the property owner.

Political Signs may be installed no more than forty-five (45) days before absentee ballots go out and must be removed ten (10) days after the election is over. In residential districts they must be under six (6) square feet and under sixteen (16) square feet in other districts.

No signs may be posted on any utility pole or within any public right of way.

For more information regarding garage sale signs, special event signs and all other signs, visit our website at:

WWW.CITYOFGAYLORD.ORG

City Ordinances Tab

- Traffic & Regulatory +
- 20-400.Sign Ord.pdf

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT



The Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently preparing for some major upgrades that will include mainly new digester blowers, a new grit and rag removal headworks addition, and a new plant generator. We are also looking to replace some of the older pumps and equipment. Throughout the summer we have repaired and replaced equipment that needed repairs throughout the plant as well as our lift stations.

Currently, we have just finished cleaning our Ponds 1 and 2 and will be moving on to Pond 3 shortly. We have also been busy completing miss-digs throughout town, flushing the drainfields, pumping monitor wells, and doing routine maintenance at the plant and lift stations. Many of the original buildings also just received a new paint job to replace the faded paint to protect the buildings into the future.

WATER DEPARTMENT



Our new well has passed hydrogeological study and we are waiting for approval for the next step. Our water operators will be going through the city and replacing aging meters. Most residents can expect to see us very soon.

We recently replaced some aging fire hydrants on North Center in conjunction with the new sewer and road resurface.

Saun and Ryan can be seen walking the town working hard with miss-digs preparing for our upcoming diverging diamond project!

DOWNTOWN GAYLORD Help Shape What's Next Together!

Gaylord is developing a **Main Street Transformation Strategy** to guide the future of our downtown district and we want to hear from you.

This work isn't something we do for our community.
It's something we do with our community.

Your perspective will help shape the priorities and opportunities we pursue together.

SCAN TO
TAKE THE
SURVEY



https://nationalmainstreet.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1RB3JNrFqKLwaGy



YOUR VOICE. OUR DOWNTOWN. OUR FUTURE

Elected Officials

City Council

Mayor: Todd Sharrard
Ward 1: Jordan Awrey
Ward 2: Paul Welitzkin
Ward 3: Deb Jaques
At Large: Al Witt
At Large: Vic Ouellette
At large: Ryan Kennedy

City Clerk

Andrea Boguth

City Treasurer

Travis Hewitt

City of Gaylord

WWW.CITYOFGAYLORD.ORG

Phone: (989) 732-4060

City Hall Hours:
8:00am to 4:30pm



City Staff

Kim Awrey, City Manager
Blake Huff, Chief of Police
Holly Franckowiak, City Assessor
Andrea Boguth, Zoning Administrator
Matt Belding, DPW Superintendent
Greg Dowker, WWTP Superintendent
Saun Keister, Water Superintendent

Public Meetings

All public meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 305 E. Main Street, Gaylord.

City Council meets on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. (except for December, Council meets only on the second Monday)

Planning Commission meets 4 times a year or as needed.

Downtown Development Authority meets the first Tuesday of every month at 8:00 a.m.