

Au Gres City Newsletter

CITY FACILITIES RENTAL RATES FOR 2026

Chapel: \$175

Large Park Pavilion:

City Resident: \$200

Non-City Resident: \$300

Civic Rate: \$50

Splash Pad Pavilion:

3 hours: \$50

6 hours: \$80

All Day: \$150

Rental forms are available on our website at cityofaugresmi.com or can be picked up at City Hall.

DRIVE-THRU SERVICE HOURS

Au Gres City Staff wants to remind all customers that the drive-through window located on City Hall's west side is available. Please sound your horn and City staff will gladly take any water bill or tax payment. Also, there is a night deposit box located at the front of the building for payments after hours. City Hall is open Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Fridays 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

DOG LICENSES NOW ONLINE

Starting in the 2026 year, all dog licenses will now be online for all of Arenac County or can be done in person at City Hall. Sexed dogs are \$25 each and unsexed \$10



Here is the QR:

Make a Payment Here! **Arenac County Treasurer –Dog License**

Please scan the QR code below to make a payment online for **PLC #a006vg**

To scan, hold your smartphone camera so that the QR code appears in view and tap the link displayed.

2026 FARM MARKET SCHEDULED

The Au Gres Farm Market was held again this year during the months of June-September at the Au Gres Riverside Park. The event was made successful by numerous vendors who participated each week. Products such as vegetables, fruits, flowers, eggs, honey, baked goods, crafts, jewelry, garden décor, and specialty products were available throughout the season. The farm market is now run by their vendors. Anyone wanting to join contact Tom Becker at 989-321-0297. They will have the farm market open for the 2026 year

on Fridays only from 9 AM-2 PM. All crafters are invited back and will be able to attend every other week.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING

The City will retain Advanced Pest Management for mosquito spraying through 2026. If you would like to opt out completely for spraying or would like to give permission to APM for off road access for the 2026 year, forms are available at City Hall. If you have an issue with spraying, you can call them at 989-426-2420.

WINTER REMINDERS

- City has a sidewalk snow removal ordinance in effect for all property owners on US-23. **It is up to all property owners along US-23 per City ordinance to clear sidewalk in front of their home or business within 8 hours after snowfall.** Please try your best to comply or fines may be incurred.
- No parking on city streets during the hours of 2:00 am-6:00 am during the winter months for city staff to remove snow. If deemed a safety hazard, your car may be towed.
- Residents are urged to remove all snow and ice from sidewalks, mailboxes, fire hydrants and water meters near their home or business.

BURNED OUT STREET LIGHT??

Anyone can report a burned-out street light to Consumers Energy. Just go online to www.consumersenergy.com/outages/outage-center/streetlight or call 1-800-477-5050 and mention the nearest address to the outage location.

AU GRES CITY SNOWBIRDS LEAVING??

If leaving for south this winter, stop by Au Gres City Hall and fill out a request for security check form for our Au Gres City Police to check things out when you're gone and have a contact phone number on file. This service is provided free to all city residents.

AUGRES VETERAN BANNERS FOR SALE

The City of Au Gres has mirrored the City of Standish with their veteran banner program. This year was extremely successful! If you are still interested in purchasing a banner, City Hall still has spots available for the 2026 year and the cost is \$200 for two-year display. Banners will be displayed from Memorial Day thru Independence Day holiday. This is great way to honor any veteran, living or deceased that resided in Arenac County. These banners will be sold at City Hall now through March 2026 and will be installed with the

other banners by the Memorial Day holiday 2026. Any questions or further information, stop in to City Hall.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER

Part of my job as City Manager is doing a write-up for the semi-annual City of Au Gres Newsletter and I do not know how many ways I can describe the great community we live, work, and play in. While other small Northern Michigan towns have struggled in the past few years, Au Gres has maintained a positive pace due to the pride and dedication of our community members. We have just finished up a season filled with events such as the Cruisers Car show, the Fireworks Festival, weekly Music in the Park, Rib Rally, and Halloween in the Park, all these happenings are hosted by volunteer organizations.

Aside from festivals and fun, 2025 continued to be a productive and diligent year for the City of Au Gres staff. North Court St, Detroit St, and Au Gres River Dr each received new asphalt paving. The new Au Gres community ballfields on Court St are taking shape and will be ready for the 2026 baseball/softball season. Work has begun on the Riverfront Campground expansion and should be ready for camping next summer. Local new businesses opening in 2025 include The Rivermill Wedding Venue, and Lonesome Dove Restaurant and Motel, and the completion of New Dawn Senior Living Facility Phase 1.

2026 will continue community growth as the City of Au Gres was recently awarded three grants totaling \$1,050,000 from various State of Michigan agencies to assist in neighborhood projects. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced a \$400,000 grant for the campground expansion project that will add new bathhouses and ADA cabins. The city will receive \$250,000 from the Michigan Department of Transportation for re-paving and street improvements on Michigan Avenue, Albert, Water & Saginaw Street. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mi Neighborhood program awarded the City of Au Gres \$400,000 to construct four new homes in the Southcourt Estates subdivision. Once completed, these residential homes will be sold to qualified purchasers.

2026 will also mark the start of the City of Au Gres TIFA Commercial Property Improvement Grant. The one-to-one matching grant can be up to \$10,000 maximum and will be available to all City of Au Gres business that are planning specified interior, exterior, or signage upgrades.

We are fortunate to have many exceptional businesses that have been operating in the area for numerous years. A great deal of them, whether it be manufacturing, retail, or professional are second or third generation owned and managed. The City of Au Gres has also welcomed new investors who have opened or purchased businesses over the past few years. This economic growth will continue each year as more people are discovering what the Au Gres area has to offer.

Let's finish out the year with a safe and happy Holiday season and as we get ready for a wonderful 2026.

Dale Wiltse

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE OUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS OF: PO BOX 121, AU GRES

DIGITAL SIGN FOR THE COMMUNITY

Please remember, if you have an event going on, please stop in or call City Hall to let us know. The sign is for public use only and not for profit. This includes school, library, park, Chamber of Commerce, churches and area organizations. We would be glad to post your event on our sign to let the community know.

FISH CLEANING STATION

Inside the Riverside Park you will find the fish cleaning station open 24/7 from April-October annually. Please remember to clean up after yourself. This year there was several issues with the system. Make sure you do not drop anything but fish down and one at a time. The system cannot handle buckets being dumped down the grinder at the same time. The city does have cameras on this facility and do monitor activity.

SIGN UP FOR E-BILLING

The city can now do electronic water bills instead of paper copies. If you would like to receive an electronic bill, please call City Hall with your email address.

“CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK” EVENT

The Chamber along with the “ACE” group is putting together “Christmas in the Park” event to coordinate with the tree lighting and Christmas Parade. From now – December 6, all lots will become decorated inside the City Campground. If you would like to decorate a tree, call Sheree Wiltse at 989-329-7444. This is a community-wide free event. The ACE Group would like to thank Richardson Chevrolet and Bay-Arenac Community Foundation for your support and donation this year. You can decorate your tree and lot with lights, ornaments (no glass) or any type of yard ornament(s) of your choice. Then, on Saturday, December 6 at the Tree Lighting, all lots will be lit directly after the parade at approximately 6:45 PM to kick off the official start of the Christmas season. All trees will be lit for viewing through January 1, 2026. All lots will need to be cleaned up by January 5, 2026.

CHAMBER CHRISTMAS PARADE

The annual Au Gres Chamber of Commerce parade will begin at the Au Gres-Sims School Parking lot on Saturday, December 6th at 6:15 p.m. (Line-up at 5:45 p.m.) and proceed down US-23, ending at the City of Au Gres Campground. All spectators are invited to follow the parade and join us at the campground for the tree

lighting and caroling. The Au Gres Area Men's Club will be there passing out toys and kids can enjoy a visit with Santa. Thank you to Women for Au Gres for the festive decorating.

TRASH COLLECTION

The City renewed another five-year contract with Republic Services for 2025-2029. Remember that City curbside trash collection is for residential customers only. This service also includes one bulky item pick-up per week. Republic Services ask that you call in your large item ahead of time to 1-800-438-0966. If the City gets billed excessive pick-ups at your residence, the cost will be passed on to the homeowner. Trash will run on schedule this year during the holidays and will be picked up **TUESDAY December 23 & TUESDAY December 30.**

SHOP LOCALLY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Did you know that: (1) when you buy from local small businesses in our downtown, it creates jobs and keeps our friends and neighbors in business; (2) that \$73 out of every \$100 locally spent stays locally! Remember these fine Au Gres City businesses this holiday season with gift certificates, grocery shopping or gift purchases!

DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES

Au Gres Floor Covering	Bernard Lumber
Buresh Funeral	Horizon Bank
Au Gres Pharmacy	Sunrise Market
M-65 Bait Shop II	K & K Auto
H & H Bakery & Restaurant	Au-Tow Inc
Northern Automotive	Cauffee
Otis McKinley DDS	Dollar General
All Season Marine	Inland Marine
CPI (Proulx Financial)	Au Gres Canvas
Lonesome Dove Bar/Rest/Motel	Huron Hair Port
NAPA Auto	Northland Credit Union
Modern Craft Winery	Au Gres Inn
Freakin' Pickles	Stormy's Diner (B's)
Keep it Clean Car Wash	Walker Agency
Pete Stanley & Associates	Ace Hardware
Renue Physical Therapy	Main Street Salon
Family Dollar	Zanner's Ice Cream
Nixon's Laundromat	Buds in the Briar
AYC Marina Store	Four Ones Landing
Dockside Family Medicine	Closet Exchange
Elly's Kitchen & Bath	Elusive Escapes
Laura's Sassy Scissors	Sunrise Counseling
This, That & The Other Thing	Skrubby's Detailing
Ali's Naturally Unique Boutique	The Gym
Scott McAlindon DDS	Bayside Boat Storage
Rivermill Wedding Venue	



CITY ZONING APPROVAL NEEDED for anything you're doing to your yard, house or business. This includes decks, fencing, sheds, additions, signs or garages. Check at City Hall prior to beginning.

PROPERTY TRANSFER

Please remember, if you have recently bought or sold a house, vacant lot, or boat slip in the city, please stop in or call to see what necessary paperwork is required to be filed. A PTA form needs to be filed within 45 days or could face a \$200 penalty charge.

NEED UPDATED INFORMATION!!

Please check at City Hall and make sure we have an updated telephone numbers and email addresses in case the need ever arises!

STAY IN TOUCH! STAY CURRENT!

To stay current with all the happenings in Au Gres, please make sure you have the most current contact information for Au Gres City Hall.

Phone Number: 989-876-8811 or 989-876-8821

Email: cityofaugres@cityofaugresmi.com

Website: www.cityofaugresmi.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cityofaugres

Chamber's Website: augreschamber.com

GET INVOLVED: VOLUNTEER!

There are many ways to get involved in "YOUR" community. Volunteers are always needed to help with seasonal events and ongoing events in our area. Music in the Park, Christmas Celebration, Fireworks, Halloween in the Park, Au Gres Cruisers Car show, fishing tournament and more happen because volunteer groups host these events. If you would like to help out at any capacity to keep these projects going, contact the Au Gres Area Chamber of Commerce or City Hall.

FLUSHABLE PRODUCTS NOT ALLOWED

City staff has been dealing with plugged pumps lately. They have realized the newer products marked 'FLUSHABLE' might be fine for a well and septic system but have been wreaking havoc on city sanitary sewer systems. These products are getting bound up in pumps and causing pumps to quit working or break. Please do not flush baby wipes, depends, tampons, diapers or any other feminine products down the toilet. If City pumps fail to operate due to a pump that is plugged up, it could cause backed-up sewer in your home or business. The City has learned that this is not the responsibility of the City but will fall on each individual home owner to carry additional coverage of

'backed up sewer' on your home owner's insurance. Please be aware of this.

NO WAKE SIGNS STILL AVAILABLE

City Hall still has available for sale "No Wake" signs for the Au Gres River. Prices vary from \$20-\$30 depending on the size.

CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS & ACH ACCEPTED

Check out the City's website www.cityofaugresmi.com to find out the latest information or to pay your water bill or taxes. There is a 3% fee for use of a credit or debit card. Having troubles...call City Hall and we can accept payments over the phone.

For a "fee-free" way to pay your water bill or taxes, sign up for ACH payments. Water bills are pulled the 15th of the month they are due and taxes you have two options when to pay. For summer taxes choices are August 1 or September 1 and winter taxes are January 1 or February 1. Stop by or call City Hall to get ACH form.

OLD FASHION CHRISTMAS

Please join in on the first "Old Fashion Christmas" put on at the old German church located in the Michigan Avenue Park in Au Gres on Sunday, December 14 at 2 PM and 4 PM. This event is free and all public is welcome to join in on Christmas caroling, music and hot cocoa and cookies. Parking lot can be used at Otis McKinley Dentist Office or parking along Michigan Avenue or Saginaw Streets. The Arenac County Historical Museum will also be open at this time.

SPLASH PAD HUGE DRAW FOR 2025 YEAR!

City staff and officials are pleased to see the splash pad had great attendance for the 2025 year. This facility went through over a million gallons of water! Please remember this facility is free, so please be considerate and pick up after yourself. The pavilion next to the splash pad is available to rent for birthday parties, family reunions, etc. Rates are:

\$50 for 3 hours \$80 for 6 hours \$150 for all day

If you do not reserve the pavilion and pay, you should not be using this facility. It is strictly for reservations only and your party will be asked to leave. Get your reservation in early for the 2026 season.

LEGACY/MEMORIAL BENCHES

The city currently is selling legacy/memorial benches to be replaced at various locations within the city. This is a great way to commemorate a special event, honor an agency or individual or memorialize a loved one. Order forms available at City Hall. The benches are 4-foot-long garden style benches and the city is using local Treasures Forever for all engraving and ordering. The

top back-rail of the bench will be engraved with your choice of wording. See Treasures Forever for samples. Total cost of each bench is \$450 and includes the cost of bench, engraving and installation.

AGS BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 7 PM

STORM WATER ILLEGAL TO PUT DOWN SANITARY SEWER

Just as a courtesy reminder to all residents, new and old, that it is illegal to dump or pump storm water down the city sanitary sewer. This was called to our attention back with the flooding and high-water levels of the Au Gres River that we noticed this problem with several homes along the river. This is tampering with City utilities and is illegal and can be charged criminally. City's infrastructure and pumps were not designed for this amount of water and if they cannot keep up with the demand, it will cause sewer back-up in homes and businesses. Please be conscious about this and double check and make sure that any sump pump drains into ditches or the river and not down sanitary sewer lines.

AUGRES CITY RECYCLING DUMPTER

LOCATION: City DPW Garage, 986 S Court Street

Have access to dumpster 24/7

Items must be empty, clean, dry and allowed.

ITEMS ALLOWED:

PAPER: mail, paper, phone books, magazines.

PLASTIC: household plastics #1-#7

CARDBOARD: flattened cardboard boxes, cereal boxes, paperboard. **(separate bin for cardboard only)**

ALUMINUM: all food and beverage aluminum & steel cans.

GLASS: glass bottles

Please note, this service is only for City of Au Gres non-commercial taxpayers. A \$7 fee will be placed on the winter 2025 taxes to help cover costs. This bin is dumped every 4 weeks with the next dump scheduled for December 10, 2025.

2026 ASSESSMENT CHANGE NOTICES

Assessment change notices will be mailed out in February 2026. This will show what your tentative taxable and assessed value for the 2026 year. It will list the March Board of Reviews dates and times they meet to protest these values. You do not need to be present to attend. The Board accepts all faxes, emails and letters in writing as long as it is received prior to the last day the board meets. This is the only time of the year you can protest these amounts. Once this Board adjourns, your values are set for the year and nothing can be changed. Expect your taxable value to go up again at the

maximum 5% increase due to high inflation rates and housing prices. Keep any eye out for this notice and if you do not receive, please call our office for an emailed copy.

Happy Holidays!