

AU GRES CITY NEWS LETTER

AU GRES DISC GOLF COURSE OPEN

Au Gres Disc Golf course has seen increased use during the past couple years. The disc golf course is located in the old Au Gres airport property. To access the course, park at the end of Industrial Park Drive. The course consists of 20 challenging holes, wooded and open and was designed by Ron Peludat. There will be a disc golf tournament this year scheduled for July 18, 2026. Contact Craig Prime for more info at 989-686-1375. Remember to bring your own discs (sold at sporting good stores) and to pick up after yourself to keep the course open and free to the public. Donations are always accepted.



ACE SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Every Wednesday 6:30 -8:30 PM

Held Outside- will cancel due to inclement weather!

July 1: **23 North**
July 8: **Random Hoax**
July 15: **Flipside**
July 22: **Ernest Entertainment**
July 29: **Pool Boys**
August 5: **Countin' Change**
August 12: **The Gypsum Kings**

*All concerts held inside Au Gres City Campground
401 N Main Street by small pavilion in back.*

CITY HALL DRIVE-THRU HOURS & SERVICE

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. There is also a night deposit box located at the front of the building for payments after hours. Hours open are M-TH 8:00 AM-5:00 PM and Fridays 9:00 AM-3:00 PM.

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.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE OUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 121, AU GRES, MI 48703!

CITY GRASS ORDINANCE

The City wants to remind all property owners that there is a grass ordinance in effect. This states that all property is to be cut by May 15 annually and there often not to exceed 6" on residential and 8" on non-residential lots. If there is property that is in violation of this, please call City Hall to report the address. Remember not to blow grass into roadway or curb while cutting your grass all summer long!

NEW 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 digital sign to let the whole community know.

COMMUNITY FISH CLEANING STATION

The city put in a fish cleaning station at the old State Harbor of Refuge or now called "Riverside Park." It is located in the gray pole building closest to US-23. It will not be staffed but has cameras installed and will be a community station left open for all to use. A fee box along with a QR code is set up and rates are currently \$1 per fish and open 24/7. City staff asks you clean-up after yourselves. The city will gauge by usage, cost to maintain and if any problems; the fee might be adjusted.

SPLASH PAD OPEN DAILY!

The Splash Pad will be open from Memorial Day thru Labor Day. Hours of operation are 10 AM – 8 PM. The big blue button needs to be pushed to activate water and water will only turn on during these hours. This button is heat activated and can only work with hand or bare-foot. Pavilion available for rental! See article below.

PAY WITH CREDIT/ DEBIT/ACH PAYMENTS

The city has been accepting credit or debit cards on water bills or taxes for a couple years now. You can go online to make payments or just call City Hall to pay over the phone. The city also accepts ACH payments. The city has form to set up ACH payments and they will be pulled automatically on the 15th of the month for water bills and 1st of the month for taxes.

*Have a safe &
enjoyable summer!*

CITY GARAGE SALE ORDINANCE IN EFFECT

Remember that Au Gres City Council recently adopted a garage sale ordinance for the city. You need to file a permit (0 fee) with City Hall and are allowed 3 sales per year at a maximum of 84 hours each sale.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING

The city once again is using Advanced Pest Management for mosquito spraying for 2026. If you have an issue with spraying, please call them directly at 989-876-0374. If you would like to opt out completely for spraying or would like to give permission to APM for off road access, forms are available at City Hall.

NEW GOLF CART ORDINANCE IN EFFECT

City Council recently adopted a golf cart ordinance. The city now allows golf carts on local streets only (not US-23) as long as the golf cart is registered with City Hall and/or the Police Department and obtain a permit sticker to be displayed on the golf cart. Golf carts cannot be operated on streets during the time period from ½ hour before sunset to ½ hour after sunrise. Registration is free.

AUGRES CITY RECYCLING

LOCATION: CITY DPW GARAGE, 986 S COURT
ITEMS ALLOWED:

PAPER: mail, paper, phone books, magazines.

PLASTIC: household plastics #1-#7

CARDBOARD: cardboard boxes, cereal boxes, paperboard

ALUMINUM: food & 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 2026 taxes to help cover costs. This bin is dumped once per month.

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: www.augreschamber.com

BURNED OUT STREET LIGHT??

Anyone can call or go online to Consumer Energy and report a burned-out street light. Just call 1-800-477-5050 and mention address nearest to the outage location.

PAPERLESS BILLING: If you would like to receive your water bill electronically, please email to cityofaugres@cityofaugresmi.com or call the office.

AUGRES INSTITUTES VETERAN BANNERS

The City of Au Gres is continuing their veteran banner program. You should see these banners on display right now. If you are still interested in purchasing a banner, City Hall still has spots available for the 2027 year and the cost is \$200 for two-year display. This is great way to honor any veteran, living or deceased that resided in Arenac County. These banners will be sold throughout the year again and be installed by Memorial Day 2027. Any questions or further information, stop in to City Hall.

TRASH COLLECTION

Remember that City curbside trash collection (Tuesday pick up) 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 collection will be delayed one day when the holiday falls on a weekday. For the remainder of the year, the only holiday affected is Labor Day and will be Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

ALL PROJECTS NEED ZONING APPROVAL

All projects that you are doing in your yard, house or business needs zoning approval. This includes decks, fencing, sheds, additions, garages, or signs. Please check with City Hall prior to and pull a permit.

JULY

- 3 Au Gres City Offices closed
- 4 Fireworks held at South/Court St in Au Gres @ Dusk
- 18 Old Airport Disc Golf Tournament
- 25 Au Gres Cruisers 13 Mile Cruise starting at 5:15 PM
- 26 Au Gres Car Show 9-3 PM @ City Pavilion

AUGUST

- 4 Primary Election. City Hall will be closed.

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Au Gres City Hall closed for Labor Day
- 14 Summer Taxes Due

2026 SUMMER TAX DEFERMENT

Eligible taxpayers can defer the payment of their summer taxes on their principal residence only until February 16, 2027 by completing an Application for Deferment and submitting it by September 14, 2026. Due to annual changes in income requirements, the deferment application form must be submitted each year. Forms can be picked up at City Hall.

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.

CURB APPEAL...IT BENEFITS ALL OF US

After a long winter, spring is the season of rejuvenation. This is a great time to venture back out in the yard and dispose of unwanted items. Some of these items are a violation of City ordinances. Getting rid of yard clutter will quickly increase the curb appeal of your home, possibly making better neighbor relations and will certainly benefit the character of liability of our city.

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

Au Gres City Hall would like to extend several thank you's during the past fiscal year:

- Thank you to the Saganing-Chippewa 2% Grant for \$26,635 to go towards water plant maintenance like cathodic protection, etc.
- Thank you to Bay Area Community Fund grant for \$5600 to go towards new upgraded faucets/water fill stations at our City campground.
- Thank you to all who participated in the Memorial Day Parade. It was great to see participation and attendance up!
- Thank you to ACE group for all their great events put on including concerts in the park, Christmas in the Park and the recent Taste of Au Gres!

REQUEST OF WATER TURN ON OR OFF

When requesting a water turn-on or off, please contact City Hall at 989-876-8811 to schedule an appointment and provide at least 24-hour notice. Fee increased to \$50 each time the water is turned on or off, which will be applied to your water bill. Someone must be present at the home for the water to be turned on. After business hours/emergency turn on/off requests have a \$150 fee.

CITY RESIDENTIAL COMPOST SITE

The city has a compost site available for residential customers only that accepts leaves, grass clipping and brush cut to uniform lengths. It is located on Proulx Road and during the summer months, it's open all day on Tuesdays. City residential customers pay \$7 annually on their taxes for this and the recycling service. If you cannot make Tuesday to dispose of your compost, please call City Hall to make other arrangements.

2026 FARM MARKET STARTED

The Au Gres Farm Market is being held on Fridays only this year from May 15 -September at the Au Gres Riverside Park from 9 AM-2 PM. The event is made successful by numerous vendors who participated each year. Products such as vegetables, fruits, flowers, eggs, honey, baked goods, and specialty products were available throughout the season. The farm market is now run by their vendors. Crafters are invited back this year! Call Tom Becker at 989-321-0297 to register.

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.

CITY COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEE

The City of Au Gres is pleased to welcome Kody Gordon as the newest member of our Department of Public Works team. Kody is a 2017 graduate of Au Gres-Sims High School and brings a strong connection to our community. In his new role, Kody will work alongside our current DPW staff while completing the required licensing to operate the city's water and sewer facilities. This newly created position is an important investment in the future of the city's infrastructure, ensuring continuity in our licensed water and sewer operations for years to come.

CITY FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR RENT

- **Chapel in the Michigan Avenue Park:** Reserve now for weddings, memorial serves, etc. Just redone the wood flooring along with electrical upgrades and more improvements coming! Total fee to rent is \$175.
- **Splash Pad Pavilion:** Works great for kids' birthday parties, family re-unions, etc. Rents out for \$50 for 3 hours, \$80 for 6 hours or all day for \$150. Pavilion has electric and picnic tables. Park closes at dusk and must be vacated by then.
- **City Park Pavilion:** Great for graduation parties, wedding receptions, family re-unions, etc. Rents out for \$200 city resident and \$300 for non-resident. Recent upgrades just done.

ELECTION NEWS

With two big elections coming up this year, voters have a wide variety of choices on how and where to vote!

AUGUST 4 ELECTION

June 22-Aug 4: Absentee ballots available at City Hall
July 25-Aug 2: Early Voting Opens from 8:30-4:30 PM @ Arenac County Building
August 4: Election Day: polls open 7 AM -8 PM
*****Remember, with the August primary election, you will receive your ballot showing both parties but must vote only one-party straight ticket or it will spoil your ballot.***

NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION

Sept 29-Nov 3: Absentee ballots available at City Hall
Oct 24-Nov 1: Early Voting Opens from 8:30-4:30 PM @ Arenac County Building
November 3: Election Day: polls open 7 AM-8 PM

At the early voting site, voters can either run their absentee ballot through the tabulator or vote in person. As always, you can still drop off or mail back your absentee ballot to City Hall as long as it is received by 8 PM on the day of the election to be processed.

Voters can apply for absentee ballot anytime. With this application you can select to be put on the permanent ballot list. If selected, you will be placed on this list which will automatically send out an absentee **ballot** with every election; no more filling out an application each time. If you do not check this box, you must fill out an application every election if want to voter absentee.

The best advice is to check and see if you are registered voter or register now by going online to www.mvic.sos.state.mi.us/RegisterVoter, in person at an Secretary of State branch office or visit your local clerk's office to make it a smooth transition on election day. If no time, there are still choices where within 14 days of an election or on election day, voters can register to vote and vote in that election. In order to qualify, voters must show residency verification documentation in the form of one the following categories of documents: • Michigan driver's license or State ID card • Current utility bill • Bank statement • Paycheck or government check.

CITY ELECTION NOW HELD IN NOVEMBER

The City Council election is now held in November during State and Federal elections. This year, it will be Tuesday, November 3, 2026. There are 2 City Council positions on the ballot each with a 4-year term. Nominating petitions are due on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 4 PM to get on the ballot. City Council seats up for re-election include Joe Warr and Dan Heinrich.

MOSQUITO RENEWAL ON AUGUST 6 BALLOT

The City of Au Gres will be asking again for a 5-year mosquito millage renewal **reduction** to 1.50 mills for the years of 2027-2031. This millage was started in 2007 and has been renewed ever since. The last millage request, the city had to increase the millage rate to 1.75 to cover costs. Now, with the housing market and taxable values continuing to go up, the city can reduce this millage rate back down to the existing 1.5 mills. The City contracts this service out with Advanced Pest Management (APM). Absentee ballots will be available starting June 22, 2026.

CITY MANAGER NEWS

This year marks a historic milestone: 250 years since the founding of the United States. The Semiquincentennial invites us to reflect on the nation's journey---from the signing of the Declaration of Independence to the vibrant, diverse country we call home today. As we celebrate, we honor the ideals that continue to shape the American story: **liberty, innovation, resilience and community**. These same ideals that shaped our country are the same set of principals that have made the City of Au Gres a great place to live, work and play. Over the past year, the city has made progress across housing, recreation, infrastructure, and public amenities.

The City of Au Gres is proud to announce the completion of four new city developed homes, expanding local housing opportunities and supporting neighborhood revitalization. An open house is scheduled for the end of June, welcoming prospective buyers to tour the new homes and learn more about the city's development efforts. This project was made possible through a \$400,000 MSHDA Mi Neighborhood Grant.

The City of Au Gres Riverfront Campground is currently undergoing a major expansion with the addition of 28 campsites and two new ADA compatible cabins. The new sites will feature 50-amp electrical service, water and sewer hookup, concrete parking pads and a new community bath/shower facility. The campground upgrades are partially funded through Michigan DNR Trust Fund, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Arenac Community Foundation Grants. The expansion is scheduled to be completed for the 2027 camping season.

The City of Au Gres, along with Sims, Whitney, Au Gres and Turner Townships supported the construction of two new ballfields. The baseball and softball fields are located next to the youth soccer fields on South Court Street and include off street parking and a new maintenance and concession building. Thank you to many volunteers that had a hand in this project along with the Arenac Community Funds and Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for their financial donations.

City street and sidewalks repairs and improvements have been completed for the 2026 season. The City of Au Gres along with funding from Michigan Department of Transportation was able to repave over 1 ¼ miles of city streets. Areas with new surfaces include Michigan Avenue from West Street to the Au Gres River, Albert Street, and Saginaw and Water Streets south of US-23. Phase 1 of the sidewalk replacement/repair project include many citywide locations. Phase 2 is scheduled for 2028.

Plans are being finalized for the City of Au Gres parks this summer. They include major improvements to our challenging Old Airport Disc Course, the Chapel and KinderPlatz Park, Riverside Park and raingardens located throughout the city.

As the United States marks its 250th anniversary and the City of Au Gres celebrate 120 years, the city reaffirms its commitment to responsible governance, community development, and long-term infrastructure investment. It extends sincere gratitude to the resident, partners, volunteers, and stakeholders whose support strengthens the community and fuels its progress. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Dale Wittse, City Manager