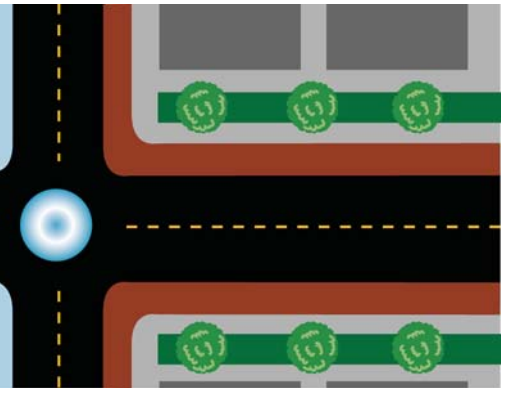




Virg Bernero, Mayor

The Construction Observer

Building
Lansing's
Future



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Downtown's New Director - Welcome Mindy Biladeau!

August 11 - Mindy Biladeau started as Executive Director of Lansing's Principal Shopping District (PSD), the organization that helps market and oversee the downtown business community. Biladeau will be implementing the Main Street program, which uses a comprehensive approach to downtown revitalization through economic development and historic preservation. The Lansing PSD was one of 17 communities selected by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to participate in the Michigan Main Street Associate Level program.

"It's a great opportunity," said Biladeau, 26, who ran the Howell Main Street program for 2 1/2 years. "The downtown is really going through a revitalization that will continue for years to come." She replaces Kevin Green, who stepped down in May 2008.

The PSD has been instrumental in involving the business community in programs and information regarding CSO work and other construction relevant to downtown. As Biladeau becomes acclimated to the CSO work plans for future years, communication and relationships with the downtown community will continue to be enhanced to best accommodate affected businesses, residents and patrons.

What's Lurking in Combined Sewage *Part Two of Four*

Another pollutant category contained in Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) is that of the "nutrients," phosphorus, and nitrogen. Similar to the pollutant subject of our last article (oxygen-demanding substances), phosphorus and nitrogen are contained in the food we eat. When CSOs occur as a result of storm events, the phosphorus and nitrogen are discharged to the river.

Although phosphorus and nitrogen are soil-enriching nutrients important to plant and vegetable growth, excess nutrients in lakes and rivers have a detrimental effect on water quality by causing nuisance plant growth, including algal blooms. Too much plant growth has a negative effect on the habitat in which fish and other aquatic species use for spawning and reproducing and by lowering the in-stream dissolved oxygen levels, which also hurts aquatic species.

Swimming, fishing, and boating are also effected negatively by excess plant growth. Algal blooms can be a potential public health risk to swimmers through the toxic micro-organisms they sometimes produce. Let's not forget the rivers' aesthetic value. No one likes the appearance of a weed or algae ridden stream!

It is our hope that through the efforts of Lansing's CSO Control Program, water quality in the Grand and Red Cedar Rivers will one day be restored.

CSO Traffic Updates and Construction Progress

Downtown – Grand Avenue

- Grand Avenue is closed to traffic; local businesses are open and detours are posted
- Curb and gutter has been placed on Grand from Lenawee to Kalamazoo
- Grass restoration is being performed along Grand from St. Joe to Lenawee
- Storm sewer work is complete at the intersection of Grand and St. Joe
- Concrete paving complete in the south half on the intersection of Grand and Kalamazoo

018 SW – Larch from Saginaw to Grand River Avenue

- Larch closed to through traffic north of Saginaw; local businesses open, detours are posted
- Completed main line storm sewer installation on Larch and Sheridan
- Completed lining of underground sewer pipes
- Water main on Larch from Grand River to Oakland is being tested

020 – Shiawassee and Pennsylvania Area

- All streets have been final paved and are open to traffic
- 020 regulator to be abandoned pending final project review

018 SE – Oakland and Pennsylvania Area

- Traffic has been shifted to the east side of Pennsylvania; Traffic opened to two lanes northbound on Pennsylvania from Saginaw to Oakland, left lane must turn left at Oakland.



TOP FIVE Ways to Go Green when You Go Back to School

- 1. Reuse Your Backpack** from last year or buy a recycled one. Avoid packs made with PVC and vinyl, which are hazardous to human and environmental health.
- 2. Brown bags are out** (it's not cool to kill trees) but **Be Careful Selecting a Lunch Box.** Painted lunchboxes may contain lead and contaminate your food. Look for those made of fabric and without vinyl or PVC.
- 3. Packing lunch with paper and plastic bags causes a steady stream of waste.** Not a good lesson to teach our schoolkids. **Consider Getting Reusable Containers;** they'll tag along home with the lunchbox.
- 4. Thirsty for More?** Let your child pick out a thermos or reusable BPA-free bottle in place of daily juice boxes. No waste, less money!
- 5. Clean House Before You Shop.** You most likely already have all the pencils, pens, crayons, and paper you need for the new school year, its just a matter of digging through drawers and closets instead of into your wallet.

Going Forward:

- *September 9-11:* The HVAC Mobile Green Classroom (www.hvacgreen.net) is coming to mid-Michigan! It will be on the south lawn of the Capital on 9/9 from 9 am - 3 pm, on the LCC West Campus on 9/10, and at the MSU-Human Ecology Building on 9/11.

- Pennsylvania has been reduced to one lane northbound ONLY from Oakland to Grand River. Side streets are open to traffic.
- Sanitary sewer installation complete on Camp
- All underground work complete on May except one manhole and two catch basin leads in the intersection of Johnson and May
- Curb and gutter and driveway approaches installed on Farrand and Cleveland

013 NW – Neighborhood SW of Sheridan and Turner

- All streets have been final paved and are open to traffic
- Gravel drive approaches installed and gravel shoulders completed

045 – Larch from Michigan to Saginaw

- Larch closed to through traffic north of Michigan; local businesses open, detours posted
- Shiawassee and Larch intersection is closed, it will reopen in the next two weeks, through traffic on Larch should turn at Michigan and follow detour
- Base and level paving, curb installation, and driveway approaches on Larch from Shiawassee to Erie completed
- Shiawassee between Larch and Pere Marquette is closed to through traffic and will reopen in the next two weeks
- Water main and water services installed on Larch south of Shiawassee
- Storm leads and catch basins installed on Larch south of Shiawassee
- Water services and water main connections complete on Shiawassee between Larch and Pere Marquette

034A – Neighborhood SE of MLK Jr. and Mt. Hope

- Local streets are open to traffic
- Base paving and parkway restoration complete on Beal from Lenore to Cooper
- Water main installed on Osband from Cooper to Gordon
- Water main installed on Gordon from Osband to Beal
- Storm sewer manholes, storm sewer connections, water main connections, and catch basins installed on Rundle

013 NE – Chilson and N. East Street

- Traffic control is in place, one lane of traffic is open in each direction on N East
- N East and Sheridan intersection is closed and is scheduled to be paved this week and be opened on Friday. CATA buses are re-routed and use Frederick and Larch to get to Sheridan.
- Sanitary sewer lead installation on the west side of N East has been completed
- Road reconstruction and sidewalk installation on N East is continuing
- Base paving of Chilson has been completed

Michigan Avenue Rain Gardens - Plant Progression



When first planted, rain gardens can look rather sparse. The native plant “plugs” look like weeds that will never amount to something lush and colorful. However, time is on their side. These photos show the transformation after just one year. By the end of the second year, the plants should reach maturity and fill the entire fenced area.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to Alec Malvetis, Assistant City Engineer/CSO Project Manager at amalveti@lansingmi.gov.

