

From: [Robert Karns](#)
To: [Laura Kasper](#)
Subject: Hazardous Waste and Lack of Collection Point
Date: Monday, September 8, 2025 10:57:34 AM

I request that this communication be an action item for the next city council meeting. I am a Douglas resident.

September 8, 2025

On or around September 2nd I received a mailed flyer from Kalamazoo Lake Water and Sewer Authority (KLWSA) promoting responsible handling of hazardous waste in our community in order to preserve the quality of our drinking water via wellhead protection practices. At the moment I have approximately 1 1/2 gallons of stale, 2-cycle gasoline and mixed oil to dispose of. After searching for disposal sites I find none in our community with the exception of a possible once-per-year pickup. I called Douglas Public Works and was told they don't take it, and was offered no other options. Following that I called the Saugatuck Fire Department and had the same result, with no other options given. I telephoned the City Clerk at or around 10:30 am on Monday, the 8th of September, the phone was not answered. Finally, I called KLWSA and was told there is a collection point in Ottawa County on Quincy Street in north Holland: Ottawa County Environmental Sustainability Center.

When the quality of our drinking water is at stake it makes little sense that OUR community offers no reasonable options for disposal of hazardous waste, other than, perhaps, once annually. The best answer, then, is to make an approximate 40 mile round-trip to north Holland using up an approximate amount of automobile fuel as I wish to dispose of. It seems obvious few individuals would choose the 40-mile trip and the 60 minutes of their time rather than simply pouring the old gasoline and oil out on a dirt road, or in a field, nearby.

I propose our City Council members follow-up on the lack of a single collection point for hazardous waste in our community. I have read about public works departments as being the most logical collection point in cities across the country. If wellhead protection is a priority then dumping old fuel out on roads and in fields throughout the Douglas area should be dealt with in a more responsible manner.

Robert Karns
Douglas resident