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Monthly Planning & Zoning Report

JANUARY 2026

Each month, the Village Planning Consultant, McKenna, assists in drafting a report on recent activities of the Planning Commission, Zoning Board, and the Planning & Development Department; we welcome comments.

DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

Engineering Standards for Single-Family Homes: The Village Engineering Consultant has met with the Village Attorney to discuss amendments to existing code which will remove inconsistencies and enable approved standards fully. *Final edits are being completed including to the design graphics for final adoption.*

GOGov Permitting and Licensing Software: Village staff has met with the Township Building Official to streamline and coordinate permit handoff. But Village Planner will be working with GoGov on ways to improve information applicants see initially and how we can improve application quality. Any comments/suggestions on ways to improve the system are appreciated.

Tax-Exempt Parcels and Village ROW Inventory: Phase III: Full inventory, inspection, and mapping of Village-owned parcels and public rights-of-way to identify the extent of improvements/encroachments on public property. Majority of inventory and site inspections have been completed. *Draft report has been created and is being revised.* When submitted for Village review recommendations will include a webpage to increase public awareness and a possible public meeting to present information and address community comments.

Master Plan – Strategic Action Plan: The Planning Commission reviewed the final draft and recommended approval to the Village Council, which subsequently approved distribution for the 42-day public review on April 14, 2025. The required public hearing, final review, and adoption are anticipated once comments gathered.

RRC Certification: Village staff and consultants are working to achieve “Essentials” status and is *ongoing*:

- Master Plan Implementation Matrix, Action Plan (In Development)
- Public engagement activities within PC Annual Report. (Ongoing)
- Development Guide to be updated and uploaded to Village website. (In Development)
- Update board/commission applications. (Ongoing)
- Updated training strategy for all boards and commissions (25/26 Draft, In Development)
- Public Participation Plan (Drafted for Approval by Planning Commission and Council)

Planning & Zoning Training: The Board of Zoning Appeals Bylaws require each member to obtain at least 4 hours of relevant training annually; the Planning Commission, DDA, and Council are encouraged to attend all in-house training opportunities. Planning and zoning “essentials” training was conducted in 2024, covering a wide range of topics, and was well-received by officials. Staff will work with the Administration to develop a late-2025 training event, covering one or more specific topics of interest:

- Development Review Process (Site Plans, Special Uses, & Variances)
- Public Participation Plan
- Riparian Rights
- Parking Reform
- Housing Reform
- Environmental Planning

PERMIT DETAILS

PERMIT TYPE	ADDRESS / PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	SUBMITTED	APPROVED
ZONING COMPLIANCE				
Z-26-01	650 DETROIT AVE	Residential freestanding composite deck with railing and stairs	Jan 8, 2026	Under Review
Z-25-43	146 BELLEVUE AVE	Installation of a generator.	Dec 23, 2025	Dec 30, 2025
TEMPORARY USE OF RIGHT OF WAY				
R-26-04	418 HAUXWELL DR	Right-of-way for gas service installation Consumers Energy	Jan 13, 2026	Jan 15, 2026
R-26-03	16 S NORTH SHORE DR APT 1	Use of right-of-way for Consumers Energy utility retirement	Jan 7, 2026	Jan 15, 2026
R-26-02	130 S ANDREWS ST	Gas Service Installation for Consumers Energy	Jan 6, 2026	Jan 8, 2026
R-26-01	52 HIGHLAND AVE	Use of right-of-way for Consumers Energy utility replacement	Jan 5, 2026	Jan 8, 2026
SIGNAGE				
S-25-14	197 S BROADWAY ST	Two wall signs. Clover & Creek Grill	Dec 10, 2025	Dec 18, 2025
S-25-15	197 S BROADWAY ST	One (1) Awning Sign. Clover & Creek Grill	Dec 10, 2025	Dec 18, 2025
WALLS / FENCES				
F-25-09	44 HIGHLAND AVE	Replacement of a non-obscuring vinyl fence residential fence	Dec 13, 2025	Dec 30, 2025
DEMOLITION				
D-25-06	544 LONGPOINTE DR	Demolition of structure	Dec 17, 2025	Dec 29, 2025

VARIANCE REQUESTS

NAME / LOCATION	REQUESTED VARIANCES	MEETINGS / STATUS
A-25-005: 256 S Broadway	Rear/Waterfront setback variance	Approved at 12/4/2025 BZA Meeting

ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

NAME / LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	REVIEW & APPROVAL STATUS
44. E Flint	VLO-24-02 4-story, mixed-use, multi-family, retail, and office on existing parking lot.	Planning Commission Approval: August 5, 2024; variance required BZA Approval: October 2, 2024. Engineering & Fire Marshal Approval: Awaiting revised plans <i>STATUS: Has an extension until August 2026 to submit permits</i>
ORION VILLAS 597 E. Flint	VLO-23-03 Attached townhomes, 8-unit site condominiums.	Planning Commission Approval: June 5, 2023 Council Condo Docs Approval: April 8, 2024 Engineering Approval: January 10, 2024, as noted Final Zoning Approval: January 9, 2024 <i>Construction: Nearing Completion</i>
WEST VILLAGE 55 W. Elizabeth	VLO-23-04 Former Ehman Center	PC / Council PUD Eligibility Approval: September 7 / 13, 2021 PC / Council Preliminary PUD Approval: October 4 / 25, 2021

	PUD for mixed-use, multiple-family residential flats and lofts at the former Ehman Center property.	PUD Extension Approval: October 10, 2022 Planning Commission Final PUD Approval: September 5, 2023 Engineering & Fire Approval: Revise and Resubmit October 24, 2023 Council PUD Agreement Approval: December 11, 2023 Council Amended PUD Agreement Approval: June 10, 2024 PUD Execution / Recording: Completed May 2025 Pre-Construction Meeting: Pending Final Engineering Meeting with Architects and Engineers held January 13, 2026. <u>STATUS: Waiting on revised plans based on discussion.</u>
Lake Street Realignment and Improvements	Improvements to Lake & Flint intersection; license agreement w/Village.	Preliminary Council Approval: August 14, 2023; License Agreement Approval: November 27, 2023. Engineering Approval: August 29, 2024, as noted <u>STATUS: Will meet with developer to obtain update</u>
SNUG HARBOR <i>160 Heights</i>	VLO-24-01 Multifamily development; adjacent to Mystic Cove	Planning Commission Approval: May 6, 2024. Engineering Approval: September 25, 2024 Final Zoning Approval: Pending additional information <u>STATUS: Condo conversion approved with conditions</u>
MYSTIC COVE	VLO-22-05 Mixed-use, multifamily townhomes & dock/shoreline improvements.	Planning Commission Approval: October 3, 2022. Council Lot Reconfigurations Approval: June 2023 Final Zoning Approval: April 23, 2024 Engineering Approval: October 31, 2024 <u>Construction: In Progress</u>
STARBOARD	VLO-23-05 Mixed-use, multifamily townhomes & marina improvements.	Planning Commission Approval: November 6, 2023. Council License Agreement Approval: November 27, 2023 Engineering Approval: Revise & Resubmit Final Zoning Approval: Pending <u>STATUS: Approved Boat House Renovation Zoning Compliance. Showroom and garage demolished.</u>
CONSTELLATION BAY	VLO-23-02 Mixed-use residential, multi-family townhomes and apartments, shoreline improvements.	Planning Commission Approval: October 3, 2022. Planning Commission on April 3, 2023 (amended site plan) Engineering Approval: December 16, 2024 Final Zoning Approval: November 26, 2024 Construction: December 3, 2024 - Pre-con; Demo underway <u>STATUS: Grading has begun. Need to determine permit status and extent of work.</u>
THE PENINSULA	VLO-23-07 Single-family site condominiums	Planning Commission Approval: February 5, 2024 Council Condo Doc Approval: April 8, 2024 Engineering Approval: March 10, 2025, as noted Pre-Construction Meeting: March 18, 2025 Final Zoning Approval: Granted <u>STATUS: Construction ongoing</u>
146 S. Broadway	VLO-23-06 Commercial site plan 3-unit "white box", interior & exterior modifications	Planning Commission Approval: October 2, 2023 Final Zoning Approval: November 22, 2023 Construction: Complete Change of Use / Signage Approval: Suite 160 (Robotic Relief); <u>Suite 154 granted approval/determining final compliance</u>
CLOUD RETAIL <i>494 S. Broadway</i>	VLO-21-10 Commercial (marijuana retail) site plan.	Council Lot Reconfiguration Approval: March 13, 2023 Planning Commission Approval: April 3, 2023. Engineering Approval: Revise & Resubmit July 12, 2024 <u>Status: TBD</u>
WEST HARBOR ORION <i>225 Lake Street</i>	Residential, single family homes (2)	PC / Council Lot Split Approval: January 6 / 13, 2025 Demolition: In Progress Recording: Ready per Engineering Approval April 22, 2025 Zoning Review: TBD; required for each new build. <u>Construction: Demolition ongoing</u>

EASTPORT	VLO-25-01 Cross-jurisdiction redevelopment of former commercial greenhouse for mixed use, retail, multiple-family, and single family.	Site Plan Submitted: May 5, 2025 (Township portion submitted as PUD Concept) Village-Township Joint Public Hearing: June 18, 2025. <u>Pre-Construction Meeting: Pending Final Engineering – Status: TBD</u>
ORION LUMBERYARD	Public parking lot, pavilion, and gathering space.	Demolition & Cleanup: Ongoing; Building Structural Rehab: Building permit issued and structures to be saved are receiving necessary structural shoring. PUD Application: Held pre-application at the September Planning <u>STATUS: Awaiting site plan application submittal</u>
WEST VILLAGE TOWNHOMES 315 N Lapeer St	VLO-25-003 Demolition of school admin building and construction of 15 townhomes	Planning Commission Approval: September 2, 2025. <i><u>Awaiting applicant submittal of revised plans to address conditions of approval.</u></i> <u>STATUS: Awaiting applicant submittal of revised plans to address conditions of approval.</u>

LOOKING AHEAD: POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Unified Master Plan: Immediately following adoption of the Action Plan, the Village should pursue a comprehensive update to the Master Plan, unifying recent amendments; updating community data, trends, and analyses; and providing a modern, easy-to-read document to guide community growth for the next 10-20 years.

Zoning Amendments: The following table summarizes staff recommendations for Zoning Ordinance and/or Map amendments for consideration by the Planning Commission. Should the Planning Commission wish to pursue one or more of these amendments, the Commission may direct staff to further study the issue(s) and/or prepare draft amendment ordinance(s). All proposed amendments require a public hearing, a recommendation by the Planning Commission, and adoption by the Village Council.

SECTION	TOPIC / ISSUE	RECOMMENDED CHANGES
4.03, 12.03, 13.11	RL-Lake SF District setback requirements; current street setback for principal: 25 ft. / for detached accessory: 20 ft.	Provide “Established Front Setback” (EFS) standards for the street setback of lake district homes, like for the RV district. Allows more flexibility for small, nonconforming lake lots to be built in line with adjacent properties Example: 25 ft. or EFS and in no instance less than 15 ft. Adjust detached accessory setback for RL lots to 10 ft.
4.02, 13.12	RV- Village SF District permitted uses	Provide “Accessory Dwelling Unit” (ADU) and “cluster housing” standards permitted (or special) land uses in the RV district.
4.03, 12.02	Single-family district lot coverage / open space; impervious surfaces	Provide lot coverage or open space standards for impervious surfaces (concrete, asphalt) in single-family districts; encourage alternatives (i.e., permeable pavers). Example: no less than 25% of any lot shall remain uncovered, unbuilt upon, and maintained as landscaped or naturalized open space. So if maximum lot coverage for buildings and structures in RV is 40%, an additional 35% can be impervious surfacing (driveways, walkways, patios, etc.)
11.04	PUD review and approval process	Eliminate circuitous review requirements; clearly delineate roles and responsibilities of approving bodies, particularly regarding PUD contract approval.
19.02	Site plan review and approval process	Clearly delineate roles and responsibilities of reviewers and approving bodies, particularly regarding final site plan and construction plan review; require deadline (ex.: 6 months) for final site plan submittal following PC approval.
14.02	Off-street parking requirements	Study demand and current trends, consider updating off-street parking requirements for certain uses, e.g., multiple family uses may be updated to be commensurate with number of bedrooms.

15.02	Landscaping standards	Increase landscaping standards for multiple family and commercial developments; include preferred/prohibited tree species list; require certain percentage of flatwork to be permeable.
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Prepared by:



McKenna provides day-to-day assistance to Village staff and administration, applicants and developers, and the public regarding planning, zoning, and economic development matters. We also assist in the administration of the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Contact your McKenna team via email:

- **Jake VanBoxel, MSA, Principal Planner (jvanboxel@mcka.com)**
- **Sommer Nafal, NCI, Assistant Planner (snafal@mcka.com)**

Or visit us during on-site office hours, every Tuesday from 10:00am-5:00pm!

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As always, thank you for your support and participation – *it takes a Village!*