

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

April 29, 2016

MITCHELL CREEK PARK

Ferris State University welding program installed the dome of the gazebo today. Thanks so much to Marlies Manning, Dave Murray and the students for this art piece. As the landscaping follows, this should be a grand addition to the park.

FARMER'S MARKET

The Market starts next week with flowers, plants and food. Spring is Officially here!!!! Yah.

BALDWIN STREET BRIDGE

The concrete pour for the deck starts today. Thanks to the mild winter, good design and contracting, all partners have been quite happy with the construction.

SEASONAL EMPLOYEE

The City will be hiring seven seasonal employees to help in parks this summer. Many will be starting this upcoming Monday.

IVES STREET

The State announced an infrastructure grant this week. It is for utility replacement, which fits our need on Ives as the University completes the Swan Building expansion and will need reliable water. The Ives water main is undersized and subject to many breaks (30+ recorded). Cindy Plautz will be coordinating the grant application.

MERS

The MERS Director stopped in to visit and talk about their programs. The City has been happy with their service. While here, he did discuss maintenance of the City Police/Fire Retirement as well as the 457 plan. He will be sending proposals on these programs.

USER CHARGE

Meeting #2 of the contract extension for the wastewater partners was conducted this week. The contract has been divided into nine programmatic areas. Capacity issues were the first item of discussion.

PARKS & RECREATION

- Volleyball final playoffs are on Sunday at the BRMS.
- Met with Ferris Rugby Club to coordinate a volunteer activity at Clay Cliffs.
- Summer programs are being planned along with the Bandshell Concert Series and Car Cruise in.
- Touch a Truck is being held at the Department of Public Safety on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 10 am-12 pm. There will be an ambulance, County and City police, Sheriff's posse, City Fire, Dial a Ride and DPW trucks.
- Yoplait has made notification that Girls on the Run will receive a grant in the amount of \$6,000 again for next season. We are very grateful for the opportunity to work with them again.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (3) Blight | (1) Disabled Vehicles |
| (1) Furniture | (3) Parking |
| (10) Poly-cart Placement | (3) Property Maintenance |
| (10) Signs | (5) Uninhabitable Dwellings |
| (8) Yard Waste | |

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

170 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

406 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

812 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (105) and Disabled (707) passengers of which 156 used the wheelchair lift to board

58 Free Riders - Aides that ride with disabled passengers and children 4 and under with an adult

44 No Shows - A person who calls for a ride and when we go to pick up and they are not there for ride

104 Safe Riders – Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00am to 2:30am.

2,238 Ferris Shuttle Bus – Free rides to anyone on Campus, The new route has nine stops on campus- Lot 28, Allied Health, Campus Community Center, Sports Complex,

Lot 4, Rock Cafe', Recreation Center, University Center, Arts and Science, 7:30 am - 7:00 pm Mon – Thur. and 7:30 am – 2:00 pm on Friday.

3,832 Total Passengers

420 Out of City Riders - Anyone we pick up or drop off outside the Big Rapids City Limits

STREETS & PARKS –

Safety Topic: “Power Mower Safety”

- Sweeping streets
- Repaired sanitary sewer on Oak Street
- Power washed wall for mural painting to be put up
- Repaired manhole behind Fairman building
- Clearing new trail north of pool behind Brookside Ct
- Repaired water main on Lilac
- Fixed signs
- Set up golf hole in Commission Room for Puttin Around Downtown event
- Sawing water patches
- Repaired water stack at 418 Escott St.
- Helped with the dome
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks

MOTOR POOL –

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 303 Loader, complete service of all oils and filters and front and rear differentials.
 - 583 got running after being out of service for many years, removed fuel tank to clean, replaced fuel lines, filter and carburetor, battery and cables, idler pulley and drive belt, 1 tire and repaired the rest. Serviced the motor and rear differential.
- Busses:
 - 901 replaced high pressure fuel pump, removed top half of the engine to gain accesses to the pump .
 - Replaced 4 rear tires and did a grease service.
 - 909 serviced and did a safety inspection
- Police Cars:
 - 404 serviced
 - 416 serviced, diagnosed SES light- replaced evap canister and vent valve

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WWTP –

Safety Topic: “Hands and Fingers Can’t Be Replaced”

- We continue to experience random episodes of higher phosphorus concentrations in our Plant influent. IPP efforts are in progress, to determine the source(s).
- Mic Joynt is the new IPP Coordinator, and is working and training with John Fribley.
- City Staff and Fleis & VandenBrink continue to refine the Draft Sewer Use Ordinance. A “final” copy has been submitted to Tom Berdinski for review and comment.
- Ongoing problems with SDC Thickened Sludge Pump operation have hopefully been solved. Jay Norris installed a new pressure switch with revised set-points.
- Conducted another Ferris Microbiology Class tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Northwest Kent Mechanical completed painting of one Automatic Air Valve, as well as some touch-up work on new Digester Piping and Valves.
- Great Lakes Roofing was on-site again, to finalize Blower Building roof repair. After some minor sheet metal work is completed, this project should finally be complete.
- Efforts are in-progress, to solve our Lab BOD blank depletion problems. Bacterial growth in the Lab water machine and water storage jugs is the culprit. Thank You Water Plant staff, for assisting in this investigation and providing lab water for our use.
- Fleis & VandenBrink completed a study of current WWTP plant capacity. Due to the increasing “strength” of our Influent, Plant Treatment capacity is estimated to be a maximum of 1.23 MGD. The Plant is still rated at 2.4 MGD Hydraulic (water flow) capacity. Future Ammonia limits will further reduce Plant Treatment capacity.
- John Fribley and Steve Cook are working in their new roles as Assistant Superintendents. Their efforts are appreciated, and a division of responsibilities will continue to evolve.
- Received a shipment of 4000 gallons of Ferric Chloride from Kemira. Work is in progress to solicit bids for future Ferric supply. Kemira’s contract expires this Fall.
- Bert Carlstrom has left to take a new WWTP job in Grand Rapids and we wish him well.
- Martin Kroon and Jake Renne signed the posting for two openings at the Wastewater Plant. Jake will begin Monday May 2nd and Martin will remain at the

Water Plant for now, to help operate the plant and train two new employees yet to be hired.

Water

- Removed the snow thrower and installed the mower deck on the tractor.
- Mowed the Plant lawn for the first time this season. Think Spring!
- Fertilized the lawns at the Plant and the Hills of Mitchell Creek site.
- Finished painting the break room kitchen and bathroom walls.
- Cleaned and re-waxed the Lab tile floor at the Plant.
- Performed Plant Maintenance tasks inside and outside the Plant.
- Tested several customer and County Park water samples.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager