

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

May 13, 2016

TECHNOLOGY

Among other things, the Big Rapid's Housing Authority is upgrading their camera surveillance capability and has invested in a system that is compatible with the City system. This will provide review capability downtown as well as in the housing buildings themselves. Thanks to Mark Sochocki for this investment for his tenants, and to Tim Moslener, Eric Haluska and Craig Brockette for their installation expertise which is saving considerable funds by doing this work 'in house'.

PUBLIC BURNING

All outside fires within the City must be permitted – except cooking grills. Recent activity with 'burn rings, or pits' still need permits as they are controlled relative to their location near other homes and the kind of material which may be burned. The Public Safety Department will be monitoring this activity more closely in the future. For a permit, please call the Public Safety Fire Department at 231-527-0024.

WOLVERINE WORLD WIDE

Very cordial discussions have proceeded with Wolverine concerning the possible addition to their plant on Baldwin Street. Staff reviewed their engineering plans making suggestions to help with drainage, landscaping and parking issues. Suggestions were very advantageous to both sides and very cost conscious. The plan continues moving forward at this point to arrive at the Planning Commission later this month or early next. A special thanks to the efforts of Mark Sweppenheiser, Mark Gifford, Van Johnson, Roger Schneidt and Engineer Todd Richter for their guidance of this important advancement.

AIRPORT QUARTERLY MEETING

The airport quarterly meeting was held on Thursday. Mike Lafferty discussed the airport improvements including crack sealing. Available hangar space is at a premium which is good for the airport.

RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY

Chris Hackbarth of the Michigan Municipal League continues to shepherd the Recreational Authority bill through the legislature. It appears success is not far away for passage. The bill has cleared the House committee hearing process and will be reported for a full vote. It has also been 'coupled' with Darwin Booher's bill to pass the legislative process.

CAREER CENTER FIRE TRAINING

The Career Center will be offering Fire I and II next year as a course of study. They have asked the City to consider the sponsorship of this education and the teaching of the class. This would give the City an advantage in part paid officer participation. While much needs to be worked out, the concept of helping one another is intriguing.

RECREATION PLANNING

15-20 individuals took part in the recreation visioning session as part of the update for the Recreation Future Planning effort. It is required that the City look at the plan on a five-year basis to include new lands and community changes which might affect the recreational needs. Certainly in the last five years the acquisition of Clay Cliffs and the current initiative with the State looking at a Recreational Authority with the Schools will be major additions to the Master Plan.

WATER PLANT

The Utility Division in Public Service is now 'settling down' as positions are filled. Dave Cushway is the Utility Director, Steve Cook and John Fibley are plant Assistant Superintendents. Jake Renne and Martin Kroon are moving to Wastewater, and two new hires will be made soon to operate the water plant. Blair Selover from Fleis and VandenBrink, who had been consulting at water plant, will be phased out over the next couple of weeks.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire Division responded to 16 calls for service this week including a grass fire on US 131. Fire training this month consists of tactics associated with rapid ladder deployment.

Police Division responded to 64 calls for service this week. Nothing of significant nature. Detective Brian Miller and Officer Simone Smith began the background for our new officer. Officer Smith also attended advanced child forensic interviewing hosted by REID Institute.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Animals | (5) Blight |
| (1) Disabled Vehicles | (3) Furniture |
| (2) Garbage & Rubbish | (8) Grass & Weeds |
| (7) Parking | (3) Permits |
| (3) Property Maintenance | (4) Recreational Vehicles |
| (9) Signs | (1) Uninhabitable Dwellings |
| (6) Yard Waste | |

PARKS & RECREATION

- Attended the Park & Recreation meeting which included the Public Hearing for the Park Master Plan.
- See attached flyer for current programs offered.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

182 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

410 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

996 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (107) and Disabled (889) passengers of which 235 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

NO Safe Riders – Summer Break. No Safe Ride provided until September 8, 2016. Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00am to 2:30am.

1,348 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.

3,045 Total Passengers

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

STREETS & PARKS –

Safety Topic: “Lubricating Machines the Safe Way”

- Sweeping streets
- Hauled 2 loads of mulch to Second Ave gardens
- Sawed patches for blacktop
- Blacktop Bailey Drive and black dirt behind the curb
- Fixed turn around on Fourth Ave
- Picked up limbs at 319 S Stewart & 414 Winter
- Fixed 2 catch basins on Oak and Oak & Ives
- Filled potholes
- Replaced light bulbs at City Hall

- Took bike rack down
- Brined gravel alleys and roads
- Graded gravel roads and alleys
- Blackdirted, seeded and added straw to grounds at the Library
- Cleaned around the benches downtown
- Mowing and weed wiping
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Prepping ball fields for games

MOTOR POOL –

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 107 dump truck, replaced under body scraper
 - 301 Street sweeper, replaced belly broom bearings, and repaired hydraulic leak
 - 302 wheeled loader, replaced cab step and ignition switch
 - 553 wing mower, replaced starter and wing deck hydraulic cylinder
- Busses:
 - 903 bus, replaced rear brake rotors, calipers and brake pads
 - 906 bus, did a grease service

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WATER PLANT –

Safety Topic: “Cutting Pipe Safely With Power-saws”

- Repaired hood on riding lawn mower and sharpened the blades.
- Mowed the lawn here at the plant.
- Performed a manual flow test of sludge to sanitary sewer to assist Jay Norris.
- Assisted Jay Norris as he calibrated the flow meter to measure the amount of sludge being pumped to sanitary sewer.
- Diagnosed issue with Lab R.O. unit. Called and received an estimate for repair.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager