

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

June 3, 2016

MAIN BREAK

In the protection of water systems, the DEQ has regulations concerning main breaks. These are becoming more rigidly enforced in light of water quality issues across the State. Generally, if a main becomes 'de-pressurized', caution must be exercised before the line is put back in service. In practical words, when a main breaks, City staff close valves surrounding the break area so that workers may repair the line in a relatively dry condition. The area directly affected for a brief time, has no water in the lines and is subject to dirty water entering the pipes as the repair is made. Before the main is put back in to operation, employees flush the line and super chlorinate it to make it safe for use. As an additional protection, that area is asked to 'boil water' for 24 hours until a bacteriological test is returned with no bacteria found. The entire remaining areas of the City are not affected, would not have lost pressure and have no need to boil water for additional safety. Such was the case this week with the break on Baldwin Street. The City did receive calls from all over town concerning the safety of the water.

MERS

The City met with MERS officials to see what can be done with the high costs of retirement funding. Without change, the costs will more than double in the next 5 years – reaching a high of \$1.7 million. This is not sustainable. The goal is to reach 100% funding of the actuarial report and keeping pace with retiree benefits. An alternate plan takes longer to become fully funded, but has a more modest payment plan reaching \$1.1 million in 2022. Aaron Kuhn is looking at other options to save the City money and still meet these retirement obligations.

BALDWIN STREET BRIDGE

The Bridge is happily ahead of schedule. The area is open to local traffic at this time but is rough to cross and still very much a construction zone. Paving is scheduled for the third week of June. With good weather the bridge could be open by the end of the month.

GILBERT ROAD

The Gilbert Road water main has been completed. Connection with businesses and rentals will be taking place this month.

FLOWERS

Three truckloads of flowers were received this week for planting downtown and in the City parks. Zinnias were distributed to residents signing up for a flat of flowers. 150 flats were given away with around 20 planted in the parks.

CAMERAS

Information Technology has been working very hard updating the camera array for the Big Rapids Housing Authority. Nisbett/Fairman now has 13 security cameras installed and operational. Parkview has 10 in service with 8 more to be installed. This coverage will be very helpful for the Housing administration and will also overlook areas downtown and in the parks providing some extra security in those areas as well.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 80 calls for service. There was nothing significant in nature to report.

In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 18 calls for service.

Director Jim Eddinger officially began as Director of Public Safety on Wednesday, June 1st. He is excited about the opportunity to lead the department and the chance to incorporate some new ideas to the day to day workings of the department.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

(3) Blight	(3) Disabled Vehicles
(1) Furniture	(37) Grass & Weeds
(3) Parking	(12) Signs
(1) Uninhabitable Dwellings	

PARKS & RECREATION

- Attended the bike and pedestrian meeting at MDOT.
- The Girls on the Run 5K event will be on Saturday, June 4 at the Bandshell. Registration is from 8 am – 9:30 am, warm up is at 9:45 am and the race begins at 10 am. Parking is open at Hemlock Park, Big Rapids Middle School and at City Hall. Those in need of transportation can be picked up by Dial a Ride at City Hall and taken to the Bandshell at no charge.
- The pool opens Monday, June 6 at 1 pm. Please stop by to register for swim passes/lessons or visit the facility.
- Friday, June 10 is the first Car Cruise In for the summer. If you have a classic car or just want to see some classic cars, come downtown from 6 pm-8 pm.

DIAL-A-RIDE –

168 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

374 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

783 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (128) and Disabled (655) passengers of which 176 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

38 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.

NO Ferris Shuttle Bus – Summer Break. 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, 7:30am -7:00pm Mon – Thur and 7:30 am – 2:00 pm on Friday.

1,420 Total Passengers

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

STREETS –

Safety Topic: “Backing up Safety”

- Installed downtown drinking fountain
- Painted benches for Hemlock Park
- Repaired drain on Bjornson
- Removed deceased animals from roadways
- Painted parking lot at Community Pool
- Painted crosswalk on Ives
- Took signs down for bridge work
- Working on swing at Hemlock Park
- Repaired watermain leak on Baldwin & Fourth
- Repaired a 6-inch valve on Baldwin & Fourth
- Fixed a hole on E Grand Traverse
- Fixed a sign on Oak & S Warren
- Removing paint on surfaces at Hemlock Park
- Swept downtown
- Built a fence around handicap swing
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

PARKS –

- Mowing & weed whipping
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaning public restrooms in Parks and at City Hall
- Prepping ball fields for games

- Putting up flower baskets
- Filling flower pots downtown
- Putting bark down at several locations of City buildings and properties

MOTOR POOL –

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 206 truck, replaced both inside door handles, checked charging system and replaced battery
 - 211 truck, fabricated new cab steps and installed
 - Wing mower, replaced leaking hydraulic line
 - Wing mower trailer, installed a lift gate assist kit
- Busses:
 - 909 bus started disassembling top half of engine to replaced high pressure fuel pump
- Police & Fire vehicles:
 - 404 police car, removed ICOP system to send out for repairs

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WATER PLANT –

Safety Topic: “Don’t Be Shocked By Charged Pipes”

- Worked with Jay Norris calibrating flow meters at the well house and at the head of the plant.
- Jay Norris trouble shot our high service pump issues and is working to resolve the problem.
- Under Pressure has completed the exterior cleaning of our two reservoirs at the plant.
- Buffed floors at the plant.
- Mowed lawn at the plant.
- Worked with the distribution team to plant the necessary samples needed for the construction sites on Gilbert and Baldwin Streets.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager