

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

June 17, 2016

## TUBA BACK

Remember this weekend is the Motown extravaganza with Tuba Bach at the Big Rapids High School. Tickets are still available for the productions on Friday-Saturday-Sunday.

## INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM

The meeting for the final financial contract with the USDA was held. Money that has been disbursed in the IRP program was reviewed and the money which had not been loaned was recalculated in the final City obligation. Big Rapids will be returning a little over \$6,000 to the USDA each year and gaining interest money for re-lending in the future. Should interest rates rise in the future the City should look at this opportunity again.

## RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY

Governor Snyder has signed the Recreational Authority bill allowing Cities and School Districts to link for recreational support. The City will be looking to put a formal program together on this issue by the end of August and start a campaign for public acceptance. This could be a game changer for the quality of life in Big Rapids. A public vote may come as early as spring 2017.

## BALDWIN STREET

Paving is beginning this week and should be concluded next week. What a welcome improvement this will be and what rejoicing will happen as traffic returns to 'normal'.

## PAW PRINTS

Hyett Palma suggested that the City look at creating a corridor with the university. One possible suggestion was to paint doggy prints on the street or sidewalk on Warren Avenue from downtown to the university. The Chamber – DBA – City – and University are looking into that possibility. At the present, the sidewalk seems the preferred alternative.

## EDA

Jerry Figliulo of the EDA visited the bridge project this week. He was most happy with the progress, signage and quality of construction. It is anticipated the project will be complete by July 4.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

The City hosted the Planning Commission meeting on Friday. Dave Bee and 15 of the members were present to conduct business and listen to Dr. David Eisler talk about Ferris State University.

## **TRAIL MEETING**

The Chamber is trying to establish Mecosta County as a 'Trail City' destination. Much like 'Tree City', this is a designation which would be helpful for tourists to get to know one of the amenities available in Big Rapids. This meeting is being held on Friday and is the kickoff for planning and advertising for this privilege.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Violations:**

(2) Blight	(1) Furniture
(28) Grass & Weeds	(3) Parking
(7) Signs	(1) Yard Waste

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

- The Car Cruise In was a success for the first one of the three part series. There were over 75 cars parked on Michigan Ave. The next Car Cruise In is scheduled July 8 from 6 pm-8 pm in the North Block, just outside City Hall.
- The Goose Round Up in the parks was a success. There were 56 geese taken from Hemlock Park/Bandshell area. None were found at Northend Park during that time. If the schedule opens up for West Michigan Goose Control, there will be another round up at this location, should it be needed.
- The 4-H cooking class has been rescheduled to July 25-29 and moved to St. Peter's. There are still openings for anyone interested in Grades 3 & 4.
- Assisted with the Haymarsh Clean Up coordinated by the M.U.C.C.
- Senior Enrichment Day is Wednesday, June 22. There will be an opportunity to inform all the senior's in Big Rapids and the surrounding area about the various program available

## **STREETS**

- Filled potholes
- Installed new storm sewer on Osborn Circle
- Graded alleys and brined them
- Put up rotary signs for runners

- Fixed catch basin on East Grand Traverse Street
- Repaired blacktop on River Street, Wastewater Drive and Osburn Circle
- Pulled stakes of newly planted trees
- Clean drains
- Trimmed two alleys of brush
- Barricades for Cruise Night downtown
- Swept downtown
- Fixed pipe rack in the garage yard
- Trimmed branches away from stop signs

### **DOWNTOWN**

- Installed bark downtown
- Mowing and weed whipping
- Repaired the hanging baskets downtown
- New seasonal gardener started Monday to take care of the flowers in the City
- Picked up trash
- Cleaned bathrooms in parks and City Hall
- Weekend bathrooms and watering flowers and baskets downtown

### **PARKS**

- Moved tennis court practice board at Hemlock park
- Fixed Dog Park information board
- Prepping ball fields for games

### **WATER -**

#### **Safety Topic: “Noise in the Workplace”**

- After taking Aeration Basin #1 out of service, it became necessary to take out Basin #2, for repair of a broken water line. Basin #2 is back in service, with Basins #3 and #4.
- Working on a Practice Test Series, and the actual DMR-QA 36 Lab Certification Series.
- Preparations are in progress for our annual NPDES Audit with Tom Berdinski (DEQ).
- Ordered and received 4000 gallons of Ferric Chloride.
- Aeration Blower and Automatic Air Valve programming is in progress.
- A letter of intent to change some Sewer Use Ordinance values and language has been drafted and will be shared with Tom Berdinski during the NPDES Audit. Still waiting on a Lab A/C compressor, after the new warranty-replacement compressor was found to be defective.
- Replaced burned-out incandescent bulbs in Ferric Storage Building, with new LED bulbs.

- Ordered and received pails of grease for both Screw Pumps. Refilled hopper for #2.
- Rotated Screw Pump operation to the West #2, with the East # 1 in “lag” standby.
- Parking Lot and Plant Drive crack-seal work has been scheduled with DPW.
- As time allows, STP #1 Moyno Pump will be taken out of operation and rebuilt.
- Agile Safety installed a new O2 sensor in the Grease and Grit Building.

Stephen Sobers  
City Manager