

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

June 24, 2016

## BERGELIN HOUSE

Contact has been made with Chris Bergelin who as affirmed that when presented with new contracts and deeds which convey the historic Bergelin House to the City without strings, the family will sign the documents. This will insure in the future any improvements to the home will accrue in value to the historic committee governing the home.

## MDOT

Officials from MDOT visited the City this week to look at development of the Hanchett site with a mind to transportation access. While the Department of Transportation make decisions only on the basis of drawings, the distance to the traffic light at State Street and Baldwin and the traffic patterns make it reasonable to presume that a properly designed drive access from State Street onto the Hanchett property would be approved. This information has been transmitted to the Bonner Group employed to help the City market the property.

## SIMONDS

The Bonner Group and City Staff met to discuss the bridge development and possible future involvement of their facilities in an area-wide development plan. As the Hanchett site plans are finalized the financial impact will help guide the future direction of the City's north end. Both the City and Simonds will be reviewing their future needs in order to quantify the financial realities of making an area wide program work on the strength of improvements to Hatchett's.

## LANSING TRIP

City officials visited consultants in Lansing this week to discuss two issues. With the change in State law on Recreational Authorities, the consultants weighed in on ways to market the new authority to provide the best and most efficient structure to insure success for the Authority – both in program and financial viability.

In addition, a discussion was held concerning the unfunded liability of the MERS retirement system under which many of the City employees labor. MERS is looking for the City to adopt a method in which the City, presently funded at a 65% basis, will reach 100% over the next 15 years. The City will continue to explore options, expecting to make a recommendation within the next 30-60 days.

## **CLAY CLIFFS**

Mark Sweppenheiser has begun planting Prairie Grass at Clay Cliffs. He is starting with a ¼ acre as a test plat.

## **FESTIVALS**

The Roben-Hood airport Airfest and the Library Benefit chicken dinner at the Sawmill both take place this Saturday, June 25. Please stop by the airport for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. and for lunch at 11:00. This year there will be a kiddy plane train for all ages to enjoy.

The chicken BBQ for the community library will be from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Sawmill Saloon with the chicken dinner being served starting at 4:00 p.m.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Police Division responded to 71 calls for service over the past week. Of significance were two counterfeit \$10 bill complaints taken on Tuesday and Thursday. Investigation into these matters continue.

Officer Chad Kinsey began his first phase of FTO, learning administrative information and department policy and procedure.

The Fire Division responded to 15 calls for service over the past week. There was nothing significant in nature to report.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Violations:**

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| (3) Blight                  | (2) Disabled Vehicles |
| (1) Furniture               | (3) Garbage & Rubbish |
| (20) Grass & Weeds          | (5) Parking           |
| (1) Property Maintenance    | (5) Signs             |
| (9) Uninhabitable Dwellings | (18) Yard Waste       |

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

Bandshell concerts began this week. Next week will be the Ferris Community Summer Band. See attached flyer.

Attended senior enrichment day. The event is always a great way to give seniors program information offered by the City.

Attended Recreation Authority meeting in Lansing.

## **DIAL-A-RIDE –**

**155** Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

**244** Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

**806** (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (121) and Disabled (685) passengers of which 196 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

**25** 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 12:00 am to 2:30 am.

**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, 7:30 am -7:00 pm Mon – Thur and 7:30 am – 2:00 pm on Friday.

**1,338** Total Passengers

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

## **STREETS –**

### **Safety Topic: “Dehydration”**

- Painting crosswalks
- Swept downtown
- Traveled to Grand Rapids to get bricks for Holland Park Memorial
- Rebuilt catch basin on Marion & W Spruce
- Fixed pipes in storm manhole on E Grand Traverse
- Sweeping streets
- Trimmed 2 trees on Clark and S Michigan
- Trimmed brush away from BRHS sign south of town
- Dan Maxon reading meters
- Cut post for Disc Golf course
- Assisted with meters in manholes and in Parkview
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Repaired water box on 131 & Madison
- Graded and brined alleys

- Removed downed sign on M-20, repaired and then reinstalled
- Repaired lights in Mitchell Creek Park
- Repaired storm manhole on North 131
- Repaired concrete caps in Hemlock Park

### **PARKS –**

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

### **MOTOR POOL –**

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
  - 213 Pickup truck, replaced serpentine belt and replaced brake line to rear of truck
  - 306 tractors, service call, repaired wiring to transmission
  - 554 wing mower, replaced a tire and leaky hydraulic line and air filter
  - 582 mower replaced throttle cable assembly
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
  - 404 Police car, installed ICOP module and replaced head lamp
- Busses:
  - Delivered 4 exhaust filters to dealer in Grand Rapids to be cleaned
  - 901 serviced and did a safety inspection, serviced transmission
  - 903 serviced and did a safety inspection, replaced parting brake shoes and cables
  - 904 finished installing high pressure fuel pump, replaced both exhaust filters. Diagnosed A/C system- replaced outside air temp sensor
  - 905 serviced and did a safety inspection and adjusted parking brake shoes
  - 906 replaced front brake rotors, pads, calipers and hoses
  - 908 replaced exciter ring for ABS system, replaced rear brake pads
  - 909 replaced 2 exhaust filters, replaced rear brake pads. Repaired micro switch in shifter assembly. Replaced parking brake shoes and hardware

### **MAIN MAINTENANCE -**

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

### **WATER PLANT –**

#### **Safety Topic: “Fuel handling practices”**

- Worked with Jay Norris on multiple SCADA system issues.
- Worked with Jay Norris at HMC site to correct communication issue.

- Rob from Mall City Mechanical here and he removed two backflow preventers from the system as they are no longer needed and had failed the testing procedure.
- Met with Scott from Under Pressure to see about cleaning our Ferris water tower.
- Looking forward to the new operators starting next week.

## WWTP -

### **Safety Topic: “Ear Protection Required In This Area”**

- The Plant continues to run on 3 Aeration Basins, with everything looking pretty good.
  - The DMR-QA Practice series has gone very well, and the DMR-QA 36 Lab Certification Series is almost complete. Official results are due July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - We successfully completed our Annual NPDES Audit with Tom Berdinski (DEQ). Tom is very pleased with our efforts overall, but did assign a list of follow-up documentation.
  - Investigating SCADA communication issues with Digester Blower control, and with gas-detection alarm systems in the Grease & Grit Building and the Headworks Building.
  - Progress continues with Aeration Blower and Automatic Air Valve programming.
  - Organized and scheduled Wellhead Protection Committee meeting for July 15. City Staff, Township and Community people will participate in this DEQ-mandated effort.
- The Lab A/C unit has been repaired and is back in service.
- Ordered and received U.V. bulbs, Quartz Sleeves and O-Rings from The U.V. Doctor.
  - The Vortex Grit Chamber was taken out of service, due to a worn and failed drive gear. Two new gears (replacement and a spare) have been ordered from Veolia in Quebec.
  - Vacuumed and cleaned cooling fan filters in the Blower Building Electrical Room.
  - General cleaning and yard work continues in and around the Plant buildings and yard.
  - The Plant snowplowing truck was taken over to DPW for a seasonal tire change.
  - The Ferric Chloride Bid Opening took place at City Hall.
  - Integrated Controls was approved for the first of two 1-year extensions for SCADA Instrumentation and Controls services at the Water and Wastewater Plants.

Stephen Sobers  
City Manager