

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

July 22, 2016

IVES DITCH

The major drainage ditch from Ives to the Muskegon River has filled with debris and is eroding back yards on Cherry Street. Staff visited this area and are researching the best way to address this problem. In addition, the City sanitary sewer crosses this area and is exposed and in need of attention. The City approached Ferris, as much of this water comes across the University and drains into an area on Perry beyond the Holiday Inn.

FIRE NEGOTIATIONS

Tentative agreement has been reached on the next contract with the Fire Division. The new provisions are being inserted in the document and review and acceptance of the unit will head first to the unit for a vote. It is expected that the Commission will have the document on the August 15 meeting.

RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY

Bylaws have been tentatively written by the Recreational group, who is meeting for a presentation to the City Commission at their August 1 meeting; the School Board at their August 8 meeting. If those presentations are positive, the Authority may be a reality by September. This will provide focus for recreational activity in the community and leadership for a quality of life that will be beneficial to all concerned.

TOWNSHIP SIDEWALK/CITY BRIDGE

The City and Township combined publicity on projects and had back-to-back events. The Township had a ground breaking for the sidewalk on Perry; the City a ribbon cutting for the Baldwin Street Bridge. Both events were well attended. A special thanks to Fleis and VandenBrink for providing refreshments.

LIBRARY

The Community Library sponsored the Chamber Business after hours. A special reward for attending was the receipt of a free book from the books donated for the book sale coming this Labor Day. The library continues to be a dynamic place with programs for all ages of kids and adults. Folks are always amazed at the variety of happenings and things that can be learned there.

3 GIRLS BAKERY

TV 9-10 spent two hours on remote location at the bakery this week. Staff attended in support of this advertising and promotion for the downtown. The coffee cake was exceptional.

PAW PRINTS

The Chamber is interested in a connection between the University and downtown. Discussion is taking place on methods to achieve that result, including putting bulldog paw prints on the street or sidewalk between the two locations.

TRAFFIC

Beginning next week, Campus Drive off Ives will be permanently closed as Ferris constructs a new dorm near the location which was formerly Masselink Hall. This new dorm will have 400 beds and be four stories tall. This construction will push more traffic on Ives and Magnolia, which is being considered for a 4-way stop.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 65 calls for service. Of note was a bank robbery at Fifth Third Bank, located at 101 N. Michigan. The complaint is still under investigation.

Over the past week, the Fire Division responded to 15 calls for service.

The BRDPS hosted Camp 911, an educational day on public safety for local senior citizens. Local public safety officers presented on drones, first aid, fire safety and identity theft.

PARKS & RECREATION

- Pickelball players taught the Ferris International students the game at Hemlock park.
- Beginner line dance starts next Wednesday at the United church 4pm for only \$2.
- Attended the Recreation Authority meeting.
- Attended Park and Recreation board meeting.
- Attended Healthy Coalitional meeting.
- Holland Park bricks and final touches will be finished up on the next few weeks as the dedication is Saturday, August 6 at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

STREETS -

- Took out Rotary signs along trail
- Cleaned up place for ribbon cutting for bridge opening
- Fixed 2 benches at the Old Jail

- Dug out stump at Old Jail
- Water service at Rolling Hills Lane
- Rebuilt a storm manhole on Birch Street, seeded and laid straw at the location
- Installed and painted light at Holland Park
- Swept streets
- Downtown sweeping
- Cleaned drain
- Fixed signs

PARKS -

- Watered trees and flowers
- Pickup garbage downtown and in the parks
- Installed bark at the pool
- Mowed grass and weed whipped

Stephen Sobers
City Manager