

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

August 26, 2016

TOWNSHIP

Discussion with the township on various issues was held. The City has purchased land for Clay Cliffs Nature Preserve. Logic indicates that this park should eventually be in one jurisdiction so that emergency and other services are provided by a single governmental unit. With that in mind the City is initiating incorporation of the Clay Cliff lands outside the municipality. The paperwork for this action has been transmitted to the township for their review.

DOWNTOWN

This weekend the DBA is sponsoring a 'New Beginnings' for Ferris Students in the downtown area. One thousand hotdogs will be ready for students wanting to visit downtown by bus or other transportation vehicles. The students will be introduced to the stores and services in the downtown area. This is a 'revival' of a program of 50 years ago, thanks to Rex Schuberg's organization and DBA leadership. The Community looks forward to the fall – actually the upcoming week, when all Ferris Students return for the 2016-17 school year.

ICE CREAM

The Ferris – Community Ice Cream social is September 1st (Thursday) on the Quad – weather permitting. All are invited to welcome students back to town and to enjoy a fellowship meal and ice cream.

POOL

The Marciting of the Community Pool has been accomplished. The 'bad areas' have been determined to be about 10% higher than predicted resulting in an additional \$4,000 of cost on the project. The vendor has been paid and the pool will be ready for the 2017 season.

WELL FIELD SECURITY

The Community wellfield at the airport was reviewed during the last water plant DEQ inspection. A 'finding' was written asking the City to construct additional security fencing around each well and providing additional access security for the site. Staff met this week and reviewed plans from Fleis and VandenBrink to fence the wells, erect appropriate signage for the area and install a security camera capable of monitoring the wellfield. Plans will be sent at the first of the week to the DEQ to review these plans prior to bidding. Fall construction is anticipated.

IPP

Staff postponed the Industrial Pretreatment Ordinance 6 months ago pending additional chemical testing of the waste stream from certain business customers. With this review complete, a

meeting was held to put the final touches on the wording and enforcement language for the ordinance. Final changes will be made, final review by the City and DEQ will be completed, and the new IPP plans and controls will be ready for Commission action in September.

BERGELIN HOUSE

A tour for university personnel and City leaders was conducted by Mary Loesch and Lynn Anderson of the Bergelin House. It was very educational to hear of the furniture and architecture of the home and its value to the community. Now that the Bergelin's have completed their donation of the facility, there is significant expectation that the museum will be more readily open for public use.

SIDEWALK

The construction of the Township sidewalk on Perry Street is progressing nicely. The original timetable included significant weeks to construct the necessary walls through the wetlands to support the concrete walkway. Now that the preliminary construction is complete, the actual sidewalk is being installed under the inspection and guidance of Matt Ruelle, City inspector. Thanks Matt, and thanks to the Township for their efforts to make Perry Street a pedestrian safe corridor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In the past week the Police Division responded to 109 calls for service. This is up from the average number of calls we have taken over the summer. This can be attributed to the FSU students being back in town.

A 20-year-old male has been identified as being the individual who stole a SUV in July (16-2199) from the 1100 block of Fuller Ave and dumped it in Hungerford Lake. Charges will be sought through the Mecosta County Prosecutors Office.

The Fire Division responded to 21 calls for service over the past week.

Operation Blue Light, an attempt by the BRDPS to decrease the amount of vehicle accidents began Wednesday of this week. Officers will continue to patrol these high traffic/accident areas in the coming months.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (4) Blight | (7) Disabled Vehicles |
| (3) Garbage & Rubbish | (19) Grass & Weeds |
| (6) Parking | (2) Permits |
| (16) Signs | (3) Yard Waste |

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Attended the Back to the Bricks meeting with the River Valley Car Club and CVB. It has been decided that Big Rapids would like to host this event in 2017.

- Pool repairs began this week and are expected to end early next week.
- Attended the Fall Festival Meeting.
- County Playground inspections were not completed and have been rescheduled for next week.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

151 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

343 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

780 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (94) and Disabled (686) passengers of which 217 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

18 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.

1,407 Total Passengers

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

STREETS –

Safety Topic: “Keeping Fit”

- Sawed patches
- Helped with grinding of curb on Maple St
- Trimmed trees around Stop signs & pedestrian signs
- Repaired electric eye for downtown lights
- Repaired catch basin and a manhole on South St
- Assisted Wastewater staff with repairing 2 water lines
- Installed Disc Golf signs
- Power-washed and painted ceiling of pavilion at Hemlock Park
- Dug out drain at Public Safety
- Farmers Market signs
- Spraying for bees
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

PARKS –

- Watering & maintaining flowers (baskets, pots, flowerbeds)
- 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:
 - 503 pressure washer, serviced
 - 560 Kabota, replaced turn signal light assembly.
 - 582 riding mower, replaced park lever
 - Shop band saw, serviced and replaced bearing
 - Shop coolant flush machine, serviced
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
 - 403 police car, replaced front tires and checked brakes
 - 404 police car, serviced and replaced battery. delivered to body shop for bumper repair
 - 407 police car, replaced front brakes.
 - 412 staff car, replaced front brakes and serviced. Replaced serpentine belt
- Busses:
 - 903 bus, did a grease service, replaced a wheelchair support shock and entry door motor
 - 906 bus, diagnoses A/C system, replaced filter/dryer and expansion valve, recharged system and rechecked, replaced 2 micro switches for the wheelchair lift, serviced and adjusted lift.

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WATER PLANT –

Safety Topic: “Avoid Harm From Laboratory Hazards”

- Continued with the ERA lab tests.
- Mowed lawns.
- Sharpened mower blades.
- Dug up and replaced or repaired several sprinkler heads at the plant.

WASTEWATER PLANT –

Safety Topic: “Watch Your Step!”

- West final clarifier placed back into service, after seasonal maintenance and repair.

- A broken hydrant water line was excavated and repaired by WWTP and DPW staff.
- Mall City Mechanical rebuilt and tested 2 backflow preventers here in the Plant.
- A rebuild of STP #1 moyno pump is in-progress, with Plant Operators doing the work.
- Two aeration basin flowmeters have been repaired and re-installed by Jay Norris.
- A Kaeser digester blower motor has been repaired and will be delivered soon.
- 4000 gallons of Ferric Chloride was ordered and delivered. This was Kemira's last order and future orders will be placed with Webb Chemical, per our new contract with them.
- The old vortex grit chamber was placed back into service, after drive gear replacement.
- D.O. probes were cleaned in aeration basins 2, 3, and 4.
- Rising ammonia concentrations in our aeration influent flow resulted in discovery of a leaking decant valve in the east sludge storage tank.
- Summer mowing, cleaning and maintenance continues in and around the Plant.
- Screw pump lead switched from east #1 to west #2. Grease hoppers refilled on both.
- Lab pH measurement problems have been isolated to a new, faulty probe. Another new replacement probe has been ordered.
- Water Reliability Study information has been gathered and compiled into a large 3-ring binder for Fleis & VandenBrink.
- A Sewer Use Ordinance meeting was held to finalize new FOG and Local Limits language.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager