

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

September 16, 2016

NETWORKING

Big Rapids is networking with the other communities that have income tax. Paul Cole is hosting the event on the Ferris campus to include some learning opportunities, lunch and a tour of the Jim Crow Museum. Over a dozen communities will be part of this event.

Roger Schneidt is the master planner of a staff exchange next Friday with Mt Pleasant. Department directors will exchange ideas and operational practices with one another. An agenda has been assembled and individuals paired to make the day a very rewarding experience.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

The home built on speculation by the Housing Authority on Brookside has been completed. An open house was held on Wednesday. The Authority Board hopes that the house has 'sold' and will therefore, once the deal is consummated, begin to plans the second home!

USDA INSPECTIONS

The USDA evaluates Housing Authority programs annually. This year the Big Rapids Housing Authority scored a '97', making it a 'High Performance' agency. Congratulations to Mark Sochocki and the leadership of the Authority.

DART STAFFING

DART staffing has reached a critical point. After advertising in every know manner, direct calling known drivers, talking with Ferris, Big Rapids Public School, Crossroads Charter Academy and MOTA and others, there seem no persons interested in drive. We are linking with staffing agencies to locate driver possibilities. In the interim, the City has two 'regular' employees with a CDL license with a 'P' endorsement who have agreed to assist in next month. Thanks to Bob Halsted and Stacey Johns.

RELAY FOR LIFE/TUBA BACH

There are two wonderful events (among many others) that I wanted to remind you about this weekend. Please mark your calendars and try to attend.

BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP

Discussions are underway with the Township on the best method of incorporating Clay Cliffs Park. This nature preserve was purchased by the City four years ago. It remains an isolated area with lots of trails and rustic ambiance. Half is in town, half in the township with a small piece belonging to the school system. The City desires support of the Schools and Township which would bring in

the additional sections so that safety forces would seamlessly respond to emergency needs. All parties appear to be on board with the concept, once the method of incorporation is ironed out.

FERRIS

Ferris reports that the new dorm building is going exceptionally well. Occupancy is expected for the fall term. The soccer complex and additional parking east of the Rock should be 'done' late this fall. It is hoped grass will be planted before the snow flies. The 'big ticket' item is the addition to the Swan annex. This expansion of the welding program has been ready to bid awaiting administrative approval from the State of Michigan. This was received last week, so that advertising should be 'on the street' next week!!

PUBLIC SAFETY

In the past week the Police Division responded to 113 calls for service. These are up markedly since the beginning of the FSU school year. Of these was the reported CSC of a female who was incapacitated due to be intoxicated in the 300 block of Morrison which occurred Saturday evening and was reported Monday morning. The investigation continues. Officers also continued to follow up on the large drug and money seizure at 117 S Warren from last Thursday evening.

In the past week the Fire Division responded to 28 calls for service. Of significance was as assist to a structure fire in Chase on Wednesday evening.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

164 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

241 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

672 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (116) and Disabled (556) passengers of which 145 used the wheelchair lift to board

75 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

75 Safe Riders – Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00am to 2:30am.

1,048 Ferris Shuttle Bus – 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.

2,300 Total Passengers

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

STREETS –

- Removed fence at old Hanchett site
- Picked up tree off Riverwalk
- Working on fence behind Chemical Bank
- Picked up memorial bench and installed in Mitchell Creek Park
- Put out cones for downtown event
- Filled potholes
- Cleaned storm grate on Ives
- Cutting trees down at 218 Winter – former Bergelin house
- Cutting trees on Spring St, Loudon St and alleys on Marion Ave and Rose Ave
- Sawing patches on Finley and behind City Hall
- Taking curb out on Ruse Avenue for street project
- Crosswalks on Elm and Michigan are complete
- Farmers Market signs
- 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 Hemlock ball field for games

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WATER PLANT –

Safety Topic: “Lightning: Lockout/Tagout: Water Under Pressure Poses Danger”

- Labeled bottles in our Lab to conform to the new MSDS regulations.
- Mowed lawn at the water plant and sharpened mower blades.
- Performed weekly generator checks.
- Performed several maintenance items in and around the plant.

WASTEWATER PLANT –

- Plant influent continues to contain unusually high levels of Phosphorus, usually in a Monday-Tuesday or Tuesday-Wednesday pattern. Investigation is in-progress.
- STP-1 and 2 flowmeter issues continue. Jay Norris has ordered 1 new flowmeter.
- Weekly Lift Station checks completed for all 5 City Lift Stations: North State, Waterloo, Tioga Park, Novak Lane and County Garage.

- The generator battery is dead again, at Novak Lane Lift Station. Diagnosis is in-progress with DPW help, prior to calling Michigan Caterpillar.
- STP #1 Moyno pump has been rebuilt and is back in service.
- A faulty high-level alarm relay was replaced at the Tioga Park lift station. Although the high-level alarm now works, it is not the cause of continuing alarm call-outs.
- Northern A-1 and Plant Operators vactored out North State, Tioga Park, and Novak Lane lift station wet wells. Novak and Tioga contained large quantities of grease.
- Cleaned D.O. probes in Aeration Basins 2, 3, and 4 (basin 1 is out of service).
- North State lift station alarm, believed to be caused by cleaning and vactor work.
- U.V. Channel #1 bulbs were cleaned, and the Acti-Gel wiper solvent was topped off.
- Weekly rotation of the Screw Pump lead/lag sequence.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager