

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

October 7, 2016

WOLVERINE WORLD WIDE GROUNDBREAKING

Wolverine announced the groundbreaking ceremony for the 16,000 square foot addition next Tuesday, October 11, at 1:00 pm. All are welcome to attend this expansion event!!

CAR CRUISE IN

'Back to the Bricks' antique car club has selected Big Rapids as a location to bring their 500+ car review. They will team up with local car clubs and an extravaganza in June, 2017. This is expected to turn into a MAJOR tourist event and will be supported and planned by the Mecosta County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

POOL

The Fairman Pool has been drained and has completed its Marcite upgrade for this season. It is expected that further Marcite coating will be needed in the next several years in order to keep the pool in top condition.

TREES

The fall tree program is underway. Forty-eight trees have already been removed that have reached the dangerous stage at locations all over town. This is an important part of the program to avoid major cleanups after storms. Tree planting will begin today and extend into next week as 39 trees will be planted adding to the Big Rapids 'urban forest'.

CAR CHARGING STATION

Discussion and recommendation on the car charging station was held by the DBA. This feature was added to the downtown during the DIG grant construction program as an attraction to get folks downtown for shopping while their car was 'refueled'. The power costs to operate the station are minimal – under \$200.00, but the computer program operation and maintenance adds to the overall cost. The cost to use the station has been free for the first 4 hours, with modest change after that. The DBA recommends increasing the cost to try to recover the overall cost of the charging.

SAFETY PROGRAM

Last year the 'management' safety team did not meet since two of the participants were in Leadership Mecosta. Despite this condition the actual safety sessions with employees continued uninterrupted. Now that 'Leadership Mecosta' is complete the Safety committee has resumed and the overall monitoring of safety issues continues.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Violations:

(6) Blight	(5) Disabled Vehicles
(4) Furniture	(2) Garbage & Rubbish
(15) Grass & Weeds	(12) Parking
(12) Poly-cart Placement	(3) Property Maintenance
(2) Sidewalks / Streets	(15) Signs
(5) Uninhabitable Dwellings	(3) Yard Waste

PUBLIC SAFETY

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 96 calls for service. There was nothing significant in nature to report in these.

Operation Blue Light, the crash reduction initiative, continues and will do so over the next couple of weeks.

The Fire Division responded to 19 calls for service over the past week.

Firefighters Russ Bell and Sean Wethington have been going to local schools and educating the children on fire safety. This has been very well received.

PARKS & RECREATION

- Attended the Back to the Bricks meeting, which will be held in June 2017.
- Went to County playgrounds and did an end of season inspection.
- Attended Bike and Pedestrian meeting at MDOT grand region.
- The community pool was drained and officially closed for the 2016 season.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

159 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

316 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

749 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (124) and Disabled (625) passengers of which 216 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

21 No Shows - A person who calls for a ride and when we go to pick up and they are not there for ride

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

1,673 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.

3,009 Total Passengers

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

STREETS –

Safety Topic: “Gasoline Safety”

- Set out stage for music event at Hemlock Park
- Put out cones and signs for homecoming parade and picked up
- Picked up wood from tree contractor work throughout city
- Took cones to High School
- Repaired sign at Spruce and US-131, Willow Ave and River St
- Farmer’s Market signs
- Filled potholes
- Black dirt behind curb on Rust and seeded
- Hauled animals outside city caught in traps
- Painted Airport parking lot
- Fixed catch basin at Willow and Chestnut
- Blacktop 2 patches behind Shooters in the parking lot
- Blacktop a patch at the Airport Drive
- Finished crosswalks at Michigan and Maple
- Repairing damaged mailbox at 612 Winter
- Sawing blacktop at Water Plant for conduit installation for cameras
- Assisted in installing electric at Hemlock Park for cameras
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

PARKS –

- Mowing & weed whipping
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaning public restrooms in Parks and at City Hall

MOTOR POOL –

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 213 truck - serviced and replaced wipers. Installed topper and sand bags for the winter, washed exterior
 - 223 truck - serviced and replaced fuel filter. Installed brake controller and front door speakers
 - 554 wing mower – replaced battery

- Police & Fire Vehicles:
 - 409 police car - diagnosed ABS system, replaced front wheel bearing
 - 414 staff car - replaced all brake pads and rotors. Replaced front tires and wiper blades. Washed inside and out
 - 403 police car – serviced

- Busses:
 - 904 - performed a transmission service, repaired coolant leak at throttle body. Replaced inner barrio switch and gas spring on wheelchair lift
 - 905 - service call for a dead battery, serviced and did a safety inspection. Replaced fuel level sender in fuel tank. Replaced rubber stops on wheelchair lift and adjusted. Replaced front wheel grease caps
 - 906 - performed a grease service. Checked breaks and replaced front pads. Replace leaky grease caps on front hubs. Replaced front bumper
 - 908 - serviced and performed a safety inspection, replaced air compressor governor for an air leak. Replaced break master cylinder for a brake issue

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WATER PLANT –

Safety Topic: “Hurricane Preparedness”

- Worked with Jay Norris to repair a faulty starter on a control valve for our filter #3 flow rate
- Changed filters on our lab R.O. machine
- Ran customer samples in the Lab
- Cleaned our R.O. unit in the Lab
- Mowed lawn at the Water Plant
- Assisted Matt Ruelle with some surveying

WASTEWATER PLANT –

- High phosphorus levels at our Plant are the result of process and solvent issues at Hayworth. They have been very cooperative in getting back into compliance.
- Thanks to the combined efforts of Plant Staff, Hayworth Staff and Tom Berdinski (DEQ), we remained within our monthly permit limit of 1.0 mg/L effluent phosphorus.
- Ordered and received our first 4000-gallon Ferric Chloride order from Webb Chemical.
- Unusually large quantities of Ferric Chloride have been used, to treat high levels of phosphorus from Hayworth. Costs will be determined and eventually recovered.
- Weekly lift station checks completed N. State, Waterloo, Tioga, Novak, and Co. Garage.
- Battery charging problems at Novak Lane have been traced to a tripped circuit breaker.
- Jay Norris looked at our STP-1 and STP-2 flowmeters again. Northwest Kent Mechanical will replace one meter and Jay will clean and calibrate the other one.

- A wet-well level sensor at Tioga was cleaned and is now working correctly again. A new sensor has been ordered and received, as a ready spare.
- A broken spray-water supply line was repaired on the Headworks Screening machine.
- Repaired a composite sampler pump and motor, with parts from a spare sampler.
- WWTP and WTP Staff helped with cleaning and yardwork, in preparation for the Mt. Pleasant Staff Exchange visit. Thanks to everyone for making things look really nice.
- Northwest Kent Mechanical is planning to be on-site in the next couple of weeks, to complete the Clarifier and Ferric Building modification projects.
- Tom Berdinski (DEQ) arrived for an un-announced WWTP inspection visit on Monday Oct. 3rd. After lots of questions and a plant tour, Tom stated that he is very pleased with our Plant Operation. He is especially pleased with the combined efforts of Plant Staff, in quickly reacting to the influent phosphorus problem and avoiding an effluent violation.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager