

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

February 17, 2017

SKATE PARK

Heather Bowman organized an informational meeting to discuss the potential of building a skate park in Big Rapids. Local business owner, Bryan Galloup has spurred renewed interest in this issue. The meeting was very well attended including, Ferris students, Park and Rec Board Members, business owners and many others. The group will continue to meet monthly to determine if a skate park project could be a reality in Big Rapids.

DOWNTOWN THEATRE

The transfer of ownership from Carmike to AMC is complete. Staff along with the Downtown Business Recruitment/Retention Committee has been in contact with AMC to encourage investment in the Theatre at its current location. The Theatre is an anchor business for the Downtown and considerable effort is being given to see the property improved.

ICE GRANT ANNOUNCED

State of Michigan's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement (ICE) program. The CDBG ICE program was announced this week with a deadline of April 7th. The targeted project is the replacement of watermain on Ives Ave. from Magnolia to State Street and replacement of watermain on Clark Street. The maximum grant award is \$2,000,000. Staff along with Fleis and VandenBrink will be working diligently to get the application submitted. If awarded, the project would take place during the summer of 2018.

LIBRARY

Wednesday, February 22, Story teller Al Bryant will be at the library from 6 – 8 p.m. to share "The Mystery of Lizzie Borden". Who doesn't know the name of Lizzie Borden? But is there really more to her story? Al Bryant is being brought to the library as part of The Festival of the Arts.

Tuesday, February 28th, from 6 – 8 p.m., don't miss the grand opening of the Big Rapids Seed Library with Ben Cohen as the guest speaker. As the regional coordinator for the Gardens Across America project, Ben will talk about the importance of community seed banks in the U.S. and the need for all of us to take part in seed saving. Refreshments will be served.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- In the past week, the Police Division responded to 90 calls for service. There was nothing significant in nature to report.

- In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 20 calls for service. On Wednesday evening the department had a training with Part-Paid Fire on medical equipment.
- Officers continued reaching out to City residents in relation to the sector policing initiative.

PARK AND RECREATION

- Over 550 dads and daughters danced the night away at the annual Daddy Daughter Dance.
- Attended USDA Farmers Market webinar to learn better approaches to SNAP, community partnerships, outreach strategies, and education and networking opportunities.
- Met with several different instructors to better acquaint myself with recreation groups in the community.
- Planning for spring programs has begun.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

243 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

312 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

854 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (130) and Disabled (724) passengers of which 191 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

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

2,409 Ferris Shuttle Bus – Free rides to anyone on Campus, The new route has eight stops on campus- East Campus Mailbox, Lot 28, Allied Health, Campus Community Center, Lot 4, Rock Cafe', Arts and Science, 7:30 am -7:00 pm

4,025 Total Passengers

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

DPW: STREETS –

Safety Topic: “Watch Your Step”

- Filling potholes
- Fixed signs
- Cleaned trucks
- Sanded and salted streets, alleys and parking lots
- Picked up limbs off the streets from the wind

- Painted and hung some pictures in City Hall
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

DPW: PARKS –

- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaning and maintaining City Hall public restroom

MOTOR POOL –

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 208 pickup truck, diagnosed running bad, replaced distributor cap and rotor
 - Serviced 4 pickup trucks
 - Replaced 4 sets of underbody blades on dump trucks
 - 319 Toolcat, replaced front bucket hydraulic hose and fitting
 - Airport Kubota, replaced front differential assembly
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
 - 407 police truck, diagnosed no brake lights, replaced brake light switch

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs

WATER TREATMENT PLANT –

Safety topic: “Handling the Load: Forklift Safety”

- Checked generators.
- Checked cathodic protection.
- Moped main hallway and lab floors.
- Painted in the high service pump room.
- Ran customer samples.
- Answered call in alarms.
- Rebuilt pilot valve assembly on high service pump #1.
- Performed maintenance on state street booster pumps.
- Opened gates at Bjornson and Perry towers for AT&T.
- Repaired the eaves at the well house as the wind had blown out part of the soffit.
- Worked with Jay and Don at the state street booster station installing VFD’s on our booster pumps.
- Calibrated chlorine analyzer at the plant influent location.
- Performed maintenance on R.O. unit in the lab.
- Miscellaneous reads

Mark Gifford
City Manager