

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL 21, 2017

## FARMERS' MARKET

Opening of the Farmers' Market is almost here! This year's first event is Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Fridays will remain from 8:00 – 2:00, Tuesdays will be 12:00 – 5:00 which is slightly different from last years' time of 1:00 – 6:00.

## COMBINED MEETING OF CITY COMMISSION AND TOWNSHIP BOARD

The City Commission and the Township Board are having a combined meeting on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 at the County Services Building to discuss the issue of Medical Marihuana.

## VAN JOHNSON AWARD

Van Johnson was nominated as a "Community Hero" as part of national competition of public employees put on by the ICMA. Van was recognized as a finalist. The City of Big Rapids is fortunate to have Van and the community has benefited for many years from his hard work and dedication to his job.

## WALKBRIDGE LIGHT REPLACEMENT

The new LED light was installed near the walk bridge over the Muskegon that is behind the Middle School. Those who enjoy walking after dark will notice improved lighting in that area.

## ROBEN HOOD AIRPORT

April has been a happy month at the airport. Colt Aviation hosted a Young Eagles event on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the EAA chapter from Fremont. Twenty-one at risk or foster kids between the ages of 7 and 18 flew their first flight. It was a great time for all involved.

FSU students in the Architectural program descended on the airport, brainstormed and designed posters for the annual fly in breakfast, AirFest. We had every person that walked through the doors vote and picked two winners. Jacob Simon and Joshua DeGroot will be getting an Introductory Flight for their winning efforts.

AeroMed has been a visible presence this month with pilot training. Roben Hood is the preferred airport to train their new pilots. We enjoy seeing our good friends and appreciate the fuel sales that come with the training.

Mark your calendars for May 12<sup>th</sup>. ArtWorks Gala will take place in Hangar C here at Roben Hood Airport. The theme is “Art Takes You Places”.

By the Numbers: April 1st – April 19th

- 17 Jet / Turbo Prop operations: all business related (Wolverine, FSU, etc.)
- 86 Flight student operations: 32 were students from elsewhere such as Northwestern Michigan College, Western Michigan University, West Michigan Aviation Academy.
- 10 operations: DNR, pipeline patrols, State Police
- 153 operations: local pilots, visitors, AeroMed, Young Eagles, etc.

**LIBRARY**

The library is taking part in Money Smart Week, April 22-29. One of the activities during this week is at Storytime (Wednesday, April 26), the young children will be given a copy of the book, “A Dollar for Penny” which obviously talks about the use of money. Besides reading this story aloud to the children, there will be associated crafts and activities to help children understand the concept of money. Money Smart’s focus is to improve financial literacy for all ages.

New this year at our library is the Mom Swap, where patrons can bring in on Thursday (10 am-5 pm) from 2 to 5 bags/boxes of items that a mother might find useful and be given a ticket/token, to be used on Friday (1-4 pm) to collect new items that they would find useful in their lives.

At the Library Board of Trustees meeting last week, Marlies Manning presented a plan outlining the various features proposed for the park at the library. The plan includes an area for a children’s playground with educational-type equipment, community garden beds, a little free library, a parking lot, and more. Marlies will be at the next Parks and Recreation Board’s meeting to explain and share this design/landscape plan.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

- The Police Division responded to 69 calls for service over the past week. There was nothing significant to report.
- On Wednesday Officer Eric Winsor completed the last phase of the FTO process.
- In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 15 calls for service.
- The Fire Division had training on Fire Investigation and pump operations.
- On Wednesday Firefighters Sean Wethington and Matt Kidd trained members of the Mecosta County Sheriff’s Office on first aid to keep their certifications up to date.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

**Violations:**

- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| (1) Animals           | (5) Blight    |
| (1) Disabled Vehicles | (5) Furniture |
| (4) Garbage & Rubbish | (2) Parking   |

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Sidewalks / Streets | (2) Signs                   |
| (1) Swimming Pools      | (5) Uninhabitable Dwellings |
| (6) Yard Waste          |                             |

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

- Middle school Tennis in the Park began at Hemlock on Tuesday.
- The late registration deadline for Girls on the Run is Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. No registrations will be accepted after this date.

**PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**

**DIAL-A-RIDE**

**140** Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

**352** Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

**795** (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (80) and Disabled (715) passengers of which 201 used the wheelchair lift to board

**57** 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

**0** Safe Riders – No Safe Ride due to Easter Weekend. Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00am to 2:30am.

**1,750** 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

**3,115** Total Passengers

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

**DPW: STREETS**

**Safety Topic: "Individuals Responsibility"**

- Started sweeping streets
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Trimmed trees on Woodward to clear vision of stop sign
- Graded around the dugouts at Win Kellum
- Filled potholes
- Worked on Rust Avenue water services; installed 2 new services and inspected 7 to check for copper

- Delivered sand to Holland Park to be used for steps being installed
- Graded alleys
- Repaired a water stack at 707 Winter
- Repaired plugs at the charging station

### **DPW: PARKS**

- Aerated the ball fields
- Repaired Centennial sign
- Cut stump at Hemlock Park
- Worked on emergency stations
- Raked leaves at the pool
- Cleared a dead tree at Hemlock Park
- Set out picnic tables and trash cans
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaned and maintained City Hall and park public restrooms

### **MOTOR POOL:**

- Misc. Vehicles and Equipment:
  - 411 staff car: replaced 2 tire pressure monitor sensors and air bag forward sensing module
  - 301 street sweeper: replaced rear light bar and repaired heater core
  - 306 tractor: repaired flat tire with a tube
  - 509 compactor: replaced cylinder head gasket and changed oil
  - 553, 554 wing mowers: serviced, replaced some tie-rod ends, steering and wing cylinders. Welded up some cracks.
  - 561 gator: serviced
  - Serviced all the hand blowers and trimmers
  - 205 truck: replaced radiator and catalytic converters.
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
  - 404 police car: repaired air conditioning system
  - 407 police truck: replaced driver's door handle and a tire pressure monitor sensor. Replaced body control module and reprogrammed

### **MAIN MAINTENANCE**

- MISS Digs

### **WATER PLANT**

**Safety topic: "Carbon Monoxide: A Silent Killer"**

- Checked generators.
- Ran customer samples.
- Mopped main hallway and lab floors.

- Removed snow thrower from riding lawn mower and installed the mower deck.
- Picked up trash, sticks, from front lawn at the plant.
- Worked with Jay Norris fixing the State Street booster pumps to work properly.
- Weeded the rock beds along the front side of the plant.
- Continued training new staff members.
- Cleared up the rock bed to the south of the main entry to allow water to drain away from the building.
- Read water meters.

### **WASTEWATER PLANT:**

- The Plant is running quite well, but still experiencing some foam and settling issues.
- Biotech pumped, hauled, and land-applied 629,000 gallons of biosolids from the Plant.
- Ordered and received 4000 gallons of Ferric Chloride from Webb Chemical.
- Performed weekly checks at N. State, Waterloo, Novak, Tioga and County lift stations.
- Worked with Allmax to solve some calculation problems with our Operator-10 software.
- Jay Norris continues to work on SCADA details, problems, and updates.
- Plant Project Bids approved and awarded to Northwest Kent Mechanical (Digester Air Piping), Gerace Construction (North Plant Stairway), and Heco, Inc. (New Blower Motor).
- IPP Coordinator Position and WWTP Lead Person "Interest" sheet are both posted.
- Conducted 3 Ferris Biology class tours last week, and one more this week. Nine tours so far, during the month of April.
- Troy and Amy are working on Lab Bench Sheet and Process Summary updates.
- Mic continues to collect IPP samples for our 2017 Domestic Background Study efforts.
- Ordered and received another part for the STP-2 Moyno Pump, located in the Digester Building. The rebuild is now complete, and one of the other pumps can be rebuilt next.
- Un-clogged U.V. Building roof drain, which drained the pond on the roof.
- A rebuild of U.V. Channel #1 is in progress, with some quartz sleeves on order.
- Cleaned D.O. Probes in Aeration Basins 1, 2 and 3.

Mark Gifford  
City Manager