

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL 28, 2017

CAMPUS CREEK APARTMENTS

The watermain for Phase I of Campus Creek Apartments is complete. Construction on Phase II will start later this spring or early summer.

SKATE PARK

The Skate Park committee is working with Grindline Skatepark Designers and they have a survey that is available to receive public input. Copies can be found in the City Hall lobby and will be available on the City website. Questions can be directed to Heather Bowman at 231-592-4018.

SEASONAL STAFF

Seasonal Staff for the City Parks will start work on May 8th. Thanks to Jon Coles at Ferris State University for partnering with the City to find workers.

WOLVERINE DONATION TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Wolverine donated boots to the City's Public Safety personnel again this year!! What a wonderful way for a corporate partner to give back to the community. It is very much appreciated.

LIBRARY

The library's first "Mom Swap" has been a success, taking place during "Money Smart Week" which is being celebrated throughout the United States this week. The Mom Swap, which started on Thursday with parents bringing in clean and usable items that are needed by moms raising their children, will wrap up on Friday with the items available for those who brought items to swap. We've had a great turnout and participation, especially by parents who utilize the library regularly and then told their friends about this opportunity.

Anyone who attended the story times during this Money Smart Week also received a children's book related to this money/financial literacy theme. The book, "A Dollar for Penny" was given to all attendees, so parents and children can continue the conversation and learn about finances and money.

The library's new software conversion, which includes a synchronization with items borrowed through MeLCat (the statewide borrowing system), is in its final stages. Patrons and staff will be able to see all their checked-out items when they sign into their library account, whether it is a Big Rapids Community Library book or movie, or whether it came from another library in the state through

MeLCat. July 1st is the date when our old software system, hosted at Ferris, will be discontinued. We appreciate everyone's patience during this process but continue to be excited that patrons and staff will have a better experience using the library's catalog and taking advantage of the new features afforded for them with this software. Some examples include seeing your reading history; requesting your favorite author's books be put on hold for you whenever a new one is published; being notified via phone, email or text message when items are due or holds/reserves are available for pickup.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Touch-A-Truck event is this Saturday, April 29th from 10:00 am—12:00 pm in the Department of Public Safety Parking Lot.
- Finalized Spectrum Health's role in this year's Farmer's Market. They will provide a dietician and cooking demonstrations each Friday.
- Planning for summer programs continues.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

178 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

372 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

781 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (100) and Disabled (681) passengers of which 203 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

96 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.

1,973 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, 7:30am -7:00pm

3,498 Total Passengers

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

DPW: STREETS

Safety Topic: "Gloves"

- Cleaned 16 catch basins with Vactor truck
- Swept streets

- Swept the center lines for painting
- Swept Ferris streets
- Cleaned drains
- Filled potholes
- Added stone to river entry at Northend Park
- Fixed a mudhole on Farnsworth Ave at the bridge
- Fixed and installed banners on Perry Ave
- Replaced 2 water services on Rust Ave
- Installed the meter pit and line for drinking fountain installation in Holland Park
- Added black dirt around the steps at the Veterans Park
- Fixing a water shutoff at the fairgrounds
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

DPW: PARKS

- Delivered mulch to Hemlock Park for Garden Club
- Repaired toilets at River Street bathroom
- Installed sign at Swede Hill Park
- Replaced damaged twinkle lights downtown
- Prepped ball fields for games
- Opened bathrooms daily
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaned and maintained City Hall and park public restrooms

MOTOR POOL:

- Misc. Vehicles and Equipment:
 - 301 Street Sweeper: replaced belly broom
 - 412 staff car: diagnosed lack of power, replaced throttle control
 - Spring services:
 - 2 0-turn mowers
 - 1 John Deere front mower
 - The line laser paint machine
 - The big walk behind concrete saw
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
 - 402 police car: replaced headlight connector and bulb, serviced and replaced front brake pads and rotors

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs

WATER PLANT

Safety topic: “Identify, Treat and Prevent Carpal Tunnel Syndrome”

- Checked generators.
- Ran customer samples.
- Mopped main hallway and lab floors.
- Edged lawn in front of the plant. Picked up sticks and debris from winter months. Spread mulch around trees in front of the plant.
- Replaced leaking high pressure relief valve on water heater.
- Continued training new operators.
- Removed flower garden on the East side of the plant and turned it into a rock garden for less upkeep.
- Made an anchor for a lifeline for the Fire Department’s use during water rescue events.
- Received new lab certification certificate for our last ERA lab tests.
- Reading water meters.

Mark Gifford
City Manager