

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

**MAY 5, 2017**

## **JEFF JACKSON**

Firefighter Jeff Jackson is leaving the Fire Department after 16 years of service to the community. Thank you to Jeff and best wishes for the future!!

## **CLAY CLIFFS PARK**

Mark Sweppenheiser will be preparing a portion of Clay Cliffs Park to be used as pollinator habitat on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The work is part of the Monarch Mayor campaign.

## **ELECTION**

Special thanks to Tammy Gillis and all involved with the recent School election. The results of the election were 266 individuals voted yes, 65 voted no to the millage renewal. For this election, it was decided to combine the City's three precincts and have just one open, which was at City Hall. Of the 4,227 registered voters, 147 came to City Hall on election day and 185 voted via absentee ballot, resulting in a total of 332 voters.

## **SPECIAL GARBAGE PICK UP**

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Republic completed a special garbage pick up to coincide with FSU graduation.

## **SKATE PARK SURVEY**

As a part of the ongoing effort to build a skate park, a survey is being conducted to gather input on the project. Surveys are due Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Forms can be found on the City website, [www.cityofbr.org](http://www.cityofbr.org).

## **LIBRARY**

Movie Makeovers continue at the library. On Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m., we're showing "The Incredible Journey", the 1963 version of this story about animals finding their way home after a long, arduous trip. (In June, the film showing will be the newer remake of this tale.)

The library's digital book platform for eBooks and e-audiobooks is Axis 360. We're happy to announce that the circulation of our digital titles increased 50% in 2016! We're building our collection of titles, and working on other marketing ideas to get the word out that new and varied content is available for reading/listening on e-readers and other smart devices. The app for Axis 360 is easy

to use, and all our available titles are found in our main library catalog too which reminds patrons that we do offer digital books.

The Magic Tree House series is a popular series for young readers. Kids can find their Magic Tree House book amongst the leaves and branches of the tree that has “grown” in a corner of the juvenile section of our library! Lots of fun. (Of course, we’re always trying to find ways to draw readers into new books, and remind them of their favorites too.)

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Big Rapids Department of Public Safety responded to a total of 128 calls for service this past week.

- The fire division responded to 23 calls for service over the past week. These calls included medicals, alarms, dumpster fires, and a grass fire.
- The police division responded to 105 calls for service over the past week. Officers responded to a B&E at 123 S. Warren last Friday. The case is still under investigation.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| (8) Blight              | (3) Disabled Vehicles    |
| (7) Furniture           | (2) Garbage & Rubbish    |
| (3) Parking             | (8) Property Maintenance |
| (2) Sidewalks / Streets | (2) Signs                |
| (3) Yard Waste          |                          |

### **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**

#### **DIAL-A-RIDE**

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

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

**688** (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (93) and Disabled (595) passengers of which 202 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

**93** 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 12:00 am to 2:30 am.

**2,044** 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

**3,433** Total Passengers

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

### **DPW: STREETS**

- Provided staff and equipment to the Touch A Truck event
- Removed a tree limb on S Warren Ave
- Working on treasurer office lights at City Hall
- Cleaned drains
- Installed a new post and sign for the Canoe art piece behind the Middle School
- Working on water services on Rust Ave
- Swept streets
- Repaired some signs
- Cleaned out catch basins with a vactor
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

### **DPW: PARKS**

- Prepped ball fields for games
- Replaced home plate at Win Kellum field
- Cleaned tennis courts
- Repaired dog park drinking fountain
- Opened bathrooms daily
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaning and maintaining City Hall and park public restrooms

### **MAIN MAINTENANCE**

- MISS Digs

### **WATER PLANT**

#### **Safety topic: “Don’t Let Chemicals Get You”**

- Checked generators.
- Ran customer samples.
- Mopped main hallway and lab floors.
- Cleaned filters to the analyzer at the head of the plant.
- Worked with Jay Norris to diagnose why the #1 booster pump OCV valve will not work.
- Installed new R.O. unit in the Lab.
- Worked with Riverside with the inspection of our fire/burglar alarm system.

- Joe Davidson is quickly becoming a confident plant operator and is getting more confident with lab procedures.
- Jim and Earl took their D-4 exam and will be anxiously awaiting the results.

## **WASTEWATER PLANT**

- The Plant is running well, but some intermittent digester settling issues continue.
- All 4 aeration basins are temporarily back in service, but will come back out of service one-at-a-time during the summer season, for cleaning and maintenance.
- Received 25 new quartz sleeves for our U.V. System. Ten were purchased and 15 were sent to replace sleeves damaged during shipment of our last order.
- Performed weekly checks at N. State, Waterloo, Novak, Tioga and County lift stations.
- Continue to work with Allmax to correct Operator 10 software issues. Also, turned in an invoice and paperwork for renewal of our Allmax, Antero and Synexus software licenses.
- Jay Norris continues to work on SCADA details, problems, and updates.
- Both final clarifiers will be taken out of service next week, one-at-a-time. Northern A-1 will vacator them out and Dixon Engineering will perform long-overdue tank inspections.
- After both clarifiers are cleaned and inspected, the painting project will go out for bid.
- Moved forward with renewal of a Hach Service Contract for our UVT sensor, as well as the Hach 3900 Spectrophotometer in our lab.
- John Wright is our new lead person and John Fribley is a second IPP Coordinator.
- Jake Renne and Amy Prescott took the “D” wastewater license test, and John Fribley took the “B” wastewater license test. In a few weeks, DEQ will send out the results.
- The Dodge pickup and the Gravely lawn mower were sent to the garage for repairs.
- Mic continues to collect IPP samples for our 2017 Domestic Background Study efforts.
- Spring clean-up, mowing and yard work are in-progress around the Plant.
- Checked and cleaned D.O. Probes in Aeration Basins 1 and 2.

Mark Gifford  
City Manager