

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

**MAY 19, 2017**

## **NEW BUSINESSES**

Work on the new Dunham's Sports is ongoing. It is anticipated that they will open for business in approximately 8 weeks.

Culvers Restaurant on Perry Street, next to the Meijer gas station will be opening Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **POOL OPENING**

The community pool will open on June 5<sup>th</sup>, with registration taking place June 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **TREE PLANTING AT CLAY CLIFFS**

Heather Bowman and Mark Sweppenheiser met with Rick Lucas of the Mecosta/Osceola Conservation District, to determine a strategy for tree planting at Clay Cliffs. Selecting varieties that will succeed at the location is key to the project. 300 trees will be planted this fall.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

The Planning Commission granted site plan approval for the addition of a 37-space public parking lot at 201 N. Bronson Ave. The parking will service businesses in the Industrial Park area.

## **DOWNTOWN FLOWERS**

Downtown flowers, including hanging baskets and flowers for the various planter locations will be delivered starting May 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **LIBRARY**

The Library is excited to have "Knit Night" back. Starting Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm, folks who knit, crochet or do needle craft can come together to learn something new and share their skills. Knit Night is scheduled also for Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm. Grab your needles and supplies and join in.

Movie Makeover continues with "Homeward Bound: An Incredible Journey" made in 1993, Friday, June 2 at 6 pm. Enjoy this newer version of the "incredible journey" of 2 dogs and a cat trying to make it home.

The All Creatures Foundation will be bringing Erik Crooks to the library as part of the Big Rapids Community Library Summer Reading Program. Join us on Thursday, June 15 from 11:15-11:45

a.m. with a presentation geared to 6-12-year old's. Mr. Crooks will be sharing interesting facts on birds and their behavior as part of the "Living with Animals" series. Everyone is welcome.

## **ROBEN HOOD AIRPORT**

Ferris State University graduation brought in a nice Citation CJ3 jet and a Super King Air 200 full of guests for one of the honorary doctorate candidates.

Wind was a deciding factor in an airplane crash at the airport on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. The good news is the pilot walked away with a minor cut. The bad news is his plane didn't. Kudos to the Mecosta County Sheriff's Department, Big Rapids Township Fire Department, the ambulance service and Big Rapids Towing for the care and professionalism shown to both the pilot and his prized plane.

Last Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, ArtWorks held their Annual Gala in the community hangar and by all accounts it was a success. Approximately 250 guests enjoyed a beautiful evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase this great airport to non-flying residents.

### **By the Numbers: April 20<sup>th</sup> – May 17<sup>th</sup>**

- 39 Jet / Turbo Prop operations: all business related (aerial surveys, FSU, Bader & Sons, Meemos, charter flights, brick company in White Cloud.)
- 178 flight student operations: 46 were students from elsewhere such as Northwestern Michigan College, West Michigan Aviation Academy, School of Missionary Aviation Technology (SMAT), Andrews University.
- 34 operations: Pipeline patrols, local businesses
- 136 operations: Resident pilots, visitors, AeroMed, etc.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 70 calls for service; nothing in significance to report. Officers had firearms training on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Officer David Flore had radar instructor school.

From 5/12 through 5/18 Big Rapids Fire responded to 24 calls for service.

- 16 medical calls
- 3 motor vehicle accidents
- 3 motor vehicle accidents for traffic control and fire coverage
- 1 illegal burn
- 1 fire alarm activation

Ferris allowed crews to train in Taggart Hall on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Friday night, firefighters trained into the night practicing high-rise fire attack evolutions. They practiced stretching hose up stair wells as well as fire engine pumping operations. Members also trained using the ladder truck to access and attack fires on multiple floors using the ladder as a water way.

Saturday, area departments were invited to train on real life high rise fire scenarios. City Firefighters, Big Rapids Twp. Fire, Morley Fire Department and Colfax Fire Department participated in the 9-hour day of training. Firefighters ran through multiple scenarios and were able to

practice stretching hoses to elevated floors, search and rescue, ladder operations as well as MAYDAY scenarios and rescuing downed firefighters. After, members broke off into groups to further practice search and rescue operations, ground ladder deployment and ladder truck operations.

Thank you to Ferris State for the opportunity to train as well as Quinn's Music for donating a smoke machine to further enhance the intensity of the training.

Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, the department took ownership of 3 new TFT fire nozzles. The nozzles were donated by the Big Rapids Rotary Club. These nozzles are state of the art technology that will considerably reduce the fatigue of firefighters while providing maximum water flow to effectively combat the rapidly changing fire conditions firefighters battle.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

#### **Violations:**

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| (4) Blight        | (1) Disabled Vehicles    |
| (7) Grass & Weeds | (2) Property Maintenance |
| (10) Signs        | (3) Yard Waste           |

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

- The 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Farmer's Market is underway! Tuesday markets are held from 12:00—5:00 pm and Friday markets are 8:00 am—2:00 pm. There's a wide variety of fresh, local, produce, plants, honey, baked goods, crafts and more!
- Planning for summer programs continues.

### **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**

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

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

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

**768** (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (92) and Disabled (676) passengers of which 259 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

**NO** Safe Riders – Done for the summer, will start back up in September. Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00am to 2:30am.

**NO** Ferris Shuttle Bus – East Campus Mailbox, Lot 28, Allied Health, Campus Community Center, Lot 4, Rock Cafe', Arts and Science, 7:30am -7:00pm

**1,363** Total Passengers

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

### **DPW: STREETS**

#### **Safety topic: “Combustible Dust”**

- Street sweeping
- Helped Artworks event at the Airport; delivered and picked up stage
- Graveled driveways after curb was removed on Rust Ave
- Put up Farmers Market banners
- Put up pergolas at Pocket Park
- Changed light bulbs on Riverwalk
- Removed animals caught in live traps
- Removed deceased animals from roadways
- Hauled mulch to the Library and Riverview Elementary for gardens
- Repaired water stack on Bailey Dr.
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Filled potholes
- Installed new sign on post on Clark Str.
- Rotated leaves in compost site
- Repaired drive at 717 Willow Ave
- Installed downtown drinking fountain
- Patched on 100 block of Locust Str.
- Dug out patches in pool parking lot; blacktopped

### **DPW: PARKS**

- Removed fallen tree at Clay Cliffs
- Replaced emergency call station covers
- Removed fallen tree at River Street Riverwalk
- Prepped ball fields for games
- Training of seasonal staff
- Sprayed for weeds
- Mowed and weed whipped various City property locations
- Opened bathrooms daily
- Picked up trash downtown, in parks and along White Pine Trail
- Cleaned and maintained City Hall and park public restrooms

### **MOTOR POOL**

- Misc. Vehicles and Equipment:
  - 207 van: replaced battery and turn signal bulb
  - 0-turn mower: rebuilt carburetor and repaired charging system

- 2 wing mowers: replaced leaking hydraulic line. Replaced front deck forks and tires
- 509 compactor: replaced cylinder head gasket and serviced
- 582 mower: serviced and replaced drive belt and air filter
- Airport mower: replaced a cylinder head and serviced
- Replaced a tire on a trailer
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
  - Started installing equipment on the new police cruiser
- Dial-A-Ride:
  - 901: service call for turbo locking up. Replaced turbo charger, exhaust filters. Replaced parking brake shoes.
  - 903: did a grease service.
  - 904: serviced and did a safety inspection. Replaced rear brakes, alternator, belt and idler pulleys. Repaired a coolant leak. Removed exhaust filters and sent out for cleaning, reinstalled filters. Replaced engine control module and programmed.
  - 905: did a grease service and replaced leaky radiator
  - 906: did a grease service. Replaced the alternator and did a front brake job. Serviced and adjusted wheel chair lift
  - 909: did a grease service and replaced wheel chair lift controller

## **MAIN MAINTENANCE**

- Performing service line inspections
- MISS Digs

## **WATER PLANT**

**Safety topic: “Climbing Elevated Tanks: The Height of Safety”**

- Checked generators.
- Ran customer samples.
- Painted walls in lab at the plant.
- Rebuilt control valve at the State Street booster station.
- Read water meters.

Mark Gifford  
City Manager