

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

**JUNE 16, 2017**

## **GOOSE ROUND UP**

An attempt was made to capture geese on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Timing did not prove to be ideal, so another attempt will be made on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

The City Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> for their regular meeting. One item for discussion is the possibility of having chickens within the City limits.

## **LIBRARY CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER**

Coming next weekend (Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>) is the main fundraiser for the Library. Every year the Saw Mill Salon hosts this wonderful event to help offset the rising costs at the Library. The event starts at 3 pm and runs till 9 pm (although you can stay after for more music). Dinner starts at 4 pm, ticket prices are as follows:

Adult meal:	\$10.00 includes BBQ Chicken, sides & dessert
Child	\$ 5.00 Includes Hot Dog Meal
Music only	\$ 5.00 Live Entertainment Only

This is a wonderful way to support our community. Please make the effort to stop in and enjoy the food, music and fun.

## **AIRPORT**

Please join us next Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> for AirFest. The event will be from 7 am to 1 pm. We have a great pancake breakfast on tap from 7 - 11 a.m. If the weather cooperates we usually get about 60 airplanes from around Michigan that fly in. (Pilots love flying and food!) The Metzger Family Band will be entertaining us from 8:30 am – 10:00 am followed by the Broken Glass String Band performing from 10:00 am – 11:30 am. The “Kiddie Plane Train” will be available for the young ones to enjoy. The Mecosta County Senior Center will have their wonderful baked goods for sale. Airplane rides are available and area merchants have donated lots of door prizes. There is something for the whole family!

Last weekend Pilots for Christ used our airport as the venue for one of four events they will have this summer. Using four airplanes, free airplane rides were given to 84 people. There were a lot of smiles and happy first time flyers!

## By the Numbers: May 18<sup>th</sup> – June 14<sup>th</sup>

- Jet / Turbo Prop Operations: 42 (Local businesses, pipeline surveys, charters, Angel Flight)
- Student Pilots Operations: 94
- Resident Pilots / AeroMed: 112
- Other Operations: 150 (Aerial spraying, fuel stops, visiting family, business in area, FSU, golf, Dacy Air Show, dinner in town)

### LIBRARY

Summer Reading Kickoff Frenzy at the library this week. Friday morning's event in our park features free hot dogs, other refreshments for purchase, tie dying, face painting, rock wall climbing, and of course, excited kids, parents and grandparents. Looks like the weather will be cooperating. Sign-up for the Summer Reading Program continues; we've had a good response to the online sign-up program already. The "tracking" of everyone's reading minutes and program attendance has already begun. Next week, starting June 19<sup>th</sup>, participants can come to the library and begin claiming prizes for the milestones they've already reached.

Thursday's appearance of Erik Crooks and Macam, the Macaw on June 15<sup>th</sup> was fun and educational for everyone – and just the first of many different programs coming up over the next 6 weeks for this summer's reading program at the library.

Have you seen the "gnome house" rising from the remains of the old maple on Oak Street, at the edge of the library's park? It is already bringing a smile to kids and adults as they see its creation. Thanks to Mark Sweppenheiser for being a part of our "Build A Better World" summer reading theme with his work on this house. We look forward to having the Gnome House as a bonus feature of our park as we continue to develop this space.

The Community Garden plots (small in number right now) are beginning to bloom; hammocks to use in the reading space in the park should be available soon. We'll keep everyone posted on the happenings and changes to the park space.

The Summer Movie Series opens Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> with "Road to Bali", a classic Bob Hope and Bing Crosby film. Storytime are back starting June 21<sup>st</sup> too. Pick up one of the "Big Rapids Community Library Summer Programs for Kids & Adults" brochures that list the dates for so many programs. (Some are at the info area at City Hall too.)

The Scholastic Book Fair ended and was a success for everyone buying books and book-related items. The library was able to purchase and add many new books for the juvenile collection from this year's sale. They are on display as you enter the first floor, and 50% of these new items have already been checked out by our patrons. Good titles going fast!

The Adult PC and Technology Class Schedule for summer includes an evening class on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> (Google Drive); Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> (Windows 10); and Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> (Internet Searching Tips). Drop-in sessions on Wednesday, Noon to 2 PM; and one-on-one book-a-tech librarian appointments continue to be available to help with basic software and device training and questions. Like the "summer slide" that school students experience, adults should be considering ways to read and learn throughout the summer season, even though it is difficult to make time for lifelong learning opportunities.

## LIBRARY, WEEK OF JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>

M, 6/19 – Coloring Flower Pots: 1-2 PM

T, 6/20 – Cirque Among Us: 1-2 PM

W, 6/21 – Storytime: 10:30 AM

W, 6/21 – Google Drive class: 5:30-6:30 PM

Th, 6/22 – Potion Lab: 3-4 PM

F, 6/23 – “Road to Bali” film: 8:30 PM

Sat, 6/24 – Friends of the Library Annual Chicken BBQ @ the Sawmill, 3-9 PM (dinner starts @ 4)

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- On Friday, June 16th, Sergeant Jeff Hauger graduated from Staff and Command School. Congratulations to him for his hard work and dedication to his profession.
- The Police Division responded to 93 calls for service over the past week. There were no significant calls to report.
- The department had its LEIN audit on Wednesday, and passed with flying colors.
- In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 17 calls for service. This week also saw our firefighters doing hose testing.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

#### **Violations:**

(5) Blight	(5) Disabled vehicles
(7) Furniture	(7) Garbage & rubbish
(48) Grass & weeds	(4) Parking
(1) Permits	(5) Polycart placement
(4) Property maintenance	(1) Recreational vehicles
(2) Sidewalks/streets	(17) Signs
(4) Yard waste	

### **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**

#### **DPW: STREETS**

- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Set out Farmers Market cones and signs, Tuesday and Friday

#### **DPW: PARKS**

- Delivered and spread mulch at the city signs on Perry Ave and on N State St by Airport
- Attached “Out of Order” signs to 2 call stations
- Delivered supplies for the Back to the Bricks, Girls on the Run and Little League events over the past weekend.
- Repaired Hemlock flag pole
- Repaired irrigation on ballfield
- Watered trees by City Hall

- Prepped ball fields for games
- Watered and pruned all flowers; downtown and in the parks
- Mowed and weed whipped parks
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks and along White Pine Trail
- Opened, cleaned and maintained City Hall and park public restroom

## **MAIN MAINTENANCE**

- MISS Digs
- Changed out meters, endpoints
- Shut offs/ons
- Troubleshooting high consumption
- Meter reads, rereads, final reads

## **WATER PLANT**

- Investigated a pressure loss issue that was occurring at Altercare and Haworth
- Staff is working daily on the new State requirements for the sampling and testing of water for lead or copper from various locations within the City.

## **WASTEWATER PLANT**

- The Plant is running well, with 3 aeration basins and 1 clarifier in service.
- Approved a 1-year contract extension with Integrated Controls as our provider.
- Approved a 1-year contract extension with Biotech Agronomics for Biosolids removal.
- Approved a new 3-year contract with Michigan Cat, for city-wide generator service.
- Operators fabricated parts and performed welded repairs on the East Clarifier Skimmer.
- Gerace Construction is fabricating an aluminum staircase which will be installed as our North Plant Stairway. Installation is expected within the next couple of weeks.
- Received and reviewed 4 bids for the Final Clarifier Blasting and Coating Project. A recommendation will be presented to the City Commission on June 19 for approval.
- Ordered and received 4,000 gallons of Ferric Chloride from Webb Chemical.
- Ordered and received U.V. bulbs, quartz sleeves and o-ring kits from Uveon.
- Received a quote from Integrated Controls to replace 4 gas-detection sensors in the Headworks and Grease & Grit Buildings.
- Jay, Tim and Eric are replacing and updating 7 network switches here at the Plant.
- Waiting for word from Northwest Kent Mechanical on a start-date, regarding the Digester Air Intake Piping Project.
- Four-hour power outage at the Plant on Saturday June 10. The Plant operated on generator power until Consumers Energy restored utility power.
- Michael Oil topped off our Plant Generator fuel tank, following the power outage.
- Continue with mowing, grounds work and other seasonal cleaning and maintenance.
- Conducted a Plant Tour for one of Dr. Franklund's Microbiology Summer Classes.

Mark Gifford, City Manager