

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

JUNE 30, 2017

CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Dave Bee from the West Michigan Planning Commission has a draft of the updated Comprehensive Plan for the City and has been working closely with Mark Sweppenheiser in its development. The next step in the process will be communication with neighboring governmental units to gather input.

MONARCH DISPLAY IN CITY HALL

Heather Bowman has worked with Sandy Persons to establish a Monarch display in City Hall. Stop by to see the caterpillars transform into butterflies! The hope is to tag some of the Monarchs later this summer.

CLARIFIER PROJECT AT WWTP

The maintenance project on the clarifiers at the WWTP began this week. This is an important improvement for the plant. For more information, contact Heather Bowman at 231-592-4018.

4TH OF JULY EVENTS

The Jaycees are hosting a parade downtown on the 4th starting at 6:00 p.m. and fireworks at the Fairgrounds at dusk. Big thanks to the Jaycees continuing these great traditions.

POOL FUN NIGHT

The Charles E. Fairman Community Pool Fun Night will be July 13th, from 6:00 – 7:45. Admission to the pool is free and ice cream and cake will be provided.

LIBRARY

The Library is happy to announce we have been awarded a \$2,000 Library Services & Technology Act grant to purchase Little Free Libraries to be placed around the City of Big Rapids. These funds are made available through the LSTA and are administered by our state library (the Library of Michigan). With this grant, our goal is to purchase, install and stock 10 little free libraries in different parks and neighborhoods. Additionally, the Library received a \$500 grant from for the Mid-Michigan Library League for the Little Free Library that will be placed in the library park. We'll keep everyone posted as we launch this fun and worthwhile literacy program throughout our city.

The Library took part in the annual Senior Enrichment Day this week, which took place at Big Rapids High School. Spreading the word about the adult programs the library offers and interacting with the attendees and other organizations can really make a difference. We were highlighting all the summer programs we are offering for adults: the seed library series, the classic movies being shown

outside in the park, the free computer and technology help and classes offered, the summer reading program which is available for all ages, and sharing the plan for the library park.

Additional summer reading announcements this week were: Gordon, the Magician came to the library on Thursday (June 29) and he was a rousing success; a 3-D printer was extruding fun little items for a few days (and we will get it back again because it is so popular); story times & activities were offered at the Summer Lunch Program at the middle school. Next Thursday, July 6, Lego Day is expected to garner a building frenzy for participants (2-3 pm). Don't miss Saturday's, "Build-a-Journal" DIY project for adults where you can make your own book (sew pages together, make a cover, etc.) The Saturday program will be open from 12-3 pm.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- In the past week, the Police Division responded to 67 calls for service.
- Of significance was an area check on early Friday morning where officers were dispatched to the 300 block of S. 4th Steet for suspicious vehicle complaint. Upon arrival on scene, four subjects fled on foot to the south. Area was checked UTL subjects who ran. The vehicle left on scene was impounded and a backpack was found during vehicle inventory search which contained marijuana, digital scales, and ID for 19-year-old male. He was later located at his mother's residence and arrested for "possession with intent to deliver" marijuana.
- Last Friday an officer took a complaint of a lost or stolen credit card that had been used without authorization at a few locations. Officers have identified 3 subjects using the card. Charges will be sought.
- In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 18 calls for service. There were no calls of significance in nature to report.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Summer concerts continue at the bandshell every Wednesday evening from 7:00-9:00 pm
- The Farmers Market continues every Tuesday and Friday. We are seeking vendors to join the Tuesday market.
- Attended Senior Enrichment Day at Big Rapids High School to help promote senior recreation programs in Mecosta and surrounding counties.
- Due to the closing of the FSU rec center pool, water aerobics has been cancelled for the duration of the summer. Participants are being directed to utilize the community pool.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Violations:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (8) Blight | (3) Disabled Vehicles |
| (3) Furniture | (42) Grass & Weeds |
| (3) Parking | (2) Permits |
| (2) Property Maintenance | (3) Recreational Vehicles |
| (10) Signs | (4) Uninhabitable Dwellings |
| (7) Yard Waste | |

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

154 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

125 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

760 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (75) and Disabled (581) passengers of which 202 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

14 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

1,180 Total Passengers

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

DPW: STREETS

- Took garbage cans out to the airport for AirFest
- Cleaned drains
- Moved stuff for the Clerk's office
- Fixed washouts on Michigan Ave
- Picked up cones from drive on Clark St after blacktop was done
- Repaired stack at 200 block S Michigan Ave and 1205 Speer St
- Working on all week; black dirt and drives and hauling waste away getting ready for road gravel on Rust Ave
- Hauled garbage cans off Rust Ave that the garbage trucks didn't get
- Changed 4 downtown banners that were torn, took them to get fixed
- Filled pot holes
- Repaired sink hole by sidewalk at Rust Ave and Hutchinson St
- Swept downtown
- Rotated leaves in leaf pit
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Set out Farmers Market cones and signs, Tuesday and Friday

DPW: PARKS

- Spraying for weeds downtown, parking lots and streets

- Replaced a few sprinkler heads at Win Kellum
- Delivered extra supplies for Hemlock ballfield tournament
- Delivered extra supplies for ice cream social
- Delivered extra supplies to Bandshell for Amateur Radio Field Day
- Watering of trees at city hall
- Spraying for bees at city hall
- Prepped ball fields for games
- Watered and maintained flowers
- Mowed and weed whipped parks and downtown
- Opened and cleaned bathrooms daily
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaned and maintained City Hall and park public restrooms
- Misc Vehicles and Equipment:

MOTOR POOL

- 104 dump truck: repaired power steering gear box leak
- 106 dump truck: replaced some exhaust pipes and clamps
- 217 pickup truck: serviced and repaired exhaust leak
- 226 pickup truck: serviced
- 303 loader: serviced
- 307 airport tractor: service call to replace tube in tire
- 314 stone roller: serviced
- 554 wing mower: rebuilt and replaced 5 blade spindles and bearings in the idler pulley. Replaced front deck forks and bushings. Service call to replace a tire. Cleaned radiator and tightened fan belt. Replaced air filters
- 414 staff car: serviced
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
 - 402 police car: serviced and replaced front tires
 - 403 police car: replaced window regulator
 - 405 police car: installed some lights and replaced battery
 - 1-1 Rescue truck: replaced a window regulator
- Dial-A-Ride:
 - 909 bus: replaced rear A/C fan motor

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs
- Shut offs/ons
- Meter reads, rereads, final reads

WATER PLANT

Safety Topic: Cutting Pipe Safely with Power Saws

- Checked generators.
- Ran customer samples.

- Finished processing the Lead/Copper results and hand delivered them to each resident/business.
- Mowed lawn at the well house and H.M.C.
- Read water meters.
- Sent the final lead/copper report to the DEQ and Health department.

WASTEWATER PLANT

- The Plant continues to run well, with 3 aeration basins and 1 clarifier in service.
- Plant power outage last week during a storm, resulting in a call-in with multiple alarms.
- The east clarifier skimmer has been rebuilt and is ready to re-install; once the clarifier blasting and painting project is complete.
- Pre-construction meeting for the final clarifier project was held at the WWTP, with Fleis & VandenBrink, Quality Maintenance Contractors and Plant and City Staff participating.
- Gerace Construction is fabricating an aluminum staircase which will become our new North Digester and Plant Stairway. Installation is expected very soon.
- Quality Maintenance Contractors is on-site and beginning work on our east clarifier.
- A spray water supply line failed over the weekend, which feeds our headworks screening system. Emergency repairs were made and the spray bar is back in service.
- Participated in the Sewer User-Charge Meeting, with City and Township Staff present.
- Participated in the Wellhead Protection Meeting, which was re-scheduled for October 4th, due to insufficient attendance at last week's meeting.
- Reviewed a quote with Jay Norris (Integrated Controls) to replace 4 gas-detection sensors in the Headworks and Grease & Grit Buildings.
- Reviewed proposals from Jay Norris and Hach Corporation, regarding new dissolved oxygen sensors and related equipment for our ongoing aeration basin project.
- Replacement of 7 network switches is in-process here at the Plant (Jay, Tim, Eric).
- Northwest Kent Mechanical has completed installation of new intake air filter and piping assemblies on each of our 4 digester blowers. Painting will be completed by Friday.
- Amy Prescott and Jake Renne successfully passed the "D" Wastewater License Exam. Please congratulate and thank them for their hard work and successful effort.

Mark Gifford, City Manager