

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

JULY 14, 2017

## COMMUNITY LOSS

We are all saddened at the sudden loss of Mike Lafferty. Mike's commitment to the Roben Hood Airport and to the whole community was exceptional. The Airport flourished under his leadership and many will benefit long into the future because of his hard work and dedication. Thoughts and prayers are with his family during this trying time.

## MICHIGAN AVE. CONSTRUCTION

Construction has begun on Michigan Ave. and will continue for the next few weeks. Work extends from Linden Street to Cedar.

## PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA

The July 19<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission agenda includes discussion of the donation of property to the City at 804 N. State Street, future of the former Chamber of Commerce building in Mitchell Creek Park and proposed rezoning of E. 400 block of North State Street.

## DOG HAZING IN CITY PARKS

One solution to deal with nuisance geese is to employ border collies that are trained to deter the birds. They will not harm them in any way, but will scare them with the hopes that they move on to other locations. This process will begin in the City Parks at the end of July and proceed through the early fall.

## LIBRARY

The Library is pleased to announce we've been awarded a \$5,000 grant from TransCanada towards the purchase of playground equipment to be installed in the library park.

Summer programs continue at the library. It's been a busy week with a variety of activities. Here's what will be happening:

- Monday, July 17 is "Build-A-Brain" Trivia Night, 6-8 pm.
- Tuesday, July 18, 3-4 pm, come to make friendship bracelets to wear and trade.
- Storytime's are at 10:30 am on Wednesday, at the library (Building Blueprints)
- Thursday, July 20, "Explore 4H" from 1-2 pm; and the "Seed Saving" adult program is at 5:30 pm
- Friday at 10:30 am is another Storytime at Farmer's Market/City Hall (Trucks That Help Build). Another "Movie in the Park" on Friday, July 21 is "Little Shop of Horrors", which starts at about 8:30 pm.

We are excited that we've been able to tap the creative ability of one of our summer pages to render a timeline of the history of the Big Rapids Community Library in one of our stairwells. Stop by and see how our new "artwork" is progressing. It's simply amazing and a wonderful way to interest our community into the history of our beautiful town!

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 66 calls for service. On Sunday, June 9th, the Police and Fire Divisions investigated a fire at the St. Mary's Parish Center. A 13-year-old boy was found to have started the paper towel dispenser on fire using a lighter. There was minimal damage as a result.

On Friday, June 14th, members of the department took part in driving training at FSU.

The Fire Division responded to 14 calls for service over the past week. Of significance was a 4-year-old female that was attacked by a dog at residence on Cypress in Barton Twp.

### **RECREATION**

- Summer concerts continue at the Bandshell every Wednesday evening from 7:00—9:00pm.
- Classic Car Cruise Ins begin this Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00—8:00pm downtown.
- The Farmers Market 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be held on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**

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

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

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

**700** (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (68) and Disabled (632) passengers of which 170 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

**13** 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

**1,107** Total Passengers

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

## **DPW: STREETS**

- Weed whipped around guardrail on Woodward Ave
- Dug out a patch on S Bronson Ave and blacktopped it
- Set out temporary "No Parking" signs and cones on S Michigan Ave
- Swept downtown
- Painted handicap parking lot spaces
- Removed animals caught in live traps
- Repaired 2 broken umbrellas
- Sawed patch on 400 block of Fuller Ave
- Repaired a sanitary sewer on intersection of Fuller Ave and Division St
- Cleaned up the back yard
- Graded alleys and gravel roads
- Checking the temporary "No Parking" signs on Pere Marquette Ave during the week while the fair is going on
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Set out Farmers Market cones and signs, Tuesday and Friday

## **DPW: PARKS**

- Prepped ball fields for games
- Removed fallen tree from Riverwalk near Swede Hill Park
- Continued spraying weeds
- Continued trimming bushes at parking lots
- Delivered extra supplies for ballfield tournaments
- Watered and maintained flowers
- Mowed and weed whipped parks, downtown and ballfields
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Opened, cleaned and maintained City Hall and park public restrooms daily

## **MAIN MAINTENANCE**

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

## **WASTEWATER PLANT**

- The Plant continues to run well, with 3 aeration basins and 1 clarifier in service.
- Procurement and consumption of Rotary Chicken Dinners was the priority this week.
- Control failure at North State Lift Station. Operators manually pumped the station from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> thru Monday 10<sup>th</sup>. Operators and Shoreline Power installed a new, updated controller and transducer combination to replace the failed obsolete equipment.
- Purchased a new gas-powered pressure washer, to replace a failed electric washer. Power washing and cleaning continues in one of the U.V. Disinfection channels.
- 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 got off to a slow start, but is now making good progress with blasting and painting in our East Clarifier.
- An update meeting is planned for next week, to review progress on our Clarifier Project.
- Replacement parts for both clarifiers have been ordered from Ovivo Water Systems.
- Received two competitive parts quotes for a rebuild of one of our Moyno Pumps.
- Seven network switches have been purchased and are scheduled for programming and installation by Jay, Tim and Eric.
- Rhino-Lining and entry steps were installed on the new Plant Pickup. Thanks, Scott!
- Working with Fleis and VandenBrink to gather information for our Annual Asset Management Report.
- Working on a P.O. and purchase details regarding a new replacement Digester Blower Motor from Heco, Inc. of Kalamazoo, MI.
- Mowing, trimming and other Summer maintenance continues in and around the Plant.

Mark Gifford, City Manager