

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

JULY 21, 2017

NATIONAL GUARD TO VOLUNTEER AT PLAYSCAPE

The National Guard Troops are giving back to the community by volunteering to perform maintenance on Playscape. Today they are sanding the structure down. At a later date, it will be restained. The City is very thankful for their involvement in the community.

BERGELIN HOUSE PAINTING

The City partnered with the Historic Preservation Commission to have the Bergelin House painted. Along with the nice new paint, work was done on the eaves, soffit and basement window wells.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Public Safety will once again host National Night Out on August 1st from 6:00 pm to 9:00pm. Please make plans to stop by and participate in the fun!! The event is a family and community oriented event and will have a lot of **FREE** activities, games and prizes.

TOUR OF NORTH RESIDENCE HALL

The Mayor and City Staff received a tour of the new North Residence Hall on campus. Over 400 students will call the new location home starting in August. This state of the art building is a wonderful addition to Ferris State University and something the whole community can be proud of.

VOTE FOR HOLLAND PARK HOMEFRONT HEROES AND VETERANS MEMORIAL

Visit <http://cea.mml.org/vote/> by July 30th to place your vote!!

DUNHAMS

Dunham's Sports plans to open the first week of August!!

LIBRARY

Progress on the Little Phelps Free Library Program is continuing. With the awarding of the grant for the purchase of the libraries themselves, and the libraries having been ordered, this week letters were sent to community groups and organizations in the city, asking if they want to participate in the program. This would include painting one of the libraries and also whether they want to house (be a site for) a library. If the organization agrees to be a site for a Little Phelps Free Library, we ask them to notify the library when the books need to be replenished or if there is any problem with the

library. We are excited about having the community involved in this literacy initiative. We'll keep everyone up-to-date on this program.

Accelerated Reader Levels (AR), which highlight reading level and interest level for juvenile books, are used by teachers and parents to choose appropriate books for their students and children. The library's catalog already provides this AR level when you click on the information about a book. However, we are putting labels inside all our juvenile books if they have an AR level so it's easy for anyone browsing through the books to see if it has AR information. This will help them decide if the book is at the correct reading level for them or their child. Obviously, this is a big project since each book has to be looked up on the AR website, and then a label will be made with the appropriate AR information. We're hopeful that it will make a difference with everyone finding the books they need for school projects and for their leisure reading.

The Summer Reading Program continues next week, with more "Build a Better World" activities.

- Monday, July 24, 11 am-Noon, we're making paper-mache globes.
- Tuesday's activity is Lego Twister, from 2-3 pm.
- Storytime is at 10:30 am on Wednesday at the library.
- There is a Windows 10 adult computer class Wednesday evening, 5:30-6:30 PM.
- Thursday's presentation on "NewBee" to Beekeeping is at 5:30 PM, as part of the Seed Library Summer Program Series.
- Friday, 7/28, there is a story time at 10:30 AM at the Farmer's Market/City Hall.

And, as most of you know, Michigan Avenue is being worked on and unavailable in front of the library and surrounding blocks. A challenge to get to the library right now – but please go around the construction zone and join us. There is a parking lot off the alley behind the library.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- In the past week, the Police Division responded to 93 calls for service. There were no calls of significance in nature to report.
- In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 14 calls for service. There were no calls of significance in nature to report.
- November 7th-9th the BRDPS will be hosting Reid Interview and Interrogation in relation to Child Abuse Investigations. We are excited and pleased to be given this opportunity.
- On Wednesday, the department hosted Camp 911 for senior citizens. Sessions included water rescue, emergency medical services, fire safety and policing in a college town.

RECREATION

- The first Classic Car Cruise In of the year was successful with nearly 20 vehicles participating. Next cruise in is schedule for August 11th.
- The third and final session of Tennis in the Park will begin on Monday, July 24th. Participants may still register.
- Visited Rabbit's Garden and Purple Pepper's farms for required farmer's market farm visits.
- Planning for the farmer's market anniversary celebration on Friday, August 4th continues.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

(1) Animals	(6) Blight
(1) Disabled Vehicles	(3) Furniture
(3) Garbage & Rubbish	(25) Grass & Weeds
(2) Parking	(2) Permits
(3) Polycart Placement	(2) Property Maintenance
(1) Recreational Vehicles	(1) Sidewalks / Streets
(38) Signs	(3) Uninhabitable Dwellings
(2) Yard Waste	

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

190 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

322 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

729 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (130) and Disabled (599) passengers of which 221 used the wheelchair lift to board

81 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

1,336 Total Passengers

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

DPW: STREETS

- Swept downtown
- Set out and picked up cones for car show
- Repaired a sanitary manhole in the alley behind 100 block of S Michigan Ave
- Blacktopped a patch at intersection of Fuller Ave and Division St
- Dug out patches on Fuller Ave and S Warren Ave and blacktopped them
- Removed animals caught in live traps
- Put padlocks on the old Chamber building

- Sawed 2 drives on 1916 Mason Industrial Dr for repair
- Painted handicap spots
- Moved items at City Hall
- Brined gravel streets and some alleys
- Graded gravel streets
- Took more barrels and cones up to S Michigan Ave
- Picked up all the No Parking signs for the fair
- Put the signs together for the disc golf course
- 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
- Watered and maintained flowers downtown
- Repaired men's room toilet at River St
- Picked up excess trash cans and picnic tables from Quad City Storm baseball tournament
- Trimmed bushes at Public Safety
- Trimmed trees at the Bandshell
- Repaired irrigation leak at Vogel field
- Sanded rough edges off of some poles in Playscape
- Watered trees in City Hall parking lot
- 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

Mark Gifford, City Manager