

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 11, 2017

DEPOT

Mayor Warba, Commissioner Anderson and City Staff met with DNR officials to discuss the Depot and surrounding property. The meeting was very positive and efforts will be continued to find a way to renovate the structure and make it an asset for the Community.

RIVER CLEAN UP

The 2017 Class of Leadership Mecosta has organized a "River Clean Up" for Saturday, August 12th. Anyone interested in helping out with this effort should report to Hemlock Park at 9:00 a.m.

LIBRARY

- On Monday, 8/14 and Wednesday, 8/16, special August Story Times will be at 10:30 am at the library. The topics will be tied to the upcoming solar eclipse, with Monday's stories and activities on the sun and moon; and Wednesday's the solar eclipse itself.
- Wednesday, 8/16, at 5:30 pm, at the library is an adult PC/Tech class on Internet Searching Tips.
- The last summer "movie in the park" is Friday, 8/18 with an old Abbot and Costello movie, "Africa Screams". 1948 craziness. Movie starts at 8:30 pm.
- Reminder of the Solar Eclipse Party on Monday, 8/21, 2-3 pm in the library park. Eclipse glasses will be available; or anyone with a library card can come by and pick up 2 of them for yourself and your family/friends. Don't miss out!

Michigan Avenue and connected intersections around the library have made interesting obstacles for folks trying to get to the library and through the neighborhoods. The road crews are making great progress and we are excited knowing we soon will have smooth and open roads again.

RECREATION

- Registration for women's volleyball is open. All registrations are due by Friday, September 1st. Games will be Sunday afternoons at the Big Rapids Middle School.
- On Friday, August 4th we celebrated the 10th Anniversary at the Farmers Market. Thanks to community sponsors, we were able to provide Touch-A-Truck, balloon art, cupcakes, crafts, music, games, giveaways and more!

- Visited the following farms to complete farm inspections: Hayes Farms, Living Seed Produce, Grant's Family Farm, and Udder Bliss Farms.
- The All-City Yard Sale took place during the market on Friday, August 11th.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- In the past week, the Police Division responded to 73 calls for service. There were no calls of significance to report.
- In the past week officers from the department were trained in FOIA and "Identifying and Preventing Violent Extremism." Topics included identifying sovereign citizens, militia extremism and other domestic extremist's groups, and homegrown violent extremism and radicalization. The presentations included information on current trends and tactics utilized by extremists, law enforcement tools for reporting and sharing, and officer safety.
- In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 22 calls for service over the past week. There were no calls of significance to report.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

192 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

252 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

778 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (119) and Disabled (659) passengers of which 230 used the wheelchair lift to board

98 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

1,342 Total Passengers

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

DPW: STREETS

- Prepared Clark/Fuller intersection for blacktop
- Repaired Wendy's sewer service
- Repaired water leak on 300 block of S Michigan Ave
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Opened south end of Fuller Ave & Clark St for traffic
- Watered trees
- Sawed patches on Chestnut St, 300 block of Oak St, S Maple St & N. Elm St
- Blacktopped patches
- Set out Farmers Market cones and signs, Tuesday and Friday

DPW: PARKS

- Prepped ball fields for games
- Watered and maintained flowers downtown
- Took care of broken tree at disc golf course per report from See Click Fix
- Repaired broken swing at Hemlock park
- Trimmed bushes above Mitchell creek
- Sprayed for bees at City Hall
- Trimmed Riverwalk between Hanchett site and Osceola Park
- Continued spraying weeds
- 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