

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

**AUGUST 18, 2017**

## **BACK TO SCHOOL GARBAGE PICK UP**

A special garbage pick-up for the areas influenced by student housing is scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup>. The hope continues to be that these special pick-ups will help buffer move in and move out times.

## **PAVING**

Completion of Michigan Ave, Rust Ave and Mason Industrial Drive is delayed due to the recent wet weather. The hope is that Rieth-Riley can adjust their schedule to have the paving done during the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **BACK TO SCHOOL AND LABOR DAY EVENTS**

There are many opportunities for excitement in the next few weeks. The Community Calendar maintained at <http://www.bigrapids.org/events/calendar/> details these events.

## **AIRPORT FENCE**

The fencing project at the airport began this week and will continue until August 25<sup>th</sup>. The new fence will extend from the old hangar on Northland Drive to near Big Rapids Towing. This is just Phase 1 of a larger project that will fence the entire airport.

## **LIBRARY**

The Little Phelps Free Library project is progressing. Our 11 libraries will be painted by various Big Rapids community organizations on Tuesday, 8/22 and Thursday, 8/24. Should be fun to see the designs and colors that are showcased on the finished libraries. After that, we will be working on getting the libraries placed around the city. We'll keep everyone posted on exactly where they will be placed so you can help spread the word.

The Summer Reading Program at the Big Rapids Community Library has ended. Statistics for this year's "Build A Better World" themed program included 384 participants, over 2500 earned badges; and almost 5,00 reading points. For the first time, we utilized an online logging system which, of course, was a learning experience for patrons and staff. Thanks for everyone for joining in having fun reading over the summer vacation.

The Solar Eclipse "party" will be Monday, August 21 from 2-3 pm. We hope the weather cooperates and we can use our eclipse glasses and watch the event, while playing some games & visiting in the park outside the library. The recommended solar eclipse viewing glasses are still available for anyone with a library card, 2 per household.

July monthly statistics show that we issued 76 new library cards; 2960 people visited the library; 704 sessions were recorded on our public computers; and 5,382 items were checked out by patrons during the month.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- In the past week, the Police Division has responded to 68 calls for service. There was nothing significant in nature to report.
- The department is preparing for FSU Welcome Back Weekend, which takes place August 25th-27th.
- In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 18 calls for service.
- On Wednesday, members of the department, among other volunteers from the community, assisted the Salvation Army in packing backpacks to be donated to students from 11 different schools between Mecosta and Osceola Counties. These backpacks will be donated based on the family's financial need.

### **RECREATION**

- The summer concert series at the bandshell came to a conclusion this week after 9 weeks of great music.
- Visited Pioneer Produce and Creekside Farms to complete farm inspections per farmer's market guidelines.
- Registration for women's volleyball is open. All registrations are due by Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. Games will be played on Sundays at Big Rapids Middle School.
- We are looking to hire part-time referees for our women's volleyball league. Games are played on Sundays from 1:00—9:00 pm. Season runs September 10<sup>th</sup> - December 17<sup>th</sup>. If you know someone who is interested, please have them contact the Recreation Department. 231-592-4038.

### **CODE ENFORMENT ACTIVITIES**

#### **Violations:**

- |                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| (3) Animals       | (5) Blight                |
| (5) Furniture     | (8) Garbage & Rubbish     |
| (9) Grass & Weeds | (3) Parking               |
| (2) Permits       | (1) Recreational Vehicles |
| (37) Signs        | (1) Yard Waste            |

### **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**

#### **DPW: STREETS**

- Worked on Michigan Ave
- Changed light bulbs at Airport
- Removed drive approach at Mason Industrial Dr.
- Put out signs for Farmer's Market on Tuesday and Friday
- Picked up/removed dead animals

- Trap/removed live animals
- Repaired water main break on Bailey Dr.
- Checked and jetted sewers

### **DPW: PARKS**

- Sprayed for bees at City Hall
- Prepped ballfields for games
- Mowed parks downtown and ballfields
- Watered and maintained flowers downtown
- Continuing trimming bushes
- Continuing spraying weeds
- Extra supplies downtown for Manna Pantry fundraiser
- Removed broken bench from dog park
- Replaced broken venue sign at the Band Shell
- Picked up trash at parks and downtown
- Replaced broken sprinkler head at Vogel 2
- Blew River Walk trail and White Pine Trail
- Replaced faucet at Hemlock Park men's restroom

### **MAIN MAINTENANCE**

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

### **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

- The Plant is running extremely well and effluent quality is excellent.
- Thank you, plant operators for successfully completing and passing our Annual DMR-QA Laboratory Certification Test Series. All results came back with a high level of accuracy.
- An IPP Review Meeting was held with Tom Berdinski (DEQ), Heather, Mic, John and Dave. Tom is very pleased with our IPP Program, Mercury Minimization efforts, and new emphasis on Food Service Establishment monitoring. He stated that our efforts may become a DEQ model for IPP efforts around the State.
- Operators are completing a rebuild of STP-1 Moyno Solids Handling Pump.
- Overhead service doors in the Headworks and Blower Buildings were repaired by Cadillac Garage Door.
- Ordered and received 2 new U.V. channel level sensors from Trojan Technologies.
- The East Clarifier blasting and painting work is complete. Five of the 12 anti-float valves are being repaired, to fill corrosion holes and pits exposed by the blasting process.
- The East and West Clarifier perimeter hand rails are here and ready for installation. The catwalk hand rails will not be delivered and installed until the first week of October.
- Gerace Construction needs to perform some re-work on some of the new stairway support legs, due to some dimensional errors in planning and/or fabrication.

- Jay Norris successfully installed 7 new network switches in our SCADA system. Some bugs continue to be worked out, but everything is working well, overall.
- City-Wide wireless work continues, which will allow 3 of our 5 lift stations to be integrated into the plant SCADA system.
- Plant meeting with Jay Norris, to discuss and schedule needed control work with our Spencer Blowers, Automatic Air Valves and Dissolved Oxygen control. Other topics included RAS control issues, U.V. alarm issues, SCADA login changes, Hazardous Gas Detection issues, and annual calibration of our Plant Influent and Effluent flow meters.
- Received the new replacement Kaeser Digester Blower Motor from Heco, Inc.
- U.V. Channel 2 is in service and Channel 1 is down for cleaning, maintenance and repair.
- Mowing, trimming and other Summer maintenance continues in and around the Plant.

## **WATER PLANT**

Safety topic: Eyes on Safety

- Checked generators.
- Ran customer samples.
- Buffed floors at the plant.
- Mowed lawn at plant, HMC, and well house.
- Replaced two fan motors for roof vents at the plant.
- Rebuilt both pumps for the filtered and applied water sample taps at the plant.
- Assisted Jay Norris and the I.T. department checking signal strength for our new radios and security cameras at all water towers, pump stations, and well house.
- Cleaned chlorine analyzer filters.
- Repaired split rail fence at the entry gate of the Well house.
- Read water meters.
- Serviced the gate at the water plant and adjusted the chain.
- Replaced broken cover to a motion sensor in the basement at the plant.
- Worked with the I.T. department at the Perry water tower location to erect a camera mounting post. Buried conduit from the new post to the interior of our building on site for the wiring of the new security camera.
- Began preparing for the second round of lead/copper samples that will begin in September.

Mark Gifford, City Manager