

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

January 15, 2016

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mark Sochocki emailed this week and stated that he had just received a call from MSHDA that the tax credit for Meadow Park had been awarded in full. For several years the private sector had been trying to make major improvements and updates to Meadow Park before finally selling to the Housing Authority. Congratulations to Mark for his continuing diligence to pursue making the housing stock in Big Rapids as robust as possible.

DEER CULL

Thanks to the DNR for their assistance in this year's effort to control the herd. Recipients of the venison this year were the Salvation Army, WISE, Our Brother's Keeper Shelter and the landowner.

TROY MCDONALD

Congratulations to Troy McDonald, employee at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He has been a valued member of the team at the plant and after his one year of service (mandatory to sit for a license) he has taken and received his operator "D" license. This is an achievement!!

PARKING TICKETS

Parking ticket activity was up this month due in part to the onset of snow... 208 tickets were issued, with receipts of \$3,680.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Staff is working on 2016/17 Capital Improvement Plan requests. A joint session was held at the wastewater plant with Fleis & VandenBrink representative Bob Wilcox. An impressive number of improvements are underway at this time and more are planned for the upcoming year to make the plant more effective.

GRANTS

The City looked at grant opportunities for Mitchell Creek last year and for a number of technical reasons, held off until this upcoming year. Parking, walkways and some landscaping are needed. Also in the grant category, applying for some funding to complete some water distribution loops on Ives Street, Gilbert Drive and North State Street would be very beneficial.

HYATT PALMA

Now that the downtown has contracted with Hyatt Palma to create plans for the 'next' round of business improvement needs, the 'research' part of that plan will be undertaken during the week of March 14, when the planners visit Big Rapids. A committee of local business persons are being selected to assist in this effort.

POLICE CONTRACTS

All reviews and voting have been completed for the officer and supervisor's union contracts. Both documents have been signed. The next review will take place for the 2019 calendar year.

POLICE VACANCIES

There are presently two vacancies in the department. Sixteen prospective candidates tested this week. It is hoped that there will be a lot of competition for the jobs.

DART DRIVERS

Allen Ambler and Marlene Eaton have been employed, relieving what was becoming a crises need for drivers. Both are experienced drivers with CDL licenses. More are needed.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Police Division responded to 72 calls for service over the past week. Of significance is an open investigation of child porn discovered at the residence of a subject who had passed away.

The Fire Division responded to 15 medical calls, 1 Motor vehicle accident and 1 odor/gas smell at Parkview.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| (5) Blight | (2) Furniture |
| (5) Parking | (8) Poly-cart Placement |
| (1) Property Maintenance | |

PARK & RECREATION

- Volleyball scrimmages begin this weekend. We are still getting registrations for the season.

- The ice rink has been set up and is getting frozen. All the snow from the week has delayed the opening. The hope is to have it open early next week, after the picnic table and other facility items are added. This is all pending the status of the facility and weather.
- BRCTA is hosting a Free Tennis program this Saturday from 3:30 pm-5 pm for children grades K-4 at the FSU Racquet facility. Anyone interested in having their children learn how to play with FSU Club Tennis, is encouraged to go and enjoy this great opportunity.
- Attended the County Park and Commission joint meeting.
- Park and Recreation Board met.
- Attached is also the Girls on the Run registration, please share with any girls grades 3rd – 5th. This program covers all of Mecosta County.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

218 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

449 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

859 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (108) and Disabled (751) passengers of which 203 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

41 No Shows - A person who calls for a ride and when we go to pick up and they are not there for ride

0 Safe Riders – Ferris on Christmas break, no shuttle until January 14, 2016. Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00am to 2:30am.

0 Ferris Shuttle Bus – Ferris on Christmas break, no shuttle services until January 11, 2016. Free rides to anyone on Campus, The new route has nine stops on campus- Lot 28, Allied Health, Campus Community Center, Sports Complex, Lot 4, Rock Cafe', Recreation Center, University Center, Arts and Science, 7:30am -7:00pm

1,641 Total Passengers

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

STREETS & PARKS –

Safety Topic: “Making Do – Tempting Fate”

- Cleaned up and removed snow from downtown
- Picking up Christmas trees
- Plowed, Sanded and Salted streets, sidewalks, alleys, parking lots, Airport
- Fixed light at City Hall
- Moved boxes and other items at City Hall
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks

MOTOR POOL –

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 217 - fabricated lockable ladder rack for the top of truck
 - 414 - serviced
 - 415 – serviced
 - 104 - replaced under body blade and repaired vehicle speed sensor connector
 - Replaced underbody blades and swapped out ice blades as needed
 - 303 loader,- replaced hydraulic filter and repaired wiring to front plow
 - Kubota - removed tire to replace valve stem
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
 - 404 - checked charging system and replaced battery
 - 405 - serviced
 - 416 - serviced

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WATER

Safety opic: “Are You Prepared for a Weather Emergency?”

- Engineering meeting with Fleis & VandenBrink and Plant Staff, to review upcoming Plant needs and necessary Capital Improvement Projects. The Water Plant Operators then joined us for lunch, provided by Fleis & VandenBrink.
- Progress continues with the Digester and Gravity Thickener piping work. Correct chain-operated gear reduction actuators are being sourced by F & V, for all new valves.
- Received the re-wound and rebuilt Kaeser digester blower motor from Jay Norris. This motor will be installed in Digester Blower # 1, which has failing motor bearings.
- Work continues with assembly of a “Cherry Picker” lift, for Digester motor lifting.

- Jay Norris is beginning work on upgraded SCADA control of the new Headworks Screening machine. Ultrasonic channel level sensing will provide primary control, and the existing mechanical floats will provide back-up redundancy.
- Jay is also evaluating the Headworks Parshall Flume and ultrasonic sensing for accuracy.
- John Fribley and Fleis & VandenBrink provided the latest sampling data and Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) for the 2016 Wastewater User Charge System Draft.
- Windemuller is finishing up wiring to operate the 4 new Automatic Air Valves, and Jay Norris is beginning work on the necessary SCADA control logic.
- Northwest Kent Mechanical has finished installation of hand-operated weir drop gates on aeration basins #1 and #2, with the exception of frame grouting. As soon as this is complete, we can return to 3-basin operation.
- The DEQ MiWaters website is still a major “work-in-progress.” Submitting MOR’s, DMR’s and other reports is difficult and/or impossible. After several attempts, John had to send his Annual Stormwater Report to the Grand Rapids, for submittal to Lansing.
- Received a 275 gallon tote of Polymer from Aries Tek.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager