

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

February 26, 2016

## JIM EDDINGER

Jim participated in a Ferris discussion on “Expect Diversity – Policing” which won an award for David Pilgrim and his communication to the students. The program was insightful, and Jim in particular, was measured and effective. Congratulations on this award winning effort.

## INDUSTRIAL VISITS

Jim Sandy is coordinating the annual visits to the industries. To date Wolverine World Wide and Simonds have expressed positive financial years and look to the upcoming year with anticipation. Wolverine World Wide was especially happy to let us know that they have some contracts to provide American boots to some of our allies, which will result in significant additional work at the Big Rapids plant. Earlier in the year, there was great concern over the plant which had resulted from the Department of Defense rules that precluded them from bidding on shoes to be worn by American soldiers. While these concerns are still significant, the present outlook for the next couple years looks very good for these two employers.

## OSBURN CIRCLE

The City has water standing problems on Osburn Circle which undermines the longevity of the street’s asphalt surface. This winter the City obtained an easement to run this storm water along property lines to the Muskegon River. One of the neighboring property owners expressed concerns over the construction to come and requested a meeting to resolve these concerns. At the end of the discussion, with a very minor change in material use, all issues have been cleared to resolve this flooding issue with a spring construction for the storm line.

## PRE-CONSTRUCTION

The construction of the water line down Northland Drive to a new development behind the ‘Save-a-Lot’ shopping center was completed this week. The contractor is ready to begin as soon as weather breaks in the next couple weeks. This construction will set the stage to gain Creek’s Edge apartments as a water user as well as provide utilities for the new construction to come.

## FARMER’S MARKET

It is certainly wonderful to be writing about the summer Farmer’s Market. After last year the long time market manager’s retired. After interviewing several candidates, Mary

Bechaz has been employed as the new Market Master to administer the market and take care of the reporting that is needed to maintain the purchasing programs that have made the market so successful. Everyone certainly looks forward to the return of the Farmer's Market soon!!!!

### **FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS**

The Festival of the Arts closes this weekend with the 'unveiling' of the mural in Artworks and the feature of the Grand Rapids ArtPrize winner of the past two years. This should be an amazing conclusion to the events of this past month. Thanks again to Bruce Dilg and the Committee that put together such a wonderful program this year.

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Police Division responded to 83 calls for service over the past week. None of these were significant in nature. Officer Andre Torres has moved on to step 3 of his FTO process. He is currently working days with Officer David Flore.

The Fire Division responded to 14 calls for service over the past week.

### **PARK & RECREATION**

Girls on the Run registrations are due Friday, February 26, 2016. Those registered by the deadline will receive a program shirt and the opportunity to purchase shoes at MC Sports for only \$14.99, due to a grant received by Yoplait. Scholarships are available to anyone that is in need of assistance.

Attended Zonta Club's meeting. They presented Girls on the Run a donation of \$1,000. Their contribution assists with scholarships and is greatly appreciated.

Big Rapids, Crossroads and Ferris Club baseball groups met to discuss Win Kellum field usage this spring.

Attended Community Expo meeting. The City will be assisting this year with a Touch a Truck program at the Department of Public Safety building. The expo is scheduled for April 30, 2016.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

#### **Violations:**

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (2) Blight               | (1) Disabled Vehicles       |
| (1) Furniture            | (9) Parking                 |
| (1) Property Maintenance | (4) Uninhabitable Dwellings |

## **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**

### **DIAL-A-RIDE –**

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

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

**849** (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (139) and Disabled (710) passengers of which 161 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

**54** Safe Riders – Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00am to 2:30am.

**3,303** Ferris Shuttle Bus – 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, 7:30 am - 7:00 pm Mon – Thur. and 7:30 am – 2:00 pm on Friday.

**4,930** Total Passengers

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

### **STREETS & PARKS –**

#### **Safety Topic: “Electrical Safety”**

- Plowed snow from streets, parking lots, alleys, sidewalks & Airport
- Worked at Artworks
- Fixed signs
- Cut down 2 trees on 1000 block of Catherine
- Fixed water patches
- Reading water meters
- Fixed lights at City Garage
- Cut off an old post downtown
- Fixed potholes
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks

### **MOTOR POOL –**

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:

- 202 - serviced
- 209 - serviced
- 217 - serviced, replaced front brakes- rotors, pads and wheel bearings
- 224 - service call for dead battery
  
- Police & Fire:
  - 403 - serviced and delivered to Babb Ford for warranty work
  - 404 - serviced
  
- Busses:
  - 903 - replaced leaking water pump
  - 904 - reattached rear quarter body panel
  - 908 - serviced and did a safety inspection
  - 909 - replaced water pump and 2 serpentine belts

### **MAIN MAINTENANCE -**

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

Stephen Sobers  
City Manager