

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

April 15, 2016

BIG EVENT

The Big Event is here again!! Thanks to the thousands of Ferris students who will be helping improve the community this Saturday. It is a blessing to have their assistance every spring. Also remember that Earth Day is Saturday, April 23. Pickup in all corners of the town continue then as well as some tree planting and the beginning development of a 'prairie grass' portion of Clay Cliffs park.

LAMAR SIGNS

For many years the City has had an 'inherited' billboard sign on Fourth Avenue. Lamar advised the City that his location is no longer viable and the sign either needs to be moved or taken down. As this sign has been a grandfathered 'non-conforming' sign the removal option will be exercised. The removal is being scheduled before the end of the month.

PERSONNEL

The City welcomes the following new and promoted personnel:

New Police officer - Sean Kelly

New Library Assistant Director - Raquel Frisbee

New Gardner - Lea VanderSloot

Promoted - Fire Captain Jeff Hull

Promoted - Wastewater Plant Assistant Superintendent John Fribley

Bert Carlstrom, wastewater plant operator has resigned to take a similar job with the City of Grand Rapids. Bert was the AFSCME chapter chair for the past couple years and will be missed in both of his roles with the City. We wish him all the best in his new position in Grand Rapids.

Part-time summer help will be starting in the upcoming week in the Department of Public Works.

BROOKSIDE ESTATES

Wall framing has started on two homes in Brookside Estates.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Fire Division responded to 20 calls for service in the past week. Calls this week included a grass fire and dumpster fire. With the weather getting nice outside preparations for grass fire season continued.

Police Division responded to 71 calls for service this week. Officer Andre Torres completed the field training process and worked his first solo shift on Wednesday this week.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

(1) Animals	(4) Blight
(1) Disabled Vehicles	(1) Furniture
(1) Garbage & Rubbish	(12) Parking
(8) Poly-cart Placement	(1) Property Maintenance
(8) Signs	(7) Yard Waste

PARK & RECREATION

- Big Rapids, Recreation Middle School Volleyball will host the first tournament this Saturday at the Big Rapids Middle School gym.
- Attended first Farmer's Market board meeting.
- Interviewed candidates for the gardener position in the parks.
- Attended Park and Recreation board meeting. Afterwards held a policy committee meeting regarding food vendors in the park system

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

178 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

108 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare) – Kids on Spring Break. No school children.

855 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (73) and Disabled (782) passengers of which 182 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

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

2,905 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.

4,169 Total Passengers

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

STREETS & PARKS –

Safety Topic: “Working With Benzene”

- Repaired storm manhole on Cherry and Cypress
- Pumped excess water off Osburn Circle
- Filled potholes
- Repaired 2 catch basins
- Hauled dome roof parts to Mitchell Creek Park from Ferris
- Installed snow fence around the dugout work area at Win Kellum and covered them with tarps
- Repaired manhole on Monroe St
- Repairing the nets at the ball fields
- Cleaned up the snow dump area
- Cut some blocks for the IT Department
- Repairing street signs and posts
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks

MOTOR POOL –

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 106 dump truck, replaced steering gear box
 - Serviced 4 pickup trucks
 - 211 pickup truck, charged battery and installed charge guard
 - 224 pickup truck, replaced top light
 - 301 street sweeper, serviced both engines, installed new fuel pump on rear motor, rebuilt axillary water pump and replaced inlet piping.
 - Repaired and replaced some water control solenoids, installed new side work light and wired new switch, replaced rear door seal,
 - Repaired some wear holes and replaced deflector flap
 - 553 wing mower, serviced
 - 582 garden tractor, serviced
 - 651 trailer, repaired wiring to trailer plug

- Police Cars:
 - 408 police car, replaced front brake pads and rotors, and both front wheel bearing assemblies. replaced upper and lower motor mounts
 - 1-1 fire rescue truck, replaced all 4 brake rotors and pads

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

Stephen Sobers
City Manager