

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

May 6, 2016

## FARMER'S MARKET

The Farmer's Market started today. It was great to see them back and feel that spring has arrived and summer is on the way!!!! Their hours are Tuesday 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## GILBERT STREET CONNECTION

The water main construction on South State by the Save-A-Lot plaza is nearing completion. One of the major elements remaining is the tie in to the present system. This is rather complex since that area of town does not have a 'looped' water main system. The tie in is being scheduled for midnight to minimize the disruption. However, since the mains will be 'de-pressurized' DEQ guidelines will be followed, which include a 'boil request' for residents and businesses on the South end of town. 'Door hanger' communication will be made with all the folks affected.

## INTERVIEWS FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

Two candidates have been interviewed. It is likely that decisions will start to be made next week. We are working on a decision and employment by the end of the month to meet Director Nerbonne's retirement timetable.

## ICE

The State just announced a grant opportunity for street/utility infrastructure replacement. The administration is working on an application for the Ives Street corridor, that would involve replacement of the water line, which has experienced frequent breaks and a rebuilding of the street. This effort will be great for the City and would coincide with the construction/renovation of the Swan welding complex by Ferris.

## LIBRARY FRIENDS MEETING

The Summer reading program will be kicking off next month. The library continues to experience heavy use and the program expects another record year. The meeting also brought out minor repairs that are needed at the library in order to keep the facility in first class condition. Department of Public Works is already working on these repairs.

## **HYETT PALMA**

All are invited to the community meeting to receive the written downtown report from Hyett Palma on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall. Please attend to get excited about the actions items that will be recommended.

## **SECLICKFIX**

The recording phone app is becoming used on an increasing basis. Staff is encouraging residents to put the App on their phones to help the City keep track of quality of life and the maintenance needs in Big Rapids. You can access SeeClickFix at [www.cityofbr.org](http://www.cityofbr.org) via the city's Facebook page or download the SeeClickFix app.

## **PAVEMENT MARKINGS**

Centerline striping has taken place this spring for the streets in the community. Thanks to Roger and Van for getting this to happen so early!!

## **BALDWIN STREET BRIDGE**

The Sidewalk on the bridge and the curb will be poured in the upcoming week. The approach sidewalk will also begin to take form next week. The bridge deck is complete. The project continues on schedule.

## **BIG RAPIDS SCHOOL ELECTION**

Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup> was the Big Rapids School Election in which the three precincts of the City passed the school's two proposals. A Big Thank You to Stacey Johns and Tammy Gillis for making this election such a success. The City Clerk has received notice from the County that the City's canvass of the election was great!

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 75 calls for service. Of note, was the possibility a female may have had a date rape drug slipped in her drink at a local establishment Monday evening. Investigation into the matter continues.

Officer Sean Kelley began his administrative phase of the FTO process this past week, reviewing policy and procedure and a visit to dispatch.

In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 16 calls for service.

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

Touch a Truck was a success with the Community Expo. The chilly weather didn't scare the kids from climbing around in the big trucks. A big thanks to Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Works, Dial A Ride, Mecosta Co. Ambulance and the Sheriff's Posse for making this event successful.

Playoffs for Coed Volleyball are complete and the standings are as follows:

### **Division One**

1. Schuberg Agency
2. B-Dubs
3. Pioneer Construction
4. Yoplait
5. Wolverine World Wide

### **Division Three**

1. B-Fit
2. The Punishers
3. Yoplait - Packaging
4. Servicing Aces
5. Over the Top
6. BWW/Cruise Planners
7. Transplants

## **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**

### **DIAL-A-RIDE –**

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

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

**786** (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (110) and Disabled (676) passengers of which 182 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

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

**2,764** 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, 7:30am - 7:00pm Mon – Thur and 7:30 am – 2:00 pm on Friday.

**4,298** Total Passengers

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

## **STREETS & PARKS –**

### **Safety Topic: “Generator Safety”**

- Sweeping streets
- Installed Farmers Market banners and signs
- Brought 2 picnic tables down for Farmers Market
- Installed pedestrian crossing signs in downtown
- Blackdirted on the 900 block of Ives Avenue
- Swept sidewalks on 131, Maple, S. Third and Colburn
- Swept Ferris streets
- Blacktop patches on Ives, Clark and Mecosta
- Dug for curb on Ives and Bailey
- Fixed lights at Centennial Park
- Fixed catch basins on 4<sup>th</sup> & Washington and Colburn
- Hauled election voting machines to each precinct
- Repaired ball field nettings
- Power washed the wall on the Wrights Building for mural
- Repaired lights at Library
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks

## **MOTOR POOL –**

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
  - 202 truck, replaced muffler
  - 584 front mower, serviced. Replaced 3 pulleys and idler pulley on front deck. Replaced attachment arm pins and bushings. Replaced clutch adjusters
  - Went out to airport to service brush hog, sharpened blades and serviced. Installed it on tractor
- Busses:
  - 908 bus, serviced and did a safety inspection, replaced all 6 tires

## **MAIN MAINTENANCE -**

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

## **WASTEWATER –**

### **Safety Topic: “The Right Gloves Can Save Your Fingers”**

- Influent Phosphorus “spikes” seem to have subsided recently. We are ready to resume daily composite and hourly grab sampling of the suspected source, if necessary.
- Engineering update meeting at the Plant, with Fleis and VandenBrink and Plant Staff. Current and future projects were discussed, as we transition into the Summer season.

- City Staff and Fleis & VandenBrink continue to refine the Draft Sewer Use Ordinance. Tom Berdinski (DEQ) responded with some comments, after reviewing our “final” draft.
- The SDC continues to work well, following replacement and adjustment of a safety pressure switch and gauge, on the thickened sludge pump discharge line.
- Xavier Locke (Ferris Engineering student) turned in an excellent report titled “*Energy Audit of the Big Rapids Wastewater Treatment Plant.*” Xavier participated in the Consumers Energy visits, and put a lot of effort into this report. Thanks, Xavier!
- The West Screw pump is out of service, following the failure of a soft-start module in the electrical power circuit. Parts have been ordered and repairs are in progress.
- Both portable diesel pumps have been set up and are ready to go, if needed. A high influent flow or a failure of the East Screw Pump would require us to start these pumps.
- Our Lab water machine has been completely disinfected and all 6 filter cartridges have been replaced. A sample of newly-produced lab water has been taken to the Water Plant to be tested for bacteria. In 48 hours, we will know if our efforts were successful.
- Fleis & VandenBrink confirmed one remaining water leak in the new Blower Building Roof. When this is fixed and some sheet metal trim work is complete, we will finally be finished with the job.
- A motor noise and temperature issue is being investigated in Digester Blower # 1.
- Jake Renne has completed his first week at the WWTP, and is doing well. Thanks, Jake!

## **WATER PLANT –**

### **Safety Topic: “Build in construction site safety”**

- Waxed floor in front hallway of the plant.
- Cleaned R.O. unit for lab grade water.
- Cleaned filters to chlorine analyzer at the head of the plant.
- Worked with Jay Norris to repair chemical feed weight scale that was damaged due to a lightning strike.
- Measured the depth of sludge in both clarifiers to evaluate the effectiveness of our current flushing process to the sanitary sewer.
- Jake Renne has transferred to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Best wishes Jake.
- Martin Kroon and Kevin Cushway have been working hard to continue to complete all the necessary tasks and deliver safe drinking water to the community while we are in this transition period.

Stephen Sobers  
City Manager