

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

June 10, 2016

INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM

Some years back, the City applied to the USDA to make use of their low interest loan program and was awarded funds for start-up or expanding business operations. Much of the money has been disbursed, but with interest rates falling, commercial loans were nearly as attractive and so the remaining funds left for loaning were returned to the USDA this week. While the City may apply again for renewal of the program, this opportunity should probably await a time that commercial rates are high. The money already loaned is being repaid and by program rules will be available for additional loans in the future.

WATER INTERVIEWS

Retirements have left the City with two vacancies in the water plant. Exceptional candidates were interviewed this week with tentative offers being extended to two candidates. If references and backgrounds are good, Department of Public Works will be back at full strength by the end of the month.

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Festival of the Arts committees are gearing up for the February event next season. The mural, which was painted this past year, during the event has been installed this week on the wall of the Wright's Management building downtown in the alley north of the Old Pioneer Store and Emporium.

BALDWIN STREET

Toebe continues to progress rapidly on the bridge construction. While the construction calls for a July 11th completion date, paving is scheduled to begin on June 17. The on-site managers advise they want to be complete with all punch lists before the July 4th holiday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for June 25 which is the date for the library BBQ at the Sawmill Saloon and the Airfest at Roben-Hood Airport. Both events are worth attending to support City programs and enjoy good food and fun!!

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Police Division responded to 84 calls for service over the past week. There was nothing significant in nature to report.

On Wednesday evening the Police Division had a meeting with Director Eddinger to discuss future goals for the Department of Public Safety for the near future.

The Fire Division responded to 16 calls for service over the past week.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Animals | (4) Blight |
| (3) Disabled Vehicles | (2) Furniture |
| (1) Garbage & Rubbish | (16) Grass & Weeds |
| (2) Parking | (1) Permits |
| (8) Poly-cart Placement | (1) Property Maintenance |
| (10) Signs | |

PARKS & RECREATION

- The Girls on the Run program was a hit! The new location at the Bandshell was very well received. There are about 500 people that attended the program. We are fortunate to have so many people invested in these girl's lives to promote healthy lifestyles.
- The Charles E. Fairman Community Pool opened up this week. It may have been cool at the beginning of the week, but with school out, the weather improved to enjoy the wonderful facility.
- The first downtown Car Cruise-In will be this Friday, June 10 from 6 pm – 8 pm. Anyone that wants to see a classic car or wants to show off their classic car is encouraged to attend. Thanks to our sponsor Gary Trimarco, we will have Oldies' Music playing the whole show.
- Next Wednesday, June 15 there will be a goose round up at Hemlock Park and Northend Park. The geese will be collected by Goose Control of West Michigan, LLC. We ask that patrons please stay away from the area that the geese are being collected for their own safety.
- Registrations are filling up for the cooking 101 course. The space is limited. The class begins June 20, and is being held at the Big Rapids Armory.

DIAL-A-RIDE –

179 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

315 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

731 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (123) and Disabled (608) passengers of which 196 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

NO Safe Riders – Summer Break. No Safe Ride provided until September 8, 2016. Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00am to 2:30am.

NO Ferris Shuttle Bus – Summer Break. 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.

1,305 Total Passengers

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

STREETS –

Safety Topic: “Paint Safety”

- Hanging Mural on wall of Wright building downtown
- Assisted with fire hydrant repair at Damascus & Ives
- Filled potholes
- Fixed “No Parking” signs on Sheridan
- Pulled stakes from some newly planted trees
- Dug out and removed post from a broken off street sign
- Sawed patch in Mitchell Creek Park
- Painting crosswalks
- Swept downtown
- Removed signs at Swede Hill Park
- Blacktop patches on Oak and in Mitchell Creek Park
- Repaired valve boxes on Fuller & Division and Rose & State
- Fixed curb on Ives; small patch in front of stairway leading to building
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

PARKS –

- Planted flowers in downtown planters, rock garden at Mitchell Creek Park, Centennial Park, Dog Park and at Library
- Added mulch to downtown planters
- Watering flowers
- Hauled items to Bandshell for Girls on the Run event and removed afterwards
- Mowing & weed whipping
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaning public restrooms in Parks and at City Hall
- Prepping ball fields for games

MOTOR POOL –

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - Made up some sign holders for parks
 - Tuned up 2 weed whips
- Busses:
 - 909 finished replacing the high pressure fuel pump, did a service, and a safety inspection. Replaced rear brakes
 - 905 serviced and did a safety inspection, serviced transmission
 - 903 serviced and did a safety inspection
 - 904 started removing top half of engine to replace another high pressure fuel pump

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WATER PLANT –

Safety Topic: “Eyes on Safety”

- Milo from Michigan Cat here to look at the plant generator problem.
- Jay Norris here working on H.S. pump issues.
- Steve from Cummins Bridgeway here to fix our plant generator ATS malfunction.
- Worked with Kyle Luce from the Department of Public Safety Fire Division to drain our recycle basin down in preparation for Northern A-1 to come and clean and inspect our tank. Thanks to the Fire Division for working with us on this project.
- Northern A-1 cleaned, inspected, and disinfected our recycle basin so we can return it to service.
- Held interviews for new water plant operators.

WASTEWATER PLANT –

Safety Topic: “Listen Up! Ear Protection Required in This Area”

- Now that the Public Schools are out, Summer flows are here. Aeration Basin #1 was taken out of service, with total flow going through Basins #4, #3, and finally #2.
- Worked with Fleis & VandenBrink on spray nozzle testing and water-well flow testing. Based on these results and discussion among Plant Staff, a decision was made to abandon the water-spray mitigation project.
- City Staff and Fleis & VandenBrink continue to refine the Draft Sewer Use Ordinance. BOD, Ammonia, and FOG language revisions are in progress.
- Checked oil levels in all 4 Digester Blowers and 3 Aeration Blowers. Replaced the intake air filter on Aeration Blower #3.

- U.V. Channel # 1 was cleaned, re-charged with Acti-Gel cleaning solvent, and then placed back into service. A total rebuild will be scheduled soon.
- Another order placed with UV Doctor, for replacement bulbs, quartz sleeves and ballasts. We will now have everything we need to rebuild U.V. Channel #1.
- Waste Pump # 1 was taken out of service, for a complete rebuild of the pump body. The pump is now back in operation and is working well.
- The Lab A/C unit failed and warranty repairs are in progress. While the unit is down, a thorough cleaning of the outside condenser coils was completed.
- Replaced a failed drive belt on one of the Lab ventilation hoods.
- The STP #1 Moyno pump has been disassembled due to excessive leakage. Diagnosis and Repair is in progress.
- Parking Lot and Plant Drive crack-seal work has been scheduled with DPW.
- Yard clean-up, mowing, weed trimming and spraying continues. The grounds look nice.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager