

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

July 15, 2016

BRIDGE DEDICATION

Monday, July 18, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. is the dedication of the Baldwin Street Bridge. This event will be just before the City Commission meeting which starts at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony will be on the Hanchett property. Also, Bill Stanek called to coordinate the bridge effort with the township 'groundbreaking' for the sidewalk on Perry Street. Make a note to attend both of these events!!!

NORTH STATE STREET PAVING

The State is planning the night paving of north State Street beginning next week. The bids for the City street paving were very good, so additional streets are being considered to maximize the funding the City receives.

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER

Lorne Juday has volunteered to be the School Liaison Officer for the upcoming 'season'. In the past year, this program has lapsed somewhat, additional attention is being paid at this time. Lorne has put together a number of initiatives for the school programs and will be a young and motivated leader for the position.

AIRPORT ACTIVITY

2015-16 was a very good year for the airport, despite major uncertainty over the future of AeroMed's use of the community hangar. Airport fees, land leases and hangar rent reached a high of \$27,805 in the past year. Jet A fuel sales topped \$42,715, and regular fuel saw the highest activity since 2007. The airport, as a gathering place, continues to have strong activity.

The Roben Hood "Airfest" was a resounding success again this year. The kids 'train' of airplanes, helicopters and other airport vehicles was an instant success. This event does wonders to bring recognition to the value of the airport to the community and provide entertainment and good food for family excursions.

ALLEY

The alley between Warren and Stewart, north of Oak has been petitioned for paving by the residents. The costs have been allocated among the owners. This activity does not happen very often, but the Speas family, who own several student rental properties in that area, have been active in area improvements and have spearheaded this effort.

RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The time has come to update the Recreation Master Plan. A survey, which is part of the effort, has been included in the water bills and is available on line. Please take the time to respond to this survey which will guide the recreation activity for the next five or more years to come.

WELLFIELD PROTECTION

The annual City – Township wellfield protection meeting will be held today at 3:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Police Division responded to 83 calls for service over the past week.

Of note, was an aggravated assault which occurred in the 500 block of N. Warren. A twenty-two-year-old Rodney man was assaulted on Friday, July 8th at around 1600 hours. A twenty-four-year-old Baldwin man has been identified as the suspect. Investigators are attempting to contact him.

Officer's also believe they have identified three juveniles who are responsible for an auto theft which occurred on June 23rd. Investigation into the matter continues.

The Fire Division responded to 20 calls for service over the past week.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

(1) Animals	(4) Blight
(25) Grass & Weeds	(5) Parking
(12) Poly-cart Placement	(1) Property Maintenance
(1) Recreational Vehicles	(29) Signs
(1) Yard Waste	

PARKS & RECREATION

- Fall programming is taking place. Volleyball registration forms will be sent out by next week. The season begins at the start of September.
- The car show last Friday was light in attendance, but the group had a great time.
- Lipstick Jodi performed at the Bandshell. Next week The Turnips, a Contemporary Folk group, will be performing.
- BRCTA tennis camp is taking place at Hemlock Park and the kids are doing great!

- July 25 the Cooking 101 class will begin, with only a few spots open, the program is expected to be a great time.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

144 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

170 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

692 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (77) and Disabled (615) passengers of which 175 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

10 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, 7:30am -7:00pm Mon – Thur and 7:30 am – 2:00 pm on Friday.

1,078 Total Passengers

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

STREETS –

Safety Topic: “Dehydration Part 3”

- Cleaned up trees on Novak and Winter from storm
- Swept downtown
- Put crusher dust at the Dog Park
- Set up barricades downtown for Car Cruise & Sidewalk Sales events
- Stripped sod off US 131 heading north
- Hauled black dirt to the Dog Park
- Trimmed limbs and brush away from 6 Stop signs
- Repaired signs
- Grass seed along US 131 where sod was removed

- Repaired 3 catch basins and added blacktop
- Farmers Market signs
- Spraying for bees
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

PARKS –

- Watering & maintaining flowers (baskets, pots, flowerbeds)
- 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:
 - 219 water van, serviced
 - 301 street sweeper, replaced leaky hydraulic hose and fittings
 - 553 wing mower, repaired front deck wheel fork
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
 - 1-1 fire rescue truck, serviced
 - 402 police car, serviced and checked brakes
 - 404 police car, replaced camera cord for rear passenger
 - 416 police car, serviced and checked brakes
 - 409 police car serviced and replaced serpentine belt tensioner
- Busses:
 - 906 bus, repaired wheelchair lift platform and adjusted
 - 909 bus, replaced oil pump. Replaced 2 fittings to rear air-conditioning and charged system

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WATER PLANT –

Safety topic: “Holding on to Hand Safety”

- Drained Perry water tower for a warranty inspection performed by Dixon.
- Refilled Perry water tower and obtained necessary samples before returning tower to service.
- Assisted Jay Norris by hanging our new SCADA monitors on the wall in the control room.
- Worked with Jay Norris to connect our new monitors to our new SCADA system server.

- Martin and Kevin continue to work diligently to train new operators, Jim and Earl.
- The Perry water tower inspection was a good opportunity to teach them how to isolate, drain, and refill a tower.
- Jim and Earl are progressing very nicely in the daily lab procedures.

WWTP -

Safety Topic: “How to Avoid work place falls”

- Procurement and consumption of Rotary Chicken Dinners was our priority for the week.
- Backflow preventer kits were ordered, to rebuild two of our Plant backflow devices.
- Influent flow meter sensor was checked and cleaned, following inaccurate readings. Intermittent problems continue and Jay Norris is looking at replacement options.
- Repair parts have been ordered, for two Aeration Basin flowmeters with faulty displays. Jay will repair these meters at less than half the cost of new meter heads.
- A quote was received, for bearing replacement and repair of a Digester Blower Motor.
- The Ferric Chloride Building Fill Port, and the Clarifier Scum Pit Valve projects have gone out for Bid. The Bid opening is scheduled for Friday July 22nd.
- An older STP-1 totalizer was replaced with one that works with the current flowmeter. Options are being discussed, to solve the gallons vs. 1000 gallons unit of measure issue.
- New drive gears for the Vortex Grit Chamber are expected any day, from Veolia Waters.
- Our MRWA (Michigan Rural Water Association) Master Membership was renewed, for Water and Wastewater employees.
- Summer mowing, cleaning and maintenance continues in and around the Plant.
- The Plant continues to run well on 3 Aeration Basins. Fortunately, the recent heavy rains have not caused any operational problems.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager