

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

July 29, 2016

TECHNOLOGY

Tim, Eric and Craig have been installing lots of cameras for the Big Rapids Housing Commission. Strategically, they cover both the housing areas, but also downtown (Nisbett/Fairman), and parks (Hemlock). We were fortunate to have just installed cameras when 5/3rd Bank was robbed and were able to get pictures of the get-away car, which was instrumental in catching the robber. We also have been able to produce evidence of a person falsely accused of activity in the park and another with evidence of guilt. Cameras are proving to be very helpful. Thanks to Tim and friends for great work.

IVES DRAIN

Staff walked the Ives Street drain a couple times this week to discuss a fix for the exposed sanitary sewer. A plan is being drawn in consultation with City engineers, the Mecosta County Drain Commission and DPW to take care of the immediate danger. A long term fix needs additional study but is to be recommended for action to the City Commission.

ALLEY SUSTAINABILITY

Jennifer Cochran lead a discussion on alley beautification. In attendance were Ferris students (including the student body president), Planning Commission members, City Commissioners, BRPOA members, garbage hauler representatives and City staff. Many very positive suggestions were made. More publicity, greater care and assistance in locating poly carts, alley paving, landlord/student education, extra hauling pickups, adopt an alley programs and other features are to be implemented. Jennifer will be detailing the suggestions for implementation.

NEGOTIATIONS

Final negotiations were complete with the Fire Union. The unit is reviewing the documents. The City Commission is expected to have the draft for the August 15 City Commission meeting.

FERRIS AND DIAL-A-RIDE

Ferris and DART are also completing a two-year agreement to transport students during the day and early evening hours. The City will be paid \$36.60 and 37.20 per hour for the operation of the bus service.

VETERINARY CLINIC

The Planning Commission recommended approval for necessary changes in the zoning code to accommodate Riversbend Animal Hospital and Dr. James Scott moving his business to Water Tower Road. This service will be much more convenient for residents to access medical assistance for their pets. The final approvals rest with the City Commission, however, the community welcomes this expansion of business.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 64 calls for service. There was nothing of significance to report. On Friday, July 22nd, Anthony Loose was arrested for the bank robbery that occurred at Fifth Third bank on July 20th. This was and still is a group effort, with the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety being assisted by the Michigan State Police, Ferris State University DPS, Mecosta County Sheriff Office, Evert PD, Grand Rapids Police Department, Wyoming Police Department, Norton Shores Police Department, the FBI and Central Michigan University Police Department. Investigation into the matter continues.

In the past week, the Fire Division responded to roughly 20 calls for service. There is nothing significant to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

(3) Blight	(4) Disabled Vehicles
(2) Furniture	(22) Grass & Weeds
(4) Parking	(39) Signs
(4) Uninhabitable Dwellings	(4) Yard Waste

PARKS & RECREATION

- The 4-H cooking class was successful and at capacity. All the children did great and enjoyed each lesson.
- Jaycee members met with IT and Parks to discuss River Safety.
- Holland Park had members from the Big Rapids High School Football team assisted with installing the memorial bricks. Their strong muscles and young backs assisted the Veterans more than they will ever know.
- Holland Park dedication is next Saturday, August 6 at 1:00 pm. Please feel free to join the Committee as they have worked hard fundraising for this effort over the last few years.
- Playscape inspections will occur next week with the company Leathers.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

STREETS-

- Hauled old casting off 131 from state job

- Fix 5 manholes on M-20
- Dug out the side walk to be fixed on Maple Street, contractor poured cement
- Fix a manhole in the same side walk on Maple Street
- Clean drains
- Filled pot holes
- Graded alleys

PARKS –

- Installed and sealed 7 flag poles, installed family art work, hauled dirt and crushed concrete, and delivered shovels and rakes for volunteers at the Veterans & Homefront Heroes Memorial at Holland Park

MOTOR POOL-

Safety topic: Dehydration, last part

- Staff vehicles and Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - Dump trucks 101 and 102, pressure washed conveyor chain and oiled
 - Replaced the battery in the ATV-Gator
 - Replaced a throttle cable on a weed whip
 - Rescue truck, diagnoses heater fan, replaced blower motor resister
 - 203 pickup truck, replaced all for tires
 - Serviced 3 pickup trucks and replaced fuel filters
 - 301 street sweeper, replaced gutter and belly broom
 - 315 crack sealer, replaced all 4 valve stems on the tires
 - 403 police car, serviced and replaced air filter
 - 409 police car replaced serpentine belt idler pulley
- Busses:
 - 901, did a grease service and replaced the outside air temp sensor for the rear A/C
 - 903, Diagnoses ABS system, replaced anti-lock brake exider ring and wheel speed sensor
 - 904, replaced turbo charger for poor running condition, replaced passenger door control module
 - 905 did a grease service
 - 906, replaced rear shocks and adjusted wheel chair lift
 - 908, did a grease service

Stephen Sobers
City Manager