

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

August 5, 2016

SANITARY ISSUES

At the City Commission meeting, it was reported that the exposed sanitary in the Ives Drain needed immediate attention. We were fortunate that Morningstar was not busy and was willing to sell us some stockpiled rock for \$27,000 which is about half price. This rock will be used to armor the embankment and they will be starting the project on Friday. Staff scurried to contact neighbors to let them know what would be happening in their back yards. The work will mostly be in the street, storm and sanitary easements that already exist.

COMMUNITY POOL

Our pool consultants are to give us a second price on marcite. We expect to have a timetable and a cost by the end of the week.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Department of Public Safety conducted a very nice evening for kids of all ages!!! Lots to do, to eat, and to learn.

BERGELIN HOUSE

Chris and John Bergelin visited the office today and completed the transfer of the home at 218 Winter. The historical groups and City can now plan a greater exhibition with confidence. Sincere thanks to the Bergelin's.

PRIMARY ELECTION

The Primary Election which was held Tuesday, August 2, 2016 resulted in 15% of the registered voters of the City turning out to vote. The City has 4,131 registered voters whereby 369 voted at the polls and 214 voted by Absentee Ballot. While this is a low turnout for this election, it is expected that the turnout for the November 8th Presidential Election will be much higher.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Police Division responded to 65 calls for service over the past week. Nothing significant was reported. Anthony Loose, who robbed the Fifth Third Bank on July 20th, is also a suspect at a credit union robbery in Norton Shores on May 23rd. The United States Attorney's General Office will be prosecuting both robberies.

The Fire Division responded to 19 calls for service over the past week. Of note, was an overdose policed by the MCSO in Green Township on August 4th.

On Friday, July 29th, members of the department, along with other first responders in the area took part in the mass casualty exercise.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

(3) Blight	(7) Furniture
(1) Garbage & Rubbish	(44) Grass & Weeds
(3) Parking	(12) Poly-cart Placement
(1) Property Maintenance	(17) Signs
(1) Swimming Pools	(6) Yard Waste

PARKS & RECREATION

- Fall program planning is taking place. We are in need of a water aerobics instructor, please let everyone know about this opportunity.
- Playscape was inspected this week by Leathers. We look forward to their report and suggestions to keep Playscape in great condition for many more years to come.
- The donor sign at Mitchell Creek Park was installed. Thank you to all that have donated to date.
- Gordon the Magician was at the Bandshell. The final concert is next Wednesday, which is a John Lennon tribute.
- This Saturday, August 6 at 1:00 pm is the Holland Park Veteran Dedication.
- Next Wednesday, August 10 at 1:00 pm is the Blue Star By-Way Marker Dedication at Holland Park.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

The Commission approved the new Ferris Shuttle contract for 2 years with an increase of 1% each year.

131 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

268 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

703 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (111) and Disabled (592) passengers of which 191 used the wheelchair lift to board

83 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 – Thurs. and 7:30 am – 2:00 pm on Friday.

1,195 Total Passengers

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

STREETS –

- Sealed bricks downtown
- Set pillars at Holland Park
- Hauled items to National Night Out
- Set out cones for National Night Out Event
- Farmers Market signs
- Dug out curb on Madison and the concrete was poured on Madison and at the Water Plant
- Removed animals caught in traps
- Removed deceased animals from roadways
- Repaired water service on S Bronson
- Painted art work in front of City Hall
- Picked up wood from trees being cut down at Mitchell Creek Park
- Repaired signs
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Filled potholes
- Assisted with the sanitary sewer repair in the drainage ditch off Cherry
- Assisted with moving voting machines to and from locations

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

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WATER PLANT –

Safety topic: “Listen Up to Protect Your Hearing”

- Perry water tower is back in service.
- Worked with Jay Norris to repair faulty flow meter @ the State street booster station.
- Sharpened lawn mower blades.
- Mowed lawns at HMC, and at the well field.
- Painted gas pipe on North end of the water plant in preparation of the new cement being poured later this week.
- Cleaned and re-waxed floor in kitchen area at the plant.
- Buffed floor in the main hallway and lab.
- Installed new monitor mount on the wall in the control room as part of the control room upgrade.
- Assisted Under Pressure with the cleaning of the exterior of the Ferris water tower.
- Weeded in front of the Water Plant.
- Filled in the void around the gas pipe with rock to finish off the sidewalk repair on the North side of the Plant from the gas leak that was repaired.

WWTP -

Safety Topic: “Watch Your Step”

- The DMR-QA 36 Laboratory Test Proficiency Study was completed, submitted, graded, and published. We successfully passed all 6 of our test series with excellent accuracy.
- Backflow preventer kits ordered and received, to rebuild two Plant backflow devices.
- Mall City Mechanical is scheduled to rebuild backflow preventers the week of Aug. 8th.
- The ultrasonic sensor of our Influent Flow Meter continues to provide some faulty flow data. Jay Norris ordered a new pressure transducer-style sensor, and will install it the week of August 8th. Improved accuracy and reliability are expected.
- Two new Aeration Basin flowmeters have been ordered and received. Jay will install both of these the week of August 8th.
- A Kaeser Digester Blower Motor is at Graham Motor Repair, for bearing replacement.

- The bid for Ferric Chloride Fill Port and the Clarifier Scum Pit Valve projects has been awarded to Northwest Kent Mechanical. Parts ordering and work will begin ASAP.
- The Plant Equalization Basin and Aeration Basin # 1 have been vactored and cleaned by Northern A-1 and Plant Staff.
- The West Clarifier has been vactored and cleaned by Northern A-1 and Plant Staff. An Inspection shows that maintenance and repair work is necessary.
- New drive gears for the Vortex Grit Chamber have been received from Veolia Waters.
- Summer mowing, cleaning and maintenance continues in and around the Plant.
- Replaced a start/stop relay on one of the Ferric Chloride transfer pumps. Some spilled Ferric Chloride was cleaned up from the floor of the storage building containment pit.
- The Plant continues to run extremely well on 3 Aeration Basins. Plant processes, biology and effluent discharge all look excellent. An absence of “institutional flow” really helps!

Stephen Sobers
City Manager