

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

September 2, 2016

## STUDENTS BACK!!

Students are back in town bringing all the energy to the community for another year of learning. Several members of staff and commission participated in the 'ice cream welcome' and Community Day Football events.

## SENATOR PETERS

Michigan Senator Peters visited Wolverine World Wide on Wednesday to gain some publicity for the importance of American made footwear for the military. He made an impressive speech to the 600 workers of WWW including an emphasis on Military service, shaking hands of every veteran working at the plant. He also formally announced the 16,000 square foot expansion of the facility.

## USER CHARGE

The City/Township committee met with members of a Utility Authority from Rockford to hear their experience with that organization. They have also combined to treat wastewater and maintain the collection system (just as Big Rapids does). Each political subdivision then provides the accounting and administration of their individual system (as does Big Rapids). In the end, the group found that we are achieving the same advantage in structure and organization. With that in mind, the groups now seem ready to tackle the wording of the partners' contract to make it conform to present practice and update it for conditions in 2017 and beyond.

## FERRIS WATER AGREEMENT

One of the outcomes of meetings with DEQ recently was the recognition that the City and Ferris cooperate on water issues based on a handshake of trust. The DEQ is requesting in order to approve future economic development and expansion of the system that a formal agreement of understanding be put in place. The DEQ has provided a template for such agreement between Grand Valley and Allendale Township. Based on that document, the City and Ferris are working on a draft agreement which is acceptable to the DEQ as well. It is expected that this arrangement will be finalized in time for the December (quarterly) meeting of the Ferris Board of Trustees.

## BIKE LANES

DPW continues to implement the bike lane plan for the community. Milton Street is the latest addition to the system designed by Ferris students a few years ago and adopted by the City Commission. As roads are paved and improved the markings are added.

## **BERGELIN HOUSE**

Now that the Bergelin House is in City hands, plans have been raised somewhat for the maintenance of the facility. The City has lift equipment that allow DPW personnel to trim trees away from the house and make other improvements. A meeting with the DPW and neighbors was held to coordinate this effort.

## **LABOR DAY EVENTS**

Reminder: Labor Day is here and with that there are an abundance of events this weekend to participate in. Please check out all that these events and Big Rapids has to offer this weekend. Some of the events include: the Old Jail garage sale, Arts and Crafts at Hemlock Park, library book sale at the library and Hemlock Park, car show, concerts and Stage-M at the Bandshell.

If you have some time stop by to find some treasures at the Old Jail and a good book from the library! The proceeds certainly help these programs. Should be absolutely great weather for these events!

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 80 calls for service. There was nothing significant to report.

In the past week, potential hires did ride-alongs with officers to help in the evaluation of the hiring process for an open officer position.

Officer Lorne Juday began his assignment as the School Liaison Officer for the department. He had a great week and has been well received by both student and staff at the schools.

The Fire Division responded to 16 calls for service over the past week. There was nothing significant in nature to report.

## **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**

### **DIAL-A-RIDE –**

Here are the activities for 08/21 – 08/27 – Every year this is our slowest week. With all the summer activities over and the school year getting ready to start.

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

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

**688** (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (89) and Disabled (599) passengers of which 196 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

**18** 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.

**968** Total Passengers

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

### **STREETS –**

- Repaired catch basin south of City Hall
- Sawed patch, getting ready for blacktop
- Blacktop patch in parking lot south of City Hall
- Repaired sanitary sewer on Fremont St in the alley 25 foot of 8 inch pipe
- Painting pavilion ceiling at Hemlock Park
- Black dirt stump holes on Ives Ave
- Rebuilt catch basin on Spring & Clark streets and blacktop patch
- Repaired a sanitary manhole on Green & Fuller Ave and blacktop patch
- Cut down trees; 1 at Library and 1 at 115 W Grand Traverse
- Trimmed the alley from brush from W Grand Traverse to Pere Marquette streets
- Filled potholes
- Painting parking lots
- Installing crosswalks downtown
- Farmers Market signs
- 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
- Spraying for bees when necessary
- Removed bee nest out of Playscape in Hemlock Park
- Cleaning public restrooms in Parks and at City Hall
- Prepping ball fields for games

### **MAIN MAINTENANCE -**

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

## **WATER PLANT –**

### **Safety Topic: “Take a Load Off: Tips for Safe Lifting”**

- Performed Bac-T sample for the Northend Riverside Park quarterly obligation.
- Completed our ERA Lab certification tests and sent in the results.
- Worked with Corpro and inspected all of our storage tank Cathodic Protection systems.
- Mowed lawns at HMC and at the well house.
- Edged the lawn at the Water Plant.
- Finished the daily maintenance for the month of August.
- Repaired broken light in the pipe gallery at the Water Plant.

Stephen Sobers  
City Manager