

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

September 30, 2016

MT PLEASANT

Thanks again to Heather Bowman and Roger Schneidt for the planning on the staff exchange between our two communities. Mt. Pleasant brought 12 staff persons who paired with Big Rapids counterparts for a tour of facilities and discussion on comparable activities. It was a truly great day. More 'best practice' exchanges should be conducted where activities can be shared in great detail.

AUDITORS

The annual audit collection of data and information has been completed. Lots of questions were asked (as always) and the general tenor of the review was positive. The report is now being generated and the 'exit preview' will be conducted in the next month as the public report is completed for the Commission as a whole.

PERRY STREET SIDEWALK

Matt Ruelle has been providing the inspection services to the Big Rapids Township for their sidewalk construction project. The installation has now been completed except for a couple spots that are awaiting the moving of power guy wires that are in the way of the new sidewalk. This will complete this important safety project for pedestrians wanting to walk to the major stores, such as WalMart and Meijer. To complete the City support of this project, Department of Public Works will be snow plowing for the next several years before turning the entire project over to the Township for their complete service.

ST PETERS SCHOOL

One of the teaching tools for students is 'hands on activity'. Students at St. Peters requested a 'civic exercise' to work for community by doing work activity. Therefore, 70 students, descended on City Hall for work to be done. Activities included planting tulips and daffodils and tying up corn stalks to the light poles. Thanks to the teachers and students at the school for making the fall and spring seasons a brighter place!

INTERNATIONAL CITY MANAGER'S ASSOCIATION

Mark Gifford attended the ICMA National Conference this past week to take part in the #1 training opportunity for City Managers to learn and share with counterparts. We look forward to the fruits of his learning becoming real projects in Big Rapids.

TREES

Upon the heels of a forestation grant to plant 300 trees in Clay Cliffs, Heather Bowman has received notice that another \$2,000 is to be received for residential tree planting this fall, courtesy

of the Michigan Forestry and Park Association and Consumer's Energy. We are fortunate to be the recipients of these monies, as tree planting is one of the best clean air and water investments that can be made. We are thankful for their commitment to assisting the City to offset the cost for residential tree plantings.

APARTMENT COMPLEX – SOUTH OF TOWN

Alan Johns has all approvals to begin the construction of a new residential development behind the Save-a-Lot plaza and County Services Building except the water line permit. The DEQ expressed concerns that the City main from the South Tower at Ferris to 14 Mile Road was 'too long' without a loop in the system. To gain this advantage, the City needed to gain an easement through the Northland Flats apartment complex. A Letter of Intent is expected after conversation with the owners by the beginning of the week. Construction may therefore get underway this fall for occupancy next year.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire Division responded to 24 calls for service this week. Calls consisted of a car fire, medicals, and a hazardous materials response. Fire Division also assisted with the Ferris State University Homecoming events last weekend. Departmental training this week was medical training. Next week kicks off fire prevention week education in the schools.

Police Division responded to 45 calls for service this past week. Last weekend's Ferris State University Homecoming events went well with no major calls for service.

PARKS & RECREATION

- The St. Peter's students came and provided volunteer efforts for beautification of the City. There were 450 flower bulbs planted in downtown, along City Hall, Pocket Park and Mitchell Creek Park. Also, 350 cornstalks were also attached to the light poles downtown. We are thankful for their time and dedication to the City.
- Water Aerobics began this week at the Ferris State University pool.
- Ferris Welding Association picked up trash along the Riverwalk as their annual commitment to adopting the Riverwalk near Osceola Street Park.
- Consumers Energy just approved a tree grant request in the amount of \$2000
- The Mitchell Creek Ribbon cutting was held on Friday at 11:00 am. Thank you to all that participated.
- The Music on Muskegon event program will be held this weekend at Hemlock. Please enjoy the MIMA's entertainment lineup, they have been organizing this event with the City and Jaycee's for many months.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

155 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

363 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

634 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (99) and Disabled (535) passengers of which 176 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

48 Safe Riders – Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00am to 2:30am.

1,506 Ferris Shuttle Bus – 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.

2,809 Total Passengers

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

STREETS

Safety Topic: Vehicle Safety

- Made dugouts longer for Win Kellum
- Cut patches in parking lot and patched on Milton Ave
- Put out and picked up cones and signs for 2 parades
- Repaired signs on Ives and parking lot
- Repaired water stack at 1009 Marion Ave
- Cut tree down in Mitchell Creek Park
- Picked up a lift to work at Mitchell Creek Park
- Cleaning up the yard from broken concrete and blacktop
- Cleaned up trees and wood from the 900 block of Rose Ave in the alley
- Working on fence behind Chemical Bank
- Installing crosswalks on Michigan Ave
- Rotated leaves at compost site
- Put up and took down Farmer's 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
- Cleaning public restrooms in parks and at City Hall

MOTOR POOL

- 206 truck, repaired door latch rods and lock cylinders
- 216 truck, replaced rear view mirror
- 226 truck, replaced rear suspension springs and alternator
- 509 compactor, serviced
- 553 wing mower, repaired deck bushings and replaced safety sensor. Repaired fuel leak at injector
- 554 wing mower, 2 service calls for flat tires
- Air Port Brush hog, service call to repair PTO shaft
- 402 police car, serviced and replaced front tires, repaired head lamp connector
- 403 police car, replaced spark plugs
- 405 police car, service call to head lamp

Busses-

- 901, serviced and did a safety inspection, replaced rear tires
- 903, serviced and did a safety inspection, replaced front brake pads and master cylinder.
- Repaired ground wire to passenger door.
- Repaired broken steering tilt lever.
- Replaced suspension height control valve.
- 904, did a grease service

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WATER PLANT

Safety Topic: “Night Work, Reduced Visibility Increases Hazards”

- Earl Battle has been successfully trained and is now a confident Water Plant Operator. He will be added to the call out list and Martin Kroon will be moving on to the Wastewater Plant. Congratulations to Earl and thank you to Martin for a job well done with the training of both Earl and Jim.
- Worked with Milo from Michigan Cat to service all of our generators this week.
- Both Earl and Jim are in class this week in Tustin.
- Test ran the Water Plant boiler this week in preparation for cold weather.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager