

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

October 14, 2016

## WOLVERINE WORLD WIDE GROUNDBREAKING

Several staff members attended the groundbreaking for the 16,000 addition to Wolverine World Wide Manufacturing on Wednesday. Congressmen Huizenga and Moolenaar were on hand to take part in the celebration. WWW is now employing over 650 members and looking for additional expansion capability under the present contracts. This addition will make more room for both storage and production of shoes and boots.

## RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY

The City and School administration met once again to preview and approve language changes in the potential Authority Charter and discuss implementation strategies. The School Board will continue to evaluate the benefit of this approach to quality of life within the district. Discussion and decision is expected in the next couple months.

## HEALTH CARE RENEWAL

Employee groups attended renewal discussions for health care which will renew at a blended rate increase of 7.9%. The State hardcap inflation increase has been set at 3.3% for 2017 contracts leaving employee direct contributions to rise 4.6%.

## PAVING

The City paving contract work is scheduled to begin the week of October 24. The rebuilding of a couple blocks of Michigan Avenue will await spring as part of the street program this year.

Tree planting and removal are continuing this week. With the grants from Consumers for \$2,000 and the US Forestry Service – Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for \$65,000, the City will be planting over 300 more trees than are removed this season.

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA

After passage of the new state regulations the Cities of Michigan will be asked to 'opt in or out' of participation in the control program. City Attorney advised that he was doing research on the controls and he expected that companies would be soon approaching the city on this subject. In fact, this week Oasis, a large distributor of Medical Marijuana approached staff concerning both a 'grow' and a storefront sales operation. This subject will be on the Commission agenda for review and recommendation after staff research is complete.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 64 calls for service. Overall, the numbers for the week were down, with nothing significant in nature to report.

Operation Blue Light continued this week and has been found to be very successful.

Please look at the Pioneer in the next few days for a nice article on School Liaison Officer Lorne Juday and the wonderful job he is doing for the department and the area schools.

In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 17 calls for service. This has also been a slower week in relation to runs for the fire department. Firefighter Russ Bell continues to educate the young children of the area on fire safety.

Firefighter Jason Cornell and Officer David Flore are continuing their education as members of the Leadership Mecosta Program.

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

- BRCTA had a meeting regarding the next play day at the Ferris Racquet facility.
- Trout were planted at Hemlock Park for the Fall 2016 planting. Thank you to the sponsor, the Mecosta County Foundation for this support.
- Attended Recreation Authority Meeting.
- Attended Yoplait 2016 grant wrap up session at the plant in Reed City. Thank you again for your sponsorship to the Girls on the Run program.
- Attended park and recreation board meeting.
- Next Tuesday is the Grand Region Non-motorized plan, held at the Public Safety Building Community Room from 4 pm-7 pm.

## **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**

### **DIAL-A-RIDE –**

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

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

**799** (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (139) and Disabled (660) passengers of which 230 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

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

**1,665** 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 – Thur and 7:30 am – 2:00 pm on Friday.

**3,166** Total Passengers

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

## **STREETS –**

### **Safety Topic: “Cutting Tools”**

- Installed conduit at Water Plant for camera
- Hauled air compressor to pool and pickup
- Put out cones for trimming
- Picked up wood from trimming
- Fixed desk in tammy’s office
- Dug out stump for tree plantings
- Took out sidewalk at Holland park
- Black dirted at Holland park
- Dug out 2 patches on Chestnut and Willow for black topping
- Blacktop patches
- Installed wire in conduit at Water Plant
- Farmers Market signs
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

## **PARKS –**

- Mowing & weed whipping
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaning public restrooms in Parks and at City Hall

## **MOTOR POOL –**

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
  - 101 dump truck, serviced, replaced pre-wet pump, installed spreader, and adjusted conveyor belt
  - 102 dump truck, serviced, installed spreader, and adjusted conveyor belt
  - 221 truck installed winter tires
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
  - 404 Police car, serviced and diagnosed air bag lite, ordered parts
  - 416 Police car, serviced
  - 1-4 Fire Truck, replaced fuel tank

- Busses:
  - 901-did a grease service, replaced leaky water pump. Replaced front brakes. Repaired broken steering wheel tilt lever
  - 904-side mirror was in-op, replaced bad switch. Replaced bad switch in the wheelchair lift tower and adjusted.
  - 906-serviced and did a safety inspection. Replaced all 6 tires and adjusted front wheel bearings. Replaced window emergency stickers.
  - 908-repaired rear air conditioning.
  - 909-did a grease job. Repaired rear A/C and replaced transmission cooler lines.

## **MAIN MAINTENANCE -**

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

Stephen Sobers  
City Manager