

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

November 11, 2016

MILITARY THANK YOU

Arrangements have been made for a Humvee and veterans to be stationed at State and Maple today starting at noon to receive a community 'thank you'. This is a friendly event that personalizes the debt we all owe to preserve our freedoms. Stop by if you can.

ENGINEERING STRATEGY SESSION

Fleis and VandenBrink coordinated a planning session with the water and wastewater employees to discuss capital expense successes and future needs going into 2017. These meetings are very successful as they involve all employees and serve as an opportunity for all personnel to express needs that will make the plants more successful and current with operations and technology.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Bureau of Elections this year required that each hour a tally of the number of persons waiting in line to vote be kept by poll workers to be reported at the end of the day. In the Big Rapids precincts, after the morning rush, the maximum number of folks each hour never exceeded 9! This is pretty remarkable since the City recorded nearly 2,000 individuals voting. Tammy Gillis and Jennifer Norris did an exceptional job running the election and recruiting both citizens and City personnel to assist. At each of the three polling places there were ample personnel to keep lines moving – making the average voting time only a 10 to 15 minute experience.

Election Day was a very busy with the polls opening at 7:00 a.m. and closing at 8:00 p.m. The turnout for the General Presidential Election for the City's three precincts was a remarkable 54% of the 4,131 registered voters in the City. Those numbers were actually down a little compared to the previous historical Presidential Election of 2008 when the turnout was 62% of 5,373 registered voters. It was wonderful to see so many people take an interest in the election process and take advantage of their privilege to vote.

I would like to send out a huge "THANK YOU" to all of the election inspectors, including City employees who went through the required training to become qualified inspectors for this election. As expected, crowds were steady throughout the day making this election much busier than most. I could not have successfully done my job without the help of these wonderful people. It is a pleasure to work with such fine individuals. Thanks to the additional elections inspectors, lines were kept to a minimum, questions were answered promptly, and residents were able to cast their vote in a swift manner. Again, I appreciate all who volunteered and thank you for your willingness to help. Tammy

CITY MANAGER CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

City Manager Candidate interviews started this week with Paul Brake. The Commission will continue over the next two weeks to review candidates with the final interview on November 22, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. To date, the search is on schedule to finalize the review in November so that offers might be possible during early December.

PASSPORT GRANT

Mitchell Creek Park scored 200 of 230 possible points for enhancing the parking lot, the park trail and to add some landscaping. The City will know in the next couple months if that score holds up for actual funding.

PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL

The City has extended an offer of employment to Eric Winsor for the position of Police Officer. Eric's wife is enrolled in the optometry program at Ferris. He comes with two years of police experience in Buffalo, Minnesota. Eric will be starting Monday, November 28th.

Interviews were completed this week for the Fire Fighter vacancy. There have been many outstanding candidates. Applications are being accepted for the administrative assistant position through December 6th. Nancy Haight will be retiring December 16th. Applications are also being accepted for a part time transcriptionist with the police division.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 85 calls for service. There were no significant calls to report.

In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 20 calls for service. Shift members assisted with MOCC fire training and election set up.

PARKS & RECREATION

- Attended the Back to the Bricks meeting, which will now include fundraising for the June 2017 event.
- Assisted with the presidential election.
- Attended Healthy Coalition meeting to discuss possible grant funds to be put towards Mecosta County.
- Veterans Day was celebrated at Holland Park and recognized with the Armory participating in a "Thank the Veteran Today" campaign.
- Planning for winter 2017 activities are beginning.
- Dog park clean up took place, thank you to all the volunteers that wanted to spruce up the area.
- Christmas tree was placed in front of Chemical Bank. Thank you to Duddles Tree Farm for the great tree.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

193 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

335 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

795 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (119) and Disabled (676) passengers of which 218 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

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

2,048 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.

3,490 Total Passengers

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

STREETS

Safety Topic: “No One is Immune to Stress”

- Repaired water stack at 1124 Platt Ave
- Filled potholes
- Picked up leaves
- Took forms of sidewalk and poured concrete on 1000 block of Marion Ave, 100 block of Stewart Ave and 310 Ives Ave
- Repaired water stack at 127 S State Str., new curb stop, stack and rod
- Put cap on dugout
- Filled holes with black dirt from stump removal
- Hung banner by Fifth Third Bank
- Filled depressions around edges of sidewalks with black dirt
- Cut brush on Cedar Str.
- Assisted with shutting off valves to isolate State Str. tower
- Repaired 3 valve boxes on Grant Str.
- Cleaned drains
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

PARKS

- Put up Christmas tree downtown and decorated
- Picked up leaves
- Shut down some park restrooms
- Mowed & weed whipped
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaned public restrooms in parks and at City Hall

MOTOR POOL

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - Airport Kubota, serviced
 - 201 Flatbed truck, replaced leaking brake line.
 - 224 pickup truck, serviced
 - 226 pickup truck, repaired the top work light
 - 301 street sweeper, winterized for storage
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
 - 402 serviced
 - 403 replaced headlamp bulbs and connectors, replaced battery
 - 404 serviced, rotated tires and checked brakes. replaced headlight bulbs and connectors
- Dial-A-Ride busses:
 - 901 serviced and performed a safety inspection. Replaced serpentine belt tensioner and idler pulley. Serviced wheelchair lift and replaced inner barrier switch. Replaced rear brake rotors and pads.
 - 904 service call for coolant leak, replaced heater hose and brought back to shop, serviced and performed a safety inspection, replaced high pressure fuel pump. Removed exhaust filters and delivered to shop in Grand Rapids for cleaning. Picked up filters and reinstalled. Serviced wheelchair lift, replaced IB switch, rubber bumpers and Up-Down switch in the controller then adjusted lift. Replaced front shocks and tires.
 - 905 replaced all 6 tires
 - 906 performed a grease service

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WATER PLANT

Safety topic: "Safety Tips for Employees Working Remotely or Alone"

- Scraped and ground all the rust off from the #2 chlorine feeder scale and primed and re-painted it.
- Ran customer samples.
- Raked up leaves around the plant and hauled them away.
- Mowed lawn at the plant.
- Installed the snow-thrower on the lawn tractor in preparation of winter.

- Performed daily maintenance around the plant.
- Performed a dry run with Van on the isolation of the State Street Booster Station to make sure we could isolate and drain the main in preparation of the replacement of the mag meter to be scheduled soon.
- Swept, dusted, and mopped the floor downstairs at the plant.
- Removed debris from the roof drains at the plant.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager