

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 18, 2016

HOLIDAY PARADE

Reminder that Saturday evening is the Santa Parade under the lights downtown. The DBA is planning hot chocolate stations and additional activities to make the arrival an even better one this year. Hot chocolate stations open at 5:00 p.m. and the parade begins at 6:00 p.m.

This weekend is also the Stage M production of "It's a Wonderful Life". Show start times are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday night, with an encore showing Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

MANAGER APPLICATIONS

Staff has been communicating with manager candidates and setting up meetings, visits, lodging and other concerns of the candidates. The first round of interviews will be complete on November 22. Staff is also gathering data for the Commission to assist with the next step, which will be a formal offer of employment to a candidate.

FERRIS MEETING

Ferris, County and City representatives got together to review plans, projects and practices that affect one another. The new dorm is slightly ahead of schedule for fall 2017 occupancy. The welding expansion is only weeks from beginning. The parking lot on Ives will soon be closed although alternative parking is planned beside the Recreation Center where dorms were recently removed. With the City looking at an Ives water main project again for funding, this may become a very difficult area to get through for a couple of years.

The County continues to work actively on the bike trail around Hardy Pond. The environmental review has returned a very positive position.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Police Division responded to 91 calls for service over the past week. Of significance was a 21-year-old male who was located by officers in the 200 block of Baldwin behind the wheel of his truck unresponsive. Drag marks in the pavement were followed to the 1200 block of N State St. The driver struck a telephone pole, drove south on Rose to Pere Marquette to the parking lot. After being revived, he was lodged on OUID and leaving scene of PDA. The driver was found to have overdosed on heroin.

The Fire Division responded to 20 calls for service over the past week. On Wednesday evening, they had training. Firefighters practiced the Nozzle Forward technique. Members were able to see how changing the way we grip and move with a fire hose can save time and energy while operating on a fire scene. After, members took to the training room to discuss how proper water stream selection and application can make conditions in a house fire better for firefighters and potential victims in the building.

On Thursday evening Police Officer Lorne Juday, Detective Brian Miller and Mecosta County Sheriff Deputy Jason Losinski did a presentation on cyberbullying and what educators can do to address the problem to the women of the Beta Kappa Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honor society of women educators.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

STREETS

- Picked up leaves
- Cleaned drains
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

PARKS

- Picked up leaves
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaning and maintenance of public restroom at City Hall

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WASTEWATER PLANT

- Some Plant operational problems have resulted from all the digester and solids-handling changes related to tank cleaning. A return to normal will take a few days.
- Biotech removed 782,000 gallons of bio solids from our storage tank, which was then hauled and land-applied on fields in the Grant Center area.
- The Biotech crew then thoroughly cleaned the interior our 900,000-gallon sludge storage tank, in preparation for the first inspection since the tank was built.
- Dixon Engineering performed a thorough inspection of the sludge storage tank. After 25 years of continuous use, no serious problems were found. Dixon will provide a detailed report, recommending necessary maintenance and repairs.
- Jay Norris has been remotely working on several SCADA issues, including flow measurement, solids-handling pump issues, blower logic and gas detection problems.
- Sampling for our latest Domestic Background Study will be redone with the assistance of Fleis & VandenBrink. Recent sampling data and lab results were inconclusive.
- A sampling plan for our new Maximum Allowable Headworks Loading (MAHL) Study has been developed and submitted to the DEQ for approval.
- Several drive bolts failed, which attach the upper stub shaft to the screw of the east screw pump. Plant Operators are removing and replacing the sheared bolts.
- A broken decant valve has been removed from the sludge storage tank, for repair.
- A 4000-gallon order of ferric chloride was placed with Webb, for delivery next week.
- A failed generator exercise control module was replaced at the Tioga Park lift station.

- Six separate groups toured the Wastewater Plant this week: Three Environmental Science classes, two Biology classes, and one group of home-schooled children.
- The spray-water pipe failed on our headworks screening machine. Plant operators repaired the broken pipe and put the spray-water system back in service.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager