

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 16, 2016

This will be the last newsletter of the year. Next week and the following are holiday Friday's and short weeks. Have a great Christmas!

CONSTRUCTION

Campus Creek Cottages water line is going in now as are the buildings for student rentals for the fall 2017 occupancy. O'Reilly's is installing the drive entrance for their auto parts store, which with the snow is creating challenges. They advise they will be done by Wednesday.

ICE RINK

With the cold weather, the winter ice skating rink is operational. Lights will be on this weekend for a great Christmas skating opportunity.

CITY LONGEVITY AWARD LUNCH

The City Award luncheon for folks who have had 5, 10, 15, 20 and more years received certificates and plaques of appreciation. Mark Gifford presided over the festivities this year – giving all attendees a good time.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- In the past week, the Police Division responded to 84 calls for service. There was nothing significant in nature to report.
- Wednesday and Thursday, Detective Brian Miller, Officer Lorne Juday and Det/Sgt Casey Nemeth of the Mecosta County Sheriff Office presented to Mecosta County employees on Citizen's Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE).
- The sergeants attended training on Wednesday in Grand Rapids on Tactical Leadership. This is designed to train supervisors on officer safety issues while working the road.
- This week began the first phase of Officer Eric Winsor's FTO program. He will be working with training Officer David Flore.
- The Fire Division responded to 14 calls for service over the past week.
- Thursday was the last day for Administrative Secretary Nancy Haight, who retired after working for the department for 38 years. She was a sister, mother and grandmother to employees and their children through the years and will be truly missed. The past three DPS Directors were on hand to pay tribute and thank her for service in making their tenure with the City a successful one.

PARKS & RECREATION

- Rang bell for the Salvation Army with Van Johnson.

- Women's Volleyball Playoffs were finished this past weekend. Division One 1st place, Court Crushers and 2nd place, Buffalo Wild Wings. Division Three 1st place, CR Construction and 2nd place, Up North Specialty Meats. Nice job to all teams!
- Coed Volleyball season deadline is January 6th.
- Water Aerobics has ended for the year and will start up on January 9.
- Pickleball Club has worked out an agreement with the Racquet Facility, which enables them to have court time at a reasonable rate. As the sport grows, space like this is appreciated.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

216 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

335 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

878 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (131) and Disabled (747) passengers of which 221 used the wheelchair lift to board

73 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

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

2,515 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.

4,083 Total Passengers

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

DPW: STREETS

Safety Topic: "Safe Driving"

- Plowed snow – streets, alleys, sidewalks, parking lots, airport
- Repaired signs
- Cleaned up downtown and eastside snow
- Sanded and salted
- Plowed turn-arounds
- Cleaned drains
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

DPW: PARKS

- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaned and maintained City Hall public restroom
- Assisted with snow removal; plowing & clearing sidewalks

DPW: MOTOR POOL

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 102 Dump truck, replaced hydraulic hose to spreader.
 - 104 Dump truck, replaced turbo and oil cooler tube and seals. Replaced underbody blades.
 - 203 pickup truck, replaced plow motor.
 - 209 pickup truck, replaced serpentine belt and idler pulley.
 - 223 truck, replaced alternator.
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
 - 403 police car, serviced.
 - 405 police car, repaired head light wiring.
- Dial-A-Ride busses:
 - 901, service call for a no start, had it towed to the shop and replaced the starter solenoid. Performed a grease service.
 - 903, serviced and performed a safety inspection. Serviced the wheelchair lift. Replaced wipers and front brake pads and one caliper.
 - Repaired airline at compressor and replaced air dryer.
 - 908, serviced and did a safety inspection. Serviced the wheelchair lift.
 - 909, performed a grease service and repaired stepwell heater.

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads
- Assisted with snow removal; plowing

WATER PLANT

Safety topic: "Trenching: Don't Dig Into Trouble"

- Calibrated chlorine analyzer at the State Street location.
- Ran customer samples.
- Plowed snow.
- Plowed snow at well house and production well 4 location so the contractor could get his equipment on site and begin removing and replacing well pump #4.
- Worked with the gas company to repair a gas leak found at the H.M.C. generator.
- Put weight in the back of the plow truck.
- Performed QA/QC on R.O. unit in Lab.

WWTP

- The plant process continues to slowly improve, with less foam and better effluent.
- Ordered replacement parts and repaired our aeration influent composite sampler.
- Installed snow plow onto the Dodge pickup and cleaned wiring electrical contacts.
- Jay Norris is working on conduit and hard-wiring of the new plant influent flow sensor.
- A problem has developed with the E.Q. Basin level sensor and/or control logic. The E.Q. blower is off and Jay Norris is working on the problem.
- Our Maximum Allowable Headworks Loading (MAHL) Study Sampling Plan is approved by Tom Berdinski (DEQ). Sampling begins in January and will continue into Spring.
- The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Annual Report is in progress, along with 4th Quarter influent and effluent mercury monitoring.
- Repaired and painted a large valve-turning tee-handle.
- Tioga lift station alarm. Pulled up and cleaned the wet well pressure transducer.
- Changed oil in #3 and #4 Digester Blowers. Changed air filter in # 4 Digester Blower.
- The IPP letter to businesses was successfully mailed to 465 non-domestic sewer customers. Some questions have already come in from business owners.
- Northwest Kent Mechanical (Jim Arends) spent a day with John, JW and Troy, visiting and reviewing all 5 City lift stations.
- A leaking discharge pipe was discovered on pump #2 in the County Garage lift station. This pump was shut off until repairs can be made. The lift station will operate just fine on pump # 1.
- Replaced a leaking faucet fixture in the workshop bathroom.
- Fleis & VandenBrink is scheduled to help move our Antero work order project forward.

Stephen Sobers
City Manager