

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 27, 2017

STEVE SOBERS RETIREMENT

After nearly 14 years of excellent service to the City, Steve Sobers served his last day on January 27th with a reception at City Hall. Steve and Helen are beloved people in the community and we all wish them the best as they embark on a new chapter of their lives.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY (CPA)

A new session of the Citizens Police Academy started on the 25th. This session is expanded to include the Fire Division and will run for 7 more weeks. The meetings are Wednesday nights from 6 pm to 9 pm. Eight citizens were in attendance and enjoyed very informative discussions with Deputy Director Steve Schroeder, Sgt. Liz West and former Director Kevin Courtney. The CPA is a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of operations of the Department of Public Safety.

RESIDENTIAL CROSS CONNECTION

The State of Michigan is requiring that the City expand the existing cross connection program that is in place for commercial and industrial properties, to residential customers. The cross-connection program exists to protect the City water supply from potential contamination. Residents will see information material on this program in their water bills over the next few months. The focus of the residential program will begin with properties that have irrigation systems.

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

The 10th Annual Festival of the Arts begins on Saturday (28th) and will run through all of February. There are many exciting opportunities to experience the arts in wide variety of ways. Booklets detailing the Festival are available across the community and at City Hall. Details can also be found on the Festival website www.brfota.org.

WASTEWATER CONTRACT WITH TOWNSHIPS

The Mayor and Staff continue to meet with Township Supervisors Bob Baldwin and Bill Stanek to discuss the renewal of their Wastewater contracts. The meetings have been very productive to date. Cooperation and honest discussions are keeping the process moving nicely. The hope is to have new contracts in place by early summer.

PUBLIC SAFETY

During the past week, the Police Division responded to 80 complaints. The most significant event was last Friday where a subject was stabbed by his brother. The suspect fled the scene. Officers had a cordon set up around the area of Katke Golf Course. After approximately an hour, the subject was

located and arrested. The Police Division was assisted by Mecosta County Sheriff's Dept. and Ferris Public Safety.

The sector policing started over the weekend. Officers have made contact with several residents thus far.

The Fire Division responded to 18 Calls for service last week:

- 16 Medical calls
- 1 Fire Alarm (a steam line failed) Plastics Building at Ferris
- 1 Hazardous materials response to Spectrum Health Big Rapids (gasoline leak)

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

Numbers lower again this week due to no school for 2 days due to icy conditions.

199 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

271 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

749 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (86) and Disabled (663) passengers of which 171 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

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

1,764 Ferris Shuttle Bus – Ferris is on winter break. Free rides to anyone on Campus, The new route has eight stops on campus- East Campus Mailbox, Lot 28, Allied Health, Campus Community Center, Lot 4, Rock Cafe', Arts and Science, 7:30am -7:00pm

3,152 Total Passengers

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

DPW: STREETS

Safety Topic: "Winter Slip Prevention"

- Plowed, sanded and salted – streets, alleys, sidewalks, parking lots, airport
- Filled potholes
- Cleaned drains

- Read meters
- Washed trucks
- Picked up Christmas trees
- Moved offices around City Hall
- Repaired water service at 1113 Platt Ave
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

DPW: PARKS

- Fixed some picnic tables
- Trimmed some trees on the sidewalks to clear for plowing
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Cleaning and maintaining City Hall public restroom

MOTOR POOL

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 101 dump truck, replaced exhaust pipe
 - 203 pickup truck, replaced transmission, flywheel, trans mount and all 4 drive shaft U-Joints. Repaired the exhaust manifold bolts.
 - 208 truck, replaced exhaust gas recirculation valve and replaced some lights
 - 221 pickup truck, repaired exhaust manifold leak, repaired front plow mount and replaced top rotating light
 - 307 tractor, rebuilt front plow pivot joint and replaced starter solenoid
 - 414, serviced
 - 416, serviced
- Police & Fire Vehicles:
 - 401, replaced alternator and battery
 - 403, repaired driver's window track, and replaced battery
 - 404, serviced
 - 409, serviced and repaired leaky tire. Diagnosed and replaced variable valve timing solenoid
- Busses:
 - 901 replaced wiper blades and serviced wheelchair lift
 - 906 repaired drivers dome light switch. Adjusted parking brake
 - 909 serviced and did a safety inspection. Serviced wheelchair lift and adjusted

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

Mark Gifford
City Manager