

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

February 10, 2017

BRYNN CHESEBRO

Brynn has started work as the part-time recreation coordinator for the City. She has education and experience in the field of recreation and we are excited to have her as part of the team. In addition to the role of recreation coordinator, she will be the Farmers' Market Master. Mary Bechaz was the Market Master last year and has chosen not to continue in that role.

LEAD/COPPER SAMPLING

The DEQ has changed how communities sample for lead and copper in the water system. In previous years, samples have been analyzed from 30 homes and businesses throughout the community once a year. Starting in 2017, the requirement is to sample from 60 homes and businesses two times during the year.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)

CIP Planning is underway in preparation of the 2017/18 budget. Mark Sweppenheiser attended CIP training offered by the State to ensure that our CIP Plan meets the requirements of the State. This is the first year that the Michigan Economic Development Corporation is requiring that an CIP Plan be a part of all grant applications. Our CIP Plan now must be for 6 years. Members of the Planning Commission have helped staff review and rank requests and their time and efforts are very much appreciated.

CLAY CLIFFS PRESENTATION AT BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP MEETING

Mayor Warba gave a presentation at the Big Rapids Township meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. This was in regards to the incorporation of the Clay Cliffs Nature Area into the City limits. The Township Supervisors and Trustees asked a number of questions and indicated that they will be discussing the issue further within the next 60 days.

LIBRARY

The Library's involvement with the Festival of the Arts continues. Thursday, February 9th was "An Evening with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers" presented by Barbara Pillsbury. Great movie clips, with lots of fun stories revolving around these movies that Barbara shared.

Also as part of the Festival of the Arts was the architectural presentation on the 3-D free software "Sketch-Up". This was a wonderful hands-on opportunity to use the software on the library's public computers.

Please mark your calendars: The Grand Opening of the Big Rapids Seed Library is Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 6 p.m. Guest speaker is Ben Cohen, owner of Small House Farm in Sanford and the regional coordinator for eight states for Gardens Across America project. Learn about our seed library and more; refreshments will be served.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 70 calls for service. There was nothing of significance in nature to report.

The Fire Division responded to 21 calls for service.

This week Director Eddinger and Sergeant Haynes attended the State Chief of Police Conference in Grand Rapids.

This week at the Citizen Police Academy, Mecosta County K-9 officer, Deputy Josh Reed and Callahan spoke to the group. As did Officer Lorne Juday (School Liaison), Detective Brian Miller and Sergeant Scott Paquette (Forensic Interviewing of Children) and Officer Jason Kuiawa (Dive Team).

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DPW: STREETS

Safety Topic: Trips and Falls

- Sanded and salted streets and parking lots
- Put ice blades on the trucks and did the gravel alleys and streets
- Filled pot holes
- Opened drains for the rain
- Repaired signs
- Painted boards for art work
- Checked and jetted sewers for call ins
- Parks
- Repaired picnic tables
- Picked up trash
- Opened bathrooms
- Painted barrels for trash

MOTOR POOL

- 102 dump truck, did a complete rear brake
- Replaced 4 sets of underbody blades
- Did 3 pickup truck oil changes
- 402 police car replaced driver's seat back pad and cover and seatbelt retainer
- 909 bus, diagnosed cool and leak, replaced fuel cooler. Diagnosed wheelchair lift not working, found bridging switch out of adjustment also replaced tower 1nd 2 micro switches and adjusted

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WASTEWATER PLANT

- The Plant looks good overall, but foamy biological growth is still a problem on our aeration basins. Testing details have been worked out and chlorination is in-progress.
- Performed weekly lift station checks at North State, Waterloo, Novak, Tioga and County.
- Checked and zeroed L.E.L. sensors in the Headworks and Grease/Grit Buildings.
- Replaced battery back-up module in Digester Room SCADA panel.
- Replaced a pump hose in the aeration influent composite sampler.
- Receiving lots of completed forms, in response to our IPP NDU survey of businesses. We have also received many phone questions and requests for assistance with these forms.
- Drained dark-colored compressor oil from Digester Blower #3, refilled with new oil, and changed the inlet air filter. The air filter CIP upgrade should solve this problem.
- Ordered additional replacement filters and compressor oil for our Digester Blowers.
- Plowing, shoveling and de-icing at Plant. We assisted DPW with snow plowing. Also, using deicer on our final clarifier skimmer beaches to prevent freeze-up and alarms.
- Completed and submitted 7 Capital Improvement Projects for budget-year 2017-18.
- Completed and submitted a 6-year Capital Improvement Projects plan, with 10 additional projects for budget years 2018 through 2023.
- Met with Consumers Energy to discuss their incentive programs for energy-saving projects here at the Plant.
- Scheduled a visit with Chris at Medler Electric, to explore LED lighting upgrades.
- Ordered a 275-Gallon tote of Aries Tek polymer.
- Prepared a cover letter, brochure and 2,500 copies of each, for the Cross-Connection Prevention Program mailing, which went out with the February water bills.

Mark Gifford
City Manager