

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH 10, 2017

STATE STREET CROSSWALK

The Mayor and staff participated in a meeting with Crossroads Charter Academy Superintendent Chris White and MDOT TSC Manager Del Kirkby. The topic was the condition and future of the walk bridge that is located adjacent to CCA and Mitchell Creek Park. This discussion will be continued in the coming months.

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS (FOTA)

The 10th year of the Big Rapids Festival of the Arts concluded last week. Special thanks to the FOTA Board and the considerable effort that goes into making the festival happen. Planning has already begun for next year. If anyone has ideas for potential events, please contact FOTA via the City Manager or their website, www.brfota.org.

IVES AVE. DRAIN

Staff met with Jackie Fitzgerald, Mecosta County Drain Commissioner, to get an update on the Ives Ave. Drain project. Spicer Engineering Group is close to being able to provide a report to the City summarizing the potential of establishing a county drain and the boundaries and engineering projects that might accompany that effort.

WASTEWATER CONTRACT

The Mayor and staff continue to work with Green Township Supervisor Bob Baldwin and Big Rapids Township Supervisor Bill Stanek to prepare a new Wastewater contract for consideration for the Township Boards and the City Commission. All parties involved have worked diligently on this effort and this collaborative effort is extremely positive for the whole community.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The first Mecosta-Osceola Literacy Summit was held at the MOSID Career Center building on Tuesday. Featured speakers were the two literacy coaches who work with the teachers in both school districts and the coordinator of the "Evert Reads" program. The library was one of the groups that had an information table. We were able to share our Big Rapids "Lets Read" Program and other literacy resources that are available at the library. Resources include early literacy computers, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, etc. The extremely low literacy levels of students in Michigan are of great concern and everyone in the community is looking for ways to make a difference in this challenge to raise these literacy levels.

Evert Reads shared their multi-level attack on the problem. It includes locating "Little Free Libraries" throughout the Evert community where free books for all ages are available for the taking. Our library is very interested in doing the same thing in the Big Rapids community, to get books into the hands of everyone to spread the love of reading.

As March is National Reading Month, the preschool story times continue to include guest readers from our community. "Got Caught Reading" photos are displayed in the library. Mr. Howard has his camera at the ready and is always looking for guest readers and people to photograph reading whatever material they fancy.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- In the past week, the Police Division responded to 59 calls for service. There was nothing significant in nature to report.
- In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 18 calls for service. Of these, 9 were on Wednesday during the high winds, including 2 grass fires.
- Officer Lindy Waite began her administrative portion of the FTO process this past week. She will begin her first phase with Sergeant Scott Paquette in the next week.

PARK AND RECREATION

- Attended the Annual Michigan Farmers Market Association Conference in East Lansing.
- Girls on the Run registration is open. Registration can be done through your school.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

203 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

464 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

841 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (83) and Disabled (841) passengers of which 206 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

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

2,344 Ferris Shuttle Bus – 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

3,977 Total Passengers

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

DPW: STREETS

- Repaired lights at City Hall & Library
- Filled potholes
- Graded alleys and gravel roads
- Put up Artworks banners painted by resident artists through downtown

- Picked up branches
- Accepted road salt shipment
- 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
- Installed pitcher mound and bases at Industrial ball field
- Worked on installing remaining bases at all fields

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

- Plant performance is very good overall, but foamy biological growth is still a problem on our aeration basins. The battle continues, but we are slowly gaining.
- Final Clarifier scum pits are regularly being pumped to sludge storage, to get rid of foam.
- Took Aeration Basin #4 out of service, due to FSU Spring Break and lower plant loading.
- Performed weekly lift station checks at North State, Waterloo, Novak, Tioga and County.
- Ordered a new Rosemont sludge feed meter for the SDC machine and process.
- Ordered and received 4,000 gallons of ferric chloride from Webb Chemical.
- Ordered and received a new drive motor for the East Clarifier. Also, ordered a spare.
- Ordered and received 24 new U.V. bulbs, quartz sleeves, seals and O-rings, in preparation for spring U.V. channel maintenance.
- Completed forms are still arriving daily, in response to our IPP NDU survey of businesses. Phone calls and questions continue, as well.
- WWTP engineering update meeting with Fleis & VandenBrink and plant staff.
- Jake Renne helped at the Water Plant, to cover for Jim Bouman and Earl Battle while they attended a 3-day class in Lansing.
- Changed crankcase oil and air filters on #1 and #2 grease & grit blowers.
- Cleaned D.O. Probes in Aeration Basins 1 and 2, and swapped displays between 1 and 4.
- Disassembled the east pump at our Waterloo Lift Station, to remove a debris clog.
- Placed U.V. Channel # 2 into service and then took U.V. Channel #1 out of service.
- Ordered and received a 275-gallon tote of polymer from Baileys Street, Limited.

Mark Gifford
City Manager