

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH 17, 2017

LIBRARY MASTER PLAN

Many ideas have been proposed for the grounds that surround the Library. Parking, playgrounds, community gardens are some of the proposals that have come from the community and library staff. Marlies Manning of Manning Design, is working with staff to develop a Master Plan for the property that will help to guide Capital Improvement Planning for years to come. If you would like to be involved in this process, contact Mark Sweppenheiser at 231-592-4035.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission reviewed zoning language surrounding home occupations at their last meeting. Operating a business out of the home has become more prevalent in the recent past and it is important that the City is prepared for how to handle existing uses and any new applications that come in. A recommendation for a text change is being forwarded to the City Commission for their consideration.

BOARD OF REVIEW

The Assessing Office held Board of Review hearings twice this week and had nine property owners attend the hearings. Thank you to Assessing Staff and Board of Review members for time spent on this important process.

BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING FOR CLAY CLIFFS

Big Rapids Township is holding a public hearing on March 30th, 7:00 p.m., at the Township Fire Hall to hear input regarding the incorporation of Clay Cliffs Park into the City

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Since March is Reading Month, library staff presented a Storytime and craft project at Brookside Elementary this week.

Also, a "Scratch" after-school computer programming session was offered at Crossroads Charter School by one of our staff. "Scratch" is a free programming language and online community where you can create your own interactive stories, games, and animations.

The Playground Committee met on Friday, March 17th to continue the planning for the children's playground in our park.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- In the past week, the Police Division responded to 50 calls for service. There was nothing significant in nature to report.
- In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 12 calls for service. The firefighters had training on Tuesday for Target solutions.
- Last Friday, Jess Vliet passed away in Leesburg, Florida. Vliet joined the BRPD in 1964, being promoted to detective in 1971, holding the position until his retirement in 1989. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

PARK AND RECREATION

- Met with Metron to discuss this season's partnership at the Farmers' Market. Metron will provide reusable shopping bags again this year and plans to have a presence at the market.
- Girls on the Run registration is open at participating schools throughout Mecosta County and planning for the season continues.
- Spring flyers have been distributed to schools.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

218 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

355 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

877 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (92) and Disabled (785) passengers of which 233 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

42 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 on Spring Break. Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00 am to 2:30 am.

0 Ferris Shuttle Bus – Ferris on Spring 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, 7:30 am -7:00 pm

1,565 Total Passengers

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

DPW: STREETS

Safety Topic: "Chainsaw Safety"

- Repaired watermain break on Ives Avenue

- Hung banners for Artworks
- Filled potholes
- Cleaned up a tree at the Bjornson water tower
- Picked up limbs off streets from wind storm
- Sanded and salted streets and parking lots
- Plowed streets, Airport, parking lots and sidewalks
- Crack sealed E. Elm Street
- Water shut offs
- Repaired signs
- Cleaned trucks
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

DPW: PARKS

- Staff vehicles, miscellaneous vehicles & equipment:
 - 102 dump truck: replaced rear wheel studs and nuts
 - 201 truck: replaced a u-joint in the rear drive shaft
 - 309 Hot box: replaced combustion chamber and flu assembly, replaced battery
 - 315 crack sealer serviced. Replaced leaky valve cover gasket and front trailer jack
 - 412 staff car: diagnosed anti-lock brake light, replaced brake module and programmed
- Police & Fire vehicles:
 - 401: replaced front tires and a rear wheel hub assembly
 - 402: serviced
 - 403: serviced
 - 405: removed the ICOP system to send out for repair
 - 409: replaced a rear differential seal and a cracked exhaust manifold
- Busses:
 - 901: performed a grease service and repaired a body mount
 - 903: serviced and performed a safety inspection. Serviced wheel chair lift. Adjusted lock handle on passenger door and repaired front wheel bearings. Removed exhaust manifold to replace gasket. Diagnosed and replaced remote power module.
 - 904: performed a grease service, repaired the wiper motor. Reattached right rear quarter panel and resealed top hatch.
 - 905: serviced and performed a safety inspection, serviced and replaced the gas shocks, and stow blocks on the wheel chair lift. Replaced rear brakes and rear heater motor assemblies.
 - 906: diagnosed engine warning light on, replaced exhaust temp sensor and changed engine oil. Replaced weather strip on lift door. Replaced rubber stop on wheel chair lift and adjusted. Replaced both rear heater fan motors and the backup beeper.

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs

MOTOR POOL

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Mark Gifford
City Manager