

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH 24, 2017

CITY CLERK'S MASTER ACADEMY

Tammy attended the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Master's Academy on March 22nd and 23rd. The focus of this year's training session was on communication skills and medical marijuana. Communication is key in all roles of city government and she will be sharing insight on what was discussed at the training with other staff members.

MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CAPITAL DAY

Commissioners Anderson and Hogenson along with Eric Williams and Mark Gifford attended the MML Capital Day in Lansing on the 22nd. Sessions included discussion on medical marijuana, Right of Way tower applications, asset management, Downtown Development Authority and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) changes, municipal finance and more. The MML is working hard on behalf of municipalities and the sessions were valuable to be a part of.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Anyone interested in having a plot in the community garden can contact Mark Sweppenheiser at 231-592-4035. Locations for the gardens are on 2nd Ave at the Housing Commission, Hillcrest Elementary and a new location is being added at the Big Rapids Community Library.

STREET SWEEPING

With spring comes the need to clean the streets of accumulated sand from the winter. Preparations are being made to start sweeping the week of April 3rd.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Library is excited to be bringing John Smolens to Big Rapids, as part of the Michigan Notable Authors tour. He is speaking on Wednesday, April 5th at 6 p.m. in the community room at the library, which will be part of the Friends of the Library Spring Refresher Meeting. (The Friends meeting starts at 5:30 p.m.). The Library received a grant that made it possible to have John Smolens here. He will be talking about the Nazis P.O.W. prisoners who were imprisoned in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and the fact that some of them escaped and made the U.P. their home. An interesting story that most of us have never heard.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- In the past week, the Police Division responded to 102 calls for service. Of these, 25 were on Friday, St Patrick's Day. Ten of these were alcohol related offenses.

- On Friday, last week, a fraud complaint was taken at a local bank where a 24-year-old female from White Cloud and 24 year old male from Bitely are alleged to have made a transaction with reported stolen checks from Bitely. Further investigation into the matter has found a group of individuals doing this between Mecosta, Newaygo, Lake and Oceana Counties. Further investigation into the matter continues.
- Officer Lindy Waite was sworn in at the City Commission meeting on Monday. She began her first phase of FTO on Wednesday evening with Officer Jason Kuiawa.
- In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 24 calls for service.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| (11) Blight | (4) Disabled Vehicles |
| (1) Garbage & Rubbish | (15) Parking |
| (3) Property Maintenance | (3) Signs |
| (1) Uninhabitable Dwellings | (2) Yard Waste |

PARK AND RECREATION

- Met with the Big Rapids Community Tennis Association to finalize details for Tennis in the Park—a free after school tennis program at Hemlock Park for grades 5th-8th. Registration is now open through the city.
- Met with Artworks to discuss their involvement with the Farmer’s Market. They plan to provide weekly artist demonstrations at the Friday market and “Yoga in the Park” at the Farmer’s Market 10th anniversary celebration.
- Girls on the Run coaches training was held this week at the health department. Planning for the 2017 program continues.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

213 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

438 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

771 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (97) and Disabled (674) passengers of which 184 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

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

2,454 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

4,075 Total Passengers

513 Out of City Riders - Anyone we pick up or drop off outside the Big City limits.

DPW: STREETS

Safety Topic: “Beware of broken glass”

- Filled potholes
- Graded Rust Avenue and some alleys
- Removed a sign off from the library building
- Put up Artworks banners
- Picked up deceased animals from roadways
- Checked water patches
- Removed bushes in alley between Maple and Linden
- Repaired banners on Maple Street bridge
- Fixing guardrail behind DP Tire
- Read meters
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

DPW: PARKS

- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Put up basketball and volleyball nets
- Raked volleyball area
- Repaired a broken bench at the Bandshell
- Cut down some hazard trees along Riverwalk
- Cleaned up trash along right of ways and leaf piles by City Hall
- Worked on ball fields to ready them for the season
- Cleaned and maintained City Hall public restroom

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs

MOTOR POOL

- Staff vehicles, Miscellaneous vehicles & Equipment:
 - 101, replaced 4 rear tires, under body blades and repaired exhaust leak
 - 102, replaced under body blades
 - 106, replaced under body blades
 - 412, replaced heater door actuator
 - 411, serviced

- Police & Fire vehicles:
 - 402, diagnosed a driveline noise, repaired exhaust pipe
 - 404, replaced serpentine belt and tensioner
 - 1-1 rescue truck, serviced and replaced wiper blades and air filter

- Busses:
 - 903, replaced exhaust recirculation valve and exhaust filter
 - 904, replaced 4 rear tires, wiper blades and repaired wheel chair lift controller

Mark Gifford
City Manager