

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL 7, 2017

LIBRARY

The Library has planned some special programs for “Money Smart Week”, which is April 22-29. Money Smart Week is to promote financial literacy. Storytime attendees will receive a free copy of “A Dollar for Penny” which Mr. Howard will read and expand upon with activities and crafts.

The Library is sponsoring a “Mom Swap” on Friday, April 28th. For the Library Mom Swap, moms will bring in from 5 items to 2 bags/boxes full of things that a mother might find useful (clothing, toys, books, etc.). The items must be clean and in good condition. The “drop-off” is on Thursday, 10-5 where the mom receives a card saying they have brought in items; and the “swap” or shopping takes place on Friday from 1-4 p.m.. The swappers or shoppers on Friday are those who dropped off items on Thursday, making them eligible to choose some items. Any items left over will be donated to area shelters.

The Friends of the Library’s Spring Refresher, which took place on Wednesday, April 5th, hosted the author, John Smolens, talking about his Michigan Notable Book, “Wolf’s Mouth”. John shared what he learned doing research for the book, plus read some passages from the book and talked about the story of his main character’s journey from POW in a camp in the UP, to his escape and later life in Detroit. Mr. Smolens answered questions from the receptive crowd and people could purchase signed copies of his book as well.

The Spring Refresher included a brief outline by Marlies Manning on the proposed plan for the park at the library. The park plan includes the location of the community garden beds, areas that would be designated for placement of children playground equipment, landscaping additions, fencing, and a parking lot. The proposed park plan will be presented to the Library Board at the April 13th board meeting before it goes before the Parks and Recreation Board.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- In the past week, the Police Division responded to 82 calls for service. Of significance, were several trash can fires in the alleys of Second and Third Avenue on Sunday evening. No suspects have been developed. In speaking to a witness in the area; he observed a couple of white males in their teens running from the area of one of the fires.
- In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 16 calls for service. Firefighters also responded to the trash can fires Sunday evening.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Girls on the run registration deadline is/was Friday, April 7th. The program will begin at participating schools on Monday, April 10th.

- Tennis in the Park was scheduled to begin this week but was cancelled due to weather. The program will resume next Tuesday, April 11th.
- The Farmers' Market all-vendor meeting was held Tuesday evening and the following topics were discussed:
 - There will not be a Farmers' Market on the 4th of July (Tuesday).
 - The holiday market will be on Friday, November 17th.
 - The Labor Day Market will be Monday, September 4th (same day as the Arts & Crafts Festival at Hemlock Park).
 - The All City Yard Sale will be held during the market on Friday, August 11th.
 - The market has a new Facebook page: "Big Rapids Farmers' Market".
 - This is the 10th Anniversary of the Big Rapids Farmers' Market. A celebration is being planned.
 - Manna Pantry is interested in partnering with the market/vendors to host a "Farm to Table" event.
 - Spectrum Health will be doing food demonstrations at the market each Friday and will continue their "prescription" food assistance program

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

211 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

92 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare) – Spring Break

743 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (100) and Disabled (643) passengers of which 234 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

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

2,393 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

3,596 Total Passengers

474 Out of City Riders - Anyone we pick up or drop off outside the Big Ra

DPW: STREETS

Safety Topic: "Use Hammer Safely"

- Fixed 4 water stacks
- Picked up concrete wall off 300 block of Pine Str off sidewalk

- Fixed mailbox on Platt Ave
- Fixed tree grate on Elm St.
- Filled potholes
- Carried boxes and chairs from upstairs city to the dumpster
- Worked on dugouts
- Graded alleys and gravel streets
- Fixed water patches
- Cleaned drains
- Traffic control on 131 for our sanitary sewer contractor to clean the sewer on 131 one night from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins

DPW: PARKS

- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Working on ball fields to ready for the season
- Cleaning and maintaining City Hall public restroom

MOTOR POOL

Staff Vehicles & Misc. Equipment:

- 205 pickup truck: replaced radiator and exhaust catalytic converters
- 301 sweeper: serviced both front and rear engines and repaired some water control solenoids.
- 412 staff car: replaced thermostat
- 503 portable pressure washer: serviced
- 510 portable welder: serviced and replaced battery

Busses:

- 901 serviced and did a safety inspection. Serviced wheelchair lift. Replaced wiper blades
- 906 serviced and did a safety inspection. Serviced wheelchair lift. Replaced 2 idler pulleys and serpentine belts, adjusted parking brake. removed plugged exhaust filters and delivered to international dealer in GR for cleaning. Reinstalled exhaust filters and cleaned out pressure differential tubes.
- 908 did a grease service and replaced front tires. R&R another set of exhaust filters.
- 909 serviced and did a safety inspection. Serviced wheelchair lift. Resealed leaky roof.

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs

WATER PLANT

Safety topic: "Avoiding Arc Flash"

- Checked generators.
- Ran customer samples.
- Mopped main hallway and lab floors, and buffed them.

- Performed our ERA lab tests and sent in the results to continue our lab certification.
- Cleaned tool room.
- Cleaned trucks inside and out.
- Performed cathodic protection checks.
- Made lab re-agents.
- Removed and stored snow plow for the summer.
- Replaced filters to chlorine analyzer at the plant.
- Performed pump maintenance.
- Replaced blown capacitor for one of the heater motors in the clarifier room.
- Performed monthly QA/QC in the lab.
- Repaired leaking line on a booster pump at State Street.
- Joe Davidson transferred from DPW and has been training hard. Joe is a great fit to our staff and is quickly becoming a fine operator.

WWTP

- The Plant is running well, but still experiencing some foam, along with digester settling, decant and odor issues.
- Biotech is staging trucks and equipment on-site for our Spring Bio solids hauling.
- Michigan Cat performed annual load-testing of our 750 KW Plant back-up generator.
- Performed weekly lift station checks at North State, Waterloo, Novak, Tioga and County.
- Replaced a blown fuse at the County Garage lift station, and acquired a quarterly meter reading at the Green Township lift station.
- Jay Norris replaced a faulty main control module for our Spencer Aeration Blowers.
- Three spring/summer projects are out for bid: Digester Blower Inlet Air Piping Modifications, Replacement Digester Blower Motor, and New Plant Stairway.
- Bidding contractor site visits by Cook's Welding, Curtice Brothers, Mall City Mechanical, Northwest Kent Mechanical, MTW Industries and Heco, Inc. Many phone calls, as well.
- Completed forms are still trickling in, in response to our IPP NDU survey of businesses.
- Jake and Amy attended a Wastewater "D" License Test Prep class in Kalamazoo.
- Troy and Amy are working on Lab Bench Sheet and Process Summary updates.
- Mic continues to collect IPP samples for our 2017 Domestic Background Study efforts.
- JW is working on a rebuild of STP-2 Moyno Pump, located in the Digester Building.
- Inquiry from Lakeshore Environmental, regarding trucked fruit-processing waste disposal. Our plant capacity limitations would not allow this type and quantity of waste.
- Conducted 5 FSU Microbiology Class tours of the Plant. Three more groups next week.
- Experienced some Ferric Chloride feed pump problems, caused by check valve debris.

Mark Gifford
City Manager