

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

MAY 26, 2017

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Memorial Day Events will begin at the Mecosta County Courthouse at 10:00 am. Following the ceremony at the courthouse, a parade will proceed to Highland View Cemetery. If you need further information, please contact Jean Bennett at 231-823-2366.

717 FINLEY

The demolition of 717 Finley this week. The future of the site is not determined at this time. Thank you to Mark Sochocki and the Housing Commission Board for their partnership on this project.

STUDENTS WORKING IN CLAY CLIFFS

Students from Brookside, Riverview and the Big Rapids Middle School will be planting milkweed in Clay Cliffs Park on June 5th and 6th. This is part of the City's "Save Our Monarch Initiative" by providing the plants the Monarchs need to survive and breed.

AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION AWARD RECEIVED

Staff and the Mayor received the APWA award for the Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvements project at the APWA conference at the Grand Traverse resort in Traverse City on May 25th. This was awarded to the City for the Baldwin Street Bridge Project.

LIBRARY

The Library is one of the sites for the Community Gardens this year. There are some boxes already set up in our park area, with more to come. Community garden plots can be reserved by contacting the Big Rapids Community Gardens directly. Registration forms and information are available on their website, <http://www.bigrapidscommunitygarden.org/>.

It's almost June, so it means summer events will be beginning. The Scholastic Book Fair will be June 5 – June 10 in the community room at the library. This is another opportunity to purchase books for your children and grandchildren, with the Library benefiting from the event too.

The Summer Reading Program at Big Rapids Community Library kicks off on Friday, June 16, from 11 am – 2 pm. The Library Park will be busy; a climbing wall, games, refreshments, and much more. It's a party not to be missed. The "Build a Better World" theme will offer reading challenges to all ages (kids, teens and adults). This year, the Summer Reading Program has its own website where you can sign up, track your summer reading, get information about programs too. Go to

<https://reading.bigrapidslibrary.org/>; and you'll find this link on the library's website too. The Summer Reading Sign Up starts June 5th, with reporting your reading starting June 19th. We can't wait!

PUBLIC SAFETY

In the past week, the Police Division responded to 79 calls for service. Charges were authorized and two arrests made in regards to separate department investigations.

On Tuesday, a 42-year-old South Bend, Indiana male was arrested by Kalamazoo County in the process of fraudulent activity at a local business. Charges were authorized for criminal enterprise by the Mecosta County Prosecutor's Office on Wednesday for similar behavior here and in Newaygo and Osceola Counties on April 20th, 2017. Arrangements are being made to bring the subject back to Big Rapids to be arraigned on the charges here. The male and a second subject, also a 42-year-old male from South Bend, are charged with passing fraudulent checks at local businesses.

On Wednesday, charges were authorized by the Mecosta County Prosecutor's Office against a 24-year-old male and female respectively from White Cloud for 8 counts of Uttering and Publishing. The two are accused of passing stolen checks at a local financial institution on March 2nd, 2017. The two have also been arrested and charged in Newaygo County for the same activity. The male has been arrested and is awaiting arraignment. The female has yet to be arrested.

In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 15 calls for service. Of significance were several dumpster fires. Investigation into the matter continues.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| (2) Blight | (17) Grass & Weeds |
| (2) Parking | (1) Permits |
| (4) Property Maintenance | (5) Signs |
| (2) Uninhabitable Dwellings | (3) Yard Waste |

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

113 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

364 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

667 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (81) and Disabled (586) passengers of which 174 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

NO Safe Riders – Done for the summer, will start back up in September. Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00am to 2:30am.

NO Ferris Shuttle Bus – East Campus Mailbox, Lot 28, Allied Health, Campus Community Center, Lot 4, Rock Cafe', Arts and Science, 7:30am -7:00pm

1,204 Total Passengers

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

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Summer program flyer is attached.
- Bandshell Summer Concert Series flyer attached.

DPW: STREETS

- Repaired/replaced shingles on pavilion at Northend Riverside Park
- Repaired/replaced shingles on dugouts at Win Kellum
- Picked up branches and cleared hanging limbs from wind
- Spread black dirt the end of Willow Ave
- Removed drive entrances and preparing for curb work on Rust Ave
- Checked all set screws on downtown lights
- Set out flower pots
- Delivered bricks to Holland Park
- Installed new light near Parkview Village
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Filled potholes

DPW: PARKS

- Prepped ball fields for games
- Removed fallen tree at the Depot
- Removed fallen tree at River Street Park
- Spread crusher dust on trail
- Sprayed for knotweed
- Repaired tire swing at Playscape
- Repaired roof at Playscape
- Repaired statue at Hemlock Park
- Repaired railing at Playscape
- Cleared downtown sidewalks and around benches with blower
- Set out recycle bins and extra trash cans at Bandshell for Wheatlake 5k event
- Removed cement debris from power line trail by Disc Golf course at Northend Park
- Mowed and weed whipped various City property locations
- Opened bathrooms daily

- Picked up trash downtown, in parks and along White Pine Trail
- Cleaned and maintained City Hall and park public restrooms

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs
- Performed service line inspections
- Changed out meters and endpoints
- Installed meters at Campus Creek Apartments
- Shut offs/ons
- Troubleshoot high consumption
- Assisted local contractors with water lines
- Meter reads, rereads and final reads

WATER PLANT

Safety topic: “The Safe Use of Compressed Air”

- Checked generators.
- Ran customer samples.
- Painted the four pump to waste pipes at the well house.
- Mowed and fertilized lawn at the plant.
- Read water meters.
- Buffed floors at the plant.
- Repaired a few lights around the plant that were not working.
- Diagnosed faulty fan motor on one of the heaters in the general clarifier room at the plant.

WASTEWATER PLANT

- The Plant is running well, with all 4 aeration basins and 1 clarifier in service.
- Working on a 1-year contract extension with Integrated Controls as our provider of instrumentation controls
- Working on a 1-year contract extension with Biotech Agronomics for Biosolids removal.
- We are improving in our efforts to generate our own purchase orders with the City software.
- Performed weekly checks at N. State St, Waterloo St, Novak Lane, Tioga and county lift stations.

Mark Gifford
City Manager