

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

JUNE 23, 2017

FOUNDATION GRANTS

The City has received disbursements from the Foundation for a number of City Projects:

- \$36,100 from the Miller/Ahlgren Fund and \$18,900 from the Riverwalk Fund to pave the parking lot at Swede Hill Park
- \$10,000 from the Riverwalk Fund to replace problem sections of the Riverwalk
- \$1,000 from Donor to plant fish in the Muskegon River

The City benefits greatly from having a very generous community and active Community Foundation.

CHAMBER AND CONVENTION & VISITORS CENTER

Congratulations to the Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau for the completion of the new Visitors Center on State Street. They begin the tall task of moving their offices on Monday!!

SIDEWALK PROGRAM

Removal and replacement of sidewalks will conclude the week of June 26th.

BANDSHELL CONCERTS

Bandshell Concerts began on June 21st and will be every Wednesday evening (7:00 p.m.) through August 16th. The lineup is as follows:

- June 28th – FSU Community Summer Band
- July 5th – FSU Community Summer Band
- July 12th – Outlaw Express
- July 19th – Key West Permafrost Blues Band
- July 26th – Coldville
- August 2nd – Rachel B.
- August 9th – White Bee
- August 16th – The Turnips

All concerts are Free!!

EVENTS

Coming this weekend (Saturday, June 24th) is the main fundraiser for the Library. Every year the Saw Mill Salon hosts this wonderful event to help offset the rising costs at the Library. The event starts at 3 pm and runs till 9 pm (although you can stay after for more music). Dinner starts at 4 pm, ticket prices are as follows:

Adult meal:	\$10.00 Includes BBQ Chicken, sides & dessert
Child	\$ 5.00 Includes Hot Dog Meal
Music only	\$ 5.00 Live Entertainment Only

This is a wonderful way to support our community. Please make the effort to stop in and enjoy the food, music and fun.

Please join us this Saturday, the 24th for AirFest. The event will be from 7 am to 1 pm. We have a great pancake breakfast on tap from 7 - 11 a.m. If the weather cooperates we usually get about 60 airplanes from around Michigan that fly in. (Pilots love flying and food!) The Metzger Family Band will be entertaining us from 8:30 am – 10:00 am followed by the Broken Glass String Band performing from 10:00 am – 11:30 am. The “Kiddie Plane Train” will be available for the young ones to enjoy.

The Mecosta County Senior Center will have their wonderful baked goods for sale. Airplane rides are available and area merchants have donated lots of door prizes. There is something for the whole family!

LIBRARY

The Playground Committee for the library park met this week and now is in the process of choosing the kind of playground equipment they want. This will include getting pricing and product specifications for the playground nodes proposed for the park. This is just one piece of the library park development plan. We are excited to have the community garden sign up on the posts (lots of colors on our sign), plus our gnome house that has joined the pencil tree as a focal point. Since many of the events for the library’s summer programs are taking place in the park, it’s a great way for the community to get to know the park grounds.

The Big Rapids Community Library Summer Reading Program is in full swing. Opening day festivities for the Summer Reading Program took place at the park, with the rock wall, face painting, bounce house, free hot dogs and more. Cirque Among Us performed in the park on Tuesday; and the first summer movie, “Road to Bali” will be enjoyed in the park on Friday. Lots of traffic in the library with people already claiming their prizes, after more than a week to track their reading and attendance at events. Besides the events that were showcased above, programs this week included potion making and coloring/painting flower pots. The staff and patrons are all smiles as everyone is having fun and checking out the prizes they can receive after tracking the reading for the summer. Lots of new books flying off the shelves to fuel the interests of all ages of readers. Adults can also register and enjoy tracking their reading and being eligible for some prizes. The Pioneer newspaper has posted several photos and articles on the current happenings at the library and we love it!

Please don’t forget the Friends of the Library Annual Chicken BBQ is this Saturday, June 24 at the Sawmill. Opening from 3-9 pm, with dinner starting at 4 pm, dinner is \$10 and entertainment only is \$5. This is a fundraiser for the library and a much-anticipated annual gathering.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The Police Division responded to 77 calls for service over the past week. There were no calls of significance to report.
- The Fire Division responded to 10 calls for service over the past week. Part Time Staff conducted training evolution’s with E4 and E2 on Pump and Hydrant Operations.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

325 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

456 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

1582 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (223) and Disabled (1359) passengers of which 362 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

44 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 – **Done for the summer will start back up in September** (East Campus Mailbox, Lot 28, Allied Health, Campus Community Center, Lot 4, Rock Cafe, Lot 50, Arts and Science, 7:30am -7:00pm)

2535 Total Passengers

1046 Out of City Riders - Anyone we pick up or drop off outside the Big Rapids City Limits

DPW: STREETS

- Worked on Rust Ave installing storm sewer, building catch basins, black dirt the yards, digging out for new curb to be installed
- Cleaned our sand trucks
- Put out cones for parade and picked them up
- Swept the downtown
- Sewers and jetted all of Rust Ave from 131 to Hutchinson street
- Fixed water stack at 629 Division St
- Brined some alleys
- Raised a sanitary manhole on Rust Ave to street grade
- Sawed drive on 600 block of Rust Ave and dug it out, black topped it from the sidewalk program
- Started painting parking lots
- Cleaned drains
- Set out cones for ice cream social on Willow Ave
- Washed trucks

Mark Gifford, City Manager