

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

LABOR DAY EVENTS

Don't forget all the fun happening this weekend. Besides the Library Book Sale, there is the Classic Car Show at Mitchell Creek Park on Monday, from 9 am to 3 pm. Also, on the same day, from 10 am to 4 pm is the Annual Arts and Crafts Fair at Hemlock Park. Across the creek (Mitchell that is), take a stroll and listen to the sounds of various performers at the 9th Annual Praise Him in the Park concert which is playing at the Bandshell and runs from 10am to 3 pm. The Community Calendar details these events which can be found at <http://www.bigrapids.org/events/calendar/>.

LIBRARY

Brand new at the library: canning equipment and hammocks. We have large pots used for hot water bath canning and the necessary utensils (plus instructions) that can be checked out for up to 7 days. These canning kits are part of our ongoing seed library programs and were purchased with some of our grant money. To encourage patrons as they harvest their gardens this year, these items give folks a chance to try their hand at canning when they might not want to buy the large pot needed. Or maybe they need a second pot to augment their project of canning their beans. Spread the word, please, that we have canning items at the library.

We're happy also to have hammocks (one and even a two-person size) that can be checked out to use at a park or your home. Again, checkout is for 7 days. If you have the trees or posts, or need another hammock for your family to enjoy at home or at the park, come and take a hammock to use. The library's park's plan does include posts that can be used for these hammocks. We can't wait to see folks "hanging out" and reading, snoozing, or just swinging along in a hammock.

The Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale starts Friday, Sept. 1, 9am to 5pm under the tents behind the library. Saturday's hours are 9am to 2:30pm. The Friends of the Library will be selling books on Labor Day at Hemlock Park during the Arts & Crafts Fair as well (10am to 4pm).

All patrons, visitors and staff are happy to have Michigan Ave accessible again! The new paving, curbs and some sidewalks certainly are appreciated and really look awesome.

PUBLIC SAFETY

With students being back at FSU the Police Division's complaint load also went up significantly. We responded to 136 calls for service. Of significance was the found body of Martin Avila in Mitchell Creek on Tuesday evening. Avila had some medical conditions and was known to officers as being a heavy drinker. An autopsy was conducted with nothing suspicious or concerning being discovered. The department is awaiting the toxicology report before closing out the investigation.

Investigators have identified a group who vandalized and destroyed a portion of the bandshell Friday evening. Investigation into the matter continues.

Investigators continue to investigate a group of larceny from autos that occurred two weekends ago.

The Fire Division responded to 21 calls for service. Of significance was a fire at the Box Company on Bjornson Saturday evening that is still under investigation.

Shift 3 trained on “Strategies and Tactics” at the new North Hall at Ferris along with pre-fire surveys.

RECREATION

- Women’s volleyball registration is closed as of Friday, September 1st.
- September will be the last month that the Tuesday Farmer’s Market runs (12 to 5 pm). Friday Markets will continue through the end of October (8 to 2 pm).
- Registration for Fall Tennis in the Park at Hemlock Park is open for students in grades 5th to 8th. The program will run every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30—5:00 pm (September 12th to September 28th). Cost is free. Participants can register at City Hall at the Treasurer’s Office.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| (10) Blight | (13) Furniture |
| (3) Garbage & Rubbish | (3) Grass & Weeds |
| (23) Parking | (2) Property Maintenance |
| (16) Signs | (1) Uninhabitable Dwellings |
| (1) Yard Waste | |

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

174 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

191 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

690 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (139) and Disabled (551) passengers of which 149 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

60 Safe Riders – 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 – Will start back up on August 28, 2017. East Campus Mailbox, Lot 28,

Allied Health, Campus Community Center, Lot 4, Rock Cafe', Lot 50, Arts and Science, 7:30am - 7:00pm

1,185 Total Passengers

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

DPW: STREETS

- Cleaned drains
- Blacktop 2 patches behind Rogers Jewelry and the post office on Maple St
- Set out and picked up cones for events downtown
- Working on watermain on Clark Street
- Repaired water leak on E Grand Traverse St
- Picked up all barricades from S Michigan Ave and Rust Ave paving projects
- Swept downtown
- Removed animals caught in live traps and from roadways
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Set out Farmers Market cones and signs, Tuesday and Friday

DPW: PARKS

- Repaired gates at all ballfields
- Blew Riverwalk and White Pine Trail
- Continued spraying for weeds
- Trimmed Gilbertson St turn around
- Cleaned up debris from tree that fell in Hemlock Park
- Sprayed for bees behind Middle School
- Sprayed for bees at Playscape
- Transplanted some myrtle plants from Mitchell Creek Park to along Riverwalk
- Prepped ball fields for games
- Watered and maintained flowers
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Opened, cleaned and maintained City Hall and park public restrooms daily

MAIN MAINTENANCE

- MISS Digs
- Shut offs/ons
- Meter reads, rereads, final reads

WATER

Safety topic: Safe Fuel Handling Practices.

- Checked generators.
- Ran customer samples.
- Buffed floors at the plant.
- Mowed lawn at plant, and edged the sidewalk.

- Completed ERA lab proficiency tests and sent in the results.
- Performed maintenance on high service pumps at the plant.
- Answered call ins.
- Gave plant tours to several of FSU dental hygienist students.
- Installed grease drains on intermediate pumps at the plant.
- Started collecting samples for the second round of lead/copper tests now required by the DEQ.

WASTEWATER

- The Plant is running well and effluent quality is very good, as we make the loading transition with the return of Ferris and then K thru 12 public and parochial schools.
- Thank you, Plant Operators and City Staff for a successful WWTP summer project season. The North Plant Stairway, Digester Inlet Air Piping Work, Replacement Digester Blower Motor, and Final Clarifier Blasting and Painting Projects are mostly complete.
- Both Final Clarifiers are now back in service and working well.
- Site visit by Gerace Construction and F & V to finalize North Plant Stairway details.
- Site visit by Eric Griffith (F & V) to discuss Final Clarifier Project handrail completion.
- Operators completed a rebuild of our STP-1 Solids Handling Moyno Pump.
- Site visit by Cadillac Garage Door, to confirm opener details for the Headworks Building.
- An overnight RAS Pump problem was quickly caught and managed by the Plant Operators, who prevented what could have been a major plant upset.
- Windemuller was on-site to diagnose and replace a faulty overload relay motor controller, which caused the RAS Pump problem.
- Working with Jay Norris on final details regarding Dissolved-Oxygen sensors, hardware and software, as part of our ongoing Aeration Blower and Automatic Air Valve Project.
- Working with Biotech to coordinate the upcoming biosolids hauling in November.
- Working on IPP and Sewer Use Ordinance details related to the Wastewater Contract Agreement between the City, Green Twp. and Big Rapids Twp.
- Mic and John registered to attend the upcoming annual IPP Seminar in Lansing.
- U.V. Channel 2 is in service and Channel 1 is down for cleaning, maintenance and repair.
- Mowing, trimming and other Summer maintenance continues in and around the Plant.

Mark Gifford, City Manager