

# MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2017**

## **BIDS FOR IVES AVE. (OAK TO MAGNOLIA)**

MDOT has received bids for the Ives Ave. project that includes new water and sewer mains and road reconstruction. The low bidder is McGuirk Sand-Gravel, Inc. with a bid of \$411,770.00. The project is scheduled to start on May 14, 2018.

## **AIRPORT FENCE**

The fencing project at the airport is complete except for a few minor punch list items.

## **TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS**

Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30, at City Hall, advocates for the Tennis and Pickleball will be meeting with City Staff to develop a strategy to construct new courts in Big Rapids. Anyone with interest is welcome to attend.

## **LIBRARY**

September means everyone is back to school, from the kindergartners to the college students, and at the library, it means we're offering some of our "regular" programs once again.

- Storytime starts next week, 10:30 am on Mondays and Wednesdays. They are always full of stories, songs, and activities
- Adult computer classes begin Tuesday mornings (9:30-10:30 am) and Wednesday evenings (5:30-6:30 pm), with the first scheduled topic of "email basics, including tips on printing, working with attachments, and signature blocks". The schedule for the classes is posted on our website and a copy of the schedule can be picked up at the library.
- We continue with the Book-A-Tech Librarian program as well, where one-on-one technology help is available to patrons by appointment.
- The library is continuing "Knit Night" this fall. Thursday, Sept. 7 the knitters met at the library at 6:30-8:30 PM, with their next scheduled night on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.
- September is Library Card Sign-Up Month in the U.S. Please spread the word; we want more people to be able to use the resources our library has and some of those resources require a library card.

Banned Book Week is September 24-30<sup>th</sup>. Celebrating "Freedom To Read" is the positive theme; libraries don't want to ban books! Come in and see the Banned Books display and check out some

of the books that have been banned in communities throughout the U.S. over the years. To celebrate our right to read, we have something new: a Banned Book Challenge program where buttons and prizes help spur readers along as they read some of these banned books. We believe almost all of us have read more than one book that appeared on some community's banned book list! Join us and see what you discover.

The Friends of the Library annual book sale was a great success, with \$4,700 raised for the library from the 3-day sale. Thanks to so many volunteers who made it possible! Their hard work was not concentrated just on the sale setup, takedown and sale dates, but continues throughout the year with sorting and classifying of books to prepare for the sale. We appreciate their efforts and thank everyone who supports the library with the purchases at the book sale too.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

This past week, the department extended conditional offers to two applicants for the position of police officer. They will need to successfully complete a physical and drug test, a psychological evaluation and a background investigation before a final offer is made.

In the past week, the Fire Division responded to 21 calls for service. They also did a walk through at the optometry building at Ferris. A fire tactics walk through at Oat Wood Suites off Damascus was also completed. Vehicle maintenance and pump operation was done.

### **RECREATION**

- Created scrimmage schedule and season schedule for women's volleyball league to begin on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Held Farmers Market board meeting to resolve an ongoing issue regarding one of our seasonal vendors.
- Michigan Farmers Market Association visited the market to make sure that we are operating within market guidelines.
- A group of students from the Honors Program at Ferris State will clean up litter from Clay Cliffs Nature Park on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am—12:00 pm.

### **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES**

#### **DPW: STREETS**

- Worked in watermain install on Clark Street
- Put up Tuba Bach banners
- Removed the Centennial Park sign
- Installed signs back on S Michigan Avenue
- Installed a No Parking sign on Ives Ave
- Orange flags attached to the top of the Stop signs at the corner of Woodward and Bailey Dr
- Swept downtown streets and parking lots
- Fixed the washout at the end of the alley in the 600 block of Ives Ave
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Set out Farmers Market cones and signs, Tuesday and Friday

## **DPW: PARKS**

- Prepped ballfields for games
- Blew Riverwalk & White Pine Trail
- Took extra supplies to Hemlock for Arts & Crafts show event
- Took extra supplies to Mitchell Creek Park for car show event
- Took hanging baskets down
- Repaired faucet at men's public restroom at City Hall
- Removed deceased deer
- Repaired trashcan lid on Riverwalk
- Replaced picnic table at Airport Terminal
- Fertilized the ballfields
- Replaced picnic table boards on a few tables
- Trimmed trees by volleyball court in Northend Riverside Park
- Removed trashcans from all Little League ball fields
- Mowed and weed whipped parks, downtown, Public Safety and ballfields
- Picked up trash downtown, parks and ballfields
- Open, clean and maintain City Hall and park public restrooms daily

## **MAIN MAINTENANCE**

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

Mark Gifford, City Manager