

CITY OF GLADSTONE

Newsletter

July 1, 2009

Public Safety – Director Paul Geyer

Complaint Type	Number	Complaint Type	Number
Assist CPS	1	Lift Assist	2
Assist DCSD	3	Lost Property	1
Assist EPSD	3	MDOP	2
Assist MSP	3	Medical Assist	10
Assist Niagara PD	1	Mental	1
Assist With Traffic	2	Missing Child	1
Bad Checks	3	Motorist Assist	2
Bear in Yard	1	Naked Male in Yard	1
Bike Rodeo	1	Natural Death	1
Bomb Threat	1	Noise Comp.	4
B & E	2	No Ops	1
Burning Complaint	2	OWI	1
Child Abuse	2	Parade Detail	1
Civil	5	Parental Neglect	1
Disorderly	3	Parking Comp.	4
Dog Comp.	11	PDA	13
Escort State Baseball Champs	1	Permit to Purchase	3
False Alarm	4	PIA	1
Family Disputes	3	Property Inspection	19
Fire	1	Public Peace	2
Fireworks Complaint	1	Retail Fraud	1
Found Property	5	Runaway	1
Four Wheeler Comp.	2	Suspicious Situations	11
General Assist	13	Threats	1
H & R	2	Trespassing	1
Hazardous Conditions	2	Truancy Complaint	1
Health & Safety	2	Vehicle Lock-out	11
Kid Comp.	3	Warrant Arrest	5
Larceny	6	Welfare Checks	2
911 Hang-up	5		

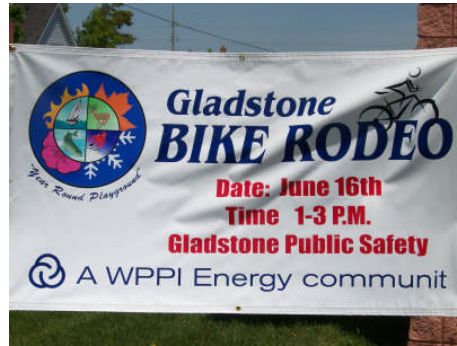
We had a total of 199 calls & complaints.
11 arrests were made and 19 citations were issued.

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Public Safety – Director Paul Geyer Continued



Our annual Bike Rodeo was held on Tuesday June 16th and was a great success. Well over 100 children and their families attended the event. A big thank you goes to PSO Dawn Sailer, PSO Mike Willemsen and Renee Barron for all the work that they did preparing for the event. On behalf of the Public Safety Department I would like to thank all of the sponsors of the event and helpers at the event for all their effort that made this year's Bike Rodeo a wonderful event.



Brett Niemi, WPPI Representative, helps a local youngster get fitted for a helmet.



Sgt. Scott Larson helps show several local youth how to signal properly while out on our roads.

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Public Safety – Director Paul Geyer Continued



Several area residents enjoy some refreshments during the event.



Brampton Bike & Ski Owner Mike Williams and PSO Ryan Peterson assist a local biker with some safety checks of his bike prior to heading out to test his skills.

A Firefighter Challenge Exam was held at the department on Friday and Saturday June 5th and 6th. Approximately 20 perspective firefighters from around the surrounding area participated in the testing. Our local group of challengers had been preparing for the exam since the fall of 2008. Results of the written testing are not yet known but congratulations should be extended to all the challengers for the effort and time put into the preparation for the event. PSO Ronald Robinson took part in the examination and did excellent on the practical skills testing.

An Emergency Vehicle Drivers Training class took place in our training room on Saturday June 20th with approximately 15 people in attendance. The course is required for fire apparatus emergency vehicle operators in Michigan.

Officers have been attempting to focus on property maintenance issues in town, which always seems to be a somewhat difficult task as one person's "junk" is another person's "treasure".

Officers and Volunteers responded to a fire call on Sunday June 21^{s,t} which was caused by a gas grill that had been left on to burn off some extra grease on the grill and then

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Public Safety – Director Paul Geyer

Continued

caught fire. The grill was destroyed as well as an adjacent tree to the grill. No one was injured in the incident.

Summer events are in full swing, with the weather gradually coming on board as well. Public Safety reminds everyone to please be safe and drive carefully throughout the community.

City Clerk – Kim Fudala

All City offices will be closed Friday, July 3, 2009 for the 4th of July holiday. Garbage pickup will be on your regularly scheduled day.

There are three seats open for the Gladstone City Commission election to be held November 3, 2009. Forms are available at my office Monday – Friday 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM for anyone wishing to run. The forms are due back to me by 4:00 PM on August 11, 2009; any questions please call me at 906-428-2311 or e-mail kfudala@gladstonemi.com.

Congratulations to Renee Barron, Asst. Community Development Director & Zoning Administrator on receiving her certification as a Zoning Administrator. She is the only certified Zoning Administrator in the Upper Peninsula!

Parks & Recreation – Nicole Sanderson

Harbor Point Project

Timberland has been hard at it developing the plans. It is starting to come together we should be able to meet with all departments in 2 weeks for any last suggestions.

Harbor

The Harbor was off to a slow start; however it is picking up and we have sold most of the seasonal slips. Transient activity with the exception of the Walleye opener has been slow. Last year we saw most of our traveling guest make an appearance after the 4th of July.

Sports Park Ball Fields

The Recreation Department has taken an active roll in the fields this year. We agreed that the watering would be done by us. We felt we could monitor the usage and come up with a definitive amount of water needed. This irrigation system has been a challenge and fixing the timers and sprinkler heads will indeed make the system more efficient. I

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Parks & Recreation – Nicole Sanderson Continued

will be meeting with the Legion on Monday night to come up with a plan to fix the problems. I am optimistic that after the problems are fixed we should be able to irrigate at a significantly lower cost.

Beach

Last week was crazy-- we went from frost in the mornings to heat indexes rising to over 100 degrees. The place to be was the beach. The concession did well and the second concert was packed.

4th of July

We will have all the same things going on in the park such as the parade, firecracker run, kids games, food, beer tent and music. New this year we will have a fly over at 8 pm, the All State Band will play around dusk, and a skateboard competition.

Water Department – Eric Buckman

We hooked up 4 new accounts since the last newsletter. Two are new homes in the Lake Bluff Retirement Village and the other two are new lawn irrigation systems. We worked with Pete Bradfield installing new water and sewer service and laterals to his spec house on Tipperary Road and Terry Ahola's new commercial building in the E.E. Lawrence Subdivision. We worked with DPW installing a new water lateral and curb stop for City Hall. There was never a curb stop (shut off valve) for City Hall so this was corrected and the new lateral were insulated. The good news was that the service under the old Fire Garage was 1 ½" copper and in good shape.

Our annual Consumer Confidence Report has been published and the certification was sent in to MDEQ. Still busy installing irrigation meters and working on our meter change out program. We have installed 1700 meters to date with 600 more to go. We currently have over 50 hose bib meters checked out for the summer.

Electric Department – Tom White

We had a planned electric outage at the Westridge and North Country subdivisions on Tuesday, June 23, 2009. The reason for the outage was to change a corner pole that was damaged by woodpeckers. The outage affected approximately 60 homes for 2 hours. We ran into some easement issues for the Ahola project near McDonald's. We found that the building was being constructed directly under a 12,500-volt main feed loop. The City will be relocating poles within the easement to maintain the proper clearances.

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Electric Department – Tom White Continued

Construction has begun on the MDOT expansion project in the Bluff Industrial park. We are working with Timberland Engineering on supplying power to the project. We are also working on the Grace Baptist Church expansion project. This is a significant addition to the existing site. We are still in the process of determining transformer sizes and feeder installation.

I have been contacted by Verizon recently regarding co-location on the City tower. The information that I am receiving suggests that they may be starting the installation process fairly soon. Verizon recently acquired Alltel.

Please note that Energy Star rebate program has been discontinued for the time being. The city has given out (funded by WPPI) approximately \$4,300 towards rebates this year and has surpassed the original planned allocations. Patti LeBombard and I are going to the UP Collaborative Meeting on June 24 that is sponsored by MECA in Marquette. The purpose of the meeting is to determine how to facilitate the Energy Optimization (EO) Plan. New energy conservation projects (such as the Energy Star rebate program) will more than likely be administered through the EO plan.

Community Development – Howard Haulotte

Our department issued the following permits in June 2009:

Sign Permits:	1
Fence Permits:	1
Building Permits:	2
Storage Shed	
Car Port	
Fee Income June:	324.00
Construction Value June	15,100.00
Construction Value to Date:	265,236.00

Housing Inspector – Howard Haulotte completed 8 Rental Inspections and Certified 8 rentals. Renée and Howard attended the annual Affordable Housing Conference this month. An opportunity to apply for additional housing funds through MSHDA will be coming up in the fall. MSHDA has been encouraging the City of Gladstone to apply for funding that would assist homeowners with rehab costs. Grants would allow up to \$25,000 in rehab costs, and 50% of the homeowner loan would be forgiven after 5 years. The remaining funds would be paid back to MSHDA when the home is sold.

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Community Development – Howard Haulotte Continued

Administration funding would be available to facilitate the program. Community Development will provide more information on this grant opportunity as it becomes available.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

[Planning Commission](#) – Tuesday, July 7, 7:00 PM at Gladstone City Hall

[DDA/Citizen's Council](#) - Tuesday, July 14, 7:30AM at Gladstone City Hall

[EDC](#) – Tuesday July 14, 2009, 12:00PM at Public Safety

[Public Input Meeting/Community Development](#) - Tuesday July 21, 7:00 PM at Gladstone City Hall

Two more habitat homes were put out for bids this past month. Generally we have about 3-5 contractors bidding on each home. The contractors bid are very competitive and help to stretch the dollars we have for each home even further. The homeowners like the fact that they get to pick out colors, flooring, doors and windows and have all the same opportunities they would have if they had hired a contractor. We make every effort to encourage the homeowners to be involved in the process as much as possible. The more the homeowner is involved the more invested they are in the outcome.

The Planning Commission held a special meeting on June 22, 2009 and approved a site plan for Grace Church. Grace Church plans are to begin work on this project as soon as possible.

Removal of buckthorn in the Nature Preserve has begun. A crew has been cutting the buckthorn. They will eventually burn the cut buckthorn and treat the remaining stumps to prevent new growth. We are waiting on paperwork from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation regarding the 25,000 grant that was awarded. This grant will enable us to replace areas where buckthorn was removed with native plants, trees and shrubs. A component of the grant requires us to work with the Gladstone Area Schools to develop an educational campaign utilizing the Nature Preserve as an outdoor classroom.

Public Safety hosted a bicycle rodeo that was well attended by the community. Everyone pitched in to make it a fun yet educational event. TV 6 gave the City plenty of PR by covering the event and showcasing the message Public Safety is promoting to our children. RIDE SAFE

Happy Birthday to Paul Geyer—June 22!

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City Treasurer – Darla Falcon

Summer tax bills will be printed June 30th and mailed out the week of July 6th. Summer taxes are payable at City Hall from July 10th to September 15th. Payments made after September 15th a 4% penalty and 1% interest per month will be applied. July Board of Review will be held Tuesday, July 21st at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall to address clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact. Wednesday, July 24th Anderson, Tackman & Co. wrapped up our annual audit. I will let you know when we have the final numbers to review with the City Commission.

Department of Public Works – Barry Lund

The public works crew was out crack filling the second week of June. They were able to fill in the cracks on approximately eleven miles of road this year. The cracks are blown out with compressed air and then filled in with a hot rubber compound. The cracks are sealed shut to prevent water from going down through the cracks and saturating the gravel base under the asphalt. We were able to rent the county's crack filling machine through the mutual aid agreement that we have with the county and City of Escanaba. The alley behind city hall is finally back open.

The alley was dug up to replace the water line to City Hall and shut off an old water service to the Light Department. In the process of doing the water line work an abandoned fuel tank for the Light Department was discovered. With the help of the DEQ and U P Environmental Services the tank was removed and disposed of properly. DPW has also had a crew out with the AMZ machine patching the small holes in the streets before they turn into potholes.

Wastewater Department – Eric Buckman

The Jennie Street lift station in Rapid River is still operating on one pump while the second pump is being rebuilt. We plan on meeting with Masonville Township and suggesting that they purchase spare pumps for each of the lift stations once the electrical problems are worked out.

The new impellers are in for Underpass lift station pumps. VPC in Green Bay is rebuilding one of the pumps and we should be able to pick it up and get it back on line this week.

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Wastewater Department – Eric Buckman Continued

We collected soil and sludge samples and started another season of sludge hauling this past month. The new sludge storage tanks are doing a good job and we are hauling a nice thick 5% sludge to the Perkins property.

The quarterly EPA Site invoice was tabulated and sent in last week. This is payment for time and materials; wastewater treated, and contracted lab sampling.

Human Resources – Darla Falcon

Employee Profiles



Steve Bratonia

Steve started working for the City in July of 1974. Steve started in DPW, and then went to the power plant until it closed. After the power plant closed he went to the Light Department and the back to DPW. He is currently the Forman at DPW. Steve has two daughters and two grandkids. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and playing golf.

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Employee Profiles Continued



Casey Shope

Casey started working for the City in July of 2006. Casey started on and is still working the garbage truck. Casey is married to Kayla and they have one daughter named Hope. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and trapping.



Darla Falcon

The City hired Darla on July 17, 1996 as the Deputy Treasurer. In May 2004 she was promoted to Treasurer and in July 2008 Assistant City Manager duties were added to her job description. Darla married Mike 14 years ago and has two sons, Matthew age 9 and John age 6. In her spare time Darla enjoys golfing, gardening and cooking.

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July Meeting Schedule

DATE	TIME	MEETING	LOCATION
7/1/2009	6:00 PM	Recreation Board Meeting	City Hall Commission Chambers
7/7/2009	7:00 PM	Planning Commission	City Hall Commission Chambers
7/13/2009	7:00 PM	City Commission Meeting	City Hall Commission Chambers
7/14/2009	7:30 AM NOON	DDA Regular Meeting EDC Regular Meeting	City Hall Downstairs Conference Room Gladstone Public Safety Conference Room
7/21/2009	7:00 PM	Public Input Meeting - Budget	City Hall Commission Chambers
7/27/2009	7:00 PM	City Commission Meeting	City Hall Commission Chambers



Happy 4th of July!