

CITY OF GLADSTONE

Newsletter

Fall 2009

City Manager – Michael R. Wiesner

The City Crews are proceeding on the Harbor Point Project. Bids were received on the non-city crews portion which is the restroom/fish cleaning station, light tower and landscaping. Unfortunately, the bids came in higher than anticipated. We have applied for an additional \$46,000. We will be notified about the additional funding on November 4th. If we receive the additional grant funds we can still do the total project, the general fund will still pay its original \$25,000 but because we are using city crews for a portion of the work the city will receive \$53,592 of the grant money, which will be used to reduce the overall city budget. If we do not receive the extra \$46,000 we will be able to do the entire project except the light tower and we will still receive \$45,997 of the grant money to reduce the overall budget.

City Clerk – Kim Fudala

The City of Gladstone will be producing a quarterly newsletter; therefore the next newsletter will be published January 2010!

I would like to welcome two new Commissioners of the City of Gladstone; please find the Commissions contact information below:

Mayor Darin Hunter – dhunter@gladstonemi.com

Mayor Pro Tem Hugo Mattonen – hmattonen@gladstonemi.com

Commissioner Craig Lauerma – clauerma@gladstonemi.com

Commissioner Joe Maki – jmaki@gladstonemi.com

Commissioner James Polley – jpolley@gladstonemi.com

City offices will be closed on November 26th & 27th for the Thanksgiving Holiday, December 24th & 25th for the Christmas Holiday and December 31st & January 1st for the New Year's Holiday!

Meeting Schedule

DECEMBER

DATE	TIME	MEETING	LOCATION
12/1/2009	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting	City Hall Commission Chambers
12/2/2009	6:00 PM	Recreation Board Meeting	City Hall Commission Chambers
12/3/2009	7:00 PM	Community Development Mtg.	Gladstone Public Safety Conference Room
12/8/2009	7:30 AM	DDA Regular Meeting	City Hall Downstairs Conference Room
	NOON	EDC Regular Meeting	Gladstone Public Safety Conference Room
12/14/2009	7:00 PM	City Commission Meeting	City Hall Commission Chambers
12/28/2009	7:00 PM	City Commission Meeting	City Hall Commission Chambers

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Wastewater Department – Eric Buckman

The Jennie Street lift station in Rapid River is operating on one pump. Our pump representative has assured us that rebuilt pump #2 will be in later this week.

The Days River Lift Station was down for several hours last month due to a burnt out phase relay. A new relay is on order and we have modified the piping so that we can keep sewage running with our portable pumps. All of the Rapid River's wastewater goes through this lift station.

Our Industrial Park #1 lift station went down on 9/13/09 due to a bad pump starter float. A new set of floats was ordered and have been installed.

The secondary digester was pumped down and cleaned out last week. All the sludge was pumped out to our sludge storage tanks and will be hauled out after a few weeks of settling/thickening.

We will be starting fall maintenance/cleaning of the clarifiers and contact chambers next week.

We have been working on an energy optimization study for both plants with WPPI's Focus on Energy contractor. It looks like there may be some grant money available for both plants.

Started working on the Annual Biosolids Report that is due to MDEQ later this month. The third quarter EPA Site invoice was sent in last week.

Water Department – Eric Buckman

We worked with their Grace Church contractor installing the 8" water main with services to the addition and the existing parsonage. The new main has been chlorinated, flushed, and sampled. Once the two Bactti samples results come back clear the main will be open for service.

We collected our stage 1 and second round of stage 2 samples and sent them in to a state certified lab for analysis.

We are still working with our contractors on the radio communication system. The signals have all been tested and we are waiting on a few parts so that the electrical conversion can be made in the control cabinets. Hopefully October will be our last month on the dedicated phone line.

We finished up on our annual maintenance and cleaning of the shore well, clarifiers and the ponds.

Fall is here so we have been busy turning off irrigation systems and some of our early snowbirds. We will start checking and winterizing the fire hydrants in the next few weeks.

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Public Safety – Director Paul Geyer

Complaint Type	Number	Complaint Type	Number
Assault	1	Kid Comp.	1
Assist APS	1	Larceny	14
Assist DCSD	6	911 Hangup	4
Assist EPSD	5	Lift Assist	7
Assist MSP	2	MDOP	8
Assist Jr High School	1	Medical Assist	14
Assist Iron Co Sheriff Dept.	1	Mental	1
Assist Shrewsbury, MO P.D.	1	MIP	2
Background Checks	2	Motorist Assist	1
Bad Checks	4	Natural Death	1
BOL	4	Noise Comp.	6
B & E	2	OWI	2
Child Abuse	1	Parking Comp.	4
Civil	15	PDA	11
Curfew Violation	1	Permit to Purchase	2
Disorderly	5	PIA	3
Dispatch Injured Deer	1	Probation Violation	1
Dog Bite	2	Possible Gunshots	1
Dog Comp.	5	Public Peace	1
Domestic Violence	3	Property Inspection	18
Drug Overdose	1	Retail Fraud	3
DWLS	1	Resist & Obstruct	1
False Alarm	8	Runaway	4
Family Disputes	4	Salvation Army Voucher	1
Fire Call	2	Smoke Complaint	5
Flee & Elude	2	Standby	1
Found Property	9	Suspicious Situations	39
Four Wheeler Comp.	6	Threats	2
Furnishing to Minors	1	Trespass	3
Garbage Comp.	2	VCSA	3
General Assist	14	Vehicle Lock-out	7
H & R	1	VIN Inspection	1
Harassment	5	Warrant Arrest	5
Hazardous Conditions	4	Welfare Checks	1
Health & Safety	1		

302 calls for service were received

24 arrests were made and 35 tickets were issued.

Motorists traveling in the area of South Lake Shore Drive and US 2/41 will be noticing some big changes starting at the end of September into October. MDOT will be finishing

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Public Safety – Director Paul Geyer

Continued

up their project of eliminating the entrance ramp from Gladstone onto the US2/41 Highway. All traffic headed South towards the City of Escanaba coming from South Lake Shore Drive will now have to proceed through the traffic light at the intersection of US/41 and S. Hill Rd. New traffic lights have been installed and work continues on remarking the roadway. As with any traffic management change, adjustment will take some time and Public Safety asks all motorists to be patient and to use caution in the area. Public Safety will be actively monitoring the area to ensure compliance with the new configurations.

The department will be conducting our annual fall firearms training and qualification beginning in October. This year will be the first year of mandatory reporting of our compliance with the new Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards qualification program. We have worked with the standard during our last few shoots but mandatory reporting is now in place.

Officers, Gladstone Volunteer Firefighters and Escanaba Township Volunteer Firefighters will be putting on our annual Fire Safety Week program at the Cameron School on Monday and Tuesday October 5th and 6th. The program is a great chance for the Officers and Volunteers to spend time with the younger school age children, teaching them important safety information concerning preventing and escaping from fires.

The Volunteer Firefighters held there annual ball on Saturday September 26th and had a good turnout. They were able to raise a sizeable amount of money, which is used to help support the department. My sincere admiration goes out to the Volunteers for the service that they provide to the community. The Volunteers have selected several people from our community to join the ranks of the Volunteers. These individuals are still in the process of being screened and approved, but I would like to thank the committee from the Volunteer Department that conducted the screening and interviewing process.

Happy Birthday (in advance) to Dispatcher Madelyn Trekas (Sept. 30th), PSO Ryan Peterson (Dec. 23rd), and Sgt. Scott Larson (Dec. 31st).

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Community Development – Howard Haulotte

Our department issued the following permits in September 2009:

Sign Permits:	1	
Fence Permits:	0	
Building Permits:	2	
Garage		
Handicap Ramp		
Fee Income September:		701.00
Construction Value September:		8,800.00
Construction Value to Date:		2,635,086.00

Housing Inspector – Howard Haulotte completed 29 Rental Inspections and Certified 18 rentals.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

[Community Development](#) - Cancelled for September

[Planning Commission](#) – Cancelled for September

[DDA/Citizen's Council](#) - Tuesday, 20th, 7:30AM at Gladstone City Hall

[EDC](#) – Tuesday October 13, 2009, 12:00PM at Public Safety

No new habitat homes were started this month. We are currently out of funding from MSHDA and hope to hear something soon for continued funds. Seven homes remain in various stages of completion. One new habitat home applied so we have 12 homes left to complete.

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Community Development – Howard Haulotte Continued

Happy ending

Habitat homeowners get shoddy construction repaired

Laura Mead

Article Photos



Laura Mead | Daily Press

Mike and Jamie LaMarche, and son Danny, enjoy their newly-rehabilitated home in Gladstone which was completed this summer thanks to Gladstone Community Development and those who volunteered on the project. In two years, 19 homes in Escanaba and Gladstone have been or are in the process of being rehabilitated.

GLADSTONE - Gladstone Community Development has taken over the task of rehabilitating nearly 40 Habitat For Humanity homes in the Escanaba and Gladstone area. With state funding, they have already rehabbed a dozen homes and helped many more people, and hope to continue doing so.

The local Habitat For Humanity affiliate first had homes built in Escanaba and Gladstone. As is tradition, the Habitat homes are built with the help of the homeowners and volunteers. However, in this case, many of the homes turned out to have structural issues, poor electric and heating, and were built with low-quality materials that quickly fell apart.

Homeowners Mike and Jamie LaMarche, Gladstone, said they discovered several problems after their home was completed.

"There were so many defects with our home," said Jamie. "Leaky windows, leaky doors....our furnace would go every year, our cupboards had fallen apart. When the homes were built it was pretty much all volunteers working on them. There were contractors, but there was no supervision."

The problems in their home weren't just inconvenient. With two young children, and a newly-adopted child, it was a big concern.

"Financially it was difficult," said Jamie. "We had extremely high heating bills. The linoleum, windows, and doors would leak and freeze in the winter. When our son Danny came to us he had health problems and I was so nervous with the draft coming through."

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Community Development – Howard Haulotte Continued

Gladstone Community Development Director Howard Haulotte contacted the Michigan Safe Housing and Development Association (MSHDA) and informed them of the problems Habitat homeowners were having.

In 2007, MSHDA assigned them the contract and awarded them the funding to rehabilitate the homes, with the stipulation that they would rehabilitate the Habitat homes in Escanaba, as well. Additional funding came in 2008, which got their project funding up to \$518,015.

Assistant Community Development Director Renee Barron said Haulotte was tireless in his effort to fix the problems these homeowners were experiencing.

"Because of the way it was mishandled in the beginning, it was difficult for the homeowners to trust any type of entity, but Howard has worked very hard with the group," she said. "...Once they saw...we were using quality materials and contractors, it was much easier."

"They needed to get people involved that would take care of all the problems we had with Habitat, which is what they did," added Jamie.

In nearly two years, a dozen Habitat homes have been completely rehabbed, and six more are in the process of being completed.

Of course, one of those newly-rehabilitated homes was the LaMarche's. Jamie said she is so much happier to be living in her home, which got the full treatment: insulation, a new heating and furnace system, new flooring, cupboards, counters, doors, windows, siding, electrical work, and more.

"This house was torn apart and put back together again," she said. It was amazing."

Jamie said one of the biggest differences since the last building process, was their new contractor.

"He went out of his way to make things comfortable for Danny," said Jamie. "I was sick during part of the building and they worked around me. I always wanted a blue house and when we built the house before we didn't have much of a say, but we were able to make decisions this time. Our inside went from white walls and rickety stairs to earth tones, a deck, and a beautiful kitchen."

Haulotte went a step further when he convinced MSHDA to have the lien placed on the properties forgiven after five years if the original homeowner still lived there.

"It's not going to affect our payments, and didn't cost us anything extra," said Jamie. "It's our original contract, it just brought things to where they should be."

The current MSHDA contract for the rehabilitation will at the end of this month, but Haulotte and Barron are hopeful it can be extended so they can complete the project and rehabilitate the 11 Habitat homes that are left.

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Parks & Recreation – Nicole Sanderson

Events

The city took part in the 7th annual Century Bike Ride on September 20th. The Chamber headed up this event and the weather was perfect. Registration was down slightly; however we did see an increase of out of town bikers.

We will start preparation for the Old Fashion Christmas which is slated for the day after Thanksgiving. It is hard to believe that we will also start prepping all the Christmas Lighting.

The Ski Swap date has not been determined.

Campground

We are coming to the end of the camping season. The financial numbers are strong and we roughly estimated 3500 campsites were rented this season. I had the opportunity to camp several times with my family at our campground. A few things were apparent, the first is local people make up a large portion of our visitors and second we have a first class facility that is fun and relaxing. While talking to the visitors I was proud to be a small part of the success of the campground. Most of the credit must go to Jay and Roger our campground host. They have created a friendly enjoyable atmosphere.

Harbor

The sailboats have been hoisted out and the remaining boats are slowly vacating. The warm fall weather brought additional transient boats to our marina. The active marina this year was reflective of the lower fuel prices. Many transient boaters made their first trip to Gladstone. As I have said in the past the boating community is small and word travels fast. Gladstone has impressed the visitors with our trail system, amenities in Van Cleve Park and the Yacht Club.

Sports Park

The last Building rental is October 24th. In the following weeks we will be transitioning to the ski hill. We have been working with Dan the City mechanic over the summer to continue maintenance of the Snow Cat and prepare it for the season. We are working with DATA Bus, Brampton Bike & Ski, Gladstone Schools, Esky schools, Rapid River School, and Holy Name School to develop the After School Program at the ski hill.

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Department of Public Works – Barry Lund

Public Works started on the harbor point project the first week of September. We have finished approximately eighty percent of the sidewalk installation with the remainder to be installed after the bathroom/fish cleaning station is complete. The sand grade for the bathroom /fish cleaning station and the parking lot is complete. The second of six pours of six inches of concrete for the Harbor Point parking lot is finished. The curbs for the islands in the parking lot are also complete. The electric and the extensions for the water / sewer are done and we should be starting to lay down the new rip rap. The areas at the point that are finished have topsoil and have started to get seeded.

We have also received a contract with the school to remove the Old 10th street tennis courts and basketball courts. We will be removing the two foot mix of concrete and asphalt that made up the court base and removing the fencing that still remains there. The next step is to install the new gravel base so that Payne Dolan can pave for the new 100x120 tennis and basketball court. It will be a shared basketball and overflow tennis court.

At Public Works we have begun our winter maintenance. Our front plows are painted and ready to go for winter. We are currently now going over the trucks themselves now to prep them for winter.

The Fernwood Cemetery is now down to one person for grounds maintenance. Lee Anderson has worked his 20 weeks and now Holly Cook is the only one at the cemetery.

We are looking to switch the garbage routes to four days a week pick up from the current five days schedule we have now. We are going over the possible route changes and the logistics of how to maximize drive time versus the number of stops on the days. The Delta County Land fill is open until three o'clock every weekday and we need to take into account that the truck needs travel to and to be done dumping by that time. The landfill is open past three on Thursdays but only accepts residential garbage after that time. The garbage truck is carrying residential garbage but because of the way it is unloaded it is dumped like a commercial truck, so, it still needs to be dumped by three o'clock also. In trying to go to a four-day garbage / recycling pick-up schedule, we are looking to push for public enlightenment and help in proper garbage / recycling layout on part of the residential customer. The city residents will help save costs if they can have garbage in bags with lids to keep the water out. This saves time spent in labor cost and more importantly the lids save water, snow and ice from being added to the weight the garbage greatly increasing the dumping cost. Furthermore, if the customers can recycle properly by not including glass, styrofoam, shoes, clothing, wood and other solid waste garbage; and if they can break down the cardboard it will greatly reduce the labor and weight charges. The more we can recycle the less we pay in dumping costs, and the more we recycle properly; the more labor costs we save because the less time the sanitation operators need to take to sort or break down the recycling.

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Human Resources – Darla Falcon

Happy Birthday to the following employees!!

John Blair – November 1st

Darla Falcon – November 15th

Steve Bratonia – November 18th

Tom White – November 22nd

Michael Wiesner – November 28th

Pete McIntyre – December 16th

Ryan Peterson – December 23rd

Joe Quinn – December 24th

Scott Larson – December 31st



Employee Profiles



Dave Hanson

Light Equipment Operator Dave Hanson has been working for the city full-time since November 25th 1995; he worked for about six years part-time prior to getting hired full-time. Dave and his wife Dana have two boys, Owen 10 and Zachary 8. Dave grew up in Gladstone and is a lifelong resident. Dave's father owned the famous Hanson's sporting goods store on Delta Ave. In his off time Dave is very active in his kid's lives helping with sports like football, baseball and basketball. With time spent hunting and camping Dave and his family are always active.

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Jason Swanson

Jason Swanson started with the City on October, 11 1999 when he was hired as a Wastewater Plant Operator. He started his career in 1999 with the City of Battle Creek. Jason has an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Water Technology from Bay de Noc Community College. He currently holds F4 & S4 Water and C Wastewater State licenses. Jason is married to Amy and has a daughter (Maura). He enjoys his time off hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family.



Pat Quinn

Pat Quinn started his career with the City on November 14 1990 when he was hired as a Wastewater Plant Operator. In May 1992 he transferred to the Water Plant and he has been making Delta County's finest drinking water ever since. Pat has an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Water Technology from Bay de Noc Community College and currently holds F2 & S1 Water and C wastewater licenses.

Pat is married to Becky and has 2 daughters, Kaylea and Erin. He spends most of his spare time following his kids in sports and school activities. He's hobbies are playing golf in the summer and hunting deer in the fall.

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James Olson

Laborer James Olson started at public works in November 28th 2006. James and his wife Brandy have three children Nathan will be 9 on Oct 11th, Aubrey was born on May 3rd 2008 and Lane was born on June 2nd 2009. James and his family recently moved to a house in Rapid River. James is an avid hunter and previously owned a pheasant farm. He has been to a world championship with his dogs for field trials. James is looking forward to his trip to Colorado next month, he is going elk hunting, and he tries to go every year with friends and family.



Paul Geyer

Director Paul Geyer began his career with the Public Safety Department in December of 1993, was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in February of 2000 and was appointed the Director in June of 2006. Paul has served as a Fire Instructor for the area, as well as a fire cause and origin investigator for the department. Paul is married to Michele and they have three children, Kelcey, Jordan and Kahler.

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Joe Quinn

Heavy Equipment Operator Joe Quinn started work in Dec 3rd 1997. He and his wife Erica have two children Ian 17 and Owen 9. Joe has been living at his house on Michigan Ave in Gladstone since 1998, his entire family are long term Gladstone residents. Joe is an avid golfer and sports enthusiast. He is also Gladstone Golf Clubs Course Champion. Aside from the time spent in the Army Joe has always lived in Gladstone.



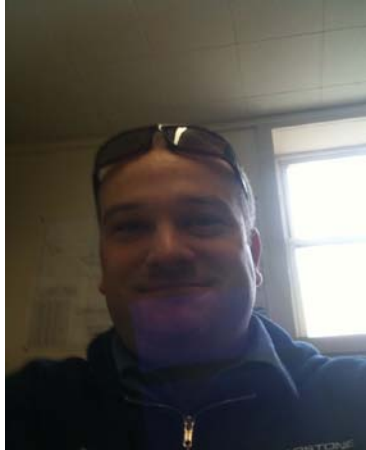
Barry Lund

Department of Public Works Supervisor Barry Lund started his career at the City of Gladstone as the heavy Equipment operator in December 15th of 1997. Barry accepted the job as Supervisor in 2007 to fill the position left when Bob Johnson passed away. . Barry was previously in the Air Force and went through their heavy equipment operators' school during that time. He worked at K.I. Sawyer AFB as heavy equipment operator for seven years before it closed in 1995. Barry and his wife Amy have three children Jeremy 23, Holly 20, and Max their youngest is 14.

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Adam Zimmerman

Sanitation Operator Adam Zimmermann started at the cemetery in 2003 seasonally. Adam filled in doing the office duties when Bob Johnson passed away in 2006. He was hired on full-time December 3rd 2007. Adam and his wife Jenny moved to San Francisco after graduating from Gladstone High School in 1997, they both worked at the Ritz Carlton. In 2003 they moved back to Gladstone and in 2003 bought Adam's Great-Grandparents house on Minneapolis Ave. Adam and Jenny's kids, Evan 5 and Violet 2, will be the third generation living in his house. Adam likes to spend time with his kids; play video games and go, biking, kayaking, and hiking.

