

## MAYOR'S CORNER

Summer is moving right along. It's Mid July and the "dog days" are almost upon us. I hope all of you are recreating and staying busy.

The City Council recently went through the budgetary process for our next budget year. Our budget year is July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. This year the budget committee required department heads to attend the budget committee meetings and to provide detailed explanations for their requests. It was a difficult process for some of them but the knowledge they gained was invaluable moving forward. They recognize that they, along with the council, have the solemn responsibility of ensuring that your dollars are being spent in the most efficient way.

The City Council approved the purchase of 5 vehicles. One for the Department of Public Works, one for the Waste Water Department, one for the Water Department, one for the Fire Department and one for the Police Department. All of the purchases were sorely needed. The new vehicles were purchased under the State of Michigan plan which results in a major discount. All of the vehicles were in poor repair and had outlived their service life. We will be able to use a couple of the vehicles interdepartmentally to save money.

I hope you enjoyed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration this year. We got a late start on the organization and fund raising for the event due to the departure of our previous Quality of Life Director. By the time the new one took over and "got her feet on the ground" she needed to spend the vast majority of her time concentrating on the summer sports season and making sure that the Outdoor Recreation Center was prepared for a new paddling season. We will do better next year.

This year's dates for Eaton Rapids Air are Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, through Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year is the Wizard of Oz. We are in the planning stages for a multitude of events which include a Scarecrow Contest, a Community Potluck, multiple evenings of entertainment, the CASA 5 k run, a Spaghetti Dinner, a bicycle race, an OZ character luncheon, a munchkin parade and much more.

An initial public organizational meeting was held and 23 eager participants attended. If you are interested in becoming involved please contact Lindsay Zeller

at the City of Eaton Rapids at 663:8118 ext 8178 or at [lzeller@cityofeatonrapids.com](mailto:lzeller@cityofeatonrapids.com) or [pmalewski@cityofeatonrapids.com](mailto:pmalewski@cityofeatonrapids.com).

The Michigan Main St. program is moving ahead. This, coupled with the Rising Tides program and the Redevelopment Ready Community program will lead to a lot of changes. Some obvious, some not so obvious. The three programs, working in tandem, are designed to provide economic growth and stimulus to not only new businesses but to increase the livability and walkability to our residents. The Michigan Department of Transportation has a stake in these programs as well so hopefully we can see some significant traffic improvements in our Main St. corridor.

I'm sure many of you have been following the Meridian Magnesium Products disaster. The rebuild is almost complete and the vast majority of employees are back to work in one capacity or another. I would like to thank the plant officials for their deep concern and efforts at restoring this vital industry. I would also like to thank Building Inspector LeRoy Hummel and Fire Chief Roger McNutt for their outstanding efforts in working with the plant officials to make sure that the "I's were dotted and the T's were crossed."

During the month of June the Lansing Automakers Federal Credit Union, in conjunction with Two Men and A truck Moving and Storage, conducted a necessities drive to benefit Hearts and Hands of Eaton Rapids. I would like to report that their combined efforts resulted in 912 # of supplies being delivered to H&H last Tuesday. Nice work on all fronts.

Please take the time to get involved in our town. I have openings on a number of committees and boards that I would like to see filled with people that wish to make a difference. Your opinions and efforts are valued. I cannot make the changes by myself.

I wish to thank each and every one of you for making Eaton Rapids a great place to live, recreate and raise a family.