



*Office of the City Manager, Chief Administrative Officer*  
*Monthly Administrative Report*  
*July 2019*

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Port Huron Police Department employees were very busy this June with 23 (twenty-three) crimes of an unusual or serious nature compared to 16 (sixteen) last month. The following is just a preview of this month's occurrences.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Port Huron Police Department officers received a call of females fighting in the 3200 block of Electric in the Arbors of St. Clair apartment complex. One 19 year old Port Huron female resident involved in a domestic dispute refused to give identification and was arrested. As officers tried to handcuff her, the suspect's 22 year old sister jumped on the officers back and was subsequently arrested. Both females were lodged in the St. Clair County Jail for assault on police officers at the scene. Officers were kicked and scratched by the two females.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Port Huron Police Department officers were called to the 1800 block of Kern Street on a report of a Home Invasion. The 47 year old homeowner's wife had called 911 stating she had locked herself and her children in a bedroom because her husband was confronting an intruder they found in the house. The homeowner ordered the intruder/suspect out of the home, but he refused. The two began fighting outside. Officers arrived and arrested the 38 year old male suspect from St. Clair. He was transported to Lake Huron Medical Center and transferred elsewhere for facial fractures caused by fighting the victim/homeowner. A warrant was sought for his arrest. The victim and his family did not know the suspect.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, members of the Major Crimes Unit were called to assist Marysville Police in the 900 block of Lighthouse Drive in Marysville, due to a murder that occurred there. A 40 year old Marysville resident had killed his 75 year old father with blunt force. MCU members handled the investigation assisted by Marysville PD, PHPD Criminal Investigative Division and MSP. MSP Crime Lab responded to the scene to assist. The suspect was brought back to PHPD where he confessed to the crime and was lodged in the St. Clair County Jail.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, Port Huron Police Department officers responded to 11<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut for two people passed out in a running vehicle. The driver a 33 year old Burtchville Township female was found to be highly intoxicated. She refused to perform sobriety tests and began to fight officers as she was being arrested. Officers were elbowed, kicked, scratched and had an assortment of scratches, bruises and abrasions from the suspect. She was found in possession of suspected cocaine and was transported to the St. Clair County Jail.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Port Huron Police Department officers were called to Britt Manufacturing in the 2600 20<sup>th</sup> Street for an electrocution. A 19 year old St. Clair resident was being contracted out to do electrical work on site. Tri Hospital arrived and attempted to revive the victim, but were unsuccessful. The PHPD Criminal Intelligence Division and the Medical Examiners Officer assisted.

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Port Huron Police Department School Resource Officer received information from the Port Huron Schools Administration building at 2720 Riverside Drive that a threatening

email was received by Superintendent Cain demanding a former employee be reinstated. Both School Resource Officers and members of the Criminal Intelligence Division followed up on the email and identified the 24 year old Fort Gratiot resident. Within a few hours, the suspect was interviewed, confessed, and was lodged in the St. Clair County Jail.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Port Huron Police Department officers were dispatched to Port Huron McLaren Hospital for a 34 year old male Port Huron resident who arrived with a severe laceration to his stomach. The victim's girlfriend, a 29 year old Port Huron resident, said an unknown black male suspect had caused the injury during a robbery. The victim gave a similar story. The girlfriend then disappeared from the hospital. The Major Crimes Unit was called out and found the location of the crime occurred in the 1900 block of Stone and the girlfriend was the suspect. The victim continued to deny this. The girlfriend was located two days later. She confessed to the stabbing and was lodged at the St. Clair County Jail for Assault w/ a Dangerous Weapon.

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, Officer Pomranke was on patrol in the area of 23<sup>rd</sup> and Division when his attention was drawn to a distraught individual who appeared to need assistance. The 27 year old male Port Huron resident advised the officer he needed to get to the hospital immediately or he was going to die. The male was bleeding severely and explained that he was severely cut after he punched a window. He had an extremely large and deep cut across his upper right forearm that lacerated several arteries, veins, and muscle tendons down to the bone. He had lost a lot of blood. Officer Pomranke quickly applied his department issued tourniquet to the male's arm and effectively stopped the critical bleeding. The male was transported to Lake Huron Medical Center. Officers discovered he was in an unknown altercation with a subject in the 1700 block of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and punched a garage window causing it to break. He walked a very short distance and fortunately came across the path of this officer. The male was transferred to another hospital for surgery. If it wasn't for Officer Pomranke's quick actions by applying his department-issued tourniquet, this subject would have bled to death.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, Port Huron Police Department officers were sent to the 400 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Street on a home invasion. The caller, a 25 year old female, stated she awoke to an unknown male standing over her and touching her face in her bedroom. She began to yell and scream backing him out of the bedroom. She fled the house and called 911. Officers arrived and were able to locate a male matching the description across the street from her house. He became aggressive with officers and opposed officers as they arrested him. The suspect, a 27 year old Port Huron resident, was found in possession of a suspected crack pipe and was intoxicated. He was uncooperative during questioning and was lodged at the St. Clair County Jail for Home Invasion and Resisting & Obstructing. Entry into the home is believed to have been made through an unlocked door. The victim did not know the suspect.

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, Port Huron Police Department officers were called to Palms Krystal Bar at 1535 Pine Grove Avenue on a report of a personal injury accident and property damage report. A 61 year old driver had a medical emergency while driving southbound on Stone Street approaching Pine Grove Avenue. The driver drove into the north dining room area damaging multiple booths. Both the driver and his passenger were treated for injury and McLaren Port Huron Hospital, but luckily no customers were injured inside.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, officers were called a home in the 1200 block of Miller Street for a Home Invasion report. The 31 year old female resident called 911 after finding a male she didn't know inside her home. He entered through an unlocked front door. The 21 year old male suspect from Port Huron believed he was being chased and grabbed a knife from her kitchen. He then left the area. Officers arrived and located him near 12<sup>th</sup> & Wells Street. He dropped the knife, was taken into custody, and transported to the St. Clair County Jail for Home Invasion 1<sup>st</sup>.

The number of reported drug overdoses in the month of June were seven (7) compared to thirteen (13) last month. Four were from heroin, one was from prescription drugs, one was from cocaine, and one was from an unknown powdered substance resulting in death. Calls for service overall in June 2019 (2719) decreased 2% from May 2019 (2762).

In the month of June, the Port Huron Fire Department responded to 311 calls for service, including 9 fires, 208 medical emergencies, 11 vehicle accidents, and 24 hazardous conditions.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, fire companies responded to a working fire in a hotel room at the Days Inn. The cause was determined to be a minor child playing with a cigarette lighter. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, fire companies responded to an automatic fire alarm at HP Pelzer, Plant 1. A working fire was discovered in a utility area above an office annex. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, fire crews responded to a dwelling fire in the 1200 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, crews responded to the U.S. Coast Guard Hollyhock for a report of an injured USCG member. Crews found a subject that had fallen 20 feet into an open hold on the deck of the ship. Using the ship's boom as a static high anchor, a rescue rope system was established and a stokes basket lift was performed using a mechanical advantage haul system. The victim was transported to McLaren Hospital by Tri-Hospital EMS.

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, a CN freight train travelling through the St. Clair River Tunnel into the United States derailed. In total, 46 railcars derailed mid-tunnel, including a sulphuric acid tank car, which spilled its contents of 194,000 pounds of 93% concentration acid. Over the course of eight days, Port Huron Fire Department provided initial reconnaissance, rapid intervention rescue for CN Dangerous Goods Officers, emergency decontamination, fire watch standby, incident command, and interagency support. Agencies involved in the event included the Environmental Protection Agency, United States Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, Michigan DEQ, Michigan State Police Emergency Management, St. Clair County Emergency Management, National Transportation and Safety Board, and the Federal Railroad Administration. On a local level, Fort Gratiot Fire Department and Marysville Fire Department provided backfill into Port Huron firehouses during the first day of events. Clay Township Fire Department provided their SCBA fill trailer for on-scene use. St. Clair County Hazmat provided technical expertise as well as additional SCBA cylinders. The City of Warren Fire Department provided high lift capacity lift bags for the possibility of a rescue during wrecking operations. Mortimer & Sons provided lumber and delivery after-hours for cribbing necessary for possible rescue. Tri-Hospital EMS provided round-the-clock support on scene for firefighter and worker safety.

Fire companies completed 28 life safety and pre-fire inspections. Over 400 public education contacts were made at multiple special events this month, including smoke detector and carbon monoxide installations.

This month in the Clerk's office, staff continued the task of inputting missing cemetery record information and uploading City ordinances into our record management program. We also began uploading voter signatures into the Qualified Voter File for those individuals who do not have an electronic signature on file. Preparations for the Annual Yard of the Year contest have been started and staff facilitated the annual MERS Elections for full-time employees.

The engineering staff continues to work on the design for the replacement of the master water meter located at Gratiot Avenue and Keewahdin Road as well as the McMorran Boulevard Reconstruction Project (Huron Avenue to Merchant Street).

Bids were opened for the Riverside Boat Launch Parking Lot Reconstruction and Bathroom Renovation projects with a proposed award date of July 8.

Contractor continues to work on phase two and three of the Quay and Michigan Street Reconstruction project, phase two and three should be finished in mid-July. On-going projects include the Pine Grove Park Restrooms Facility and the Knox Field Gazebo.

At the River Street Marina, the low docks have been raised and some dolphin piles were straightened. This is as a result of high river levels.

The streets maintenance staff continued to perform the typical month-to-month duties which included crack sealing, applying 4,760 pounds of hot rubber throughout the City, and street sweeping 14 days with 274 cubic yards of material being removed from the streets. Many alleys and road were graded. Radar trailers were placed at different locations for the Police Department each week. Streets were closed for one special event. The asphalt crew put down 151 tons of asphalt at 19 locations.

The motor vehicle pool staff maintained the preventative maintenance list and completed all breakdown repairs and will be finishing the repairs on the concrete breaker.

The traffic section began doing LED traffic signal conversions on Lapeer Avenue. Crews repaired several signs along with fixing timing issues at 10<sup>th</sup> and Court Streets. They also assisted with a large amounts of MISS DIG requests.

Utilities Services continued to perform the typical month-to-month tasks. These tasks include water meter reading, sewer cleaning and assistance to the Water Office for turn-ons and shutoffs for non-payment of water bills. DPW Administration and Utilities staff completed the public notification documents, including educational material as a result of the new Michigan Lead and Copper Rule. This will satisfy the new requirements of the City for the water main replacement on the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction project. Utilities staff also completed numerous catch basin repairs, and the City's contractor completed that last round of fire hydrant painting. All fire hydrants within the City have been painted during the last two years.

The WWTP staff continues their normal operation and maintenance procedures. The instrument technician has been successful at transferring communications at the pump stations to communicate wirelessly with cellular telemetry, omitting the cost and maintenance of hard lines serviced by AT&T. The south half of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street sanitary pump station was cleaned out. The north half was unable to be isolated while the waste contractor was on site. The stationary gas standby generators for the Scott/Poplar and Water Street pump stations are scheduled to be delivered the end of July. SEMCO Energy has marked out the new service for the Water Street pump station from the main to the meter. Shop drawings were submitted by Murray Underground for the rehabilitation of the Northern Sanitary Pump station. DTE placed a new power pole to bring power to the new station. An easement has been accepted by the school for the sanitary sewer that serves the school and adjacent property. The new pump station will be located within the Black River Canal right-of-way. The City administration is coordinating and working with St. Clair County and DTE for a utility easement for DTE equipment that will provide a new electrical feed to new electrical switchgear at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The City accepted a proposal from CE Power to store the switchgear until the City constructs the building that it will be housed in. Bids for the new building and underground work are due July 24. Research and design work by Tetra Tech continue on the Grit Channel Rehabilitation and Odor Control Replacement project. An engineering firm visited the plant to inspect the air supply lines to the aeration process in the secondary building. A recommendation will be made for replacing corroded and rusted out supply lines. The land application program has begun now that fields have dried out. Hauling and applying will be continuous, including weekends, as long as the weather cooperates to make up for the very wet spring. The program will run into October. The environmental technician has made significant progress and improvements to the cross connection inspection and backflow preventer programs.

Dean Marine, Inc. is contracted to stabilize the raw water intake pipes for the Water Filtration Plant in late summer. They will use a barge and bucket to place rock on the river bottom to stabilize and protect the pipe supports from the river current and wave action. The contractor is hoping for the high water level and river flow rate to recede before sending divers down. City staff, BMJ, and Sanctum Contracting have agreed on final plans and cost for the completion of the garage. The contractor has been working with their mason to remove and re-do the brickwork on the garage. The mason has been non-responsive and the contractor is now taking legal action to remove the mason from the contract and hire a new one. The garage has been temporarily secured and is un-usable. Four (4) bids were received for the roof replacement project that included re-roofing plant's main building, floc building, and low lift building. Reasonable Roofing was awarded the contract and will begin work this summer. A new utility tractor was approved for purchase to replace the existing 18 year old tractor. It will be used for mowing the seven-acre park and snow plowing operations around the plant and along the boardwalk.

During the month of June, the Human Resources Department accepted employment applications for full-time Police Officers and a Community Development Program Administrator. We also accepted applications for part-time Police Cadets and School Crossing Guards.

Our Retirement Plan Specialist from ICMA Retirement Corporation (ICMA-RC) is onsite twice a year. Although this is a voluntary benefit option that we offer our employees, the

Retirement Plan Specialist is available by appointment to meet with City employees that participate or are interested in participating to review their individual 457 and Roth IRA accounts. The Plan Specialist was available June 11 – 13<sup>th</sup> and met with City employees at various City work locations.

On June 24, 2019, during Mediation, a tentative agreement was reached with the Utility Workers, Local 532 Union. Their membership ratified it on June 27, 2019. The agreement was taken to City Council on Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and was agreed to at that time. All City employees are now on the same pension and healthcare plans.

Health & Safety training is ongoing. We continue to train new employees as they come on board at the City.

Code enforcement opened 231 new enforcements, held 38 Administrative Hearing Bureau hearings, and received \$225.32 in collections.

The Rental Inspection Department completed 252 inspections and certified 74 rental units in June. Six new rental properties were registered during the month. Staff responded to five rental complaints during the month.

The Inspection Division issued 123 permits with a revenue of \$49,726. Forty-six complaints were responded to throughout the month. Also, to streamline permit applications, worksheets were created for each type of permit. All information is now in one packet.

In June, the rehab project at 1309 15<sup>th</sup> Street was sold, 502 15<sup>th</sup> Street is in the rehab phase, and the 1804 17<sup>th</sup> Street rehab project is almost complete. Three Urban Pioneer Program grants were issued and closed. Three more Urban Pioneer Program grants are pending. The Community Development Division also wrapped up fiscal year end requirements. With the departure of Nichole Smith, Community Development and Planning staff worked together to learn the basics of the Division.

The Planning Department prepared documentation for three site plan reviews for the Planning Commission, Assisted Living at 1403 Catherine McAuley Drive, an addition at 401 Quay Street, and a new parking lot for the Parfet Building at 1514 Military Street. Preliminary work was also completed for a proposed fuel station and convenience store at 2807 24<sup>th</sup> Street. The typical zoning questions/requests were processed. Planning Staff also assisted the Inspection and Rental Divisions with fires and notices and order to vacates as well as code cases. The beginning steps of creating a Welcome Packet for new businesses is in the works.

June has seen a flurry of activity at the Port Huron Recreation Department. We unveiled our newest attraction at Palmer Park: the Palmer Park Super Slide. Our ribbon cutting took place on June 17<sup>th</sup> and drew in over 200 children and adults. We had our first day of programs on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Our Summer Daycamp, Tennis Program, and Swim lessons at both Sanborn and Court Street Pools are just a few that launched that week.

Sprout City is open again and launched for its second season running on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Toys and trikes are distributed and monitored by recreation staff during its open hours. The following week, all of our sports programs began. Popular programs like Sporties for Shorties, Little Hoopers, and our Rookie Baseball Camp from last year came back for the 2019 summer season. Our Walk Michigan event began June 18<sup>th</sup> with registration at its highest ever. The Jr. Recreators program, sponsored by Acheson Ventures, is up and running with volunteers posted at various sites around Port Huron.

Both pools, Court Street and Sanborn, began their open swim season on June 20<sup>th</sup>. June saw all of our staff trained and readied, including lifeguards who learned CPR and lifesaving techniques. This year our Playcrew, Daycamp, Sports, and Pools staff took a special training called Playworks which helps staff apply expert childcare techniques to our various children's programs. Our summer season is at its peak and we expect July to be just as active.

In the Month of June, McMorran Place hosted the Anchor Bay, St. Clair, Port Huron High, Port Huron Northern and Central Graduations. McMorran Place also hosted the Recreation Camp Shows. Many upcoming events have gone on sale for the 2019-2020 season.

In the Cemetery Division for the month of June we had 22 services with 7 being full burials and 15 being cremains services. American flags were placed on Veterans graves for Memorial Day and remained in place for 20 days and then were collected after June 7<sup>th</sup>. Staff has planted six new trees to replace trees that have died and will need to be removed. Staff has also repainted all section markers and sign posts to improve appearance in the Cemetery.

The Information Technology Department was involved in a number of activities. Of note were: Preparing the 2019 Summer Tax Bills; completing the phone connection for the emergency call box; getting security cameras working and online at the pools and Lakeside Park; developing the schedule for the phone system upgrades; and performing the required fiscal year-end processes.

During the past month, the Income Tax Division finished processing all of the annual tax returns filed to date. We began reconciling withholding payments with the annual information returns filed by employers and sending correspondence on any inconsistencies. We are also using information previously received from the State to help with our compliance efforts.

The Accounting Division continued to perform the typical month-to-month duties. These include processing payroll, expense checks and other usual monthly work such as posting journal entries, updating various spreadsheets, balancing accounts, etc. We also worked on the reimbursement request to the State for the lost personal property tax revenue, which we completed and filed with the State during the month.

The Assessing Division has continued the process of updating the sales history and entering it into our computer files in anticipation of our 2020 sales study. In addition, we have begun the fifth year in a process of verifying assessing information for all City properties. This program will ultimately take several years to complete. During that time, we will re-measure all buildings and structures as well as documenting other information including fences, sheds, sidewalks, pools and

patios. We have now begun measuring the exempt properties according to State requirements. In total we have visited 290 properties to date during 2019.

The Treasurer's Office and Water Office continue to be busy with collection of rental inspection fees, income tax payments and water payments. We also continue to perform the monthly accounting for BWATC. We continue to process boat launch receipts several times per week. Property Tax bills were sent out on June 28<sup>th</sup> for the entire 12,113 City parcels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James R. Freed', written over a horizontal line.

James R. Freed  
*City Manager*  
*Chief Administrative Officer*