

Retention Basin

Wondering about all the activity on South Saginaw Rd. near Bay City Rd.? It's the beginning of Midland's new wastewater retention basin.

Once completed this 43.5 million gallon retention basin will hold the partially treated sewage that sometimes overflows into the river during extreme rainstorms, sudden spring thaws or a combination of both.

Midland's wastewater treatment plant is designed to treat 18 million gallons of sewage a day and can store an additional three million gallons. Once the new retention basin is operational, sanitary sewer flows that exceed the plant's combined 21 million gallon treatment and storage capacity will be held in the new retention basin until they can be treated and discharged to the river.

A total of 185,000 cubic yards of clay excavated from the sanitary landfill will be used to construct the 20-acre retention basin site and berm on S. Saginaw Rd. between James Savage Rd. and Bay City Rd. After the clay comes a synthetic waterproof layer, some sand, dirt and finally grass. The basin is expected to be completed by the end of fall 2002.



Based on most recent data, the city estimates the basin will be used only two to three times a year. When in use the basin will take about 3 days to completely drain into the plant to be processed. The remainder of the time the basin will be a low grassy area.

The estimated cost to construct the retention basin is \$5 million. Using State Revolving Funds, low interest loans provided by the State of Michigan, the city will save \$1.5 million in interest payments over the 20-year life of the bonds. Sixty percent of the funds required to repay the debt will

be provided by property taxes and sewer user fees will provide the remaining 40%. The city also saved about \$185,000 by lining the basin with clay and soil from Midland's very own sanitary landfill.

The landfill's abundance of clay is being excavated and used for the retention basin liner and berm. Not only does this eliminate a huge construction cost, but it also creates more space for future landfill cells. The downside is that for a few months this summer there will be an increase of truck traffic as the clay is hauled from the landfill to the retention basin construction site off Bay City Rd. Motorists should watch for increased truck traffic coming from the landfill to the wastewater treatment plant using Waldo Ave., Rockwell Dr. and James Savage Rd. The trucking will last into the fall.

Taking Crime for a Ride. . .

The Midland Police Department is gearing up for an innovative way to fight crime this summer. Bicycle patrol officers will cruise through neighborhoods, apartment complexes and business districts on bikes in an effort to be more accessible to residents and to surprise the would-be criminal.

"When the weather turns nice we find an increase in larcenies and vandalism in residential neighborhoods, apartment complexes, parks and business districts," said Police Chief Jim St. Louis, noting that during the summer months people are more likely to leave items out in their yard, leave their garage doors open or leave unlocked vehicles parked outside with things like CD cases, cell phones, purses and other possessions inside. Criminals can take advantage of these opportunities - and your stuff - while simply strolling through your neighborhood.

The department has experimented with bicycle patrols for the past two summers and found them to be instrumental in stopping crimes in progress.

The flexibility and stealth of bicycle patrols complement the police department's vehicle patrol function. Bicycle patrol officers can enter residential areas with less visibility than a patrol car, can go places cars can't, such as through parks and between apartment complex buildings, and bicycle patrol officers can more easily detect sounds of criminal activity because they are outside the vehicle. In addition, bicycle patrol officers are a great public relations tool - an officer on a bike is easily accessible.

Midland Police Officer Chad Scheiber is a certified bicycle patrol instructor with the Law Enforcement Bicycle Association and conducts training for other officers interested in participating in bicycle patrol.

One of the most important aspects of the bicycle patrol-training program is safety; the officers might already know how to ride a bike, but when chasing down criminals, there is much more involved.

Bicycle patrol officer training includes riding in traffic, offensive and defensive riding techniques, traversing obstacles, close-quarter maneuvering skills as well as techniques to control heart rate and reserve energy for responsibilities that come after the chase.

The Police Department has great confidence that the bicycle patrols will have a positive effect on crime reduction, however, they say it's almost impossible to measure the effectiveness of the program. Chief St. Louis says that as with all crime prevention programs you just never know how many would-be crimes you've stopped - just by being in the right place at the right time.



Midland Police Officer Dave McCargar is one of five Midland officers trained in bicycle patrol.

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CITY OF
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At Your Service...

A Newsletter for the Citizens of the City of Midland

June 2002

Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project Celebration

Dear Citizens of Midland,
June 21, 1996 was a monumental day in Midland's history - a day that changed Midland's sanitary sewer system forever and for the better.



Six years later - after hundreds of hours of public input, engineering study and design, and a construction season that left Midland motorists with the orange barrel blues - Midland has a sanitary sewer system that is double the capacity of what it was more than a year ago. This faster conveyance leaves Midland homes far less susceptible to sewage backups in basements.

As this massive project comes to an end, the city would like to share our appreciation for:

- ❖ the citizens that participated in the public process to design and finance this project;
- ❖ the consultants and city employees that spent hundreds of hours designing these improvements;
- ❖ the contractors who constructed the improvements under budget, on schedule and without a loss time accident;
- ❖ and the businesses and motorists who endured the disruptions and exhibited an enormous amount of patience.

For this - we have good reason to celebrate. We hope you'll join us on Wednesday, June 19 at 11:30 a.m. at the site of the Circle Area Pump Station. See what your effort has accomplished and celebrate the arrival of Midland's new and improved sanitary sewer system.

Sincerely,

Karl S. Tomion
City Manager

Wednesday, June 19, 2002 11:30 a.m. at the Circle Area Pump Station

- Help the City of Midland celebrate the completion of the largest sanitary sewer construction improvement project in Midland's history
- \$13 million worth of improvements
 - 6.5 miles of new sanitary sewer
 - 2000 sewer pipes
 - one new major pump station
 - three pump station upgrades
 - \$2.3 million under budget

Tours of the Circle Area Pump Station will take place between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Comments by Mayor R. Drummond Black and Sewer Engineering Study Advisory Committee Chair Suzii LaCross begin at 11:45 a.m.



We recommend parking in the Circle Plaza parking area (near the Finishing Touch, QRP...)

Kickin it to the Curb....

Disposing of that old couch or pile of scrap lumber is easier than you might think. Once a month the city collects brush and heavy refuse from the curbside in front of your home. Please have your items at the curb before 8 a.m. on the Monday of your collection week. Come Monday morning, collection supervisors survey the heavy refuse area to determine the most efficient route for collecting the area's heavy refuse. All heavy refuse is collected by Friday of your collection week. Your stuff might not be collected until Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday - but rest assured your items will be gone before the end of the week. Please remember that items may not be placed at the curb prior to the Saturday of your collection week. Questions about your heavy refuse collection week? Please contact the Department of Public Services at 989-835-2531 or go on line at www.midland-mi.org.

What to set out:
Moving boxes, carpeting, scrap metal, asphalt, furniture, mattresses, appliances (remove covers and doors), demolition, remodeling and building materials, branches, tree trimmings and brush.

These items are not collected:
Old car bodies, chemicals, explosives, loose soil and sod.

Summer Fun!

Gerstacker Sprayground is up and running! Visit the free sprayground open daily dawn until dusk and located just up the rail trail from the farmers market. Just walk inside the gate and motion sensors bring the water park to life.



On-line Information

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Summer 2002