

# What's In The Works

City of Belton Public Works Department

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## A New Brand



The department has been working very diligently, anchored in the Strategic Plan. It is creating a foundation of best practices combined with the right attitude that will be used to launch a renewed approach to public works services. The team desires to create confidence in the customer that every avenue is being explored to provide the best

## Mayor's Water & Sewer Task Force

All across the nation, communities are facing or will be facing very challenging infrastructure issues. Belton's own challenges with drinking water and wastewater are at the front door and require immediate attention. The City has been studying and evaluating every possibility to address drinking water in particular to help City leaders make informed and sound decisions for the citizens. Mayor Odom commissioned a task force in April made up of staff, PWC

services possible. A small complement to that branding process is the creation of a new logo that is easy for the public to identify and link to water, wastewater, transportation and engineering. Development of the logo you see in this newsletter was developed by a lengthy process of input that included staff, the Public Works Committee (PWC), and the City Council, and you can imagine it went through many iterations to arrive at the one you see. Thanks goes out to Randy Braun, Kenny Clabough, Tim Kuykendall, Steve Bennett, Ryan Vaughan and many others for the input and work involved.

members (a citizen advisory group), and three Councilmen to determine best approach to funding necessary drinking water and wastewater improvements and to develop a new user rate structure that is as equitable as possible. It is anticipated that the task force will make recommendations to the City Council in October, 2012. It has been a very serious and complex undertaking for each of the PWC members and the Councilmen over many evenings.

## How to Conserve Water and Keep Your Bill As Low As Possible

- Don't run water while brushing your teeth.
- Install water-saving shower heads.
- Repair leaks and install low-flow aerators in faucets.
- Consider purchasing water saver appliances
- Wrap hot water pipes with insulation to avoid waiting for hot water.
- Don't water the pavement! Position sprinklers so that your lawn and garden receive all of the water.
- Longer grass means less evaporation. Set your mower a notch or two higher in hot, dry weather.
- Use a pool cover to keep water clean and reduce evaporation. Recycle water for use on the lawn or garden.
- Deep soak your lawn weekly in the morning or evening when the least evaporation occurs.

## Important Data Collection

The Engineering Division has begun development of a traffic count program. Citizens will notice traffic counters at various locations throughout the City in the coming months. Data collected will be used as part of the decision making process for future roadway improvement projects, where traffic control devices are currently needed, and provide potential developers valuable traffic volume information.

# Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) - Project Nearing Completion

CIP webpage located at <http://www.belton.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1673>



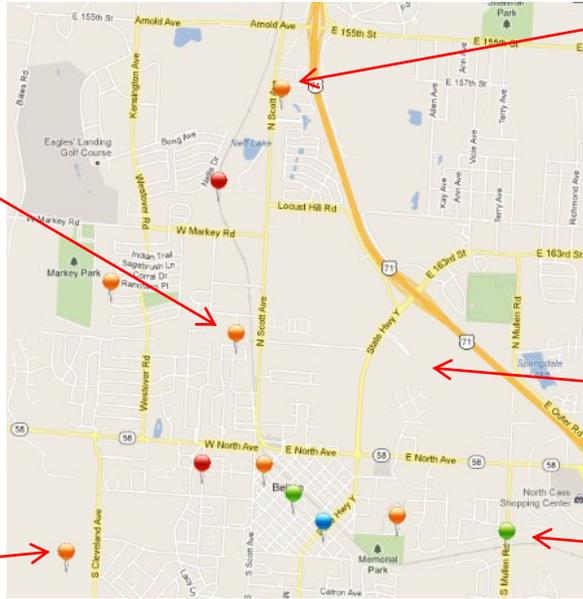
## Park to Berry Drainage Project

Complete by October



## Cleveland Lake Project

Sanitary Sewer Work Nearly Complete – Lake Construction to Begin in November



## East Cimarron/Markey Meadows Sanitary Sewer Project

Final completion by early October

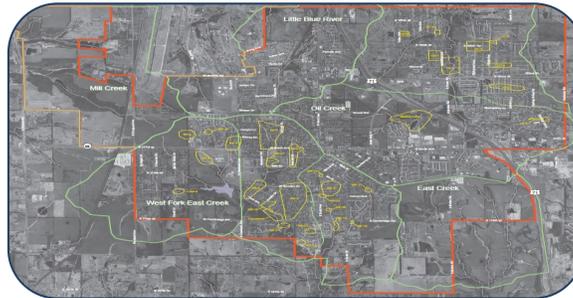
## Markey Parkway 800 ft Extension

Completion by December



## Mullen Road Widening Project

Opening mid-October



Engineering design work to finalize the Stormwater Master Plan will be completed in the next few weeks and will be made available to the public via the website.

## Interesting Facts:

- Soil that cracks or fractures when it dries is often a sign that it is expansive. Did you know that the tiny clay particles in expansive soils are invisible to the naked eye but they absorb water with tremendous efficiency and expand to several times their normal size as a result? Just as efficiently as they expand, they contract when the soil dries up and the particles release the water to evaporation. The City of Belton incorporates fly ash into pavement subgrade to mitigate soil expansion and contraction
- Did you know that asphalt is 275 degrees Fahrenheit at the time of placement?

## Remote Control and Management Natural Resources

Work is complete of new Influent Pumping Station (IPS) and Plant Alarm Dialer systems. These new components replace 20 year old systems and are the building blocks for upgrading to a SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) system. Also included in the upgrades was a backup float control system for the IPS in the event the Radar level controls fail.



Have you ever asked yourself where dirt, leaves, and trash disappear to when you see it on the streets? Have you ever been the one that puts your yard debris in a creek or ditch? Well, these materials end up creating a problem somewhere within your storm sewer system and in the receiving creeks and streams.



Crews spent approximately 500 hours and removed nearly 1,300 cubic yards of dirt, trash and debris from a neighborhood drainage ditch. This was a lot of work and the crews did a fantastic job!

## ***We Are Here for You-The Customer***

It is now six months into the merger of the water and wastewater divisions of the Public Works Department, and the results are intriguing. The merger and additional restructuring is producing a range of benefits from sharing resources in different ways to streamlining work flow. There are new and different ideas being generated, a new attitude developing toward our purpose. All options are on the table and being considered. It is exciting!

The PW Team is made up of many solid people that care about their work and enjoy public service. However, even the best must continue to learn and improve to continue to serve at a high level. The culture the team is creating is one of performance, goals and solutions oriented, self-directing and right attitude. These are attributes necessary to provide the best services possible and those attributes are beginning to surface across the board. The changes within are often not real evident to the customer but they will ultimately be apparent in the form of communication, transparency, accountability, efficiency, reliability, and professionalism, just to name a few. There are several new faces on the team that are bringing to the table some real value that energizes others around them.

## ***Exposed Sewer Line***



In the spring of 2012 our forces discovered an exposed sanitary sewer line located south of Turner Road and east of North Scott. We obtained two bids from local contractors to perform the work in rectifying this issue. Once the bids were received and discussions were had, the Water

Services Division made the decision to take on this project ourselves. As evidence from the attached photo our employees did a most excellent job in bringing this project to a successful completion. Bottom line, our employees did an excellent job and at a reduced cost to the City of Belton.



## ***Sensitive to Our Streams***

The Treatment Plant recently passed its WET (Whole Effluent Toxicity) test for the year! The WET tests the mortality rate in the receiving stream and our effluent discharge from the Treatment Plant. This year the facility was required to participate in a multiple dilution test instead of single dilution test that we have been required to do in the past. Multiple Dilution tests are more difficult to pass because of the additional mandated requirements. Excellent work!

## ***Public-Private Partnership***

The Public Works Department has recently entered into a task agreement with TREKK Design Group, LLC for sanitary sewer rehabilitation. The purpose of these rehabilitation projects is to reduce the amount of wet-weather flow to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and to train staff to perform minor rehabilitation. These projects are part of a cost-effective approach to reduce the amount of inflow and infiltration (I&I) into the City's sanitary sewer system by approximately 40%.

The scope of work includes engineering, project observation, contract administration, construction administration, legal administration, documentation, inspection, emergency repair services, and City staff training and oversight.

## ***Water Services is Busy***

During the past quarter the Water Services Division has been busy maintaining drinking water and waste water collection systems. Wastewater maintenance teams are sent out daily to clean sewer mains, repair pumps and motors in system lift stations, handle calls for sewer backups and respond to any collection system needs. Drinking water maintenance teams are sent out daily to perform fire hydrants inspections, repair hydrants needing attention, repair needed pump and motors at water pump stations, repair water main breaks and answering calls for service from homeowners concerning drinking water needs. During the past three months, the crews have repaired 40 water main breaks. We would like to thank our customers for being patient as these repairs were made.

During the next quarter, teams will be busy repairing customer yards that were damaged from breaks, continuing wastewater line cleaning to maintain our collection system, completing our yearly fire hydrant inspections, replacing hydrants out of service because of age or lack of parts available and continuing our efforts to provide the best service possible.

## ***Imagine A New 155th Street Corridor!***

The City was recently successful in its partnership with the City of Grandview to secure federal funding to make improvements to 155<sup>th</sup> Street, east of 71 Hwy (or I-49) to roughly Kentucky Road. The Cities of Belton and Grandview will each match as much as \$800,000 toward the project that will receive another roughly \$4.3 Million from the fed's. Construction is forecasted to take place in 2016. There are additional efforts to extend those improvements to the west all the way to Kensington. MoDOT is slated to replace the bridge over 71 Hwy in 2015, and Belton is working with the City of Kansas City and others to determine how to fund improvements to the interchange, ramps and 155<sup>th</sup> on the west side. Stay tuned...

***Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better—Pat Riley***

## ***Statistics: July 1st—September 30th***

### Transportation

- 585 potholes repaired
- 21.08 tons of asphalt used for potholes
- 560.11 tons of asphalt used for patches
- 60 signs repaired & replaced
- 50 storm drains & culvert pipes cleaned

### Water Services

#### Maintenance Operations

- 300 million gallons water pumped
- 37 water breaks repaired
- 9 water tap (new service)
- 44,327 feet of pipe cleaned in the preventative maintenance program
- 14 responses to sewer backup calls
- 966 Missouri On Call locates

#### Treatment Plant Operations

- 68,339,000 gallons of wastewater treated by Belton's Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 103,720,000 gallons of wastewater treated by the Little Blue Valley Sewer District
- 24 dry tons of sludge produced by Belton's Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 10.1 inches of rainfall recorded at Belton's Wastewater Treatment Plant

### Vehicle Maintenance

- 84 vehicle/equipment repairs completed

## ***Efficiency and Productivity***



The Engineering Division embraces and is committed to providing the highest level of service to the citizens in the most efficient manner possible. Processes are being aligned with practices recommended by nationwide public works professionals. Engineering staff attends professional

development training to develop new or improve on existing skills. Two employees are working towards Master's degrees and all staff members have or are working towards professional certifications. A Project Management Manual has been developed to aid in delivering the best possible projects. Results include delivery of capital projects on scope and under budget, reduced consultant expenses, and improved public confidence through more transparency via social media tools.

## ***Leading the Charge!!!***

Over the past year, staff has been looking at ways to create efficiencies and develop leaders from within the Water Services and Transportation divisions. Team Leader positions were created to assist foreman with everyday field duties. The Public Works Department would like to congratulate Gale Lawson and Gary Dupus who were selected for the Transportation Division Team Leaders and Joe Don Harrell and Tommy Dempsey for the Water Services Team Leaders. Mike Willson was also selected as a Team Leader in training. The members selected are respected members of the team with valuable knowledge in their respected divisions.

## ***Leaves, Leaves Everywhere!!!***

Fall is upon us. The thousands of beautiful trees throughout the City will be preparing themselves for winter by changing colors and slowly dropping their leaves. Many of us would say this is one of our favorite times of the year.



However, as beautiful as fall is, leaves create backaches for homeowners and businesses alike. We have to rake 'em, bag 'em and haul 'em; a never ending cycle. As this is a problem for homeowners, it is also a concern for the Public Works Department.

The Public Works Department maintains nearly 48 miles of storm sewer pipe and 1,800 structures. If not properly disposed, leaves and yard debris can plug this infrastructure causing streets and homes to flood and potentially harm our creeks.

Article 1, Section 19-2 of the City of Belton Code of ordinances prohibits disposal of yard waste on City streets or in any drainage facility.

What can you do?

- Keep all fallen leaves and grass clippings on your property; off of the sidewalks and out of the streets
- Set your lawn mower to mulch and mow high. Taller grass retains moisture and catches grass clippings. Mow often enough that grass clippings are shorter than the remaining lawn and can be trapped on your lawn. If you choose to collect grass clippings, follow any of the options below.
- Bag leaves and grass and take them to the nearest recycling center. Visit [recyclespot.org](http://recyclespot.org) for more information.
- Compost leaves on site away from storm drains, wetlands and streams. Contain your compost to keep nutrient-rich water from leaching into the storm system.
- If you see a storm drain that is clogged and can clear it without placing yourself in danger, please remove the leaves.

## ***Sewage In Your Home***

First, take action to protect people and valuable property:

- Keeping in mind that ceramic plumbing fixtures such as toilets are fragile, quickly close all drain openings with stoppers or plugs. Tub, sink, and floor drains may need additional weight to keep them sealed. A string mop can be used to help plug toilet openings.
- Don't run any water down your drains until the blockage has been cleared.
- A quick check with nearby neighbors will help determine if the backup appears to be in your neighbor's wastewater line, and/or widespread in your neighborhood. In this case, call the Department of Public Works immediately.
- Call a plumber if the problem is in your lateral service line.