



What's In The Works

City of Belton Public Works Department

April-June 2013

Volume 3, Issue 1

Public Works Contact Information:

- Admin & Engineering: 331-4331
- Transportation: 331-9455
- Water Services: 322-1885
- Vehicle Maintenance: 331-7516
- Website: www.belton.org
- Follow us on Facebook  & Twitter 

Dangerous Waters



You might remember that the morning of May 31 was treacherous and frustrating to many as the rains were intense. The City received 3-4 inches in about 2 hours, that was preceded by two heavy rain events earlier that week. There were several streets closed, including Cambridge where one of our citizens had the misfortune of driving into the flood covered, low water crossing before the sun was up to provide better

visibility. Fortunately, a member of our Public Works team recognized her troubles and encouraged her to climb out of the vehicle onto his back so he could get her out of harm's way. Tim Kuykendall acted with disregard for himself to help someone else, displaying the kind of devotion this department holds valuable. Tim is the kind of person folks can rely on when it counts!



Hard to Replace



The team is taking a big hit with the retirement of Karen Bienfang,

Assistant to the Director. Karen has been a key member of the team for several years. She has a stellar work ethic and a great attitude! We will miss her very much but very excited for her as well as she is happy to spend more time with her family. Staff was very careful to select someone to fill her shoes, and

although she is impossible to replace, we feel we have hired the right person to serve the public and this team. His name is Brandon Embry. Brandon is from Belton and served in the US Army where he represented our country very well in Iraq and other areas. Brandon is currently attending college to obtain his bachelor's degree in 2015.



Water...Clearly Essential



The City has been successful in securing support from the State for its application for low interest loans to fund the drinking water project. This

was only possible due to the prudent approach that the City Council approved that included working on design ahead of the States program schedule. City staff was tentatively planning a July closing, but the State has recently notified us we will close in October 2013. This does mean that the new water tower will not be functional until the Fall of 2015, which obviously includes one more summer than planned.

The wastewater treatment plant improvements are on track but on a different schedule as planned. The City will award a design contract in July or August this year. Although very uncertain at this time, staff is working with the State on this project too with the same objective; low interest loans. The improvements are projected to be complete in early 2015. Staff is also working on alternative solutions to plant improvements to be more effective with the dollars.

APWA Accreditation

Late 2010, staff began the process of becoming an accredited agency through APWA (American Public Works Association). We are 95% complete. A peer review was held on June 27th with representatives from Overland Park, Lenexa, & Olathe. The review went great!!! The Public Works Department will be evaluated and reviewed officially for the APWA Accreditation in August of 2013. This is the last hurdle and we will let you know how we do.

2013 Citizen Appreciation Fair



The Third Annual Citizen Appreciation Fair was held at the new beautiful Memorial Park Station on May 16th with about 1,000 residents in attendance enjoying a beautiful day. Public Works in conjunction with all the other city departments provided our citizens with a fun-filled family evening. Mayor Davis greeted our citizens & conducted the raffle of items. As a result of the raffle, we were able to give our local food banks two large barrels of food & about \$240. He also presented the second grade winners of the Public Works coloring contest with awards for their artistic efforts. We want to thank all the second graders who participated & supplied us with their beautiful pictures. Everyone received a free hotdog, chips, cookie, & water along with entertainment provided by the Yeokum Middle School & Belton High School Jazz Bands, face painters, Angry Bird Game, & lots of education information. The Fire Department provided a close-up look at the Life Flight Helicopter when it landed by Memorial Station. They also had a fire truck, ambulance, & Emergency Management Vehicle on hand. McGruff was there to talk to the children, & they could also look over the DARE car, motorcycle, and police car. Public Works Transportation Division had their aerial truck & paver on hand & also gave the children the opportunity to write and put their hand prints in concrete. Water Services brought their jetter & microscope, and backhoe for everyone to see. Chris Burns with Delich Roth & Goodwillie was on hand with information about upcoming Public Works projects. We want to thank the Belton Lions Club for the use of their grill along with their time & wonderful energy. The Fair gave the city the opportunity to remind its residents that, All Day, Every Day, Local Government Works for You.



Storm Water Runoff; Working Together for a Cleaner Environment



Did you know every time it rains there are massive amounts of

chemicals, oils and heavy metals running off our roofs, through our grass and flower beds, down our driveways and into our storm drains which lead to natural waterways and streams which lead to lakes and rivers.

If our ground cannot absorb the water efficiently and effectively and perk back down into the underground water supply, it ends up in the storm drain. Chemicals and oils break down the beneficial bacteria and micro-organisms that keep our lakes and streams healthy. What we end up with is an over abundance of algae, which believe it or not is harmful to our eco-system. It cuts down on the oxygen levels in the water and the beneficial bacteria cannot do its job to keep the water clean and healthy for fish and fowl.

This is not something the average citizen sees every day. We do not think about where the water goes when it is rushing down the street and into the storm drains. For us... it stops there. But it is actually just beginning.

We can make a difference one yard at a time. If every homeowner made simple changes, we could save our lakes, streams and rivers. Our eco-system depends on it. Not only does storm water runoff affect fish, it affects water fowl, birds and all animals that eat the fish and drink from the lakes streams and



rivers.

There are many ways to reduce the amount of runoff and pollution that runs from your property into the storm drain.

Install Rain Barrels – Thousands of gallons of water can be captured off the average roof each year. Clean rain water is better for plants, shrubs and lawns, washing the car, the dog etc.

Go organic – The use of traditional chemicals to feed your lawn and garden leach into the water every time it rains. Chemical fertilizers and controls do the most damage; however, organic fertilizers and control products do not leave residual effects in the soil.

Use Native Plants – Native plants are plants that are naturally indigenous to your specific area.

Litter control – Do your part to remove trash and debris before it enters the storm sewer system, this includes trash thrown out by others.



Everyone needs grass...right? Here are a few tips to help your grass absorb more water.

Aerate your lawn regularly. This breaks the tight root barrier and allows for better oxygen and water absorption. This will make your grass healthier naturally. Aerating shoes work well, use them every time you mow. You will also get a good workout.

A machine aerator used yearly also does a great job.

Top dress your lawn with compost. Compost absorbs and eliminates harmful chemicals and pollution from the soil and air. Compost is also high

in natural nutrients. This will reduce/eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers.

When you fertilize or put down weed or insect control...**GO ORGANIC!** Organic fertilizers and control products are more widely available today than ever. They work well, are competitively priced with chemical fertilizers and don't have huge warning labels. Organic Fertilizers are safe for pets, children, you and our environment. Not using them just seems silly, doesn't it?

When you have to water - water deeply, less frequently. Watering for 20 minutes every day, for example, will keep the roots of the grass up near the surface. They will dry out very fast. If you water for 1 hour twice a week, for example, this will encourage the roots of the grass to grow deep in to the soil. This keeps the roots cooler and moist longer. The grass will require less water, even in a drought situation.



Next time it rains...watch where the water goes. Think about it. Nature is just that, natural. I think we have forgotten what natural is. Nature worked perfectly for thousands of years, until humans started trying to perfect it. The opposite happened. Modern technology we need, however we need to use it responsibly. All of us... and small changes in our lives can mean big changes (improvements) in our community.

It's our world, our lakes, our streams and rivers, our yard... let's take care of it.

Source: articlesbase.com, June 2008

Keep Our Roads and Streams Clean

The Public Works team is developing Adopt-a-Road and Adopt-a-Stream programs to help keep our streets and waterways free of pollution. Signs recognizing those individuals, groups or organizations that have adopted sections of streets or streams will be erected as part of the programs. If you're interested in participating in these upcoming programs, please contact the department at (816) 331-4331.



Statistics: April 1st—June 30th

Transportation

- 1,268 potholes repaired
- 37.44 tons of asphalt used for potholes
- 432.71 tons of asphalt used for patches
- 34 signs repaired & replaced
- 246 storm drains & culvert pipes cleaned
- 280 feet of sidewalk replaced
- 180 feet of curb replaced
- 33 cubic yards of debris removed while sweeping

Water Services

Maintenance Operations

- 136,500,000 million gallons water pumped
- 4 water breaks repaired
- 2 water taps (new service)
- 12,446 feet of pipe cleaned in the preventative maintenance program
- 32 responses to sewer backup calls
- 1,019 Missouri On Call locates

Treatment Plant Operations

- 211,822,000 gallons of wastewater treated by Belton's Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 215,880,000 gallons of wastewater treated by the Little Blue Valley Sewer District
- 38.8 dry tons of sludge produced by Belton's Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 21.4 inches of rainfall recorded at Belton's Wastewater Treatment Plant

Vehicle Maintenance

- 92 vehicle/equipment repairs completed

Promoting From Within



Zach Matteo, P.E. was promoted to City Engineer in May after serving since July 2011 as the Assistant City Engineer. Zach is a graduate of Michigan State and served for several years in the private sector before coming on board with us. Zach has been working on his Master's degree from UMKC. The former CE, Ben McCabe decided to

become the CE in Blue Springs where he will be closer to his home and family. The Engineering Division is actively searching to fill the vacant Assistant CE position, and expects to have the position filled in July.

Markey Parkway

The final phase of Markey Parkway, connecting Mullen Road to 163rd Street, is under design. The design phase is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2013. Construction will begin in early 2014 with an expected completion date of June 2014. In addition to the roadway design, the City's consultant is developing design alternatives for regional stormwater detention.

Desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal — a commitment to excellence — that will enable you to attain the success you seek.—Mario Andretti

Cleveland Lake



Construction of Cleveland Lake is nearing completion! Remaining items to be constructed include a parking lot, boardwalk, boat launch and an asphalt trail surrounding the lake. The project is expected to be complete in September. The

dam has been complete for several months, and effectively plays a major role in protecting houses on Park Avenue from flooding during heavy rains.

School Outreach

On May 10th, Josh Loehr and David Frazier teamed with volunteers from the City of Lee's Summit to administer a K-12 outreach program sponsored by the KC metro chapter of APWA (American Public Works Association).



Meadow Lane Elementary hosted their annual Student Learning Conference which allows 5th and 6th graders to explore many career pathways they could take. The group showed the students the video "I Am Public Works" and presented on the many opportunities public works provides and the associated career paths. Following the presentation, students were allowed to explore heavy equipment provided by the Cities of Lee's Summit and Belton, including an aerial truck, a backhoe and a snow plow. Additionally, the group presented to all of the first and second grade classes of Meadow Lane about what public works is and how it affects their everyday lives. The children watched the video "Everyday Heroes", learned about how public works is important in their lives, and were also able to explore the heavy equipment brought to the school.

The goal for our department was to learn about the program, spread the news about public works and be able to present to our own children within the school district next year. It was a great success!!!

Kingsland Stormwater Project

Construction of the first phase of the Kingsland to 155th Street Stormwater Project has begun! This phase addresses street flooding at the 1400 block of North Scott Avenue. Construction will last up to 45 days, and will include lane closures of North Scott. Please be safe while driving through the construction zone during these lane closures. The second phase of the Kingsland project is in design, and construction is expected to begin this fall.

Welcome Addition

The Water Services Division is happy to welcome Casey Thornton as our newest employee. Casey started in early May. He tells us he's excited to be here and wants to learn as much as he can.

