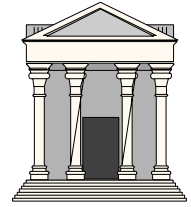


# CITY SCOOPS

“WE CARE”



## YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK: PROJECTS COMPLETED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department has had one of the most productive and exciting years in recent history. City crews in the water, sewer, streets and fleet maintenance departments were challenged to find opportunities to reduce costs for the city. Each department responded with some interesting and aggressive measures to cut costs, which included an efficiency review of operations, internal audit of outsourcing repairs, and increasing in-house projects, to name a few.

### SEWER DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Sewer Department was handed the keys to the newly expanded treatment plant that almost doubled the city's wastewater treating capabilities. Several improvements still had to be made to the existing infrastructure as the equipment was showing its age. The city crews worked together to repair or replace this equipment themselves saving the city thousands of dollars.

Earlier this year Director of City Services Mike Greenan retired. Mike was asked to continue to work part-time as a sewer plant operator. The city continues to operate the Bonnie Brae and Lockport treatment plants. Joe Findlay has stepped into the role of supervisor at the treatment plants and has implemented many of the cost-saving measures without any increase in staff. The city staff at the treatment plants have really stepped up and tackled the new workload and all the maintenance issues that have surfaced over the year. Good job guys!

### WATER DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Water Department has continued to address the issues concerning the well sites and water system in the city to continue to provide safe water to all of the 28,000 customers we serve. The Water Department has five full-time and two part-time crewmembers that maintain and service nine well sites, seven pressure reducing valves, and approximately 75 miles of water main. The Water Department has taken an aggressive approach in repairing leaking water mains, fire hydrants, valves and water services. As with the Sewer Department, the Water Department has completed the majority of these repairs in-house and in addition to the normal duties that are required to be completed on a daily basis.

For the first known time in the city, water and street department members completed the full construction of almost 1800 feet of water main, in conjunction with the total reconstruction of Valley Lane. Crews installed the main, fire hydrants, manholes, and connected all of the existing water services to the new water main. The initiative of our guys helped bring this project in over \$200,000.00 under budget! Way to go!

### STREET DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Street Department has been extremely busy this year. Early in the year, city crews began a small sidewalk replacement project. They removed and replaced a portion of sidewalk that had been identified as dangerous in areas all over the city. Culminating the sidewalk program was the installation of over 500 feet of new sidewalk in Broken Arrow subdivision. Shortly after the sidewalk installations, a crew worked with the water department to assist in the installation of the new water main on Valley Lane. The branch collection continued, and a crew also cleared Milne Creek from Division Street to Jefferson Street. Mayor Trivedi promised working on the streets in the old section of our City and the staff delivered.

The largest Public Works project of the year is the milling and resurfacing of various city streets. Across the city anyone could see the toll that harsh winters had taken on the streets of Lockport over the past two years. The suggestion of having the Public Works Department resurface selected streets seemed to be the probable solution to this issue. Having the city crews make the necessary repairs would be far less costly to the city than paying a contractor. The only draw back was the lack of experience in operating milling and paving machines. We sought help in the operation of these machines from the companies we rented from. The milling portion went rather good. It was evident that the more our crews operated the machine, the better they got. The asphalt-paving machine was a different story. We were hoping that, as with the milling machine, the more experience we got the better the asphalt would turn out. The first phase of the paving went well, but we couldn't quite get it as smooth as we wanted. Our goal was to have a finish as good as any contractor. Our priority was to formally train our personnel and do it as quickly as possible. The solution was a training agreement with the IUOE Local 150 training site in Elwood. The entire asphalt crew trained for four days at the site before returning to conduct phase 2 of the resurfacing project. The training has definitely paid off. The issues that we had during phase 1 were worked out and it is obvious that phase 2 went a lot *smoother*. (Pun intended) There might be some fine tuning that still needs to be done, however, the Public Works Department is proud of these accomplishments in such a short period of time, and we will continue to strive for the best resurfacing project we can accomplish. This

summer, public works applied more than 3200 tons of asphalt to the streets.

We are very thankful for the residents being patient while we attempted this inaugural asphalt project.

Phase 1 areas include Gougar Road, 7<sup>th</sup> Street at Hamilton, Read Street, East Street, MacGregor, Valley Lane from Adams to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Street from Valley to 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Summit from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Hamilton Street from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Street from State to Washington Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Street from Hamilton to Jefferson Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Street from Jefferson to Washington Street, Washington Street north of Franklin and 4<sup>th</sup> Street from State to Hamilton Street.

Phase 2 areas include 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from Washington to Hamilton Street, Hamilton Street from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Hamilton Street from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Canal to Clinton Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Davies to Ames Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Street from Davies to Ames Street, Ames Street from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames Street from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10 Street, Hamilton Street between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Washington Street from 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Street and the edges of Milne from Read to Valley Lane.

On behalf of the Public Works Department, I want to thank the citizens of Lockport for their patience with us as we conducted some rather large projects. We estimated a savings of \$142,851 by having our crews do this work.

In addition to all the projects mentioned above, we tried to keep up with the everyday workload requests and services, over 1200 requests for service outside of our normal duties. Needless to say, we were very busy this past year.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Wayne Jurgel for 25 years of service and Al Simo for 20 years of service to the City of Lockport.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Tom Ellis*

**Director of Public Works**



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