

final thoughts...

"Staff will be VERY busy over the next few weeks as we evaluate the meter change out proposals. This is one of the most important projects we have ever attempted and we want to be sure we get it right."

-Mark Brown



in this issue >>>

Mel Niswonger
New Employee (Again!)
Snow Warriors
Sewer Lining
Community Forum



Vol. 3
Issue 5

Office Report

The next Front Line Safety Committee meeting will be March 23rd at 3:15.

The next Front Line Safety video will be March 9th at 3:15 p.m. at the PPC.

Visitors in the last two weeks included Brittany Braun with Univar, Mike DeRosset with DeRossett Company, Mark Siever and Gordon Hartwig with JCB, Bill Yax with Barco, Allen Firebaugh with Quality Chemical Company and many others.

Happy Birthdays:

In March:

Brenda Ochs 4th
Dave Meyr 9th

Happy Anniversaries:

Mark Weibrecht 28 years
Anthony Marler 7 years
Kim Messmer 6 years
Dustin Donze 3 years

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

Projects everywhere
Sewer Update
End of the Snow
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Building department changes
And even some surprises!

A Twice Monthly Update from Perryville Public Works

February 27, 2015

What's In The Works And More!

Melvin "Mel" Niswonger: One of the Greats

Melvin Niswonger worked for the City of Perryville for 39 years and 2 months when he retired on June 1, 1994. He started in 1955 and in 1960 became the Water Plant Manager and Operator. In 1984 Mel became the Public Works Director, he was responsible for all water, sewer, trash pickup, gas lines, street maintenance, sink holes, and weed complaints. Niswonger oversaw the City's big annexation of property along Missouri Highway 51 North and South in the late 1970's, where the City had to extend the water and sewer lines. Over the years Mel obtained Licenses for sewer and water operations and attended classes for gas, water and solid waste operations.

Niswonger's commitment to the city along with uncountable overtime hours didn't go unnoticed, the late City Administrator Craig Lindsley had stated that Melvin Niswonger was one of the finest gentlemen he had ever met. The former and late Mayor Robert Miget had also stated that you will not find a more dedicated person, that he came out any hour, day or night to take care of the problem the city had. Mr. Miget had also said that his crew of men had the upmost respect for Mel. Melvin Niswonger was born and raised in Cape Girardeau he married a Perry County girl, Elta Blandford. They had three children; Darrell Niswonger of Perryville, Elizabeth "Betty" Grindstaff of Perryville, and Russell Schindler of Arnold. When the family talks about Melvin and his job, we tend to remember all of the nights, weekends and holidays that he would get called out. It always seemed that just as we would get ready to sit down for dinner, or open gifts on Christmas Eve, he would get a call. One thing that has always stuck out in our minds is how much Melvin would comment about over and over was how good his men were and how helpful the women at City Hall were to him.

Upon his retirement when we asked him what he would remember the most, Mel had said the cold winter nights below zero where there would be a broken water mains. He and his crew would be out all night fixing the broken water mains. One time that had stuck out in his mind was one New Years Eve night that there was a water main break in front of the Old Cheese Plant and the City didn't have a backhoe and they had to rent one from Lynn Hanquist that was quite an ordeal he had said. Melvin was a dedicated worker for the City and he loved his job and all those he had a privilege to work with. Melvin passed away on May 21, 1996.



From the Director: Heroes

I never got to meet Mel Niswonger but I feel like I know him or at least the type of man he was. As his son Darrell told me stories, they all involved Mel taking a phone call and immediately leaving his family to serve the citizens of Perryville. For almost 40 years, he dedicated his life to serving Perryville. And I am betting that most of this was unpaid.

I worked with Mel's brother when I was in Jackson. Gary was the fire chief and was one of the folks who truly welcomed me. He always had a smile and was so easy to get along with, he was also one of the most dedicated men who worked for the City of Jackson.

I know that times are different but the men and women who serve the City are very much the same. They constantly sacrifice, not for money, but because it is part of their DNA to serve.

Over the last few weeks, we have seen commitment over and above during the cold weather and snow and ice. One night saw our cold weather warriors salt and plow for 16 hours. Our water crew has had water breaks in single digit weather. Every sanitation pickup has been made. The streets have been cleared and maintained, and as I have been in other towns in our area, it is my assessment that ours are amongst the best and clearly better than most.

Dedication and commitment are values that cannot be defined. Men like Mel Niswonger are shining examples of who we are and role models for many who are serving now. Thanks!

A couple notes....

We are proud to announce the hiring of a new employee into the refuse department. Kyle Welker officially started this week. And thanks to Gina Buerck for sharing this with us and for keeping us looking good on Facebook!

A message from the Perryville Public Works Dept:

Crews salted Sunday nite and plowed snow Sunday nite and during the day on Monday. We are continuing to plow today as long as there is snow in the streets. Today's sunshine has combined with our salt preparation to melt large areas on many of our streets. There continues to be a snow cover on secondary streets but, with care, they are passable. We expect more snow this week and possibly this weekend. We have re-supplied our salt and are prepared. If you have to get out and about today - please be careful!

- Gerry McCloud Great job folks!!!
Like · Reply · 2 hrs
- Ann Wengert Great job!!
Like · Reply · 1 · 18 hrs
- Taylor Wynn Stevens You all rock. Thanks for all the hard work 😊
Like · Reply · 1 · 14 hrs
- Linda Kay Adams-Thieret Thank you so much, you all did a great job with the streets!! You are appreciated.
Like · Reply · 10 hrs
- Candy Duvall Perkins Awesome Job 😊
Like · Reply · 10 hrs
- Heather Duvall Keep up the great work.
Like · Reply · 9 hrs
- Vicki Lundy Thanks for all your work.....
Like · Reply · 13 hrs
- Teresa Whaley-Blessing Thank you!! Your hard work is appreciated!
Like · Reply · 14 hrs
- Tina Cairns Mueller Thanks !!



Despite the incimate weather the gas crew has been helping with the removal of the snow and ice. They have also changed out 4 dead meters. We have been painting the break and bathrooms at Public Works. JCB of St. Louis delivered the gas department's new backhoe and attachments on Friday February 20, 2015. The Branch Manager: Mark Sievers and Salesman Gordon Hartwig of JCB provided training on the new machine and all the attachments. The new backhoe with the snow plow was used around the school to widen parking along the street. The backhoe and plow worked great. It will be a big asset to the city when doing parking lots and intersections. The gas staff worked at Baileys Stave Mill setting gas pressure to their new toasting room. Staff has been working with new employee Josh Welker on his Operator Qualifications.



Water and Sewer Update

Daily lift station checks were completed, and water samples taken to Jackson for routine state sample reporting. Kevin Buchheit painted the bathrooms and break room in the Public Works office building.

Visu-Sewer started prepping sewer mains for lining on the 10th, once completed they will send the videos to their office and order material. We are looking at several other sites to line while the crews are in town working. Billy Evert, MRWA arrived late Thursday morning January 12th to assist city crews trying to locate leaks on Kingshighway between Ochs and Highway 51, between R&P and Maple Grove Mobile Home Park, and another at Big Springs and Alma. We identified a leak in the main at the service connection to R&B, but were unable to isolate the other two leaks. We did eliminate the majority of the possible leak sites and will continue to search for the location of the leaks. Staff rodded sewers off St. Joseph and Bruce Streets. At St. Joseph there was a blockage in the city main and at Bruce Street it was in the service lateral. Staff videoed the main down Shelby Street. The staff also helped with snow removal after the storm on February 16th. Crews helped at the FOB building after a water line broke flooding the office area, and rodded the sewer main at Sabreliner.

COMMUNITY MEETING MARCH 12 6:00 PM

On March 12, the leaders of Perryville Public Works and Perryville Natural Gas Company will be present for an open question, answer and brainstorming session. This will be a time for community involvement for suggestions, ideas, problem solving, service updates and other things to help increase the value of our services to the community:

- Street Department
- Sanitation Department
- Building Department
- Water and Sewer Department
- Natural Gas Department

You are invited to this forum for betterment. Please make plans and help us to continue to serve.

The forum will be located in the Council Chambers inside Perryville City Hall. It will start promptly at 6:00 pm and continue until approximately 8:00 pm.

Water Plant >>>

We have done some maintenance on our automated valves, rebuilt head on the raw water sampler pump, tried to stay warm and keep things from freezing! On Tuesday the 24th we began draining tank 1 for repairs beginning on Thursday the 26th. The time it will take to get the tank back into service depends entirely upon the weather. The warmer it is the faster the cure time. Wish us warm weather!

KNOW YOUR
H₂O

Project Directories

Street Dept.

Sinkhole projects – Going slow in winter
Conc & Curb Repairs – All over town

Gas Dept.

Rambling Hills extension – Design – project due to complete before Sept.

WWTP

Sand Filter Repairs – On hold
Engineering study – awarded and started

Water Plant

New UV – in final design

Water/ Wastewater Dept.

Elevated tank painting – Started

Water System Renovation – Tasks

1-3 awarded to Hurst-Rosche engineers

Sewer Lining: Started



Refuse, Street, Airport & Maintenance

Maintenance Department: We have been trying to keep up with all the break down on the salt spreaders and replacing cutting edge on the plows from last week snow. We received the gas department's backhoe on February 20th. Then on Feb. 23rd it lost power and the engine light came on. We called JCB and they came and fixed the problem. We are working on truck #600, due to the heater not working. We serviced several vehicles. We would like to thank Gary Schneier for all his help last week in the shop.

The Refuse Department picked up the toter carts for the final 6 week trial run and again most were in favor of the new carts and some did not want to give them back again, so we will wait and see if how the survey stands, but I think that overall the majority of the folks that used the new toter carts were in favor of them.

The Street Department is busy plowing the city streets from the snow storm. I am sure most citizens don't think about the city personnel plowing streets because they are passable for the most part the next day. To put snow plowing into perspective: any one can snow plow a street but what do you do with the snow when you get to the end of the street? That is what makes all of the difference; you cannot pile it up in front of someone's driveway or mailbox or fireplug; you can put it next to the stop sign here but again you can't get too aggressive with it or we will have to replace the stop sign! And did I not mention the intersection that is at the end of the street has to be cleaned so cars and trucks do not hit the big piles of snow? If not, they will probably freeze and you can damage the front of your car or pickup. There are approximately 375 of the intersections in the city limits of Perryville so if it takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes to clean each intersection. You can see it takes quite a while to plow the entire city. There are also all of the emergency places to plow first like the hospital, ambulance shed, fire dept and also the police dept. So when you see the flashing light going past your residence, think of the guys that are trying to make the emergency places and the streets and alleys safe for you and your family. The last thing that any one of us would want is for someone to have a problem because we did not do the job the best that we can. Some time the hours are very long but we still keep going for you.

Airport: We cleaned FBO office and shampooed the carpets from the recent water break in the FBO office and cleaned everything back up and it is looking great again.



Waste Water Plant

Hello from the WWTP. We have been very busy dealing with the upset that occurred at the plant a week and a half ago. The plant is recovering but has slowed down some since the weather has gotten cold. We are doing everything we can to promote new growth and maintain it. We have pulled a pump to get repaired and have been doing a lot of other maintenance as well.

Update From the Building Department

By Angie Fields, CBO

Can you believe that on March 8th Daylight Savings Time begins! It has been a long, dark winter season and I am excited about an extra hour of sunlight at the end of the day. Longer days means the citizens of Perryville will be able to enjoy more of the sunshine on a beautiful spring day. My kids have encouraged me to buy myself a brand new bicycle so that I may join them on our evening rides. So after about a 30 year absence, I will in fact, be learning how to ride a bicycle once again. I am teaching my kids the importance of being outside getting fresh air, talking with the neighbors and getting a little exercise in the process. One thing that goes along with being outside, especially riding a bike around town, is safety. We all know the importance of helmets, albeit, I am not a stickler on that, but another important factor is being aware of your surroundings and paying close attention to other bicyclist and motorists. We try to utilize the many existing sidewalks around town, however, there are a lot of areas that are without sidewalks or contain partial or missing sections. I am currently working on the sidewalk policy for the city and hope that we will be able to continue to make our streets safer and our children safer by installing sidewalks that are missing and in high traffic areas. During my research, it seems that the current trend, which started many years ago, is to require the installation of sidewalks in new developments. This promotes not only the health aspect of being able to get out and be active, but to promote neighborhoods and allow newly developed properties lead into newly developed friendships with new neighbors. Not only do sidewalks create a safe zone for citizens to get from one place to another, it also creates the opportunity for us to get to know each other. This, in turn, creates an atmosphere that allows the city to continue grow in size but also grow as a community.

