

final thoughts

Enjoy the holiday!



"I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Preparing for snow and ice in the maintenance shop!

in this issue >>>

- Snow Prep
- MLK Holiday
- Eclipse!
- Building Dept Plans
- And much more!




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Issue 2

Office Report

The Front Line Safety Committee meeting will be January 25th at 3:15. The Front Line Safety video will be February 8th at 3:15 p.m. at the PPC.

Visitors at Public Works!!

Visitors in the last two weeks includes Joe Thomas with Aramark, Tom Gobin with Gas Products Sales, Inc., Brandon Shelton with Coe Equipment, Joe Rice with L&J Municipal Supply, Joe Scaturro and Tim Noltkamper with Vermeer.

Happy Anniversaries In January:

Jesse Whistler 9 years

Lyle Mudge 7 years

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

- PW Heroes
- The Annual Plan
- Gas to Moore Drive
- And even some surprises!

A Twice Monthly Update from Perryville Public Works

January 15, 2016

What's In The Works And More!

Public Works Goes High Tech

On Monday morning, I got into the service truck with Tim Paulus as he was preparing to do a test route using the new meter reading system. Now, we have spent much money and time getting this installed and there have been a few aspirin consumed during this process. But as he turned on the ITRON reader, all the frustrations vanished. This machine started clicking at a fantastic rate as it read meters. Before we left our parking stall at PW, it was over 500 of our 6100 total meters. By the time we got to the intersection of French Lane and St. Joseph, it had read a full third of the city!

Tim, who is our new customer service specialist, knew what to expect but I think even he was impressed just a bit. There are still a few hurdles to leap but it appears that we are on the homestretch here!

Last week, the water and gas departments started using tablets in the field to use as maps, instead of tearing thru stacks of plans on the hood of a truck, we now just sit in the cab and zoom in on the specific location. How sweet! We have worked with Regional Planning (thanks Stan!) and come up with an easy system to use and one that has all the layers or just the layer you might need. All of this on a tablet that allows you to be protected from the elements while you use the latest updated map for utility locations. This will make us safer, surer and able to respond to emergencies more quickly.

Often times, change is a good thing!

From the Director

The weather is an unknown thing. Weather patterns change constantly. Predictions fly around the room incessantly. In 1962, Newsweek ran a cover story discussing the "upcoming Ice Age" and now 50 years later, we read stories about the "upcoming Global Warming". The truth is, factors change, conditions change and so does the weather. What doesn't change is that no one really knows.

Except me.

I am the one who predicted that we would have no major snow this year. I am the one who has the crystal ball about weather. If you really want to know, just ask me. There will be NO major snow fall this year in Perryville. How am I such a great prognosticator? I am not even sure but maybe it is just a gift. Here it is the middle of January and yep, no snow. All of our local experts are perplexed. Dave Clements is in disbelief. Tim Britt is speechless. Floyd Cox is saying something but no one is listening. Brenda is out driving my car so we don't currently know her opinion.

But thank me once again and don't forget to ask me next year for my expert prediction. But for now, I have to go. We are busy preparing snow plows and ice spreaders for next weeks planned non snow event. As for me, I have to run and get some salt for our front porch....just in case.

Darkness Descends on Perryville!

So, in August of 2017, the Great American Eclipse will center on us! Yep, we are the center, which means that it will be total darkness here for longer than any other place on Earth. There will be many celebrities, astronomers and other assorted curious tourists in our town that day. There will be quite a gathering. On March 7, 1970, throngs of famous people flew to Nova Scotia to see a similar eclipse. Later, Carly Simon wrote a song about it (You're So Vain). We are already planning for traffic and sanitation challenges. Maybe the Kardashians will be here?



The gas division is working on running new services and lowering services for the new side walk project. We are also working on cleaning up some more of the radio read meter problems. These problems consist of meters not communicating when Tim is doing his drive by meter read. What we are finding is new meters that were installed but not programmed since the last read cycle, so when this happens the meters have to be read with eye contact, so we are programming all of these meters that were found in the last read cycle. The computer brain box in the RT45 trencher crashed, so we took it to Ditch Witch. They replaced and programmed the computer. The trencher is repaired and back in service at this time. We are working on inspection reports for our annual audit for the Public Service Commission.

The gas division worked very well with City Management, Emergency Management Director, Hank Voelker and several other agencies on preparing and putting a emergency plan together for the river bottoms flooding. I feel that we were prepared to handle the situation to its fullest if the levy would have failed. We were prepared to shut gas off and secure all regulator stations and meter sets. Once again I want to thank all of the on call personnel at Public Works for their support and interest in preparing and putting the city's disaster plan in action. Over all I think everyone handled the emergency in a very professional manor.

Water and Sewer Update

Daily lift station checks were completed, and water samples taken to Jackson for special and routine State sample reporting.

C.E. Contracting has been working to finish the water system improvements. Water staff assisted them in taking water samples from the new construction on Saint Joseph, French Lane and Old Saint Mary's. The samples taken came back good and preparations for the final tie in are underway. Concrete on Blake Street and Saint Joseph have been poured and reopened as of 1-11-2016. Moulton Street will be closed for concrete as soon as the weather permits. Staff was kept busy during the heavy rains pumping the School Street lift station. One pump is in need of a new impeller and the second pump needs to be replaced. Vandevanter Engineering the distributor for the Flyght pumps is getting cost estimates and availability on the parts and new pump. Staff repaired a water main break on Friday 1-8-2016 on Saint Augustine. We have replaced four 1 1/2 commercial meters and will be working on the 2 and 3 inch meters over the next few weeks.

Project Directories

Street Dept.

Sinkhole projects – In between

Gas Dept.

Finishing meter change outs

WWTP

Engineering study – Nearing end

Water Plant

New UV – work to begin late Jan

Water/ Wastewater Dept.

1” meter installs begin!

Water System Renovation –

Choosing new tank locations

Manhole Lining:

Planning stage

Work Order System:

New comp system being evaluated

Customer Care Center:

Planning stage

Maintenance Department: First of all the flood water has went down, Highway 51 is open again and the Airport is back in business. We are working on dump truck #702. We have to install all the emergency lighting and the salt spreader needs fitted to the truck. We are waiting for Cost Cuter in Pevely to get the new Boss plow in, so that they can mount it. We are working on truck #801. It needs a new water pump, hose and other things. We are still waiting for parts for School Street generator. We are also doing routine services and repairs. For now this is all from Richard and Randy.

Refuse Department: We picked up trash, brush and biodegradable bags in all three wards. We delivered more trash carts and picked up Christmas trees.

Street Department: We helped on holiday trash pickup and also helped with brush. We replaced No Parking Sign on St. Joseph at the Square. We graded Feltz Street. We did concrete work on Hilltop Lane. We worked on School Signs. We got the salt spreaders and snow plows ready for the potential storm. We cleaned corners of the Square. We worked on new street signs and installed some of them. We cleaned half of the Street Department building. We worked on getting Dave Clements a new office located in the Legand Hall of fame building. We put on snow school at the Perry Park Center.

Storm Water: We cleaned several sinkhole grates and catch boxes.

Airport: We took the equipment back to the Airport and brought the furniture back down to the FBO building.

Update From the Building Department

By Angie Fields, CBO

I have big plans for the Building Department in 2016. The department has acquired a tablet to be used on inspections to begin documenting with reports and pictures, each inspection provided on a particular job site. Continuing Education on the changes from the 2009 IBC/IRC to the 2015 IBC/IRC will be completed in February through seminars held in Cape Girardeau. I will also be attending the 2016 Emergency Management Conference in Branson, to continue my education in the field of Emergency Management. This will help in the development of the Emergency Operations Procedures for the Public Works Department. Along with furthering my education, I am expecting a busy spring/summer season with a couple of new apartment complexes being built within the city. The natural gas rebate program has been extended through the end of 2016 to give additional time to homeowners who would like to upgrade or replace aging heating systems and hot water heaters. And as always, I am hopeful that the number of single family homes and duplexes will continue to increase now that the housing study is complete and the results are in. Winter has arrived, so everyone stay safe and drive carefully.



NATURAL GAS: THE BEST CHOICE!

Natural Gas Rebate Program Extended!

The program has been a success so if you switch to natural gas for heat or hot water, you can get paid!

Also incentives for new construction! If you install natural gas, you can save even more with our rebate program. Details at City Hall!



Water Plant >>>

We have been busy setting up our lab and doing paperwork at the water plant. We have been training a new guy from the wastewater plant to learn how to operate the water plant. We have rebuilt a couple boosters and finally dealt with some freezing conditions. See you next week.



Waste Water Plant Update

We were busy with the flooding a couple weeks ago, but things are back to normal now as far as flooding goes. We got our new sand filter pump put in, hauled a lot of leachate, made biosolids and many other tasks. We are busy working with Donohue and Associates on the new WWTP plan. Currently we are looking at the Mississippi River as a possible site for effluent and also studying our daily and peak flows based on monitoring performed last year by Gonzales. The process is taking longer than expected due to our desire to leave NO stone unturned!