

From The Director's Office:

At last month's City Community Block Party the Public Works Department provided an opportunity for the public to view, explore and have photo-ops with several pieces of equipment we use to maintain City's infrastructure.

There was the very popular five yard dump truck which is used to move large quantities of materials. Children attending the event enjoyed being able to climb into this large vehicle and blow the loud horn.

The mini-excavator is like the name implies a small version of a back hoe and is used to dig holes and regrade small areas. It was fun to see both children and adults sitting in this equipment pretending to operate it.



An unusual piece of equipment at the party was the tool cat. This is a multi-use vehicle that can transport work items to hard to access locations, mow difficult terrain with the flail mower attachment and sweep sidewalks/paths with the brush attachment.

Another big hit with the attendees was the incident response truck. This vehicle has many items in the bed that can come in handy during an emergency such as a generator and compressor. Plus the truck has a large variable message board that can be used to redirect traffic.

Besides being able to interact with the equipment, event participants were able to take a photo of their face on the body of PW Paws who is the ambassador of public works. PW Paws' dog Chipper was also available for a photo-ops. For the young attendees to take home, we provided coloring books and activity books explaining what services are provided by public works along with pencil cases, stickers and tattoos.

Facilities Division

Building Automation System Controls

The Facilities Division is continuing to implement the Building Automation System (BAS) controls into each of the City's different facilities. This technology allows staff to monitor, adjust, and troubleshoot HVAC and water feature systems. Monitoring and alarms are proving to be very helpful tools for the facility worker. An example of this occurred on August 10, when Facilities Technician Ivan Crumrine logged in to our BAS to adjust the HVAC schedule for an upcoming event at the Library. While he was making this modification, an alarm happened to go off signaling an extraordinarily high level of CO₂ in the Oak Room. Upon contacting Library staff to inquire about whether a meeting was occurring at the time (large concentrations of people in meetings rooms generate high CO₂ levels) we discovered that not only was there a group of people in the room, but it was a children's event where they were learning to make volcanoes. The two primary ingredients needed to make lava are baking soda and vinegar. What is the byproduct of combining these elements? You guessed it CO₂. Luckily, programming is in place so that once the CO₂ parts per million reaches a certain low limit, the outside air dampers open to flood the space with fresh air, all while maintaining a comfortable room temperature. The graph below depicts the CO₂ parts per million over time for this particular event:



Facilities Division

BAS Part 2

Another controls project recently conducted was at the SMART/Fleet facility. Several complaints were received within the last month from transit employees about certain spaces being especially cold. The thermostats within each office space were reading temperatures around 71 to 73 degrees, but each space in question felt a little cooler than that. After comparing room temperature trend graphs with real-time thermostat readings, it was found that they were both the same, which could only mean that the temperature sensors within each remote controller thermostat needed calibration. Facilities Maintenance Technician Javid Yamin took 24 hours worth of data from each office using humidity/temperature data loggers and compared that data side by side with our controls system trend graphs and calculated an average differential between the two. At that point, we knew how far each unit was off, but we still were not sure how to adjust the controllers in the field. After some discussion with an HVAC company and the manufacturer of the controllers, we found the procedure to make the adjustments and completed them.



Spic and Span Bathrooms

Our janitorial crew is always hard at work keeping our spaces, both public and private, as clean as possible. On a Saturday in August, Janitor Vanesa Aguilar borrowed a nifty piece of equipment from the Parks Department called a "Kaivac" and used it to clean the public restrooms at the WES Station. This device is basically an indoor pressure washer/wet-vacuum that is great for aggressively cleaning tile or other hard surface materials. Below are before and after photos from one of the restrooms she cleaned. The difference is quite clear how janitorial services have improved since bringing these services in-house.



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Roads & Storm Water Division

Employee Training and Material Relocation

The Roads Division and Parks Department partnered on a project to move soil and boulders from an area near the community garden over to the current Dog Park in Memorial Park. This work is needed to enable the Parks Department to begin construction of the new Dog Park which will be located next to the community garden. The Roads Division load out roughly 2,250 cubic yards of soil and 840 cubic yards of boulders in only 6 days. This project provided Roads staff an opportunity to training on different type of equipment.



Assisting the Police

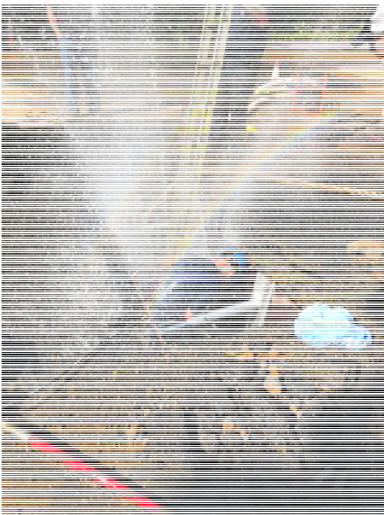
Roads staff responded to a request by the police to close Tooze Road to protect the public from downed power lines which we knocked over by a fallen tree. The Division quickly responded to the call and closed Tooze Road at the intersections of the Baker Road, Westfall Road and Malloy Way. During this road closure the crew encountered an individual with impair driving abilities who went around the barricades and drove themselves into a ditch. Despite having to call a tow truck to remove the vehicle, PGE was able to repair the line and the Roads Division was able to reopen the road 1.5 hours after being notified of the incident.



Utilities Division

Main Break at OrePac

The water crew repaired a main break on an 8 inch cast iron pipe at the OrePac facility. The job posed some major challenges. The most significant being that the break happened right in the middle of a heavily traveled driveway which had the crew working around semi-trucks coming in and out of the OrePac warehouse. This segment of water main lacks isolation valves near the location of where the break happened, so the crew had to work with a lot of water coming at them during the repair. The crew was able to overcome these obstacles and remove the asphalt, dig down to the break, and install a repair band on the pipe. The hole was then backfilled and prepped for paving.



Meter Replacements

During these dry months the water crew has been focusing their efforts on meter replacements. They are currently working towards replacing the remainder of meters in Charbonneau that do not have a touch reader. A touch reader allows the meter reader to electronically read the meter without having to open the lid of the meter box. Touch read greatly increases the speed and accuracy of meter reading. The crew recently had to replace a number of meters that are inconveniently located in the rough of the Charbonneau golf course. Fortunately no golf balls landed in the work zone.



Utilities Division

Hidden Manholes

Can you spot the two hidden manholes in the images? Paul Walker, Utility Maintenance Specialist was tasked to find manholes that seemed to have disappeared. The first is under new the pavers and the other is under a large potted plant. Utilities will be working with citizens to make sure that both sewer and storm manholes are accessible in order to maintain city assets.

