



THE WORKS



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DPW DIRECTOR UPDATE:

Welcome to the first edition of "The Works". The purpose of this newsletter is to share accomplishments, highlights, and updates from each Division within the Shrewsbury DPW.

Our goal is to bring the vast tasks that we partake in on a routine basis to light, because work behind the scenes typically goes unnoticed until there is a major issue.

We are still within the first year of combining all the functions of the Shrewsbury DPW under one umbrella and have had much success. As we continue to grow into a unified Department we strive to meet the growing demands of the public more efficiently and effectively.

DIG SAFE TRAINING:

On December 18, 2019, members of the DPW and SELCO attended a safety training session held in the Town Hall by Dig Safe.

This training was very helpful in reviewing safety protocols that must be followed whenever excavating near underground utilities.

The Dig Safe Team also provided a valuable update on new laws that utilities must follow when marking underground infrastructure.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know the Massachusetts Municipal Association, in their best practices for 2019 recommended promoting the public works profession? *"Municipal officials can work with their public works related departments to promote the public works profession, invest in the professional development of staff and attract qualified candidates to available positions."*

We hope this newsletter will be a way for the Town to highlight the Shrewsbury Department of Public Works.

PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY UPDATE

After a busy fall season cleaning up leaves and painting fields for school sports, the Parks Division has been assisting the Highway Division during the winter storms. Our two full time employees are assigned to salt and plow routes and the foreman assists with parking lot snow removal. After a few weeks of brush clearing our part time employees finished up the season for us in early December. In between storms, the parks staff marked out some new single graves in the cemetery.

Parks & Recreation Basketball is in full swing with 38 teams of 425 players and 80 volunteer coaches assisting with the program. Our Tiny Tykes basketball has approximately 100 players in the program.

*"Public Works
Makes
It Happen!"*

ENGINEERING UPDATE :

The Engineering Division, the "stagehands" of the DPW, also provide technical support to the Board of Selectmen, Town Boards, Commissions, and various Town Departments.

The Division is currently working with the Water & Sewer Division and the Highway Division to design and bid approximately \$2,500,000 of capital infrastructure improvements plan for the next fiscal year.

HIGHWAY UPDATE :

Fall town-wide sweeping, per the stormwater NPDES permit requirements, concluded successfully on November 27, 2019. All paved streets were swept and approximately 180 tons of material was collected and disposed of in accordance with EPA regulations.

The Highway Division responded to several winter storms throughout the month of December. The most significant storm took place on December 1-3, 2019. The snow from this long duration storm totaled seventeen inches. Our crews worked tirelessly plowing and treating roads for several days. Several other, smaller storms also took place that required plowing and/or salting. Each storm utilizes about 30 private contractors and 22-24 town employees.

The Division continues to monitor the road conditions and complete pothole repairs as time and resources allow.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS UPDATE :

December was a busy month in the Public Buildings Division. Heating season presents us with many challenges and our staff and contractors have been working hard to address heating and building management system issues. When schools were on winter break the custodians used this time to change filters in the school buildings, recondition the gym floors at Oak, Sherwood, and Floral Street Schools and did many other maintenance projects.

Division staff attends the weekly Beal School Construction meetings. You can see drone footage of the progress on our page of the website.

<https://www.shrewsburyma.gov/841/Beal-School-Construction-Videos>

A new Public Facilities Division was created in the DPW combining the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Department and the Public Buildings Department into one team, working together to maintain the Town's buildings, parks and public properties.

WATER & SEWER SPOTLIGHT:

Leak Detection Program - Prowler Water Conservation is continuing the leak detection program town-wide. Crews have been working throughout town using specialized equipment to identify leaks in our water distribution system. Whenever a significant leak is identified, Prowler contacts the Water and Sewer Division immediately so we can investigate the leak further. Prowler recently identified a leak in a water service on Hapgood Way that the Water and Sewer Division has already repaired. This program is very beneficial in reducing our unaccounted for water (water that is pumped into the distribution system but never makes its way through a meter).

Unidirectional Flushing Program - Hydra Tech made good progress with the unidirectional flushing program despite starting late in the fall. Before ending in December, they were able to complete a section of Boylston Street, a section of Gulf Street, and the Wachusett Circle / Browning Road area. Hydra Tech has recently continued cleaning and exercising valves to prepare for the unidirectional flushing program which will resume in the spring.

Lead and Copper Sampling Program - As part of the extensive water testing protocol required by MassDEP to ensure safe drinking water, the Town is required to monitor lead and copper in the distribution system. With the new water treatment facility being placed in service last fall, the Town is required to collect 60 samples two times per year. This program has several requirements that can pose challenges - the home must be constructed between 1983 and 1985 to qualify and the sample must be taken after the water has not been used for at least 6 hours.

The Water and Sewer Division would like to thank all of the residents who recently assisted with our successful collection of 60 samples. A report on the results will be provided in a future update.

Update on PFAS and Hexavalent Chromium - The Water and Sewer Division recently submitted water samples to independent labs for ongoing monitoring of PFAS and Hexavalent Chromium. An update will be provided on the Town's website once the results have been received and analyzed. This monitoring is scheduled to continue on a quarterly basis to ensure the levels remain low.

The Water and Sewer Division is entering into contracts with our water system consultant, Tata and Howard, to pilot treatment options for both PFAS and Hexavalent Chromium. Several different water treatment systems will be tested or "piloted" to see which is the most effective for our water.

Main Street Water Main Replacement Project - Haluch Water Contracting worked into December on the water main replacement project on Main Street between Route 140 and School Street. They were able to install the replacement main and begin connecting services to homes and some lateral water mains to adjacent streets before the winter weather arrived requiring them to end work for the season. The project is scheduled to resume in the spring.

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