

### **Administrators update January 2025**

The public works department has been working on Shadowrock Park when not performing their regular rounds. Some of the improvements that have taken place are the winterization of the restrooms and showers. They installed new heaters in the facilities that remain open year-round. We will now be locking the restrooms when the outside temperatures are in the twenties to prevent freezing due to open doors. They have started removing several dead trees and will begin the process of removing the 22 stumps that dot the park. They will also be mowing or burning the hillside along 160.



We are gathering the necessary parts to repair the aerator at the downtown plant. This unit has been down for several years. As you know, you can't just run down to the local hardware store to find parts for 40-year-old, specialized, industrial equipment. We will be replacing the bearings on two of the four aerators. This project will take several days to complete, however, performing the work in house will save the city thousands of dollars over hiring it out. As you are aware, the guys have been working hard checking off items on the repair list we made last summer. I am proud of them for their tireless effort making these improvements. This is just another example of how talented the public works crew is.



This time of year, heavy rains are compounded by the presence of leaves in the ditches. Many residents rake their leaves to the ditches with the intent of burning them. When it rains, the leaves are carried into the culverts where they become lodged and compacted. We have a

few problem areas around town where the culverts regularly overflow due to being plugged by the leaves. One of the downfalls to living in a community with steep slopes in every direction is that the moving water has the force to move gravel and rock from driveways and ditches into the city streets. Chief Bower and Chief Brasher used the fire truck to wash out the culverts by the cabinet shop up on the corner of Jefferson and School streets. Another problem area is on the loop of Santa Fe Drive. In both cases the homeowners are interested in entering a public /private partnership to find a solution. The challenge for the city is an almost nonexistent road budget. We will continue to work towards a solution.



The SCADA system will be entering the install phase soon. Weather permitting, the first 10 lift stations will start to come online over the next few weeks. Automated Control Solutions is busy constructing the control boxes.



We have been looking into the costs associated with the city hosting an annual fireworks display. This event would likely be held at Shoals Bend Park due to permitting issues with the Corp of Engineers. This event could include food truck vendors and craft vendors like the Chambers' Harvest Moon event.

In addition to the fireworks display, we will be bringing forward a decision item for new Christmas decorations. Our current 50-year-old lights are really showing their age. We will be assembling a group of citizens and form a committee to explore a drive through Christmas lights display in Shadowrock park for 2025. We

have many more parks and recreation projects in the pipeline for spring, including the filling of two positions for the mowing and maintenance crew. We had great success bringing the community together with the Christmas decorating contest last month. And with the exciting things happening at the Chamber of Commerce, we can hopefully duplicate that success with these and other community events.