



Vision Statement: *"The Good Neighbor City" where quality of Life is available to all!*

Mission Statement: *To promote the existing peaceful atmosphere while providing quality services to our community through public awareness, public safety, communication and beautification, utilizing economic development as a means to enhance a positive future.*

New Parks Board Members

The following residents have been appointed to serve on the Parks Board:

Dewayne Peters (Chairperson)	
Jerrard Davis	Jose Martinez
Carolyn Emmett	O'Neal Old
Sheri Martin	Devin Stone

In addition to working on the rebuild of Kringlen Park, they will work to monitor and improve all our parks.

Remembering Our History

January 19th – 2022 is the 40th year since the **Star Elementary School** lunchroom water-heater explosion. To ensure the tragedy is not forgotten, the *Spencer Historical Society* sets up a display every year inside Walgreens. There is also a small memorial which is too often overlooked near the 23rd Street intersection.

The Daily Oklahoman published this article on the 20th anniversary. It gives an overview of what happened and its aftermath. www.oklahoman.com/article/2779122/

February 25th – This year marks the 119th anniversary of the opening of our **Post Office** in 1903. Today the post office is on Spencer Road, but it was originally on Main Street in old downtown. Because early records can be lost or inaccurate, our city and many others use the post office opening date as the date of the city or town's founding.

Each year on February 25th from 10:00 AM to Noon, the *Spencer Historical Society* sets up historical photos and provides news articles in the post office for people to learn about our history. Beverages, cookies, and pastries are provided.



Your Public Works Department

A water main break at midnight, a clogged sewer line when temperatures are below freezing, a tree down in the middle of a busy road. Who is on call to tackle these problems and more, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Your Public Works Department.



I had the pleasure of sitting down with Mr. Bill Stith who, along with the Public Works Director – Mr. Terry Kellum, has been with the City of Spencer for over 15 years.

I also met the rest of the five-person crew:

Gary Bradford Lavontae Ealom
Crystal Roberts

Although they've been with us for less than or right at a year, their dedication to serving our City is clear.

Over the last year, Public Works' mission has become more focused. As such, in 2021, they:

- Repaired 228 water leaks. As of January 19, we have no active water leaks within the city limits.
- Responded to 40 sewer blockage calls. By proactively monitoring sewer runs along problem areas, that number is down from 108 calls in 2020.
- Installed over 300 meter-cans and 77 smart-meters.

Public Works is also responsible for maintaining our street signs. These signs include street name and number signs and signs that alert us to safety issues, such as stop signs, yield signs, and deaf child signs.

Mr. Stith mentioned that it can be difficult removing graffiti from some road safety signs. The chemicals that remove spray paint can also remove the sign background. "Tagged" signs put our families at risk while a new sign is on order. This is a concern that weighs heavily on the crew doing repairs.



(continued)

Next Big Trash Days

The next two bulky-waste pickup periods from Waste Management (WM) are:

Monday 1/31 – Friday 2/4

Monday 5/30 – Friday 6/3

Guidelines

Do not set out your big trash more than two days prior to each Monday start date.



Items must be within 4 feet of the street, at least 5 feet away from mailboxes, gas meters, cars, shrubs, or other obstacles, and at least ten feet away from utility poles. WM will pick up a maximum of 4 cubic yards of bulky waste.

Burn Ban in Effect

The *Oklahoma County Board of County Commissioners* has proclaimed that an extreme fire danger exists in Oklahoma County. It is unlawful for any person to set fire to any forest, grass, range, crop or other wildlands, or to build a campfire or bonfire, or to burn trash or other material that may cause a forest, grass, range, or other wildland fire.



Your Public Works Department (continued)

Having a certified crew is important for maintaining high service standards. That is why all Public Works staff attends offsite training to receive their Class D-Water license, with opportunities for advanced certifications given whenever possible.



In the days before COVID, Public Works could hire inmates from the Okla County Jail. Inmates would cut grass along right-of-ways, pick up trash, and also gain skills by assisting with line repairs and clearing blockages. They were glad to get some sunshine and we appreciated the help. Now, the County Jail is locked down and all such work is performed by Public Works employees.

When I asked what material resources Public Works needed to improve service beyond what they're doing now, Mr. Stith said they could use a:

- Small track hoe equipped to drive over mud and dig narrow trenches in tight spaces
- Trailer to haul the back hoe. Currently they have to drive the back hoe on city streets.
- 3/4-ton dump truck to haul dirt in and move trash away. They use the back hoe scoop now.

In the meantime, Bill asks that people be patient if they get caught driving behind the back hoe. The back hoe operator doesn't like it either.



Finally, Mr. Stith, Mr. Kellum, and the Public Works crew want people to know that they love this town and are proud to be doing their part in moving us forward.

JS

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Monday – Friday

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Visit us at
www.cityofspencerok.gov
for forms, information, events
and city news

