

Great Ideas of 2014

- Created a new employee mentoring program to help new employee's transition into our organization; creating higher job satisfaction, increasing employee retention, opening lines of communication and shortening the employee's learning curve.
- Purchased and stocked a new enclosed trailer to improve the efficiency of stormwater facility maintenance and other operations.
- Worked with GIS, IT and various DPW staff members to create and utilize a tree inventory program and field application to accurately document all City trees.
- Worked with a private contractor to rent (borrow) a ground thawing device, improving the efficiency and safety of the water main repair site.
- Utilized the fire hydrant steamer for thawing frozen mini-sewers to improve efficiency, response time and customer service.
- Created a new mailbox damage notice to help educate customers, increase response time and improve customer service.
- Purchased a set of winter tires for the front end loader that we borrow from the Utilities Department, resulting in more efficient winter plowing operations and an extended life of the indoor tires for Wastewater.
- Worked with a local scrap company to sell our used water meters and other components for approximately \$130,000 in revenue over the next 3 years.
- Worked with Fox Valley Tech to have a truck driving student to haul the extra 95 gallon recycling carts from the MSB to the Mackville garage, free of charge (and a great training opportunity for them).
- Upgraded DPW truck #657 to an F-350 to better accommodate the heavy cargo load and decrease the wear and tear on the truck.
- Upgraded DPW truck #19 with a dual auger spinner (like truck #11) to improve response time and efficiency of salt applications.
- Upgraded DPW Beast #120 with a grinder mounted, self-powered air compressor to allow for more efficient cleaning and maintenance operations.

- Upgraded DPW sweeper #111 with a second gutter broom to improve safety and efficiency when sweeping around islands, round-a-bouts and medians.
- Created new labels for smaller pieces of equipment to help identify items if they become lost or stolen.
- Designed and built a new "plunge pool" in the flow line at the upstream outfall in Bellaire Ravine that should withstand the large flows over time.
- Organized an event with the Timber Rattlers and Appleton Little League to plant trees as part of the "Broken Bats for Trees" program.
- Utilized the mill attachment on the new MB machine and the VacAll for milling projects, making this process much more efficient.
- Paved Eisenhower in asphalt using a 30' ski which resulted in a much improved road surface and saved money by not having to pave this in concrete for several years.
- Joint paving project with the Town of Grand Chute on the Service Road in front of Kolosso Toyota
- Collaborated with Fire to use their ladder truck and staff to position a DPW employee under the College Avenue bridge deck to inspect above the support pillar. This took place from Banta Court.
- Modified a City owned back yard drain on Keystone. DPW staff built a steel frame to raise the grate so that the structure would be like a "stool" drain utilizing the original grate, rather than special ordering a new grate to fit the unique box of the structure.
- DPW employee fabricated and installed a stainless steel grate over the outlet pipe in the storm water tank at Appleton East High School that can be raised and lowered via cable and pulley system without entering the tank. This creative idea eliminates the need for confined space entry.
- Implemented the first year of our Sidewalk Poetry Program.
- Created the CSR dashboard for employees to view and retrieve information regarding CSR's.
- Expanded our on-line permits to include HVAC permits. Overall increase of 200% for on-line permits (electrical, sewer, plumbing and HVAC).
- DPW staff provided design and construction management services for Station #2 parking lot saving consulting services fees for the Fire Department.