

Service Spotlight

Summer edition 2018

Since the City made the change to Rumpke as our trash provider, many residents have asked how this has changed the City's Service Department with additional employees available for other tasks. This spotlight segment will explain some of those reassessments.

First, the City, in accordance with the original hybrid plan presented to and approved by City Council, still conducts limited trash pickup in the City. Service Department employees continue to pick up trash from all our parks during the week and on weekends in order to ensure a high level of service for our residents and visitors. The City recently sold our older 2009 garbage truck for \$22,000 to a buyer from the Dominica Republic. The City retained the newer 2015 garbage truck, which is used for our parks and internal garbage pickup.

The Service Department workers transitioning from the garbage truck are engaged in training in more complex tasks such as operating our heavy equipment (backhoe) to assisting on water main breaks and water service repairs. This retraining is part of our succession planning for replacement of our more veteran employees who may choose to retire in the next 10 years.

With the opening of the new firehouse, including the regional detention pond near the AMVETS, the City has more grounds to maintain. The redeployment of our Service Department staff is critical to the proper maintenance of our existing and new areas.

The Emerald Ash Tree beetle has resulted in many more dead trees throughout our City. Over the last three years, the Service Department has fell dozens of dead trees in our many parks. Many of these dead trees were ignored for years due to a lack of staff or funding which created more risk and liability for the City. This will be an ongoing chore for many years to come. The highly successful Memorial Tree planting program, reinitiated by the Park Board, has also created more maintenance responsibilities for our Service Staff as we remember many of our loved ones with the planting of a tree in our parks.

Deferred building maintenance: Many of our City buildings have suffered from deferred maintenance over the years. With added staff, we can begin to address the many items in need of repair and preventive maintenance.

Our Service Department has done an excellent job in keeping our City looking great for many years. When you see them out and about, please take time to thank them for their hard work and commitment to improving our quality of life.

Thank you.
Gary Burkholder
City Manager