



# Weekly Reader

Public Works & Engineering Department

January 13, 2023

## Department Updates

Most people don't do much landscaping during winter, but the chilly season doesn't stop us. The **Street Department** has been performing **parkway tree trimming** this past week. **Winter is actually a great time for tree pruning** because **it's easier to evaluate tree structure, diseases are less likely to be transmitted** during dormancy (pruning can make trees more vulnerable temporarily), and it's **less stressful for the trees** because they have time to heal their wounds before spring. Keeping trees trimmed will also **greatly aid in our continued snow removal operations**, allowing the plow trucks to get as close to the curb as possible.



The **Sewer Department** made **several repairs to the flow metering vaults** at the treatment plant. Each prefabricated flow meter vault requires a moisture-free and temperature-controlled environment to ensure proper operation. While performing a **routine inspection** of these vaults, it was discovered that some features were in need of attention. The crew **repaired** the sump pump discharge piping, **replaced** the small unit heaters, dehumidifiers, and lighting fixtures, and **cleaned** the vaults to **restore them to good working order**. These repairs will ensure that the sensitive flow monitoring equipment will **continue to run without interruption**.

## Frozen Pipe Prevention & Tips

### When Temperatures are Below Freezing:

- Open your cabinet and vanity doors that have pipes on an outside wall to let the room temperature air flow in.
- Leave your sink faucets on so a constant trickle of cold water is flowing at all times through the pipes.
- Insulate pipes in cold areas and along outside walls.

### Helpful Tips if your Pipes Freeze:

- Shut off water immediately at the inside main shut-off valve.
- Thaw pipes by using a hair dryer or carefully attended space heater, slowly warming the air around the pipes. **NEVER** use an open flame.
- Once the pipes are thawed, turn the water back on slowly. Check the pipes and joints for any cracks or leaks that might have been resulted from freezing temperatures.
- If your pipes are frozen for more than 24 hours, please call our Water Department at 815-838-0549, option 3.