



Natural Gas Update

The Blythe Company just finished testing interruptible natural gas meters. No problems were noted. Work continues on the gas line expansion in Spartanburg County on Hatchett Road (Sptg. County Road).

Joe Eubanks Road @ Mt. Lebanon Road completed ✓
 Bobby Faucett Road – Turkey Farm Gas Line Completed ✓

A couple of our crew members have been taken off the construction maintenance crew to be trained on the gas metering/dispatching area as Gas Measurement Control Patrick Russell will be retiring at the end of the month. Congrats Patrick! (Patrick and family pictured above)



Electric Update This month has been busy once again installing underground services at several homes. Our work has been completed at the soon to open Depot on Main St. Another car decided to take on a Utility pole which had us restoring power and setting a new pole. We have seen many changes in our crew as we have lost several linemen. While replacing them with new hires we feel confident that they will become valuable members to our team. Cory Scott and Dustin Smith attended their 2nd week at Lineman school and gained more knowledge of how things are done. Matt Kendrick has been working with the Infrared Specialist checking our system for any loose connections, faulty fuses, defective breakers and overloaded or imbalanced circuits. This test is completed on an annual basis and gives us assurance that we are providing quality service to our customers. Richie Brown (pic left) will be retiring after 28 years of service, which leaves us with another opening on our crew. The City has allowed us to implement an apprenticeship of sorts for this position. Employees who were interested in becoming a lineman have been given the opportunity to train with us for 2 weeks to see if it is something they may be interested in before actually applying.

Water & Sewer

This month the water crew ran 8 new service lines. We repaired 11 water leaks and cleared 12 sewer blockages. We continued with our valve maintenance program and maintained ROW and tank sites. We made 2 new inch taps for the new Founders building and changed a zinc valve at the old Walmart. We repaired an air valve that blew out on our river ROW. We also hired a new employee, Jacob Creed Fowler, (picture Right, goes by Creed) to our crew who started on September 8th. During the month of September half our crew has a 2hr training classes every Wednesday to continue our training. The class is being taken through ZOOM which is very different, but we are able to attend right here at the warehouse. We will all receive 8 hrs of CEUs which is required to maintain distribution licenses.



City of Union
 Utilities & Public Services

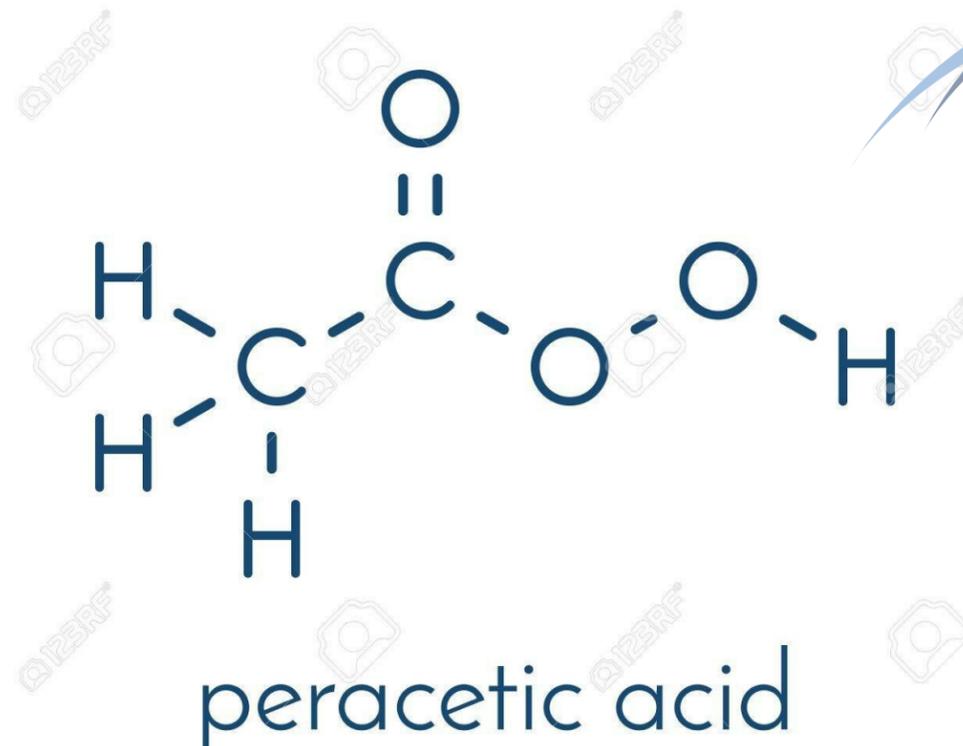


Monthly Journal of Progress, Innovations and Achievements

ISSUE 10 September 2020

In this issue

Progress P.1
 Going the Extra Mile P.2
 News and Notes P.3
 Natural Gas, Electric & Water



SAFETY

"You are your own last line of defense in safety. It all boils down to you." -Kina Repp

IMPORTANT DATES

Work Anniversaries

Richie Brown : 28 years

Scotty Silvers : 24 years

Jimmy Davis : 6 years

Birthdays:

Reggie Young

Working To Be Leaders in our Industry

Peracetic acid has been used for many years as a biocide, fungicide, virucide, and a bactericide. It has mainly been used in the healthcare industry (i.e. hospitals, nursing homes, and dentistry). Peracetic acid is composed of acetic acid and hydrogen peroxide. This is a game-changer when talking about using it as a disinfectant for the wastewater industry. Currently, we use chlorine for disinfection at our wastewater plant but the potential toxicity to our receiving stream is a concern and certainly future regulations will mandate changes.

Peracetic acid is an environmentally friendly compound as it is broken down to its simplest form of hydrogen peroxide, acetic acid (vinegar), and water. It has a very fast reaction time, therefore, reducing the risk of a toxic overload to the aquatic life living in the receiving streams.

The City of Union Wastewater treatment plant is in the process of conducting a trial of PAA. Once started, we will be only the second in the State to try it out. This is all cutting edge technology to the wastewater industry as it has only been out about 5-6 years.

We are planning for the future, every day. We are working hard to protect our environment and future generations.

Quality water... for life.

WATER PLANT Update

The month Of August we continued with the upgrades at the river pump station on number three and four drives and on SCADA at the water plant.

We replaced the gear box oil seal on the number three flocculator .

Osborn contractor is finishing up the rehab of number four basin. See Picture below. This will complete all of our basins.

We replaced one of our decant pumps and hose .

Kevin Carter one of our operators had open heart surgery and is doing well .

We wish him a speedy recovery.



The City of Union Tosches Creek Wastewater Plant events that took place the Month of August. Over the course of the month we treated 29.04 million gallons of wastewater. We also registered 5.5” of rain for the month.

The operators worked hard at keeping the wastewater plant in compliance with our permit. They also checked our 15 sewage pumping stations regularly to make sure they were pumping all they were designed to pump. We also received leachate water from the landfill and septic trucks brought water from those who have septic tanks from our county.

As we have been preparing for the sodium hypochlorite and sodium thio-sulfite project, we have learned of a new disinfection process that we are starting a trial on. PAA, Peracetic Acid, as noted in the feature article. Therefore, the project is on stand by until we run the trial on the PAA disinfection process.

The picture below is of our digester basin. The farmers like to call it black gold or Texas tea. This is environmentally friendly fertilizer.



Public Service Update

* GOING THE EXTRA MILE*

The team worked together with the water/sewer crew to repair a driveway on Harold Street. It was damaged in a storm when a huge tree fell and uprooted part of the roadway as well.

We tore out the remaining part of the driveway, framed, poured and finished 3yards of concrete. We backfilled the area and planted some grass seed.

This is the type of teamwork that makes us all feel great about our city.

Other operations during August and early September have been fairly routine. We have had several instances of huge piles of waste in some yards that required much additional effort including extra people and equipment. Those issues inevitably slow down our regular services to customers.

We thank our crews for going the extra mile! (see pic below for driveway issue).



- The rehabilitation of the Foster Park tennis courts is complete! If you watched the US Open last week, you would notice that not only are our courts the same color scheme as those in New York but they are also paved with the exact same surface! Now, we must effort to take care of them! NO bikes, skates, roller blades or skate boards allowed!
- Our emergency sewer project under Union Blvd is on going. This is a 50+ year old 12” clay tile sewer main with heavy flow. This project was necessary due to damage discovered during a routine camera inspection by the sewer crew.
- Our meter reader, Beverly, now has an office at City Hall and is part of our GIS team. We are working on several exciting advances to our mapping system. You will hear more about this soon!

It's the friends we make along the way that helps us to enjoy our Journey.

NEWS and NOTES

A Semi-Regular Feature

With that being said we are saying our goodbyes to two great men as they retire this month. Patrick Russell and Richie Brown have both been great dedicated employees for years. We are blessed to not only call them co-workers but to call them part of our Family.

Patrick started his career just out of high school with the City in August of 1991. He came to work on the Water crew and transferred to the Gas crew in August of 1993. He has probably forgotten more than any of the new hires will ever know about our gas system. Some of his most memorable moments were spent running new gas lines and installing services. As gas became a popular alternative to Electric he spent hours in the field including

weekends to help expand our system. He begin training with Bucky Kitchens in the Gas measurement part of the crew in 2000 and took that position when Bucky retired in 2000. His knowledge in this department will definitely be missed.

When ask what advice he would give to employees “Always respect the customer and do the best you can.” Pat plans to enjoy his retirement spending time with his family and starting a small business in Lawn Maintenance. He will be missed by us all and we wish him the best in his new adventure.

May you both be proud of the work you have done, the person you are and the difference you have made in our lives and the community.



The Utilities Director sincerely wishes to thank all the special folks who sent well wishes and prayers

his way during these last few difficult weeks. If you ever needed proof that prayer works, just stop by his office. He will be happy to explain!