

## 2007 Public Works Committee Annual Report

Accomplishments of the Public Works Committee are divided into two components, Ongoing and Special Activities.

### Ongoing Activities

Ongoing activities are broken into four categories, each overseen by a work group:

**Roads** – All major roads and many collector/neighborhood roads are inspected by teams of two/three committee members, and are numerically graded in order to prioritize the request for purchase for the annual Hot Springs Village paving project. Approximately \$1M was spent on road projects in 2007 including the surfacing of 24.1 miles of roads. This amount is increased to \$1.4M for 2008. A major redesign effort is incorporated into planning for the 2008 project. In an attempt to provide a better focused inspection process, the Village has been divided into 5 sections for the inspection of collector roads each year. In 2008, three of these sections (approximately sixty percent) have been inspected in the first quarter of the year. Additionally, all major roads are inspected each year. This early look at the roads will allow for an earlier bid process and subsequent reduction in the cost of the project.

Another innovation applied to the 2007 paving project is the application of 4.75 mm “Super Pave”. The committee worked with the Public Works Department and the University of Arkansas Civil Engineering Department in a study of existing collector roads in the Village. The results indicated that they were a very good match for this technology. This particular paving process mixes a temperature sensitive asphalt, well suited for Arkansas weather patterns, with a smaller aggregate for a tighter fit. The resultant mix should provide for a long lasting, smooth riding road for Village streets for an extended period of time. Because of the larger traffic requirements of major roads, the usual 1.5 inch asphalt overlay was applied.

The DeSoto Blvd Master Plan in 2007 was focused on studying and planning for a four lane project beginning on the west end from the west gate to Barcelona Road and on the east end from HWY 5 to the east gate. This plan is still in the conceptualization phase.

**Building Maintenance** - All POA Buildings (71) are inspected annually by members of the Public Works Committee and written recommendations are made on maintenance and construction needs to the POA staff. The staff periodically advises the committee on progress being made on maintenance requests. In an effort to improve the process, the committee plans to meet with individual POA department heads in 2008 to ensure that the process and maintenance suggestions are understood and implemented.

**Building Construction** - Public Works Committee members work with the Planning and Inspections Department in all phases of new POA construction projects from conceptualization to acceptance. The members provide expertise in planning, proposals and construction.

Committee members were involved in the following construction projects in 2007:

1. The remodeling and addition to the Coronado Fitness Center.
2. The construction of the Coronado Fire Station.
3. The remodeling of the Cortez Golf Course Pro Shop and Wood-N-Iron Restaurant.
4. The redesign and construction of the Village Animal Shelter.
5. The planning phase of the redesign of the Balboa Club House.

**Motor Vehicle Safety** – Each month this work group analyzes all vehicle accidents reported to the Hot Springs Village police department. The primary focus of this work group is to ensure that accidents that may be caused by road conditions or visibility restrictions are investigated and corrections initiated. A secondary outcome is equally important. The accidents are grouped into categories (i.e. single or multiple vehicle, animal caused, lost control), tracked and reported periodically. Many of the sites are then investigated for safety improvements such as excessive shoulder drop off, visibility problems due to tree limbs or excessive vegetation buildup, or signage problems. The results are then communicated to the Public Works Department along with recommendations to reduce accidents. Finally accident locations are plotted on a Village map to identify trouble areas. This information is forwarded to the Village 55 instructors who use it in classes and to other interested parties. 151 such accidents were noted in 2007.

## Special Activities

The HSV Board of Directors occasionally asks the Public Works committee to study a particular problem and make a corrective action recommendation:

1. One request was to look at the number of street signs required to guide a visitor to any lot inside the village, even if no houses were currently built on them and to determine the cost to put up all the necessary signs. The Public Works Department indicated that 615 street signs would be required at a cost of \$75 per sign, plus labor. The bottom line cost would be over \$100K.
2. A second project involved the removal of yard waste material. This requirement came from the fact that Garland County stopped accepting Village yard waste in April 2007 and the Village's cost escalated to \$36.70 per ton to take the material to the Saline County landfill. The Committee reviewed several proposals and decided to recommend a short term solution – sell trash bag tags which would be required by the sanitation department in order to pick up the bags. The proceeds resultant from those sales would offset the additional costs to standard trash pick up. A longer term solution was also proposed: work with Garland County on a compost facility at the Garland County landfill that we could use, or explore the creation of our own compost facility.

Other inputs come from the residents of Hot Springs Village. These are primarily focused on street conditions, traffic signs and speed limits, but also include drainage problems and water/sewage leaks. Each of these requests is investigated and a corrective action recommendation is made to the Public Works Department.