



Fox Point files

The Faces and Facets of the Department of Public Works

Many of us associate the Department of Public Works principally with garbage pickup and snow plowing. The fact is that the department does much more. Public Works is in charge of village infrastructure, old and new. Among the more visible things: Public Works maintains our streets, parkways, bridges, sidewalks, drainage systems, and village facilities – including our recreational facilities such as the pool, tennis courts, playgrounds, Longacre Pavilion, and the skating rink. Public Works operates the water utility and water distribution system, cuts the grass on village property, collects yard waste, maintains traffic lane markings, and conducts forestry operations. The Department, in the normal course, repairs its own equipment.

Then there are the less visible things. The Department is responsible for sanitary sewer operations. This includes regular inspection of the village sewer lines. It also includes the maintenance and repair of the Beach Drive lift stations. When sewage from Beach Drive properties is conveyed to a large central pump, owned and operated by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), it pumps sewage up the bluff and into an MMSD line. The pumping station sits along the bottom of the bluff a few hundred yards to the south of where Beach Drive splits at the bottom. The village owns and maintains two lift stations (pumps) that lift (convey) sewage from the north sections of Beach Drive over rises in the terrain and finally to the MMSD central pump.

Scott Brandmeier, as director, leads the Department of Public Works. Steve Schulteis (featured) is perhaps the department's most recognizable face. In between are members Bill Wojtanowski, Assistant Director; Mike Krueger, Foreman; and Paul Haugen, Water Utility Foreman. Brandmeier, trained both as an engi-

neer and as an attorney, wears many hats. The administrative function consumes a lot of time. The Department is required to coordinate with a number of federal, state, county, and local agencies and functions. Brandmeier must file reports, apply for grants, and respond to concerns, questions, or complaints raised by the village board, other village personnel, and residents. Some of what he does is detective work. For instance, he is working on a program to identify and map existing or desired easements (permission to access private property for limited purposes). He is also trying to identify the location of infiltration and inflow (I&I) of clear water into the sewerage system – a suspected cause of overflows that cause sewage backups in basements and sanitary sewage dumping into Lake Michigan.

The Department of Public Works is comprised of 13 other staff members, three of whom have been with the Village for 27 years. The Department also retains the services of Wachtel Tree Science to provide forestry consulting services for the Village.

The employees in the Department of Public Works are passionate about their jobs and approach their tasks zealously. One thing you may not know about the Public Works staff is that they actively follow proposed legislation to determine potential impacts to the Village and have been known to testify both in Madison and in Washington D.C. In fact, Mr. Wojtanowski assisted in the development of legislation that allows our garbage scooters, which were considered off-road vehicles, to legally travel on Village roads and state highways so that the Village could continue to provide up-the-drive garbage collection.

Kudos to the members of the Department of Public Works who wear many hats and wear them with pride in weather fair or foul.



Douglas H. Frazer is a trustee on the Fox Point Village board. The views expressed are his own and not necessarily those of the village, the village board, other village board members, or Neighborhood Communications, LLC.



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Steve Schulteis (center) with Fox Point DPW Management

Steve Schulteis, Fox Point Public Works Employee

Known throughout the Village of Fox Point as a “goodwill ambassador,” the name Steve Schulteis will bring a smile to a resident’s face and a flood of memories of his caring service and devotion to the Village.

Paul Haugen, Fox Point’s Water Utility Foreman, jumped at the chance to share a little about Steve. Paul and Steve began working for the Village Department of Public Works about a week apart; that was 27 years ago, making them two of the three senior members on staff. To this day Paul and Steve are friends and “commuting buddies.”

Steve was raised on a milk farm with a super strong work ethic: up at 4 am and literally home when the cows came home. Says Paul of Steve, “He has been a scud missile since I have known him; you point him in the direction he needs to go and he won’t stop till it’s done.” They have seen a lot of changes to the services of Fox Point compared to the predecessors of their early years, but the expectation of high service has stayed the same. “As

employees we know this expectation, and Steve is one of those men who live it out. He will work an all-night plow event and still be happy with a smile on his face and a skip in his step to serve in the rubbish pick-up detail the next morning,” shares Paul. He performs his duties as though he owns them. One of Steve’s favorite activities is helping out at the voting polls where he shines as a “DPW Ambassador.”

Paul is honored to share two stories “out of hundreds” that show Steve’s care and commitment to his job and the residents. “There once was an Alzheimer’s patient that wandered away from home. While out picking up rubbish, Steve saw that something was not quite right. He knew where the person lived and he was a long way from home, so Steve personally escorted him back to his residence. Another time Steve knew of a woman who had just given birth to a new baby. She was already busy with a house full of kids and forgot to get the pile of trash out for pick-up that morning. “Steve understood what one week of trash looks

like in a house full of life, so he knocked on her door at the time of pick-up to retrieve it. You have no idea how thankful she was!” exclaims Paul.

Steve has a fan club of residents who know him by name, and in turn, Steve knows each family’s name, the kids and even the dog! Paul can relate: “When you work within the community you live, our lives will cross. We have witnessed older residents pass or move away, and Steve will attend their funerals. We’ve seen newlyweds move in, learned of babies being born and watched families grow.” Steve has little buddies barely tall enough to peer out the window waving at him, wanting to sit on his lap in his yellow scooter. Paul smiles, “I have seen grins from ear to ear when he puts them on his lap to do a pretend drive around town.”

Another of Steve’s admirers, Dr. Allen Young, appreciates how Steve goes out of his way to be nice to the residents. “He’s a fixture in the neighborhood. He always stops to chat, share cookies with the children and even treats for the dogs,” says Dr.

Young. He touts Steve as Fox Point’s Goodwill Ambassador. Trustee Douglas Frazer nods in agreement, deeming Steve to be the most recognizable face in the Department of Public Works.

Paul claims, “Steve is one of the most upbeat guys I have ever met and if you are down in the dumps, Steve literally has a shoulder to cry on. Just ask the resident of Fox Point who found out he has a short time to live due to pancreatic cancer; Steve was there to soothe his tears. Now that shows he cares!” Paul contributed the photo above of Steve driving his yellow cart: “The photo is from awhile ago but the only thing that has changed is his smile is bigger!”

So on behalf of the Village of Fox Point, thank you to Steve Schulteis for your many years of dedication to the Village and for the service and joy that you bring each and every day to the lives of the residents. Your legacy of kindness, thoughtfulness and diligence will not be forgotten. Thanks again and keep up the great work!