

RECORD HEAT, BROUGHT RECORD NUMBERS

By Leah Brown

May 19, 2008

Record heat did not stop record numbers from walking through the freshly painted gates of the Public Works Corp Yard on Saturday. Guests & neighbors couldn't miss the hoopla at the corp yard this weekend, a huge American flag flew high atop a boom truck waving over the yard for all to see and as you approached the yard by car or on foot you were immediately struck by the sight of a grader and one huge tractor with 6 foot tall tires on the PW front lawn as well as a sea of city trucks and heavy equipment parked across the street like a fleet of well oiled machinery.

Over 500 guests came to see the inner workings of the city corp yard and 54 classic cars and 8 motorcycles participated. It was 103 degrees on Saturday, but felt hotter if you were one of several Public Works staff lead by James Lee manning the 10-foot long shiny bar-b-q. Staff prepared over 800 hot dogs, hamburgers and hot links in the scorching sun. Guest kept cool over lunch in the service center where they could watch a continuous looping slide show of Public Works happenings on the wide screen TV.

Displays abounded in the yard from all corners. The Police Department came out once again as a big supporter of this event; they had several cars and a motorcycle on display as well as their bomb squad and beautiful dog, Nola. And a special thanks to McGruff, who came by to talk to the kids and help with the finger printing station. The Fire Department really seemed to enjoy the day and took the opportunity to practice their repelling skills while entertaining the crowds with their headfirst repelling. It was an impressive display of skills and bravery.

Each Public Works division was represented by an interactive booth or display. Particularly eye catching was the stump grinding display right as you entered the gates, followed by the traffic signal display. The Streets division went all out and had a working traffic signal with camera and utility box set up. Doug Dutcher and Ron Daugherty fielded questions and educated people on how signal timing works and why you sometimes have to sit for a little while if you've followed up behind a train or emergency vehicle.

Parks and Rec spearheaded children's entertainment with a couple bounce houses, face painting and popcorn. Our Admin staff manned the front gate passing out goodie bags made of recycled material, as well as booths for Recycling awareness. Environmental Control, the Laboratory and Wastewater Treatment Plant were well represented with educational & interactive booths. Our sign shop and GIS office were open for tours and demonstrations. Deb's Safety Corner drew a lot of curious kids to come check out the CPR dolls and various safety gear worn by Public Works crews. Nhung Vo and Roger Cowan of the Fleet division were excellent hosts and ambassadors for the classic car show participants.

Public Works would like to thank all the departments that participated including Police, Fire, Engineering, the Airport, and Parks & Rec. A special thanks goes out to HANK and KABX oldies for broadcasting live from our event and helping to bring in so many classic cars. The combined efforts of all the Public Works staff lead by event co-chairs Mike Miller and Craig Guilliams helped to pull off another successful event. We hope to see you all out here next year!