

# Team up with Engineers

## Division Spotlight

*Keeping track of construction: Construction Inspector Mark Bstrup oversees work on the development project at 104th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard. Mark is the staff person called to check for underground lines and pipes, prior to contractors doing any digging in the City.*



Engineering Division employees hit the ground running when a water main at 120th Avenue & Washington Street was ruptured by construction workers last month. While water flowed and traffic backed up, Engineering staff worked at locating the valve to get it shut down, while Utilities employees prepared to repair the pipe.

"It's times like that when you really see people working together to get things done," said Frank Casteleneto, City Engineer.

The Engineering Services Division is made up of Engineering Technician

Kelly Hargadin and engineering staff; Special Projects Manager Alex Vida; and three sections: Capital Improvement Projects Management (CIP), headed by Sr. Civil Engineer John Kirk; Development Management, directed by Sr. Civil Engineer John Himyak; and Surveying, led by Surveyor Kerry Perkins.

Kelly handles engineering computer applications: she catalogs drawing files, creates maps and displays, and recently put thousands of infrastructure drawings on a computer system. She provides customer service to citizens and developers. Alex Vida, senior project manager, is currently developing standard technical specifications for materials and methods to be used in construction of future projects.

CIP project managers and construction coordinators prepare designs for capital projects and then provide construction management throughout the project. Recent projects have included the new Thornton water tank, the Gravel Lakes

pump station, and various water system improvements.

"We use a team approach to manage projects," Frank said. "The project manager, the construction coordinator, the contracts administrator and the operating department work together to complete projects. The goal is a quality project completed within budget and on schedule."

Employees in Development Engineering review development plans and construction documents associated with new residential and commercial subdivisions. Plans are reviewed for conformance with City standards and specifications as well as the various master plans.

"When a developer submits a plan," Frank said, "the Development Review Team makes sure that the infrastructure meets city requirements for utilities, water, sewer, streets, storm water and landscaping."

The Surveying staff reviews plats, annexation maps and legal descriptions for accuracy and conformance with state laws. They provide land surveying for all departments and create AutoCAD drawings, which are computer-generated plans. Surveying staff administers the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database used to create maps that identify sewer and water mains, the storm water system, and trash and snow removal routes. Surveyors use a Global Positioning System (GPS) to locate mains, valves and manholes.

"People in this division get a great deal of satisfaction from their jobs, knowing that they provide citizens with a high level of service and that they are contributing to the progress of the city," Frank said. "The greatest satisfaction of all is when we get a call from a citizen to say thank you."