The City of Lakeland commissioners proclaimed the week of May 13–18th, 2002 as National Public Works Week. The week was promoted through media releases inviting everyone to participate and learn about the efforts and future goals of their local Public Works. On the weekend of May 18-19, 2002; with the theme ‘Committed to Our Communities’, the City’s Public Works Department celebrated and participated in its 7th annual event held at the Lakeland Square Mall. The City Manager’s office was chosen by the Public Works Week organizing committee to participate in the role of judging the annual exhibit competition.

The Divisions of Construction and Maintenance, Engineering, Lakes and Stormwater, Traffic, Parking, Solid Waste / Recycling and the Director’s Office abounded the mall with interactive educational displays for all ages. Throughout the weekend the members of Public Works each shared their activities with the community. The displays included hands-on with parking and survey equipment, a video peak at maintaining the City’s underground infrastructure, the process of designing City projects, household items made out of recycled materials, a compost container, hands-on model for demonstrating the new ‘timing’ traffic lights, and a close-up look through microscopes at the underwater living within our lakes. Local middle school students also assisted with this exciting event. The students demonstrated with a simulated community model the effects pollution and waste has on our lakes and natural resources. In addition, the dedicated students enjoyed refreshments supplied by mall merchants.

The Public Works Director, Richard E. Lilyquist, P.E.; honored everyone’s time and contributions to this annual weekend event. The Director recapped the year by recognizing project goals achieved and the efforts made in the design and planning for upcoming projects.

Planning for the 2003 weekend event has already started-up…we invite you to come out and learn more about the activities of Public Works in our Lakeland Community, hope to see you there!