

## WWTP EXPANSION *Continues at Hot Pace*

Work at the Prairie Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant continues at a fast pace. Crossland Heavy Construction has started on the walls of the Biologic Unit #3 and has completed the new chemical building. In addition they are forming and working on the new Splitter Box. Tens of thousands of feet of steel has been installed in preparation of pouring the bio unit walls. The new unit will be attached to unit two. Much of the mechanical equipment still hasn't been shipped but is expected soon.

In addition, McClelland Engineers are finishing

up plans for the expansion of the SW transmission line that comes into the plant from the South. The line is being upgraded to a 21" line through Hudson Heights, and the City will upgrade the line from a 15" to a 24" from Hudson Heights to the treatment plant. This increases that lines capacity by 250%. Engineers and City Staff met to discuss this work on June 5th and will need to coordinate with the Hudson Height Developer who is planning to start on phase 2 very soon.



### How Long will Expansion Last?

It almost seems like by the time the latest plant expansion is complete, the next one will need to be planned. The current expansion will take the plant capacity up from 900,000 gpd to 1.35 million gallons per day. Current daily average in 2022 is now approaching 800,000 (.789 MGD) gallons per day. So far in 2023 the average is 823,000 gpd. The plant has seen an increase in daily flow of almost 100% since 2012 (.415) when the last expansion was completed. At the current pace of growth, it could be expected that when the city reaches a population of 12,500 it will likely again be approaching capacity. With expansions taking nearly 5 years to be completed, planning should start early, probably by 2028-2030.



## *Building Update*

The issuance of building permits slowed in May, with a total of 7 permits for new single family homes for the month. In addition, a commercial addition was permitted and a residential shop.

Year to date, 63 single family permits were issued through the first 5 months, with a population equivalency of 151 persons.

Legend's  
Gym being  
built on  
Heritage  
Parkway  
next to Ar-  
vest Bank.



## *New WWTP permit Requirements*

When the City began plans for expansion of the wastewater treatment plant, in 2020, one of the first things that had to be discussed was what new standards would the City have to meet to receive approval by the State Dept. of Environmental Quality. The new modified NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit would change from a minor permit to a major permit as it exceeded past the 1 Million Gallon per Day threshold. This required a number of additional requirements and lowered permit limits. Some parameters remained mostly unchanged, such as CBOD, TSS, NH<sub>3</sub>-N, DO, and FC for example. Other parameters, especially Phosphorus were significantly reduced, being cut in half. The one good thing, in the P reduction, was it now is factored on a 6 month rolling average, meaning one high reading won't necessarily mean a violation as long as the 6 month average stays under the new .5 mg/l

limit. The old limit was on a 30 day average. The maximum level however, is also reduced from 1.5 mg/l during the month to .8 mg/l.

Other added testing includes nitrates/nitrites (10mg/l) and phosphates (reporting only) and increasing the testing requirements from 3 times per month to 3 times per week, and adding WET testing, quarterly. The lab expense for the new facility will likely quadruple from roughly \$12,000 per year to close to \$50,000 per year.

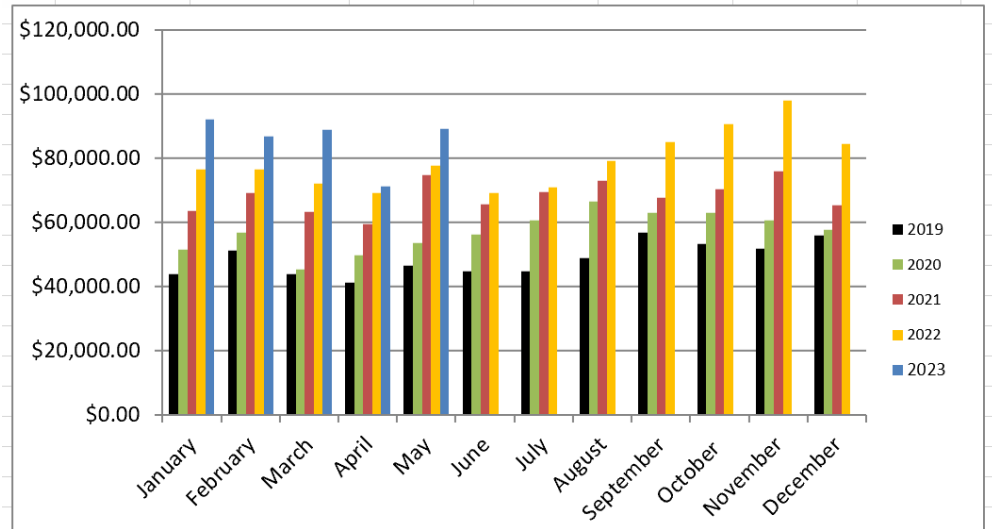
WET (whole effluent toxicity) testing uses aquatic, bacteriologic, and vertebrate species to measure the toxicity of water. The test measures the organisms ability to survive, grow, and reproduce based on whether or not a water may contain toxic chemicals. This testing will be required every three months.



## *Sales Tax Update*

May Sales Tax Collections saw another month of significant gains over last years collections. For May, \$88,196 was collected per 1% of the local sales tax. Locally, 2.75% is collected.

That represents a 13.6% increase over May of last year and year to date, collections are still up by 15.08%.



## *Bathrooms Near Completion*

The new bathrooms in Muddy Fork Park are nearing completion. Some building trim and final mechanical connections are all that is still needed.

The bathrooms will include new video cameras for monitoring activity in the park as well as possible

vandalism.

50% of the cost will be reimbursed by the Arkansas Outdoor Recreation Grant program and will include the cost for a new playground which is also expected to be completed this month or next.



## *Viney Grove Road Extension to Start*

The extension of Viney Grove Road South to Buchanan St. is very close to starting with all contracts now executed and just waiting for the Notice to Proceed to be issued which should be any day. The contractor, Sweetser Construction has a long history of projects within the City of Prairie Grove including the Cleveland Street drainage and road improve-

ments east of Mock Street.

The project is scheduled to take 300 days to complete and will include a major bridge crossing just South of the new Middle School. The new road will align with Blunt Street in the Prairie Meadows Subdivision and open up a new route to the school campuses from the south.





CITY OF  
PRAIRIE GROVE  
ARKANSAS



City Offices Will  
be Closed Tues-  
day July 4th in  
observance of  
Independence  
Day. Trash and  
recycling Routes  
will be run on  
Monday July  
3rd.



The City will  
host a fireworks  
Show on Satur-  
day July 2nd, at  
dark, across  
from the High  
School.

### City News

*The City hosted all city employees on Tuesday June 4th, with Mayor Faulk and Corporal Travis Stills cooking hamburgers, chicken, and smoked sausage. The event was well attended with City staff from all departments enjoying the luncheon.*

*A number of City Officials attended the Arkansas Municipal League Summer Conference, June 14-16th in Little Rock. Attending on behalf of the City were Mayor Faulk, Alderman Doug Stumbaugh, Alderman Paula Ditmar, Alderman Chris Powell, Alderman Rick Ault, Chief of Police Chris Workman, Police Captain Jeff O'Brien, and Alderman Brea Gragg attended virtually.*



### Pool Business Brisk

Over 4500 attendees attended the Prairie Grove Aquatic Park during the first two weeks of the season, which included one rain out day.

The average was 328 patrons per day at the pool. Close to \$60,000 in revenue was collected through June 9th, including season passes, admissions, concessions, private party fees, swim lessons, and water aerobics.

The Prairie Grove Piranha's have begun practice, and have approximately 70 children participating this year.

Opening of the Big Slides was almost delayed as pump problems discovered a week before opening took right up until opening on May 27th to fix. A quick trip to Little Rock the Friday night before, to pick up new pumps and a fast installation the next morning that wrapped up just prior to opening had everything working for the season opening.

A new fence along the West perimeter was also completed the week before opening.

