



July 2023

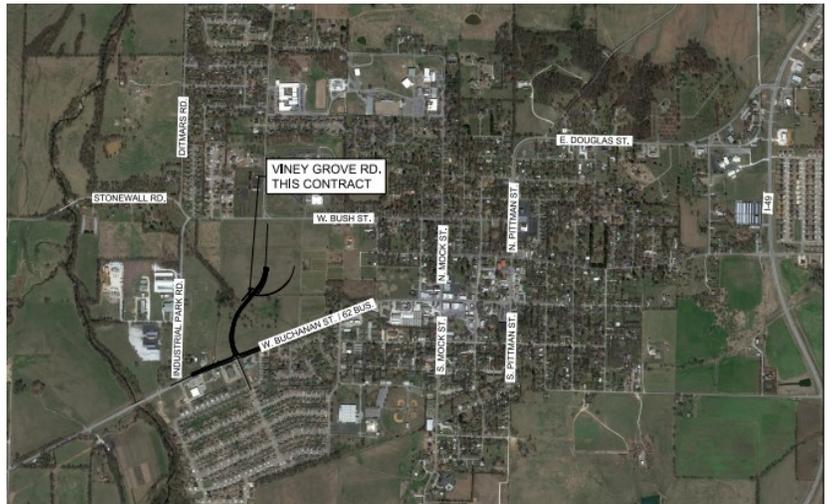
FYI

City Still waiting on Viney Grove Road Start

Sweetser Construction started moving in equipment the week of June 26th but as of July 11th, had still not begun any dirt work or construction. The contract calls for 300 days and the notice to proceed has been issued, meaning the clock is ticking.

The project will be built from South to North finishing near the Middle School.

The \$2.8 million project will include a bridge crossing (utilizing pre-fabricated concrete boxes) at the town branch, and will connect Bush Street to Buchanan Street on the South. This will provide another access road from the



South into the school campuses and should pull some traffic off of Mock and Bush Street.

Intersection Repairs

Emory Sapp and Sons Construction began intersection repairs last week and seek to correct slope problems with the crosswalks which could have been a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Only two of the crosswalks were

out of compliance, but the decision was made to re-do all four in concrete so the entire crosswalk would look cohesive and less like a patch job.

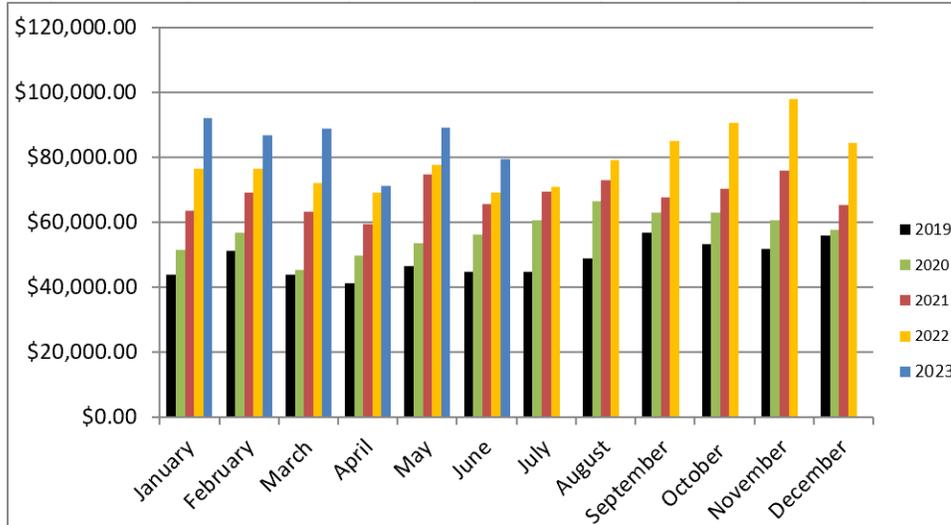
The intersection was closed from July 5th until July 14th and was scheduled to reopen on the 17th.



Sales Tax Update

So far in 2023 Sales tax has performed extremely well. June was not deviation from that as sales tax exceeded June of 2023 by 14.6% and year to date total collections are running 15% ahead of the same period last year.

Despite the robust 15% increase so far, that would be the lowest increase since 2019 when the tax increased by “only” 8%. In 2022 the tax grew by 16.2%, 19.4% in 2021, and 17.5% in 2020. \$79312.34 per 1% was collected in June 2023, compared to \$69,191 in June 2022.



WWTP Construction Update

Crossland Heavy Construction continues progressing with the construction at the WWTP. The biggest project by far, is the completion of the biologic Unit #3 which is being added onto the south side of units #1 and #2. The structure now has most of the exterior walls poured with more concrete being installed on Tuesday July 11th that’s not seen in the accompanying photo.

The shell of the

new chemical building is complete, however no piping or equipment has been installed yet. The splitter box is also under construction and other equipment such as the new screw pump (shown below right) is on site now.



Pool Business Brisk in 2023

The Prairie Grove Aquatic Park has continued to see brisk business through the middle of July. Through July 11, there were 14,298 regular admissions into the facility.

There has been \$79,660 in admission revenue so far, \$28,619 in concession revenue, \$14,837 for party rentals, and \$10,620 for program fees.

In addition to the PGAP ac-

tivities, the Prairie Grove Pirhanhas swim team continues to enjoy success with over 75 participants this season.

Building Update

Sixteen Single Family permits in June increased the total in 2023 to 79. New homes permitted ranged from 1415 square feet to 2140 square feet.

In addition to the residential permits, one commercial permit for a \$1 million dollar construction estimate was issued for East Parks Street where a new Taco Bell is being built.

3 residential remodels were permitted as well as 2 shop buildings Total construction value for the month was \$6 million dollars.



Playground Installation Still Not Completed

The playground equipment for Muddy Fork Park was delivered to the City in Mid June, the installation of that long awaited project is still incomplete.

Hundreds of pieces look like a big playground jig saw puzzle and are still lying in the maintenance yard waiting for installation. This equipment will be reimbursed by an outdoor recreation grant, which pays 50% of the cost.



New Bathrooms Completed

The new bathrooms in Muddy Fork Park are now completed, however the City is still waiting on the replacement of one plumbing part before they will be opened to the public. The city is also planning on extending a bigger water line to the facility to provide adequate water flow and that is scheduled in about two weeks.

Like the playground, this construction was included in an outdoor recreation grant which pays 50% of the cost.



City News:

Some time the evening of June 30th, a long crack developed in a water line North of Viney Grove. The line began leaking around 8:00 pm based on tank records. With the next day being Saturday it wasn't immediately detected but late that evening the City became aware, based on the remote read software on the Benton Washington Regional Water System. The usage for Saturday July 1st, was 1.4 million gallons, which was about 600,000 gallons or more higher than expected. Late Sunday a tip led to finding the leak in a pasture on County Road 62. A section of line was replaced and only a handful of customers were without water for about an hour during the repair. Sunday's usage ended up at 1.3 million meaning the leak lost 1.3 million gallons in just over 2 days. It was the largest leak on record for the utility.

Olivia Jentsch has completed the Arkansas Police Academy and will receive her certification during a graduation ceremony on July 20th

Mayor Faulk was selected for the Community Development Pipeline Project, through the University of Central Arkansas Community Development Institute. The program is a 3 year program and all participation is by scholarship through the Institute. The first year installment will be held the week of July 31. Taryn Golden representing the Prairie Grove Chamber of Commerce was also selected to participate.

BIDS OPENED: The first phase of the Downtown drainage project opened June Thursday June 29th but came way over budget and are currently being evaluated for cost savings and prioritization.



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Land Will Provide Opportunities For Police Expansion

In 2012 the City sold its administration building downtown and moved to its current facility on Douglas Street. The police occupied about 1400 square feet in the old building and moved into space 70% larger at nearly 2500 square feet. The gain of space was short lived however, as the number of police officers has continued to increase as the population increases. The city purchased a small house behind the building and moved admin to that facility, but more and more officers still left space cramped.

With the purchase of the property next to the current offices, many options are opened up. Without major changes to the grade around the existing building, an addition is likely possible on the

South end of the building which could more than double the existing space, providing space for new public and staff restrooms, add 6-8 new admin offices, areas for a break room, and space for reception and intake.

Beyond that, other options will likely require a new building as the grade of the adjacent lot would probably require new construction. This will require the extension of new utilities driveway from the highway and a new parking lot.

An architect will be needed to evaluate costs and options. After that the City will need to evaluate what

funding options might be available or considered for expansion.

