

FYI

March 2024

DOWNTOWN WORK PROGRESS WORK LEADS TO TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS

Downtown Prairie Grove hasn't been the easiest to drive around in the past few months, and many citizens have voiced their complaints. Construction downtown is complex, with very large concrete drain pipes being installed, that at times seems like trying to fit a garden hose through a pin hole. Adding to the problems is the amount of rock the contractors have been dealing with, which slows work to a snail pace. As pipe is laid, other work is progressing with many of the main collection and drain boxes already being completed. The hope is to finish those as quickly as possible so that when the pipe crew is out of the way, two lanes of traffic can resume at least until road repairs start.

Other components include relocation of some power lines, and so far SWEPCO hasn't started that work.

The project is close to transitioning to Kate Smith Street, where new drainage will be installed that feeds into these larger pipes. New drainage pipe will replace the open ditch on Kate Smith and will alleviate the constant flooding at Kate Smith and Buchanan that has plagued that intersection for years.

The water line work that was started in November is still on hold until the contractor has additional crews available. The next stage of that project will be right downtown and will require shifting the driving lanes to the South and parking along the street will be

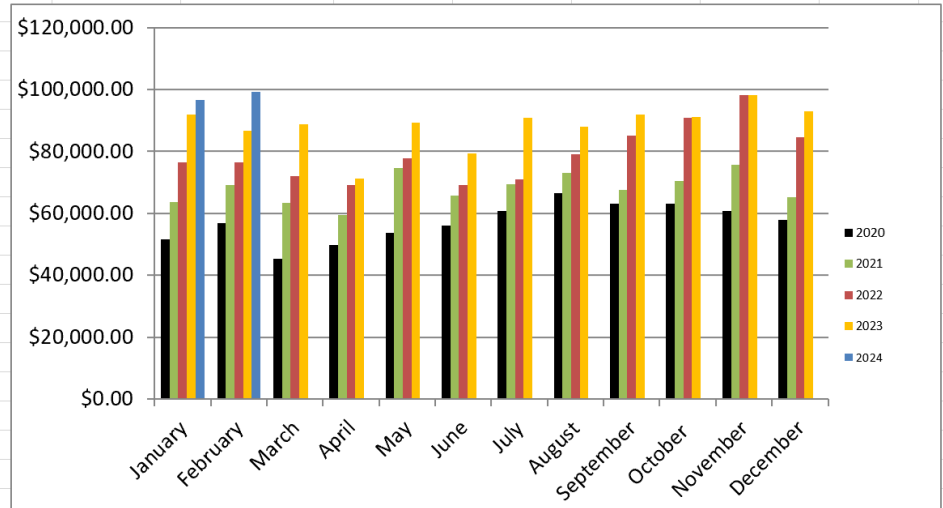
temporarily halted until they can lay that pipe and connect all of the water services.



SALES TAX UP IN FEBRUARY

City Sales Tax saw a good increase in February over last years collections and nearly hit the \$100,000 per 1% sales tax threshold for the first time in the process. February sales tax for 1% was \$99,186.47. Total sales tax received was \$272,763.

This is a 14.5% increase over February of 2023 and brings the year to date collections at 9.6% over February of last year.



VINEY GROVE ROAD EXT. MAKING SLOW PROGRESS

The Viney Grove Road Project appears to have slowed to a crawl, but the contractor has been working on the more tedious components of the project, installing drainage, drain boxes, and concrete headers along the project. The bridge structure is complete and work has begun along the intersection of Buchanan and Viney Grove Road and the City expects base to start going down very soon, fol-

lowed by curbs being poured and finally paving.

The intersection of Buchanan and Viney Grove will include turn lanes on the East, West, and North lanes.

The contractor plans to begin pouring curbs and laying base in the over the course of the next few weeks, then sidewalks, paving and cleanup will close out the project.



EMERGENCY PLANNING PLAN

City Staff met in February and again in March to begin the process of reviewing and revising the City's emergency plan. Its been 10 years since any revisions were made. Representatives from police, fire, public works and all department heads have been included in the review process.

The City has multiple emergency plans that cover a variety of areas including the City's EOP, the Water Departments EOP, there is an emergency plan for the Lake Dam, and plans that cover administration, finance, and computer records for the City and District Court called Continuity of Operations Plans.



Plan Updates are Underway

BUILDING UPDATE

Construction picked up slightly in February, with 10 permits issued for new construction, spread over three new subdivisions, and two that were infill in older neighborhoods.

The homes range from 644 square feet up to 2832 square feet with a total construction cost of over \$2.6 million.

Total new homes permitted so far this year now total 15.

In addition to the new construction, there was a commercial addition for the senior center, three residential remodels, and a deck.



WWTP, FINAL WORK BEING COMPLETED



The Contractor has shifted efforts to clean up and site restoration as they continue to wait on some equipment needed to complete the project. Parts of the aerator on Biologic Unit 3 still haven't come in and this has delayed the ability to clean out units 1&2. The biggest part of the aerator, the drive unit, still isn't installed. In addition, there are still some electrical components that they are waiting on. The contractor is still hopeful for April completion, but realistically it could be May or June.

They have installed the new inlet facility screening equipment and the UV equipment and its in use.





City Offices will be Closed Friday March 29 in observance of Good Friday.

Trash and Recycling routes will run on Thursday March 28th.

Appreciation Luncheon Held

For a number of years, the Prairie Grove Ministerial Alliance has hosted an appreciation luncheon for all City Employees. The luncheon is an opportunity for the alliance to thank the City and its employees for their service.

This years lunch included speakers Mayor Faulk, State representative Kendra Moore, and Prairie Grove citizen volunteer Josh Vickery. Three employees were honored for service over 25 years, Brian Hawkins with 25 years, Mike Dobbs with 35 years (which is actually now 38 years) and Larry Oelrich with 45 years. Hawkins it was announce will retire from the City in June.

There were many door prizes and special entertainment provided by Keith Bostian on guitar and the City's own Library Director Megan Wood on vocals.

Everyone left full, and happy.

PRAIRIE GROVE AND HARRISON TO SWAP NOTES



Mayor Faulk and Chamber President Taryn Golden are currently both part of the Center for Community & Economic Development Program that is sponsored by the University of Central Arkansas.

As part of that program, a First Impressions Tour has been set up between the Cities of Prairie Grove and Harrison. Through this program, representa-

tives from each city will tour the other city and evaluate core areas of each city, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of each.

