

## WTP CONTINUES SLOW PROGRESS

Slow progress is better than no progress but plans to be back on line by late August are for now scrapped as more work was discovered recently that needed to be corrected.

A method of grounding which was legal when the plant was built but is no longer legal was found to be defective and has required the replacement of a long run of wire to the intake structure. This comes with added time and added cost to the project. The electrical engineer on the project, Brown Engineering out of Little Rock was familiar with the meth-

od of grounding that was originally used but in all of their years had never actually seen a job where that type of grounding was used. Because the ground had been compromised through the years it was not safe and had to be completely replaced.

The old chemical building which will continue to be used for chlorine and fluoride also is getting emergency repairs when it was found the steel structure had been compromised by years of exposure to chemicals.

The settling basin has been rehabbed on the interior and will soon get a roof constructed over it to prevent UV light which will help with algal growth.

The new chemical building is all but complete.



Top Above: New siding installed on Operations/Filter Building.  
Middle above: New Aluminum Sulfate Storage Tank  
Bottom above: The old Chemical building is stripped and repaired and will be repurposed for fluoride and chlorine feed building.

Above improvements to the settling basin included concrete repairs, new weir plates, and a new center column and drive unit. Right the new Chemical Feed Building.



# POOL ATTENDANCE DOWN THIS YEAR



Attendance at the Prairie Grove Aquatic Park has been down this year. In 2015, over 20,295 people attended the facility, 18,248 in 2016, but this year that number likely will be just less than 16,000. A wet cool July and August have been a major factor as weather related closings have been fairly common in recent weeks.

Through the end of July, 14,655 had attended the facility. Facility admissions will likely be down as well, however concessions should be close to budget and program fees are up this year with high attendance at swim lessons as well as water aerobics.

## 2ND WAYFINDING SIGN INSTALLED

A second wayfinding sign was installed at the intersection of Mock and Highway 62 but a slight glitch will have to be corrected. Reiff Park was accidentally spelled Reiff Park. The problem will be corrected by the sign manufacturer.

The signs bring awareness to the downtown and area attractions and services.



## PART OF DOWNTOWN LIKELY TO GET HISTORIC DESIGNATION

The process to designate Downtown Prairie Grove a historic district has not been simple. Much of the downtown didn't qualify because of previous modifications to buildings, but the south side was mostly intact. The buildings qualified on age and the Arkansas Historic Preservation office saw the downtown as a dying breed among Arkansas towns and moved forward with only designating some of the downtown as historic. The move opens up low interest loans for buildings that might want to preserve their history.



# BUILDING UPDATE

Building slowed slightly through July, but the first of August it picked up again and as of August 2, 132 Single Family homes had been permitted and 26 multi-family units that included 8 duplexes, 2 three plexes, and a four plex.

Since last months report 18 total dwelling units were added.

The total of 158 total dwelling units is the population equivalent of 379 new residents.

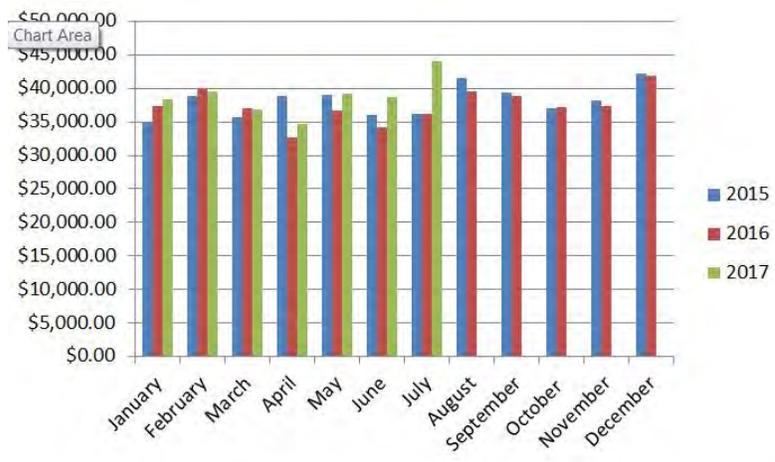
The total dwelling units permitted in 2016 was 148, all single family units.

It is expected that next year's growth will taper off because of a lack of available building lots.



## SALES TAX SETS NEW RECORD

In July the City set a new record for sales tax collected in a single month. \$44056 was collected per 1% of collected sales tax for a total of \$99,126. Last year in July, \$36105 was collected. Year to date collections are 7% higher than 2016 and 5% higher than 2015. Amazon started collecting local taxes in March, and this is suspected as helping collections. The current pace would put the City at \$1,079,000 for a years collection of sales tax.



## PROPERTY TAX

Preliminary County Assessment reports were released last week and Prairie Grove was again among the county leaders in property assessment growth. The City saw growth of 6.42% which was only exceeded by Goshen and Tontitown. Most of that growth is likely the result of

new construction. County wide the assessments grew by 3.57%.

The increase will likely mean an additional \$17,000 for the general fund in 2018, over \$5000 for the Library, and \$2000 for the Street department unless the county quorum court

goes after the road tax as was discussed last year. The county wants to eliminate the road tax collections and replace them with a general millage they wouldn't have to share with Cities.

FYI—City of Prairie Grove— Aug. 2017

[www.prairiegrovearkansas.org](http://www.prairiegrovearkansas.org)



- *Captain Jeff Obrien completed the Police Chief Executive Development Course through the University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute on July 21st.*
- *Larry Oelrich attended the Executive committee summer meeting of the Arkansas Water Environment Association July 25th in Jacksonville Arkansas.*
- *Larry Oelrich attended the quarterly board meeting of the Arkansas Water Works and Water Environment Association Joint Conference August 9th in Little Rock.*



## SIDEWALKS MAKE PROGRESS

Sidewalk work has progressed slowly all summer. A sidewalk along Bush Street now connects Grand View and LaHeRa Subdivisions with sidewalks adjacent to the school. A cross walk on Viney Grove Road has recently been installed to connect those neighborhoods. A long 2200' sidewalk was built across land the school owns and now ties in all of the Prairie Meadow Subdivision and Willow Creek subdivisions to the school campus. Kids have been utilizing the partially completed sidewalk for some time. The new sidewalk includes two steel bridges that cross sections of the town branch. Another sidewalk along Baggett Street will tie in the east side of Prairie Meadows to Willow Creek allowing better access from that side.

Other work will be completed on Viney Grove Road this year although it is not expected that that project will be completed.

Right top: the length of sidewalk along 62 connecting to Willow Creek.

Right bottom: Brandon Holland and Jason Arnold install the handrails for one of the two foot bridges.

