

May 2023 Update

Water plant design work is in progress. EPA engineers have a conference call on 1/12/23 with our engineers to discuss the water plant design approval. The EPA seems pleased with the design as per the conference call. EPA's left hand doesn't communicate with its right hand. We are waiting for plan approval while our district rep. is asking what's going on. Told them to call Columbus and let us know, too.

Andrew Moretto will be released for light duty on June 4th.

Nature Preserve Project final contract from the State has been signed and the availability of the monies has been extended one year. Now in the design phase. The trails have been GPS located and marked. Bidding will go out this spring/early summer. Construction to begin after 9/30 due to the Indiana Bat nesting from April 1 to September 30th.

Central Tank and Painting will be doing the interior inspection and wash of the water tower within the next couple of weeks. The tower must be drained, a 10,000 gal pressure tank will be installed at Euclid and E. Market St, and hopefully they are in and out within a week. Interior inspection of the water tower is complete and went well. A few places touched up with epoxy and the inside was pressure washed. Great learning experience for Kris and did very well with a stressful project.

Meeting John Most, Tuesday, March 14th, at 10 AM at the park to look at the parking lot as this has been a point of discussion for council. John inspected the lot again and after brooming off the lot it was worse than expected. Mayor Martin has a new quote.

Utility software has been installed. We are working through the little bugs, but we've also taken three credit card payments. It works nicely and should be ready for full usage in January. Each credit card payment has a 3.5% convenience fee for the customer. They all had no problem with that. Still working through some software bugs, but our credit card system has been used several times. Once the new website is up and running, we will be ready to go.

We have materials ordered and coming for the fall zones at the park, and the outfield fence and little field back stop will be repaired. After which, we will install the new fence topper. Materials are here and will begin the fall zone installation in June.

GMS sent students over for make a difference day on May 26th. Painted the backstop building, cleaned picnic tables, stained benches, cleaned moss off the playground, stained over some graffiti. Very good group of workers.

Kris has tweaked the softeners, and our April TDS at the WWTP was 960 ppb. An incredibly low number for our water which comes out of the ground around 900 ppb.

We have started our electric rate study with Courtney & Assoc. Our rates haven't been examined or raised since 2004, and we need to be sure we are covering costs. This study does not indicate a rate increase is in the offing. It only looks to see if we are meeting our fiscal responsibilities. The requested data has been sent to them for analysis. Still waiting for updates.

Remember, we welcome any and all council members to come down to the utility department to get a glimpse of a typical day. Tough to manage with no idea what goes on each day.

The WWTP's pressure switch broke after 13 years of service. Andrew, Data Command, and Kidron Electric worked to install a new, updated system.

Received our PEP \$1000.00 grant. Purchased new fence topper for the ball fields. That arrived 3/29 and we will get it installed. The wet weather has slowed the field maintenance for the ball players.

Working on a grant application for Toro for their Ventrac grant for 501c3's within 40 miles of one of their production facilities.

The guys handed out a lot of leak notices to residents who they noticed used more than their normal usage. The highest one was 36,000 gallons. All high usage residents had a leaking toilet. We do not credit their accounts for that water as it cost us to treat it and process it at the WWTP. We did work out short payment plans for the highest bill. It is so important to do preventive maintenance on your property. Most of the time it's a flapper valve that no longer seats. A partially sealed flapper valve can still allow a gallon a minute through the toilet for a total of 1440 gallons per day.