



Council Report City of Pataskala Utility Department Trent Howell, Acting Utility Director

➤ New Items

• New Operational Updates

- Billing Switch to VIP
 - The Billing Dept will be switching from E-gov our current operating system to the VIP system, starting April 20th thru the 27th. The VIP system is used by the Finance Dept. which should help to streamline processing between the billing dept and Finance. During this 7-day period the billing team will have limited access to the customer accounts. An announcement will be put on Facebook to let the customers know about the limited account access.
- Shutoffs
 - Shutoffs door hangers will go out on April 18th
 - We will only be doing door hangers for this round of shutoffs due to the limited accessibility of the accounts during the billing switch over period.
- Leaks
 - No comment
- Service Line Mapping Project
 - This project will start April 17th and will take place in the Old Town Area.
 - This work is being done to determine the type of material used for the service lines. The work is expected to last roughly 6 weeks.
 - There will be a Facebook announcement about this project making the appropriate customers aware.
 - This project will be paid for by a grant from the EPA.

➤ **Ongoing Items**

• **Water Reclamation Facility**

- Daily Operations
 - The operators maintain exceptional daily operations of the WRF, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of turning the City's wastewater into clean, safe water that is discharged into the South Fork of the Licking River
- WRF Upgrade
 - Waiting on the blowers to be delivered
 - Design for the blowers is currently taking place.
- COVID-19 Wastewater Testing
 - Pataskala Utility Department was selected to participate in the COVID-19 wastewater testing program.
 - This program looks for the virus RNA in the waste stream, giving a more accurate and nearly real-time representation of the infection rate of the community that we serve.
 - The results of the COVID-19 wastewater testing are currently being posted to the Ohio Corona Virus dashboard found here:
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/wastewater>
 - The Utility Department will continue to participate in this program as long as it continues to be fully funded by the State.

• **Water Treatment Plants**

- Daily Operations
 - The operators maintain exceptional daily operations of both Water Treatment Plants, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of providing the City's customers clean, safe water that meets or exceeds the requirements from the OEPA.
- Water Plant 1 Iron Filter 2
 - There is a small leak somewhere along the bottom of one of the iron filter tanks at WTP1. Repair will require removal and replacement of the filter media, structural repairs, and recoating of the filter tank surface.

- The repair crew came out on Jan 11 to analyze the leak and see if repairs can be made. That analysis was not yet completed at the time of this report. Updates will be provided to the council at a later date.

- **Distribution and Collection System**

- Daily Operations

- The systems team maintains exceptional daily operations of the entire distribution and collections system, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of providing customer service to the residents, maintaining the city's infrastructure, and responding to emergencies of various types.

- Leaks

- No comment

- Creek Rd L/S

- Design is moving forward as the various permits are being reviewed.

- Sewer Slip lining

- Phase 1-B is complete. Phase I is still underway. The contractors have been very responsive to customer questions and concerns.
- This phase of the project is expected to last about a month, weather permitting.
- The contractor is notifying each resident whose sewer line connects to the portion of the main being lined at least 24 hours in advance to the work taking place.
 - While the lining is occurring, we are encouraging residents to limit their usage as the liner will temporarily block their sewer line connection. Once the liner is installed, an opening is cut to return service to each connection. This work all takes place on the same day, limiting the inconvenience to our customers. This is explained in the notice provided by the contractor.

- As a reminder, this work is being partially paid for by two grants. One through HB 168 and one through OPWC.

- The grants total \$500,000 and the local share is \$250,000 coming from our Sewer Capital Improvements Fund

- Phase 1 contractor Visu Sewer has completed initial grouting work and is now doing some additional camera work in preparation to start installing the liner.
 - Service Line Mapping Project
 - This project will start April 17th and will take place in the Old Town Area.
 - This work is being done to determine the type of material used for the service lines. The work is expected to last roughly 6 weeks.
 - There will be a Facebook announcement about this project making the appropriate customers aware.
 - Bulk Water Fill Station
 - The remaining work to be done, installing overhead fill pipe and air gap and training on the operation of the station.
 - SCADA Prop Study
 - The study on the effectiveness of our SCADA radio system is complete. J&K Communications is currently reviewing the data to make a proposal for us to upgrade that outdated system.
- **Billing Team**
 - Daily Operations
 - The billing team does an exceptional job of processing the payments for water and sewer service, scheduling the service work that needs done as well as providing excellent customer service 8 hours a day, 5 days a week.
 - Billing System Switch to VIP
 - The Billing Dept will be switching from E-gov our current operating system to the VIP system, starting April 20th thru the 27th. The VIP system is used by the Finance Dept. which should help to streamline processing between the billing dept and Finance. During this 7-day period the billing team will have limited access to the customer accounts. An announcement will be put on Facebook to let the customers know about the limited account access.
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- **Director**

- WRF Expansion

- Until the WRF permit is expanded, we will not be able to provide sewer service for any additional significant development projects within the Pataskala Utility Department sewer service area.
 - This excludes developments who are already in the process.
- The process to apply for an expanded permit at the WRF is still ongoing. The EPA has stated that they are conducting a study on the receiving waters and will not be able to review any applications until that study is complete. They have stated that the study should be completed by Feb 13.
- Discussions with SWLCWSD about the State 208 Plan requirements are ongoing.
 - The State 208 Plan requires us to discuss regionalization with SWLCWSD and to provide a letter documenting that discussion and an agreement on the requested expansion from Pataskala before any permit expansion can be granted. At this point, SWLCWSD has concerns about the increased flow numbers that we are seeking.
 - Discussions with the EPA on how to navigate the State 208 Plan are ongoing.
 - It is important to note that until the permit is expanded, we are at the point of denying service to new development in our service area.

- Safety Program

- The department requires two safety meetings each month.
 - One is done at the team level by the Superintendents covering general safety issues.
 - The second is done with the entire staff.
 - Each month, a different member of the department will lead this training.

Respectfully submitted,

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