



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

➤ New Items

▪ New Operational Updates

- Beechwood Water Tower #1
 - As part of the 2023 Water Tower Maintenance program the Beechwood Water Tower #1 will be the focus. The wet interior of the bowl will get painted and touch up paint of the dry interior of the tower. The tower has been drained and work started on June 11th, 2023. This project is expected to take around a week and a half to complete.
- Utility Systems Superintendent
 - The job posting for the Utility Systems Superintendent has closed with a total of 6 individuals turning in an application.
 - The 6 applications were presented to PBR Committee where the committee selected 2 applications as meeting the requirements for the position.
 - I will be meeting with HR in preparation of interview questions and then moving forward with setting up interviews. Aiming for the first or second week of July or interview dates.
- OEPA Interns Tour at WTP2
 - For two years running we have hosted a group of interns from the OEPA to WTP2 for a tour of the plant.
 - This year a group of 10 interns got to meet our Plant Superintendent MaryAnn Figgins. MaryAnn did a great job walking them through step by step the treatment process at WTP2.
 - The Group was very grateful, as most of them had never seen a working Water Treatment Plant.
- Boy Scouts will be touring the Water and Wastewater Plants.
 - MaryAnn will also be giving a tour of the water and Wastewater Plants to the local Boy Scouts.
- Shut offs.
 - Shut offs will take place June 21st.

- John Burr Licensed
 - Huge shout out, recently John Burr passed his Wastewater Treatment 1 License.
- Leaks
 - Service line leak fixed at 949 Poppleton Place North.
 - Service line leak fixed at 1032 Legacy Lane.
 - Service line leak fixed at 1072 Oxford Drive North.

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.
 - Boy Scouts will be touring the Water and Wastewater Plants.
 - MaryAnn will also be giving a tour of the water and Wastewater Plants to the local Boy Scouts.

- **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 with clean, safe water that meets or exceeds the requirements from the OEPA.

- OEPA Interns Tour at WTP2

- For two years running we have hosted a group of interns from the OEPA to WTP2.
 - This year a group of 10 interns got to meet our Plant Superintendent MaryAnn Figgins. MaryAnn did a great job walking them through step by step the treatment process at WTP2.
 - The Group was very grateful, as most of them had never seen a working Water Treatment Plant.

- 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

- Service line leak fixed at 949 Poppleton Place North.
 - Service line leak fixed at 1032 Legacy Lane.
 - Service line leak fixed at 1072 Oxford Drive North.

- 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 is around 80% complete with Phase 1 of the sewer slip lining project.
 - They are waiting for a dryer weather period to finish up the remaining 20%.
- Beechwood Water Tower #1
 - As part of the 2023 Water Tower Maintenance program the Beechwood Water Tower #1 will get the wet interior of the bowl and a touch up of the dry interior of the tower. The tower has been drained and work started on June 11th, 2023. The project is expected to take around a week and a half to complete.
- 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.

- Shut offs.

- Shut offs will take place June 21st.

- **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 permit expansion request was submitted to the EPA on May19th.

- We expect there to be a 6-month review period by the EPA.

- Utility Systems Superintendent

- The job posting for the Utility Systems Superintendent has closed with a total of 6 individuals turning in an application.

- The 6 applications were presented to PBR Committee where they selected 2 applications as meeting the requirements for the position.

- I will be meeting with HR in preparation of interview questions and then moving forward with setting up interviews the first or second week of July.

- 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.

- John Burr Licensed

- Huge shout out, recently John Burr passed his Wastewater Treatment 1 License.

Respectfully submitted,

Trent Howell
Utility Director
thowell@ci.pataskala.oh.us
(740) 927-4134