



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

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➤ **New Items**

• **New Operational Updates**

- Creek Rd. Force Main Upgrade
  - Advertisements requesting Bids for this project have been placed in the newspaper and on the city web site.
  - Bid opening for this project will be September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Shut offs
  - Shut offs will take place on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Leaks
  - On August 8<sup>th</sup> the water service line for 345 Shawnee Loop was replaced.
- Field Tech 1 Position
  - This position has been posted in the newspaper and on the city website with the posting close date of August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Currently there are 3 applicants.
- Utility Systems Superintendent
  - We have selected Jeremy Moore to fill the open position of Utility Systems Superintendent and his official start date will be September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Water One Conference
  - Three members of the Utility Department will be attending the conference.
  - The conference will take place from August 21<sup>st</sup> to August 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - The conference not only provides interesting continuing education credits but is also a great place to meet others in the industry and build helpful relationships for the future.

## 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 with 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.

- 2023 EPA Testing for Lead and Copper
  - The annual testing for Lead and Copper has begun. The treatment team has a pre-selected list of addresses based on age of the home as well as other factors, that make them eligible to be sampled for Lead and Copper. 20 homes in total will be sampled. As of the end of June, 5 samples have been collected and the team hopes to have all samples collected by the end of July.

- **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.
- Sewer Lining Project
  - The sewer lining project has been completed. The project utilized OPWC and House Bill 168 funding to help complete the project.
  - Visu Sewer and United Survey contractors for this project, both did a great job and have been great to work with.
- 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.
- Leaks
  - On August 8<sup>th</sup> the water service line for 345 Shawnee Loop was replaced.

- **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 on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

- **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.

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- 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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