



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

➤ **New Items**

• **New Operational Updates**

- Creek Rd. Force Main Upgrade
 - Bid opening for the project was September 12th.
 - Unfortunately, there were no bids presented for this project.
 - Currently working with the design firm to determine why there were no bids presented and a course of action moving forward with this project.
- CA for the Creek Rd. Force Main Upgrade
 - The scope and price have been determined for this project.
 - I will be presenting this information to the Utility Committee.
- Shut-offs
 - Shut-offs will take place on September 20th.
- Leaks
 - The curb box for 4475 York Rd. was dug up and reset so it could be shut off so that homeowners could do home improvements.
- Utility Systems Superintendent
 - Effective September 11th Jeremy Moore has started his employment with the City.
 - Mr. Moore will be present for the Council Meeting on September 18th for an in-person introduction to the Council Members.
- Field Tech 1 Position
 - Applicants have been called and interviews have been set for the 20th and 21st of September.
- Village of Utica Training
 - Big Thank You to the Village Utica for inviting the City of Pataskala employees to participate in their free continuing education training. The training focused on different styles of leak detection that can be utilized in the distribution system.

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
 - The curb box for 4475 York Rd. was dug up and reset so it could be shut off so that homeowners could do home improvements.
- Fire Hydrant Painting
 - I received an email from Iva O'Ryan with Licking Hights High School. Iva supervises a community service project for the school, organizing kids to paint fire hydrants for the Utility Department. This project has been running for a few years, and is working very well. The Utility Department is very grateful for all the time and effort that Iva and the students put into this project.

- **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 September 20th.

- **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 May 19th.

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

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- Village of Utica Training

- Big Thank You to the Village Utica for inviting the City of Pataskala employes to participate in their free continuing education training. The training focused on different styles of leak detection that can be utilized in the distribution system.
- 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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