



WATERSHED NEWS

FOUNDATION

SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

FOUNDATION STAFF

STEVE STEWART

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VICTORIA ANDERSON

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT /
OFFICE MANAGER

PO Box 6218
BRANSON, MO 65615
417-334-7644
FAX 417-334-7645

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Beaver Lake Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2006. Call Alan for more information at 479-636-1210 ext. # 313, or send e-mail to alan.p.bland@usace.army.mil.

Volunteers needed for Clean Water National Tour coming to Wonders of Wildlife **October 13-22, 2006** – interactive exhibits for children & adults. If interested in volunteering, please contact tfrey@missouristate.edu or phone 417-836-6183.

WITH YOUR HELP
WE WILL WORK
TOGETHER TO
MAKE BEAVER,
TABLE ROCK,
TANEYCOMO AND
BULL SHOALS
LAKES THE FOUR
CLEANEST
MANMADE LAKES IN
NORTH AMERICA.

TODAY'S HEADLINES

LEGISLATION / REGULATION:

- [HEALTH DEPARTMENT NOW REQUIRES WASTEWATER PERMITS](#) – *The Neosho Daily News*
TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)

POULTRY:

- [STRICTER PLANT PERMIT DOESN'T SALVE ALL CRITICS](#) – *The Associated Press / Springfield News-Leader*
TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)

STORMWATER RUNOFF:

- [SPRINGDALE: COUNCIL: DRAINAGE A PRIORITY](#) – *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*
TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)
- [CLEAR CREEK IMPROVEMENT ADOPTED](#) – *The Morning News*
TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)

SEWER / SEPTIC / WASTEWATER:

- [FAYETTEVILLE, FARMINGTON REACH SEWER AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL](#) – *Northwest Arkansas News*
TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)

EDUCATION:

- [ILLINOIS RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF NEW WEB SITE](#) – *Northwest Arkansas Times*
TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)

[BACK TO TOP](#)

HEALTH DEPARTMENT NOW REQUIRES WASTEWATER PERMITS

By Todd G. Higdon The Neosho Daily News

Posted on September 27, 2006

URL: <http://www.neoshodailynews.com/articles/2006/09/26/news/03health.txt>

The Newton County Health Department Environmental Health is reminding Newton County residents that certain procedures are to be followed when installing a new wastewater treatment system or repairing an existing wastewater treatment system.

“We want to remind the residents that if they are going to do repairs or even do a new wastewater system, they must have permits,” Newton County Health Department Environmental Public Health Supervisor Roger Brock said.

According to the county's wastewater ordinance, all new wastewater treatment systems and repairs to existing treatment systems require a permit from the health department.

The wastewater ordinance also requires that all plumbers, wastewater treatment installers or any other person who works on a wastewater treatment system must be state registered to install or repair septic systems. In addition to being state registered, any person working on wastewater treatment systems in the county must also be registered with the health department.

“To work on a wastewater system without a license or registration with the health department is a violation of the Newton County Wastewater ordinance and is punishable by penalties detailed within the ordinance,” said a Newton County Health Department press release.

According to Brock, a county permit for a new system is \$75 and a repair permit is \$15. On a new permit for state, it is \$90.

If a Newton County resident requires installation of a new wastewater system or repairs to existing systems, the health department recommends that the plumber or install bidding on the work present a copy of their state registration card and a copy of the health department registration card before they begin any work. If they can't produce these registration cards upon request, the department suggests to person to contact another contractor who can provide evidence that they have proper licenses from both the state and the local health department. Also, the department recommends that residents seek more than one bid for any wastewater treatment system work.

“On average, we see about 350 (new) installations of septic systems a year since Aug. 1995,” Brock said.

For more information, contact the environmental department of the Newton County Health Department at 451-6549.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

STRICTER PLANT PERMIT DOESN'T SALVE ALL CRITICS

The Associated Press / Springfield News-Leader

Posted on September 27, 2006

URL: <http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060927/BUSINESS/609270359/1003>

Southwest City — Although a five-year operating permit for the Simmons Foods poultry plant here is more stringent than its previous permit, some residents say more needs to be done to protect water quality in the area.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources recently issued the permit, which replaced one that had expired nearly seven years ago. The new permit was issued only after the department received significant input from residents in Missouri and Oklahoma, said Kristen Pattinson, who handled the permit for the DNR.

Pattinson said the new permit lowers the amount of phosphorus and nitrates that can be released into Cave Springs Branch, requires more sampling and adds monitoring of wells to check for leakage of the plant's wastewater lagoons.

"We're looking for groundwater contamination," Pattinson said. "If we find it, they will either have to close the lagoons or line the lagoons. Those are their only choices."

Even with the tougher standards, the permit does not go far enough to protect the area's water, said Riley Needham of rural Grove, Okla. The Simmons plant is less than a mile east of the Oklahoma-Missouri border.

The treated wastewater flows into Cave Springs Branch, then into Honey Creek and finally into Grand Lake. The Grand Lake Association, based in Grove, opposed the issuance of any permit that would allow contaminated water to flow into the lake.

The new permit lowers the phosphorus limit to 0.5 milligrams per liter for the monthly average, with a daily maximum not to exceed 1 milligram per liter. The new nitrate level is 10 milligrams per liter for the monthly average, with a daily maximum of 20.1 milligrams.

"This is not the best that can be done," Needham said. "The stream is dominated by Simmons discharge. The water is not being protected with these new limits. I challenge you to show me a stream with these limits that is not polluted."

The permit will cut by more than half the amount of dissolved oxygen that is permitted in the stream and will significantly cut the amount of ammonia that is permitted to enter the stream on a seasonal basis. The company will have three years to meet the stricter limits for ammonia.

Gary Murphy, president of poultry operations for Simmons, said the company has not yet seen the permit but had anticipated that it would be more stringent.

"In anticipation of that, we have done quite a few things to improve efficiency," Murphy said. "We have lived a number of years within the old permit limits. We don't anticipate problems meeting this one."

Deborah Wolek, director of the Grand Lake Association, said she is encouraged by the tougher standards in the new permit.

"We don't want to put our neighbors out of work, but we know they can do this in a healthier manner," Wolek said.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

SPRINGDALE: COUNCIL: DRAINAGE A PRIORITY

By JOHN KRUPA Arkansas Democrat Gazette
Posted on September 27, 2006
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/167888/>

SPRINGDALE — The Springdale City Council wants drainage in the Clear Creek Drainage Basin improved after recent rains came within feet of flooding residents' homes.

The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to make drainage basin improvement "a priority" in the city's Capital Improvement Plan.

Mayor Jerre Van Hoose said the vote authorizes city planners to develop an engineering plan and estimate the costs involved in improving drainage in the flood-prone region.

City planners will present their recommendations at October's Street and Capital Improvements Committee meeting, the mayor said.

"We know this is a serious issue to be dealt with and we will try to help," Van Hoose said, after a roomful of residents who live along Clear Creek and its tributaries applauded the vote. "We'll move this as quickly as we can to find the solutions." The move came after several residents complained over the last month that flooding in the region is growing dangerous.

A large group turned out at last week's Street and Capital Improvements Committee meeting claiming that flooding is worsening as residential and commercial development moves more stormwater runoff into low-lying areas.

Randy and Donna Phillips of 1590 Clear Creek Drive showed home video Tuesday night shot after heavy rains deluged their neighborhood over the summer and again on Saturday.

Clear Creek Drive extends from Arkansas 265 east to George Anderson Road. The creek drains into Lake Fayetteville west of Arkansas 265.

The footage showed rushing water on roadways, flooded woodlands and drainage ditches spilling out onto lawns.

"We are at the brink," Donna Phillips told the City Council, her voice cracking. "I'd certainly like to see development, but I'd certainly like to keep my home."

Some residents want to see detention ponds installed along the creek as suggested in a 2002 drainage study.

Aldermen also tabled an ordinance to allow further development in the area. The ordinance would have rezoned 84 acres south of U. S. 412 between Ferrell and Eupeil lanes from an agricultural to residential district. Bill Watkins, a Rogers attorney representing Homestead Homes, the property's developer, asked the City Council to table the rezoning motion after hearing from the residents. However, he said development could improve drainage controls and decrease flooding in downstream neighborhoods. "This is an opportunity for the drainage that comes off this property to be slowed and reduced," Watkins said. "If there's a problem out there, and this property contributes to it, this is a chance to fix it." Watkins said after the meeting that the subdivision is approved to build up to four units per acre. He said it would take at least six months for Homestead Homes to begin selling lots.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

CLEAR CREEK IMPROVEMENT ADOPTED

By [Steve Caraway](#) The Morning News

Posted on September 26, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwaonline.net/articles/2006/09/27/news/092706szcouncil.txt>

SPRINGDALE -- Rising water took over the Springdale City Council meeting Tuesday night.

The flooding problems along Clear Creek, to be addressed in the second half of the meeting, drowned earlier agenda items in the creek's drainage basin. Residents of Clear Creek Development vented their opposition to any development that might add to their problem, including rezoning property in the basin.

"One more inch of rain than what we had and the water will be in homes," said Donna Phillips, a resident of Clear Creek Road. "There is no more play. A really big rain and it's over."

The creek drains a large area in southeast Springdale where several large developments have sprouted in the last decade. A 4-inch rain in August poured water through the yards and nearly to the walls of the homes on the road. Water in the creek rushed out of its banks again on Sept. 23 after a smaller rain.

The council passed a resolution placing improvement of the drainage basin on the Capital Improvement Program as a priority project. A work plan and project budget is scheduled to be presented to the next meeting of the Street and CIP Committee.

An earlier study looked at developing three detention ponds on two tributaries of Clear Creek. The study did not include the eastern end of the watershed, which was not inside city limits at the time.

Clear Creek residents identified additional problems in the basin as large, straightened floodways leading to smaller, still natural creek beds. The basin also has small drainage pipes under roads which clog with debris. Pipes under Arkansas Highway 265 back water into the yards near the highway.

On the other side of Arkansas 265, the creek drains into Lake Fayetteville. Debris collects on a footbridge over the creek in Fayetteville's parkland around the lake, noted Councilman Rick Evans.

"The plan will have to take in all of these factors when it is worked up," said Jerre Van Hoose, mayor.

While waiting for the resolution concerning Clear Creek, residents of the area objected to rezoning of land off Monitor Road, in the belief the property would drain toward them. The rezoning passed when the drainage map showed stormwater traveled to Beaver Lake.

A later rezoning did fall in the Clear Creek basin. A request to rezone 84 acres south of U.S. 412 between Ferrell and Eupeil from agricultural to low/medium density single family residential was tabled at the request of attorney Bill Watkins, who represented the owners. Watkins also represented a separate group of owners of the property on Monitor.

"I should have worn my hip waders," Watkins said. "I feel like I stepped right into the middle of Clear Creek."

The council moved the resolution on Clear Creek up the agenda after the rezoning near U.S. 412 came up.

Another resident of Clear Creek waited to see whether another piece of property up for rezoning was in the basin.

"I wanted to know," said Frank Calvert, drawing laughter. "It didn't seem like you knew yourself the last time you mentioned it."

At A Glance

Springdale City Council

The Springdale City Council, in its meeting on Tuesday, voted to:

Approve the appointment of David Davis to fill a seat on the Springdale Advertising and Promotion Commission. Davis replaces Mark Henry.

Approve a sublease by the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Arkansas for the senior center.

Approve an ordinance to set up permitting for carnivals or circuses in the city.

Approve a final plat for Phase II of the Links at Springdale.

Approve an ordinance to refer to the 2000 International Building Code instead of the Standard Building Code in city ordinances.

Approve the rezoning of nine parcels of land, with one rezoning on Wagon Wheel Road passed after reducing the zone requested from open display commercial to general commercial.

Source: Staff report

BACK TO TOP

FAYETTEVILLE, FARMINGTON REACH SEWER AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL

By ADAM WALLWORTH Northwest Arkansas Times
Posted on September 26, 2006
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/News/45281/>

The Fayetteville Sewer Committee gave its approval Monday to a tentative sewer service agreement with Farmington, which includes a rebate estimated at \$ 264, 000.

Farmington City Attorney Steve Tennant is drafting a contract based on the agreement that was presented to the Fayetteville group following a lengthy negotiation process. Fayetteville City Attorney Kit Williams will have to agree to the contract language before it is sent to the respective city councils for approval.

The rebate to Farmington customers and the cost of a pump station were the most difficult items to negotiate, said Ward 2 Alderman Kyle Cook, chairman of the committee and member of the Fayetteville negotiation team.

The rebate takes into account the fact that Farmington residents have contributed to the cost of building Fayetteville's new sewer plant, which is part of the ongoing \$ 183 million Wastewater System Improvement Project. Farmington rate payers will be refunded roughly \$ 264, 000, to make up for higher rates charged them since 2004, when the first installment of a threephase rate increase went into effect.

The rate increase was passed to fund the additional cost of operations and maintenance of the new plant, which was scheduled to be completed in September of 2005, but now has a completion date of 2008.

Cook had wanted to only refund rates collected since earlier this year, when a new consultant recalculated rates and came up with a lower per-1, 000-gallon charge.

While Farmington rate payers will see a refund, their rates will begin to increase at the same rate that Fayetteville's do when the ongoing rate study is completed around January. The rates are expected to increase at least 20 percent, which could be phased in over the next three years.

Steve Davis, representing Farmington, said that while Fayetteville was not in favor of refunding excess rates charged since 2004, Farmington leaders weren't pleased about splitting the cost of engineering a new pump station, which is estimated at \$ 960, 000.

In addition to paying half of the engineering costs, the cities will share the cost of building the pump station, which is now estimated at \$ 7. 2 million, with Farmington's share estimated at between \$ 3. 8 million and \$ 4. 8 million.

The two groups also reached a concession on sewer capacity, which will be 8. 2 percent of the "operational" capacity of the new sewer plant. Operational capacity refers to the amount the plant can actually handle, rather than what it was designed to handle.

Dave Jurgens, Fayetteville sewer director, explained that the city's current sewer plant is processing the sewage of the system that eventually will be split between two plants. He said the two plants may be able to handle more than the 115, 000 people that he is using as a conservative estimate for total system capacity.

While the Paul R. Noland Wastewater Treatment Plant was operating at about 94 percent capacity in 2001, it has been able to process the sewage, though costs are now increasing to keep from violating its permit.

Representatives of the two cities are scheduled to meet Friday to discuss the pump station in detail.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

ILLINOIS RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF NEW WEB SITE

Northwest Arkansas Times

Posted on Wednesday, September 27, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/News/45320/>

The Illinois River Watershed Partnership has announced the launch of their new Web site at www.IRWP.org.

The Web site serves to educate the public on the Illinois River Watershed. The site features a photographic image of the river from Kim Baker. The site also offers a fun quiz, information on what a watershed is, how the public can contribute in a positive manner to the area and more about the Illinois River Watershed Partnership and how to become a member and contribute to the organization.

The Illinois River Watershed Partnership is a membership-based organization working to protect and restore the Illinois River and its tributaries. The organization is working together to improve water quality and to educate and encourage others to enjoy and positively affect the Illinois River Watershed.

[BACK TO TOP](#)