

BUILDING/PLANNING:

At this time there are 42 active residential dwelling permits and 12 commercial projects in construction. Utility work is in progress for the S. Barrington subdivision. The subdivision project on Liberty has started grading streets and drainage. Still no word on the Edwards property at 412 & Mantegani.

There will be a public hearing at the regularly scheduled Planning Board meeting Tuesday, September 27th, to discuss the adoption of new city-wide zoning.

STREET DEPARTMENT:

All projects mentioned at last month's meeting have been completed. This includes repairs to S. Pianalto, Javello and Reed Valley Road, as well as sealing the center line crack separation on Javello Rd. The parking lots at the water office and city hall have been sealed and re-stripped.

WATER & SEWER:

Ground Zero Construction has completed the service connection tie-ins on S. Pianalto Rd. They are currently constructing the water line extension from Pozza Ln. to Klenc Rd. Material has been delivered for the 12" water line section on 412 and work should begin on this portion of the project this week.

You may not be aware, but one of the duties of the water department is to respond to locate requests from Arkansas One-Call. This is the service that everyone must use before digging to install underground utilities, such as gas lines, phone lines, electric lines and buried cable. Not only are contractors required to use this service, but any individual that is building a fence, planting a tree or any other activity that involves digging a hole or trench. I mention this because of the time it requires to address these requests. In the month of August, we received 98 locate requests. The amount of time it takes to process a request can be as little as 30 minutes or as much as 4 hours, depending on the size of the area to be marked.

As you know, we have made an offer to purchase land adjacent to the city shop for construction of a water tower. The contract has been signed by the city and presented to Ms. Pianalto. If all goes as planned, we will close on the property October 7th. Carl Gales has presented preliminary plans for the water tower and we will be reviewing those this week. As soon as the design plans are completed and approved we will advertise for bids for construction.

PARKS:

The newest feature in our park is a “Little Free Library.” These libraries are popping up all over the country. You can go to www.littlefreelibrary.com and find their locations. We have registered with the website but we are not listed at this time, but will be in the near future. Our library and two boxes of books were donated by Carl Gales who learned about the project through Kiwanis Club. I enlisted the help of my daughter to provide the artwork.

Another idea that has recently been proposed for our park is a dog park or “Bark Park.” This would consist of a fenced area where the community could bring their dogs to play and run free in a safe environment. We have looked at a location to construct this park and suggest the area between the walking trail and the Fire Department. The estimated cost to fence an area 50’ X 200’ is approximately \$4000.

