



What is Slow Down, Phone Down?

Slow Down, Phone Down is a statewide work zone safety campaign urging drivers to *slow down* and *put their phone down* when entering a work zone. Not only are these the two most important measures we can take to prevent accidents in work zones, but speeding and/or using your phone in a work zone are *illegal*. Fines for traffic violations are *doubled* in work zones when workers are present.

Keep yourself safe, keep our road crews safe, and avoid getting a costly citation by *slowing down* and *putting your phone down*.

Monthly Report May 2023

Public Works Department

STREETS/PARKS:

Some improvements have been made to the baseball field in the park. Ozarks Electric, through their Community Outreach program, is assisting Josh Crain and the City by updating the lighting controls for the field. New equipment was installed on the two poles where the disconnect switches were that allow the field lights to be turned on and off. Also, they installed a new pole and underground service to eliminate the overhead wiring on the south side of the field. This is all thanks to Wes Graham, a manager at Ozarks Electric and a Coach of a youth baseball team that utilizes the park for practice.

WATER/SEWER:

Last week I attended the annual AWW&WEA Water Conference in Hot Springs. Like the Municipal League Conference, the water conference is an event that brings together approximately 1,500 water and wastewater professionals from all over the state. The meeting provides 16 formal training hours to help meet licensing requirements for water and wastewater personnel. In addition, a large trade show is held to display the latest equipment in the water and wastewater field. It also provides a chance to meet in person with representatives from the Arkansas Department of Health, ADEQ, ArDot and other state agencies that I work with on a regular basis. Finally, it is a great opportunity for networking with peers from cities large and small all over the state. The greatest issue among all cities is finding and retaining employees.

I mentioned last meeting that work would begin on the 412 water line on April 17th. That date has changed. Mobilization began May 1st and work began on May 8th. The current plan is start at Barrington Road and proceed east. Once the contractor has another crew on site, they will start at Barrington and proceed west.

Since Charles Ward left the Public Works Department, we have been advertising for field personnel. I have hired one person, but need at least one more. If you know of anyone looking for a job, please send them my way.

Austin Bowen is the person that we hired for the Public Works Department. His parents are the owners of the Venesian Inn. Austin is also the great-nephew of Tommy Granata. We are pleased to have him join our team.