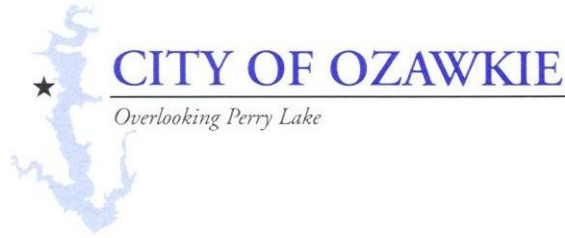


UTILITY NEWSLETTER



Third Quarter, 2008

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Call "811" for locates before you dig or go to www.kansasonecall.com.

GIS Mapping Project

The city is in the final steps of completing the GIS mapping project. Over the coming weeks, maintenance employees will be reviewing and correcting the final data. The "original" city utility maps have also been copied and digitally stored for future reference. Stop by the city office and see some of the work for yourself!

WATER TOWER MAINTENANCE

Thank you for your patience during the recent maintenance project. Your cooperation helped the project run smoothly with no adverse impact on the water system. This major component of the overall project was completed four days ahead of schedule.

DID YOU KNOW...?

It takes 1,500 gallons of water to process one barrel of beer. Source: U.S. EPA

MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Do not flush expired or unused medicine down the drain. Small quantities of household medicine can contaminate water sources. Please consult a pharmacist or the manufacturer for proper disposal techniques. More information can be found at www.epa.gov/ppcp.

BE AWARE

Have you noticed water running down the street? A constant wet spot in your yard? Be vigilant and report any suspicions to the city immediately. Be on the lookout for water leaks or system damage. Contact the city immediately if you suspect or know of a problem.

From the Utilities Commissioner Desk...

Hello! Thank you once again for your patience during the recent water tower maintenance activities. Thanks to Mr. Schuenight, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Adams for their dedication and service while seeing the project through. The city has started on the right path to insure system integrity. Now, let's work together and keep on that path. By the end of August, the city website will be updated with the strategic utility plan and project information (descriptions, pictures, etc.). I encourage you to get involved and be part of the solution. If you have seen or heard of an idea that you think would benefit the community, let us know!!! As always, please contact myself or any member of the city council with your questions, comments or concerns. Respectfully yours, Jason W. Klenklen

UTILITY SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Over the past six months, we have experienced several major failures with our utility systems. The majority of these failures are due to the aging infrastructure. This is a dilemma that every utility in the United States is facing. Government assistance and support programs are going by the wayside. Public operators are now being told to pick up the tab. This ultimately means increased cost to provide dependable service. By developing and implementing long-term plans now, we will be able to keep cost down and maintain system reliability. That process has already begun with the initial painting/sealing of the water tower. The council will be reviewing ideas in the coming months to continue with major upgrades system-wide. By adhering to the strategic plan, projects will be carried out to control cost and minimize impact on utility rates.

UTILITIES CURRENT PROJECT LIST

- 1) #3 city well upgrade/modernization
- 2) GIS mapping and utility locates
- 3) 10-Year Strategic Plan (Water/Sewer)
- 4) Water Conservation Plan
- 5) Flow test & color code all fire hydrants
- 6) Water Loss Control Plan
- 7) Electronic Data Gathering System (Feasibility)
- 8) Right-of-Way clearing/maintenance
- 9) Utility Security/Projection Measures
- 10) Water Meter Accuracy Testing

YARD PREPARATION

Fall is just around the corner. Take a moment and get your soil tested. Improper or excessive use of fertilizer contributes to water contamination by putting additional nutrients into the environment. If fertilizer or pesticide is used, please do so sparingly and follow the manufacturer's directions. By following these guidelines, we have a positive impact on downstream water quality, not to mention our own.