

NEWSLETTER

September 25, 1984

STREET

The city will be sweeping streets the first three weeks in October. We need your cooperation by keeping all vehicles off the streets during regular office hours.

Please keep alleys clear of any obstacles. They are considered public roadway.

The city purchased some street equipment last spring. We had good results in repairing the streets this summer. Several citizens had favorable comments about the good conditions of the streets.

FALL FESTIVAL

The annual Whitewater Fall Festival will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 19th and 20th. Carnival rides will begin on Friday evening. There will be a variety of activities throughout the day on Saturday, with the parade starting at 4:30 p.m. The day will end with a Jaycee's dance at the fire station starting at 9:00 p.m. For more information contact a Lion's Club member.

JAYCEE CLEAN-UP DAY

The Jaycees will hold a clean-up day on Saturday, November 3rd. Please place all items to be discarded on the curb. If you have any questions call Dan Fagan at 799-2446.

CITIZENS OF WHITEWATER:

OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS A PROBLEM!

What is the problem? The membership list of Whitewater's fire department is at a low ebb. Some years ago there were 35 members listed on the fire department, today it is about half of that, and not all of them live within the city limits of Whitewater.

There have been two fire calls in recent weeks when only three men showed up at the fire station. Fortunately, the three who did show up handled the situation without mishaps or problems. Had the incidents been of a major nature, such as a home or business, the low response could have been a catastrophe.

Recent fires in Butler County made national news. How were these fires finally brought under control? Mostly by volunteers, and our Whitewater firemen and equipment were out there doing their part.

There are enough able-bodied men and women in Whitewater to assure that any incident would never be short of manpower. Many small towns are totally manned by women during the day. Business owners are encouraged to have their employees join the fire department, and also assure them they can go when the alarm is sounded. Businesses might be surprised what the public relations of an employee on the fire department can do.

The condition might not be a crisis, but it is certainly critical. City officials are concerned that it may take a catastrophe to really alert the citizens of Whitewater of the shortage of members.

The fire department meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend a meeting. If you have any questions please feel free to call the fire chief, Rollan Eberhard or any volunteer fireman.

Jan. 16, 1984

Water

In the summer of 1980 the excessive heat, dry conditions, and water usage brought the water tower level down to only 16 feet into the stem pipe of the tower. Notices had to be issued to residents requesting that they curtail water usage. The three wells which supplied the city's water had to pump an average of 21 hours per day. The City Council realized that the system was reaching its' capacity and that additional water supply would be necessary. There was concern not only about the quantity of the city's water supply, but also about the quality. The existing wells exceeded the maximum contaminant level for nitrate as established by the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. The water also exceeded recommended levels of total dissolved solids and total hardness. An investigation of alternate water supply sources was initiated.

All reasonable sources of additional water were considered. They included the following :

- Butler County Rural Water District #7
- The City of Newton
- Harvey County Rural Water District #1
- City of El Dorado
- Additional Wells
- New Water Treatment Plant

A new water treatment plant was prohibitive due to the cost, also there was no existing feasible method for removal of nitrate from a water supply. Existing sources, excluding the City of El Dorado, were unable or unwilling to provide the city with additional water. All new public water supply wells cannot exceed the maximum contaminant levels for organic and inorganic chemicals as established by the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. The city was advised by the Department of Health and Environment that it was highly inconceivable that any additional wells could be approved in the Whitewater vicinity. The State suggested the City of Whitewater act quickly and work with the City of Potwin to join in the construction of a joint water supply line.

The City of El Dorado was obviously the most feasible possibility and apparently the only source of additional water for the city. Immediate action was taken to join with Potwin in construction of the first half of the joint supply line from El Dorado to Potwin. At the same time an application was made to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for grant funds to construct the second half of the line from Potwin to Whitewater. Grant funds for the water line were not approved in 1981. Application was again made for 1982 funds and the grant was approved. Construction of the water supply line from Potwin to El Dorado began in March of 1983 and was completed in October of 1983.

The following is a comparison of the water quality of Whitewater's well supply and that from the City of El Dorado.

WATER QUALITY COMPARISON

<u>Substance</u>	<u>Recommended Maximum</u>	<u>Whitewater Wells</u>	<u>El Dorado</u>
Total Hardness		475	103
Total Residue	500	830	160
Sulfate	250	246	2.0
Nitrate	10*	13	2.9
Iron	0.3	0.1	0
Manganese	0.05	0.01	0
Chloride	250	16	8.7
ph	6.5 - 8.5	7.9	8.0

* maximum allowed

The following is a breakdown of the cost of Whitewater's share of the water supply line.

1st half	El Dorado to Potwin	\$136,205.68
2nd half	Potwin to Whitewater	<u>480,223.82</u>
	Total Cost	\$616,429.50
	Less Grant Funds	<u>-429,000.00</u>
	Whitewater Funds to be financed.	\$186,829.50
	Funds Available	<u>28,829.50</u>
	Funds to be financed by Bond Issue	\$158,000.00

The well system was put into operation twenty years ago. The rates established at that time were not increased for 17 years. A minimal increase was made in 1981. It is now necessary to raise water rates enough to cover the cost of the Revenue Bond issued for \$158,000.00 and also to provide for operation and maintenance. Although the rate increase is substantial, our quality of water is greatly improved. The use of home water softners is no longer necessary and those who did not have them will now be using less soap and detergent.

The contract Whitewater has with El Dorado thru the City of Potwin is for 50 years. Water is a growing concern all across America. Addressing the national water issue, The U.S. News Washington Letter stated, " Fears over water quality and quantity are mounting steadily. At the top of the danger list: All of New Mexico and Arizona, also the western reaches of South Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Texas." These are areas at the top of the list, but an adequate, safe water supply is a topic of concern for all of Kansas. The State is now in the process of developing a state water plan. Those knowledgeable about the water resources of Kansas feel many communities are going to find themselves facing severe water supply problems due to inadequate planning.

The City Council strongly believes in the future of our city and in the measures they have taken to provide a safe and adequate water supply.

Sewer

The new Whitewater Wastewater Facility was completed in 1981 at a total cost of \$840,495. The Environmental Protection Agency provided \$630,371 in grant funds for the project and the city's share was \$224,067. The EPA provides grant funds with the agreement that rates adequate to provide maintenance, operation, and reserves will be set. Operation and maintenance costs for 1982 were more than had been estimated when sewer rates were set in 1981. It is also necessary that a portion of the General Obligation Bond issued for the city's share of construction be paid from user fees. These facts make it mandatory that sewer rates be raised.

The new rates will take effect with the February billing. The following is a table providing the present cost of water and sewer and the cost of the new rates.

WATER				SEWER			
BASE RATE =		6.00	12.00	3.72		8.80	
\$/1000 =		1.75	3.35	.743		1.76091	
BASE GALS =		1000	1500	5000		5000.00	
Water Usage (gallons)		Old Water Rate	New Water Rate	Water usage (gallons)		Old Sewer Rate	New Sewer Rate
500	0-1000	6.00	12.00	Under - 5000	3.72	8.80	
1500	1001-2000	6.88	12.00	5001 - 6000	4.09	9.69	
2500	2001-3000	8.63	15.35	6001 - 7000	4.83	11.45	
3500	3001-4000	10.38	18.70	7001 - 8000	5.57	13.21	
4500	4001-5000	12.13	22.05	8001 - 9000	6.32	14.97	
5500	5001-6000	13.88	25.40	9001 -10000	7.06	16.73	
6500	6001-7000	15.63	28.75	10001 -11000	7.80	18.49	
7500	7001-8000	17.38	32.10	11001 -12000	8.54	20.25	
8500	8001-9000	19.13	35.45	12001 -13000	9.29	22.01	
9500	9001-10000	20.88	38.80	13001 -14000	10.03	23.77	
10500	10001-11000	22.63	42.15	14001 -15000	10.77	25.53	
11500	11001-12000	24.38	45.50	15001 -16000	11.52	27.29	
12500	12001-13000	26.13	48.85	16001 -17000	12.26	29.06	
13500	13001-14000	27.88	52.20				
14500	14001-15000	29.63	55.55				
15500	15001-16000	31.38	58.90				
16500	16001-17000	33.13	62.25				

The water sample for the public water system, for compliance period #13/12-5-83 - 12-30-83 was received late by the Department of Health and Environment and is therefore not in compliance with the monitoring response time period. It was however in compliance with maximum contaminant levels established by regulations for drinking water. There is no health hazard, however regulations call for notification of users when monitoring response time periods are not met.

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