

Issue
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The Great Life News

MONTHLY CITY NEWSLETTER

Sewer Rate Increase Proposed

Over 20 years ago, the City of Gretna was faced with building a new or significantly expanding their wastewater treatment Plant. The City made the decision not to build a new sewage treatment plant, but instead decided to construct a 6-mile interceptor sewer main and connect to the City of Omaha's treatment system. With all the potential growth in the area, it was felt that the cost of increasing the capacity of the City's treatment plant wasn't the most cost effective long term solution for the City. Either option was projected to cost several millions dollars which would ultimately be paid by the Gretna system rate payers. The City made the decision to connect to the Omaha system and have Omaha treat our waste at their facility located near the Missouri River. Subsequently this has been a very good move for the City. However, EPA mandated to Omaha over ten years ago that they address and solve their Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO). Through the course of this mandate, the City of Omaha determined that the cost of all of the CSO work must be distributed and paid by all of the "users" of the system which includes Gretna. Other communities on the Omaha system include Papillion, La Vista, Ralston, Elkhorn, Boystown, and Bellevue. Omaha has set in place annual rate increases for all it's "Users" of the system. These increases are projected to be levied for several years to come.

The City of Gretna and all other "Users" are now dealing with another annual CSO increase from Omaha. The sewer rate increase that the City Council is now considering is just enough to pay the 2017 added sewer fee obligation to Omaha. The proposed rate increase will be revenue "neutral" to the City of Gretna. This is an unfortunate situation, but the cost of the City building and operating a new sewage treatment plant would result in the user's sewer bills to be much higher than they now exist. The proposed inside City User's bill would increase \$0.25 per 1000 gallons metered, while outside City Users bill would increase \$0.35 per 1000 gallons metered.

Below are comparisons of sewer rates with some of our neighbors. Every community calculates their bill based on water usage.

Bellevue- \$9.84/Month + \$3.1684/1000 gallons over 1,500 gallons

LaVista- \$10.09/month + \$3.9305/1000 gallons

Omaha- \$30.93/month + 3.5856/1000 gallons

Papillion- Inside City- \$8.79/month + 3.29/1000 gallons
Outside City- \$13.16/month + \$4.95/1000 gallons

Springfield- \$26.27/month + \$1.06/1000 gallons
(2016)

Waverly- inside City- \$34.93 + \$3.62/1000 gallons
(2016) Outside City- (2x inside rate)

Gretna- inside City- \$7.80 + \$3.8910/1000 gallons
(proposed) Outside City- \$13.50 + \$5.8365/1000 gallons

COMMUNITY CENTER/LIBRARY STUDY



The Community Center/Library Study continues. The City of Gretna would like to thank all of you who participated in our non-scientific questionnaire. The Steering Committee and the Consultants received excellent information from the opinion survey. The Consultant also hosted a couple focus group meetings this winter to receive additional opinions on a Community Center and Library.

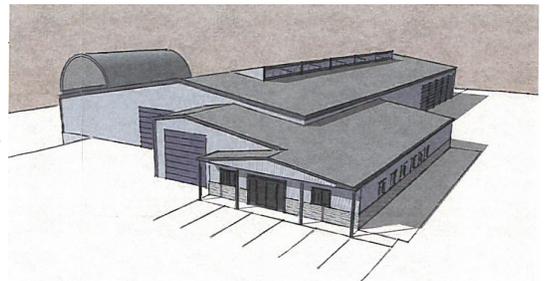


The Steering Committee has now set a **Public Open House for April 6th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Gretna City Hall located at 204 N. McKenna Avenue.** You are invited to attend anytime within this time period. The consultant will have drawings of a proposed plan. The Committee and Consultant would like your comments on the proposed layout and design.

After the open house, the Steering Committee will be meeting again to finalize the proposed plan. Toward the end of the study, the Steering Committee will be asking the Library Board and City Council's approval. Please take the time and come to the Open House on April 6th.

Projects Moving Forward

The City of Gretna recently approved a design contract with JEO Consulting for a new Public Works Facility. Presently, the Public Works Department is spread out into several smaller buildings around the community. This new facility will consolidate all of the functions of the Water, Sewer, Streets and Park activities into one facility. The new building will be designed so that it can be expanded as the community grows.



SOUTHEAST VIEW
Scale: NTS



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The 216th Street paving design from Angus Street to Gruenther Road is moving forward. City Staff met with the property owners in the area of the construction to coordinate access to the properties. This project will take place in 2 phases over 2 years so that residents have reasonable access to their property. The first phase will begin this construction season.