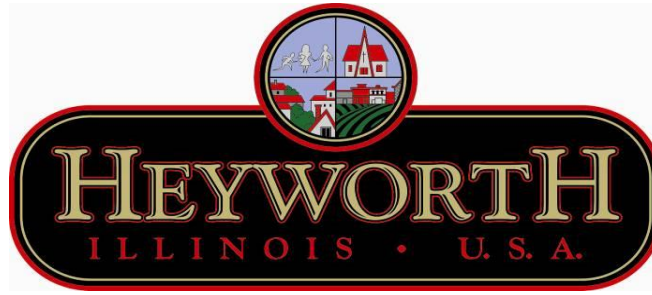


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The Village of Heyworth is an equal opportunity provider and employer

March 31, 2023

PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024
(May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024)

Citizens of the Village of Heyworth:

Over the years, the Village has reported on various items, projects and events of note that were either underway or anticipated. This upcoming fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2024 (May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024), is a year when many of the previous projects planned for and reported on are intended to be completed, and we want to take this opportunity to inform you of the various projects, the impacts that may occur, and the timing of those impacts. We also encourage you to refer to the Village's website at www.heyworth-il.gov for future updates and information.

“2020 WATER MAIN PROJECT”

One of the largest and likely most impactful projects the Village is intending to complete this year and that is already underway is the “2020 Water Main Project”. This project, which has been planned for nearly a decade, is going to install over 13,000 feet of water main to replace all remaining water mains from the 1930s and 1950s. These older mains are located in the older parts of town, particularly the areas built prior to the 1970s (see the Village's website for a map of the affected areas). It is referred to as the “2020 Water Main Project” because the Village initiated part of the process for the project in year 2020, such as submitting paperwork to fund much of the project through an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (“IEPA”) revolving loan fund that is generally 1% below market rate. This project will be over \$2.7 million and is intended to be funded through water capital reserve funds and repayment of this IEPA loan through debt service charges and water capital reserve funds. Fortunately, the IEPA is forgiving \$1.25 million of this loan and the Village was able to lock in interest rates at 0.93%. Some disruptions you may have experienced and may experience include road closures, traffic control, rights-of-way being disturbed (roads, sidewalks, and grass areas), and temporary loss of water service when water transfers from the old mains to the new mains occur (direct notices will be provided prior to this step but please also refer to the Village's website for further guidance). For roads that will be significantly impacted by this installation, the Village has also been reserving Motor Fuel Tax (“MFT”) dollars to repave these roads after this project is completed.

“2022 KARR STREET PROJECT”

Another major project previously reported on and planned on for years is the “2022 Karr Street Project”. This project is already underway and will reconstruct or tear up all of Karr Street and parts of Clarke, Prairie, Magnolia, and Sunset streets. The Village intends to regrade at least parts of these roads and Karr St. in its entirety, install storm sewer and gutters to improve drainage (including the installation of storm sewer and sidewalk on the north side of Thomas Drive), replace the water mains, and install sidewalk on the west side of Karr Street. Impacts again include potential temporary road closures, traffic control, and rights-of-way being disturbed. This project is expected to be over \$2.1 million and is primarily funded from TIF funds that the Village has been reserving for over 6 years, cash reserves from multiple funds, a grant provided by McLean County, and funds provided from the Federal American Rescue Plan. This project has a contract project completion date of mid-October, although some work being performed by Village employees may go into next year.

“ARROWHEAD DRAINAGE PROJECT”

One of the biggest challenges the Village faces in its municipal operations for utilities and infrastructure is drainage. In 2021, we saw unprecedented, recorded rainfall with a 500-year rain event (or 0.2% chance for such rainfall) in June, and a 1,000-year rain event (or 0.1% chance for such rainfall) in July. Additionally, in the last 6 years, the Village has also had two other 100-year rain events (or 1% chance for such rainfall), thus we've experienced 4 100-year rain events or worse in the last 6 years. These rain events led to massive flooding, damage to homes, and caused damage to our infrastructure, particularly our 1960s and 1970s sanitary sewer system due to water infiltration, our roads, and Centennial Park. Because of the frequency of these rain events and the impacts they have and are causing, the Village has made drainage a priority consideration with recent projects and in future planning. As reported in the September 2021 water bill insert (on the Village's website), the Village has completed many drainage projects since 2015, and have several more planned including three larger ones this year and two more in the next three years. One such project is the "Arrowhead Drainage Project". This project will install upsized storm sewer from west of Kickapoo Street to the west side of Arrowhead Street and discharge to the waterway south of North Street. Impacts include traffic control along Kickapoo, Arrowhead, and North Streets, and grass right-of-way areas being torn up. This project is being funded by American Rescue Plan funds and is intended to be completed in 2023, with construction planned to begin after the Thomas Drive installations are completed as part of the "2022 Karr Street Project".

“CENTENNIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT”

In 2021, the Village applied for and was awarded an OSLAD Grant to perform specific improvements to Centennial Park, including the installation of a dock, frisbee golf, parking and sidewalks, and replacing playground equipment. Additionally, the Village coordinated with IDOT to purchase millings to install roads from the new/west entrance and relocation of the road south of the larger ballfields to connect to two new parking lots. The new playground equipment and dock have been delivered, and the Village is in the process of taking down the current playground equipment. The Village intends to install the new playground equipment, dock, two roads, sidewalks, and two parking lots (one to be located south of the playground equipment and the other larger parking lot being south of the two west fields) throughout the year, with most of the work being completed after the Karr Street and Arrowhead Projects.

“SANITARY SEWER INFILTRATION PROJECT”

As previously reported, drainage impacts and water infiltration into the Village's sanitary sewer system has and will likely continue to cause significant impacts to municipal operations and some residents. Due to the level of infiltration, the Village has experienced many impacts including sewer mains failing quicker, sewer pumps working harder and using more electricity, and floor drains in some homes experiencing back-ups because of the volume of water in the system. Fortunately, the Village applied for and was awarded a grant through former U.S. Representative Rodney Davis's office from the Federal Infrastructure bill approved in December 2022 for \$1.6 million in grant funding, for a total project cost of around \$2 million. This project will consist of lining as much of the entire system as can be afforded, grouting joints, and replacing some sections of bad sewer main. It is anticipated that this project will take years to complete, with the majority of the work being completed next year and in 2025.

We have many other projects planned over the next five years to continue to improve our community. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience during these major construction projects!

Respectfully yours,

Geoff Dodds
Village Administrator