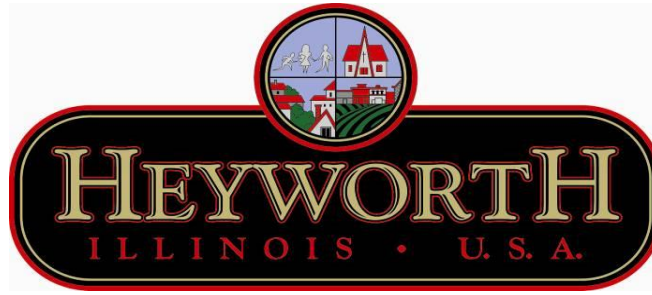


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August 29, 2023

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

Citizens of the Village of Heyworth:

It is the time of year when fall is close at hand, which also means construction season is about to come to an end. Earlier this year, we provided a list of anticipated projects that were intended this fiscal year, and we wanted to provide updates on them, as well as address some concerns or impacts that you may have experienced from them.

The “2020 Water Main Project” that was contracted with Laverdiere Construction to complete is getting close to completion. Nearly all water mains have been installed and water services have been transferred. What is now mainly remaining for them to complete is restoration. Although they have completed some of the required restoration, such as patching some roads and addressing some grass right-of-way areas, there is still a lot for them to finish before the end of the year. If there are grass areas in the right-of-way near your home that have not been restored, such as holes that still need to be filled with some dirt and/or grass seed, they should be doing so before the end of the year, and likely within the next month.

Village Public Works employees continue to work on various projects, including currently finishing the Centennial Park playground installation, benches, frisbee golf pads, the dock area, and sand volleyball area. After they complete these items, they will be starting work on Thomas Drive. With the Thomas Drive Project, which is a part of the “2022 Karr Street Project”, Village employees will be installing storm sewer in the ditch on the north side of Thomas Drive and connecting that storm sewer over to Karr Street. The intent is to install sidewalk over this area after the installation is completed. Unfortunately, our Public Works employees have been somewhat overextended because of the installations that were necessary to be performed by them due to the increased expenses for various projects. They have been working very hard this year to get these projects completed and their work and efforts have been greatly appreciated.

The “2022 Karr Street Project” should also be wrapping up soon. A delay with that project was due to Ameren Illinois relocating electric utility poles and natural gas installations. Now that their work has been completed, Stark Excavating, the contractor awarded this project, will be installing the sidewalk on the west side of Karr, the driveway approaches, the curb, and the road surface. Weather permitting, the project should be completed within the next month.

Once Village employees complete the Thomas Drive Project, the intent, provided there is sufficient time remaining this year, will be to work on the Arrowhead Drainage Project. We understand and appreciate the inconvenience caused by having these drainage pipes on site for the length of time they’ve been present, but we needed to accept these materials when we did, or we ran the risk of not receiving any piping this year and/or experiencing increased pricing. If this project is not completed this year, it will be completed next year and will be the priority.

Next year, we will also construct the roads and parking lots at Centennial Park. The millings and rock at Centennial Park are for this aspect of the project. As previously reported, there will be a road extended from the new west entrance north to a new road that will run east/west and to a large parking lot south of Fields 3 and 4.

This new east/west road will also extend to another parking lot on the east side of the main road by the playground equipment.

With all of the construction that's been happening over the last couple of years, both by the Village and by third parties such as fiber optic, we recognize that many roads are in rough shape. Although patches have been or will be completed, some roads are still in rough shape as a result of all of the construction. The Village has plans to overlay at least five (5) blocks next year, and at least two (2) blocks each year thereafter in its 5-year budget planning. In addition, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has informed Village officials that they plan to overlay Cleveland Ave (U.S. Highway 136 that's within the Village) and Vine Street (Old 51) within the next two years. When that construction occurs, that will also address some of the road cuts that were made on or near these roads as well.

We appreciate your patience over the last couple of years with this construction and recognize the inconvenience that has been caused. We hope that the various improvements that either have been or will be completed will further continue to improve our community and we will continue to strive to improve the essential services and other services the Village provides to improve the quality of life for Village residents and our visitors.

Again, thank you for your patience!

Respectfully yours,

Geoff Dodds
Village Administrator