CITY OF HIGHLAND
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS
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Public Works

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MAY 14, 2010

Water Treatment Plant

Next week is nationally recognized as Public Works Week. This designation calls attention to the importance of public works in our community life and seeks to enhance the prestige of the often-unsung heroes of our society–the professionals who serve the public good every day with quiet dedication.

Highland's Water Treatment Plant is operated by a 4 man crew. Their daily duties involve the production and supply of drinking water to the cities of Highland, St. Jacob, Grantfork, and Pierron. The plant's operators produce an average of 1.2 million gallons of water per day. Looking forward, the plant is capable of producing up to 4.2 million gallons per day.

Projects

- Elevated Tank Restoration— This project was recently completed. The project involved inspecting and painting the elevated water tank at 13th St & Zschokke St. The City will soon be rehabilitating the "Tot Lot" playground by installing a new play surface and playground equipment.

- Staff are currently receiving quotes to place a cover over the clarification basin. The current open-air basin promotes algae growth which adds to taste and odor issues along with increased total organics in the clarified water. Debris and leaves also blow into the basin plugging weir holes making flows erratic. Rain or snow cause premature loss of lubrication in the basin scraper roller bearings increasing maintenance and repair cost.

- Plant staff are running a pilot study using Poly Aluminum Chloride (PACL) in place of the Aluminum Sulfate as the treatment coagulant. The purpose of the study is to find a coagulant that works well at a variety of pH levels and requires less chemical dosage rates. Additional benefits include lower water hardness in the finished water and lower water production costs.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT STAFF

- **Supervisor — Bob Wittenborn**
- **Tim Steinmann**
- **Tony Hempen**
- **Gary Pugh**

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