

Water feature abused; surveillance cameras to be installed at fairgrounds

Written by Darci Tomky

Phillips County commissioners agreed the newly-installed water feature at Homesteaders Park was a great addition to the community, but “we’re having some issues we didn’t expect to have,” said commissioner Joe Kinnie.

He reported at their Aug. 30 meeting that the county will be putting up surveillance cameras and signs due to people mistreating the rocks and other equipment at the water feature. The cameras will also be used at the adjacent playground at the fairgrounds.

The water feature is open to the public all hours of the day and includes small water pools and waterfalls that kids can wade in as well as rocks and a bridge they can play on.

Commissioners said the water feature will be getting lighting soon, which was part of the original project budget. The surveillance cameras will cost an additional \$1,600.

Sprinklers have been installed, with plans to put in the lawn around the backside of the water feature this week. The extension of the bike path is also being worked on, which, along with the water feature, is part of the enhancement grant.

Additionally, commissioners reported on their application for a grant to provide signage for the county shooting range.

They said most people don’t know about the shooting range, which has pistol, archery and rifle ranges open to the public. It was organized in 2007 and is located south of the county landfill on County Road 29 west of Holyoke.

The grant applied for was for \$3,375 for a project total of \$5,000, which will provide a sign at the road to make it more visible and signs around the range with safety rules and other information.

Lost hogs never claimed

About a month ago, Phillips County confiscated 27 hogs that were found in a trailer stuck in the mud at Highway 6 and County Road 57. Two of the hogs died, and the remaining 25 were boarded within the county.

After waiting 30 days for someone to claim the lost hogs, they have now become county property. The commissioners said they will be taken to auction.

The owner of the pickup has claimed his property. The trailer was not claimed, so it is now county property and will be used for cardboard at the landfill.

Also at their Aug. 30 meeting, commissioners reported they passed the planning commission's recommendation for Centennial Ag's zoning request change from commercial to industrial. Centennial Ag plans to use the 20 acres immediately east of the Amherst elevator to develop a fertilizer plant.

Construction on the new county parking and storage facility east of the courthouse in the 200 block of South Campbell Avenue progressed last month. Commissioners commented that they've heard the new facility is looking nice.

Other business

In other business in the month of August, commissioners:

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—approved a road occupancy agreement for PC Telcom to bury fiber optic cable at County Roads 49 and 55.

—advertised an opening for a full-time maintenance worker at Phillips County Fairgrounds.

—held a public hearing Friday, Aug. 30 regarding the proposed junk and weed ordinance.

Holyoke Enterprise September 5, 2013