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- 30 DAY OUTLOOK

It is definitely apparent that the contractor on the Phase 1 project is gearing up and heavy construction work will be commencing over the next few days.

This section of the newsletter has been added to provide the most up-to-date information on what work can be anticipated to occur on the construction project. It must be emphasized that this information is based on the best information available but with construction in older portions of town it is never easy to anticipate all of the unknowns that may be encountered underground. In previous construction projects downtown, when excavating in areas with no known obstructions, construction crews have encountered old buried tanks, large subsurface voids and even 100 year old wooden storm sewers. These type items can cause delays and even a redesign of the plans. This is best described by the famous military quote of: "There are known unknowns but there are also unknown unknowns" which must be kept in mind. The 30 Day Outlook for construction activities is therefore:

- Finalize the detour and construction signage
- Install new storm sewers from College northward to Pacific Street along the easterly half of Commercial Street
- Install new waterline from College Street northward to north of Pacific in the east half of Commercial
- Connect the old water service lines from businesses to the new water line

ALLEYS

Although it is unrelated to the streetscape improvement project, two recent changes were made to the alleys downtown. The City designated the alley on the east side of Commercial, between Main and Pacific, as one-way eastbound. The alley behind Dicks 5&10 was designated as now being two-way.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact City Engineer, David Miller at 417-337-8559.

WOODEN POLES WITH FUTURE BENEFITS

The wooden street lights are more than just an aesthetic enhancement to the downtown streetscape project. These street light posts are considered environmentally friendly due to the process in which they were sustainably harvested and produced. This is more than just a "feel good" thing for the community to do. By having a documented sustainability effort, the groundwork is being laid for future funding possibilities. There are grant programs that rank applications based on the "green aspects" of the city and the wooden street lights will help with that effort. Hopefully, in future years, as grant opportunities arise, additional improvement projects can be funded in the downtown area, thanks to the beautiful new wooden street lights.

REMINDER OF THE TRUE PROJECT BENEFITS

Much of the recent discussions on the downtown street scape project have focused on the beauty of the planned improvements and the "wow" that visitors will have when they come to shop and visit the downtown area.

It needs to be remembered that a bigger "piece of the puzzle" that the streetscape project addresses is the replacement of the crumbling infrastructure. The old, inadequate storm sewer system is being completely replaced with new inlets and piping that can adequately handle the increasingly heavy storm events. The new, large waterline will have better flows and pressure which not only improve all of the plumbing fixtures in the downtown buildings but also increase the efficiency for the Fire Department to battle any structure fires that may occur in the future. The uneven and cracked sidewalks are being upgraded and replaced which will be much safer and reduce the likelihood of a trip hazard. The sidewalks are also being extended further into the intersections to make street crossings safer for pedestrians – and vehicles. New signage will help reduce visitor's confusion. Traffic signal additions and restroom improvements in the future phases will enhance experiences in the downtown area.

The city will not only be more attractive, it will also be safer and more convenient for many decades to come.

