



VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE

"A Great Place to Call Home"

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<https://www.poplargoil.gov/>

Public Works Report, May 2023

- Staff mulched all parks and playground areas.
- All hydrants in the Village were flushed.
- A lot of May was spent mowing Village properties. Most roadways and drainage areas were mowed for the first time as well.
- Cold patched with our hotbox Village wide.
- Part time summer help (Chris Danner) started after Memorial Day. This will alleviate the responsibility of mowing from staff and allows us to begin looking at other summer projects for the year.
- We also will be picking up a new excavator in the beginning of June. This will also help expand the scope of projects we do moving forward.
- That being said, we did lose two staff members in May – one moved out of state, and the other's family circumstances changed. One of the two was replaced quickly with the hiring of Collin Wells. So far, finding another staff member has been a bit of a struggle. There were not a whole lot of applicants submitted this time around. With Chris in the fold, being down a full time staff member isn't extremely detrimental but I would like to get someone hired by the end of summer. Although the position remains posted, we hope that as summer goes on we may have some better luck.
- As always this time of year, some time was spent on minor repairs to mowers and other equipment that we begin using again in spring.
- Construction began on the new DPW Shop. Water and sewer extension is the first phase of the construction, with that on track to be completed in early June. Site work is set to begin immediately after. The anticipation is that it will be an early first quarter completion next year.
- MTF and road projects should begin in September. With the bridge projects currently underway, we are attempting to coordinate with the County and State in an attempt to not disrupt traffic flow even more. This year's projects are Orth Road and Poplar Grove Rd/State St. Orth will be done in its entirety. Poplar Grove/State St will go from our southern boundary to Sherman Lane.
- Comcast is undertaking a Village wide fiber optic install that begins in June. This is a large scale project that has involved multiple meetings on my end and will require a lot of utility locating going forward. If anyone sees a large area of utility flags and pavement markings, it can most likely be associated with this project.

- I will be meeting with Bob Kahler in the beginning of July to discuss sidewalk repairs throughout the Village. I plan to start this off with sections that have major heaving or that are cracked all the way across. Although we have a good amount budgeted for this, please keep in mind that not every section that is bad will get replaced in one year. Unfortunately, I'm sure some residents will be unhappy with sections that don't get done, but we just don't have the means to do every single area that needs attention. This will be an ongoing yearly project.

As always, please reach out to me with any additional questions or concerns. I am always open to going into more detail on past, current, or future projects and work my department is doing.