

City Manager Report
Lane H. Jones
November 12, 2024

Elevated Storage Tank Update

Concrete pedestal construction is complete, interior installation of piping and access ladders and walkways are nearing completion. Steel bowl welding is complete, tank coating complete and logos are painted. Connection to yard piping, existing water lines at FM121 underway. Completion / In-service date is anticipated February 2025. Upon completion, the new EST will provide an additional 750,000 of elevated water storage, improve the consistency of water pressure and allow for our city to keep pace with the increasing demands.

Van Alstyne Recreation Center Update

April 9, 2024, City Council approved the use of *Community Development Fees* to renovate the former Columbia College Gymnasium for use as a recreation center that will offer community recreation activities to include pickleball, basketball, volleyball, cornhole.

After several months of work, the project has been completed. Weather postponed our original ribbon cutting date of Nov 4th and a new date of Nov 6th was scheduled. I encourage all citizens to stop by the former Columbia College Gymnasium AKA “Van Alstyne Recreation Center” for a tour of the building.

Many thanks to our contractors and Parks Director for seeing that this building is put back into service and provides a value add to our community.

Umphress / Hynds Park

Umphress / Hynds Park will be a 24-acre green space park located between Kelly Lane and Dallas Street. This spectacular park will be a standout among our system of parks offering a 3-acre fishing pond, playground, event pergola and walking trails. Nearing the final stages of construction, the park has made significant progress in the last few months with the landscaping underway and filling of the pond. Weather permitting, the park is expecting substantial completion

in late November 2024 at which time the playground, walking trails, restrooms and pergola will be available for use. The large lawn area will remain closed until such time as the grass can take root and has been cut two or more times. Official ribbon cutting ceremonies will be in the spring of 2025.

Shared Use Path – Phase III

The contractor is on site working to construct the newest section of shared use path in Van Alstyne. This path will originate at the terminus of the original (Phase I – SUP) located at William Way and Waco. From this point, the new path will follow the west side of Waco to Blassingame before turning east along Tolson. At Main, the path will turn south to the Central Social District Park. On the heels of this section of Shared Use Path, the city, in coordination with TxDOT, will start work on Phase IV. This new phase, presently in design, will connect the new Umphress/Hynds Park to Forrest Moore Park.

Both projects are possible thanks to *TxDOT Shared Use Path* grants providing 80% of the project cost funding.

New Faces

Please join me in welcoming two new members to the Van Alstyne team.

On November 27, 2024, Mr. David Ellis will take the helm of our Economic Development Corporation efforts and serve as the Executive Director. Mr. Ellis is a 20+ year EDC professional. For the past 10 years, Mr. Ellis has served as the Deputy Director of Development Services for Allen, TX. David holds a diploma in Economic Development Institute, University of Oklahoma and MBA in International Marketing, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Glendale, AZ, a BA in Political Science, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX. We are excited to have David join our team at this time and look forward to all he brings our city.

November 18, 2024, Mr. James “Rick” Sailer will join the Van Alstyne organization as the Public Works Director. Rick brings with him over 18 years of Public Works management experience having most recently served as Public Works Director for the City of La Marque, TX. Rick holds a Class C Water Distribution license, Class C Wastewater Collection License, Class D Wastewater, Class C Groundwater Treatment and a Utility Management Institute Certification from Utah State University. Rick also holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership, Colorado State University. Rick will fill the chair of our interim Public Works Director, Mr. Bob Johnson who will be moving into the role of Capital Improvement Project Manager.

Respectfully,

Lane H. Jones
City Manager
Van Alstyne, TX