



SPOTLIGHT:

Prairie du Sac

In each issue of the WRWA Journal we highlight one of our system member communities. In this issue we're pleased to spotlight the Village of Prairie du Sac.

The Village of Prairie du Sac is located on the banks of the beautiful Wisconsin River in southeastern Sauk County. It is 25 miles northwest of Madison.

Our System

The Village's water system has three municipal wells and a 400,000 gallon elevated tank. Current average daily use is 348,000 gallons per day and peak average daily use of 750,000 gallons per day in the summer. The elevated tank was built in 1980 and repainted in 1998. Well #3 was reconditioned in 2001. Well #4 was brought online in January 2013, which included the installation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system.

Due to its location with the neighboring Village of Sauk City, the water utility has the capability to provide water to Sauk City just as Sauk City can provide water to Prairie du Sac by opening and closing specific valves that allow for the interconnection of the two village water systems should an emergency arise. In 2005, this capability was used when the Village of Sauk City experienced a fire in its downtown requiring large amounts of water from both municipal systems.

Growth

The Village has experienced a fair amount of growth due to its location and accessibility to Madison, its exceptional school district, high quality of life and available health care services. This growth has included both commercial and residential. In the past few years, Edge Consulting, Culvers Franchising, Badgerland Financial and Schwarz Insurance have constructed new headquarters in Prairie du Sac. Since 2002, the Village has seen an average of 27 residential units being added each year. In 2005, the Village saw the construction of 43 single family homes. According to the 2010 Census, the Village's population grew by 741 from the 2000 Census. The Wisconsin Department



of Administration put the Village's 2012 population at 3,999. Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital, recently named as one of the top 100 hospitals in the nation, is currently constructing a new hospital in the Village of Prairie du Sac.

Planning for Our Future

The Village of Prairie du Sac has always prided itself on planning for the future, either by using master plans, comprehensive plans or utility plans. In 2005, the Village worked with the Village of Sauk City and Town of Prairie du Sac on the formation of a joint comprehensive plan which set goals for our utilities. In 2007, the Village conducted a water system analyses to assist the Village Board in planning for the future of the Village and the utility. This was a follow-up to a similar study conducted in 1990. Goals from these documents, due to the Village's growth, included increasing the Village's water capacity by constructing a new well (completed in January 2013) and increasing storage capacity. Another goal for the system is to replace undersized

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mains. Under the guidance of the Village Board and utility employees, only 3.7% of our water distribution system is less than six inches in diameter. In the next four years, the Village will replace another 1,000 feet, bringing the utility down to 2.9%. The Village has made other improvements that have, over the years, reduced its water loss from 34% to 9%.



Small Town, High Tech

In 2008, Water & Waste Digest used the phrase, “Small Town, High Tech,” to describe the Village of Prairie du Sac’s water utility. The Village gained this title when it implemented ultraviolet (UV) disinfection of its groundwater-sourced drinking water. It was decided to use this technology after the Village participated in a \$2.3 million U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funded study focusing on the role of drinking water in childhood illnesses in 2005. The study was conducted by Marshfield Clinics. Before the study, the Village did not disinfect its drinking water supply. At the conclusion of the study, the Village Board approved the installation of UV systems on its drinking water wells. In January 2013, the Village placed Well#4 online, also using UV for disinfection.

DID YOU KNOW

In the Persian calendar, the first day of spring (or New Year Day) is called “Nowruz”.

Recognition

Until recently, the Village was known for eagles, Butterburgers and throwing cow chips. While its customers have always known of the Village’s great tasting water,



it was recently reinforced by both state and national awards. In 2012, the Village of Prairie du Sac’s water was chosen as “Wisconsin’s Best Taste on Tap.” In February 2013, the designation of the “Best Tasting Water in the U.S.A.” was given to the Village’s water at the National Rural Water Association’s Rural Water Rally held in Washington, D.C.

People

While the Village is proud of its water infrastructure, it is equally as proud of its people – governing board and employees. The operation of the system is guided by a dedicated seven member Village Board. Years of service by board members range from 5 to 21 years. The Village is blessed to have dedicated, professional and outgoing staff, including Pat Drone, Director of Public Works/Utilities; Rick Rothmann, Lead Water Operator; and Mark Young, Water Operator. It is the proficiency of the entire staff of public works/utilities department and village hall that enables the Village to provide its customers with exceptional service and high quality water.

