



PIEDMONT PUBLIC NEWS

APRIL 2016

Piedmont
111 2nd Street
PO Box 101
Piedmont, S.D. 57769
Phone/Fax (605) 716-5495
Piedmont1@rushmore.com
www.piedmontsd.com

Phil Anderson-Board President
Jack Parks-Board Vice President/Streets
Jim Runyan- Board Trustee/Library
Bill Paris-Board Trustee/Code Enforcement
Sony Hemsher-Board Trustee/Park
Diana Evans-Finance Officer
Karlene Silver-Deputy Finance Officer
Anna Ball-Administrative Assistant
Jeff Kottwitz-Water
Deb Schubauer-Archivist

Office Hours are:
Monday thru Friday
9:00 – 5:00

You are Welcome to Attend:

- Regular Meetings on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each Month at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall
-these are formal meetings Open to the Public and Agenda items are discussed.
- Planning Meetings on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each Month at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall
-these are informal meetings with open forum for discussion, questions and concerns. Possible Agenda items for Regular Meetings are discussed.
- Planning & Zoning Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each Month at 6:00 p.m.
at City Hall.
- Library Board Meetings on the 4th Monday of each Month at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.
- Park Board Meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each Month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Notary and Fax Services are available during City Hall Office Hours-No Charge

In Office Schedule:

Karlene Silver who does Water billing and Bookkeeping is in the Office on Wednesdays and Fridays.
Diana Evans who does Administrative (most everything else) is in the Office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

WANTED

**The City of Piedmont is looking to fill a position for a
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

This position will be part time, working approximately 3 hours a day Monday thru Friday, but must also be available to fill in for vacations or sick days. Flexible and able to work various hours and days a MUST! Starting salary \$10 an hour.

Job will include: answering the phone and dealing with the Public, keeping Website updated, filing and other duties assigned as needed. Must have good reading and writing skills.

Please have applications turned in to City Hall by April 25th and we will contact you for interviews soon after.

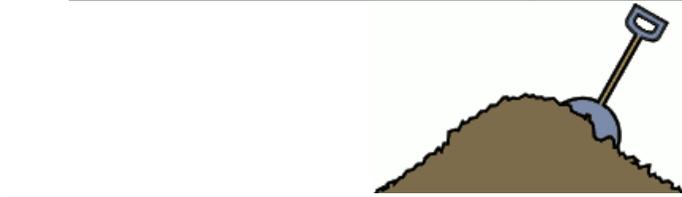
Thank you!

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FOR SALE

The City of Piedmont has declared Fill Dirt from the Main Street Project as Excess and can now sell it.

Fill Dirt will be sold in 10 yard increments at \$3.00 a yard.



Dirt will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

Please contact City Hall at 716-5495 or come in at 111 2nd Street

Piedmont will be holding an Election on June 7th for the purpose of electing 2 Trustees to sit on the Board for 3 year terms each.

Meet your candidates:

My name is Phil Anderson and I am a candidate for reelection to the Piedmont Board of Trustees. I am currently serving as Board President, a position I have had since the incorporation of the town. As a past State Commander of the American Legion and member of American Legion Post #311 I am a great believer in the spirit of volunteerism. In the past nine years we have seen many improvements in quality of life in Piedmont. Much of this has been accomplished through the efforts of our citizens. Piedmont has a great little library and city park. We have a greatly improved road system and our residents now have quality water. This has been accomplished while maintaining one of the lowest tax rates of communities in the Black Hills. If reelected I will continue to work to improve the quality of life in Piedmont while limiting the intrusion of local government into the everyday life of our residents. I ask for your vote on June 7th.

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My name is Amy Bannister.
I am running for Board of Trustees to represent the interest of the people of Piedmont, to keep it a better, safer place to raise a family, and promote our community and the people who live here.
I have been on the planning and zoning board the last four years.
I worked in the Equalization office in Pennington County for ten years as an appraiser.
I currently work at the Air Force Financial Service Center

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My name is Sony Hemsher
I am running for re-election for Piedmont Board of Trustees.
I am one of the founders of the City of Piedmont and it's 4th of July Parade. Also, as a founding member and current Home Board member of Piedmont's American Legion, I am a life member of Disabled American Vets and the VFW. In addition to my activities for the City of Piedmont, I am the South Dakota State Director and an Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. I have been self-employed since the 1980's.
I know we need to work with our neighboring cities, but I am concerned by how some people want us to be like them. I say, "Not on my watch!" We can't stop progress, but we must keep our values and freedom.

Phil's Corner

It is often said that in South Dakota we have two seasons, winter and construction. This year in Piedmont, construction season started quite a bit earlier than normal. This was in response to one of the priority programs of the Board of Trustees. After Piedmont was incorporated, the Board identified four areas of infrastructure improvement we wished to address while keeping the property tax as low as possible and limiting local government interference in the lives of our residents. These four areas were: a central water system, a municipal sewer system, street improvements and flood mitigation. In the past nine years the population of our community has quadrupled, however our goals remain the same. Most of the growth we have experienced is from voluntary annexation of areas of the Piedmont Valley that shared the goals and values of the residents of the original town. Most of the residents of Piedmont now have access to a safe central water system. This has had the added benefit of a better ISO rating for fire protection resulting in lower homeowner insurance rates. We have been able to accomplish this while keeping water rates equal to or lower than rates in other cities in the Black Hills. The city has established a tax increment financing (TIF) district for the reasons legislation was originally passed by state government: To enhance "commercial" growth and rehabilitate blighted areas. The idea is to get more local business in our town and also help some of the owners of older homes that are on septic systems. We are enthusiastic that this will improve quality of life in our community. Now, the reason the construction season started so early in Piedmont. For the entire nine years of our existence as an incorporated town, community leadership has resisted the urge to increase the bureaucracy. We do not buy in to the idea that we need to increase wages to get qualified elected officials and employees in our city government. Our elected officials and our employees donate countless hours toward making government work. The volunteer spirit is what makes our town work. It is also the reason we were able to save one half million dollars over the last nine years from our lowest tax levy in the area. This thriftiness, coupled with a grant from the South Dakota Department of Transportation for the improvement of main streets in small towns, made it feasible to bid a project that improves Main and Second Street in our town and mitigates a great many of our flooding concerns. We had hoped to finish this project by the middle of October, but because of the great weather we hope to have these improvements completed by our Fourth of July celebration. This year we once again scheduled our municipal election to run concurrent with the South Dakota primary election on June 7th. We requested that this election be held in conjunction with the Meade County election to save costs. The Meade County Commission denied our request. The city election will be held at city hall and the county election at the school gymnasium. We have two trustee positions up for election and are proposing a bond election in conjunction with the TIF district. Please don't forget to vote in both. Good local government can only be had with citizen involvement.

Phil Anderson, President, Board of Trustees

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LEGO MINDSTORMS ROBOTICS PROGRAMMING CLASSES COMING AGAIN SOON AT THE LIBRARY! Classes will be available for ages 10 and older. Please call Jane at the library for more information: 718-3663.

Board of Trustees Doing's, Vol. VII

Spring is here at last! We got off to a fast start on the Main Street construction, didn't we? One of the things we really worked hard to avoid doing on this street project was to avoid having to borrow money to do it. It was tough but we managed to do this job without borrowing a dime. We are proud of that and I hope our taxpayers appreciate it. If our luck with the weather holds we should have the Main Street project finished by the end of May, good Lord willing. It is only a start on getting our streets up to snuff but we think you'll like the finished product.

We spent some more time working on our ordinances over the winter. We passed a new comprehensive hunting/shooting ordinance as well as a new zoning ordinance. The hunting ordinance prohibits any hunting within city limits except on property zoned as agriculture BY THE CITY, not the county. This does not prohibit discharge of firearms on your private property but be advised that if you discharge a weapon **onto** or that carries over onto your neighbor's property you are in violation of this ordinance. Archers cannot use anything but target heads (NO BROADHEADS) on private property unless hunting on zoned agriculture property. They also must use care in discharging arrows onto neighbors property.

The new zoning ordinance and the new hunting ordinance are on line on the city's website, at www.cityofpiedmontsd.com. Please take the time to become familiar as these new ordinances have changed things more than I can go into in detail here. Feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Just a reminder as we head into the summer and the recreational season, we do have a 5 day parking limit on RV's & trailers on our city streets so please keep that in mind. Thank you and be safe.

Bill Paris
Piedmont Board of Trustees/Code Enforcement

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### **Open Burn Permits**

The City of Piedmont allows Open Burning within the Municipality provided a permit is obtained. To obtain a permit contact the South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire Suppression for a Class A permit (wood materials only).

Permits can be obtained by going to:

<http://apps.sd.gov/applications/ag73burnpermit/login.aspx>

With Internet access you can obtain a permit anytime that they are being issued, even during holidays, weekends or after hours. Or you can call 800-275-4955 from Monday-Friday 8am to 4:30pm.

## **Safety**

I would like to thank our emergency services for their good work. They could use more volunteers and the lack is starting to be a concern.

City just put in boundary lines. This is really important so that we are secure from encroachment and everybody knows where the lines are.

Some things I would like to see happen:

Flood Mitigation – I am working on this in the hope of a grant from the state. Water from the foothills can't be stopped but we can direct the flow safely through our community.

Sewer – The city is working on this, but it will take some time for all the plans, engineering and money to come together.

Survey the right of ways – This spring I want to survey the right of ways for dead, damaged or diseased trees to prevent accidents.

Urban Forestry – We also need to look at the forest since I have noticed some dead trees. If they need to be removed or thinned, I will check into funding to assist in this project.

## **Public Safety Report**

### Emergency Services

We are lucky to have an excellent Fire Department & Ambulance Service. Meade County Sheriff Department continues their good work.

### Emergency Management

We are working on a three-stage Flood Plan:

Main Street, which is being built now, is Stage One to get the water through. Stage Two will be south of Main. Stage Three will be north of Main. We are working with the local Council of Government to get funding for mitigation grants from FEMA and the State of South Dakota. We can't stop the water, so let's get it through our city safely.

If you have flood concerns, contact me so we can work on it.

West Nile Virus Control. I recently met with the Public Safety Officer from Summerset to establish a plan to prevent West Nile virus by spraying for mosquitoes. It will be best to combine our efforts for obtaining funding and spraying both cities at the same time.

### Liaison for Park Board

They are currently working on installing the new bathroom in the park, and also working with a State Forester to replant trees and vegetation. Some of the removed trees have been put in my wood lot for distribution by the Park Board. If interested in the wood, a Park Board Member. **SONY HEMSHER**



# PIEDMONT VALLEY LIBRARY

LIKE us on Facebook!

111 Second Street, Piedmont  
718-3663  
piedmont.library@hotmail.com  
www.piedmontlibrary.net  
Hours: Tues 9-7, W-F 9-5, Sat 9-1  
Summerset Satellite: M-F 9-5

*Yes, the library is open regular hours during the road construction.*

We would like to reward our loyal patrons who continue to come in during these weeks of difficult access! Every time you come in, enter your name in a raffle to be drawn on the 4th of July. Entries are limited to age 18 and older and will be taken until the road in front of the library reopens.

The new streets and sidewalks will be worth the inconvenience and thanks for your continued support!



### MAR/APR ART EXHIBIT

Art by members of the Suzie Cappa Art Center  
& wood carvings by Wes Stromberg  
**Artist Reception: Thurs. Apr 28, 5:30-6:30**  
Four wood carvings available for Silent Auction  
to support the library.

### GUEST AUTHOR **Colleen Brezny** **Sat. April 30, 10 AM**

Local author Brezny will be on hand to autograph the two books she has published. She will also bring photography and handcrafted cards! Light refreshments will be served.

### GENEALOGY GROUP

Meets monthly, the 2nd Monday at 10 AM. Members have been researching for many years and can offer tips and advice for your family search! The library also has many genealogy books to loan.

### BOOK GROUP

Meets monthly, the 3rd Thursday at 7 PM.  
**Newcomers always welcome at both groups.**

**Coming in May:** A seminar on geocaching and a local author who has written his memoir. If you don't receive the library's e-newsletter, visit our website and on the home page, fill in the form near the bottom of the page or contact the library!

### SUMMER READING is COMING SOON!

With a theme of gaming,  
we'll be having a lot of fun!



Registration begins in May.

We will be offering two sessions per week for six weeks in June and July.

Days and times will be finalized in May.

The benefits of summer reading programming for children:

- Children are motivated to read.
- Children develop positive attitudes about reading, books, and the library.
- Children maintain their reading skills during summer vacation.
- Children have access to experiences that further their sense of discovery.
- Children have access to experiences through which they can learn to work cooperatively.

Activities for preschool through teens. It's free and it's fun! Attendance at all of the weekly sessions is not required.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with Summer Reading, please contact Jane at the library!

**Check out the library's new online catalog!**

Log into your account to: ~see your checkouts ~view your account status ~renew items ~place items on reserve ~make purchase suggestions ~create lists ~make comments ~read reviews ~create tags, and, in the future, easily request items from the other Black Hills libraries to be brought by courier. This new system works on many devices too!

**YOU WILL NEED YOUR BARCODE TO LOG INTO YOUR ACCOUNT** (and also to access our free downloadable e-books and audiobooks). Contact the library or request your barcode number.

Beginning in June we will be offering an easier Inter-Library Loan service among the libraries in the Black Hills!

*We hope you like our new and improved service!*

It's story  
**TIME**  
@your library

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME  
10 AM  
EVERY THURSDAY

JUNE - AUGUST  
SCHOOL AGE STORYTIME  
10:30 AM

We are seeking volunteers to work the front desk of the library. There is an application process with specific qualifications required. If you have computer skills, like customer service, and have a few hours per month to spare, please contact Jane or Jeri!

**PRINCIPAL  
OF THE YEAR  
AWARD**

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
PIEDMONT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
MR. DSCHAAK!  
South Dakota's Principal of the Year!

**NEW DVDs:**

Brooklyn; Carol; Concussion; Creed; Forsaken; Hunger Games; Mockingjay Part 2; Pitch Perfect 2; Room; Spectre; Spotlight; Star Wars: The Force Awakens; Straight Outta Compton; The Big Short; The Danish Girl; The Hateful Eight; Trumbo; Victor Frankenstein; plus several new children's DVDs including The Good Dinosaur and The Peanuts Movie.

**Coming soon:** Joy; The Revenant

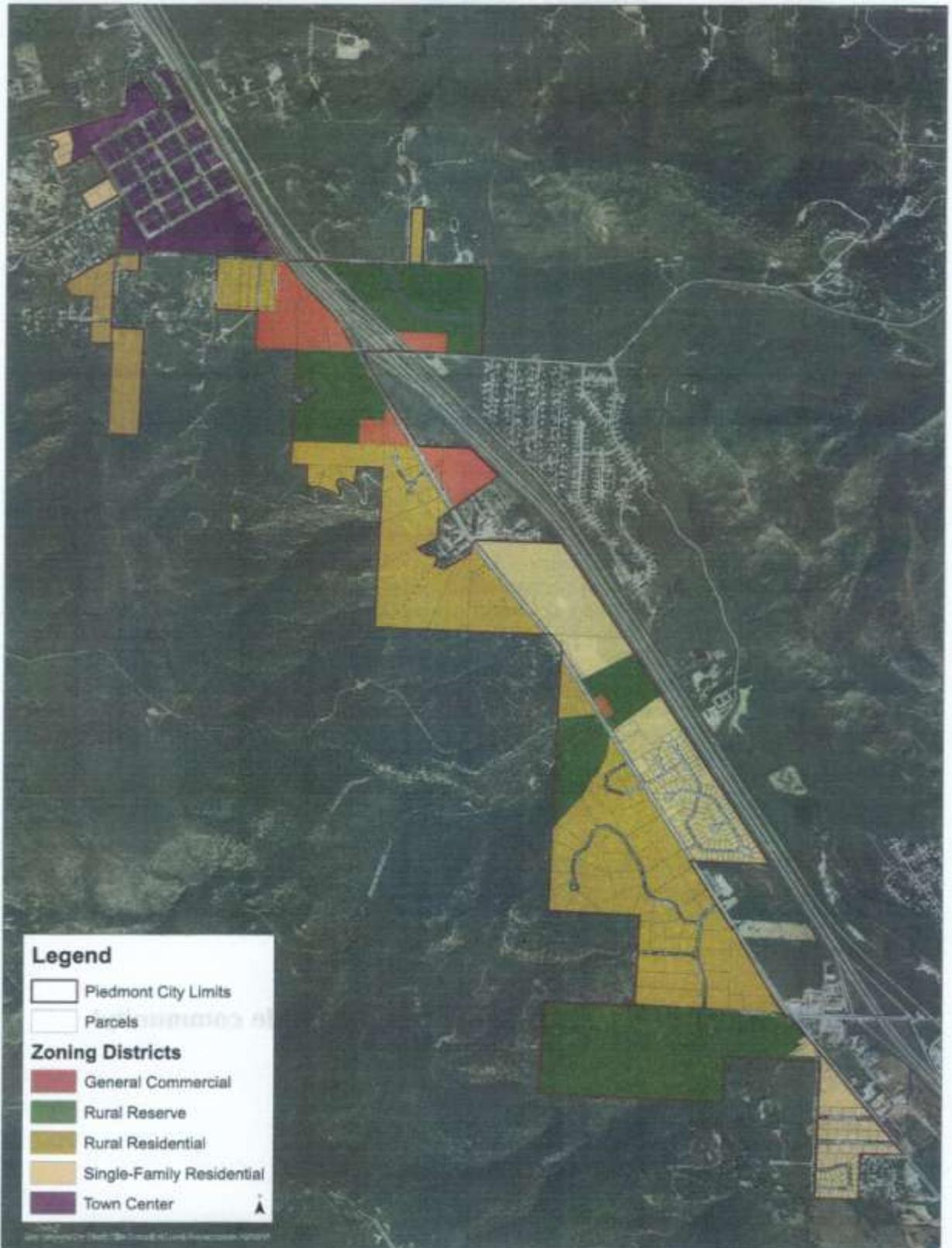
**New Books:** We order many titles on the bestseller lists! Don't buy them when you can borrow them!

Alba: The Honest Life: Living Naturally and True to You; Beatty: Sereafina and the Black Cloak; Bivald: The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend; Bryson: The Road to Little Dribbling; Despiro: The Negative Calorie Diet; Engel: And Then All Hell Broke Loose; Two Decades in the Middle East; Greger: How Not to Die; Discover the Foods Scientifically Proven to Prevent and Reverse Disease; Hudson: Pretty Happy: Healthy Ways to Love Your Body; Kalanithi: When Breath Becomes Air; Lewis: The Photograph; Moore: The Ketogenic Cookbook; Patterson: NYPD Red 4; Pope Francis: The Name of God is Mercy; Punke: The Revenant; Rehm: On My Own; Smiley: Some Luck; Strout: My Name is Lucy Barton; Woods: Scandalous Behavior; Yoon: Everything, Everything.

Log in or call to put a title on hold.  
We take requests!

Don't forget, the library has a free magazine swap table and offers free downloadables of e-books and audiobooks. There are thousands of titles including the best sellers. Also, we DO offer inter-library loan, so if we don't have the title you are seeking, we'll do our best to get it for you! Call or visit the library for more information about either service.

# Piedmont Official Zoning Map



## Planning & Zoning Board

Piedmont's Planning and Zoning Board consists of five members appointed by the Piedmont Trustees to three year terms. Four members are citizen volunteers with the fifth member being a trustee serving as liaison to the Board of Trustees. Current members are: Amy Bannister, Michael Lee, Scott Toothman, and Bill Vallette along with the Trustee Bill Paris. The primary responsibility of the board is to advise the Board of Trustees on all applications brought to the city concerning platting, building, construction and zoned usage. Additionally, the board is responsible for establishing rules for administration of planning, zoning and building ordinances. The Planning and Zoning Board meets at city hall on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM and the public is encouraged to attend.

In order to keep pace with the expansion of city boundaries and changing resident expectations, the board worked with the Black Hills Council of Governments and the Board of Trustees to revise the city's zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan. The year and a half long project was completed and became effective on April 8 2016. Two new zoning district categories were added for future use, but no previously zoned properties were reclassified. Neighborhood Commercial and Highway Commercial are the new future use categories. All property within the city limits of Piedmont are currently zoned and a copy of the revised ordinance can be found on the Piedmont web site under ordinances/section 17.

Frequently the board is ask to clarify when a building permit is required. The need for a permit is unchanged from the previous ordinance: "All new development, changes to existing development, and changes to the type or number of uses requires a building permit, unless the development is exempt per the Building Code & Construction Enforcement Ordinance, City of Piedmont # 2014-1." The Building Code & Construction Enforcement Ordinance also states: "no building or structure shall be erected, constructed, enlarged, altered, moved or converted unless a separate permit is obtained." Ordinance 2014-1 paragraph 7 lists permit exemptions for minor projects. Anyone who has a question on the need for a building permit should contact the city office.

Scott Toothman

Piedmont Planning and Zoning

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**Look for the next Newsletter in June 2016!!**

**Thanks for being a part of our beautiful little community!**

# **NEWS FROM THE PARK BOARD**

While it is sad to see the old growth trees come down during the street reconstruction, we are happy to announce that the Park has received a grant from the D.O.A. to assist in placing new trees. While it will be a long road, this grant gets us started as we continue to explore all options to restore trees to the Park.

Thanks to a grant from Wellmark, new restroom facilities will be installed at the Park later this spring.

A breakfast fundraiser for the Park will be April 24<sup>th</sup>, with the Park clean-up day that afternoon. New playground equipment will also be installed that day.

Check out our Facebook page for all the events this Summer, including free movies in the Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in June/July/August!

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## **WATER**

Last year; the City of Piedmont monitored your drinking water for possible contaminants. A brochure is available in City Hall which is a snapshot of the quality of the water that was provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Enviromental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Full copies of this report are on the front desk in City Hall. ☺

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**DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!!**