



Clark city lead maintenance employee Darin Altfillisch gazes out at the number two holding pond at the total retention wastewater facility, southeast of Clark.

The wastewater treatment system replaced the mechanical wastewater treatment plant and outfall line discharge, roughly two years ago.

Retention pond is doing its job

The total retention wastewater facility, located southeast of Clark has been in operation the past two years, but an information introductory story is now just being told.

It was in 2014 that the State of South Dakota mandated that the existing mechanical wastewater treatment plant and outfall line discharge was not in compliance with EPA standards and therefore a new sewage facility was necessary.

With Foothill Contracting out of Webster as the lead contractor and Clark Engineering of Aberdeen leading the project, construction of the \$7,100,000 project began in the fall of 2016.

On 320 acres of city property, acquired for \$2,144,000, located approximately a mile and a half southeast of Clark, two large holding ponds lined with clay, were developed, as well as eight wetland areas, governed by a valve system.

Clark water/sewer employee Darin Altfillisch explained that this summer was a tough summer for

the retention pond evaporation process.

"It can't evaporate with 3-5" of rain all the time," Altfillisch joked, but with almost 27" of moisture this year there is some truth to his jest.

The first pond is the largest at 33.5 acres. Altfillisch said the depth of this pond ideally should be at 3'5". It currently is at 5' 2.5". The next pond, at 23.81 acres, also ideally should be 3'5" is at 4'5". Altfillisch stated that the pools empty in the winter.

"We need hot, windy weather to make this work best," he stated and then reported that quite a bit of maintenance goes into the retention pond facility, such as spraying the massive area of rocks so that nothing grows and he continued that he is constantly pulling volunteer trees.

In the first pond goes the raw sewage. After it sits a while it then goes by underneath pipe to pool #2. From there, through the southwest corner, the sewage then releases

into eight wetlands, by valve control.

The wetlands average about 17 acres each, in size, with the first, or closest one the largest, at 22.48 acres and the smallest at 11 acres.

There is no electricity involved. It goes, by gravity from high to low and will not need dredging in the immediate future.

It is difficult to describe the wetlands, as they look like any wetlands one sees, but these are two to two and a half feet deep and this is where the real evaporation takes place.

"The smell factor hasn't been an issue," Altfillisch closed and added that this beats hauling sludge any day of the week.

The ponds seem huge. The wetlands are far reaching. Before the project, coming from a sludge plant system this amount of area seemed 'too large' for the need, in Altfillisch's eyes. He no longer feels that way. "It's filling up fast," he said.

School numbers show growth

Area schools continue to gain students

In the three area schools, Clark, Willow Lake and Henry, there is one student short of 900 combined, the largest total in many a year.

The reasons for this are several; it's an up-cycle trend, with mainly new move-ins and some open enrollees. Larger preschool and kindergarten classes replace smaller 2019 graduated classes.

Enrollment for the three area schools is at 899 compared to 858 a year ago, 808 two years ago and 798 three years ago. These numbers always fluctuate throughout the school year, but these are the school numbers starting the 2019-2020 school term.

Clark

"Our numbers continue to look strong," said superintendent Luanne Warren. "Kids are moving back home and that is a great thing for the hometown."

Clark School added two new teachers this fall, one in kindergarten and one in the sixth grade.

"Plus, our first grade class has 24 students, so we are 'teetering' here. Our preschool numbers are also very good," she stated.

Maybe down the road the Voss Building at the elementary will have to be utilized, Warren reported, but that would be possibly two years down the road.

The middle school takes up the entire east corridor of the high school building, as Mr. Jerome Neshheim has moved to the west side.

There are 22 new students at Clark this year.

Added curriculum includes an economic class for a quarter in the eighth grade 'wheel' curriculum. In sixth grade a 'wheel' class for one quarter will be dance. In high school a business math and first aid class, both a semester in length, have been added.

As far as facility improvements, the bleachers at the Sports Complex are bigger, a three-stall garage has been added at the elementary, the high school sewer system is completely done, one locker room has been updated and the bench area in the commons (wall) is now for awards.

Clark	19	18	17	16
Pre-school	30	37	28	22
Kindergarten	30	22	18	21
Grade 1	24	18	21	34
Grade 2	20	19	31	19
Grade 3	19	34	18	24
Grade 4	34	18	26	17
Grade 5	19	29	17	19
Grade 6	30	19	19	17
Grade 7	19	21	17	22
Grade 8	23	20	24	17
Grade 9	25	26	19	12
Grade 10	29	20	13	19
Grade 11	19	11	20	13
Grade 12	15	20	12	21
Hillcrest	29	27	26	29
Fordham	34	31	26	26
Silverlake	38	41	42	44
TOTAL	437	413	377	376

Willow Lake

"Our numbers are awesome," said second-year Willow Lake superintendent Chris Lee of the 286 preschool-senior numbers. "Our staff is in place and school is off to a great start," Lee noted. "No big changes are needed to handle our growing enrollment, as the numbers are pretty spread out," he said. Three large buses and two medium size buses are being utilized to bus Willow Lake students.

As one looks at the Willow Lake School numbers, the classes are quite solid throughout.

The elementary wing received a facelift this summer and the bathrooms are new. As far as curriculum, a K-6 Collaborative Classroom and Handwriting Without

Tears (cursive) are two new programs.

The school year started the Tuesday after Labor Day. "We have a great staff, great students and I'm very pleased to have been chosen as the leader of Willow Lake School," said superintendent Lee.

Willow Lake	19	18	17	16
Pre-school	20	16	13	13
Kindergarten	22	13	14	15
Grade 1	15	15	17	20
Grade 2	18	17	22	9
Grade 3	16	22	11	14
Grade 4	22	12	16	12
Grade 5	12	16	14	9
Grade 6	18	15	10	12
Grade 7	16	11	14	14
Grade 8	12	13	15	16
Grade 9	16	15	19	6
Grade 10	16	23	7	14
Grade 11	23	9	14	12
Grade 12	9	16	13	13
Shamrock	14	12	13	12
Mayfield	22	19	16	16
Collins	15	19	22	20
TOTAL	286	263	250	227

Henry

Henry has 176 PK-12 students for the 2019-20 school term, which is down six students from last year.

"Things are really, really busy said third year Henry superintendent Philip Schonebaum. Classes started August 19.

Homecoming is Sept. 27 at Henry. A new format this year is Henry School has co-deans, Matt Mohr and Tyler Grassel. These two will split the day regarding administrative duties. Henry School will not be doing Customized Learning this year.

Schonebaum said this year the emphasis is on focusing positive student/teacher interactions and relationships.

School numbers
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Clark residents utility bill to be cut by \$4.00, starting in October

As of the October billing, homeowners in Clark will be saving \$4.00 a month. At the September meeting of the Clark City Council, Resolution #847 was approved.

This resolution lowers the monthly sewer surcharge from \$17.85 to \$13.85. "Finally someone listened to me (in Pierre)," said Clark city finance officer Jackie Luttrell. She went on to explain that there is \$200,000 in the Revenue Bond Series 2016. Twenty-five thousand dollars is paid quarterly in this 40-year retention pond debt fund.

Luttrell explained that \$189,000 will be left in this fund, a year will be removed from the debt service loan and the monthly surcharge will lower to \$13.85. The city will also pay \$100,000 off this loan (not in Resolution #847).

Luttrell, in her department update, also informed the council that both swimming pool and golf course revenues are up.

Also by resolution, the city council established a capital outlay for a fire department building. Ten thousand dollars a year will be set

aside, starting with the 2020 budget.

A lengthy discussion occurred during the public input portion of the meeting, regarding drainage issues on N. Kansas Street in Clark. Larry Bartels has ditch drainage issues at his home that haven't been solved.

Bartels noted that water just sits in front of his location and it takes up about half a block.

The problem is there is no place
City council
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The next 100 years - Pheasant hunting begins second century in South Dakota

The second century of pheasant hunting in South Dakota will begin in October, kicking off another year of our state's robust hunting heritage. The annual pheasant brood count conducted by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) indicated that, despite a tough winter and wet spring, bird numbers are still plentiful.

"South Dakota offers the greatest opportunity in the country for pheasant hunting," said Kelly Hepler, Department Secretary for South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. "Pheasant reproduction in 2019 is right in there with other

Local Area	Routes	Pheasants Per Mile (PPM)		
		2019	2018	10 yr. avg.
Aberdeen.....	14	1.97	1.35	3.04
Brookings.....	11	1.08	1.63	1.57
Chamberlain.....	11	4.85	5.29	8.94
Huron.....	17	2.55	3.61	3.85
Mitchell.....	16	2.72	4.28	3.91
Mobridge.....	8	1.38	2.69	5.24
Pierre.....	13	2.90	3.72	7.26
Sioux Falls.....	13	1.12	1.39	1.31
Sisseton.....	5	1.32	1.23	1.15
Watertown.....	12	1.49	1.55	1.85
Western SD.....	5	1.45	1.30	2.40
Winner.....	8	2.35	2.71	5.62
Yankton.....	10	1.07	1.15	1.19
STATEWIDE.....	110	2.04	2.47	3.58

Pheasant hunting
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Haugland awarded 65-year plaque

On May 9, 2019, David M. Haugland was honored at the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association State Convention in Deadwood. He was recognized for his 65 years of faithful and continuous service to the funeral profession as a funeral director and embalmer in the state of South Dakota. Haugland is proud of his achievement and recently shared the back story.

Haugland graduated from Murdo High School in 1951. During all four years of his high school education, he worked for W.H. Sorenson Funeral Home and Ambulance Service in Murdo. Following graduation he went to Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell and studied pre-mortuary science for one year. Haugland then enrolled in St. Louis College of Mortuary Science at St. Louis, Mo. In 1953 he graduated with honors and credits W.H. Sorenson for thoroughly preparing him for his profession.

After returning to South Dakota to take the tests for professional licensing, he passed them all, missing only one question. However, to be a licensed funeral director in South Dakota, one needed to be 21 years old. He was only 20. So, Haugland joined the U.S. Army for two years, 1954-1956, serving in Japan. While in Japan, he received a little card in his mail. It was from the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association. It was his funeral director's license, "and there was great rejoicing!"

Shortly after his discharge from the Army, he went to Clark with his parents who helped him purchase the Nash Funeral home. Haugland owned and operated the Haugland Funeral Home in Clark for 35 years. He sold the funeral home in 1991.



Former Clark funeral director David Haugland is shown with his 65-year plaque from the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association. He was recognized for his service.

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