



# CONNECTED

Conway Corp Newsletter

Fall 2022 | Vol. 34 | No. 3

*Powering Conway since 1929.*

## Water Projects

Conway Corp plans water plant expansion, new water tank. | **P. 2**

## Programming Award

Production Department earns national recognition for local programming. | **P. 3**

## Employee Retirements

With more than 130 years of combined service, four employees retire. | **P. 4**



**Cory Garrett**  
Senior Utility Worker

As the city of Conway continues to grow and change, Conway Corp is proud to help pave the way for a brighter future. In conjunction with the city's planned road construction, our crews have spent part of 2022 working to move power lines and replace water and sewer mains. Recently, water department crews completed work on Donaghey Avenue as well as upgraded infrastructure downtown, and electric department crews are continuing to transition overhead electric lines to underground in the downtown area.



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# CONWAY CORP ANNOUNCES FUTURE WATER PROJECTS

Conway Corp staff and consultants are developing plans for an 8 MGD (million gallons per day) water plan expansion at the Roger Q Mills Water Treatment Plant located in northwest Conway near Cadron Creek.

Conway Corp has a master plan for water supply to ensure the needs of customers are met well into the future. The existing plant capacity is 24 MGD. The plant has currently reached 80 percent capacity which signifies the need for expansion planning.

“We have a Water Supply Master Plan to ensure the needs of our customers are met as well as the future needs of residential and commercial customers who aren’t here yet,” Chief Operating Officer Greg Dell said. “The plan is frequently evaluated and updated as new data becomes available, which helps us stay ahead of the water demand curve.”

The expansion will bring the plant capacity to 32 MGD. Construction is expected to begin in 2025, and the expansion is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2027.

“New water supply projects take a very long time to be approved and built, as there is significant regulatory oversight to develop these projects,” Dell said. “Because it takes so long to obtain



Roger Q Mills Water Treatment Plant

regulatory approval, we are right now designing infrastructure we won’t build until 2040 and securing water rights that won’t be needed until well beyond 2050.”

Estimated cost of the project is \$37 million.

In addition to the water plant expansion, Conway Corp is also planning construction of a new water tower located off of Mill Pond Road.

With growth in the area, the 250,000 gallon water tank will replace aging infrastructure and provide improved fire flow to customers in the Mill Pond and Rocky Gap areas.

Based on current material lead times, construction is expected to begin next year and span into 2024. Estimated cost of the project is \$1.5 million.

## LOWER RIDGE ROAD WATER PROJECT

Conway Corp is extending city water mains along Lower Ridge Road to serve nearly 150 citizens in the county thanks to a joint project between Conway Corp, the City of Conway and Faulkner County.

The area, northeast of Conway, is not currently served with potable water. Residents complain of poor water quality, contamination and aesthetic problems of color, taste and odor. Testing performed in the area found that 73 percent of wells tested were positive for coliform bacteria.

Current infrastructure is in place to allow Conway Corp to extend water mains without undue capital expenses in order to provide reliable drinking water to the residents who are currently served by potentially unsafe and inconsistent well-water systems.

The Faulkner County Quorum Court voted to help fund the project with \$1.57 million from the American Recovery Plan – a one-time federal program that awarded \$24 million to Faulkner County to complete infrastructure projects throughout the county.



Conway Corp CEO Bret Carroll and Faulkner County Judge Jim Baker

# CABLEFAX HONORS CONWAY CORP FOR LOCAL SPORTS PROGRAMMING

Conway Corp was recently recognized by Cablefax Magazine as a Regional Rainmaker for Best High School Sports Programming.

Cablefax Magazine's annual Top Ops edition honors companies whose influence often spans multiple states. In addition to those honorees, this year the magazine honored individuals and companies whose influence is on the local community it serves with its inaugural list of Regional Rainmakers.

"Nothing informs, entertains and helps develop a community like regional media," Cablefax wrote. "These awards showcase the professionals who are harnessing and growing that influence, enriching their neighborhoods at the same time."

Conway Corp has broadcast every Conway High School football game since 2001 along with broadcasting select basketball, baseball, softball and soccer games. The company kicked off its 22nd season of Wampus Cat football on September 2.

"We're proud to bring these games to the community and being recognized by Cablefax is a great honor," Chief Marketing Officer Crystal Kemp said.



Production Coordinator Ashtyn Brown, Senior Production Coordinator Wayne Bailey, 5 Sports Announcers Tim Roach and Levi Gilbert, Production Coordinator Javan Massey and Video Production Manager Jeff Matthews

In addition to the live broadcasts and replays of games, Conway Corp also provides students with an opportunity to be involved in the production.

"We have high school student features included in the broadcast and employ several college students to help with production," Kemp said. "Our founding in 1929 is rooted in our community support of education. And the partnership we have formed with Conway Public Schools has strengthened our tie to the community and to our support of education."

Watch all Conway Corp local programming on Conway Corp Channel 5 or online at [YouTube.com/ConwayCorpChannel5](https://www.youtube.com/ConwayCorpChannel5).

## ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN RODEO



Apprentice Lineman 3 Kolt Weatherley, Senior Lineman Scott Ussery, Journeyman Lineman Si Anthony, Journeyman Lineman Trey Brown, Journeyman Lineman/Training Coordinator Nate Ball, Journeyman Lineman Paul Langley and Journeyman Lineman Joe Bingham traveled to Austin, TX earlier this year to participate in the American Public Power Association's 2022 Lineworkers Rodeo. The rodeo is a unique opportunity for lineworkers to connect with lineworkers from across the country, compete for national recognition, attend training and practice essential skills in a safe environment.

## CONWAY CORP PRESENTS TEACHER OF THE YEAR GRANT

Hailey Carr was recently recognized as the 2022 Conway Corp Teacher of the Year in the Conway Public Schools System.



Hailey Carr

Hailey, a sixth-grade social studies teacher at Simon Middle School, was presented the award and a \$2,000 check at the Conway Public School Back-to-School Assembly in August.

In 2013, Conway Corp pledged a \$440,000 gift over four years to endow the award and to support Teacher Impact Grants presented by the Conway Public School Foundation.

"We are proud to follow the tradition our company was founded on by supporting education in our community," Conway Corp CEO Bret Carroll said.

Conway Corp was established in 1929 as the community faced the threat of losing Hendrix College and Central Baptist College. At that time, Conway Corp was given the lease on Conway's electric system.

Bonds in the amount of \$215,000 were issued and given to each of Conway's three colleges, along with the public and parochial schools. Since then, Conway Corp continues to invest in local education from preschool to grad school by supporting area students, teachers, schools and scholarships.

# CONWAY CORP HONORS RETIREES

## Ronnie Davis, 35 years

Water Systems Senior Foreman Ronnie Davis retired May 2022 after spending more than 35 years serving the Conway community.

Ronnie began his career at Conway Corp in 1987 as a foreman in the water department and was promoted to senior foreman in 2005.

“If there is one thing to learn from Ronnie, it’s to make the best of every day,” Water Systems Manager Lee Tedford said. “He always came to work with a smile and never had a bad day. He has been a great asset to Conway Corp and his 35 years of institutional knowledge will be greatly missed.”



## Randy Ethridge, 35 years

Underground Service Technician Randy Ethridge retired June 2022 after dedicating more than 35 years of service to Conway Corp.

Randy was hired in July 1988 as a groundman in the electric department and was promoted to underground service technician in 1998.

“Randy has spent his career serving others,” Electric Distribution System Manager Henry Mason said. “Providing reliable electricity to our community isn’t always an easy job, and Randy rose to the challenge time and time again – in sweltering summer weather, torrential rainfall and even snow storms.”



## Eddie Turner, 30 years

Billing Services Manager Eddie Turner retired August 2022 after dedicating more than 30 years of service to Conway Corp and the Conway community.

Eddie was hired as a customer service specialist in July 1993. She was promoted to billing and customer service supervisor in 2012 and again to manager in 2013.

“Eddie quickly became a valued colleague to all at Conway Corp. Her wisdom and strong work ethic will certainly be missed,” Chief Financial Officer Tracy Moore said. “She lived every day a life in line with the Golden Rule. Eddie certainly treats others as she would be treated.”



## Dusty Weaver, 39 years

Senior Lab Technician Dusty Weaver retired September 2022 after dedicating more than 39 years of service to Conway Corp while helping provide fresh, clean water to the Conway community.

Dusty was hired in May 1983 as a lab technician at Conway Corp’s wastewater plant and was promoted to his current position in October 2000.

As a senior lab technician, Dusty performed standard field and lab testing on water and wastewater samples multiple times a day to ensure standards and government regulations were being met.



# PROVIDING SAFE, CLEAN WATER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Long-term planning has always been a key element in Conway Corp's ability to meet the needs of our community. Today's customers benefit from a highly reliable water system, much of which was planned decades ago.

We face many challenges: population growth, a warming climate, periodic drought, competition for water resources and a changing regulatory and political environment. Ensuring our customers have enough safe, clean drinking water for years to come is always our top priority.

Our Water Master Plan estimates future demands and outlines strategies and projects to meet that need. The plan is frequently evaluated and updated as new data becomes available. Water projects don't happen overnight, and we work daily to ensure we have enough water not only today but 50 years from now.

Our current master plan indicates additional water supply will be needed by 2037. Conway Corp is working closely with the US Army Corps of Engineers to build a new intake and receive an additional allocation from Greers Ferry Lake.

We are also working with the Mid Arkansas Water Alliance to acquire



Conway Corp Water Systems Department

new long-term drinking water sources for approximately 27 water utilities in nine central Arkansas counties.

We are continuing to develop and strengthen regional partnerships with Community Water System and Conway County Regional Water Distribution District to meet the water needs of more than 161,000 people across five counties.

That includes developing a partnership with CWS to build shared infrastructure which may include an intake on Greers Ferry Lake, a 34-mile transmission main and a new water treatment plant.

In addition to these partnerships, we are planning multiple paths forward including raising Brewer Lake, using terminal storage reservoirs or securing alternative water sources including building a

new lake.

Closer to home, we're updating infrastructure, replacing old water pipes and increasing water main capacity to prepare for the future.

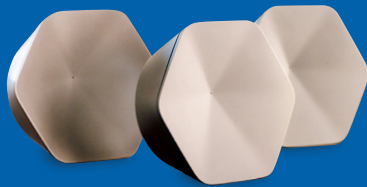
Just like we are currently benefiting from the planning and work completed in the 1970s, we are planning right now to keep Conway flourishing for generations to come.

We've been providing reliable, affordable and clean water to the Conway community for nearly 100 years. After all this time, we're still motivated by who we are and what we do for our community.

We're committed to Conway – today and in the future.

Bret Carroll  
Chief Executive Officer

# IT'S THE SMARTER WAY *to* WIFI



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