

Groundbreaking marks change for Plummer



City officials prepare to move shovels at the June 1 groundbreaking ceremony for Plummer's new wastewater treatment plant. - Rebecca Thomas

By Rebecca Thomas

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A freeze on building in Plummer will finally thaw, thanks to a new wastewater treatment plant.

The moratorium on building will likely be lifted next fall when the newly-begun construction ends in August 2010.

Approximately 30 people showed up to celebrate the long-awaited groundbreaking of the treatment plant June 1 on Toetley Road. The plant will be built across from the old sewage ponds whose small capacity forced the city to declare the building freeze in 2006.

Mayor Tim Clark spoke to those in attendance on the sunny afternoon. He said the project is necessary for the health of the city.

"It will help Plummer get back on its feet," he said.

Though only shovels-full of gravel were moved at the ceremony, the real construction begins this week. Contractors Northwest Inc. is in charge of the \$8.5 million project.

After several years of bond elections and sewer rate increases to support the project, city clerk Donna Spier said she was glad the work

was finally underway.

She said the numbers in attendance at the ceremony were reassuring.

"I was really excited to see a lot of citizens there," she said. "People have been very supportive of this."

While construction crews work on the plant, the city will hold a public hearing in July to pass another rate increase. Though citizens are paying for a large chunk of the project, Ms. Spier said it will pay off for the community. She said the lifting of the long-standing freeze on building projects in the city will breathe new life into Plummer's economy.