



January 24, 2025

To: Mayor Mike Topliff and City Council Members
From: City Administrator Sam Anselm
Re: Weekly Update

Please see below for this week's update.

Administration

City Administrator

- We are planning to interview candidates for the downtown coordinator position in the next two weeks. Next week, HR Director Williams and I will finalize plans for the police chief interview process.

Community Services

Parks & Recreation

- The lights in the Jimmie Carroll Sports Complex have been completely replaced with LEDs, and a big thank you goes out to the parks staff, Facilities Manager Jay Martin, and the electric department crews for all their hard work. The lights are significantly brighter and should be more energy efficient.
- The basketball goal at Wayhaven Park has been installed, and all that is remaining is painting the court lines and completing the dirt work around the pad.
- We saw a total of 29 youth basketball games played last week.
- Registration for Art in the Park, adult basketball, and adult volleyball are now open. People can register online for those programs by going to www.teamsideline.com/sites/westplains.

WP Public Library

- The West Plains Public Library is hosting a Valentine's Day Box Decorating Contest with two age divisions: Juniors (up to age 11) and teens (ages 11-17) with the winners announced February 14. Submissions can be brought in throughout the contest, but early entries are encouraged to maximize votes. Voting is limited to one vote per person.
- Local author Bonnie Russell will host a book signing of "Navigating the Seasons of Life" from 10 am to 12 noon this Saturday, January 25 at West Plains Public Library's Community Room.

- The library hosted a second West Plains R-7 emergency response meeting with school officials, city officials, and emergency responders on Thursday morning in the community room.

WP Civic Center

- The civic center will host the Ozark Marketing Bridal Expo this Saturday, January 25.
- Upcoming events in the building include the Volunteer Fair on January 28, MSU-WP vs. Three Rivers on January 30, Convoy of Hope on January 30, and MSU-WP vs St. Louis CC on February 1.

WP Tourism/Welcome Center

- The Non-Profit Expo/Volunteer Fair is scheduled from 2-5 pm next Tuesday, January 28, at the civic center.
- The 2025 Explore West Plains guidebooks are complete, and tourism staff will begin distributing them to hotels and advertisers.
- Melissa Wharton will attend the MACVB Emerging Markets meeting in Chillicothe next week.
- A 2024 Year in Review was presented at the Tourism Advisory Council last week. Copies can be emailed to anyone interested. Email Melissa at melissa.wharton@westplains.gov if you would like a copy.

Facilities/Grounds

- An electrician will work on wiring the warehouse and maintenance shop this week.
- New LED tubes will be installed above the bleachers at the civic center.
- The plumbing will be connected soon for the new bathrooms at Galloway Park.

Fire

Last Week's Activities:

- 5 EMS incidents. (Medical calls, EMS lift Assist, Lock-in)
- 2 Structure related calls (1-barn fire and 1- trailer house fire).
- 1 Passenger vehicle fire.
- 3 Motor vehicle collisions.
- 1 Gas odor investigation.
- 1 Oil/combustible liquid spill. Up to 190 gallons of diesel. Caseys on Preacher Roe.
- 1 Steam/fog/vapor thought to be smoke.
- 1 Unauthorized burning.
- 1 No incident found upon arrival.
- Hosted department fire drill going over SOP/SOG and department updates.
- Lieutenant Findley reported to Columbia, MO for the start of a 3-month part-time Fire Service Leadership Enhancement Academy.
- 7 burn permits were issued. 3 days of no burning.
- 72 Hours of shift PTO taken, covered by full-time/part-time.

Planning

- Bid proposals are being scored this week for the Garner Villas Phase II project environmental review. The city council approved the site development plans for this second phase of the development, which will be on the north side of Bruce Smith Parkway.
- A round of requests for funds were submitted this week to CDBG, including for St. Louis Street bridge, Garner Villas Phase II, and the overpass. Each of these projects are now officially underway.
- Staff are working with KBS Strategies to schedule meetings in Jefferson City with legislators to discuss potential economic development opportunities for West Plains. A new whitepaper was prepared as part of the effort to seek support for state appropriation for the project.
- There are several private projects across town to prepare sites for future development. Currently there are no firm or immediate plans for these areas, including the former Ranch House/Ryan's restaurant and land at the southeast corner of U.S. Highway 63 and State Route 17. The former Marathon manufacturing facility is under contract, but no announcement of intended use has been released.
- An outage map for the electric department has been developed, showing active customer outages. Beta testing is complete, and the map was added to our website on Friday. [Here's a link to the map.](#)

Transportation

- Street crews continued working on the new transportation and utilities buildings, washed spreaders after last Saturday's un-forecasted snow, cut brush and straightened signs.
- Last week the route bus served 86 riders, while the demand bus helped 31 riders. The airport saw 6 aircraft and 12 visitors.

Utilities

- This week, utilities administration began the process of awarding the generation major rebuild contract and attended the West Plains School District Emergency Operations Planning Meeting.
- Electric crews assisted the transportation department with the removal of a tree on Poplar Street and repaired lights at the civic center. Additionally, crews ran the generator for 11 hours, producing 225.5 megawatts of power to help with the demand on the SSP power grid.
- The water department responded to a main break on Monday, requiring a water main shutoff for repairs and issuing a boil advisory. The break resulted in an estimated loss of 190,000 gallons of water. Crews have also been addressing frozen water services and shutting off meters due to broken lines in homes.
- Sewer crews focused on resolving trouble calls and addressing roots in a sewer main near the Dollar General development.

- Last week, the sanitation department transported 260 tons of refuse to the transfer station, bringing the cumulative total to 629 tons. Over-the-road drivers delivered 37 loads of refuse to the Hartville Landfill.