



February 14, 2025

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

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Please see below for this week's update.

### Community Services

#### Parks & Recreation

- Parks Manager Mike Davis discussed the parks department programs at the noon Rotary meeting last week.
- The final week of youth basketball is underway.
- Men's adult basketball (21 teams) begins February 24, women's adult basketball (21 teams) begins February 27, women's volleyball (19 teams) begins February 25, and co-ed volleyball (11 teams) begins February 28.

#### WP Public Library

- The West Plains Public Library has announced a partnership with NewsBank, a premier online research database providing access to a comprehensive collection of news articles, archives, and information sources from newspapers, magazines, wire services, and other publications nationwide. Through this partnership, library patrons can access current, full-color editions of notable newspapers, including the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Columbia Daily Tribune*, *Jefferson City News Tribune*, *Kansas City Star*, and many more. This resource is available from any location with a valid library card, ensuring convenient access to reliable news and information.
- Teens are invited to the library on Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 4:30-5:30 pm for a fun-filled afternoon of Taylor Swift tunes, crafting friendship bracelets, playing some themed bingo (with prizes), and creating memories at the DIY photo booth.
- Adults over 18 can participate in Book Bingo on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 6-7 pm in the WPPL Community Room. This is a free program where you can win prizes like books, tote bags, book journals, and more.

#### WP Civic Center

- Once again, thank you to the electric department for putting the basketball floor back down on Monday morning, which enabled the Grizzlies to have their afternoon practice.
- The American Red Cross hosted a blood drive on Thursday, February 13 in the exhibit hall, and West Plains Playhouse opened their run of Cinderella that evening. Cinderella will have seven additional performances.
- Grizzly basketball will take on Mineral Area College on Saturday night for their homecoming game. Game time is at 7 pm.

#### WP Tourism/Welcome Center

- The 2025 Explore West Plains guidebook was featured on the front page of the West Plains Daily Quill on Saturday. The Facebook post also reached 17,619 people.
- A 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Jim the Wonder Dog is planned for Monday, March 10 at the Ozark Heritage Welcome Center with a proclamation from the mayor, a brief history of Jim by Terry Hampton, and birthday cake for people and treats for dogs. To learn more about Jim, visit <https://explorewestplains.com/famous-west-plainsians/#jim>.

#### Facilities/Grounds

- The walls in the new IT space at city hall will be installed this week.
- As part of an ongoing effort to spruce up the civic center pool area, Facilities will be installing new ceiling tiles in the locker rooms. Other projects include replacing a wood door, replacing broken/missing tiles, and eventual refinishing/replacement of the hot tub.

#### North Terra Golf Course

- Work is tentatively expected to begin next week on construction of an irrigation well for the golf course, pending weather.

#### Fire

##### Last Week's Activities:

- 5 EMS incidents. (Medical calls, EMS lift Assist, Lock-in)
- 2 Structure related calls. (1-Fire alarm, 1 – Structure Fire)
- 1 Motor vehicle accidents
- 1 Gas odor investigation.
- 17 burn permits were issued. 3 days of no burning.
- Hosted All Hazard Team training.
- Hosted the Howell County Fire Officer Meeting.
- Chief Sterner attended a meeting as the MO Region G State Fire Mutual Aid Coordinator.
- Continuation of fire reporting software integration.
- Alex Brooks was promoted from the rank of Engineer to Lieutenant. All full-time positions are fully staffed.
- Apparatus Update: 4615 back in service after a new turbo was installed.
- 64 Hours of shift PTO taken, covered by full-time/part-time.

## Planning

- City staff met this week with the downtown design committee, part of West Plains Downtown Revitalization, to discuss plans for the pocket parks off Washington Avenue. WPDR has received two separate grants for improvements to activate the parks, located next to the Book Nook, Washington Avenue Pawn, and West Plains Bike Shop. City crews will be making stormwater improvements and adjusting the striping layout along Washington to indicate the additional parking stalls. The pocket park project is slated to be complete by August 1.
- The city received formal notice and audit checklist of the March 25 Community Assistance Visit for NFIP floodplain administration compliance.
- The final documentation request for the MS4 compliance audit was received. Once submitted, the audit will be closed.
- City staff will meet with SCOCOG and CMT engineers this week to ensure everything is ready to proceed with right-of-way acquisition and final design for bid of the Saint Louis Street bridge project.
- A follow-up call is being scheduled with SEMA/FEMA regarding the city's reimbursement requests for the November flood event. This disaster recovery fund is only for impacts of that event, not mitigation.

## Police

- On Saturday, February 15th, the police department and its partners will be providing traffic control for the Heart of the Ozarks Half Marathon. The race currently has 250 participants from thirteen different states. The forecast now is mainly rain. The race kicks off at 7:30 AM and will be over at approximately 11:00 AM.
- On Tuesday, February 11th, the remaining participants completed the law fit obstacle course. All did very well.
- The weather was kind to us this week as West Plains remained on the boundary between mild and strong storms. The department only responded to a few accidents that were weather related.

## Transportation

- Street crews continued patching, repaired an inoperable hangar door at the airport, poured the Galloway Park sidewalk, striped and finished the curb and gutter on Monk St., prepared for the wintery precipitation the first of the week and prepared for the half marathon on Saturday.
- Last week 80 riders rode the route bus and we had 34 on-demand riders. The airport received 9 aircraft and 17 visitors.