



February 7, 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

- Work for new turf (home plate to the backstop) at the baseball/softball fields began this week.
- Last week the department hosted 34 youth basketball games.
- There are 15 men's lower league teams and five upper league teams that have registered for adult basketball. There are four women's teams that are registered.
- Thanks to a sponsor, Art in the Park will be free for the first 15 people who register.
- MSU-WP softball games start on February 13.

#### WP Public Library

- Kudos once again for the West Plains Public Library being recognized as the 2024 Business of the Year by the WP Chamber of Commerce!
- Teen subscription bags at the West Plains Public Library are now partially funded by the Friends of the WP Public Library. The program, which launched with 17 participants, has expanded to 20 students, with an overwhelmingly positive response from participants.
- In honor of Black History Month, the library has curated special displays in both the adult reading areas and the children's library. Additionally, local residents Lacey DeSisso Howard and Tristan DeSisso Towns have a book featured in the children's library and are generously donating a second copy.
- The library is also celebrating Library Lovers' Month with themed social media posts, patron spotlights, and an interactive display. Patrons are invited to share why they love the library by writing on red heart cutouts, which will be showcased in the circulation area.

#### WP Civic Center

- Kudos to the street and sanitation departments for helping with the conversion of the basketball floor recently!

- The Grizzlies battled Moberly on Wednesday, February 5. The TLR Gun & Knife Show will return this Saturday and Sunday, February 8 and 9, from 9 am to 5 pm (Saturday) and 9 am to 3 pm (Sunday).
- West Plains Playhouse opens their performances of Cinderella on Thursday, February 13. Performances will run Thursday through Sunday for two weeks.
- Grizzly basketball faces Mineral Area for Homecoming on Saturday, February 15, at 7 pm.

#### WP Tourism/Welcome Center

- Tourism staff delivered the new 2025 guidebooks to hotels and advertisers this week. They are also available at the Welcome Center. Special thanks to the Purchasing Department for the use of their pickup truck and unloading all the pallets.
- Details are being finalized for the Balloon Glow on April 12. A link for tickets should be available this week. Plans call for the event to return to the Fairground, with gates opening at 3 pm. Live music will feature Thundershine, Bryant Band and Simply Seger. There will also be food trucks and a huge fireworks show to end the night.

#### Facilities/Grounds

- The city hall construction project (new utilities and IT spaces) continues to move along, with installation for the new flooring in the IT offices and rooftop units to be completed soon. Bids for smoke detectors and strobe lights in that part of the building are currently being gathered.

#### North Terra Golf Course

- The street department constructed a gravel access road this week off Highway BB in preparation for the arrival of equipment from Flynn Drilling next week. Flynn will begin the irrigation well project in the next few weeks.

#### Fire

##### Last Week's Activities:

- 9 EMS incidents. (Medical calls, EMS lift Assist, Lock-in)
- 5 Structure related calls. (3-Fire alarms, 2 – Structure Fires)
- 2 Grass fires.
- 3 Motor vehicle accidents.
- 2 Gas odor investigation.
- 1 Unauthorized burn.
- 1 Smoke /odor of smoke removal.
- 1 No incident found upon arrival.
- 1 Flue inspection.
- 1 Car seat install.
- 1 Public relations event.
- 1 Citizen complaint.
- 19 burn permits were issued. 3 days of no burning.

- Officers attended a meeting with Howell County Rural Fire for a debriefing of the latest round of incidents.
- Apparatus Update: 4615 still out of service in the shop. A new turbo has been ordered.
- 87 Hours of shift PTO taken, covered by full-time/part-time.

### Planning

- Most utilities have been adjusted to make way for overpass construction at U.S. Highway 160/Independence Drive. Crews are now coordinating with Show-Me fiber as that is the last major move to be completed. The project is progressing as planned.
- Right-of-way acquisition is ready to begin for the Saint Louis Street bridge project. Planning staff are preparing easements and deeds necessary to move forward.
- Staff have put together parking concepts for the 601 Washington Avenue property, including ways to provide better parking for downtown visitors.
- Environmental inspections are underway for the second phase of the Garner Villas housing development at Bruce Smith Parkway. Final asphalt work for the Bruce Smith extension will be complete once the plant reopens for the season.
- The planning and transportation departments have prepared notices of interest for several projects to be submitted for potential SEMA/FEMA funding. These include low-water crossings in the Kelly Subdivision, the Lincoln detention area where the two forks of Howell Creek come together, and several other storm sewer projects throughout the city.
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### Police

- On Friday, February 7th, the police department will be participating along with Howell County Sheriff's Office and other public safety organizations for the "Night To Shine" Prom and Dance at Endurance Church. The group expects this to be one of the largest attendee events in the recent past with the potential of 300-500 attendees. It is a very nice event and one of the events the attendees look forward to.
- We have two additional drone pilots who completed pilot school this week and passed the FAA examination. Congrats to Sergeant Brandon Romans and Officer Mingus.
- Our new police officer recruits are doing well at the law enforcement academy in Joplin, Missouri. A May 2025 graduation is expected.
- We have two new part-time police dispatchers. Dispatcher Viers is eighteen and wants to be an officer with the West Plains Police when she turns twenty-one. She is doing very well in her training. The second is someone you will recognize: Dispatcher Paula Tupper has been re-hired as a part-time dispatcher and is very excited to get back to the department and her service to the city.

### Transportation

- Street crews continued working on the Grace Ave. drainage project, patching, picking up the civic center basketball floor and pouring the concrete curb and gutter on Monk St.

- Last week transit had 102 route riders, 22 on-demand riders, and the airport saw 13 aircraft and 22 visitors.

### Utilities

- This week, we had discussions with purchasing regarding the generation unit project and held a meeting with TOTH Engineering on the Water Storage RFQ.
- The overpass project bore has been completed, and a planned outage with DRS is scheduled for February 14, 2025, to connect the new underground primary. Additionally, electric crews have a planned outage downtown, affecting the southeast corner of the square. Residents and business owners were notified around 12:00 AM. Crews also installed a temporary service for new construction.
- The water department focused on meter replacements, utility billing work orders, and added a water connection for Flynn Drilling at the golf course well drilling site. Two crew members attended MPUA trenching and shoring training.
- Sewer crews responded to multiple trouble calls throughout the week.
- Last week, the sanitation department transported 240 tons of refuse to the transfer station, bringing the cumulative total to 647 tons. Over-the-road drivers delivered 30 loads of refuse to the Hartville Landfill.