



July 11, 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.

Community Services

Parks & Recreation

- Youth baseball and softball seasons are ongoing. There have been some weather delays/cancellations due to the fields not draining very well, but overall there have been no issues reported.
- This week included the beginning of adult volleyball season and a basketball camp at the sports complex.
- The department is excited to begin free youth draft leagues starting with youth volleyball. The goal is to boost participation in the draft leagues, and to give children of all skill levels a chance to play. Another notable change is that no formed teams will play draft teams, with the hope that the free registration will help the department get more children signed up for the draft leagues.

WP Public Library

- Story times are scheduled for the Summer Reading Program on July 14 and 21. Times are 10 am and 1 pm.

WP Civic Center

- The next Food Truck Thursday will be held next Thursday, July 17, from 10 am to 2 pm in the east parking lot.
- The all-staff City of West Plains meeting will be held next Wednesday, July 16, in the theater and exhibit hall.

Tourism/Welcome Center

- Filming took place this week for Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid, which will be a series of documentaries that will highlight West Plains' livability, culture, and economic development. It will be broadcast on PBS stations throughout the nation. A big thank you to Cody Sanders, Melissa Wharton, Emily Long, and Mayor Topliff for their assistance.

Facilities/Maintenance

- New carpeting in the athletic and administrative offices has been installed at the civic center.
- Metal roofing for the electrical warehouse has been ordered to replace the poly sheets that are leaking. They will be installed when weather allows.

Fire

Last Week's events:

- 4 EMS incidents. (Medical calls, EMS lift Assist, Lock-in)
- 2 Structure related calls. (1- fire alarm, 1 – elevator rescue)
- 2 Motor vehicle accidents.
- 1 Rubbish/trash fire.
- 1 Brush fire.
- Hosted the Howell County Fire Officer meeting.
- 31 burn permits were issued.
- The holiday week was somewhat uneventful. The fire department responded to one incident involving fireworks. This was a grass/brush fire started by people throwing mortars at roadway workers on State Route CC. The incident was turned over to WPPD for investigation.

Planning

- Bids are being received for necessary abatement of the former Hangout (Maid-Rite) building. City crews are beginning to clear out the building interior to save on costs of abatement. Once complete, the building will be ready for demolition but no timeline for that portion of the project has been established. This site will serve as parking to support new projects in the downtown area.
- The closing for right-of-way to support the Saint Louis Street bridge replacement project is scheduled for this week.
- Work has officially begun on the downtown alleyways at Dixon Street. Finishing work for stormwater improvements in the Cass alleyway are being completed by the transportation department.
- The next steering committee meeting for the transportation safety action plan is scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 16. Drafts of the plan are currently being reviewed by staff.
- Demolition began this week on the future 7Brew location in Southern Hills next to Taco Bell. Owners expect to be open by the end of this year.

Transportation

- Bush hogged right-of-way (ROW) and Olsen farm, patched potholes and pavement cuts, performed 1,000-hour service on the Massey Ferguson tractor, re-poured the driveway at 1617 Porter Wagoner, installed brick pavers at the library, and installed a new strip drain on the northwest corner of the Warehouse

- Transit (last week):
 - Route Riders: 51
 - On-Demand Riders: 33
- Airport Operations:
 - Aircraft Utilization: 23
 - Visitor Count: 41

Utilities

- Utilities Administration: met with Great Rivers Engineering (GRE) for the Aid tower booster station project. City and GRE staff reviewed the conceptual findings and are set to submit preliminary drawings in the upcoming weeks. Administration met with departments this week to discuss departments budget requests. Additionally, a generator project update meeting was held to discuss the original proposed work to be done and where we currently are at on the project. Overall, the project is on track to be completed by October.
- Electric: electric crews got all four circuits properly working on Lincoln substation. This project has been 3.5 years in the making and is now complete thanks to our electric staff, contractors, and engineers on the project TOTH and Associates. Crews additionally were dispatched to a power outage that affected Air EVAC and Hirsch Feed and Farm Supply. Due to it being underground, the outage was longer than normal to find the problem, and crews replaced a transformer to get the customers back online. Additionally, emergency locates were called in for a burnt-up underground secondary that crews fixed. Two new services were set on Columbus Street for a new development and one new service was set on Dixon Street for the East Dixon Street Pocket Park/Luster Arcade project.
- Water: water crews have worked on several leaks around town this week and will be continuing these repairs into next week. Additionally, crews have been working on turn-ons, shut-offs, and meter changes.
- Sewer: our sewer crew worked with contractors on finding sewer lines for the demolitions of West Plains Auto World and Southern Hills Auto. Additionally, crews inspected sewer infrastructure to ensure that everything is working properly.
- Sanitation: in the month of June, refuse crews hauled 235 loads to the transfer station, totaling 1,105.82 tons of waste. Refuse disposal crews transported 3,465.67 tons of waste to the Hartville landfill totaling 17,956 miles driven. Additionally, crews continue to distribute poly carts to residents.