



City Administrator's Report

August 23, 2023

Setting the Property Tax Levy

As an upcoming part of the budget process, the Board of Aldermen will approve the Property Tax levy rate once the City receives its certified assessed valuation and receives the adjusted tax levy rate back from the State Auditor's Office.

While the City has already received Platte County information, it is anticipated that the Clay County Assessor's Office will send the certified assessed values to the Clay County Clerk by September 8. Once the County Clerk receives this information, the County Clerk begins to distribute the values to the taxing jurisdictions, both by email and by physical copy via the mail. The County Clerk has indicated that these certified values are expected to arrive by September 13, but this date is not guaranteed.

Because of the work that needs to be done internally and then posted for public review, if Clay County does not provide the certified assessed values by September 13, a Special Meeting may be required so that the property tax rate may be fixed by October 1.

Senior Center Grant

On Monday, July 24, Parks Director Matt Denton met with the Senior Center/Community Center review committee to request information and update the group on what is currently happening. At this meeting, representatives from Clay County Senior Services also presented information, and outlined that Smithville is currently the only community in the county not providing a staff member in support of senior services. Following the meeting and discussions between Matt and the representative, Clay County Senior Services has agreed to reopen a Senior Center Services grant for staffing to support a part-time senior center employee. This would be fully funded through the grant and no match would be needed by the City. This position would help assist in all senior center service responsibilities. Staff has submitted a request for \$25,000 to cover the cost of a part-time staff member. We will be notified of our application status by October.

Haunted Campground

The Smithville Haunted Campground is scheduled for October 21, 2023. On August 1, 2023, Haunted Campground reservations were open to the public. In 2022, reservations

were sold out in 8 minutes. This year, reservations were completely sold out in 7 minutes!

Four sites were set aside for an auction to help provide another option for campers while raising funds for Larson's Cause and the Smithville Legacy Fund. Two auctions were held the following week, each raising \$280 for the charities.

A few new changes will be happening this year at the event. All vendors will be moved to the practice football field area and food trucks will be lined along the road outside the campground. We will also be upgrading the lighting for the event for safety.

Playground Resurfacing

Next Generation Recreation is planning to schedule Smith's Fork resurfacing the last week of August and then Heritage Park immediately after. The plan is to complete all work by September 15.

OK Railroad (previously Diamond Crest Trail) Grant Update

Last week, staff were notified that we made it to the second round of interviews for the RTP Grant with DNR. Staff met with DNR on Friday, August 18 to answer questions about the project. Three to five projects are anticipated to receive funding. Grant awards should be announced in October.

Letter from a "Happy Camper"

Attached is a letter complimenting the services provided by our camp hosts at Smith's Fork Campground.

Auditing Firm

This summer, the City posted an RFQ for audit financial services. One response was received – from CliftonLarsonAllen, the current auditor. On August 15, 2023, City staff interviewed a representative of CliftonLarsonAllen. Based upon the experience and breadth of knowledge, staff recommends a contract with CliftonLarsonAllen. The firm provided a three-year price schedule which increases costs significantly. Labor costs related to retaining experienced associates were noted as the reason for the increase in the cost of the audit. Last year, the City expended \$30,000 for the annual audit, and the new price to complete the FY2023 Audit is estimated to be \$44,000. The recommended budget includes this increase to costs.

Staff anticipate bringing the audit statement of work/agreement to the Board of Aldermen for approval September 5, 2023.

US 169/188TH Street Project Update

Staff will attend a pre-construction meeting with MoDOT staff and the contractor on Aug 24. Staff will be able to provide more information after this meeting.

Streetscape Phase III Project Update

Staff received authorization from MoDOT to advertise/bid on August 23. The estimated bid opening date is anticipated for early October.

Quincy Boulevard Project

The construction phase of the Quincy Boulevard improvements project is now underway, and public works staff has been providing weekly updates on the project update page. To ensure that residents stay informed, staff has mailed out postcards containing a QR code. By scanning the QR code, residents can easily access the latest project updates. Residents can also visit smithvillemo.org/projectupdates.



2023 Street Maintenance Program

As part of the 2023 street maintenance program, Pavement Management, the City's contracted agency, has successfully finished the crack sealing and microsurfacing process. However, due to ongoing work on the 4th Street and 4th Terrace project, the microsurfacing work has been requested to halt at 5th Street. This decision is important to prevent any potential damage to the street improvements around 4th Street and 4th Terrace, which could occur due to the presence of heavy equipment from the other project. These repairs (from 5th to 1st Street) would be completed with the next year's street maintenance program. See below the areas of improvement in orange. The green line represents the area where the microsurfacing will stop (at 5th street). The contractor will still work on repairs along 180th street and other areas that they have identified need a retouch.

Stripping will begin in September.



Household Hazardous Waste Event Recap

The Household Hazardous Waste Event was a success, drawing a substantial turnout. The City provided 9 dedicated volunteers, while MARC provided an additional 8 volunteers. Despite the challenging heat, everyone demonstrated remarkable dedication and effectiveness.

The event served more than 250 attendees, each of whom brought a diverse range of materials, including paint, pesticides, oil, acid, batteries, and various other hazardous substances. We eagerly await MARC's report, which will furnish us with comprehensive details on the quantities and types of items collected in terms of pounds or units.



Sidewalk Replacement Program Update

Legacy Underground, the contracted company for the City, has efficiently carried out the removal and replacement of sidewalks and addition of ADA ramps along Liberty Road.

The contractor has also taken the necessary steps of seeding and applying straw to ensure the area's revitalization. This project is a significant improvement, especially with the removal of the trip hazards, greatly enhancing safety and accessibility.



Mark & Peggy White
505 South Monroe Street
Raymore MO 64083
July 27, 2023

Mr. Matt Denton
Parks & Recreation Director
107 West Main Street
Smithville MO 64089

Dear Mr. Matt Denton,

My name is Mark White. My wife, Peggy, and I stayed at the Smith's Fork Campground July 18th through July 24th, 2023. I am writing to share with you what contributed to our first pleasurable camping experience at Smithville Lake.

It started with the assistance we received when we called to plan our trip, not knowing the area or which campsite to reserve. Host, Janet, was very informative and helpful answering our questions. Janet described the lots which helped us make our decision to pick Lot 81. She was pleasant and patient with us making the reservation for us over the phone.

When we arrived at the campground, we were impressed with the maintained grounds and clean restrooms. As we were setting up camp, Host, Chris, stopped mowing to introduce himself and to let us know if we needed anything, just let him know. We knew from that first conversation with Janet then Chris that the hosts really care about their responsibility for the campers as well as the campsite.

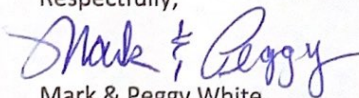
Throughout our stay, Chris & Janet were readily available, making us feel welcomed and cared for. The second day we experienced a backed up sewer drain when we tried to use it the first time. I called Chris who answered immediately and was at our site within a few minutes. He analyzed the issue and made a phone call. Within 10 minutes, the big city truck arrived. Mark, Chase & Chris resolved the issue immediately. Again, we were very impressed and pleased with the workers who cared about us!

During our stay, another camper, approached us and others, complaining about not having Wi-Fi and mirrors in the bathroom. He was irate, nasty and out of line with his complaining. We witnessed him approach Chris angered about his silly Wi-Fi and mirror beef. Chris was very professional, calm and polite listening to the camper. Again, we were very impressed with our hosts handling of the unnecessary complaints.

The Christmas in July event was FUN! Janet & Chris was involved and made the event enjoyable!

Mr. Denton, Please share our letter with your camp hosts! We will be back!

Respectfully,



Mark & Peggy White
816-824-0609