



City Administrator's Report

March 19, 2026

Chamber Dinner Final Report/Update

The Smithville Community Awards Banquet was held on February 26, 2026. The Parks and Recreation Legacy Fund, in collaboration with the City of Smithville, partnered with the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce to host "A Night of Enchanted Honors" at White Iron Ridge. This gala dinner celebrates outstanding citizens and dedicated volunteers in our community while raising vital funds for both the Parks and Recreation Legacy Fund and the Smithville Chamber of Commerce.

This is the fourth annual Community Awards Banquet, and this year we attracted more sponsors than in previous years. Although the final numbers aren't official yet, we raised approximately \$32,510. This amount will be split evenly between the Chamber and the Legacy Fund. Over the four years, the Legacy Fund has raised a total of \$56,539, which is dedicated to helping cover the costs for the stage at Heritage Park in the near future.

Blue Shield Application Overview

Attached is a memo from Chief Jason Lockridge regarding the State of Missouri Blue Shield program and a proposed application timeline for Smithville's application for this program.

Development Updates

Attached is an update on future development projects from Development Director Jack Hendrix.

Parks and Recreation Update

The Recreation Division has been busy over the past three months with various programs and sports coming to a close while new ones are starting up. Basketball wrapped up last month, with a record of 172 boys and girls from grades 3-6. Additionally, our co-ed Little Hoopsters Clinic was fully booked, featuring 46 participants from grades K-2. We also hosted a special event called "Be Mine, Galentine - A Night for Besties" at the Smithville Senior Center. This gathering, designed for women aged 18 and over, included charcuterie snack boxes, a candle painting activity, and Valentine-themed mocktails, allowing attendees to craft, laugh, and celebrate friendship. March

14 marked the beginning of games for our Spring Soccer League and Clinic. We have a total of 266 boys and girls participating in the soccer league from grades PreK-8, along with 50 toddlers aged 2.5 to 4 years old enrolled in our soccer clinic. Registration for our Baseball, Softball, and T-Ball Leagues is still open; however, by the time of this meeting, registration will have closed. Practices for Baseball and Softball are scheduled to begin in the first week of April, and T-Ball follows shortly after.

Attached is a highlight of the programs currently available through Smithville Parks and Recreation.

The KC Parade of Hearts is Coming Back to Smithville!

As you will recall, Courtyard Park hosted a heart in the 2022 inaugural Parade of Hearts. We're excited to share that Smithville was selected as a host city for the recently announced 2026 Parade of Hearts!

Beginning this spring, 150 uniquely designed heart sculptures created by regional artists will be placed throughout the Kansas City metro, connecting more than 60 communities across two states. One of these monumental hearts will be right here in Smithville.

Since launching in 2022, Parade of Hearts has grown into a region-wide celebration of art, creativity, and community pride, encouraging residents and visitors to explore the metro while supporting nonprofit organizations through the eventual auction of each sculpture.

The 2026 season kicks off with the "150 United" exhibition on April 4 at the Overland Park Convention Center. This family-friendly event will showcase all 150 artist-designed, 6-foot "Hearts of Unity" sculptures before they are placed throughout the region.

Stay tuned for details on where you'll be able to find Smithville's heart!

Learn more: www.theparadeofhearts.com

National League of Cities Legislative Conference

I attended this annual conference in Washington, DC earlier this week. The NLC Legislative Conference convenes elected officials from across the country to discuss national legislative matters which have an effect on cities. General session speakers included senators and congressmen from around the country. I attended sessions on transportation funding, economic development, housing, AI and civility in public discourse.

On Wednesday, I met with staffers in Congressman Sam Graves office to discuss upcoming transportation and infrastructure priorities and to express thanks for current funding allocations for infrastructure projects, especially the \$1.8 million allocation for the 144th Street Pump Station Project. We also discussed ways to address the recreation lease payments for Smith's Fork Park as it continues to increase per the outlined payment schedule. Discussion of this payment will be part of budget discussions.

State Petition Audit

Staff continue to provide information as requested. It is anticipated that work on the audit will continue throughout the fiscal year.

Personnel Updates

The FY2026 Budget included funds for an additional position in the Parks and Recreation Department. Brett Teel will begin on Tuesday, March 24 as the Parks & Facilities Manager. This position is responsible for the supervision of parks maintenance, park facilities management, city facilities maintenance and vendor management.

The FY2026 Budget also included funds to establish an Animal Control Program. The city is finalizing vehicle graphics and establishing an onboarding program for this new division of the Police Department. Recruitment is anticipated to begin in the next several weeks.

Recruitment is ongoing for the following positions:

- Public Works Director (job opening posted, anticipate new director to begin mid-June after Chuck Soules' retirement)
- Public Works Crew Leader – Streets Division
- O&M Technician/Wastewater Plant Operator
- Police Officer (3 vacancies)

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The September 15, 2026 meeting falls during the MML annual conference and has also been cancelled by the Mayor. This meeting will likely be rescheduled later in the month pending receipt of property tax assessed valuation information from Clay and Platte Counties in order to set the tax rate for the coming year.

The November 3, 2026 meeting has been cancelled as it falls on Election Day.



Date:	March 19, 2026
Prepared By:	Jack Hendrix, Development Director
Subject:	Development Status Updates

Staff and developers have held initial development review meetings on several projects, which are in final stages of preparation by the development teams for submission for final review and placement on a Planning Commission agenda.

Collins Ridge Subdivision

Collins Ridge is a 404 dwelling unit subdivision lying between 92 Highway and Liberty Street, just east of the main Smithville School District Campus. The project will require rezoning the land from A-1 to R-1C, R-3 and B-3, potentially with a Conceptual Plan. The submission will include lots for 117 townhomes adjacent to 92 Highway, and two potential commercial businesses just west of the townhomes with 92 highway frontage. The remaining land north of the drainage channel would include up to 287 single family homes and includes a pool for the development as well.



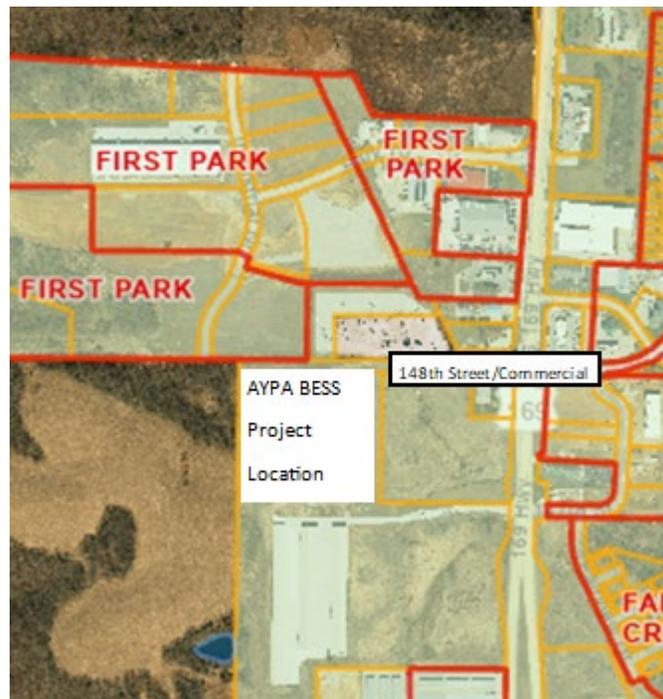
This project will include the rezoning request as well as a Preliminary Plat for the subdivision of land to be heard at the May 12 Planning Commission hearing. If

approved, the Board of Aldermen will be presented with an ordinance that both subdivides the property as well as change the zoning on the property. Those meetings would be on May 19 and June 2 if approved.

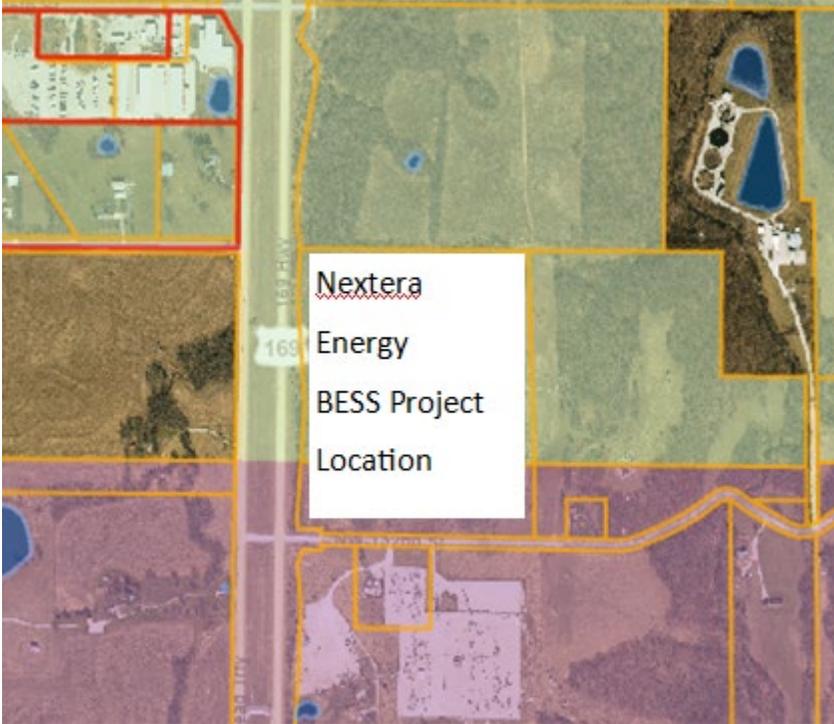
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

Staff is currently working with two separate entities seeking zoning approval for a BESS project on two separate parcels within the city limits. A BESS is a project where multiple container-sized batteries will be placed on the land in an open layout with substantial buffering in place. The purpose of these sites is to charge the batteries during the overnight where energy prices and demand are lowest and sell the power back to the power grid during the highest demand times. These systems are a direct result of the impact of the nearby data centers and their electric needs.

The first one is from a company named AYPa on the land north of Outrig Storage and will be accessed by an extension of 148th Street (formerly Commercial) just west of 169 Highway. This team is preparing to finalize its submission paperwork in time to be on the May 12th Planning Commission hearing. The requests will include rezoning the land to I-1 in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan, potentially a Conditional Use Permit, as well as a new subdivision plat. As this is the first project of this type in Smithville, the potential approval timeline isn't really known. If it is approved at the May 12th hearing, it would go to the Board of Aldermen for readings of the ordinances for the subdivision and zoning on May 19 and June 2, 2026.



The second project is located at the northeast corner of 169 Highway and 132nd Street. This project seeks approval of a Conditional Use Permit to operate a BESS on this roughly 40 acres. Its' intended submission is proposed to be in time to be heard at the July 14, 2026 Planning Commission. If approved, the Board would be presented with an ordinance to be heard at the July 21 and August 4, 2026 meetings.

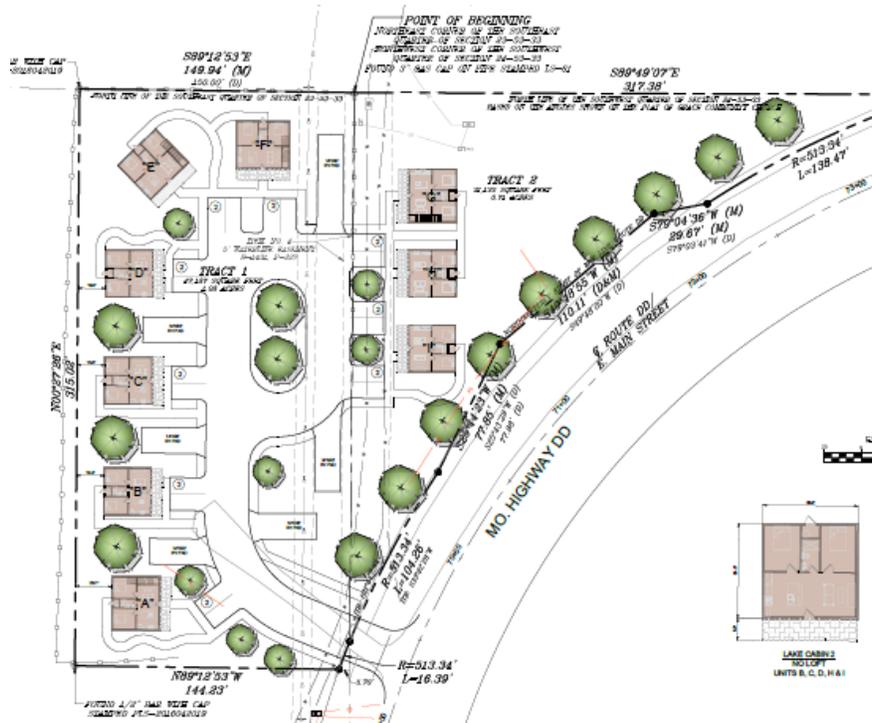


Smithville Cabins Project

Staff received an application for site plan approval on 1503 and 1505 East Main Street (Rezoning to B-3 Second Reading March 24) to authorize a new business for a cabin rental project.



If approved, it will create spaces for 9 cabins and 6 RV's. The matter is designed and will come to the Planning Commission and the Board when a sewer service agreement is finalized with Grace Church, the applicant and the City Public Works department.



Eagle Heights Parkway – Potential NRAD Location

Staff is aware of the sign recently placed just north of the Eagle Heights Elementary School near 188th and Eagle Parkway. Public Works and Development staff have had multiple conversations with both NRAD and the landowner concerning what will be needed in order to authorize a new ambulance facility on this land. It will require a new Preliminary Plat for Davenport Farms to authorize a new subdivision to create separate lots. No zoning would be required as Public Safety (Police, Fire, Ambulance) buildings are allowed in residential districts. These conversations are all preliminary in nature and we have no timeline for a submittal on this project.



Date:	03/24/2026
Prepared By:	Jason Lockridge, Chief of Police
Subject:	The Missouri Blue Shield Program

The Missouri Blue Shield Grant Program was established in 2024 by Governor Mike Kehoe and the Missouri Department of Public Safety to recognize communities that demonstrate a strong commitment to public safety and proactive policing. Developed in partnership with Missouri law enforcement leaders, the program highlights cities and counties that have made investments in their police departments, embraced community policing, and taken meaningful steps to reduce crime.

Recognition as a Blue Shield Community indicates that a local government and its police department work collaboratively to support officers, protect residents, and build public trust.

To qualify, communities must meet ten criteria established by the Department of Public Safety, including documented public safety investments, recruitment and retention efforts, community policing initiatives, partnerships, and compliance with applicable Missouri statutes. The criteria are outlined below, with Smithville conformance with the criteria outlined as applicable.

Public Safety Resolution: The governing body must pass a resolution demonstrating a formal commitment to public safety and the reduction of violent crime.

Extraordinary Investment: Documentation of significant financial investments in public safety over the last five years or within the current budget.

The City has made substantial investments to modernize and support the Police Department, including replacement of all patrol vehicles, department firearms, radios, in-car data terminals, patrol rifles, and records management systems, installation of CCTV monitoring in holding cells, and negotiation of updated labor agreements. These efforts enhance officer safety, operational effectiveness, and accountability.

Approval of a Public Safety Sales Tax by voters in 2025 further supports the City's ability to invest in police services, providing for recruitment and retention efforts, additional staffing and equipment.

Community Policing: Active initiatives or local partnerships designed to improve public safety through community engagement.

The department maintains an active community engagement program that includes the Citizens Police Academy, crime mapping and data transparency, Coffee with a Cop, Vacation Watch, and community events such as Popsicles with Police and Puppies with the Popo.

Recruitment and Retention: Implementation of a dedicated program for the recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers.

The City offers a \$7,000 hiring incentive for experienced officers, has established a lateral transfer program within the current collective bargaining agreements and has implemented an innovative sabbatical program. In addition, the City continues to invest in professional development, retention, and wellness initiatives to support long-term staffing stability.

Crime Reduction Effectiveness: Evidence of successful crime reduction or the creation of innovative programs aimed at reducing crime.

The Police Department employs proactive policing strategies focused on prevention and visibility, the use of public facing crime mapping, targeted enforcement actions, the Eyes on Smithville program, and the vacation watch program.

Regional Task Force Participation: Active participation in, or a documented commitment to join, regional anti-crime task forces.

The Police Department works closely with regional and local partners, including the Clay County Sheriff's Office, Platte County Sheriff's Office, Smithville School District, the Northland Investigators Association, the Clay County Investigative Squad, Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce, and community organizations, strengthening coordination and public safety outcomes.

Proactive Policing Practices: The agency must select and demonstrate commitment to specific proactive policing practices.

Currently, the Smithville Police Department maintains a number of active community engagement and public safety programs. These include a Vacation Watch Program, a resident camera registration program that helps officers identify potential video evidence during investigations (Eyes on Smithville), participation in the Smithville Citizens Academy, a long-standing School Resource

Officer program, Coffee with a Cop and Cocoa with a Cop events, Popsicles with Police Officers, and the Shop with a Cop program. In addition, 13 of the department's 15 officers are Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained, reflecting the department's continued commitment to professional response and community service.

Statutory Compliance: Compliance with specific Missouri Revised Statutes (RSMo), including:

- a. **Section 43.505:** Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR).
- b. **Section 43.544:** Reporting of intoxication-related traffic offenses.
- c. **Section 590.030:** Peace officer licensing and training standards.
- d. **Section 590.650:** Traffic stop data and racial profiling reporting.
- e. **Section 590.700:** Recording requirements for specific crimes.
- f. **Section 590.1265:** Use-of-force incident reporting.

The Smithville Police Department complies with all of these State Statutes and has done so for many years.

Accomplishments Summary: Provision of a summary detailing the agency's recent accomplishments.

Recently, the Smithville Police Department has made several significant investments in equipment, technology, and training. These improvements include replacing all department-issued handguns and equipping them with red dot sights, replacing the entire patrol vehicle fleet, implementing a new records management system to improve efficiency, replacing all in-car data terminals, and increasing the department's training budget by an additional \$18,000.

Future Strategic Goals: Documentation of specific public safety goals for the upcoming year and the next five years.

The Police Department continues to focus on innovation and service. Accomplishments include department and equipment modernization, community programs, and operational upgrades. Future goals include improved officer retention, transition to full-time animal control services, expanded leadership development, and continued investment in employee wellness and career development.

While a formal resolution has not yet been adopted, the City's commitment is clearly demonstrated through voter approval of Proposition P, a one-half of one percent public safety sales tax adopted in April 2025, reflecting strong community support for law enforcement and crime reduction.

There is no direct financial cost associated with applying for the Missouri Blue Shield Grant Program.

Designation as a Blue Shield Community will enhance eligibility for future grant opportunities, state-level support, and public safety partnerships, providing long-term financial and operational benefits.

Staff plans to bring forward a resolution on the April 7, 2026, Board of Aldermen meeting for approval. Once approved, this will allow the Smithville Police Department to make formal application for Missouri Blue Shield Grant Program.