



## City Administrator's Report

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September 19, 2024

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### **Human Resources Updates**

#### ***Police Department Staffing***

The department is authorized for 20 full-time sworn officers and one civilian staff member. Currently, 17 of the sworn officer positions are filled. Sergeant Henry recently announced that she will be leaving. With her departure, this takes staffing levels to 16. However, of those 16 officers, only 13 are actively on duty. One additional sergeant is in the background phase of the hiring process with another department.

Three officers are on medical leave, and one is on parental leave.

Chief Lockridge recently notified the Smithville School District that we will have to pull our active School Resource Officer out of school assignment to road duty. Additionally, Chief Lockridge and Detective Knowles will be on shift as necessary. Chief Lockridge has also had discussions with the Clay County Sheriff's Department to provide assistance as necessary.

Currently, there are four recruits enrolled in the Kansas City Regional Police Academy. Two are set to graduate on September 26, 2024, another on January 9, 2025, and the fourth will graduate in March 2025. While we will see two new recruits in September, they will not complete field training, and fill a shift, until late January. Likewise, the recruit graduating in January will not be filling a shift until late May.

The department continues to actively work to fill vacancies through ongoing recruitment and training efforts, with upcoming academy graduates providing some relief in the future. However, addressing these staffing shortages remains a priority for maintaining effective law enforcement services in our community.

#### ***Utilities – Water Plant***

Currently, Water Treatment Plant openings have been filled. Scott Davis started as a Plant Operator III on September 18. Nathaniel Suddarth will start as a Plant Operator I on October 11. The Public Works Department will be training the new staff on the operations of the Water Plant. At this point, the City has two staff members with Missouri DNR – Drinking Water A Certifications.

### ***Smithville School District Real World Learning Internship***

The City is hosting a Smithville High School Student, Isaac Yoder, this semester for a semester-long internship. Isaac will be learning more about construction management, business management, and general local government operations. He will primarily be interning with the Public Works Department and helping with the project management of major capital projects starting this fall.

### ***Mayra Toothman – Emerging Leaders Academy***

Last year, Mayra Toothman, Assistant to the Public Works Director, was selected for the APWA Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) Class XVII - 2024. ELA is a year-long national program that provides leadership and management training within the public works field. This program fosters professional growth through a strong peer network and offers an in-depth introduction to APWA at the national, chapter, and branch levels.

Over the past year, Mayra met in monthly virtual meetings with participants from across the U.S. and Canada to discuss various leadership and management topics and biweekly to collaborate on their class report and presentation. Earlier this month, she and her classmates celebrated their graduation at the APWA PWX National Conference in Atlanta, where they presented a report on "Revolutionizing Knowledge Transfer Through Training and Mentorship"—a project they worked on throughout the year. Congratulations, Mayra!



### ***Gina Pate – Leadership Northland***

Gina Pate, Assistant City Administrator, was selected for the 30<sup>th</sup> Leadership Northland Class. Leadership Northland, a program of the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce, is an intensive program devoted to strengthening and educating area business and community professionals. Each session examines some of the key themes and issues surrounding our community. Leadership Northland participants are provided opportunities to explore and strengthen personal leadership competencies. Sessions are at various sites throughout the

region, focusing on specific aspects of the Northland, greater Kansas City area and the state of Missouri. Congratulations, Gina!

## **Economic Development Updates**

### ***World Cup 2026 Planning***

Gina Pate, Assistant City Administrator and Matt Denton, Parks and Recreation Director, attended sessions involving regional planning through Mid-America Regional Council. KC2026 CEO Pam Kramer presented initial strategic planning and coordination efforts to help the Kansas City region prepare for the 2026 World Cup and the estimated 650,000 fans who are expected to visit our region.

The World Cup will run from June 11 through July 10, 2026. Kansas City will host six matches, including one quarterfinal match. The region may also host up to three team base camps, which are the teams' "home away from home" during the tournament. Possible base camp locations include:

- Compass Minerals National Performance Center in Kansas City, Kansas (paired with Sheraton Overland Park)
- KC Current training facility in Riverside, Missouri (paired with Hotel Kansas City)
- Rock Chalk Park in Lawrence, Kansas (paired with StoneHill Lawrence)

In late 2025, FIFA will reveal the geographic zones in which teams will play and teams will submit their selection preferences for base camp locations. Base camp sites will be announced in the first few months of 2026.

The region could also host team training sites at:

- Children's Mercy Park
- Compass Minerals National Performance Center
- KC Current training facility
- CPKC Stadium
- Rock Chalk Park (Lawrence, Kansas)
- Buser Family Park (Manhattan, Kansas)

In the lead-up to the World Cup, KC2026 is looking at creating a series of events over 12-18 months to build excitement. With the size of the event, there has been an emphasis on regional collaboration. KC2026 has hired a transportation director to lead a working group of area agencies and experts to meet monthly about transportation. Additionally, KC2026 has established a Regional Safety and Security Steering Committee of agency leaders to advise KC2026.

Mid-America Regional Council launched a local World Cup event coordination tool to help cities and counties share information and planning efforts related to their World Cup Events. Erika Winston, Executive Director of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce, and Gina Pate will be coordinating with other tourism professionals in Clay County for event planning. Additionally, they will be preparing information for businesses and planning for events in the City of Smithville.

### ***Marketing Materials***

Gina Pate and Erika Winston met last month to discuss more ways to market Smithville. They will be partnering to create a website and social media accounts called "Visit Smithville" to help highlight the local businesses and amenities in the City.

### ***Partnered Event with Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce***

Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and the City have partnered to host an interactive workshop that will help business owners and managers create an onboarding process that drives engagement, productivity, and long-term success. The event will be held at the Senior Center on Thursday, October 10 from 10am – 11am. There is a \$10 fee for Chamber Members and \$20 fee for Non-Members.

## **RENEW YOUR WORKPLACE FROM DAY 1 TO DONE RIGHT**

### **Mastering Employee Onboarding**

Join us for an interactive workshop that will help business owners and managers create an onboarding process that drives engagement, productivity, and long-term success.

Learn strategies to streamline onboarding, reduce turnover, and boost employee satisfaction all while enjoying complimentary coffee, snack cakes, and networking.

Invest in your team's future and watch your business thrive from day one!



### **VENUE**

Smithville Senior Center  
113 W. Main Street  
Smithville, Missouri



### **DATE & TIME**

Thursday, October 10  
10:00 am - 11:00 am



### **REGISTRATION**

On the Smithville  
Chamber's website.  
\$10 for Chamber Members  
\$20 for Non-Members

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### **PRESENTED BY:**



### **Alarm Ordinance Enforcement**

Please see attached memo from Chief Lockridge regarding enforcement of Section 202 of the Municipal Code as it relates to business and residential alarms.

### **Senior Center Participation Numbers**

In August, a record number of participants used the Senior Center. On average, more than 400 visits were recorded weekly, with the majority of those also eating lunch. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of Amy Alexandar, Senior Services Coordinator, for working to expand use the facility and services!



## **Project Updates**

### ***Diamond Crest Park Restroom***

On Friday, September 13, the restroom was installed at Diamond Crest Park. Staff is working to connect the plumbing and electrical to get it up and running as soon as possible. This restroom will need to be winterized before temperatures fall below freezing. Park Maintenance staff are collaborating with the Public Works Department to schedule the framing and pouring of concrete around the restroom and to finish the walkway within the park.



### ***Emerald Ridge Park and Playground***

On Thursday, September 12, Athco and their team broke ground at Emerald Ridge Park. Construction will resume on Monday, September 23, and is scheduled to be completed before the end of October.



Construction of the Streetscape Phase III Project is scheduled to begin on September 30. North Bridge Street will be closed from Church Street to East 1<sup>st</sup> Street. However, the contractor will ensure that access to businesses and residences is maintained. Pedestrian traffic will also be maintained throughout the project. Staff will host a meeting with business owners and residents on September 23 to introduce the contractor, review the project schedule, and address any questions.



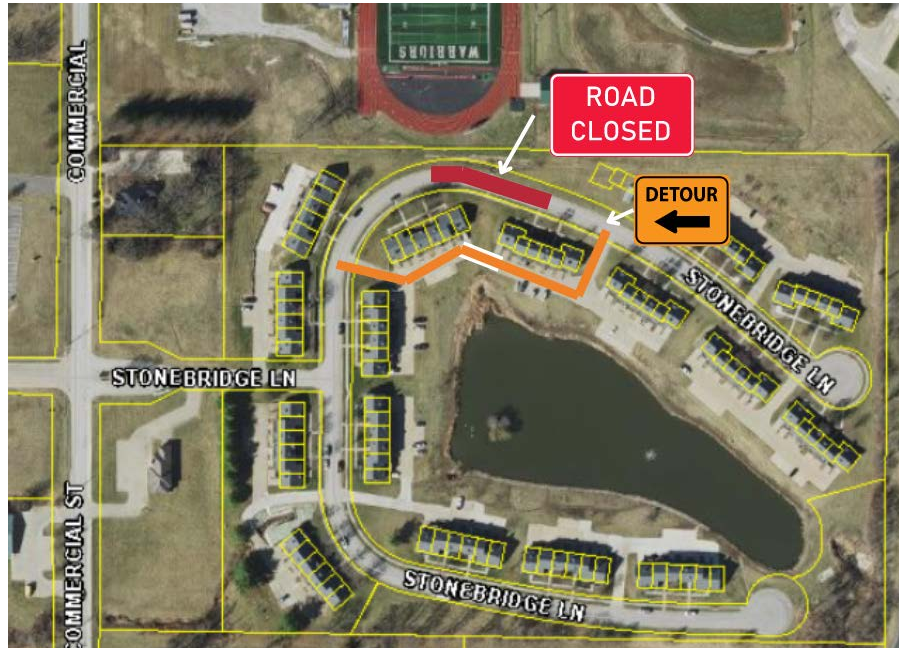
AT&T will resume utility relocation work on Monday, September 23. During this time, the northbound lane of Commercial Avenue (from Walker Street to E Meadow Street) will be closed. The southbound lane will remain open. (map below). Access to businesses and residences will be maintained, but through traffic will not be permitted.





### ***Stonebridge Stormwater Improvements***

Tunks Construction, the City's contractor, began this project on September 16. In the next couple of weeks, they will begin roadwork that will require the closure of the road at Stonebridge Lane. An alternative route will be established to maintain access to residences (see map below). Staff is working with the HOA to keep them updated.



### **Quincy Boulevard**

The Quincy Boulevard project is nearly complete, and we are pleased to see residents using the new sidewalks. Many residents have expressed satisfaction with the results. The remaining work includes seeding, which will be completed during the week of September 23.

<b>Date:</b>	09/17/2024
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jason Lockridge, Chief of Police
<b>Subject:</b>	Implementation Plan for Alarm Ordinance Enforcement

I wanted to make you aware of our enhanced enforcement efforts as it pertains to business and residential alarms, and section 202 of the Code of Ordinances.

With a noticeable uptick in repeat alarm calls to individual addresses, we've identified a need to fairly and consistently enforce and apply this section of the municipal code.

This section requires the registration of alarm systems and includes provisions for administrative fees in cases of excessive false alarms.

The fee structure is outlined as follows. Any alarm system which has recorded the following within a calendar year shall be subject to the following administrative fee:

- Up to 6 false alarms: No fee
- 7–10 false alarms: \$25.00 per alarm
- 11–15 false alarms: \$50.00 per alarm
- 16–20 false alarms: \$75.00 per alarm
- 21+ false alarms: \$100.00 per alarm

The ordinance also allows alarm holders to request a review by the Chief of Police to determine if the alarm was falsely triggered. Additionally, failure to pay the administrative fees could result in a criminal citation and a court appearance.

To ensure fair and proper enforcement, we have developed a two-part plan, to include educating alarm holders before we begin enforcement.

#### Phase 1: Public Education (Remainder of 2024)

- We will dedicate the rest of the year to educating the public about the alarm ordinance and their responsibilities under it.
- A monthly report will be generated listing all alarm calls that officers respond to. Property owners will receive a letter detailing their alarm activity and a registration form for their alarm system.
- This phase will give alarm holders ample time to register their systems and familiarize themselves with the ordinance.
- Additionally, we will use social media to raise awareness about the ordinance and its requirements.

#### Phase 2: Enforcement (Beginning January 2025)



- Starting in 2025, we will use the same monthly reports to issue notices of enforcement.
- Property owners will be notified when an officer responds to an alarm, including the number of previous responses.
- Once a property exceeds six false alarms, the owner will receive notice of the administrative fee and the due date for payment.

We believe this phased approach will give alarm owners the necessary time to comply with the ordinance, allow for a fair transition time before enforcement actions are taken, and hopefully reduce the number of alarm calls handled by our officers.

Another goal is to obtain accurate contact information for these businesses, to be used after hours when alarms are sounded. Oftentimes dispatch is not able to contact the responsible party, or they will refuse to respond when an alarm sounds.

During our review of this section of the code of ordinances, we identified several areas that require updates or corrections. We will continue collaborating with the City's attorneys to address these issues and will present proposed revisions at a later date.