



City Administrator's Report

February 14, 2025

Public Safety Sales Tax Ballot Question – Election Cost

The Clay County Board of Election is in the process of determining costs to each entity associated with the April 8 election and is expected to mail the invoice for the City's portion of the election cost by March 10, 2025. This invoice is due within 14 days. A late fee of 10% will be charged if the bill is not paid within 14 days. In order to meet this timeline and avoid the penalty fee, staff will bring forward an Emergency Amendment sponsored by Mayor Boley at the March 18 Board of Aldermen meeting.

Friday Newsflash

Last week, we debuted a new way to reach out to the community. The Friday Newsflash is a weekly update to provide timely and relevant information to keep our community informed. In addition to our bi-monthly Citizen Newsletter and regular social media updates, the Friday Newsflash will serve as an additional resource for key City updates, important reminders, and highlights from Board of Aldermen meetings.

The Friday Newsflash will be posted weekly to social media and the City's website.

Proposition P Update

On April 8, City of Smithville residents will have the opportunity to vote on a Public Safety Sales Tax. This proposition asks voters to consider imposing a citywide ½ percent public safety sales tax to be placed on all retail sales made in the City of Smithville. Funds generated would be dedicated to Police Department related purposes, including the enhancements to officer compensation and benefits to aid in recruitment and retention of officers; fund public safety equipment and staff to support community growth; and implementation of an animal control program.

Since the last Board meeting, staff has worked on the following:

- Held a meeting with FOP Representatives and Police Department staff to review the educational materials.
- Held a meeting with Citizens Academy Alumni to provide information and the educational materials.

- Scheduled informational meetings with the following community groups: Friends of Megan's Paws & Claws, Kiwanis, Lion's Club, Smithville Rotary, Smithville Main Street District, and Community In Action.
- Staff will provide information at the upcoming Chamber of Commerce Luncheon in February and March.
- Reached out to HOAs to schedule meetings. Most are not having any additional meetings but will share information on their neighborhood social media pages. Staff has scheduled a meeting with Cedar Lakes HOA.
- Scheduled public informational meetings to be held at City Hall:
 - March 5 at 6pm
 - April 2 at 6pm
- Developed a social media plan for weekly posts leading up to April 8.
- Developed an informational handout with frequently asked questions.
- Developed an informational flyer to be mailed in March Utility Bills.

If you have any questions regarding the ballot question, please contact Chief Jason Lockridge jlockridge@smithvillemo.org or Assistant City Administrator Gina Pate gpate@smithvillemo.org.

Sculpture on the Move

Please see the attached memo from Parks and Recreation Director Matt Denton regarding the art installation downtown.

Economic Development

Assistant City Administrator Gina Pate met with representatives from the Missouri Department of Economic Development to meet with new staff. They plan to check-in on a quarterly basis. Missouri DED would like to stay connected with upcoming development opportunities to connect individuals with state resources.

Gina will also be attending a February Roundtable to discuss World Cup 2026 planning for Clay and Platte County. There will be larger informational sessions in the spring which will be open to other stakeholders as plans progress. Future work session discussions on this topic may be likely.

Website Update

Staff is currently in the design review process of the new City website. Staff is simultaneously reviewing the site-mapping of our current website and making recommendations for the new website. We are making sure content is up to date and pages are working correctly. The target go live date for the new website is May 1, 2025.

Date:	February 18, 2025
Prepared By:	Matt Denton, Parks and Recreation Director
Subject:	Sculpture on the Move

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan outlines community desire for public art: *"The broad downtown area was considered by survey respondents as the most suitable location for community events and festivals, and public art spaces and features."* Public Art was also including it in the 4–6-year implementation strategy and timeline.

In February 2023, Smithville Board of Alderman approved an MOU with The Creative Communities Alliance (CCA) for the Sculpture on the Move program. CCA is a coalition of municipal and nonprofit organizations dedicated to the development of community arts around Missouri. Sculpture on the Move is a project intended to encourage relationships between communities and artists, as well as grow art appreciation across Missouri and foster multicultural communities through public art. The Parks and Recreation Department was introduced to Sculpture on the Move from multiple KC Metro area parks and recreation departments. The program facilitates the installation of high quality, original artwork for communities to enhance public spaces with minimal cost and a short-term commitment.

This program allows sculptures to rotate throughout Missouri on a two-year cycle, and our first round is now concluding. This May, our downtown sculpture, *World's Her Canvas*, will be up for renewal.

The selection process rotation includes a "draft" process. The draft to secure a new sculpture is scheduled for March 4, 2025.

Two years ago, a selection committee comprised of downtown and community representatives was formed to select our current piece. A committee including representatives from Smithville Main Street District, Parks and Recreation Committee and Board of Alderman has again been formed to assist in the selection process.

The agreement with Creative Communities Alliance, provides a cost-effective way for the City to install art installations. The commitment is a 2-year contract for a total of \$1,000/yr. (\$2,000 total). The City would be required to show proof of general liability coverage for the art piece.

The cost structure includes:

- \$1,000 per year for a total of \$2,000, paid directly to the artist.
- \$100 in administration/membership fees, paid to Creative Communities Alliance
- A small plaque for the artwork, typically costing \$80-\$100.

Funds are available in the FY2025 Parks and Recreation Budget for this expenditure.