



City of Pacific  
300 Hoven Drive  
Pacific, MO 63069



Official Newsletter of the City of Pacific March, 2021 www.pacificmissouri.com

## Mayor Myers gives the annual State of the City address

*(Note: The following was delivered to the Pacific Area Chamber of Commerce January 26. This is only a beginning excerpt. A copy of the complete State of the City Address will soon be posted on the City website, www.pacificmissouri.com, as well as on social media.)*

To The Citizens of Pacific,

As much as we may want to, 2020 was a year that no one will soon forget. It was filled with challenges, many of which were impossible to see coming. A year ago, few would have thought that we would be here today still social distancing ourselves. Although the case numbers are vastly improved, we are still witnessing friends and family becoming ill from the Covid Virus. Many of our loved ones in nursing homes are still not able to have visitors and many children are still relying on virtual rather than classroom instruction.

We thank God for our first responders, our street & water department staff, our teachers, nurses, doctors and all others who have been on the front lines. Because of them, many of us, including myself, have survived the pandemic and are still alive to tell about it. Thanks also to all our many committees and commissions and community volunteers for being flexible while working through an extremely stressful time. Hopefully, through science and technology and the grace of God this will all soon be over.

As difficult as 2020 has been, our city remains strong and has weathered the storm much better than all expectations! I give the credit for this very positive outcome to our city staff and our elected representatives who wisely helped us to tighten the city budget early on. Because of this, we managed the potential crises very well. An abundance of thanks must also go to the citizens of Pacific and to the good folks living in the surrounding area who chose to shop locally. The result

has been that our local businesses have been kept afloat, our local workers employed and our city revenues surprisingly strong.

This has been a learning opportunity for all involved and through all the trials, we have still managed to accomplish a great deal together! We rose to the occasion and worked very well together as a team to move our city forward and for that, we are very proud to play a part in this community. To the staff and elected officials of this administration, I offer a heart felt "Thank You"!



**Mayor Steve Myers (left) hosted a recent meeting** of the Lafayette Area Mayors Organization, a group of Mayors from the West St. Louis County area. Pacific hosted the most recent meeting, held at the Designs of Ambiance location on West. St. Louis Street. Area School District superintendents were invited to attend and report on challenges facing districts due to Covid-19. Also pictured is Mark Harder, St. Louis County Councilman, District 7, and Superintendent John Mulford and Assistant Superintendent Carrie Schwierjohn of Meramec Valley R-3.

### Mark your calendars!

- April 6: Municipal Election date. *Please vote!*
- April 24: Beautification Committee Clean-Up day, 9 a.m. to noon, Community Park
- Board of Aldermen meetings, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
- Planning and Zoning, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 p.m. (as necessary)

[www.pacificmissouri.com](http://www.pacificmissouri.com)

### Get Informed!

The City website allows citizens to receive notifications when certain new items are posted. For example, the full Board of Aldermen meeting packet is posted on the Friday before each meeting. Copies of proposed bills and resolutions, staff reports, and various other information is included in each packet. Can't find what you're looking for? Send an email to [vroth@pacificmissouri.com](mailto:vroth@pacificmissouri.com) and we will post it.

[www.pacificmissouri.com](http://www.pacificmissouri.com)

## City nears completion of another round of voluntary flood buyouts

The City is nearing completion of the acquisition and demolition of 17 properties in the Pacific Voluntary Flood Buyout program. The 17 properties acquired this year are in addition to three acquired in 2019-20. The City acquired 21 properties in the first round of buyouts, which followed the Flood of 2008.

The flood buyout program is funded in part by federal hazard mitigation funding from FEMA. The City has also secured matching funds through the Missouri Community Development Block grant program, and also received support in this year's round from The Nature Conservancy. Premier Demolition was the lowest of several bidders for the demolition work, and is scheduled to be complete by late April.

The program is completely voluntary. The 17 properties acquired this year were part of an original grant that included 27 properties. Ten property owners chose not to participate in this year's round. The City has another round of buyouts in process this year, which includes two properties.

## For Sale: 222 N. First

The City is taking offers for purchase of the building located at 222 N. First Street (southeast corner of 1st and Osage Street).

**The building must be moved** as a condition of the sale, either to a different point on the current site, or to an off-site location. The property is currently listed with Dustin Walsh, Realty Executives Premier. The list price is \$89,000.

The City acquired the building in 2019 in anticipation of a planned intersection improvement at this location. The City has now applied for a federal grant, primarily aimed at improving truck turning movements through the intersection.

The City expects to receive word on the grant application later this year. If approved, construction likely would be set for 2023. The City hopes to find a private party willing to purchase and renovate / preserve the building.



## Sign up to get City emergency alerts

The City is implementing a new emergency notification system, replacing the previous system. Residents may sign up online at the following: <https://pacificmo.reggroup.com/signup>.

The system will be used for emergency notices such as weather and flood warnings, and other alerts such as water main breaks or street closures. Residents can choose to receive alerts via phone calls, texts, or emails.

The City is using the database from the previous system, but residents are encouraged to sign up with the new system to make sure all information is current.

## City issues factsheet on Brush Creek Sewer District issue

The City has put out a factsheet on the recent increase charged to Brush Creek Sewer District customers. A copy of the factsheet can be found on the City website at [www.pacificmissouri.com](http://www.pacificmissouri.com).

Brush Creek Sewer District customers recently received bills that included a \$25.28 monthly increase. Information on the bill implied that the City of Pacific was responsible for this increase. The \$25.28 increase in fact was imposed by the BCSD trustees, based on information provided to them by Alliance Water Resources. The City has in fact increased its rates charged to BCSD, but has no information or understanding as to how the \$25.28 charge was derived.

## Two new City sidewalk projects in the works

The City is planning two sidewalk improvement projects, one of them scheduled for this spring and another scheduled for 2022-23.

The Viaduct Street sidewalks project is scheduled to begin this April, following Board of Aldermen award of a contract to Gershenson Construction in February. This project links existing sidewalks on Thornton Street to the sidewalk currently running underneath the I-44 viaduct. The total project cost is \$118,964. Gershenson was the lowest of seven bidders for the project.

The project's main feature is a protected sidewalk over the culvert between Thornton and Hogan Road. A barrier wall will protect the sidewalk from adjacent vehicle traffic in this location. Lighting improvements and crosswalks are also part of the plan.

The second project, "West Osage Sidewalk Connections" is being funded by a federal grant which the City was awarded in late 2020. This project will fill in missing sections of sidewalk on the north side of Osage between Viaduct west to Flier Drive. The project includes a sidewalk on the north side of Osage running west of Lamar Parkway, and also includes curb and gutter and storm water control through this area.

The total project cost is \$340,411, which includes engineering. Construction is scheduled in late 2022 or early 2023. Funding will come from the Viaduct and West Osage CID funds.

## Employee spotlight: Janet Fuszner

### Found objects make art for City's Accounts Payable clerk

If you are not looking closely, you might think that "flower arrangement" sitting in Janet Fuszner's office was maybe purchased at a gift shop, or was a gift from a family member.

Look more closely however and you will find that arrangement is made up of dozens of found objects (aka "trash") that Janet has collected on the sides of Pacific's streets and roadways. There are forks and spoons, a screwdriver and nail file, various pieces of rebar, drywall screws and all sort of other odds and ends.

Janet has been the City's Accounts Payable Clerk for more than 12 years, and is an integral part of the City's administrative staff. She assists with the Court operation, Parks Department and many other duties as assigned. While many people talk about cleaning up the town, Janet is one who actually does it, frequently picking up trash along the sides of City streets and roadways.

Some of the more notable objects she keeps and displays in large vases or jars kept in her office. One of her pet peeves is the sheer volume of mini liquor bottles (aka "airplane shots") that she finds all over the roads and ditches. One of her creations includes an unopened bottle of Fireball as the centerpiece.

Janet is also known in the office for her excellent desserts, which she often provides for employee birthdays and other special occasions.

***Thank you Janet for all you do for the City!***



## Bulk trash pick-up event scheduled for this fall

The City has had recent inquiries regarding a possible bulk trash pick-up for spring, 2021. The City's bulk trash pick-up is typically scheduled for the fall, generally in September.

Residents are reminded that they get one free bulk item per month through Waste Connections, the City's contracted residential waste hauler. Residents need to contact

Waste Connections at 636-321-2100 to schedule the pickup.

The fall bulk trash pick-up is a free service to residents that is paid for by the City. The costs of the annual event range from \$10,000 to \$15,000, which covers disposal fees and contracted trash hauling trucks and equipment.

## City hires new Parks Superintendent

When it came to filling the new Parks Superintendent position, the City was happy to find an excellent candidate to promote from within. Chris Fowler, who has been with the City Street Department since 2017, was hired for the new Parks Superintendent position in late December. Chris was one of several applicants for the position.

He is responsible for the overall operation and maintenance of the City parks system. He reports directly to the City Administrator and Park Board, and works in coordination with the activities of the City's Public Works Department.

Chris has a background in parks and recreation, having worked for the City of Fenton Parks Department for several years prior to coming to Pacific. He has managed the Department's transition to a new building (the former Winchester Building at 1043 E. Osage St.) which now serves as the Parks and Recreation headquarters. He has been conducting much needed maintenance work in many areas of the system, and working on both short and long-term projects.



A few of the early projects include repairing and upgrading the park bathroom facilities; removal of swingset equipment near the Municipal Pool (which will be replaced with new equipment later this spring), renovation / improvement of a small pond in a newly acquired area north of Liberty Field, putting lettering and signage on certain park facilities, and working on the two ballfields at the Community Park.

The Board of Aldermen recently authorized the purchase of a new truck and utility bed for the Parks Department, as well as a new compact tractor with multiple attachments. The funds come from the Parks and Storm Water Sales Tax authorized by City voters in 2019.

Chris is the City's first full-time employee who is dedicated exclusively to parks. The City previously operated the parks out of the Public Works Department. The new sales tax is also the first source of dedicated funding for the parks system. Previously the parks were operated out of allocations from the General Fund.

## East Osage Community Improvement District terminated

The 1-cent CID sales tax charged by businesses in the East Osage CID will terminate effective March 31, following recent action by the Board of Aldermen.

The Board in February gave approval to an ordinance terminating the district, eliminating the 1-cent sales tax that had been levied by the District. Businesses within the District were notified in March that the tax was to be repealed as of March 31. The District includes business along Osage Street from the BP Amoco location at Osage and Western, east to the Red Cedar Inn property.

The District termination was part of the City's proposal to voters in 2019, when voters were asked to approve half-cent Parks and Storm Water and Transportation sales taxes. The City said it would move to eliminate the three CIDs

if voters approved the measures. The Viaduct CID was terminated in early 2020, and the W. Osage CID was reduced or "shrunk" later in 2020. The E. Osage CID was by far the largest CID, with approximately 100 property owners, and the City was required to obtain notarized petitions from at least 50 percent of property owners in order to terminate the District. After repeated efforts, the City was able to get to the 50 percent threshold in late 2020, and the District was officially terminated earlier this year.

Funds that were collected by the District remain in a restricted account which may only be used for purposes benefiting the former District. The City has allocated most of the funding to the 1st and Osage intersection improvement project. Other funds will be used to maintain the streetlights along Osage Street.

## City news in brief...

### City partners with Pacific Partnership for downtown revitalization

The City has entered into an agreement with the Pacific Partnership for certain services relating to promotion of the City's downtown area. The new agreement was approved by the Board of Aldermen in January and provides for the hiring of a full-time executive director for the Partnership, as well as for the continued Partnership production of events such as the Car Show, Rodeo, and Monsterfest.

The agreement includes \$50,000 annually in funding for Partnership activities. The City previously had budgeted approximately \$25,000 for Partnership events. Funding will come from the City's Tourism Commission. The Partnership is currently searching for an executive director; this position is expected to be filled by mid-April.

The new agreement is an outgrowth of the City's Main Street Program, which began in 2017 as a joint project of the City, Partnership and Pacific Area Chamber of Commerce. One of the goals of the Main Street program is to establish a paid staff position within the downtown organization, and this agreement helps realize that goal. The new executive director is expected to work closely with the City in downtown revitalization activities, promoting economic development primarily in the core downtown area but in the larger community as well.

### City renews agreement with Tri-County Senior Center; increases funding support

The Board of Aldermen has authorized a new agreement with the Tri-County Senior Center, helping the Center get back in operation after nearly a year of reduced activities. The new agreement was approved in February and increases the City's level of support to \$20,000 annually.

The agreement provides that the Senior Center will operate its regular lunch program, in addition to many other activities. (Sandwiches are currently being served during lunch.) The Center agrees to provide relief services to the City in the event of an emergency or disaster, including acting as a warming or cooling center during periods of extreme weather. The Center also agrees to make meeting space available to community not-for-profit groups at no charge or nominal cost, and to provide a center for other public or charitable benefit, such as blood drives, social service outreach activities, charitable or benevolent fundraising activities, etc.

For more information, please contact the Center at 636-257-6264.

## Code corner

### City raises fees for grass cutting violations

The grass cutting season is here and there has been an important update to the City's penalties for excessive growth violations. First, it's important to note that municipal ordinance section 225.255(A) states in-part:

"No person shall cause or permit any grass, weeds or rank vegetation growth to attain a height in excess of seven (7) inches upon any property located within the City. Any owner who shall cause or permit any weeds or rank vegetation growth to attain a height in excess of seven (7) inches shall be deemed to have committed a public nuisance..."

If a property owner is cited for tall grass they will have ten days to get their grass cut to a code-compliant length. If the grass is not cut within ten days, the City's grass cutting contractor is then called to cut the yard. Ordinance section 500.335 states that the fine for this now begins at **\$300 per cut**.

Please help to *cut* any fines by keeping yards maintained! The City only orders the grass cutting if the owner fails to take care of it.

If you have any questions about this or specific property conditions please contact our Code Enforcement Officer at City Hall by calling 636-271-0500 option 5.

## ***Municipal Pool to be back in operation this spring***

The Pacific Municipal Pool is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend this year, following recent action by the Board of Aldermen. The Board in March agreed to renew the management contract with Midwest Pool, which has managed the pool for the City for the past several years. The City expects to place certain Covid-19 protocols on the pool operation, though likely with somewhat less restrictions than last year. The final set of protocols are subject to Board approval in April or May.

The pool deck meanwhile is being painted by Westport Pools, following Board authorization of an approximate \$40,000 contract earlier this year. The pool deck has not been painted in several years. The Board took action following a Park Board recommendation to have the pool painted this year, and begin working on upgrades to be in place for the 2023 season. Westport Pools previously had provided the City with various renovation and repair options, which ranged from approximately \$1 million for replacement of the concrete deck and pool floor and mechanical / pump / filtration systems, on up to \$3.8 million for a new aquatic facility.

The Park Board intends to study the various options over the next year before making a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen.

## **City looking to fill new Community Development Clerk position**

The City has been conducting interviews recently in hopes of filling the new Community Development Clerk position this April. The new full-time position was created following Board of Aldermen approval in February.

The new position will act as an administrative assistant to the Community Development Department, which includes Planning and Zoning, Building, Code Enforcement and Animal Control. The new position will also assist with the City's general administrative offices at City Hall.

The position was previously included with the duties of the Utility Billing clerk. The Utility Billing Clerk position remains and is now dedicated primarily to water and sewer billing on a full-time basis.

The Community Development Clerk will process applications for various department functions, such as residential and commercial occupancy permits, building permits and various Planning and Zoning applications. The Clerk will also serve in the role of secretary to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment.

The Clerk will also have other duties as assigned, and serve in a backup role to various other City departments as needed.

## **City to return to meetings at City Hall; will be livestreamed via Facebook**

After several months of conducting meetings via Zoom, the Board of Aldermen has voted to return to in-person meetings at City Hall, effective April 6.

The meetings will be broadcast via Facebook and potentially other online platforms, such as YouTube. The City recently upgraded the City Hall meeting room with cameras and livestream technology that will enable all meetings to be livestreamed in this manner. Each meeting will be recorded and available for viewing online at any time.

The Board of Aldermen action applies to all City Boards and Commissions. Information on accessing the livestreams will be included on each meeting agenda.

## **Phillips 66 pipeline work to start this year**

Phillips 66 pipeline is planning a pipeline replacement project from Villa Ridge to Fenton. The first phase is set to begin in 2021 and includes a section from a point near Eureka east to the Meramec River at Fenton. Stage 2 is set for 2022 and includes the section from Villa Ridge to Pacific. The pipeline will be replaced within the existing easement at some locations, and relocated in others. More information is available online at [phillips66mo.com](http://phillips66mo.com).

## **Red Cedar project scheduled to be out for bid soon**

The City anticipates beginning the bidding process for the Red Cedar Inn renovation project in early April, with a contract award tentatively scheduled for late May 18.

The approximate \$1.7 million project includes a complete renovation of the building and site, including the addition of a new office and storage room to the rear of the building, and bathrooms on the lower level with outside entrances.

The main building will be completely remodeled, with care taken to preserve and maintain the historic aspects of the building, including the restaurant and bar area. The parking lot and site entrance will be reconstructed, and new sidewalks will be added to access the site. Project alternates includes construction of an outdoor landscaped area to the immediate east of the site.

The project is a culmination of an approximate year-long planning effort conducted by architectural firm Patterh-

lves. That plan was presented to the Board of Aldermen in late 2019, but work on the design of the new improvements was put on hold in early 2020 due to budget concerns from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Board of Aldermen however re-started the project later in 2020, with a target to be out for bid by April, 2021. The City's Administrative Committee conducted regular meetings on the project, forwarding recommendations to the Board of Aldermen. The project is now expected to be out for bid in early April.

Once the project is under contract, the next phase is to begin planning for the operation and maintenance of the Center, which is planned to be used for Museum and Welcome / Visitor Center purposes.

The City expects to finance the project through a lease-purchase financing arrangement through local banks.

## **City voters to elect new City Marshal at April 6 polls**

City voters will have the choice of three candidates for City Marshal at the upcoming April 6 general election. The person elected as City Marshal will serve in the role of Chief of Police and will serve out the remainder of the term of former City Marshal / Police Chief Matt Mansell, who retired in June, 2020.

Candidates on the ballot include Andrew "Drew" Whitman, Scott Melies, and Greg Hurst. Each candidate must be a City resident and meet certain other requirements as set by the Board of Aldermen, including possession of a Missouri Class "A" P.O.S.T. certificate and serving as a supervisor or commander of other police officers for a minimum of two

years.

The new Marshal / Chief will oversee a department currently staffed with 17 commissioned law enforcement officers, one patrol trainee, one full-time and one part-time administrative assistant; one Records Clerk, and a communications dispatch center with a full-time supervisor and four full-time dispatchers.

Major Don Locke has served in the Acting Police Chief role following the retirement of former Chief Mansell. Major Locke was promoted by the Board of Aldermen last year, having previously held the rank of Captain.

## **Car Show moves to September this year; fireworks, block party June 26**

The annual Pacific Car Show has been moved to the fall this year, now scheduled for Saturday, September 18. The Car Show is produced by the Pacific Partnership in conjunction with the City of Pacific.

The annual fireworks show is scheduled for Saturday, June 26, with the Partnership hosting a Bicentennial Block Party



that evening on St. Louis Street. The Bicentennial celebrates Missouri's 200th anniversary.

Other events on the Partnership scheduled include Sunset on the Rails: Friday nights June 11, July 9, August 13 and September 10; the Iron Horse Rodeo October 1-2; Monsterfest on Sunday, October 31, and the Christmas Parade of Lights, December 18.