



City of Pacific  
300 Hoven Drive  
Pacific, MO 63069



# Pacific Update

Official Newsletter of the City of Pacific



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

## Mayor Issues Challenge

The Mayor has tasked the Director of Community Development with visiting every organization within the city of Pacific to encourage everyone to take a leadership role in the planning, organizing, and conducting of one of the biggest events that can be found in 2026 during the celebration of the 100th birthday of Route 66.

Route 66 turns 100 years old in 2026 and cities all along this historic route will be preparing as hundreds of thousands of tourists travel the "Mother Road" continuously between January and December of that year. The 2,448-mile Route 66 is the most famous road in the world and has become synonymous with the freedom associated with traveling the open road in the United States of America.

The mayor believes that the task of leading this effort must fall on the shoulders of every organization working together to make something truly special happen here.

"The potential scope of what the celebration will look like in Pacific is limited only by the creativity, drive, determination, and spirit we possess as a community." Mayor Herb Adams

When tourists pass through our wonderful town, what will they be greeted with? How welcome and amazed will they be by the amount of effort that was obviously exerted here? How proud are we of our stretch of the "Main Street of America" and how can we strive to ensure that the "Kicks" they got along this stretch of Americana were memorable?

All organizations, businesses and interested individuals are encouraged to rise to this challenge. To be placed on the distribution list for further information please send an email to: [SMyers@PacificMissouri.com](mailto:SMyers@PacificMissouri.com).

The City of Pacific will gladly support your efforts.



### Mark your calendars!

December 24 and December 27—City Hall closed for Christmas holiday

Board of Aldermen meetings, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Planning and Zoning Commission, 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 [smyers@pacificmissouri.com](mailto:smyers@pacificmissouri.com) and we will post it.

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

### Help for the Senior Center

#### Just a dollar more on monthly water bill

Many residents may not realize that they can easily contribute just \$1 per month to the Tri-County Senior Center, simply by checking a box on their monthly utility bill.

The City gives utility customers the option to pay a dollar more each month. Customers simply need to select Option B on their water bill, and the \$1 additional charge is then collected and remitted to the Senior Center.

The collections have ranged from \$200 to \$300 in recent months, which represents about 10-15 percent of the City's utility customers. Acting Mayor Herb Adams recently has called attention to the program, and collections have shown an uptick since that time. Mayor Adams hopes that more people will "buck up" and help give the Senior Center a needed boost.

The Senior Center is an independent not-for-profit organization, governed by a local community board. The Center receives from funding from the City of Pacific and Franklin County United Way, but no other government sources. For more information, please contact the Center at 636-257-6264.

# Pacific Police officer pay has risen dramatically under Prop P



When Franklin County voters approved the Prop P law enforcement sales tax in April, 2018, the message was loud and clear: Pay our police officers more. The City of Pacific has followed that order, increasing police officer pay by more than \$9 per hour, or \$18,000 annually, since Prop P was first established.

The Prop P sales taxes have been an important piece of this new funding, but by far not the only piece. The City has greatly increased its share of Police Department funding through other revenues as well.

For example, total budgeted payroll for the Police Department (including Communications) is now \$2,551,008 under the new pay plan; it was \$1,614,748 in 2018, an increase of \$936,260 annually. Prop P has generated approximately \$325,000 annually in the past three years, so the remaining \$600,000 in City Police Department funding has come from other sources, primarily General Revenue.

The City receives Prop P revenues from both Franklin County and St. Louis County. St. Louis County Prop P was approved in 2017, and the City has received approximately \$60,000 annually since the 2018 calendar year. Franklin County Prop P was approved in 2018, with the first payments coming to the City in early 2019. The City has received approximately \$260,000 annually in Franklin County Prop P since that time. (Please see below table.)

Entry level pay for Pacific police officers was \$15.18 per hour in the budget adopted in June, 2018. It is now \$24.50 per hour under the pay plan approved by the Board of Aldermen in Dec. 2021. This is an increase of \$9.32 per hour, or 61 percent. Base compensation for entry-level officers in 2018 was \$31,574 annually; it is now \$50,960, or an increase \$19,386 annually.

The total compensation package for police officers has also risen dramatically. It was \$58,236 annually in 2018, and is \$86,567 annually under the new pay plan. The total package includes health insurance, retirement and other fringe benefits.

## SALES TAX HISTORY

### Public Safety and Law Enforcement Sales Tax

#### Franklin County Prop P

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2018													\$0
2019	\$18,459	\$20,514	\$17,777	\$23,613	\$22,175	\$15,968	\$26,227	\$23,648	\$18,132	\$28,230	\$20,032	\$18,079	\$252,854
2020	\$18,079	\$23,163	\$18,257	\$23,157	\$25,932	\$22,981	\$29,337	\$22,788	\$21,468	\$26,619	\$22,052	\$20,233	\$274,066
2021	\$26,249	\$21,201	\$22,287	\$31,102	\$25,732	\$24,075	\$31,394	\$27,116	\$18,833				

#### St. Louis County Prop S

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017										\$461	\$3,219	\$953	\$4,634
2018	\$3,796	\$4,753	\$5,973	\$4,679	\$3,994	\$4,951	\$6,196	\$4,289	\$5,973	\$4,727	\$3,876	\$5,129	\$58,334
2019	\$5,425	\$4,524	\$6,261	\$4,915	\$3,651	\$5,595	\$5,659	\$4,128	\$6,262	\$4,412	\$4,240	\$11,041	\$66,113
2020	\$4,742	\$5,630	\$4,495	\$4,103	\$4,771	\$4,473	\$4,473	\$4,032	\$6,035	\$4,710	\$4,176	\$4,286	\$55,925
2021	\$5,420	\$4,713	\$3,933	\$6,124	\$5,412	\$4,978	\$6,549	\$5,511	\$4,561				

#### Total Prop P

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017										\$461	\$3,219	\$953	\$4,634
2018	\$3,796	\$4,753	\$5,973	\$4,679	\$3,994	\$4,951	\$6,196	\$4,289	\$5,973	\$4,727	\$3,876	\$5,129	\$58,334
2019	\$23,884	\$25,038	\$24,038	\$28,528	\$25,826	\$21,563	\$31,886	\$27,776	\$24,394	\$32,642	\$24,272	\$29,120	\$318,966
2020	\$22,821	\$28,793	\$22,752	\$27,260	\$30,704	\$27,453	\$33,809	\$26,820	\$27,503	\$31,329	\$26,228	\$24,519	\$329,991
2021	\$31,669	\$25,913	\$26,221	\$37,227	\$31,144	\$29,054	\$37,943	\$32,627	\$23,394				\$275,191

# Residents save \$ under new residential trash contract

City residents will see their trash bills decrease in 2022 under a new agreement with Waste Connections. Residential rates will be \$20.00 per month under the agreement, compared to \$20.49 per month currently. Senior Citizens will see their rates decrease even more, dropping to \$16.00 per month in 2022, compared to \$18.44 currently.

The new pricing is part of a three-year agreement recently approved by the Board of Aldermen. The new agreement is effective January, 2022 and runs through calendar year 2024. A table showing the new rates is below.

The Senior Citizen rate is available to residents age 62 or older. Existing customers who are eligible for the discount (or who may become eligible in the future) need to contact Waste Connections to sign up at: **636-321-2100**

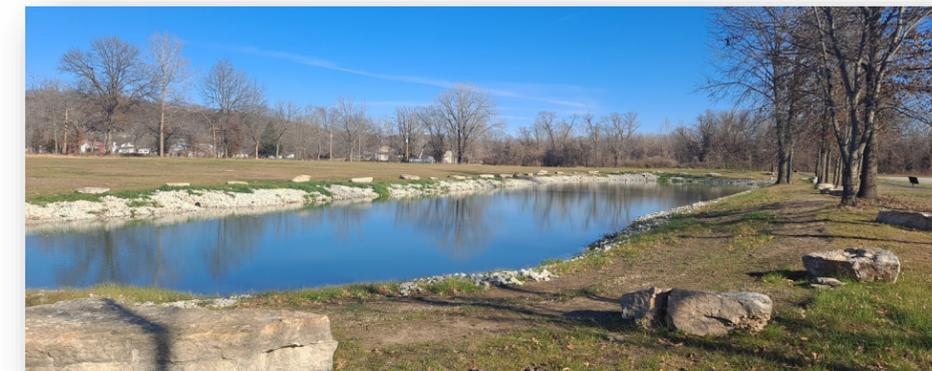
Residents can have one bulk item picked up each month at no charge under the agreement, which is a continuation of the current policy. Residents must schedule the bulk pick-up in advance with Waste Connections by calling **636-321-2100**.

	Residential rate	Senior Rate
Monthly cost per household, 2021	\$20.49	\$18.44
2022	\$20.00	\$16.00
2023	\$20.70	\$16.56
2024	\$21.42	\$17.14



## New Pond at Liberty Field is a work in progress.

The new pond addition to Liberty Field is filling up nicely and discussions are underway to eventually add an aeration fountain, boulder border and to stock the pond with fish. The pond is now located on a 7 acre site that was acquired in 2019 by the city to enlarge Liberty Field.



The possibility of adding a new park entrance, expanding park amenities, allowing for more "Cowboy Parking at the annual rodeo and a host of other ideas are being considered. The site was previously used as a pasture but hidden beneath the grass was a large covered dumpsite that is now all cleaned up and replaced with a 1/2 acre pond.

## Tri-County Senior Center back in daily operation

After a period of closure due to Covid and other issues, the Tri-County Senior Center is back to a full schedule of events and activities.

The Center, located at 620 W. Union Street, serves lunches daily (Monday through Friday) at 11:30 a.m. Lunches are open to the public but people are asked to call ahead with a reservation by 9:30 a.m. (Call 636-257-6264). Lunches are \$5 for seniors and \$6 for non-seniors.

The Center has numerous regular activities, including Bingo at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday and Friday, Jam Session at



10 a.m. on Tuesday, and Card –playing on the second Thursday, 12:30 to 3 p.m.

The Center hosts a dance on the second Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Movie night is the last Friday of the month at 6 p.m. Most events are either free or have a nominal charge.

There are many different activities in the evening, including GED classes twice per week. The Center is open for rental by community groups; please call 636-257-6264 for more information.

## Pacific's Digital Sign gets an upgrade



Excel Signs & Design recently won the competitive bid opportunity to replace the city's 4' Tall x 11'4" message board along Interstate 44 at Pacific. The work to take the old outdated sign down and replace it with the new 9' Tall x 14' wide state of the art ,9.5 MM Electrical Message Center was completed December 14th. The new message display is more than twice the size of the old one and will be used to promote city events and attractions with much higher resolution and capability to more than 100,000 people daily. Much thanks to the city's Tourism Commission, Aldermen and the many visitors who stay in our area conventional Hotels, boutique Hotels and VRBO's that have made this upgrade possible.

## City sales tax revenues show strong growth

The City has shown continued strong growth in sales tax revenues, with Calendar Year 2021 now shaping up as the fourth straight record year in a row.

The City's 1-cent General Fund sales tax passed the \$1 million mark for the first time in the city's history, hitting \$1,064,786 in total receipts for CY 2021. This was an increase of 7.6 percent over the previous record, set in 2020 with \$989,979 in total receipts.

Sales tax revenues are one of the City's primary economic indicators. Unlike some neighboring cities with large commercial or retail centers, Pacific's economy is more diverse with strength in many areas. Groceries and general retail, restaurants and food service, and a wide variety of service industries and providers all contribute to the City's sales tax mix.

"We are very much a small-business type of town," says Steve Roth, city administrator. "Our sales tax revenues point to a lot of economic activity over a wide spectrum."

Sales tax revenues have been particularly strong since 2017, when 1-cent receipts totaled \$829,787. Sales taxes have since grown by 28.3 percent, with the 2019-21 period being especially strong.

"We have attracted a fair amount of new business to the City in recent years, and had a lot of previously vacant properties fill in with new businesses," Roth says.

"Construction has also been pretty strong, and you certainly see that in our numbers as well."

The 1-cent General Fund sales tax helps fund a variety of City purposes, primarily law enforcement, communications and dispatch and general administration. Other primary sources of General Fund revenues include property tax and gross receipts or utility taxes.

The City has three half-cent sales taxes (Capital Improvements, Transportation and Parks & Storm Water) in addition to the 1-cent General Fund sales tax. Like the 1-cent General Fund sales tax, the half cent sales taxes also are tracking for record receipts in 2021.

"The effects of Covid certainly had an impact on some of our businesses," Roth says. "However the big picture for the community looks quite strong. We have some recent new projects that are either in construction or otherwise in the works, which we hope will lead to further growth and expansion. We are certainly looking forward to another strong 2022."

## Missouri Ethics Commission clears Steve Myers appointment

The Missouri Ethics Commission determined that the city of Pacific did not violate state law when it appointed former mayor Steve Myers as the Director of Community Development. A letter signed by the executive director of the ethics commission, Elizabeth Ziegler, outlines the commission's decision, stating the fact that Myers' role doesn't require him to influence the board of aldermen.

"While he attends all regular meetings of the Board of Aldermen, nothing in his position requires or authorizes him to attempt to influence Pacific's decision-makers". The letter said the fact that Myers would report to the city administrator rather than directly to the mayor or board of aldermen also was a factor in its decision.

The Ethics Commission said it conducted an investigation that "included a careful review of the job duties for the Director of Community Development, a review of minutes of City meetings held since Mr. Myers assumed that role, and interviews." The letter goes on to say, "Importantly, there was no evidence produced during the investigation to show that Mr. Myers, since taking the Director of Community Development position, had attempted to influence Pacific's Board of Aldermen".





## City convenes problem properties committee

The City has convened a new Problem Properties committee to bring focus to certain properties that have been subject of frequent law enforcement or code enforcement activity. Police Chief Scott Melies convened the committee following the recent re-assignment of Code Enforcement Officer to the Police Department. The committee is made up of City staff members representing law enforcement, building department and administration, and also includes the Police Department Chaplain, David Lange. The committee meets on a bi-weekly basis to review and discuss enforcement activities on these properties and others that may be subject of concern.

Properties that are in disrepair and / or which have a clear negative impact on surrounding properties are assigned the highest priority. Once a property has been identified, the City attempts to work with property owners on an informal basis to resolve issues, rather than citing them for code violations and referring the issue directly to Municipal

Court. If the initial attempts to resolve the issue are unsuccessful, the City may then cite the owner for violations or take other measures.

The City recognizes that there are numerous problem or nuisance properties located in varying locations in the City. Some of these properties may not need substantial renovations or repair, but simply need "cleaning up." Other properties may need to transfer ownership to a buyer who has the means or abilities to improve the property, while some properties may in fact need to be demolished or removed.

The intent of the committee is to work with property owners cooperatively to find solutions, and not to punish property owners or collect fines. Resolving these issues at times can be a lengthy process, especially if the issue winds up in Municipal Court. While Court may be necessary with certain issues, the goal of the new committee in part is to address issues before they get to Court, and try to facilitate solutions cooperatively with property owners.

## City completes Cedars asphalt project; single largest non-federal road project accomplished under Prop S

The City recently completed a substantial road improvement project in the Cedars Subdivision, including asphalt overlays of all subdivision streets, curb and gutter and sidewalk repairs and improvements, driveway aprons and other related work.

The City awarded the project to Jokerst Paving earlier this year at a total contract cost of \$582,267.80. Cochran Engineering served as the design and construction engineer at a total contract cost of \$90,711.

Jokerst submitted the lowest of eight bids for the project, which included some 3,460 tons of asphalt and 23,407 square yards of milling. The final project invoice has not yet been submitted, but the City currently anticipates various underruns on certain project quantities which will bring the total cost to less than the original contract figure.

The City is grateful to the residents of Cedars Subdivision for their cooperation with the project. The City experienced a few issues during construction but these were resolved quickly and with excellent cooperation from residents.

The City has had numerous federally-funded road projects in recent years, such as the Lamar Parkway bridge, Osage Street improvements and others. However those projects all were paid for with federal grants, typically representing 80 percent of the project cost. The Cedars Subdivision project then is the single largest street improvement project the City has accomplished using only City funds. The City did qualify for a Franklin County Transportation grant (\$70,500) but this came after the project was first authorized by the Board of Aldermen. Funding for the Cedars project was made possible through the Prop S Transportation Sales Tax, first approved by voters in 2019.

The City has accomplished several street improvement projects since Prop S was first approved, including the following:

Indian Warpath Drive; W. Union Street from Western to Payne, Hawthorne Subdivision, Lamar Parkway and Payne Street overlays, and W. St. Louis and Phelan Street overlays.

Targeted projects for 2022 include Summit Park Drive, East Union Street from 1st Street to Neosho, and the Thornton and Viaduct intersection.

## Pacific Aldermen spotlight:



### Alderman Ward 3—Andrew Nemeth



Andy and his wife of over twelve years, Amanda, moved to Pacific in December 2015.

Andy's career in retail and corporate management began in Michigan and included a move to New Jersey in 2012. Although the Nemeth family found living on the East Coast amazing, they discovered that they truly belonged here in Pacific, which is where they now raise their six kids while volunteering throughout the community.

After over 25 years in retail management, Andy changed his career path and went into Insurance sales. He has been working to protect and insure the people of Missouri for the past 1.5 years and truly loves what he does.

As Alderman, Andy has worked and continues to work towards the growth of Pacific as the premiere place to live in Franklin County.

### Alderman Ward 1—Gregg Rahn



Alderman Gregg Rahn and his wife of 42 years built their home in Pacific in 2005. As a retired union carpenter, Alderman Rahn is proud that their three sons built careers within the construction industry.

Gregg retired from commercial construction after working for Waterhout Construction for 42 years building, hotels, churches, research facilities, and hospitals. He served his final 15 years in construction at the Barnes and Children's Hospital complex. He views his profession as a career he used to serve the community and hopes to continue serving the community as an Alderman.

Alderman Rahn would like the city to keep moving forward with new park projects, new housing and by attracting new businesses that provide jobs to our residents.

## Agape House provides assistance to those in need

The Pacific Agape Help House provides a wealth of resources for individuals and families in financial need. The center is located at 120 Lamar Parkway and provides a food pantry, resale shop, and financial resources to local residents in need.

The Food Pantry is open Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for drive thru service only. The Pantry is open to residents of the Meramec Valley R-3 School District.

The Thrift Store is open daily except Wednesdays and Sundays. Donations are accepted at the Agape House dock on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. The Dock closes

one-half hour before the Thrift Store in order to allow staff and volunteers to process donations. If the big RED gates on the Dock are open, that indicates that donations are being accepted. If the red gates are closed, please do NOT leave anything.

Cash donations are also accepted, either through the website or directly at the center. The Agape House relies on volunteers for much of its operations. Volunteers must be age 16 or be accompanied by a parent while they volunteer.

For more information, call 636-271-5135 or go to [agapehousepacific.org](http://agapehousepacific.org).