

VOL. 3 ISSUE 4 · JANUARY 2025

# CITY CONNECTIONS

The Official E-Newsletter of the City of Raytown

## 2024 RECAP

BY DAMON HODGES, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

As we reflect on the achievements and progress from this past year, it is with shared pride and commitment that I present the 2024 Recap, which showcases the collective efforts and accomplishments that have shaped Raytown's future.

This newsletter is a testament to the significant strides each department has made to improve public and animal safety, infrastructure, foster sustainable growth, and provide services that contribute to the overall quality of life for our residents. It also illuminates our achievements that align with the strategic plan set forth by our Board of Aldermen.

Of the \$44M budget, the City spent:

- \$1.8M in road maintenance;
- more than \$1M in sanitary sewer improvements;
- \$1.5M in storm improvements;
- \$125,221 in medical care/housing for animals;
- \$24,000 in minor home repairs for seniors;

Whether it was updating our Comprehensive Plan, swearing in 17 new Police Officers or identifying areas to upgrade our storm water systems, the accomplishments of the past year mark many avenues of progress for the growth and future of Raytown.

I'm proud to say the culture has shifted. Most departments are full or nearly full. Our employee referral program is working. We have committed, dedicated employees who care and want to serve Raytown.

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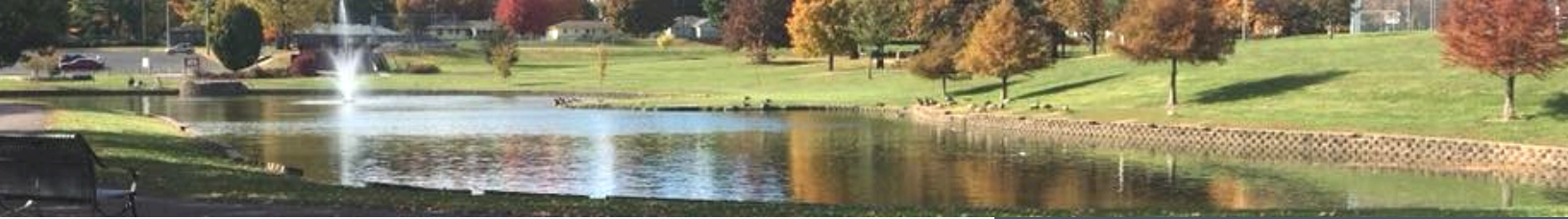
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## PARKS & RECREATION

BY DAVE TURNER, PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

### PARKS AWARDED MILLION DOLLAR GRANTS IN 2024

Last year, Raytown Parks was awarded a Land Water Conservation Fund grant through the Department of the Interior for \$1.1M. This is a 50/50 matching grant, with Parks financially committing to \$550,000 towards the project. To date, \$800,000 worth of work on the project has been completed.

In March 2023, Raytown Parks was awarded a \$3M fully funded congressional grant administered through HUD. This was part of the OMNIBUS financial package for Community Project Funding. The Parks Dept is still working on completing the prerequisites for the project.

Parks staff also completed two re-roofing jobs at Kritser and Southwood parks. The asphalt shingle roofs were replaced with standing metal roofs with an expected lifespan of 50 years.

Parks maintenance staff applied for and was awarded a TRIM grant through the Missouri Department of Conservation. This was a \$24K tree maintenance grant that was reimbursed at a 90% rate,

The Raytown Parks partnered with Raytown Youth Baseball Softball Association to provide little league baseball and softball at Little Blue Trace Park. The new organization has submitted and been approved for multiple community level grants to start off their youth sports association.

Raytown BMX hosted a BMX State Race last August and hosted hundreds of riders and thousands of spectators.

Raytown Parks also continued to provide the popular programs: Festival of Trails at the Rice-Tremonti home, Raytown Fishing Derby, and Raytown Live community concerts.

Parks worked with many volunteer groups and individuals last year including, Raytown BMX, Friends of Rice-Tremonti, Raytown Youth Baseball Softball Association, CERT, Scout Troops 469 and 283, Three Trails Kiwanis, Raytown Rotary, Connection Point Church, Graceway Baptist, Spring Valley Baptist, The River Church, the Raytown Chamber of Commerce, the Buffalo Soldiers, youth sports coaches, and many other individuals in 2024.

## YOUTH BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION UP

This past fall, youth basketball (ages K - 6th grades) had 15 teams with nearly 140 participants. This is an increase from last year's participation numbers.



SAVE THE DATE

5th Annual



# Get outdoors

Live animals, fishing, food trucks, outdoor activities, Smokey Bear, birding, and so much more. All for FREE!



**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 26, 2025**  
**10am - 3pm**

**Kenagy Park**  
7834 Raytown Rd  
Raytown, MO 64138



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BY DIANE EGGER,  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

### RESTRUCTURING ANIMAL CONTROL

January 1, 2024, the Community Development Department began overseeing all aspects of animal control and care. Staff continued the duty of picking up stray animals, as before, but this year they were also tasked with the animals' medical care, spaying and neutering, fostering, adopting, and meeting with potential pet parents. In 2024, staff worked 1,000 animal cases, picked up 500 animals, and returned 44% of them to their owners. Those not returned to their owner were impounded, and most were adopted or fostered.

### MINOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

In 2024, the Minor Home Repair Program budget was increased to help more qualifying homeowners with repairs such as dead tree removal, driveway repairs, exterior painting, gutter and soffit repairs, and handrail safety repairs. If you have a home in need of repair, and are considered low-income, please call 816-737-6093 to place your name on the Minor Home Repair list. The City partners with Habitat for Humanity.



## Online Business Licensing sees Major Uptick in 2024

At the first of the year 25% of businesses did their licensing online, currently participation is at 72%, which is about a 200% increase. For contractors, the online submittals were 5% at the first of the year, and currently participation is at 48%, which is about a 900% jump. We consider this a huge success as this saves time and effort for the business community as well as for city staff. Businesses and contractors can apply at any time of the day, rather than having to come into the office during normal business hours.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CONT.

BY DIANE EGGER,  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GOES PAPERLESS

In 2024, Community Development began scanning paper documents to be stored in a cloud-based system. It is safe, secure and will eliminate the need for most filing cabinets. This saves physical space and time - employees now store documents electronically as they are produced and do not have to print paper documents to be then filed in a cabinet.

### DEPARTMENT SAVES MONEY BY SENDING BUSINESS RENEWALS VIA EMAIL

This past year was the first year that businesses began receiving licensing renewals via email rather than through regular mail. This has had a tremendous impact on the number of envelopes and stamps needed, as well as staff time used to print renewals and stuff envelopes. In addition, this process has saved the city postage costs. Those who had no email on file were mailed a letter, to ensure compliance.

## 2024 STATS

### Stray Animal Stats:

Animal Calls investigated: 1,000

Owners found: 450

Impounded animals: 280

Animal cruelty cases investigated: 51

Tickets issued (animal violations): 400

### Codes Stats

Code Cases investigated: 2,036

Business Licenses issued: 1,403

Construction Permits issued: 1,702

Craftsman Licenses issued: 265

Pet Licenses issued: 442



## PUBLIC WORKS

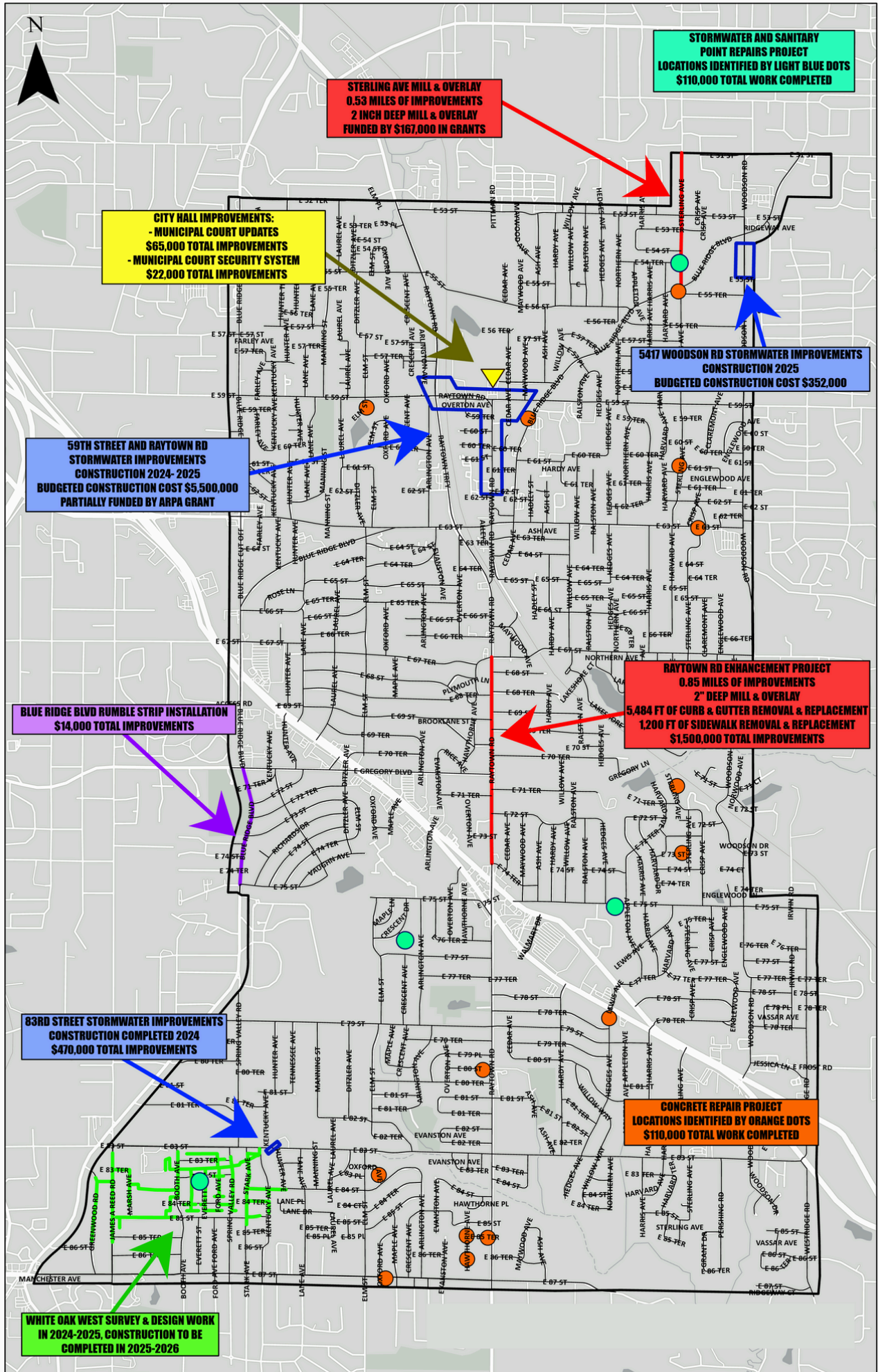
BY ROBINSON CAMP, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

### GO BOND STORMWATER PROJECT UPDATE

Raytown is poised for positive change thanks to a thorough evaluation of more than 90 potential stormwater improvement projects aimed at improving Raytown's infrastructure. Seven key projects have been prioritized using the \$7.2 million GO Bond funds. Recognizing the importance of community input, two rounds of public open houses were conducted in 2024 to gather resident feedback of areas prone to flooding. Additionally, the public was asked to submit flooding reports via the project website to help the team identify and prioritize flooding-prone areas. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the open houses. The City is committed to addressing community needs and investing in Raytown's future. Design plans are currently being developed with construction anticipated to start in November of 2025. Further details about these projects and the planning process can be found online at [oneraytown.com](https://www.oneraytown.com)



**Your City at Work**  
IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE





## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

BY MICHAEL GRAHAM, FINANCE DIRECTOR

### UPDATED FEE SCHEDULE

Last fall, the Board of Aldermen approved an updated fee schedule.

Police, Finance, Community Development and Parks increased their fees. The current fee schedule is posted on our website, click on this link to view the complete schedule of fees document, visit [raytown.mo.us/cityclerk](http://raytown.mo.us/cityclerk)

## MUNICIPAL COURT

BY RHONDA WOODERSON, COURT ADMINISTRATOR

### COURT IMPROVEMENTS IN 2024

Last spring, court offices inside City Hall underwent renovations to improve accessibility and modernize its general appearance.

Additional improvements include a \$22,000 security system installation.



Before



After



Customers Having Difficulty Paying their Sewer Bill May Contact:

- **Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (REAP)** - 816-737-6088
- **Hope Network** 816-778-1105
- **State Assistance for Housing Relief (for Renters)** 1-855-908-6120

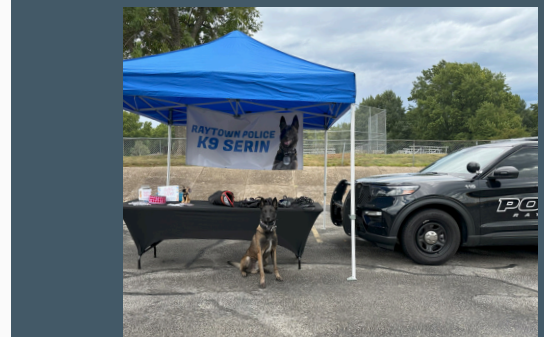


## RAYTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

BY CAPT. DYON HARPER

### ANNUAL SAFETY FAIR HELD SEPT. 21

On Sept. 21st, 2024, the Raytown Police Department’s annual community event, the Safety Fair, was held for residents to engage with officers, learn about safety measures, visit with many safety-oriented organizations and participate in family-friendly activities. The pouring rain might have slowed us down, but it didn’t stop the show. Thank you to all who participated. Mark your calendars for the next Safety Fair/Trunk or Treat in early October 2025.



2024 Stats	
Calls for service	15,485
Incident Reports	2,852
Accident Reports	619

### RAYTOWN PD GETS K9

Last August, Raytown PD was matched with K9 Serin and his handler Ofc Neuman. Serin was born on Oct. 31, 2020 in Slovakia. He is a Belgian Malinois that is trained in obedience, narcotics detection, article searches, tracking and suspect apprehension.

In December, Serin was gifted with a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to the non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. The vest, valued at \$1,800, is a potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers and is made in the USA, custom fitted, and NIJ certified.





## IMPORTANT DATES

### FEBRUARY

- 4 - BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
- 6 - PLANNING & ZONING MEETING
- 17 - PARK BOARD MEETING
- 18 - BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

### MARCH

- 4 - BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
- 6 - PLANNING & ZONING MEETING
- 17- PARK BOARD MEETING
- 18- BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

THE CITY'S FULL CALENDER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE  
[WWW.RAYTOWN.MO.US/CALENDAR](http://WWW.RAYTOWN.MO.US/CALENDAR)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SAVE THE DATE

Recycle FEST May 3, 2025 from 9 - noon at Raytown South High School. Check the City's website, [raytown.mo.us](http://raytown.mo.us), starting Feb. 19 for a list of accepted items.

City of Raytown Animal Services now has its own Facebook Page. To find impounded animals or to foster or adopt, visit us at [facebook.com - City of Raytown Animal Services](https://facebook.com/CityofRaytownAnimalServices)

CITY CONNECTIONS IS PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR BY THE CITY OF RAYTOWN. THIS NEWSLETTER IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF RAYTOWN.

SEND QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION TO:  
[tonia@raytown.mo.us](mailto:tonia@raytown.mo.us)

STAY UP TO DATE ON WHAT'S GOING ON IN RAYTOWN; FOLLOW US ONLINE  
[Linktree - https://linktr.ee/cityofraytown](https://linktr.ee/cityofraytown)

# Contact Us

10000 E 59TH ST

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8 AM - 5 PM

CITY HALL: 816-737-6000

### AMINISTRATION

(CITY ADMINISTRATOR,  
 CITY CLERK, HR):

816-737-6000

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(ANIMAL CONTROL,  
 LICENSES (PET/BUSINESS),  
 CODE VIOLATIONS,  
 PLANNING & ZONING):

816-737-6014

PARKS: 816-358-4100

POLICE: NON-EMERGENCY

816-737-6020

COURT: 816-737-6008

### PUBLIC WORKS

(ROAD CONCERNS, STREET  
 LIGHTS, STORM WATER,  
 RIGHT-OF-WAY):

816-737-6012

816-737-6064 (after hours)

### SEWER BILLING:

816-737-6088