

VOL. 1 ISSUE 2 · WINTER 2024

CITY CONNECTIONS

The Official E-Newsletter of the City of Raytown

2023 RECAP

BY DAMON HODGES, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

As we settle into 2024, I would like to take a moment and reflect on all that we accomplished together in 2023. Some notable accomplishments include: Our Public Works Department completed more than \$4 million in road, storm and sanitary sewer improvements. We were awarded nearly \$9 million in grants for Parks, Public Works and our Police departments. These vital investments have stimulated our economic development, and its impact has added several national and local businesses throughout Raytown this past year.

Speaking of projects, the grants we were awarded last year will allow the City to move forward with two large projects this year. The first grant of \$4M will allow Parks to improve the 53rd Street property. That land sat vacant for six years and with the creative thinking of Raytown Parks Director Dave Turner, and feedback from our residents, we were able to create what we hope will be a destination for our community. And the \$4.3 million grant awarded to our Public Works Department will allow the City to complete a project that has been on our books since the late 1990s.

In 2023, we also learned that one of the City's biggest partners and supporters is retiring next month: Vicki Turnbow, President of the Raytown Area Chamber and Tourism. Thank you for your support - your legacy will live on.

We also continued several traditions: the Raytown Live concert series, the Mayor's Christmas tree lighting ceremony, the Festival of the Trails and more.

When you look around our community, it's energizing to see progress and it's encouraging to know that the work we do now will sustain Raytown for years to come.

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PARKS & RECREATION

BY DAVE TURNER

In 2023, Raytown Parks continued to provide popular programs throughout the year including: the Festival of Trails at the Rice-Tremonti home, the Raytown Youth Basketball league, the Raytown Fishing Derby, and the Raytown Live community concert series.

The BMX National Race returned to Raytown in July 2023. Raytown BMX hosted hundreds of riders and thousands of spectators from all across the country.

Parks staff completed two reroofing jobs at Kritser and Southwood Parks. The asphalt shingle roofs were replaced with standing metal roofs with an expected lifespan of more than 50 years.

And the biggest 2023 accomplishment: Parks was awarded more than \$4 million in grants:

- a \$3 million fully funded congressional grant administered through HUD. Parks is still working on completing the prerequisites for the project.
- A \$1,012,000 Land Water Conservation Fund grant through the Dept of the Interior. This is a 50/50 matching grant, with a financial commitment of \$506,000 from the Parks Dept.
- Finally, a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance grant through the Missouri Dept of Conservation Award in the amount of \$11,000. Parks received a \$10,000 award in 2021.

Parks worked with many volunteer groups and individuals throughout 2023, which include, 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 2023.

“Our City is strong with folks that really care. We take care of our own in many ways. This town is truly a small town with a big heart.”

MAYOR MIKE
MCDONOUGH



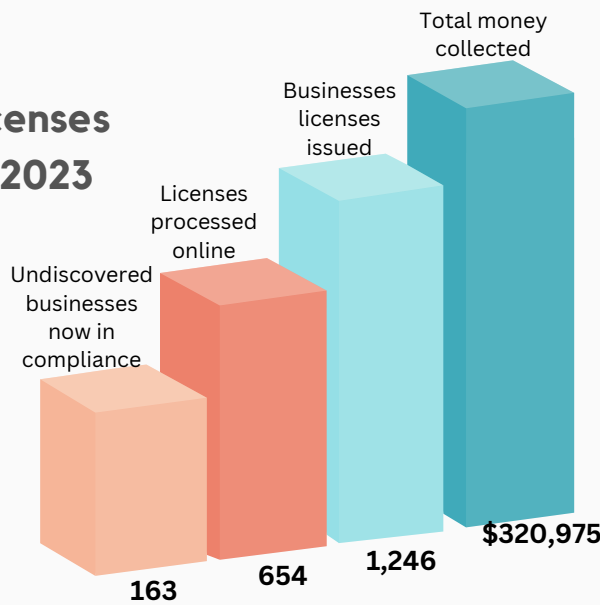
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BY DIANE EGGER

FINDING ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO SHELTERING AND ADOPTION OF ANIMALS

The biggest obstacle for the Community Development Department in 2023, was finding a solution to the City’s sheltering and adoption needs in Raytown. We have partnered with The Pet Connection and Laurel Pet Resort to manage these needs. Our reunification rate (dogs returned to their owners) for dogs impounded in 2023 was 38%, while the national average estimate was 13%, according to the ASPCA. Animal Control Officers work diligently with pet owners to make this reunification possible.

Business Licenses Jan - Dec. 2023



MINOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

The City of Raytown, through the Minor Home Repair Program, completed seven projects in 2023. The majority of those were painting projects and brush clearing projects. The City coordinates with Habitat for Humanity to vet the clients, and all are income qualified.



WE'RE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM

Apply online at:
www.raytown.mo.us/jobopportunities

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- 10 PAID HOLIDAYS
- 3 FLOATING HOLIDAYS
- VACATION/SICK TIME
- TUITION REIMBURSEMENT
- MEDICAL/DENTAL/VISION
- PENSION PLAN

RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE
\$1,500 - \$3,000



FINANCE 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BY MICHAEL GRAHAM

RAYTOWN RECEIVES HIGHEST AWARD FOR BUDGET

The City of Raytown received the Government Finance Officers Association’s award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for the FY2023 Budget. To receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide, and as a communications device.



AWARDS

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program

GFOA established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program (Budget Awards Program) in 1984 to encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the very highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. Approximately 1,800 governments, including states, cities, counties, special districts, school districts, and more have been recognized for transparency in budgeting. To earn recognition, budget documents must meet program criteria and excel as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communication tool.



THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT IS FULLY STAFFED

The Finance team has all positions filled for the first time in more than 12 months. The filled positions include; Director of Finance, Accountant, and Payroll/HR clerk. The staff in these current positions bring numerous years of experience in all phases of finance.

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

REDISCOVER CO-RESPONDERS PARTNER WITH OFFICERS
ReDiscover Co-Responders continued to support the Raytown Police Department throughout 2023 by serving individuals in our community who have mental health disorders and substance use disorders. In 2023, Co-Responders responded to 345 9-1-1 calls, made nearly 700 follow-up calls, 108 home visits, diverted individuals from emergency room visits 85 times, and diverted people from jail to other appropriate mental health services 48 times. The Co-Responders have been critical in better serving our community and enhancing service to our citizens.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Raytown Police Department held its Annual Safety Fair on Sept. 21. Residents gathered at Kenagy Park for an evening of fun, education, and community building. More than a dozen exhibitors participated, including Raytown PD SWAT, Lee’s Summit Bomb Squad, Rediscover, Hope House, Raytown Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Raytown Fire Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and more.

CERT TRAINING

Over the course of two weekends in April and May, CERT held its annual training course. The free course was a collaborative effort between Raytown CERT, Raytown Police Department, Raytown Fire Department, and other organizations. The course taught emergency preparedness, fire safety, emergency medical operations, light search and rescue, and more. Ten citizens were trained, and eight joined the CERT Team. The 2024 CERT Training will be held in April; visit our Facebook page for details!

UTV DONATION

In July 2023, the Raytown Volunteers in Police Service, Inc. donated a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV), upfitting equipment, and UTV trailer to the City of Raytown. The UTV will enhance patrol and response along the Rock Island Trail and other areas where terrain limits access. The donation had a combined estimated value of more than \$24,000.



MUNICIPAL COURT

The Raytown Municipal Court has migrated to Show Me Court – a statewide database that any offender can look up their cases for any court. We are continuing to add cases from our legacy system to Show Me Court. The court has transferred 7,560 warrants from the legacy system to Show Me Court. The court’s goal is have the remaining 2,440 warrants transferred this year.



IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

- 1 - PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING
- 13 - BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
- 19 - PARK BOARD MEETING
- 20 - BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
- 22 - MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

MARCH

- 5 - BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
- 7 - PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING
- 18 - PARK BOARD MEETING
- 19 - BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

THE CITY'S FULL CALENDER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE
WWW.RAYTOWN.MO.US/CALENDAR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Raytown Municipal Court will close temporarily starting Feb. 19 through March 8. Court staff will be available only by email - court@raytown.mo.us or fax - 816-737-7000.

City of Raytown Animal Services now has its own Facebook Page. To find impounded animals or to foster or adopt, visit us at [FACEBOOK PAGE - FOLLOW US](#)

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

CITY CONNECTIONS IS PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR BY THE CITY OF RAYTOWN.

SEND QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION TO:
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>