

VOL. 4 ISSUE 6 · JANUARY 2026

CITY CONNECTIONS

The Official E-Newsletter of the City of Raytown

2025 RECAP



BY DIANE EGGER, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

As we reflect on the past year, it is clear that 2025 was a transformative and exciting year. From adopting a new comprehensive land use plan after nearly 30 years to opening a new dog park, these are just a few projects that we believe will improve the quality of life for our residents and business owners.

We also created a marketing campaign to invite soccer fans to spend time in Raytown. "Keep It Raytown Real" showcases the City's grit and unapologetic authenticity. Stay tuned as we roll out the campaign and merchandise over the next several months.

In 2025, the City also welcomed many new businesses, residents, and opportunities that will shape our future.

In looking ahead, 2026 holds even more opportunities for growth and development in Raytown, including, improvements to our stormwater system, roads, parks and more. We will keep our residents updated on the progress of these projects.

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PARKS & RECREATION, CON'T

BY DAVE TURNER, PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

COMMUNITY EVENTS 2025 RECAP

Raytown Live

Raytown Live community concerts held the second Saturday of each month from May - September 2025 were well attended and will continue in 2026. These concerts are supported by sponsorships and partnerships with local businesses to fund the free community events for the enjoyment of all. The Parks Department, Raytown Main Street Association, Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, and Raytown City Administration, along with volunteers, partnered on this summer concert series. The full line up of bands for the 2026 season will be released soon.

Youth Sports

The Raytown Youth Baseball Softball Association had a banner year in 2025, increasing their participation by more than 100 participants. Practices and games were held at Little Blue Trace Park. Additional funding was awarded from the Truman Heartland Community Foundation, the Royals MLB and the Raytown Education Foundation which provided scholarships to cover registration fees to qualified families. This high-quality program is headed by Dave Patterson a former MLB player and retired Raytown South head baseball coach.

Raytown staff had a great youth basketball season in 24/25 and have again started strong in the 25/26 basketball season. We have partnered with the Raytown C-2 school district to host practices and games. The district also supports the families joining our basketball league with scholarships for the registration fees, ensuring that all kids who want to participate can join. The long season runs from November 1st to the end of February with weekly practices. Thanks to all of the volunteer coaches who support the league and the kids in Raytown.

Rice-Tremonti Home

The Friends of Rice-Tremonti hosted several events including the Festival of Trails, a May BBQ competition, and was one of the host sites for Raytown's 75th birthday celebration. All funds raised are intended for upkeep and maintenance of the home.

GET OUTDOORS DAY

The Raytown Parks Dept hosted our first Get Outdoors Day in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) on April 26, 2025. This event had more than 30 vendors and attracted more than 4,000 people throughout the day at Kenagy Park. The MDC stocked the pond, supplied volunteers to teach kids to fish, demonstrated outdoor skills, had live animal displays, and had a 40' climbing wall.

SAVE THE DATE:

MAY 2, 2026

**GET OUTDOORS DAY
is back!**



ANIMAL SERVICES

BY JENNIFER MCWHIRT,
ANIMAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

ANIMAL SERVICES 2025 RECAP

Animal Services started 2025 off with limited kennel space through one of our contracted boarding facilities. Our partnership with Laurel Pet Resort, coupled with the hard work of our animal control officers, reunited 200 cats and dogs with their owners, thanks to microchips for a 50% return rate. As our need for more kennels grew, Animal Services added a small kennel area onto the new police annex. This allowed us to isolate ill and nervous dogs.

For the first time in the history of Raytown, the Animal Services department became its own department and moved into a separate building outside of City Hall. This facility has a public viewing area and also allows for volunteers.

Animal Services has started a pet food pantry for Raytown residents and has been able to help multiple households already.

ANIMAL SERVICES STATS

IMPOUNDS:

- o 400

CITATIONS ISSUED BY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS

- o 503

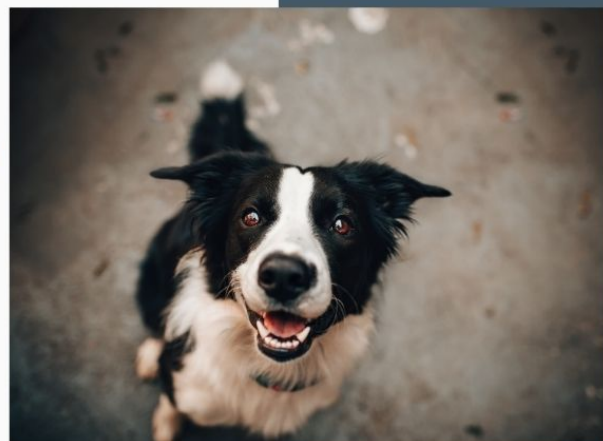
AVERAGE RETURN RATE

- o 50%

PETS REUNITED WITH OWNER

- o 200

Microchip your pet



COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BY RON KNISLEY,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

MINOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

Last year, the City completed 23 minor home repair projects. The Minor Home Repair Program helped 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 816-737-60914 to place your name on the Minor Home Repair list. The City partners with Habitat for Humanity.



UPTICK IN ONLINE PERMITS AND LICENSES

An increasing number of business licenses and permits continue to be performed online with a 95% participation rate. This has saved time and effort for the business community, contractors and City staff.

2025 STATS

Citations by Code Officers: 285
Code Cases investigated: 2,557
Business Licenses issued: 1,403
Liquor Licenses issued: 57

PERMITS ISSUED

Rental Dwelling: 521
Construction: 820
Craftsman Licenses: 271



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BY SHANA KELLY,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR

NEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADOPTED

In July of 2025, the City of Raytown adopted a new Comprehensive Plan, “Raytown on the Rise, 2040.” This was the result of more than a year of public engagement, planning and collaboration with the selected consulting firm, The Lakota Group.

The Comprehensive Plan establishes a vision for the city’s future and will help to guide professional staff’s decision-making over the next 15-20 years. It addresses housing, public spaces, economic development, land use, infrastructure, parks, and much more. Please visit the final Comprehensive Plan at:

www.raytownontherise.com.



CITY ENLISTS TAP FOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

In June of 2025, City Staff enlisted the help of the Urban Land Institute-Technical Assistance Panel (ULI-TAP) to gain professional recommendations to develop the greenspace, connect downtown to the Rock Island Trail and what if any additional opportunities are available for redevelopment, financing near downtown.

GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT

Concept #2



The full report and slide presentation may be accessed via this website:

www.kansascity.uli.org



PUBLIC WORKS

Cost: \$6.5M

BY JOEY CARLEY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

2025 PROJECTS STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS

5417 Woodson Road

Cost: \$378K

This project removed an undersized existing stormwater system and installed 625 feet of new storm pipe and 5 more inlets to collect rainwater more efficiently to prevent flooding on the roadway and properties during heavy rainfall.



59th St. & Raytown Road

Cost: \$6M (80% funded through a federal grant)

This project removed an undersized rusting stormwater system and installed a new stormwater system that included 7,300 feet of new storm pipe, and 86 new inlets structures. The project also resurfaced 14,760 feet of roadway = 2.8 miles.



ROADWAY

Annual Street Striping

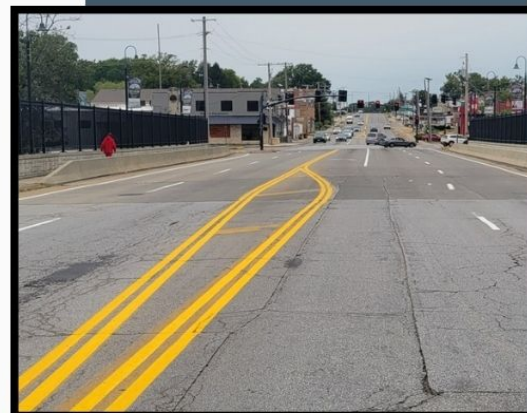
Cost: \$62,300

Applied new paint striping, turn arrows, crosswalks and stop bars to roadways where striping had faded.

Street Resurfacing

Cost: 121K

This project resurfaced 16 short section streets in Raytown, in partnership with KCMO, when their paving projects were in neighborhoods near Raytown's city limits.





PUBLIC WORKS, CON'T

BY JOEY CARLEY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

2025 PROJECTS SANITARY SEWER

Wildwood North Sewershed

Cost: \$1.48M

This is the third sanitary sewer neighborhood project to reduce inflow and infiltration in the City's sanitary sewer system to keep clean water from entering the sewer system.

Installed 5,100 feet Cured-In-Place-Pipe sanitary sewer lining, installed 565 feet of new sewer pipe, and installed 10 manhole structures.



87th St. Sewer Basin

Cost: \$914K

Performed tree removal, repair & replacement of clay basin liner and topsoil, raising low points in berms, overflow structure work, sewer main and manhole rehabilitation, storm inlet construction, and ditch grading.





FINANCE DEPARTMENT

BY MICHAEL GRAHAM, FINANCE DIRECTOR

BUDGET AWARD PRESENTED TO CITY

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of Raytown for its Annual Budget for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, 2025. To receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets guidelines to assess how well the budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and as a communications device.

This is the ninth time the City of Raytown has received this award since 2008, and most recently its fourth consecutive year since 2022.

HUMAN RESOURCES

BY DEEWAYNE HORD, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: STAFFING AND WELLNESS

The City of Raytown hired 43 new employees from January 2025 to December 2025. The City implemented an Employee-of-the-Month program, where staff nominate outstanding co-workers who go above and beyond. A new payroll system through ADP was also implemented in 2025. Staff continue to participate in the Live Well Rewards Program through Midwest Public Risk, which incentivizes wellness activities and health care education to improve productivity, and lowers health care costs.

Before



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
- United Way Call 2-1-1



RAYTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

BY CAPT. DYON HARPER

2025 STATS

CALLS FOR SERVICE	18,494
INCIDENT REPORTS	2,611
ACCIDENT REPORTS	633

NOW HIRING

POLICE
RAYTOWN

WE ARE HIRING!

JOIN OUR TEAM

OPEN POSITIONS

- Police Officer
- 911 Dispatcher
- Detention Technician

CONTACT US
816-737-6105

APPLY
raytownpolice.org



REASONS TO WORK FOR RAYTOWN POLICE

- Great benefits package & lateral pay for experience + \$8000 hiring incentive
- New officers-Academy fees paid + \$3000 hiring incentive
- Lenient tattoo and beard policy
- All uniforms & equipment provided, including boots & firearms
- Full employment for the time between accepted job offer and academy start date
- Every other weekend off for 24/7 personnel
- Overtime and holiday pay + shift differential
- 24/7 Gym on site
- No residency requirement
- Check out RaytownPolice.org for more details!



IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

- 3 - BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
- 5 - PLANNING & ZONING MEETING
- 16 - PARK BOARD MEETING
- 17 - BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

MARCH

- 3 - BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
- 5 - PLANNING & ZONING MEETING
- 16 - BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
- 17- PARK BOARD MEETING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the **STATE of the CITY Address**

Thursday, February 26, 2026

11 am

Connection Point Church

Call the Chamber to register 816-353-8500

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

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

SEND QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION TO:
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[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

ADMINISTRATION:
 (CITY ADMINISTRATOR,
 CITY CLERK, HR):
 816-737-6000

ANIMAL SERVICES:
 816-737-7025

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:
 (BUSINESS LICENSES, CODE VIOLATIONS, PLANNING & ZONING): 816-737-6014

COURT: 816-737-6008

PARKS: 816-358-4100

POLICE: NON-EMERGENCY
 816-737-6020

PUBLIC WORKS:
 (ROAD CONCERNS, STREET LIGHTS, STORM WATER, RIGHT-OF-WAY):
 816-737-6146
 816-737-6064 (after hours)

SEWER BILLING:
 816-737-6088



PARKS & RECREATION

BY DAVE TURNER, PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

\$4M IN GRANTS FUND MAJOR PROJECTS IN 2025

Raytown Parks completed the first phase of the new Terry Copeland Park, thanks to a \$1M Land Water Conservation Fund 50%-50% matching grant. The grant funded the demolition of the decrepit water park and built a new dog park on the 10-acre property at 5330 Raytown Road. The newly refurbished park opened July 2025. Since the opening, the park was selected by the Sierra Club for a grant to plant native pollinator prairie flowers and grasses. The seeds were planted in November of 2025, and the Sierra Club is looking at other locations within the Raytown parks system to continue the pollinator plantings at no cost to the City of Raytown.

A \$2M OMNIBUS grant will fund Phase II of the Terry Copeland Park which include a shelter house, playground, restroom, and a splash pad.

Redevelopment of Kenagy Park will be the recipient of the remaining \$1M OMNIBUS grant, which will fund new equipment for the Skate Park, a new restroom, ADA approved playground surface on our main playground at Kenagy, and ADA compliant additions to our walking trails. The Board of Aldermen awarded the contract to McConnell & Associates. The Skate Park equipment should be installed sometime in February 2026.



Terry Copeland Dog Park

THANK YOU RAYTOWN!

Thanks to Raytown Citizens, the Raytown Parks Department had a positive vote on an increase in Sales Tax which funds the parks. In August 2025, the citizens approved by a 74% margin to increase the 1/8 cent sales tax, to a 1/4 cent. This is the first increase in funding since 2003, and will be used to maintain public properties and for beautification projects. The increase in capacity for the parks will allow Parks staff to seek additional matching grant opportunities and to address maintenance, and redevelopment projects that have been out of reach due to budget restraints. The support of the public to the Raytown Parks is felt and appreciated. Stay tuned to see the results and progress.

Additional thanks to the Parks Sales Tax committee, Parks volunteers, and to the Raytown Parks Board for their dedication and commitment to our parks.