



CITY OF SIKESTON

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

This information provided herein is a compilation of those activities and projects completed by the management and staff of the City of Sikeston during 2023

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SIKESTON CITY COUNCIL



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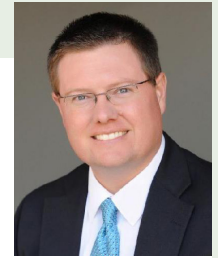
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Dear Sikeston Residents, Visitors, and Friends,

I am proud to present to you the 2023 City of Sikeston Annual Report. Your city government provides traditional municipal services including police and fire protection, street and park maintenance, 911 dispatching, stormwater management, airport maintenance and operation, economic development, planning and development services, animal control, municipal court and other associated services. City employees dedicate time to these fundamental services every day.

Additionally, the City Council has established four broad goal areas for the city to work towards: 1) Economic Development and Marketing, 2) Revenue Enhancement and Financial Stewardship, 3) Housing and 4) Quality of Life and City Services. Below are some highlights from 2023 grouped under each of these goal areas. The remainder of this Annual Report contains information from each department of the city regarding their work and accomplishments during the past year.

Economic Development and Marketing

City Council goals related to economic development and marketing include job creation, bolstering community pride, workforce development, bringing more visitors to Sikeston, and increasing retail and entertainment options for residents and visitors. A few 2023 accomplishments related to these goals include:

- Grand opening of Carlisle Construction Materials
- Completion of South Industrial Park and Highway 61 improvements
- Began construction on Ingram Overpass and Outer Road
- Eclipse 2024 planning
- Participated in Sikeston Area Economic Development Corporation strategic planning
- Issued 253 total building permits with a construction value of \$36,399,978

Revenue Enhancement and Financial Stewardship

City Council goals related to revenue enhancement and financial stewardship include establishing dedicated funding streams for city services, clearly communicating the city's finances to the public, and building trust through transparency. A few 2023 accomplishments related to these goals include:

- Clean FY23 audit (no material deficiencies)
- Voter renewal of 1 Cent General Sales Tax
- Voter approval of 3% tax on recreational marijuana sales
- Obtained grants for Legion Park improvements, an arson detection dog, public safety cameras, hazmat equipment, Veterans Park banner project, the rail trail, and more

Housing

City Council goals related to housing include increasing owner-occupied housing, improving property maintenance, eliminating vacant condemned structures, and increasing the stock of quality affordable housing. A few 2023 accomplishments related to these goals include:

- Participated in developer listening sessions with BMU and local housing developers
- Participated in DRA "Convening on Rural Housing"
- Ground was broken on new DAEOC homeless shelter at Kathleen and Stoddard
- Code Enforcement initiated 523 property maintenance cases (junk, trash, tall grass, weeds, derelict vehicles, etc.) and 455 (87%) completed abatement
- Issued 19 building permits for new single family residential houses at a value of \$3,830,000
- Issued 2 building permits for new duplex dwellings at a value of \$470,000
- 1,831 residents participated in spring and fall cleanups and removed 183 tons of debris and trash from the community
- LCRA sold 42 vacant lots to private owners

Quality of Life & City Services

City Council goals related to quality of life include improving city services, improving public safety, and improving infrastructure in order to increase property values and grow our population. A few 2023 accomplishments related to these goals include:

- Curbside Leaf Collection Program: 76.5 loads of leaves collected
- Selected architect (Dille Pollard) and construction manager (Zoellner Construction) for Fire Station 2 replacement
- Added six total Flock cameras (LPR and vehicle recognition) to city-wide camera system
- Added 22 cameras to the Recreation Complex
- Pickleball court improvements (windscreens, lighting, surface improvements)
- 2nd annual stocking of winter trout (2,240 fish) at Complex lake
- First Annual Balloon Festival held
- Completed installation of new fuel farm at Sikeston Memorial Airport
- Introduced new employee recognitions awards: The Trustee Awards.
- Acquired and paved new downtown parking lot at Kingshighway and Malone

The accomplishments listed above are only a brief overview of the actions and projects completed over the past year. You will find more information in the pages that follow. My staff and I appreciate your support of the City of Sikeston and the Sikeston community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan M. Douglass, ICMA-CM
City Manager

SIKESTON AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Lieutenant Gov. Mike Kehoe spoke at the grand opening of Carlisle Construction Materials in June of 2023.

Our Mission

To promote, enhance, and support economic growth, prosperity, and quality of life in the Sikeston area.

Business attraction:

Bringing new businesses to the community is a continued focus of the Sikeston Area Economic Development Corp. (SAEDC) to expand the tax base and create new jobs.

In June we celebrated the grand opening of Carlisle Construction Materials. Lieutenant Governor, Mike Kehoe, along with Missouri Dept. of Economic Acting Director, Michelle Hataway, and Missouri Partnership CEO, Subash Alias joined local elected officials and community leaders in the celebration.

The \$100 million investment in their 500,000 sq. ft. production plant is now home to more than 80 employees.

The SAEDC also submitted sites for eight new attraction projects through its relationship with Missouri Partnership.

Community Collaboration

Sikeston received \$9.3 million from the American Rescue Plan Act funds. These one-time, competitive grant opportunities were offered through the Missouri Dept. of Economic Development. Sikeston celebrated the seven projects during the Helping Missourians Prosper Tour this summer where Lieutenant Governor, Mike Kehoe, along with Missouri Dept. of Economic Acting Director, Michelle Hataway, praised the community for its collaborative efforts. (See page 6)

Convening on Rural Housing

To retain, attract and accommodate a strong workforce, affordable housing is a key aspect of successful economic development and community growth.

Therefore, the SAEDC hosted a Convening on Rural Housing in partnership with the North Delta Area Economic Alliance. More than 50 community leaders from five different states attended.



Convening on Rural Housing event.

Advocacy

The SAEDC is building a reputation as the primary advocacy resource for the area. Several SAEDC Board Directors and other community leaders went to Jefferson City in February for the Taste of the South, an event hosted by Senator Jason Bean.

SIKESTON ARPA FUNDS

Sikeston received \$9.3 million from American Rescue Act Funds



Marcie Lawson, CEO of the Sikeston Regional Chamber and Economic Development speaks during the ARPA Celebration.

GRANT PROGRAM	RECIPIENT	PROJECT	AWARD
Community Revitalization	City of Sikeston	Legion Park expansion	\$770,634
Community Revitalization	Grace Community Center	Grace Youth Center construction	\$1.1 million
Community Revitalization	DAEOC	Malone Park Academy of the Arts	\$1 million
Community Revitalization	SEMO Food Bank	New delivery vehicles	\$350,000
Workforce Training	Sikeston Public Schools	Sikeston Career and Technology Center	\$3 million
Industrial Site Development	City of Sikeston	BMU Wastewater Expansion	\$2.5 million
Local Tourism Asset Development	Sikeston Regional Chamber	Visitors Center and Rodeo Museum	\$484,138



A large crowd turned out for the ARPA Awards ceremony in June 2023.

SIKESTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU



Guides, Historic Homes Tour, and Road Trip Brochures. These pieces along with material from local attractions are mailed to individuals seeking travel/tourism information about our area and are also available online. The brochures are also distributed to local hotels, restaurants, and Missouri Division of Tourism Visitor Centers throughout the State.

PROJECTS UPDATE

■ HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL

The CVB assisted with the first Hot Air Balloon Festival last year. This event was a huge success and brought many visitors from surrounding states. The Sikeston Regional Chamber is sponsoring organization this year and the festival will be held June 21-22 at the rodeo grounds. The CVB will once again assist and help promote the event.

■ SIKESTON HONORS VETERANS BANNER & LIGHT PROJECT

In 2023 the CVB partnered with Sikeston Parks & Recreation, Veterans Park Committee, and Sikeston Board of Municipal Utilities to complete the Sikeston Honors Veterans Banner & Light Project in Veterans Park. The project was partially funded through a Missouri Humanities grant and features 16 period-style light posts installed along the perimeter of the park with banners honoring local veterans. A QR Code located on the posts direct smart phone users to the website www.sikeston.net/veterans-banners featuring each veteran's military history. The project was completed in November and celebrated with a Ribbon Cutting after the Veterans Day Ceremony. Each year at

TOURISM:

The City of Sikeston contracts with the Sikeston Regional Chamber to oversee tourism related activity for the city. The Sikeston Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is the tourism division of the Chamber. The CVB is the Designated Marketing Organization (DMO) for Scott County and charged with promoting tourism and attracting visitors thereby increasing tax dollars for the city and county. Kathy Medley, Executive Vice President of the Chamber manages the tourism division.

ACTIVITIES & MARKETING:

The CVB markets and promotes the area through print and digital advertising, social media, videos, billboards, and travel

publications. The marketing budget was increased by 50% in 2023 through the Missouri Division of Tourism Marketing Matching Grant Programs. Community events like the Rodeo, Cotton Ramble Bike Ride, St. Patrick's Day Festival, and many others are included in promotions. The tourism website is located at www.sikeston.net/tourism and features helpful information for planning a trip, or group tours. The site promotes area attractions, events, and amenities. The CVB also maintains social media pages on Facebook and Instagram at [visitsikestonmo](https://www.facebook.com/visitsikestonmo) to promote area events and attractions.

FULFILLMENT PIECES:

The CVB prints a calendar of events postcard (pictured below), Sikeston Visitors



Last year the Sikeston Regional Chamber was awarded a \$484,138 ARPA Tourism Grant to create a Rodeo Museum and Visitors Center in the old Sikeston Post Office, located at 215 N. New Madrid St.

Veterans Day the banners will be retired and given to the applicant or family of the veteran as a keepsake, then 16 new veterans banners will be displayed. This is an on-going project and veterans are chosen through a lottery drawing. The application and details are available at www.sikeston.net/sikeston-honors-veterans. A new brochure was created to promote Veterans Park and banner project to visitors, the community and area veterans' groups.

■ TOURISM & HOSPITALITY LUNCHEON

Each year the CVB hosts a luncheon at Lambert's Café to recognize a business, organization or individual in the tourism industry. The luncheon puts a spotlight on tourism and its importance to the local economy. Past winners include Lambert's Café, Sikeston Parks & Recreation, Sikeston Jaycees, and Beggs Family Farm. Two of these past winners were recognized by the State of Missouri last year. Lambert's won the Governor's Hospitality Award and Beggs Family Farm won the Governor's Agri-Tourism Award.

■ TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Sikeston is in the line of totality for the

April 8, 2024, eclipse. To commemorate this astronomical event the CVB has been working with a committee to plan the Total Eclipse of the Park event on April 8 and the weekend prior. Several events and activities will take place April 5-8 to celebrate the occasion including some listed below:

- Crawfish Boil & Music Festival
- Cosmic Pickleball
- Library programs including Animal Tales (how animals react to an eclipse)
- Midnight Madness and Scoping the Skies telescope viewing downtown.

• Eclipse Viewing Party on April 8 at the Recreation Complex with a NASA Ambassador who will have eclipse and Artemis information, giveaways, food trucks, music, and the eclipse count-down with KYMO.

The CVB is selling eclipse glasses for \$3 each and t-shirts \$20 each with proceeds going to the Rodeo Museum. The CVB held a logo contest last year, and the winning logo (featured on the t-shirts and marketing materials) was from a Sikeston Career & Technology student.

■ CONVENTION CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

Looking to the future, the CVB created a sub-committee last year to explore

the possibility of a convention center in Sikeston. The need for a venue that could hold more people than is currently available, bring visitors and new events to the community and provide space for residents to hold large gatherings has been discussed for several years. The initiation of a feasibility study is the first step in determining if the community and surrounding areas can support a center, the desired size, and operation model. The Convention Center Feasibility Study will be finalized in the first quarter of 2024.

■ RODEO MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER

Last year the Sikeston Regional Chamber was awarded a \$484,138 ARPA Tourism Grant to create a Rodeo Museum and Visitors Center in the old Sikeston Post Office, located at 215 N. New Madrid St. Construction is slated to begin in February. Once this project is completed it will house the Rodeo Museum and Visitors Center, and the offices of the Sikeston Regional Chamber, Sikeston Area Economic Development Corp., Sikeston Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Historic Downtown Sikeston.



To commemorate the Total Eclipse in 2024, the CVB has been working with a committee to plan the Total Eclipse of the Park event on April 8 and the weekend prior.





sikeston.net/tourism



SIKESTON RODEO MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER
 OPENING IN 2024
 CALL 888-309-6591 FOR DETAILS



2024 EVENTS



Black History Month at the Depot	Feb 1-29, Sikeston Depot Museum & Cultural Center
Bootheel Quilters Guild Quilt Show	March 6-30, Sikeston Depot Museum & Cultural Center
Bootheel Regional Women's Show	March 9, Miner Convention Center
St. Patrick's Day Festival, Cornhole Tournament & 1K Donut Dash	March 16, Legion Park
Kid's Easter Egg Hunt & Adult Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt	March 21 (kids) – 22 (adults), Recreation Complex
Library Book Sale & Animal Tales Eclipse Event	April 4-7 (book sale), 6 (Animal Tales), Sikeston Library
Moonlight Madness Shopping & Scoping the Skies	April 5, Downtown Sikeston
Movie in the Park (eclipse themed)	April 5, Downtown Sikeston
Jaycee Crawfish Boll & Music Festival	April 6, Sikeston Rodeo Grounds
Cosmic Pickleball	April 6, Recreation Complex
Total Eclipse of the Park (eclipse viewing party)	April 8, Recreation Complex
Swamp East MO Truck Show & Convoy + Mighty Machines	April 19-20, Sikeston Sports Complex
American Legion BBQ Contest & Poker Run	April 27-28, American Legion Post 114
Downtown Summer Concert Series	June 7, 14, 28 & July 12, 19, 26, Legion Park
Sikeston Hot Air Balloon Festival	June 21-22, Sikeston Rodeo Grounds
Sikeston Fireworks Display	July 4, Sikeston Recreation Complex
Rodeo Parade, Cowboy Up! Festival, Cowboy Shuffle 5k & Kid's Mutton Busting	Aug 3, Downtown and Legion Park
72nd Annual Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo	Aug 7-10, Sikeston Jaycee Rodeo Grounds
Benton Neighbor Day Festival	Aug 29-31, Benton City Park
Return to Sunset	Aug 31-Sept 2, Lincoln Memorial Park
Sikeston Wine Festival	Sept 7, Downtown Sikeston
Lions Club Cotton Ramble Bike Ride	Sept 7, Starts in Downtown Sikeston
80th American Legion Cotton Carnival	Sept 24-28, Jaycee Rodeo Grounds
Oktoberfest	Oct 12, Downtown Sikeston
Downtown Holiday Open House	Nov 8-9, Downtown Sikeston
Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting, & Santa's Village	Dec 6, Downtown Sikeston

For details and more events go to www.sikeston/events or contact Sikeston Convention & Visitors Bureau (888) 309-6591, tourism@sikeston.net



SIKESTON PUBLIC WORKS

STREET DEPARTMENT

Function: Maintains more than 100 miles of City streets and alleys with their associated stormwater drainage and rights-of-way; provides upkeep and maintenance to City-owned buildings; and maintains the City's fleet of cars, trucks and motorized equipment.



The city continued collecting leaves curbside this year.

The following programs and services were provided by personnel of the Public Works Street Division:

2023 Spring Community Clean-Up Program:

This year 1,250 residents participated in this ten-day program. Approximately 123 tons of trash and debris were removed from the community via this program.

2023 Fall Community Clean-Up Program:

In 2023, we hosted a fall community clean-up in addition to the normal spring cleanup to make up for no longer having a curbside cleanup. We had 581 residents participate in this ten-day program. Approximately 60 tons of trash and debris were removed from the community via this program.

Yard Waste Disposal Program (Compost Site):

Activity at the Yard Waste Disposal Site in 2023 consisted of 1,201

residents depositing 1,095 truckloads and 539 trailer loads of residential yard debris at the Yard Waste Disposal Site (Compost Site). We also collected 65 tires from residents. More than 597.5 man-hours were committed to this program.

Leaf Collection Program:

The city continued collecting leaves curbside this year, residents were encouraged to place their leaves on the backside of the curb in front of their residents or take them to the Yard Waste Disposal Site (Compost Site). For curbside collection, the community was divided into eight zones. Over the six-week program, the leaf truck collected 76.5 loads of leaves at an average of six cubic feet per load. In addition to the leaf truck collection, we opened the Yard Waste site Monday through Friday for a period of six weeks, during this six-week event, we had 130 residents and local lawn contractors utilize the compost site with the disposal of 147

truckloads, and 59 trailer loads of leaves. For these services, city staff dedicated a total of 511 regular man-hours.

2023 Street & Drainage Improvements:

As a part of the contracted street maintenance plan, the City completed the following projects:

- Milling and Resurfacing Stephens St. (Gehrig to Campanella).
- Milling and Resurfacing Euclid Ave. (Wakefield to Salcedo Rd.)
- Milling and Resurfacing Pine St. (Ables Rd to Virginia St.)
- Milling and Resurfacing Presnell St. (Missouri to Dead end).
- Milling and Resurfacing Downtown Alley (Between Front and Center St.)
- Concrete Reconstruction Larcel Dr. (S. Main to Santie Oil Co.)
- Seal Coat Glenn St. Area
- Seal Coat Cardinal St. Area
- North Kingshighway and Center St. Intersection Replacement.

During 2023, City Public Works staff repaired several damaged street, curbs and gutters in various locations of the community. In addition, Public Works staff continued to identify and improve stormwater drainage issues in a variety of areas throughout the city. The street department staff were able to complete repairs in these areas.

- Street repair W. Wakefield
- Street repair Hardin St. (5 Areas)
- Curb repair on 500 Block, N. Kingshighway
- Street repair E. Kathleen St. (6 Areas)
- Street repairs E. Matthews (4 Areas)

Mosquito Abatement Program:

This program operated three days a week from the end of May through September 2023. Approximately 600 gallons of chemicals were applied by the City’s fogging machine during this five-month program.

Missouri One Call:

For 2023, we responded to 953 routine locates, 73 emergency locates, 52 renewal locates, 16 dig up locates, 11 extended start time locates, four incorrect locates, and five design locates for a total of 1,114 locates.

Grant Projects:

To accomplish more progress beyond normal budgets, several grants were sought and awarded for the following projects:

2023 Community Development Block Grant – Infrastructure

Included \$500,000 toward the following scope of work:

- Hardin St. (Pavement Repair/Overlay) (Main to Kingshighway)
- Matthews Ave. (Pavement Repair/Overlay) (Main to Pine)
- E. Kathleen Ave. (Pavement Repair/Overlay) (Main to Pine)
- E. Kathleen Ave. (Pavement Repair/Overlay) (Main to Kings)
- E. Kathleen Ave (Intersection Replacement) S. Prairie Ave
- S. Frisco (Mill/Overlay) Ruth to Murray Ln.



Employees with the Sikeston Street Department work on West Wakefield.

- Kendall (Mill/Overlay) S. West St. to Handy St.
- W. Gladys (Mill/Overlay) S. West St. to Handy St.
- William St. (Mill/Overlay) S. West St. to S. Frisco St.
- Daniel St. (Mill/Overlay) S. West St. to S. Frisco St.
- Dover St. (Mill/Overlay) Allen Blvd. to Davis Blvd.

- South Industrial Park Infrastructure - \$2,075,000

Delta Regional Authority – Community Infrastructure

- South Industrial Park Infrastructure - \$1,014,000

MoDOT Transportation Alternatives Program

(Dedicated to Sidewalk and Trail Projects)

- Northwest Trail – Phase 2 - \$206,790 Total (\$155,092 Federal) (Construction in 2024)
- Rail Trail – Main to Ingram - \$420,895 Total (\$315,672 Federal) (Construction in 2024)

MoDOT Economic Development Cost Share Program

- Widening and Signalization of South Main (US61) near South Industrial Park \$2,024,000 (100% Funded From State Funds)

Economic Development Administration



Milling and resurfacing was done to the downtown alley between Front and Center Street as part of the 2023 Street and Drainage Improvements Program.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Function: Maintains more than 275 acres of parkland including all playground equipment, baseball and soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts, picnic shelters, concession stands and restroom facilities. Parks Division also operates the Clinton Community Building, and assists the Streets Division with Compost Site operations and snow removal.



Sikeston was the location for the Cal Ripken Midwest Plains Regional Baseball Tournament in 2023.

Projects completed by the Park Division in 2023 include:

Complex Lake/Trout Fishing/ Partnership with Missouri Dept. of Conservation:

In the Fall of 2020, the Parks and Recreation Department entered an agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation to improve the conditions of the lake at the Complex and provide a better fishing experience for those in our community. Part of this was to have the Complex lake stocked with rainbow trout beginning in 2022. The MDC stocked the lake with 2,240 trout in November 2023 and it has been well received! Trout fishing is catch and release until February 1, 2024.

Pickleball Courts:

The six renovated pickleball courts continue to be very popular. Several tournaments have been held over the last year. There is already demand

for more courts. We hope to install new lights in 2024.

Mary Lou Montgomery Park:

Repairs and maintenance were made to the playground boxes around equipment.

Lincoln Park Walking Trail:

New benches were installed around the walking trail at Lincoln Park in the fall. A total of eight benches were placed at .2 mile around the trail.

Clinton Building:

Renovations were performed at the Clinton Building. The walls were repainted throughout the building and door frames. A new stove and ice machine were added for the large kitchen. New LED lighting was installed in the large kitchen.

Malone Park:

A new healing garden was installed by the garden club. Staff helped with the installation of the pergola

surrounding the garden. A new fountain installation is currently under way. Maintenance on the gazebo was performed for safety issues with wiring.

Other Highlights from the year:

- Clayton Park Playground (Cleaned up/New playground unit installed)
- New lighting installed on Collins Bandstand (Legion Park)
- Hosted four youth baseball tournaments
- Hosted two softball tournaments
- Was location for Cal Ripken Regional Baseball Tournament

Recreation Programming:

Youth Advisory Council (YAC) continues to serve an important role within our recreation department. It has six officers and 15+ high school members.

We continue to schedule, plan and partner with numerous community events.



Sikeston Parks and Recreation put on Skelebration once again in 2023 with 2,500 taking part.

Recreation Programming numbers:

- Kid Egg Hunt: 600 participants
- Adult Egg Hunt; 300 participants
- Fishing Derby: 100 entries
- Smaller Ballers: 12 per class
- Skelebration: 2,500 people
- 1k Donut Dash: 24 entries
- Cornhole Tournament: 12 teams
- Pictures with Santa: 73 participants
- Santa Letters: 1000 letters sent
- Kids Cooking Class: 12 participants
- SPR Gala: 40 participants
- Mini Bakes Monthly Cookie Decorating Class: 20 participants/class
- Brunch with The Bunny: 38 registrations
- CoEd Sand Volleyball: 42 registered
- Movie in The Park, 3 Events: Total 225 participants
- Photography Class: 20 participants
- Ornament Decorating: 38 Families registered
- SPR Blood Drive: 20 participants

Community Assistance Efforts

In addition to the community events we plan and host, we also continue to come alongside existing agencies, organizations, and non-profits to assist in various community events each year. In 2023, these included the following:

- Lincoln University and Sikeston

Middle School fishing events

- Spread Hope Now with Sunset Dawgs baseball camp
- Historic Downtown Sikeston with Several events including Cowboy Up, St. Patrick's Day festival, Trivia Night and the Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade.
- 1st Annual Hot Air Balloon Festival
- Juneteenth Event in Lincoln Park
- Sikeston Jaycee Football

- Sikeston Youth Area Baseball/Softball
- Sikeston Youth Soccer League
- Return to Sunset Event
- YMCA for both T-Ball and Soccer
- Light Up Sikeston Christmas Display
- TRCC Rodeo
- Cotton Carnival Pageants
- 2024 Eclipse Preparations with Sikeston Visitors Bureau
- Food Truck Fridays in Complex
- Support for numerous baseball/softball tournaments
- Bootheel Counseling Suicide Walk

Clinton Community Building:

In 2023, the Clinton Community Building was the site of more than 114 meetings, parties and other events.

Conservation Efforts:

The Park Division collected Christmas trees for the Complex Lake. This has been an annual conservation/recycling effort by the Park Division for many years.

Social Media:

Sikeston Parks and Recreation has a strong social media presence utilizing Facebook. We currently have 4.3k likes and 5.2k followers.



There were 600 children who took part in the Sikeston Parks and Recreation Kid Easter Egg Hunt in 2023.

AIRPORT DIVISION

Function: Manages day to day operations of the Sikeston Memorial including but not limited to: welcoming guests, fueling aircraft, storing aircraft, managing land leases, conducting necessary safety inspections, promoting tourism, and promoting economic development through serving as the front door to the community for new companies.



Front of the Sikeston Memorial Airport.

Staff

Christopher Hart serves as Airport Manager, with Tony Hurt and Zac Abernathy serves as part-time lineman.

Fuel Sales

Sikeston Airport is branded by Shell and uses Titan Aviation as their fuel supplier. During 2023, the Sikeston airport sold 31,618 gallons of AvGas and 88,069 gallons of Jet-A fuel.

Based Aircraft

We currently have 26 based aircraft.

Aircraft Operations

Operations, which consists of individual take-offs and landings, were last estimated at 4,700 operations in 2023.

Capital Improvements

Projects included:

- Painted outside walls on large multi-hangar (Under Construction)
- Sold the Old Fuel Farm through PurpleWave Auction Company.
- Remodeled the old office in the T-Hangar building for future Flight

Instruction

- Started the sidewalk/flagpole project.

Fuel Site:

- A project to install new fuel tanks for AvGas and Jet Fuel began in 2022. The project was completed in 2023.

Courtesy Car:

The airport provides a courtesy car to some users of the airport. In 2023, it was used 74 times.

Social Media

Please feel free to go and like our Sikeston Memorial Municipal Airport Facebook page. See all the unique visitors we get on a weekly basis.



The project to install new fuel tanks was completed in 2023.

SIKESTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

PATROL DIVISION

29,196	Total calls for service
3,682	Written police reports
1,277	Arrests
4,128	Written warnings
3,132	Written citations
154	Reported gunfire/shots fired calls
39	Animal related citations/reports

2023 Crisis Intervention Training

75% of officers/communications officers trained in CIT

Mental Health Referrals

24	Adult system of care
114	CIT
28	YBHL
66	Handle with care
6	Peer support debriefings

Scott County SIM Mapping,

Gaps Identified Within the Community:

Housing, Transportation, Housing, Childcare

Participated Community Events:

Stop The Violence-Legion Park
Bulldog Baseball Camp-Dancler Field
Back To School-Malone Park
Hot Air Balloon Festival-Rodeo Grounds
Downtown Christmas Parade-Downtown
Sikeston Bootheel Rodeo-Rodeo Grounds
Cotton Carnival/Parade-Rodeo Grounds
Downtown Christmas-Downtown



Sikeston DPS officers rescue a dog stuck in a hole.

Cotton Ramble-Downtown
Jaycee Crawfish Boil-Rodeo Grounds
Night to Shine-Miner Convention Center
Christmas Light Display-North Ingram

Grants:

Department of Justice: ShotSpotter
Missouri DPS: MDT Laptops
Missouri DPS: PPE
Missouri DPS: Command Vehicle Communications
Missouri DPS: Soft Target
MODOT: Stalker Radar-Traffic Vest
Total Awarded: \$380,963

PAWS Community Events/Fundraising:

Dueling Pianos Fundraiser-Clinton Building
Back to School-Malone Park
Pet Photo with Santa Fundraiser-Clinton Building
Hot Air Balloon Festival-Rodeo Grounds

FIRE DIVISION

Function: Responsible for the development and implementation of fire prevention programs and activities, fire suppression, rescue operations, and hazardous materials response and planning.

2023 FIRE DIVISION CALLS FOR SERVICE

INCIDENT	2022	2023
Calls for Service	923	956
Structure Fires	75	62
Vehicle Fires	17	35
Grass/Brush Fires	42	72
Gas Leaks	19	16
Rubbish/Dumpster Fires	25	23
Motor Vehicle Accidents	176	87
Alarms Activated, No Fire	122	114
Smoke Investigation	37	33
Aircraft Standby	87	122
Coal Train Standby	107	102
Calls Canceled in Route	42	128
Other Calls	50	48
Fire Inspections	124	114
K-9 Searches	0	40

(May-Dec)



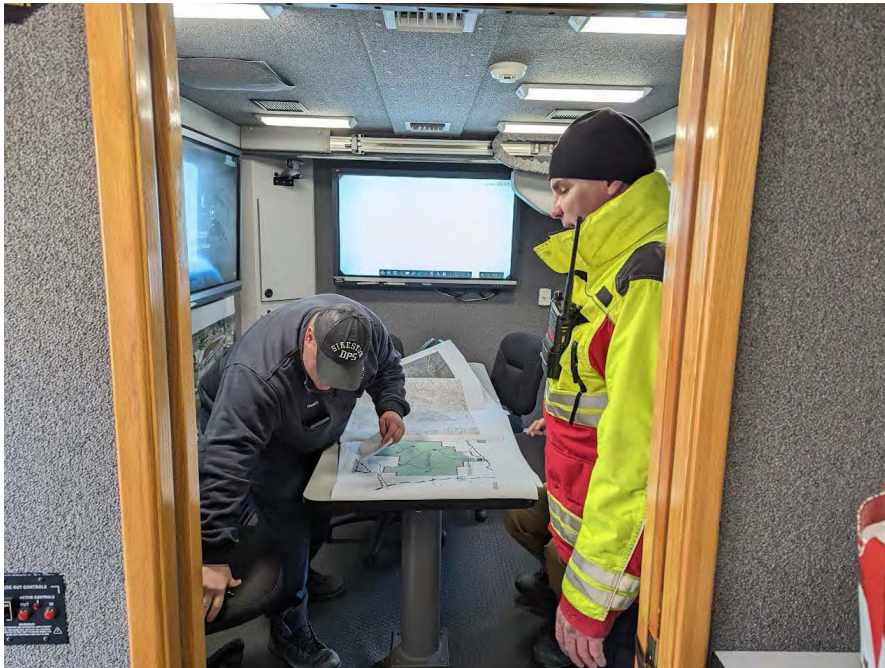
Seen here is a fire in Miner that Sikeston DPS Fire Division provided mutual aid for.



Two days of record rainfall produced flooding in Sikeston. Here, E-3 and Sgt. Hunsaker rescue a woman trapped in her vehicle.

Each year and every day, DPS Fire Division is responsible for handling all fire and rescue related emergencies in the city of Sikeston and the Sikeston Fire Protection District.

During 2023, we had several calls for service in the city. These calls for service include structure fires at businesses, residences, and unoccupied buildings. We also saw two days this fall that set a 150-year record of rainfall. DPS Fire Division has a specialized group of employees that form the Technical Rescue Team. This team is tasked with specialized rescue situations such as water rescue, grain bin rescue, trench collapse, and building collapse situations. They train regularly and are a cooperative member of the Southeast Missouri Homeland Security Response Team. This team is comprised of members from Sikeston DPS, Cape Girardeau Fire Department, and Jackson Fire Department. For the year of 2023 the Southeast Missouri Homeland Security Team was awarded a grant through RHSOC that allowed for over \$17,000 for new PPE for team members.



Members of the Southeast Missouri Homeland Security Team train on large scale Search and Rescue, utilizing the Mobile Command Truck for a command post.

Fire Division personnel train regularly to ensure they are up to date on effective and efficient operations. This training includes hazardous material response, high/low pressure airbags, vehicle extrication, building collapse rescue, fire investigation, technical rescue and several other fire and rescue related topics. New officers receive state certified Fire Fighter 1 and 2 training through an in-house fire training academy as well. Fire Division works each year to help the community by furthering their fire safety knowledge and various other public relations events. This year our division personnel assisted with training at the Do It Best, Unilever, and other businesses in town.

Fire Division personnel also remain



Officers learn how to properly extinguish a vehicle fire.

very active in the community and enjoy the opportunity to give back. On September 11, 2023, DPS Fire Division took part in their annual memorial walk and ladder climb to honor those who lost their lives during the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Division staff was joined by crews from Scott County Rural Fire District, Charleston Department of Public Safety Morehouse FD, and South Scott County Ambulance Service. Fire Division also helped with Shop with a Hero this year. This event gave roughly 200 kids a chance to have a great Christmas.

Sikeston Fire Division also added a new member to the division which was a K-9 Arson Detection Dog. In 2022 we applied for an arson detection K-9 through a program ran by State Farm Insurance. State Farm Insurance only sponsors 12 dogs a year for the United States of America, and we were luckily selected for 2023.

This grant paid 100 percent for the dog, training for both handler and K-9, travel expense there and back, food and lodging. This is a 4-week program in New Hampshire were both received over 200 hours of training, learning how to locate accelerates that are used during

arsons.

Arson detection dogs are often faced with a different territory for every individual job, it is critical that every dog be trained to work under a wide variety of conditions, including some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. Regardless of climate, weather conditions, or time of year, our dogs can overcome the most challenging of circumstances to get the job done right.

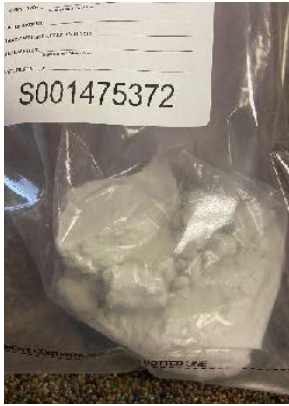
K9 arson dogs are referred to as the 'passive' manner for arson detection. This essentially means that they will sit on or near the source of the odor which they are seeking once it has been detected. This allows officials to locate the substance without fear of damaging or destroying evidence, which is critical in ensuring that the prosecution process is not impaired.

Some of the arson-related substances our dogs are trained to detect include gasoline, lighter fluid, charcoal starter fluid, brake fluid, thinner, turpentine, diesel, acetone, and Coleman fuel. Although these are some of the more common sources, dogs can be trained to seek out just about any fuel source that might be used in an arson case.

At the end of the course the K-9 and handler will receive a National Certificate certified through all 50 states. The estimated amount of the grant is \$25,000 for the K-9 and training.



K-9 handler and Fire Marshal Sgt. James Whitley and K-9 Sammy do a search after a structure fire.



2023 NUMBERS	
546	Vehicle Stops
109	Citations
437	Warnings
123	Arrests
5	Guns
1.5 ounces	Methamphetamine
22 grams	Illegal pills seized
12 items	Paraphernalia
12.7 ounces	Marijuana
2	Stolen vehicles



Items discovered by the Siketon DPS Criminal Investigations Unit.

SPECIAL SERVICES

In 2023, the Criminal Investigations Unit investigated five homicides. All five were cleared by arrest, however detectives continue to work leads on the investigations. The majority of these homicides were investigated with the assistance of the SEMO Major Case Squad.

Criminal Investigations

The Criminal Investigations is supervised by Detective Sergeant Flint Dees. Sergeant Dees currently oversees six detectives and one evidence technician. This unit is responsible for investigating serious crimes and conducting investigations generated from the numerous reports received daily by Siketon DPS.

It should be noted that DPS works in partnership with both the ATF and DEA. Monetary and drug seizures made for the year also reflect cases that were worked in conjunction with the federal agencies that we partner with.

We currently have a detective that is assigned as a Task Force Officer (TFO) for the ATF and two assigned as Task Force Officers for the DEA.

Power Squad

The Power Squad, which consists of a supervisor and the K9 officer, are a proactive policing squad. This squad focuses on high crime areas. Their goal is to locate and seize illegal drugs, illegal weapons, and assist the Criminal Investigations Unit with locating and arresting wanted subjects for violent crimes committed.

This squad ran short this year due to staffing and were used to supplement other functions in the department.

K-9 Program

The K-9 program was utilized on 41 incidents, which included 25 free air sniffs on vehicle stops, three search warrants and three track. Of those incidents, K9 Odin alerted 9 of his 25 free air sniffs, leading to arrest and seizures on most of those incidents.

During the three search warrant deployments, K9 Odin alerted to the odor of narcotics on all of the deployments that lead to arrests on all three incidents. K9 Odin was successful on two of the three tracks that he was utilized on. K9 Odin was also used to assist outside agencies on seven different incidents.



SRO Program

The SRO program, which consists of Sgt. Rowe, SRO Mullin, and SRO Lane, services all public and private schools in the city, as well as assisting with numerous other activities such as summer camps at the YMCA and Lincoln University.

2023 SRO CALLS FOR SERVICE	
79	High School
53	Junior High
21	Middle School
14	Wing Elementary
16	Lee Hunter
17	Southeast Elementary
18	Alternative School
14	Kindergarten
50	Arrests



SRO Lane, Sgt. Rowe and SRO Mullin have fun while at a school event.

Special Operations Group/ Mobile Command Center

The Special Services Division also encompasses the Special Operations Group and the Mobile Command/911 Communications Unit. The Special Operations Group assisted with serving 10

search warrants in 2023. In 2023, the Mobile Command/ Communications Unit was deployed on six events/incidents. These incidents included a long-term deployment for the Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo as well as assisting with search and rescue calls/trainings in the region.



The city's Mobile Command/Communications Unit was deployed on six events/incidents in 2023.

911 Communication Center

The City's 911 Communication Center, operated by Sikeston DPS, is comprised of six full-time and one part-time telecommunicator which are supervised by Sgt. Christine Meredith. The men and women of this division are the first "First Responders" for most calls for service.

The daily calls they answer

include those made to 911 to report emergency situations as well as calls to the administrative lines requesting services provided by DPS and other city departments.

The center is the primary dispatch for all Police, Fire, and EMS calls within the responding area for Sikeston DPS, South Scott EMS, and Morehouse Fire Department.

2023 CALLS TO 911 CENTER	
Total of all calls	62,310
911 calls	11,432
Admin calls	40,048
Outbound calls	10,830
Incidents created	29,463
Reports generated	3,682 (Patrol Division) 956 (Fire Division) 4,705 (South Scott Ambulance) 183 (Morehouse FD)

SIKESTON PAWS

Function: To protect Sikeston residents, the City regulates ownership, care and control of animals. Sikeston Pet and Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) personnel operate the City's animal control program and the city's shelter.



Cleo received his Christmas present early in 2023 and was given his forever home in early December.

Sikeston PAWS Monthly Numbers in 2023

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	Pct.
INTAKES														
Dogs	13	8	9	14	9	7	18	18	18	7	9	17	147	
Cats	4	3	2	2	27	12	5	2	0	2	1	5	65	
ADOPTED														
Dogs	8	4	2	3	1	3	7	9	6	1	0	2	46	31.3%
Cats	4	2	0	2	14	7	4	1	0	1	0	1	36	55.4%
													Avg.	43.3%
TRANSFERRED														
Dogs	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	0	11	7.5%
Cats	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3.1%
													Avg.	5.3%
OWNER REDEEMED														
Dogs	1	4	6	8	6	4	4	4	4	1	2	2	46	31.3%
Cats	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	5.3%
													Avg.	16.4%
EUTHENIZED														
Dogs	1	0	1	2	1	0	4	2	4	0	5	7	27	18.3%
Cats	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	21.5%
													Avg.	20.0%
FOSTERED (animals currently or that were fostered during 2023)														
Dogs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
													Avg.	0
CURRENTLY SHELTERED (at time of report)														
Dogs	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	4	2	6	17	11.6%
Cats	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	4	10	15.4%
													Avg.	13.5%
													Total Dogs	147
													Total Cats	65

SIKESTON FINANCE DEPT.

The Finance Department manages the city-wide financial accounting systems, reviews, evaluates, and authorizes payment of legitimate claims, monitors cash position, and invests idle funds. The city's ERP System allows information to flow from one department to another along with communication between financials, human capital management, general revenues, and property revenues.

We manage 31 funds, both restricted and unrestricted. In 2023, \$1,001,170.05 in interest was earned and the City of Sikeston received more than \$4 million in grant funds. This triggered single audit compliance. The city's audit revealed no significant findings or discrepancies.

The city has four active Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts in three TIF designated areas. The Finance Division oversees the collection of economic activity taxes (EATS) and payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) to each of these TIF Districts.

Human Resources

During 2023 one part-time recreation lead was added to staff. We were approved to budget a new position of Grant Writer/Administrator. 35 seasonal concession stand workers were hired. We processed a total of 195 employment applications. 22 applicants tested for public safety officer and approximately 36 interviews were conducted for the following positions:

- HR Director
- Parks Supervisor
- Grant Writer/Administrator
- Skilled Worker-Parks
- Part-Time Secretary for Community Development

We filled 13 full time positions, four part-time, and 35 seasonal. Our turnover rate for full time employees in 2023 was 18%. We processed 210 evaluations and 321 compensation records, all of which must be filed when completed.

For a number of years, we have been unable to fully staff the Public Safety Department. This year we were able to hire 6 PSOs, 1 full-time firefighter, one part-time firefighter, and one part-time communications officer. Four of the officers are taking advantage of the tuition assistance program that was implemented in 2020, and one officer was a rehire. Great Oak Counseling began our biannual officer mental health check-ins in March and the feedback has been great! This year the Patrol Division successfully converted from 8-hour to 10-hour schedules.

We processed 11 workers' compensation claims.

We hosted a flu shot clinic with 31 participants and an employee health and wellness clinic with 104 employees and spouses participating.

General Ledger

The City of Sikeston has 31 funds, with 27 checking accounts, and 2,823 account numbers. In 2023 we balanced 324 bank statements, made 849 journal entries, and prepared the monthly account analysis report for the city council.

Payroll

The City has 84 job classifications and 35 deduction types. We administer employee benefits that include a cafeteria plan and five types of insurance. We file all state and federal tax reports including the Bureau of Labor Statistics report, SUTA, and the 941. We issue 1095Cs and W2s for all employees.

Accounts Receivable

We issued 174 accounts receivable invoices totaling \$707,886.48. We track billing prices for Sonny's Solid Waste, the Essex building lease, Clinton Building rentals, and the Fire District lease.

Property and Casualty Insurance

We also oversee the City's property and

casualty insurance. We maintain the insurance schedules which include 110 vehicles, 79 property locations and 40 pieces of equipment. We also process all claims and monitor any litigation involving the city or city employees.

MUNIS

The city utilizes MUNIS, an enterprise resource planning (ERP) software designed to assist local governments with managing daily operations. We administer the software, creating user accounts, training, managing rights and passwords, uploading fixes, upgrading, and monitoring data for integrity.

Accounts Payable

We processed 6,876 invoices, totaling \$20,877,866.83 this year. Of that amount, we issued 2,343 checks and 1,197 electronic funds transfers. We made 557 fund transfers to the accounts payable fund. Thirty-two city employees are issued credit cards, the average monthly statement is 8 pages long and contains 250-300 transactions.

Central Stores

Central stores stocks items used by all city departments, stationary, envelopes, printer supplies, filing supplies, janitorial supplies, etc. We maintain an average inventory of \$20,000 with average monthly purchases/distribution of \$2,032.

Collector's Division

The Collector's Division is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of all tax records. This can be particularly complex as Sikeston is in two different counties. They are also responsible for billing and collection of revenue from city taxes, licenses, permits and miscellaneous fees. This includes issuing 8315 real estate and 6319 personal property tax bills, 1273 business licenses, and 104 UTV licenses.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Function: The municipal judge, prosecuting attorney and court staff are responsible for the adjudication of municipal ordinance and traffic violations, and the collection of all fines and costs assessed by the Court. The judge and prosecuting attorney are appointed by the City Manager in consultation with the City Council.



Monthly Caseload Information

	Alcohol & Drug Related Traffic	Other Traffic	Non-Traffic Ordinance
Cases (citations/informations) pending at start of month	12	319	132
Cases (citations/informations) filed	30	1,702	376
Cases (citations/informations) disposed			
Jury trial	0	0	0
court/bench trial-GUILTY	0	0	6
court/bench trial-NOT GUILTY	0	0	0
plea of GUILTY in court	27	986	254
Violations Bureau Citations (i.e. written plea of guilty) and bond forfeiture by court order (as payment of fines/costs) dismissed by court	0	312	3
nolle prosequi	3	146	14
certified for jury trial (not heard in Municipal Division)	5	59	53
certified for jury trial (not heard in Municipal Division)	0	0	2
TOTAL CASE DISPOSITIONS	35	1,503	332
Cases(citations/informations) pending at end of the month [pending caseload = (A+B)-C9]	7	518	176
Trial de Novo and/or appeal applications filed	0	0	2
Warrant Information (pre- & post-disposition)			
Issued during reporting period	342		
Served/withdrawn during reporting period	330		
Outstanding at end of reporting period	232		
Parking Tickets			
Issued during period	0		

SIKESTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Function: Issues building permits for the new construction and renovation of residential, multifamily and commercial structures; approves flood plain development permits, works with developers in planning and subdividing processes; conducts building and storm water inspections; identifies structures for condemnation in an effort to bring structures back to good order for the safety of the public; issues violations for public nuisances.



The City of Sikeston's Community Development Department held its annual clean-up project on Oct. 10. This consisted of removing fallen trees, limbs, trash, and miscellaneous debris from city and LCRA owned properties.

Building Permits Issued

The City of Sikeston Code Enforcement Division issues building permits for a variety of construction projects including shed, new construction, and additions and renovations of residential dwellings and commercial buildings.

In 2023 a total of 21 residential dwelling permits were issued for new construction, consisting of single family and duplex structures. In addition to new construction, there were 132 permits issued for residential alterations and additions.

Additionally, 36 permits were issued for commercial structures. This includes new

construction and substantial additions and renovations. During 2023 the City of Sikeston welcomed the following:

- Carlisle Construction facility opened June 2023
- Alan Wire expansion on Malone
- MRBC to be completed in 2024
- Annie's Gardens to be completed in 2024
- Missouri Delta Outpatient Rehab &

Clinic on Plaza opened

- Fairfield Inn to be completed in 2024
- Sikeston Senior High School Field House Renovation
- Club Carwash to be completed in 2024
- Tanner St Church Addition
- Heartland Supported Living to be completed in 2024
- Dollar General on W. Malone

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED IN 2023

Type of Permit	Number of Permits Issued	Cost of Construction
Residential	19	\$3,830,000
Duplex Residential	2	\$470,000
Multi-Family Residential	0	\$0
Res. Alterations/Upgrades	132	\$1,826,293
Commercial	36	\$30,273,685
TOTAL	253	\$36,399,978

Inspections

The Community Development Department conducts inspections on residential and commercial construction and rental dwelling units to help insure the life, safety and welfare of the occupants, as well as compliance with the adopted building code of the City.

Code Enforcement action resulted in the following in 2023:

- 667 inspections of residential and commercial construction projects
- 151 business license inspections
- 38 rental property inspections
- 523 violations of property maintenance (derelict vehicles, junk and trash, tall grass, etc.)
- 455 violations were abated
- 87% of all violations discovered were abated

LCRA (Land Clearance Redevelopment Authority)

The Community Development Department along with the LCRA Commission is charged with identifying “blighted” areas within Sikeston, developing, and implementing a plan to provide well-organized residential neighborhoods of decent homes.

The LCRA occasionally purchases title to tax delinquent properties not sold at the Sheriff’s sale. It may also receive title to properties through donations. The LCRA consists of a five-member board and support staff that oversees many aspects of public and private real estate development in the City of Sikeston. One of the primary functions of LCRA is to review development proposals for the sale of LCRA owned property. LCRA action



Code Enforcement Officer Martin Evans checks rides before the Sikeston Cotton Carnival.

highlights for 2023:

- 42 vacant lots, closed and conveyed title by deed
- 14 lots for DAEOC to finalize items for grant purposes
- 120 lots available for sale
- \$5,506.50 to clean 40 lots from discarded junk, trash, and debris
- \$24,500 for mowing of owned or vacant lots
- \$5,000 for demolition of structure



Community Development helped remove remaining tree debris from the Sunset Cemetery in May.

SIKESTON DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

City Clerk

City Clerk Rhonda Council provides administrative support to the City Council, City Manager and all municipal departments of City Hall in addition to filing candidates for City municipal elections, registering citizens to vote, maintaining City cemetery records and processing open records requests. The City Clerk also compiles and organizes information and materials for the City Council agenda packets and meetings in addition to preparing official minutes of the proceedings. Additionally, the City Clerk oversees appointments to and membership records of all city boards and commissions. In 2023, 10 citizens registered to vote, responded to 5 grave openings, and handled 15 open records requests. In addition to the City Council election, there were 3 additional ballot issues presented to voters in 2023: Marijuana Sales Tax (passed), One Cent Sales Tax Renewal (passed); and Sale of Liquor by the Drink (failed).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Youth in Government Day

The City acknowledges today's high school students are tomorrow's leaders. General Government in cooperation with the Sikeston Jaycees and Sikeston Public Schools, sponsors the annual event which enables Sikeston High School students to "shadow" the City's elected officials and managerial staff. During this day-long exercise, students are exposed to municipal functions and pertinent issues facing the community. Governmental Services coordinates this event, developing discussion topics and



Each year, the city hosts Youth in Government Day.

preparing briefing material for students, Council, and staff

Schoolfest/Back 2 School Giveaway

Sponsored by Spread Hope Now, City staff, including the mayor, handed out school supplies at Malone Park to students in Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Sikeston Skelebration & Trunk or Treat

City of Sikeston staff handed out candy during the Sikeston Skelebration & Trunk-or-Treat held at the Complex.

Light Up Sikeston

Sponsored by (Sikeston First Assembly of God), the City of Sikeston participated in Light Up Sikeston with a Christmas light display from Sikeston City Council and Staff.

Mayor's Holiday Spirit Award

The Mayor's Holiday Spirit Award started in 2021 and is given to the best decorated home and/or yard in Sikeston for the Christmas holiday. Citizens nominate a home, and the winner is selected by the mayor and Tourism

Advisory Board and presented a glass award. In 2023, 12 nominations were received and the winner was Travis Burger at 1303 Columbine.

Christmas Angel Tree Program

In 2023, City Hall participated in the Foster Care Christmas Angel Tree Program where we "adopt" a child through the Division of Family Services and purchase Christmas gifts for that person based on their wish list. Through the donations of City Hall employees, \$300 was raised which enabled us to purchase all the items on the adopted child's list.



Travis Burger at 1303 Columbine was the winner of the 2023 Mayor's Holiday Spirit Award.

INTERNAL OPERATIONS

City Council Support

General Government coordinates the preparation, posting and distribution of Council meeting agendas and information packets.

Bill Preparation, Codification

With the passage of municipal laws (ordinances), this legislation must be incorporated into the City's Code of Ordinances (City Code). General Government manages the codification process. (Sikeston City Code is provided in an electronic format, accessible at www.sikeston.org.)

Budget Presentation

General Government personnel assist the City Manager and Finance Director in compiling and publishing the City's annual financial budget.

Municipal Record Management and Archival

General Government remains actively involved in the archival of municipal documents. It oversees the operation of two record storage areas at City Hall and is actively converting documents with permanent retention requirements to a digital, OCR searchable format.

Five-Year Capital Improvement Program

Each year staff prepares a 5-Year Capital Plan, as required by City Charter, for Council's consideration and acceptance.

General Government compiles the submissions of all departments, City Manager commentary and project rankings to create this document. Upon Council acceptance, the formal document is posted to the City's website at www.sikeston.org.

Trustee Awards

A new employee recognition awards program was implemented in 2023 called the Trustee Awards. A "trustee" is anyone in a position of trust or responsibility for the benefit of another; therefore, all City employees are trustees of our



2023 Trustee Award winners were named at the annual Employee Appreciation Dinner held in December.

community. Employees may nominate any other employee throughout the year and winners are recognized during our annual Employee Appreciation Dinner and receive a glass award and \$100. Runner-up nominees are presented with a challenge coin. Trustee Award categories and winners were: Straight Talk (Ryan Smith), Demonstrating Respect (Paula Nichols), Creating Transparency (Paul Todd), Righting Wrongs (Jessica Britton), Showing Loyalty (Scott Kim), Delivering Results (Rhonda Council), Continuous Improvement (Josh Golightly), Confronting Reality (Derrick Wheelley), Clarifying Expectations (Amanda Groves), Practicing Accountability (Darren Martin), Listening First (Leann Simmons), Keeping Commitments (Abbi Lindsey) and Extending Trust (David Jenkins).

Communications Manager

The Communications Manager performs complex administrative, professional, technical, and analytical duties in support of the City's communications and public engagement. This position manages printed, electronic, media relations and social media platforms to ensure alignment with the City's strategic communications plan.

Public Information

General Government maintains the Council's presence on social media. Programming is designed and implemented to keep residents up to date

on municipal operations and issues, local events, and weather emergencies.

Social Media

Realizing Facebook is the public's preferred method of communication, General Government has developed campaigns to increase the City's following. At the time of this report, the City's Facebook page had 10,757 followers an increase of almost 2,200 from 2022. The City has 245 followers on Twitter and 260 followers on Instagram, an account that was created in December of 2022. Website activity In the City's continuing effort to provide transparency in government, the City's website (www.sikeston.org) offers residents access to municipal budgets, audits as well as Council meeting agendas and minutes. The website, which was redesigned in late 2022, also offers city news, along with a full menu of applications and forms that can be completed and submitted electronically. The Sikeston City Code is accessible via the website, offering current, searchable information.

Text Alert Service

The City of Sikeston implemented a new way of getting information out to the public with a text alert service on your cellphone. Called SlickText, this free service allows citizens to opt in for alerts to information pertaining to meetings, events and/or severe weather in Sikeston. Since starting in December 2023, there are currently over 270 active subscribers.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Function: The I.T division, with a staffing level of two full-time employees, supports voice and data functions within all five of the City’s departments. In addition, the division manages the City’s local area networks, camera systems, Mobile Command unit, DPS MDTs and dashcams, virtual networks, wireless access, and network security and troubleshoots personal computers and peripherals for all City employees.



Ben Sexton of the City of Sikeston IT Department battles the weather to make some last minute adjustments to the camera systems.

Staff

Sam Villagrana is the Information Technology Manager responsible for the security and operations of the City’s voice and data operations. He also supports all 911 and DPS technology in this position, including the Citywide camera system and mobile command center. Ben Sexton assists Sam Villagrana as the division’s I.T Technician. Additionally, Ben provides employee help desk support, manages the internal SharePoint employee website, and supports network operations throughout the City. Ben also manages all inventory related to desktops and laptops.

Sport Complex Camera Project

The most satisfying project in 2023 consisted of implementing security cameras at the sports complex ball fields, which helped remediate vandalism in the bathroom and concession stands.

Rapid Review Milestone Project

In 2023, the I.T department worked with DPS to upgrade the camera system by upgrading the Artificial

Intelligence of citywide cameras to narrow the investigation process.

Trouble tickets

In 2023, the I.T. department logged 1306 I.T.-related trouble tickets that employees submitted throughout the City’s network infrastructure—a 45% increase from the previous year.

Municipal data contracts

The I.T department also administers contracts for municipal data, ISDN, and local and long-distance services that serve all City facilities. I.T coordinates wireless communications between Verizon, AT&T FirstNet, T-Mobile, and staff,

supporting wireless and hotspot service lines. The I.T department has partnered with T-Mobile to offer all first responders a free cellular line through T-Mobile’s “Heroes Program.”

New workstation Computer

The yearly rotation of replacing computers was 25 for 2023 for computers older than five years.

Pen Testing

Sikeston conducted its first-ever Pen Testing, which required a team to try to compromise our network externally and internally using various cyber technologies.



The IT department plays an integral role when the Mobile Command Center is deployed like after the tornado in Bollinger County.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

Downtown Growth

Historic Downtown Sikeston continues to grow and flourish. In 2023, the opening of Carson's, the opening of CYM Sweets, and the new DAEOC building for different types of arts. We are also very excited for the work being done in Malone Park by the Historic Downtown Sikeston Garden Club. We had the opening of the Healing Garden during the summer, which was a great partnership with the local real estate agents. The HDS Garden Club and Design committee also worked hard to get the fountain project started in Malone Park. We are very thankful for the private donation and for the partnership with the city in allowing us to make Malone Park a beautiful and useful park for years to come.

Event Success

This year we saw the return of some of our popular yearly events and the addition of a few new events we hope become yearly events. Our St. Patrick's event was a fairly good event, even though we struggled with weather this year. We are making a few changes in 2024 to increase our chances of better weather and greater attendance. The Wine Festival was a record success this year. We had more attendance and foot traffic on Center Street this year than any other event in my time as Director. Music in the Park Summer Concert Series continues to be a summer tradition as it puts local talent on display, while providing a free, safe, family friendly activity every Friday in the Summer. The Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights wrapped up a great year with a celebration of the "Most Wonderful Time of the Year" in the "Most Wonderful City in the World".



Historic Downtown Sikeston was packed once again for the annual Wine Festival.

Plans and Challenges for 2024

Many changes will come in 2024. First, the current office building on North New Madrid will be renovated in to a Visitor Center, Rodeo Museum, and shared office space for SRCC, CVB, Economic Development, and Historic Downtown Sikeston. This work is set to start in February and be completed by late summer. Therefore, the HDS will relocate temporarily to Anchor Church on Front Street. We also hope to see some movement on the Legion Park Project in 2024 as we progress forward in improving that park. The Eclipse is certainly going to be a big draw to our city, so HDS will be participating the weekend of the event by doing Moonlight Madness in Downtown throughout the weekend and by providing the opportunity for families to come down and look at the stars through several telescopes purchased with grant money we received. We will then donate those telescope to the Sikeston Public Library for them to check our to people for years to come.

We are working on a new event for this year. There are plans for a Car Show that are just getting under way and we will

have more details about this event soon.

Of course, we are already working on the St. Patrick's Day event for March 16. Tickets for that event will go on sale Feb. 1. Farmer's Market will kick off the first Saturday in May. Planning is also about to get underway for Music in the Park for the Summer, and before too long, we will begin planning the Wine Festival.

One of the major challenges HDS will face is the rising cost to operate as an organization and put on top-notch events. With the cost of everything going up and donations to the organization remaining constant, we will have to be cautious about spending, while also hoping that we will see new partners giving to support HDS or current partners increase giving to HDS.

We are also needing more volunteers. Our Organization Committee is currently working on some ideas to improve our volunteer intake process. If you would like to partner with HDS financially or volunteer in some way, please email Jason at director@downtownsikeston.org.

We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to continued growth of our great Downtown.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Sikeston's Boards and Commissions provide its citizens with an opportunity to participate in the governing process. Interested residents are appointed by the City Council to collectively provide the Council with recommendations on a variety of issues.

Board of Adjustments

Members: Rob Murphy, Caroline Nance Littleton, William Nace, Ron Galemore, Jodi Glidewell

Alternate Members: Jim Beard, James Miller, Inger Roberson

Legal Advisor: Tabatha Graham, City Attorney

Staff Representative: Barry Blevins, Community Development Director

Board of Appeals

Members: Michael Limbaugh, Larry Hancock, James Beard, Tim Mitchell, Carl Vincent, Scott Ezell, Marty Presley

Staff Representative: Barry Blevins, Community Development Director

Board of Municipal Utilities

Members: Tim Merideth, Jon Gilmore, Steven Burch, Chad Crowe

Council Representative: Tom Robison, Council Member

Staff Representative: Rick Landers, Director, Board of Municipal Utilities

Enhanced Enterprise Zone Board

Members: Rick Adams, James Miller, Steve Matthews, Tim Mitchell, Britt McConnell
Sikeston Public School Appointee: School appointee

Scott County Appointee: County appointee
Staff Representative: Jonathan Douglass, City Manager

Friends of the Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Members: Madeline Bell, Jessica Merideth, Carrie Anne Corso, Jean Marie Culbertson, Holly Greene, Blake Bain, Natalie Bohannon

Council Representative: Ryan Lindsey
Staff Representative: Jamie Williams

Housing Authority

Commissioners: Brenda Robinson-Echols, Harry Howard, Ben Ross, Christina King, Viola Blow (Housing Authority Resident)

City Council Liaison: Onethia Williams, Council Member

Staff Representative: Doug Friend, Director, Sikeston Housing Authority

Industrial Development Authority

Members: Brenda Robinson-Echols, Anna Warf, Steve McPheeters, Terry Williams, Steve Millington

IDA Attorney: Fred H. Thornton, III

Staff Representative: Jonathan Douglass, City Manager

Land Clearance for Redevelopment Advisory Committee

Members: Carrie Lape, Brenda Robinson-Echols, Clayton Driskill, Michael Harris, Dan Marshall

Council Liaison: John Leible

Staff Representatives: Barry Blevins, Community Development Director; Marty Evans, Code Enforcement

Library Board of Trustees

Trustees: Greg Colwick, Libby Caskey, Connie Thompson, Karen Evans, Laura Tongate, Trevor Miller, Melissa Kelley, Colleen Flaker, Carolyn Harris

Council Liaison: David Teachout

Staff Representative: Ron Eifert, Library Director

Park Board

Members: Austin Curtis, Jeff Hay, Pershard Owens, Jared Straton, Tre Holley, Jason Davis, Wade Hamra, Mandy Leible, Charlotte York

Council Representative: Tom Robison

Staff Representative:

Planning and Zoning Commission

Members: Missy Marshall, Fred "Chip" Thornton, Gary Ozment, Rob Murphy, Larry Hancock, Gordon Jones, William Watson II, James Miller

Council Representatives: David Teachout, Mayor Representative; Ryan Lindsey, Council Member

Staff Representatives: Barry Blevins, Community Development Director; Bruce Copeland, Code Enforcement Building Inspector; Tabatha Graham, City Attorney; Jeff Winders, Board of Municipal Utilities

Public Safety Advisory Board

Members: Ned Matthews, Andy Caton, Harry Howard, Jeff Hay, David Terrell, Nathan Cox, Gordon Jones, Karen Evans

Council Representative: David Teachout,

Council Member

Staff Representative: James McMillen, Sikeston DPS Director

Scott County Extension Council

Council Appointee: Lori Caldwell

SEMO University-Sikeston Campus Advisory Council

Members: Christina King, Jessica Merideth, Agnes Mason, Shirley Love, Austin Curtis, Jaxon Marie Wright, Scott Ezell, Wanda Harrington, Tiara Riggs-Butler, Lori Caldwell, Caroline Nance Littleton, Bobby Henry, William Watson, Camille Lancaster, Darlene Margrabe

Staff Representative: Shantone Howard, Director

Tourism Advisory Board

Contact Person: Kathy Medley, Sikeston Regional Chamber

Council Appointees: Kelly Knight, Shelley McTigue, Derek Hale, Mandy Leible, Clayton Driskill (Jaycee representative)

Council Representatives: John Leible, Council Member; Onethia Williams, Council Member

Ex-Officio Member: Marcie Lawson, Sikeston Regional Chamber; Jason Davis, Historic Downtown

Staff Representative:

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Commission

Members: Nathan Cox, Missy Marshall, Matt Marshall, Rik LaPlant, Clayton Driskill, Matt Drake

Appointees-Sikeston Public Schools: TBD
Appointees-Scott County Commissioners: TBD

Appointee-Scott County At-Large: TBD
Staff Representative: Jonathan Douglass, City Manager

Traffic Committee

Members: Fred Thornton; Missy Marshall; Emory McCauley, Jr.; James Miller; Jim McClure

Alternate Members: William Watson II, Ben Ross, Wanda Harrington

Staff Representatives: Brian Dial, Street Superintendent; James Donner, Department of Public Safety



City of Sikeston Annual Report 2023

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