City of Sikeston

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



The information provided herein is a compilation of those activities and projects completed by the management and staff of the City of Sikeston during 2024

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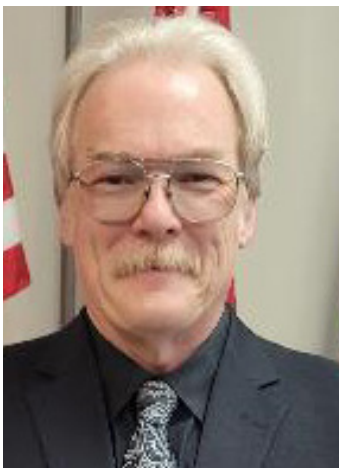
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CITY MANAGER MESSAGE

Dear Sikeston Residents, Visitors, and Friends,

I am proud to present to you the 2024 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.

2024 was defined by two singular natural events: The total solar eclipse in April and the EF-3 tornado in May. Both of these events brought out the best in our community. Many visitors from out of town, some of whom had never been to Sikeston, were delighted by everything our small town could offer during the eclipse. In the aftermath of the tornado, residents and out-of-town helpers banded together in an inspiring way to help those hurt in any way by the storm damage.

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 2024 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 2024 accomplishments related to these goals include:

- Sikeston named "Most Neighborly City in Missouri" during Good Neighbor Week
- April 8, 2024, Solar Eclipse (Total Eclipse of the Park) brought many visitors to town
- Issued 297 total building permits with a construction value of $29,169,841
- 833 inspections of residential and commercial construction projects
- Negotiated with MoDOT a workable concept for the Ingram Interchange

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 2024 accomplishments related to these goals include:

- Successfully obligated all ARPA recovery funds ($3.2M) before December 2024 deadline
- Clean FY24 audit (no material deficiencies)
- Long term debt was decreased by $3.4 million
- Obtained new grants for 911 equipment, fire equipment, sidewalks, bridges, and more, totaling over $2.7 million



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 2024 accomplishments related to these goals include:

- Participated in DRA "Convening on Rural Housing"
- New DAEOC homeless shelter at Kathleen and Stoddard was constructed
- Issued 6 building permits for new single family residential houses at a value of $1,340,000
- Issued 4 building permits for new duplex dwellings at a value of $548,000
- Code Enforcement initiated 749 property maintenance cases (junk, trash, tall grass, weeds, derelict vehicles, etc.) and 303 completed abatement
- LCRA sold 29 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 2024 accomplishments related to these goals include:

- Entered into a contract with Scott County to consolidate 911 services in Sikeston
- Shotspotter system went live, helped make several arrests and seizures of illegal guns
- Tornado cleanup brought 2,120 truck loads and 3,429 trailer loads of debris to the Compost Site, totaling over 53,000 cubic yards of debris
- 3rd annual stocking of winter trout (2,240 fish) at the Complex lake
- Second Annual Balloon Festival held

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

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.



Residents drop off tree remains at the Yard Waste Disposal Site after the tornado in May.

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

2024 Spring Community Clean-Up Program:

This year 1,083 residents participated in this ten-day program. Approximately 114 tons of trash and debris were removed from the community via this program.

2024 Fall Community Clean-Up Program:

This year, 630 residents participated in this nine-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 2024 consisted of 920 residents depositing 773 truckloads and 433 trailer loads of residential yard debris at the Yard Waste Disposal Site (Compost Site). We also collected 525 tires from residents. More than 1,809 man-hours were committed to this program.

As a result of the May 26th, 2024, tornado, the city`s Yard Waste Collection site collected close to 53,000 cubic yards of organic material (trees, brush, etc.) due to the storm. Activity at the site consisted of 2,341 residents and contractors depositing 2,120 truckloads and 3,429 trailer loads. Manhours from Streets, Parks, and Building Maintenance are included in the 1,809 hours dedicated to the site.

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 8 zones. Over the six-week program, the leaf truck collected 53 loads of leaves at an average of 6 cubic feet per load. For these services, city staff dedicated a total of 281 regular man-hours.

A noticeable decline in this service for 2024 was due to the truck being down for repairs for a two-week period, as well as a decline in trees due to the tornado.

Stormwater Management Efforts

In 2024, the city received 51.19 inches of total rainfall, with most in January being recorded at 8.78 inches and least in October with 0.02 inches. The city received 2.20 inches of snowfall in 2024, which was recorded all in January. As a result of the stormwater and snow melt, the Street Division dedicated 2,082 manhours to our stormwater management efforts. These efforts include grate cleaning, storm pipe maintenance, and snow removal operations.

2024 Street & Drainage Improvements:

In 2024, contracted street and stormwater improvement projects scheduled to begin in 2025 include:

- Stormwater improvements Northwest area and John R. Blvd area $1,198,015.50
- Various Concrete Repairs including Rose Parkway apron plus twenty-five (25) other areas $211,347.50
- South Outer Road Paving - $1,400,000

During 2024, City Public Works staff repaired several damaged streets, 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.

- Curb repair Ford Street
- Sidewalk repair Sunset Drive



The South Ingram Overpass Bridge was completed in September 2024 using $2 million from the Missouri Governor's Cost Share Program.

• Storm pipe repair Center Street
• Storm pipe repair Scott Street
• Street repair S. West
• Storm pipe repair Plantation Blvd.
• Sidewalk repair N. Ranney Street
• Street repair N. Ranney Street (2 areas)
• Curb repair N. Ranney Street
• Street repair Rose Parkway (2 areas)
• Curb repair Hunter Street
• Curb repair Stallcup Drive
• Curb repair Arches

Mosquito Abatement Program:

This program operated 3 days a week from the end of May through September 2024. Approximately 600 gallons of chemicals were applied by the City's fogging machine during this 5-month program. Personal from Streets and Parks dedicated more 117 hours to this program.

Missouri One Call:

For 2024, we responded to 719 routine locates, 78 emergency locates, 49 renewal locates, 9 dig up locates, 2 extended start time locates, 2 Incorrect locates, and 2 design locates for a total of 862 locates.

Grant Projects:

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

Missouri Governor's Cost Share Program – South Ingram Overpass Bridge
• Total Cost - $4,000,000
• Governor's Cost Share - $2,000,000
• Completed September 2024

2024 Community Development Block Grant – Drainage Phase I & II
• Awarded two Community Development Block Grants for drainage improvements along Anderson/Applegate area in December 2024.
• Phase I awarded for $682,400
• Phase II awarded for $646,600
• Total $1,329,000
• Design beginning January 2025
• Construction beginning late 2025

ARPA/DED Award – Legion Park Revitalization/West Cotton Belt Trail:
• Funds to expand the rail trail from the Depot to Sunset Drive
• Legion Park improvements including new restroom and market pavilion.
• Awarded March 2023
• Project to be completed by September 2026
• Grant award amount $770,634

BRO – R128(001) – Compress Road Bridge.
• Remove and replace bridge on Compress Road.
• Awarded through MoDOT at 90%
• 10% local match being supplied by BMU since bridge serves the power plant
• Total investment $970,616

MoDOT Transportation Alternatives Program

(Federal Transportation Funds Dedicated to Sidewalk and Trail Projects)

TAP 5800 (015)
• Extend trail from Main to Liberty Utilities between Linn St. & Malone
• Awarded through MoDOT
• Grant funds awarded $315,671.88 (75% of project costs)

TAP 5800 (016)
• N. West street sidewalk from Wakefield to Malone
• Awarded through MoDOT
• Grant funds awarded $155,092.50 (75% of project costs)

TAP 5800 (017)
• Continue Cotton Belt Trail from Liberty Utilities to Veterans Park between Linn Street and Malone.
• Awarded through MoDOT at 80%
• Grant funds awarded $450,648

Total Grant Funds secured to city: almost $4M ($3,991,662.38)



The Sikeston Recreation Complex hosted six travel baseball tournaments in 2024.

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.



A Fishing Derby is held every spring at the Sikeston Recreation Complex Lake.

Projects completed by the Park Division in 2024 include:

Staffing:

The Parks & Recreation Department is fully staffed with several new faces heading into 2025. In 2024 Parks hired a new director, Josh Meyer; a new recreation coordinator, JT Jones; and three new skilled workers, Mike Buxton, Josh Haynes, and Gordan Raymond.

Tournaments:

The Sikeston Complex hosted six travel baseball tournaments in 2024. These tournaments allow families to visit Sikeston hotels, restaurants, and all the other amenities our community has to offer

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

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



The six renovated pickleball courts continue to be very popular at the Sikeston Recreation Complex. Here a large group takes part in a free clinic as part of Sikeston Good Neighbor Week in September.

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 2024 and it has been well received! Trout fishing is catch and release until February 1, 2025.

Tornado Clean-up:

Parks and Recreation was affected by tornado in May of 2024. The most impactful parks were Armory Park, Central Park, Clayton Park, and VFW Baseball Field. However, several other parks had various damages due to straight line winds. The parks team has been in works throughout 2024 to repair damages and have been working along side FEMA for guidance and possible financial assistance. We thank the citizens of Sikeston for their patience, as this can be a rather lengthy process, and we look forward to wrapping this up in early 2025.

Sikeston Complex:

In 2024 Parks and Recreation was the recipient of an ARPA grant that helped fund the replacement of three playground structures. All three structures will be inside the Sikeston Complex. Some structures have inclusive entry platforms and others have sensory pieces that take steps toward our goal of being inclusive as possible. These units will be constructed in early 2025.

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 2025.

Clinton Community Building:

In 2024, the Clinton Community Building was the site of more than 163 meetings, parties and other events. In addition to community events, the Clinton Building hosted five blood drives in partnership with the American Red Cross.



The Sharp Family Fountain in Malone Park was dedicated in August of 2024.

Mary Lou Montgomery Park:

Parks and Recreation staff is very excited to report that two new playground units will be installed at Mary Lou Mongomery Park in early 2025. This was made possible through the Gametime Grant that Parks and Recreation staff procured in 2024. Both units will boast transition platforms for inclusive purposes. A new bay of swings will also be installed with an expression swing that can be utilized to see the joy in the faces of the toddlers while they swing!

Lincoln Park:

In Conjunction with Leadership Sikeston's Good Neighbor Week, volunteers helped parks staff members spread fresh mulch into playground boxes and paint picnic tables. Thank you to the Sikeston community! The Parks team also sealed and striped the basketball court at Lincoln Park in August of 2024.

Malone Park:

The Sharp Family Fountain was dedicated in August of 2024. The fountain has added a unique ambiance that pairs well with the ever-evolving Healing Garden that the Garden Club tends to routinely.

Legion Park:

Downton Christmas at Legion Park is always a favorite for the Parks and Recreation staff. In 2024 the parks staff added music to the large Christmas tree, along with a corresponding light sequence. A village piece was also added this year; "DPW Building".

Social Media

Sikeston Parks and Recreation has a strong social media presence utilizing Facebook. We currently have 4.4k likes and 5.7k followers

Recreation Programming:

- Fishing Derby
- Skelebration
- Cornhole Tournament (St. Patrick's Day)
- Donuts With Santa
- Santa Letters
- Movie in The Park
- Youth Basketball (3rd – 6th Grade)

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 2024, these included the following:

- Historic Downtown Sikeston with Several events including St. Patrick's Day festival, Trivia Night and the Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade.
- 2nd 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
- Cotton Carnival Bleachers
- 2024 Eclipse Celebration
- Bootheel Counseling Suicide Walk



Planes flocked to the Sikeston Municipal Airport to watch the Total Eclipse in April 2024.

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.



The old fuel site was demolished in 2024 with the old tanks sold to another municipality. Here, they are being taken away.

Staff

In 2024 we hired a new Airport Manager, Derrick Irwin, as well as new lineman, Bernie Campbell. With Zac Abernathy serving as our part-time lineman.

Fuel Sales

Sikeston Airport is branded by Shell and uses Titan Aviation as their fuel supplier. During 2024, the Sikeston airport sold 21,632 gallons of AvGas and 97,339 gallons of Jet-A fuel.

Based Aircraft

We currently have 24 based aircraft.

Aircraft Operations

Operations, which consists of individual take-offs and landings, were last estimated at 4,700 operations in 2024.

Fuel Site:

- The new fuel site project was completed and the site is in regular use. The old fuel site was demolished in 2024 with the old tanks sold to another municipality.

Courtesy Car:

The airport provides a courtesy car to some users of the airport. In 2024, it was used over 50 times.

Public Safety

PATROL DIVISION

OVERVIEW
58 Sworn Officers
Total Calls for Service: 30,192
Written Police Reports: 3,701
Arrests: 4,030
Written Warnings: 3,075
Written Citations: 1,887



Sikeston DPS took part in many community events.

ShotSpotter Data:
Gun Fire Incidents: 168
Gunshots Detected: 741

Mental Health Referrals:
Crisis Intervention to Adult Behavioral Health: 160
Adult System of Care: 57
Crisis Intervention to Youth Behavioral Health: 32
Handle With Care: 72

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

Grants:
1) SFY24 - ARPA CIIEG - Sikeston, Department of Public Safety – 2024 First Responders Capital Improvements & Interoperable Communications Equipment Grant (Grant Update Radios)
2) FY23 - SHSP PSTCP - Sikeston DPS – 2023 Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places (Message Board-Speed Trailer)
3) 28465-FY 2024 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Region E (HSRT RHSOC, Equipment – 2024)
4) 28465-FY 2024 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Region E (Mobile Command Vehicle Sustainment Program)
5) 32993-2025 Local Violent Crime Prevention (LVCP) (TrueNarc)

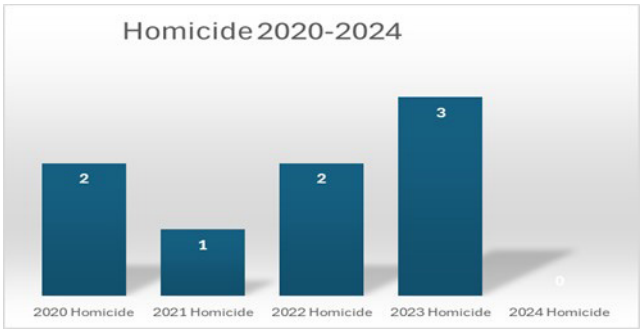


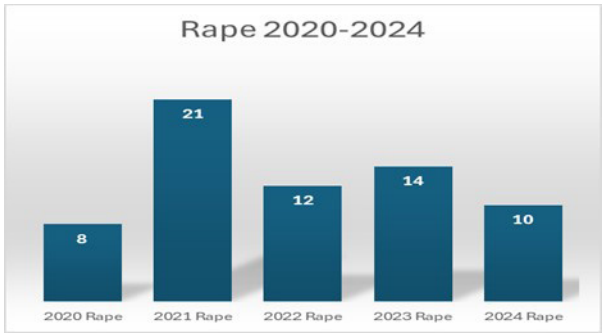
A grant helped purchase a message board/speed trailer.

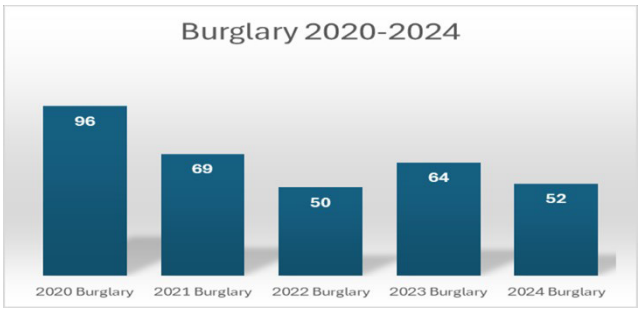


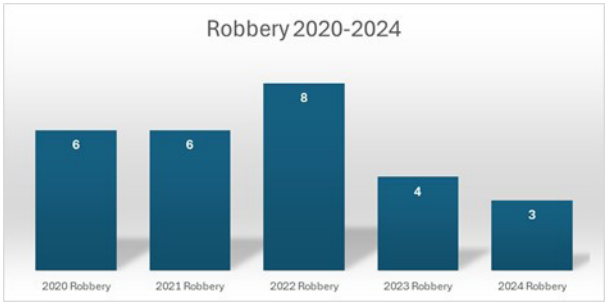
A grant helped purchase TruNarc.

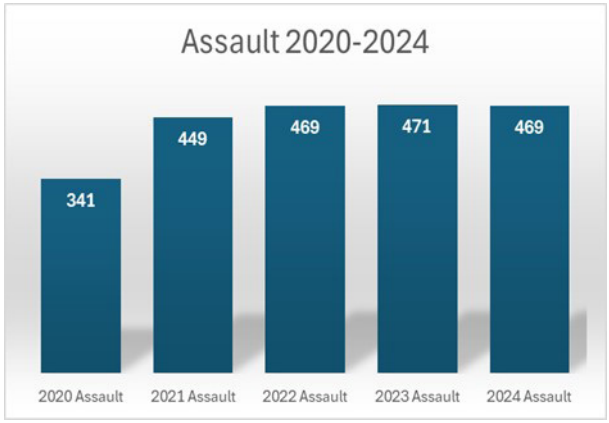
Five-year analysis of crime stats

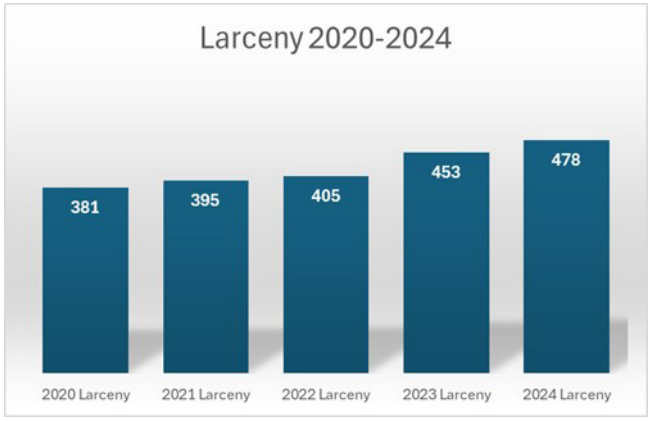


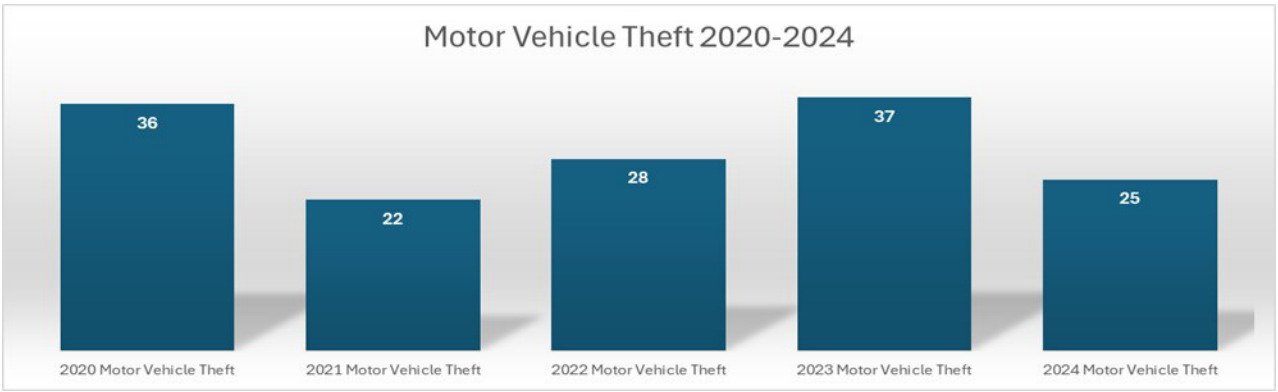












FIRE DIVISION

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

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 2024, we had several calls for service in the city. These calls for service include structure fires at businesses, residences, and unoccupied buildings.

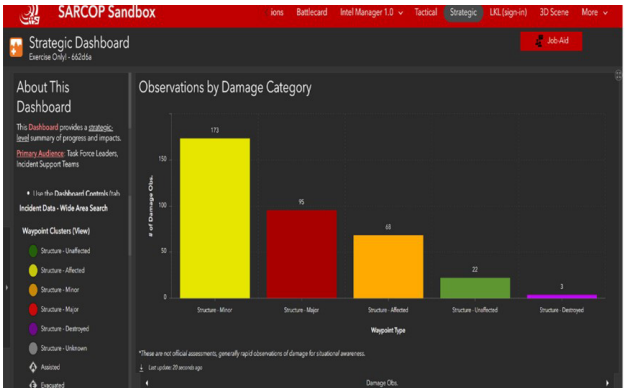
In 2024 Sikeston was directly hit by an EF-3 tornado which extended from Morehouse to Miner. The storm destroyed several buildings but damaged hundreds of residences with debris and tree damage. It vastly changed the view of multiple neighborhoods permanently.

Unfortunately it resulted in 1 death. The majority of the storm aftermath was handled in the Sikeston DPS EOC. We were able to coordinate with multiple resources and agencies through the community and state.

We were able to utilize a new program "SARCOP"

The program was utilized for tracking damage and locations for residence and commercial occupancies.

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.



Fire Division was able to utilize a new program, "SARCOP" for tracking damage and locations for residence and commercial occupancies after a tornado.



During 2024, Fire Division had several calls for service in the city. These calls for service include structure fires at businesses, residences, and unoccupied buildings.

FIRE DIVISION CALLS FOR SERVICE

Incident Type	2023	2024
Total Calls For Service	956	991
Structure Fires	62	80
Vehicle Fires	35	23
Grass Brush Fires	72	25
Gas Leaks	16	25
Rubbish/Trash Fires	23	39
Motor Vehicle Accidents	87	47
Alarms, No Fire	114	68
Smoke Investigation	33	31
Aircraft Standby	122	131
Canceled Calls	128	149
Coal Train Standby	102	122
Other Calls	48	251
Fire Inspections	114	83
K-9 Call outs	40	91



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.

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.

We have had several large fires in the area were multiple departments were called to assist.

We have built and developed better working relationships with neighboring departments and some further off we rarely get to interact with.

We had the opportunity to put in to practice difficult tasks such as multi tanker water shuttle as well as drafting from multiple tanks.

Fire Division has began updating pre plans in our FlowMSP software by going to businesses in town and locating hazards in and around them and marking key points of interest.

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 2024 the Southeast Missouri Homeland Security Team was awarded a grant through RHSOC that allowed for over $9,194.95 for new equipment for team members.



DPS Fire Division had several large fires in the area were multiple departments were called to assist. They have built and developed better working relationships with neighboring departments.



Officers with DPS Fire Division were recognized for actions during a structure fire on Aug. 21, 2024, that led to the rescue of victims who were unable to evacuate the residence. Honored were, from left: PSO Jacob Cox, Sgt. James Whitley, PSO Austin Novak and PSO Sean Scott.

Several personnel have been recognized this year for life saving awards and honors. These awards were given by Sikeston DPS, Scott County Rural and State of Missouri

Honored were:

James Whitley
Austin Novak
Sean Scott
Jackie Hays
Jacob Cox
Dakota Harrington
Jacob Peck
Shaun Goodwin



Jacob Peck and Shaun Goodwin were honored by the State of Missouri along with Dakota Harrington.



PSO Dakota Harrington was given the Life Saving Award from Scott County Rural Fire Protection District for helping perform a rescue from a structure fire in 2024.

SPECIAL SERVICES

2024 Year-end statistics



Criminal Investigations Unit

In 2024, the Criminal Investigations Unit investigated one homicide in Sikeston. Detectives also assisted the SEMO Major Case Squad with a homicide investigation in Morehouse. Additionally, officers responded to a death in Sikeston resulting from the tornado that struck the city in May.

The Criminal Investigations Unit is supervised by Detective Sergeant Flint Dees, who oversees six detectives and one evidence technician/detective. This unit is responsible for investigating serious crimes and managing cases generated from the numerous reports received daily by Sikeston DPS.

Sikeston DPS partners with the ATF and DEA. Monetary and drug seizures for the year reflect cases worked in collaboration with these federal agencies. Currently, one detective is assigned as a Task Force Officer (TFO) for the ATF, and three are assigned as TFOs for the DEA.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION UNIT STATS IN 2024

Cases	847
Self-initiated Cases	66
State Search Warr	121
Fed Search Warr	6
Firearms	52 (test fired 65 for NIBIN)
Money Seized	$468,358.00
Arrests	149
Heroin	
Marijuana	183 pounds
Ecstasy	
Cocaine	14 pounds
Crack Cocaine	1 pound
Methamphetamine	25 pounds
Synthetic / Other	N/A
Title III Fed Wire cases	1
Confidential Informants added	10
ATF Gun Traces	71
Items entered into evidence	3,615
Cellebrite Phone Extractions	47
Background Inv.	32



Power Squad

The Power Squad, consisting of a supervisor and a K9 officer, is a proactive policing team focusing on high-crime areas. Their goal is to locate and seize illegal drugs and weapons and assist the Criminal Investigations Unit with locating and arresting suspects involved in violent crimes.

Due to staffing shortages in 2024, the squad was occasionally reassigned to supplement other departmental functions.

K9 Program

The K9 program was deployed 21 times in 2024, including:

- 16 vehicle sniffs: K9 Odin alerted positively 12 times, leading to arrests and the seizure of 3.41 ounces (96.8 grams) of methamphetamine and one large psychedelic mushroom.
- 6 outside agency requests, including 1 track, 3 building searches, and 1 search warrant.



K9 Odin also supported the Criminal Investigations Unit and SEMO DTF in seizing $431,450 in U.S. currency tied to illegal narcotics sales.

Additionally, CHO Franklin and Sgt. Wierschem supported other divisions, with CHO Franklin covering shortages in Patrol and Fire Divisions for over a month at a time. Sgt. Wierschem covered several supervisory shifts in the Patrol Division.



2024 STATS

Vehicle Stops	561
Citations	80
Warnings	481
Arrests	103
Guns	12
Methamphetamine	3.18 oz 90.2 g
Illegal Pills Seized	10 pills
Paraphernalia	42 item
Marijuana	2.26 oz 64.2 g



The SRO program, consisting of, from left: SRO Mullin, Sgt. Rowe, and SRO Lane, serves all public and private schools in Sikeston. They also participate in various community activities throughout the year.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

The SRO program, consisting of Sgt. Rowe, SRO Mullin, and SRO Lane, serves all public and private schools in Sikeston. They also participate in various community activities throughout the year.

2024 SRO CALLS FOR SERVICE

High School	73
Junior High	52
Middle School	18
Wing Elementary	24
Lee Hunter	18
Southeast Elemen.	18
Alternative School	21
Kindergarten	16
Arrests	31

Special Operations Group and Mobile Command/911 Communications

The Special Services Division oversees the Special Operations Group and the Mobile Command/911 Communications Unit:

- The Special Operations Group assisted with 7 search warrants in 2024.
- The Mobile Command/911 Communications Unit was deployed for events like the Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo and regional search and rescue operations.

911 Communication Center

The City's 911 Communication Center, operated by Sikeston DPS, includes nine full-time and one part-time telecommunicator, supervised by Sgt. Christine Meredith. This team answers both 911 emergency calls and administrative service requests for DPS and other city departments.

2024 911 COMMUNICATION CENTER CALLS

Total Calls	62,719
911 Calls	12,394
Admin Calls	38,669
Outbound Calls	11,656
Incidents created	30,279
REPORTS GENERATED	
Patrol Division	3,692
Fire Division	981
South Scott	5,190
Morehouse FD	262

In 2024, the merger process began to integrate the Scott County 911 Communications Center with Sikeston DPS. This merger, expected to be completed in 2025, will increase staffing and the number of dispatched departments.

SIKESTON P.A.W.S.

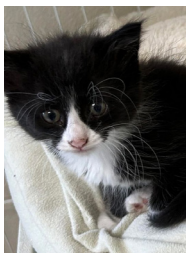
Function: To protect Sikeston residents, the City regulates ownership, care and control of animals. Sikeston Pet and Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) personnel operate the City's animal control program and the city's shelter. attorney are appointed by the City Manager in consultation with the City Council.

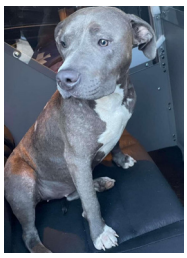


Sikeston P.A.W.S. took part in the annual Skelebration Trunk-or-Treat, held in October at the Sikeston Recreation Complex.

2024 P.A.W.S. NUMBERS

Animal related citations:	25
Intakes Dogs:	154
Intakes Cats:	49
Adopted Dogs:	32
Adopted Cats:	22
Transferred other shelters Dogs:	4
Transferred other shelters Cats:	1
Owner Redemption Dogs:	54
Owner Redemption Cats:	1
Current Shelter Population Dogs:	22
Current Shelter Population Cats:	13









For one of the Sikeston P.A.W.S. fundraisers, Santa Claus had his picture taken with many little pets in November of 2024.

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 commu¬nication between financials, human capital management, general revenues, and property revenues.

We manage 31 funds, both restricted and unrestricted. In 2024, $1,195,394.16 in interest was earned and the City of Sikeston received more than $2 million in grant funds. The City currently has 19 active grants.

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 2024 an online application process was implemented with 139 online applications and 104 paper applications for a total of 234 employment applications being processed. Applicants 16 tested for public safety officer and approximately 72 interviews were conducted for the following positions:

- Parks Director
- Airport Manager
- Grant Writer/Administrator
- Skilled Worker-Parks
- Skilled Worker-Streets
- Court Clerk
- Code Enforcement Officer
- Airport Lineman
- Recreation Coordinator
- Account Clerk
- Part-Time Animal Attendant
- Seasonal Groundskeeper
- Seasonal Skilled Worker

We filled 21 full time positions, 5 part-time, and 47 seasonal. Our turnover rate for full time employees in 2023 was 16%. We processed 195 evaluations and 351 compensation records, all of which must be filed when completed.

For several years, we have been unable to fully staff the Public Safety Department. This year we were able to hire 6 PSOs and 4 full-time communications officers making communications fully staffed. Four public safety officers have taken advantage of the tuition assistance program that was implemented in 2020, and 2 officers were rehired. Great Oak Counseling continues to conduct our biannual officer mental health check-ins and the feedback has been great! In 2023 Patrol Division converted to 10-hour shifts, however, due to staffing limitations the decision was made to return to the 8-hour shift schedule. This has been completed.

RFQ's for broker services for worker's compensation were accepted with the contract being awarded to Higgenbotham based in Springfield, MO in June. Our annual workers' compensation policy was renewed in September and this year our broker was able to negotiate multiple discounts resulting in a savings of over $30,000. We processed 15 workers' compensation claims.

We hosted a flu shot clinic with 20 participants and an employee health and wellness clinic with 124 employees and spouses participating.

General Ledger

The City of Sikeston has 31 funds, with 27 checking accounts, and 2,852 account numbers. In 2024 we balanced 324 bank statements, made 3,629 journal entries, and prepared the monthly account analysis report for the city council.

Payroll

The City has 92 job classifications and 40 deduction types. We administer employee benefits, including 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 also issue 1095Cs and W2s for all employees.

Accounts Receivable

We issued 360 accounts receivable invoices totaling $903,737.09. We track billing prices for Sonny's Solid Waste, the Essex building lease, Clinton Building rentals, and the Fire District.

Property and Casualty Insurance

We also oversee the City's property and casualty insurance. We maintain the insurance schedules which include 121 vehicles, 79 property locations and 60 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 6,083 invoices, totaling $12,696,267 this year. Of that amount, we issued 1,903 checks and 526 electronic funds transfers. We made 526 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 $18,000 with an average monthly purchases/distribution of $1,768.

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 8282 real estate and 6558 personal property tax bills, 1354 business licenses, and 114 UTV licenses.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Function: The municipal judge, prosecuting attorney and court staff are responsible for the adjucation 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	7	518	176
Cases (citations/informations) filed	30	1,331	460
Cases (citations/informations) disposed			
Jury trial	0	0	0
court/bench trial-GUILTY	0	3	3
court/bench trial-NOT GUILTY	0	0	1
plea of GUILTY in court	19	978	272
Violations Bureau Citations (i.e. written plea of guilty) and bond forfeiture by court order (as payment of fines/costs)	0	222	2
dismissed by court	0	107	20
nolle prosequi	0	52	97
certified for jury trial (not heard in Municipal Division)	0	0	0
TOTAL CASE DISPOSITIONS	**19**	**1,362**	**395**
Cases(citations/informations) pending at end of the month [pending caseload = (A+B)-C9]	18	487	241
Trial de Novo and/or appeal applications filed	0	0	1
Warrant Information (pre- & post-disposition)			
Issued during reporting period	342		
Served/withdrawn during reporting period	302		
Outstanding at end of reporting period	270		
Parking Tickets			
Issued during period	0		

Community Development

PLANNING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

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 stormwater inspections; identifies structures for condemnation to bring structures back to good order for the safety of the public; issues violations for public nuisances.



Code Enforcement checks rides before the 2024 Sikeston Cotton Carnival to make sure they are safe and up to code.

Led by Community Development Director Barry Blevins, Community Development oversees the Planning and Code Enforcement Division.

Building Permits Issued

The City of Sikeston Code Enforcement Division issues building permits for various construction projects, including sheds, new construction, and additions and renovations of residential and commercial buildings.

In 2024, 11 residential dwelling permits were issued for new construction, including single-family and duplex structures. In addition to new construction, 242 permits were issued for residential alterations and additions.

2024 BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Type of Permit	Permits Issued	Cost of Const.
Residential, New	6	$1,340,000
Duplex Residential	4	$548,000
Multi-Family Residential	0	$0
Residential Alterations/Upgrades	242	$2,278,847
Commercial	45	$30,273,685
Total	**297**	**$29,169,841**

Additionally, 45 permits were issued for commercial structures. This includes new construction and substantial additions and renovations. During 2024, the City of Sikeston welcomed the following:

- Alan Wire expansion on Malone
- MRBC opened at the end of 2024



The LCRA purchased a new skid steer and dump trailer to help maintain lots. Here, Sikeston Community Development Director Barry Blevins uses the new skid steer to clean up a lot.

- Annie's Gardens to be completed in 2025
- Wendy's new location on S. Main
- Fairfield Inn to be completed in 2025
- Sikeston Schools SCTC building renovation
- Starbucks remodel for a new location on S. Main
- First Midwest Bank N. Main remodel
- Yummy Buffet due for completion in 2025
- Opal Nail Salon due for completion in 2025

Condemnations

The Community Development Department is responsible for condemning properties, both residential and commercial. Condemnation is used when a structure is deemed unsafe due to fire, dilapidation, water, or other elements. These structures go through the lawful process of getting demolished. Properties are taken before a hearing to see if the property owner plans to restore or demolish the structure. When no parties come forward with a plan, the City can remove these structures to clean up the lots for safer neighborhoods. Demolitions are costly, and the City can only remove so many yearly. Here is the current status of properties in our city:

- 80 condemned structures
- 8 going toward hearing
- 4 demolished this year
- $24,375 cost of total demolition and legal fees

Inspections

The Community Development Department conducts inspections on residential and commercial construction and rental dwelling units to help ensure the life, safety, and welfare of the occupants and compliance with the adopted building code of the City. Code Enforcement action resulted in the following in 2024:

- 833 inspections of residential and commercial construction projects
- 84 business license inspections
- 45 rental property inspections
- 749 violations of property maintenance (derelict vehicles, junk, and trash, tall grass, etc.)
- 303 violations were abated
- 40% 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 highlights for 2024:

- 29 vacant lots, closed and conveyed title by deed
- 125 lots available for sale
- Cleaned 18 lots of discarded junk, trash, and debris
- $24,500 for mowing of owned or vacant lots
- Purchased a new skid steer and dump trailer to help maintain lots.



Taco Johns was destroyed in the May 26, 2024, tornado along with other businesses and homes.

MAY TORNADO

On May 26, shortly after 7 a.m., Sikeston was hit by an EF-3 Tornado that started around Butler St and continued through Garwood and into our neighboring city. The Community Development team went into action with other emergency services to help the citizens of Sikeston.

During this time, we spent many hours working not only to clear streets but also to help inspect homes and power lines so residents could have their power restored.

Our team, months later, is still working diligently to help the citizens of Sikeston recover form the tornado. Over this time we have seen the following:

- Loss of commercial business Taco Johns
- Damage to Sikeston High School and SCTC's new building
- Damage to The Little Theater
- Damage to Malco Theater later causing a fire
- Loss of 14 residential structures
- Numerous homes with light to moderate damages
- Over 100 electrical permits to repair power lines and home repairs

Our department is proud to serve those still recovering from this disaster.

We are always looking to help and better our community every day to help the citizens we serve to always be prepared.

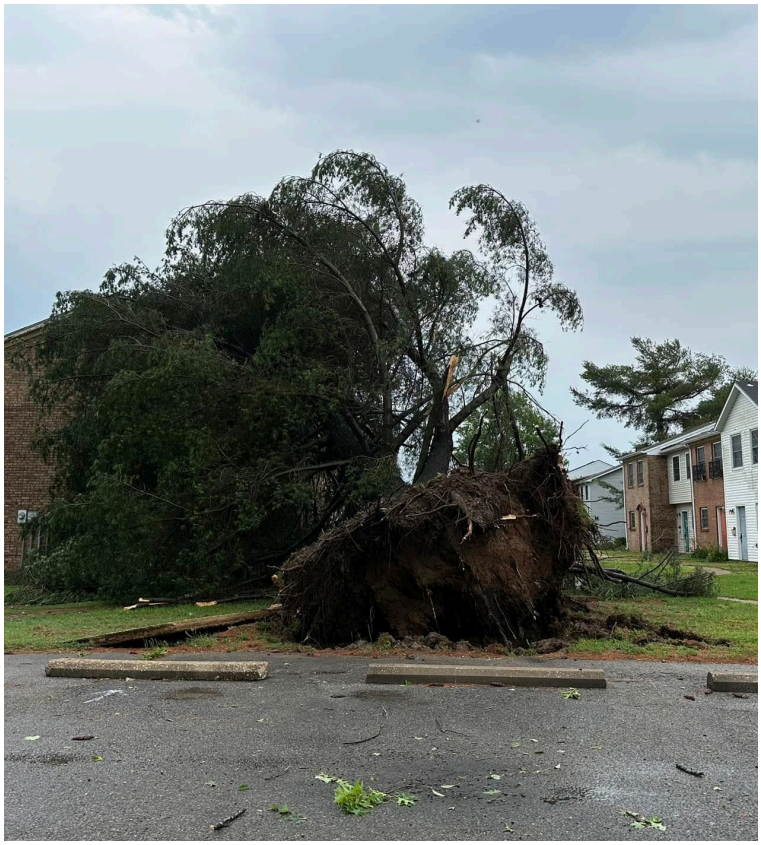


Power lines were down across town with trees uprooted and streets blocked (next page) after the tornado in May of 2024.




aramark


SCHOOL
SPEED
LIMIT
20
WHEN SCHOOL
IS IN SESSION
MON - FRI
7:00 AM
4:00 PM



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 2024, 13 citizens registered to vote, staff responded to 5 grave openings and handled 49 open records requests. City Council General Election was held with Greg Turnbow retaining his Mayor position and Vest Baker (Ward 2) and David Teachout (Ward 3) being reappointed to their respective wards.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Ron Creed Optimist Club Youth in Government Day

The City acknowledges today's high school students are tomorrow's leaders. This program originally began in 1986 in conjunction with the Sikeston Optimist Club as the sponsor for this community project and in 2007 was renamed the Ron Creed Optimist Club Youth in Government Day. Currently, General Governmental Services, in cooperation with the Sikeston Jaycees and Sikeston Public Schools, sponsors this 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 preparing briefing material for students, Council, and staff. This year marks the 39th anniversary of this program.



The Ron Creed Optimist Club Youth in Government Day was held for the 39th year in February of 2024.

Total Eclipse of the Park

Sponsored by Sikeston Regional Chamber and Convention & Visitors Bureau, this event highlighted the total eclipse that occurred in Sikeston April 18, 2024. During this celebration, City of Sikeston staff participated by handing out ice cream and popsicles to hundreds of visitors.

Juneteenth Celebration

During the Juneteenth celebration at Lincoln Park, City of Sikeston staff gave away popsicles to citizens attending this event.

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.

Church School Supply Giveaway

City of Sikeston purchased and donated 100 3-ring binders for a school supply giveaway sponsored by a local church in the community.

Sikeston Skelebration & Trunk or Treat

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



New frames for past mayors and city managers of Sikeston were installed in the foyer by Council Chambers at Sikeston City Hall.

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.

Cookies & Cider at City Hall

During the Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Parade, staff handed out cookies and cider inside City Hall to visitors attending this event.

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 homes, and the winner is selected by the Mayor and Council members and presented a glass award. In 2024, 19 nominations were received, and the winner was Justin & Kimberly Wheeler at 613 Thornwood.

Christmas Angel Tree Program

In 2024, City Hall participated in its second year with 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, $375 was raised which enabled us to purchase all the items on the adopted child's list.

INTERIOR CITY HALL UPDATES

Mayor/City Manager Picture Wall

In 2017, the interior of City Hall was painted, and 52 pictures of former (and current) Mayors and City Managers were taken down from two walls in the foyer by Council Chambers but not put back up due to the quality of the frames. Funds were budgeted in for a modern look to hang the pictures and in June 2024, rod-supported picture frames were installed on both walls with the words City Mayors and City Managers hung above the pictures on their respective walls for a more cohesive look with extra frames for future usage.

Chairs in Council Chambers

Forty-four (44) folding chairs were in the Council Chambers that dated back to the mid 1980's and needed to be replaced. Funds were placed in the budget to purchase new chairs, with the old chairs being surplused. Seventy-five (75) chairs were ordered and arrived July 2024, with 50 placed in the Council Chambers and the other 25 chairs stored for future use.

INTERNAL OPERATIONS

City Council Support



Trustee Award winners were recognized at the City's annual Christmas Party in December.

General Government coordinates the preparation, posting and distribution of Council meeting agendas and information packets. In 2024, 24 Council packets were prepared and distributed to staff and local media.

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.). In 2024, 34 ordinances were presented and passed by Council along with 10 resolutions.

Budget Presentation

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

Proclamations

In 2024, Mayor Turnbow presented 12 proclamations at various events in the City of Sikeston, in addition to presentations conducted at City Hall.

Municipal Record Management and Archival

General Government remains actively involved in the archival of municipal documents. If 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. In 2024, staff enabled a program on our website called Laserfiche, and this is enable citizens to search scanned minutes and ordinances. Currently, minutes date from 1974-present and ordinances from 1951-present.

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 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 from 2024 were: Straight Talk (Ben Sexton), Demonstrating Respect (Phayzun Fobbs), Creating Transparency (Brian Dial), Righting Wrongs (Jacob Peck), Showing Loyalty (Matt Patterson), Delivering Results (Darren Martin), Continuous Improvement (Marty Evans), Confronting Reality (Katy Nance), Clarifying Expectations (Jessica Kelly), Practicing Accountability (Billy Smith), Listening First (Sherry Givens), Keeping Commitments (Ashlie Crow-Swain) and Extending Trust (Tyler Rowe).

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 12,657 followers an increase of 1,900 from 2023. The City has 263 followers on X (formerly Twitter and up 18 from 2023) and 388 followers on Instagram (up from 128 in 2023 which is almost a 50% increase). 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, to date there are currently 421 active subscribers.

Camera/Audio System in Council Chambers

Utilizing funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), in April 2024 Council approved the purchase of cameras and microphones for the Council Chambers to stream Council meetings via Facebook live for public viewing. Installation of video and audio equipment began in November and finalized December 20th, 2024.

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.

Staff

Sam Villagrana is the Information Technology Manager responsible for the Cyber 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 Villagrana as the division's I.T. Technician. Additionally, Sexton provides employee help desk support, manages the internal SharePoint employee website, and supports network operations throughout the city. Sexton also manages all inventory related to desktops and laptops.

VOIP Phone Recorder

In 2024, we upgraded the phone recorder at DPS, which records incoming and outgoing phone conversations on many phones used throughout the DPS building, along with 911 emergencies and radio communications within the Department of Public Safety.

Trouble tickets

In 2024, the I.T. department logged 1,214 I.T.-related trouble tickets that employees submitted throughout the City's network infrastructure— 79.1% of those tickets were one-touch tickets, which means only one service tech was required to work on that support ticket. 3.2% of support tickets were reopened.

Municipal data contracts

The I.T department also administers contracts for municipal data, lSDN, 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 computers

The yearly rotation of replacing computers was 25 for 2024 for computers older than four years.

Mobile Command Truck

We upgraded the Instant Connect software on the Mobile Command truck, which allows radio frequency channels to be programmed for special events like the Sikeston Rodeo and other significant events. Dispatch also uses the software to monitor and broadcast radio events within the command truck.

Sikeston Post

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Mission of the Sikeston Area Economic Development, Corp. (SAEDC) is to promote, enhance, and support economic growth, prosperity, and quality of life in the Sikeston area.



Through the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Local Tourism Asset Grant, the Sikeston Chamber was able to renovate the 1931 Post Office. Now the newly named Sikeston Post houses the Chamber, Economic Development, Tourism and Historic Downtown Sikeston.

WE MOVED!

The City of Sikeston contracts with the Sikeston Chamber to oversee economic development and tourism related activities. This summer, the Sikeston: Chamber, Economic Development, Tourism moved into The Sikeston Post at 215 N. New Madrid St.

The renovation of the 1931 Post Office was funded, in part, by the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Local Tourism Asset Grant. The Sikeston Chamber was awarded $484,138 for this project that now provides office space for Sikeston: Chamber, Economic Development, Tourism as well as Historic Downtown Sikeston. The new Sikeston Post serves as the Sikeston Visitors Center and will also house the Sikeston Rodeo Museum when it opens later this year.

WE GREW!

Moving to The Sikeston Post provided space for a much-needed administrative assistant. Hailey Ahlvin joined the team in July to support all three organizations.

One of the 2024 goals set by the SAEDC Board of Directors was to



The Economic Development staff grew in 2024. The staff is comprised of, from left: Marcie Lawson, Bree Hileman, Sarah Ezell, Kathy Medley, Katie Merideth, Hailey Ahlvin and Taylor Deere.

collaborate with our neighboring communities and approach economic development as a region. With residents of Scott, Mississippi, and New Madrid Counites traveling across county lines for work and entertainment, community leaders recognized that what's good for Charleston is good for Sikeston is good for New Madrid. The regional approach increased both public and private investment in economic development and opened additional opportunities to recruit industries to the area.

In October, Sarah Ezell was hired as an Economic Development Specialist focusing on New Madrid and Scott Counties. In January 2025, Bree Hileman also joined the team as an Economic Development Specialist focusing on Mississippi Counties.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Several community leaders went to Jefferson City for Senator Bean's second Taste of the South event in February. While there, they were introduced on the Missouri House Floor and met with legislators to discuss topics important to Sikeston.

The SAEDC hosted its first Ag Field Day in September.

Farmers and community members were invited to see the results of field trials conducted by MU Extension and AgLaunch in the Sikeston AgriPark.

Katie Merideth led the SAEDC's workforce development program Students Observing Area Resources, known as S.O.A.R.

Over 150 Sikeston High School and Sikeston Career & Technology students were introduced to the career opportunities available in our community.



Right: Students observe inserting a breathing tube at Missouri Delta Medical Center.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SIKESTON

As we reflect on the last twelve months, it is clear that Historic Downtown Sikeston had a great 2024. We are so thankful for the work that continues to be done by our property owners and merchants. We are also very thankful for our community partners who make it possible for us to exist and do the work that we do. Our goal is to help make Downtown Sikeston a place for all of the community to gather, shop, eat, and experience great events. The following is a summary of some of the ways we did that in 2024.



Music in the Park Summer Concert Series was a hit once again in 2024.

Downtown Projects

It does not take long to drive through Downtown before you see some of the work that has gone into our area. We spent much time focusing on the Malone Park Fountain project this year. Thanks to a generous donation from the Sharp Family, we were able to complete and open the Sharp Fountain. This project included the addition of several rose bushes, new sidewalks, and new benches around the Sharp Fountain. With the fountain and the healing garden that was completed in 2023, Malone Park has become a great place to find solace and enjoy the beauty of the oldest park in Sikeston.

Another big project that was completed in 2024 was the remodel of the old Post Office/Police Station that house our office. In partnership with the Sikeston Regional Chamber, Economic Development, and Tourism, the building was retrofitted to allow for state-of-the-art office space. This is also the home of the Rodeo Museum that will be opening in 2025.

Downtown Business

We are very excited to see some new businesses in Historic Downtown Sikeston. We saw the opening of Center Street Station, Melissa Kay & Co, and 1998 Boutique just to name a few. Unfortunately, we have seen a couple of Downtown staples close this year, including Jeremiah's, The Art Spirit and Ground-A-Bout Coffee. We never like to see businesses close, but we try to look on the bright side of this happening. Currently we have a couple of businesses that are working to acquire some of the properties that these former businesses were in and we look forward to new stores opening in 2025.

Downtown Events

We cannot say enough about the success of our Downtown events in 2024. The St. Patrick's Day Festival was another great success that kicked off our event season. As we made it to Spring, the Farmers Market was back with several new vendors each Saturday morning. One of the most exciting events of the year was the Music in the Park Summer Concert Series. We had such a great response from the community that we ended up adding another night to the series this summer. Of course, the Wine Festival could not have been better. The weather was perfect, the community was present, and a great time was had by everyone. But we must say, the highlight of the year was the Christmas season. This year, the Christmas celebration included the Holiday Open House, The City of Lights Tour, the Parade of Lights and the Tree lighting, new decorations, additions to Santa's Village, a raffle for a Santa Gift Basket that included a visit from Santa himself, and, to top it all off, we had live reindeer in Downtown Sikeston. It truly was a great season.

Downtown Plans for 2025

As we march into 2025, we are looking forward to a great year. We are working this year on researching some future projects and grants to help fund those projects. We will continue with our regular schedule of great events, with an addition of a Bingo night in the Spring. We have also set a goal of $20,000 for our Partnership Campaign. We have never received this amount in partnerships, but we know this will help us accomplish the work we have before us this year. Thank you so much for your support both financially and physically to our great Downtown. We cannot wait to see you soon!

SIKESTON TOURISM

The City of Sikeston contracts with the Sikeston Regional Chamber to oversee tourism related activity for the city. Sikeston Tourism is a division of the Chamber. It 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:

Sikeston Tourism markets and promotes the area through print and digital advertising, social media, billboards, and travel publications. The marketing budget increased by 50% in 2024 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. Sikeston Tourism social media pages include Facebook and Instagram at visitsikestonmo to promote area events and attractions.

FULFILLMENT PIECES:

Sikeston Tourism prints a calendar of events postcards, Sikeston Visitors 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.



The Hot Air Balloon Festival was a success again in 2024.

PROJECTS UPDATE

- HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL
  - o Sikeston Tourism assisted with the second Hot Air Balloon Festival in 2024. This event draws visitors from the region and surrounding states to Sikeston. The Sikeston Regional Chamber is the sponsoring organization. The festival will be held June 20-21 at the rodeo grounds in 2025.
- SIKESTON HONORS VETERANS BANNER & LIGHT PROJECT
  - o In 2024 the CVB along with the Veterans Park Committee held the Sikeston Honors Veterans Banner Retirement Ceremony in Veterans Park on Veterans Day. 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 post directs smart phone users to the website www.sikeston.net/veterans-banners featuring each veteran's military history. This is an on-going project with veterans chosen each year through a lottery drawing. The application and details are available at www.sikeston.net/sikeston-honors-veterans. More information is available in the brochure (featured on the next page).



The Sikeston Honors Veterans Project is made possible with the support and partnership of the following organizations.

SIKESTON
Convention & Visitors Bureau
sikeston.net/tourism
888-309-6591

SIKESTON VETERANS PARK COMMITTEE

MISSOURI HUMANITIES

Sikeston Parks & Recreation

Board of Municipal Utilities
BMU
Sikeston
"Your Hometown Municipal Utility Since 1931"



The original entrance to the Harvey Parks Airport (circa 1940), now serves as the entrance to Veterans Park.

www.sikeston.net/tourism

VISIT SIKESTON EST 1860 MISSOURI

@visitsikestonmo



SIKESTON HONORS VETERANS

Banner Project in Veterans Park

THE PARK HISTORY



From 1940 until 1944 Sikeston's Memorial Municipal Airport was known as the Harvey Parks Airport and served as the site for the Air Corps Training Missouri Institute of Aeronautics. General Hap Arnold, anticipating the start of World War II, asked the Institute to triple their flight training enrollment. Over 6,000 cadets, including World War II flying aces Robert S. Johnson and Harold E. Comstock graduated from the Institute.

John "Frank" Ferrell, one of the many local pitlots who graduated from the Missouri Institute of Aeronautics in Sikeston.





ABOUT VETERANS PARK

Sikeston Veterans Park is dedicated to area veterans and is located at the intersection of Linn Street and Campanella Drive. The 4.8-acre park features several displays including a M-60 battle tank, an F4 Phantom jet, a 105mm Howitzer from WWII, a U.S. Navy 1955 Sioux Helicopter, a World War II destroyer anchor, a monument erected in honor of the Army National Guard soldiers of Charlie Company, 1140th Engineer Battalion for service in Iraq, a monument to Sikeston Area Fallen Heroes, Blue Star Marker and the newest addition, the Veterans Honor Banners. The park was constructed and is maintained through the efforts of a volunteer Veterans Park Committee.



ABOUT THE BANNERS

The Veterans Honor Banners are displayed on light posts in Veterans Park. Each banner features a picture of a Sikeston area veteran, their military rank and branch of service. A QR Code displayed on each light post directs smart phone users to a website featuring their military history. The banners and veterans' stories make this display an interesting and educational attraction to the park. New veterans are chosen every year to he honored. To read about the current veteran's military history or to learn more about the Sikeston Honors Veterans Program, hold your smart phone/camera over the QR Code or go to www.sikeston.net/veterans-banners



NASA contractor Mike Pedraza flew in from Orlando, Florida, to capture the total solar eclipse in Sikeston with his family on April 8, 2024. (Patrick Lantrip/The Daily Memphian)

• TOURISM-CHAMBER LUNCHEON

o Each year Sikeston Tourism & Chamber 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, Beggs Family Farm, and last year the American Legion Post 114 was recognized.

• TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

o Sikeston was in the line of totality for the April 8, 2024, eclipse. To commemorate this astronomical event, Sikeston Tourism worked with a committee to plan the Total Eclipse of the Park event on April 8 and the weekend prior. Several events and activities took place April 5-8. The event drew thousands of visitors from around the world.

• CONVENTION CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

o Looking to the future, Sikeston Tourism explored 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. 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. A Convention Center Feasibility Study was finalized in November 2024. The findings were favorable for community support. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled the first quarter of 2025.



The Sikeston Rodeo Museum is in the development stages and is slated to open later this year.

• RODEO MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER

o Last year the Sikeston Regional Chamber was awarded a $484,138 ARPA Tourism Grant Asset Development Grant to create a Rodeo Museum and Visitors Center in the old Sikeston Post Office, located at 215 N. New Madrid St. Construction was completed in July 2024 on the building that is now called The Sikeston Post. The building houses the Chamber, Economic Development, Tourism & Visitors Center, Historic Downtown Sikeston office, and the new Sikeston Rodeo Museum. The museum is in the development stages and slated to open later this year.

TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD

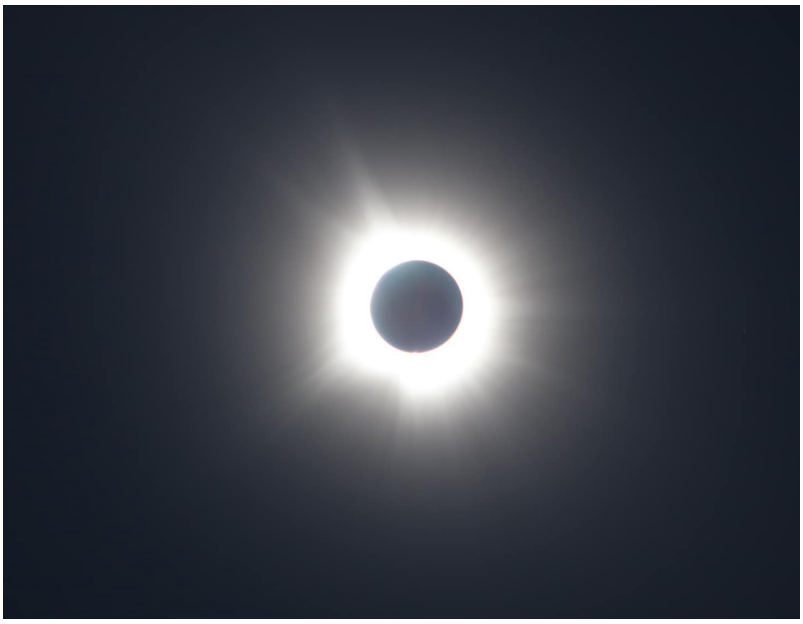
Contact Person: Kathy Medley, Sikeston Regional Chamber
Council Appointees: Kelly Knight, Shelley McTigue, Mandy Leible, Ryan Merideth, Trevor Burdine (Jaycee representative)
Council Representatives: John Leible, Onethia Williams.

Ex-Officio Member: Jason Davis, Historic Downtown

Josh Meyer, Sikeston Parks & Recreation, Jonathan Douglass, City of Sikeston.

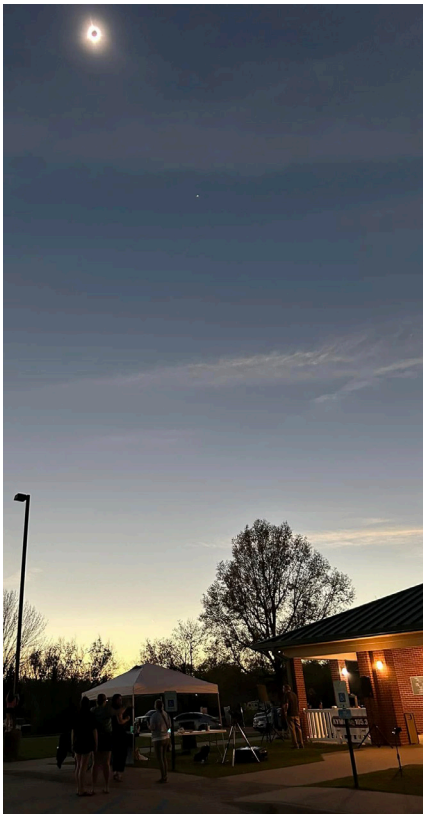
TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

On April 8, 2024, Sikeston was in the line of totality for the solar eclipse. Sikeston hosted many events on April 5-8 and an estimated 5,000 people from all over the world visited Sikeston on April 8 to watch the event.











Sikeston named Most Neighborly City in 2024

The 2024 Leadership Sikeston class decided to hold a Good Neighbor Week for their class project. As part of the project, Leadership Sikeston decided to focus on different things each day that would be beneficial to the community while helping the community become better neighbors.

After Good Neighbor Week was held, the Missouri Good Neighbor Organization named Sikeston the Most Neighborly City in Missouri in 2024 for a population of 15,000 to 30,000.

The group took a grassroots approach and passed out flyers to the community to promote the week. Members spoke to local media that involved television, radio and newspaper along with the local Chamber of Commerce.

A Facebook page was also created for the week and was well received with 885 followers in just six weeks. There were 2,400 content interactions and the Facebook page reached 13,378 individual pages.

The week was well received by the community with many local businesses and residents taking part.

The following is an overview of the days and what Leadership Sikeston was made aware that occurred.

MONDAY – SUPPORT LOCAL

NON-PROFIT DAY

- Donation drop-offs were located in businesses all over Sikeston
- Videos from non-profit organizations were posted on our Facebook page
- Good Neighbor T-shirts were made with $512 in proceeds going to Mission Missouri
- BMU Jeans Day made $80 for Mission Missouri/House of Refuge
- Lemonade stand at Edge Realty made $455 for Mission Missouri
- Thrown Rolls Eating Contest at Cotton Carnival helped raise money for local non-profit organizations

TUESDAY – GET ACTIVE DAY

- Free pickleball clinic drew an overflow crowd of 20 or more
- Sikeston Eagles wore athletic wear to take part in the day
- Wing Elementary went outside for class and took pictures
- Mitchell Insurance had lunch



Members of the 2024 Leadership Sikeston class were front row, from left: Twan Robinson, Laura Dumey, Heather Pinnell, Hali Kaminsky, Amanda Dennis, Raven Jackson, Lindsey Corlew, Pam Dannenmueller, Michelle Lawson, (back row, from left) Mark Blanton, Kevin Schaper, Hailey Gleason, Garrett Cooper, David Jenkins and Chris Hawkins.



As part of Good Neighbor Week, Sikeston High School students along with Leadership Sikeston members helped Sikeston Parks and Recreation spread mulch and paint picnic tables at Lincoln Park.

on the lawn

- Sikeston Post had walked to a local park and ate lunch
- Some Lee Hunter students made a bike bus to school
- Many individuals took part of all ages getting outside doing activities like pickleball/chalk painting/etc.
- Sikeston Kindergarten students went outside for class
- Southeast Elementary went outside for class

WEDNESDAY – BEAUTIFY SIKESTON DAY

- Leadership Sikeston picked up trash on School Street and encouraged others to do the same
- Students/Leadership Sikeston/individuals helps Sikeston Parks and Rec spread mulch, paint picnic tables at Lincoln Park
- Arrow Christian Academy picked up trash in Downtown Sikeston
- Many individuals did yard work and posted on Facebook
- Wing Elementary students pulled weeds from their basketball court and picked up trash

THURSDAY – MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

- 988 suicide hotline bracelets were passed out to local businesses to raise awareness of the 988 hotline
- Videos of encouragement were posted on our Facebook page
- A Suicide Remembrance and Prevention Walk was held at the Sikeston Complex Lake and attended by many.
- Montgomery Bank along with Sikeston City Hall and many other businesses wore 988 bracelets
- Some at BMU wore suicide prevention T-shirts
- First graders wore green to show support
- Kids at Cornerstone Daycare wore 988 bands



As part of Good Neighbor Week, Leadership Sikeston picked up trash on School Street and encouraged others to do the same.

- 6th grade class went outside to read

FRIDAY – ACT OF KINDNESS DAY

- Furniture and supplies were donated to Mission Missouri
- Residents left quarters in carts at Aldi
- Resident purchased items for an individual moving into a new apartment
- On Thursday, Sikeston DPS officers went to 2nd grade class and spoke to students about being good citizens
- Residents paid for coffees and meals of the person behind them in drive-thru lines
- Sikeston City Hall collected money to adopt a family at Christmas
- A roll eating contest was held at the Sikeston Cotton Carnival with each contestant raising money for a local non-profit.

2024 LEADERSHIP SIKESTON MEMBERS

Kevin Schaper, Chris Hawkins, David Jenkins, Mark Blanton, Garrett Cooper, Twan Robinson, Raven Jackson, Hailey Gleason, Lindsey Corlew, Laura Dumey, Hali Kaminsky, Michelle Lawson, Heather Pinnell, Amanda Dennis and Pam Dannenmueller.

Boards and Commissions

Board of Adjustments
Members: Rob Murphy, Caroline Nance Littleton, William Nace, Ron Galemore, Jodi Glidewell
Alternate Members: Jim Beaird, James Miller, Inger Roberson
Legal Advisor: Tabatha Graham, City Attorney
Staff Representative: Barry Blevins, Community Development Director

Board of Appeals
Members: James Beaird, Scott Ezell, Larry Hancock, Tim Mitchell, Marty Presley, Carl Vincent, William Watson
Staff Representative: Barry Blevins, Community Development Director

Board of Municipal Utilities
Members: Cal Crader, Jon Gilmore, Tim Merideth, Diedre Peters
Council Representative: Tom Robison, Council Member
Staff Representative: Rick Landers, Director, Board of Municipal Utilities

Enhanced Enterprise Zone Board
Members: Rick Adams, Britt McConnell, James Miller, Tim Mitchell, William Watson
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: Blake Bain, Madeline Bell, Natalie Bohannon, Carrie Anne Corso, Jean Marie Culbertson, Holly Greene, Jessica Merideth
Council Representative: Ryan Lindsey
Staff Representative: Jamie Williams

Housing Authority
Commissioners: Viola Blow (Housing Authority Resident), Harry Howard, Brenda Robinson-Echols, Ben Ross, Patricia Willis
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: Blake Bain, Austin Curtis, Jason Davis, Wade Hamra, Jeff Hay, Tre Holley, Mandy Leible, Pershard Owens, Alison Romine
Council Representative: Tom Robison
Staff Representative: Josh Meyer, Parks and Recreation Director

Planning and Zoning Commission
Members: Jim Copeland, Larry Hancock, Missy Marshall, Jessica Merideth, Rob Murphy, Gary Ozment, Fred "Chip" Thornton, William Watson II
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: Andy Caton, Nathan Cox, Karen Evans, Jeff Hay, Harry Howard, Ned Matthews, David Terrell, William Watson
Council Representative: David Teachout, Council Member
Staff Representative: James McMillen, Sikeston DPS Director

Scott County Extension Council
Council Appointee: Camille Lancaster

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: Clayton Driskill (Jaycee Representative), Kelly Knight, Mandy Leible, Shelley McTigue, Ryan Merideth
Council Representatives: John Leible, Council Member; Onethia Williams, Council Member
Ex-Officio Member: Marcie Lawson, Sikeston Regional Chamber; Jason Davis, Historic Downtown
Staff Representative: Josh Meyer, Sikeston Parks and Recreation; Jonathan Douglass, City Manager

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Commission
Members: Nathan Cox, Matt Drake, Clayton Driskill, Missy Marshall, Matt Marshall, John "Matt" May
Staff Representative: Jonathan Douglass, City Manager

Traffic Committee
Members: Missy Marshall, Emory McCauley, Jr., Jim McClure, James Miller, Fred Thornton
Alternate Members: William Watson II, Ben Ross, Wanda Harrington
Staff Representatives: Brian Dial, Street Superintendent; James Donner, Department of Public Safety











City of Sikeston Missouri

City of Sikeston Annual Report 2024

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