

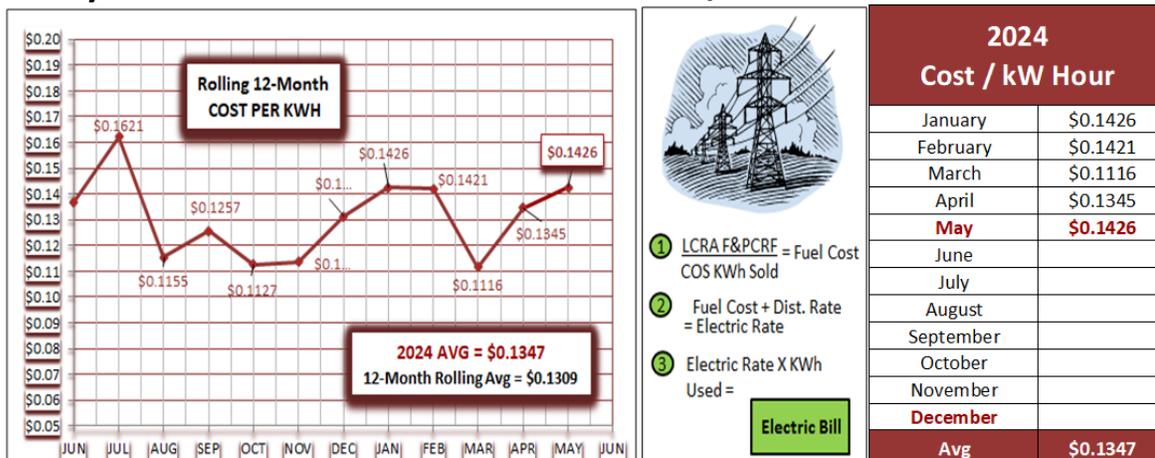
## City Manager Update – 5/10/24

Congratulations to **Cathy Meek, Mitch Jameson, and Sharon Foerster** on their election / re-election to office. Special THANKS to outgoing Councilmember Janice Bruno for her many years of service. Voter turnout for the 2024 City election was 26.8% with 737 votes cast out of 2,749 registered voters. Click on the following link for additional information → [Bastrop County Election Results](#). Once the campaign dust settles, I would like to hold a workshop to discuss City Council, Mayor, and City Manager roles and responsibilities. In addition, I will provide an update on recent accomplishments, current projects, and future plans. I will also provide an overview of the FY24/25 budget process. Given all that is going on the next several weeks (e.g., Fly-In, SVFD Annual Fundraiser, etc.), I am targeting **May 22, 2024** for the next workshop.

Here is a list of accomplishments, issues, and planned activities since my last report:

- 1) 2024 LCRA “Steps Forward Day” Project Completed** – Approximately 25 volunteers from LCRA gathered in Smithville on Friday, April 12, 2024 to repaint 53 ornamental light poles in the downtown area. The volunteers did an outstanding job painting the light poles. The City of Smithville is fortunate to have LCRA as a community partner. LCRA programs like Steps Forward and the Community Development Partnership Program (CDPP) have definitely made a positive impact within our community. (SEE PHOTOS)
- 2) Solid Waste Survey Results Available** – The City of Smithville conducted a solid waste survey to obtain feedback from citizens regarding our current garbage, recycling, and leaf/limb services with emphasis placed on frequency and cost. The survey was made available to citizens on-line in both Spanish and English and was open from April 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024. Citizen notification regarding the solid waste survey was provided via social media, inside the monthly utility bill, and City Manager update. Hard copy surveys were also made available at City Hall, the Smithville Public Library, and the Chamber of Commerce. In total, 376 people responded to the survey. Of the 376 responses, 286 were filtered as residents within city limits. Of the remaining 90 collected responses, 43 were classified as outside city limits, 6 were duplicates (based on IP addressing, not including known manual and individual data entry), and 41 took a beta version of the survey prior to its official opening date. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the respondents preferred keeping twice per week garbage service with the current weekly leaf/limb pick-up. The majority of respondents indicated that a viable (and affordable) recycling solution is still needed. The detailed solid waste survey summary report (with citizen comments) is available on-line → [2024 SOLID WASTE SURVEY RESULTS](#). This will be a topic of discussion during the May 13, 2024 Council meeting.
- 3) Residential Cost Per Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Calculated** – An analysis of LCRA billing data was conducted to determine residential cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) in MAY. Fuel costs vary month to month and are based upon utility generation, transmission, line loss, and service fees. The cost per kWh for residential customers in MAY will be \$0.1426. This represents an **6.08% INCREASE** compared to April’s cost per kWh of \$0.1345. On average, the annual cost per kWh for electric service in Smithville is between 12-13 cents with the average household using 1,200 kW per month (\$156). The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Texas provides [energy conservation tips](#) to help reduce consumption which in turn will help citizens save money. Below you will find a “rolling” 12-month residential cost per kWh and a fuel cost comparison chart.

### City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh / LCRA F&PCRF – MAY 2024



Note: Fuel & Power Cost Recovery Factor + City Distribution Fee\* (\$0.0550) = Cost / kWh

\*Residential Distribution Fee = \$0.0550/kWh (Effective October 1, 2023). Non-Resident (i.e., service outside city limit) Distribution Fee = \$0.0650/kWh



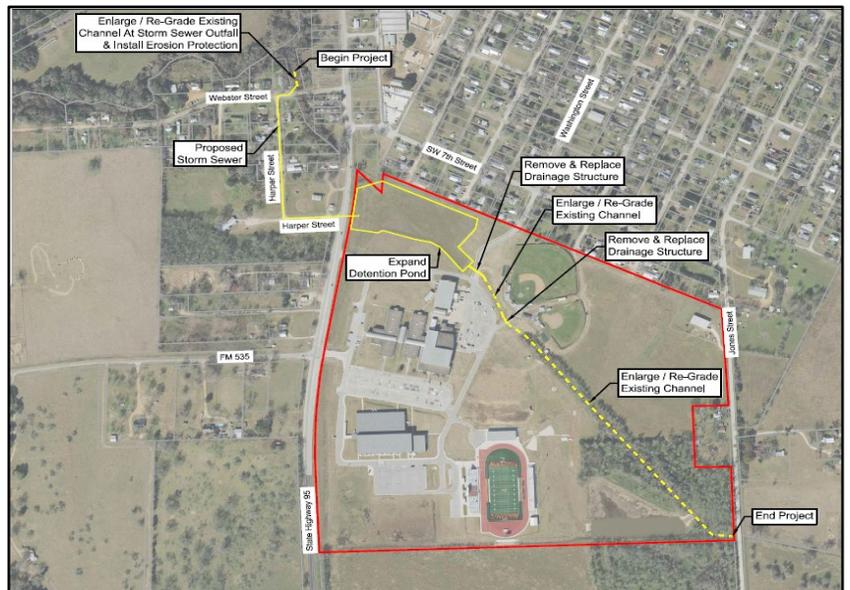
## City Manager Update – 5/10/24 (continued)

- 7) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for May 2024 vs. May 2023 (retail sales made primarily in March). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for May was \$86,861. This represents an **4.72% DECREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. All sales tax receipts within the county are trending lower compared to last year. Smithville's year-to-date sales tax payments total \$380,939. Sales tax dollars are used to make street / road repairs and help pay for community services like FIRE and POLICE. Please remember to SHOP LOCAL - it makes a difference!!!

### Bastrop County Tax Allocation - MAY 2024

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2024 Payments To Date	2023 Payments	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$1,041,718	\$1,083,119	-3.82%	\$5,206,148	\$5,059,626	2.89%
Elgin	1.50%	\$369,483	\$350,198	5.50%	\$1,689,037	\$1,607,000	5.10%
Smithville	1.50%	\$86,861	\$91,169	-4.72%	\$380,939	\$375,865	1.34%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$685,616	\$597,814	14.68%	\$2,827,291	\$2,654,978	6.49%

- 8) **GLO Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Mitigation (MIT) Method of Distribution (MOD) Update** – In December of 2022, CAPCOG was tasked with managing allocation / distribution of \$52,253,000 in Hurricane Harvey Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Method of Distribution (MOD) funds to provide financial assistance for expenses related to Hurricane Harvey disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, mitigation, and affirmatively furthering fair housing in the most impacted and distressed areas in Bastrop, Caldwell, Fayette, and Lee counties. Bastrop County and the City of Smithville submitted a joint application via an interlocal agreement for approximately \$3.7M in Hurricane Harvey CDBG-MIT (MOD) funding to pay for flood mitigation projects within each territorial jurisdiction. The proposed project consists of the construction of a new storm sewer, enlargement of existing drainage channels, and expansion of an existing detention pond at the SISD High School (see diagram below). Beginning on the downstream end of the proposed project in an existing drainage channel at a point located approximately 150 feet north of Webster Street and 300 feet west of State Highway 95, the existing channel will be enlarged and re-graded southward to Webster Street. The outlet of the proposed storm sewer will begin in the expanded/re-graded channel and extend southwest to the Webster Street right-of-way and then west to Harper Street. At Harper Street, the storm sewer will extend south approximately 780 linear feet where it will make a 90 degree turn within the Harper Street right-of-way and then extend eastward approximately 420 linear feet to an existing detention pond located between State Highway 95 and Washington Street just north of Smithville High School. The existing detention pond will be deepened and expanded, and the project will continue eastward at Washington Street where the existing Washington Street drainage crossing will be removed and replaced. On the east side of Washington Street, the existing channel will be enlarged and regraded southeasterly approximately 300 linear feet to a pedestrian drainage crossing that will also be replaced. On the east side of the pedestrian drainage crossing, the existing channel will continue to be enlarged and re-graded approximately 1,850 linear feet southeast to Jones Street where the improvements will terminate on the upstream end of the proposed project. Construction of these improvements would provide greater stormwater conveyance to Gazley Creek and help mitigate the risk of flooding in the low-lying areas on the southwest side of Smithville. The City and County are currently working with GLO to address various requests for information as necessary to award the project and enter into a contract. If/when awarded, the survey and design work can actually begin. The timing for awarding the project is still 3 to 6 months out.



GLO-CDBG MIT-MOD Drainage Project

## City Manager Update – 5/10/24 (continued)

- 9) **City-wide Street Repairs and Paving Project Update** - The City of Smithville contracted with Freeland Turk Engineering Group, LLC (FTEG) to conduct a [City-wide Street Assessment](#) and sign inventory. FTEG utilized [Roadbotics](#) technology to collect street and sign data back in December 2023. The city has approximately 40-miles of city-maintained public roadways and over 600 street signs within the city limits. This is the second time FTEG has performed a street assessment survey for the City of Smithville. In 2020, FTG issued a similar maintenance plan that identified various maintenance activity on 106 street segments that were rated a “4” or “5”. Out of those 106 street segments, 56 segments were identified for significant restoration and repaving. Since then, the City has made significant progress towards working on the streets and has performed maintenance activities on 26 out of the 56 severely rated street segments, or taking on a project about every other month for the last four years. In addition to repairing the street segments identified in the Roadbotics report, the City has also performed maintenance on areas that were not covered by report such as Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Oak Hills Cemetery, Harper Street, Walker Street, and King’s Way (RVICS).

City-wide road paving and repair will begin throughout the community during the summer months. The roads listed below will be prepped, resurfaced, and repaved. The Bastrop County Maintenance Department (who owns the paving equipment) will be doing the work with support from the City of Smithville. This project will require partial and temporary street closures with notification of area residents and business owners 24-48 hours in advance. Additional streets will be repaved as the budget allows. Pot-hole repairs will continue throughout town as pot-holes are identified. Citizens can report a pot-hole using the Smithville [SEE/CLICK/FIX](#) link on the City Website or by downloading the SEE/CLICK/FIX app to their smart phones.

### City-wide Street Repairs and Paving Schedule – 2024

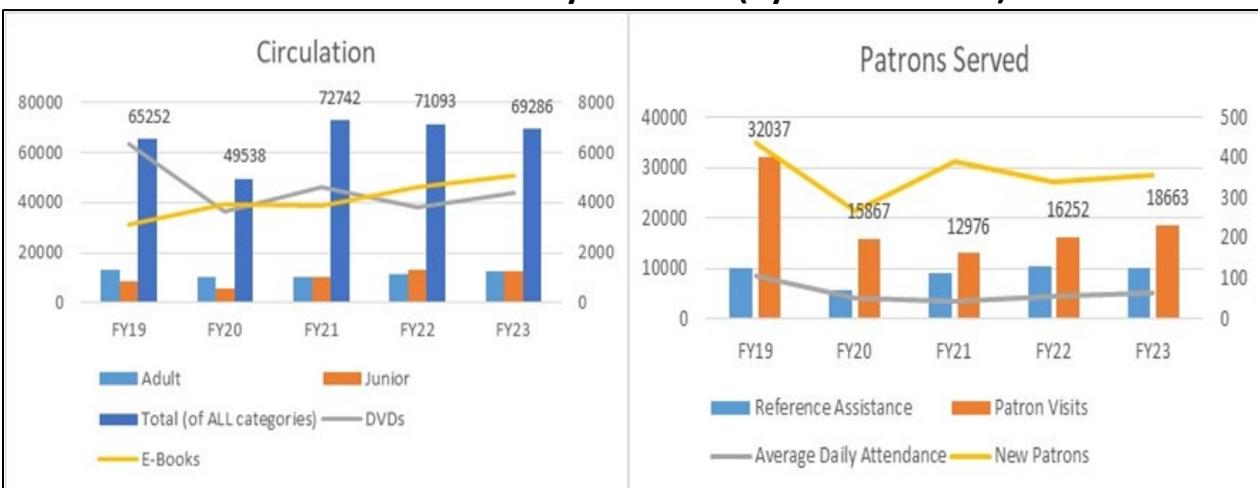
Street	From / To	Paving Material	Prep Completed	Road Closure Required	Est. Paving Date
Oak Hill Cemetery	Front Section	Chip Seal	NO	YES	JUNE
Uptown Drive	Old Upton Road to Pecan Shores	Chip Seal	NO	YES	JUNE
SE 1st	Miller St to Bunte St	Chip Seal	NO	YES	JULY
Lynch St	MLK to SE 6th St	Chip Seal	NO	YES	JULY
Prima St	SW 5th St to SW 7th St. (Road from bus barn to Brown Primary)	Chip Seal	NO	YES	AUGUST
Pine St.	3rd Ave to 5th Ave	Chip Seal	NO	YES	AUGUST

- 10) **City-wide Mosquito Spraying to Begin in May** – The recent rains combined with warmer temperatures have created the perfect breeding ground for mosquitos. Besides being a nuisance, many citizens are concerned about the threat of West Nile--><https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html> and Zika--><https://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html> viruses. In response, the City will begin spraying all roads and alley-ways twice a week in the evening hours between 9:00 pm and 3:00 am (every Tuesday and Friday beginning the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May). The City will be using “Evoluer 30-30” mosquito repellent which is mixed with an oil surfactant and delivered by a truck-mounted, ultra-low volume mister / sprayer. The manner and method in which the City dispenses the mosquito repellent solution complies with all regulatory requirements governing its use and does not present a significant health hazard to humans when delivered in DILUTE concentrations. However, the mixture can be toxic to fish and bees if sprayed directly in fish ponds or on blooming plants where bees are active. Note: Roads and alleys will be sprayed during the late evening and early morning hours when bees are not active. Click on the following link to review the [Evoluer 30-30 Safety Data Sheet \(SDS\)](#). Citizens can help do their part by keeping tall grass mowed and removing commonly overlooked breeding spots that can hold water that include old tires, clogged gutters, abandoned tubs or buckets. A good mosquito repellent (e.g., OFF, CUTTER, REPEL, etc.) is also advised if going outdoors in the late afternoon / evening. Cloves inserted into lime halves also does a decent job for localized mosquito control. Some people swear by rubbing dryer sheets on their arms. When all else fails....the palm of your hand is a tried and true, guaranteed, method of mosquito abatement!!! Mosquito spraying will continue during May and June or until the current wet weather pattern subsides. Click on the following link for some interesting facts about mosquitos-><https://www.raid.com/en-US/education/bug-basics/fascinating-mosquito-facts> Please contact City Hall at (512) 237-3282 if you have any questions or need additional information.

## City Manager Update – 5/10/24 (continued)

**11) Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Annual Report Submitted** – The Smithville Public Library submitted its annual report to TSLAC by April 12, 2024 as required for accreditation (due 4/30/2024). It is expected that TSLAC will complete their final review in July and with the continued financial support from local government funding (especially City of Smithville), the library has met the minimum standards of library accreditation (per 13 TAC §1.71 - §1.85). This means the library will maintain access to important library resources such as “TexShare” databases, Inter-library Loan access, and access to Texas State Library services, funding opportunities, and resources. The number of people that the Smithville Public Library served (through-the door count: 18,663) in FY2023 shows a 15% increase over FY2022, and it continues to increase so far this year. Program offerings and attendance have increased by about 45% over last year, mostly due to the added Libraries for Health (L4H) programming. The library, however, is still only at about 60% of pre-COVID numbers. (The above count only includes folks who come through the library doors – L4H, offsite programs, “bookmobiles” at the SISD summer lunches, etc. have served an additional ~3000 people). The library’s overall circulation (69,286 items) was relatively static from FY21 to FY22, showing about a 2.5% drop. This number averages out to almost 200 items per day, including Sundays and holidays. Several categories of materials (e-books, adult books, DVDs) increased circulation, while others stayed about the same (DVDs, audiobooks). Library staff continue to consider these circulation rates to determine the best use of materials budget for purchasing and collection development. Computer use indicates a slight increase in in-library usage while wi-fi access estimates show to be dropping slightly. The library’s programming numbers (both number of programs offered and attendance) continue to climb. For more information, contact Judy Bergeron at 512-237-3282 (ext. 2424). Congratulations to Judy and the entire Smithville Public Library staff for a job well done!!!

### Smithville Public Library Statistics (By the Numbers)



**12) Patrick Vinklarek Receives 2024 Keep Smithville Beautiful Spotlight Award** - Patrick Vinklarek received the 2024 Spotlight Award from the Keep Smithville Beautiful (KSB) organization during the Chamber of Commerce quarterly luncheon on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. A Spotlight Award is presented to an individual (or individuals) to honor their efforts, both personal and professional, and, in KSB’s case, in the field of parks and recreation. Patrick has been employed with the City of Smithville since September 24, 1991. During his 33-year career, he has been an invaluable team member, consistently demonstrating dedication and commitment to his job, the City staff, and to the citizens of Smithville. With several perfect attendance awards over the years to his credit, Patrick exemplifies reliability, reliability and reliability. You can pretty much set your clock by him and his consistency in his job performance. Not only does he take pride in his work, but he also possesses a keen eye for detail, noticing everything around him. He brings a calm demeanor to the team, preferring no drama and always being a supportive team player. Despite working quietly in the background all around the city and sometimes, too often, going unnoticed as he does his job, his absence is keenly felt when he is not there, a testament to the impact he has on those around him. Beyond his professional contributions, Patrick is known for his wonderful and occasionally sharp and quick sense of humor. Once you get to know him, you’ll find he’s quick-witted and occasionally ready with a real knee-slapper of a joke. Patrick is very beloved and cherished by his family and friends, who appreciate his kindness and warmth. Congratulations for a job well-done Patrick!!! (SEE PHOTOS)

## City Manager Update – 5/10/24 (continued)

**13) FY24/25 City of Smithville Budget Process / Timelines** - The schedule for this year’s budget process includes five (5) Council / Budget Workshops beginning in May (see below). These are preliminary dates subject to change based upon Council member availability (must have a quorum). I have also attached a more detailed explanation of what the budget process entails → [FY24/25 Budget Timeline](#) and provided links to the following → [FY23/24 Budget Information](#) (e.g., Budget Workshop #1; Budget Workshop #2; Tax Note; and the Adopted Budget). These presentations provide an overview of the budget elements with 5-years of historic data which helps us identify spending trends and targets at the departmental level. The key driver for initiating the budget process is the receipt of the preliminary appraisal property values from the Bastrop County Appraisal District (BCAD). By law, these values must be received by the taxing entities no later than April 30, 2024. Last year, the preliminary values changed and had to be updated eleven (11) times before the final Certified Appraisal Roll with Effective Tax Rate Assumptions was released on July 24, 2023. These final values drive both the M&O and I&S portion of our tax rate. They also impact our debt service. So, we are basically dealing with a moving target which makes it very difficult to publish meaningful and accurate numbers prior to the publication of the certified roll in July. Having said this, there are several workshops planned where I will provide an update regarding the budget (e.g., revenue vs. expenditures, debt obligations, Tax Note spending, etc.) that will include an overview of current projects and future plans. The city staff will be fully engaged during the entire process and there will be ample opportunity for citizens and councilmembers to provide feedback.

<b>FY25 Budget Workshop Schedule</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
5/22/2024	Budget / Council Workshop #1	City Hall	5:30 PM
6/12/2024	Budget / Council Workshop #2	City Hall	5:30 PM
7/10/2024	Budget / Council Workshop #3	City Hall	5:30 PM
8/21/2024	Budget / Council Workshop #4	City Hall	5:30 PM
9/4/2024	Budget / Council Workshop #5	City Hall	5:30 PM

**14) Playground at Riverbend Park To Be Temporarily CLOSED for Installation of New Equipment** – The large playscape at Riverbend Park (across from Chuckwagon Square) is over 25-years old and needs to be replaced. As such, the playground will be temporarily CLOSED beginning Monday, March 13, 2024 to allow installation of a new “Moon Bounce” playscape system purchased from [GameTime](#). The Moon Bounce playscape system (pictured below) is designed for children ages 5-12 and features sensory panels to encourage collaborative play. The structure also incorporates numerous Xscape climbers and multiple slides providing approximately 2,200 ft<sup>2</sup> (34’ x 66’) of play area. The original purchase cost of the playscape was \$95k (playground equipment is expensive)!!! However, Ashley Garrison (Rec Center Director) was able to obtain a grant that cut the cost in half. Adding fees for installation and ADA-compliant fiber mulch, the total cost to the city was \$80k which was paid using funds (approved by the City Council) from the Series 2023 Tax Note. Installation of the new playscape should take 7-10 days.



**Moon Bounce Playscape at Riverbend Park**

## City Manager Update – 5/10/24 (continued)

There are several events / activities planned in the next few weeks in Smithville:

The **18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SMITHVILLE FLY-IN** will be held this **Saturday, May 11, 2024** at the Smithville-Crawford Municipal Airport. The event will start at 10 a.m. and the day will be filled with airplanes, pilots, games, and prizes. Food will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information and or updates visit <https://www.facebook.com/Fly84R?fref=ts>.

**MOTHER'S DAY** is **Sunday, May 12, 2024**.

**NATIONAL POLICE WEEK** is **May 12-18, 2024**. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week is an observance in the United States that pays tribute to the local, state, and Federal Peace Officers who have died in the line of duty. If you get the opportunity, please THANK our Police Officers and Dispatchers for all they do to keep everyone safe.

The next **CITY COUNCIL** meeting will be held on **Monday, May 13, 2024** at 6:00 pm (City Hall). Click link to access the [COUNCIL AGENDA](#) and [COUNCIL DATA PACKET](#).

The **SMITHVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL FUNDRAISER** will be held on **Sunday, May 19, 2024** at Riverbend Park. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m. with the live auction beginning at 1 pm. Lunch includes fried chicken, sausage and all the sides for \$15. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. The grand prize is a \$1000 Visa gift card. For more information, click on the following link → [2024 Annual Fundraiser](#). Also, the SVFD has set up a [Venmo Account](#) to purchase tickets, donate, or to pay for auction items. Hope to see you there!

There will be a **SPECIAL-CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING / BUDGET WORKSHOP** on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024** at City Hall (317 Main) from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Please join the **SMITHVILLE VFW POST 1309** on **Monday, May 27, 2024 (Memorial Day)** at @11:00 am to honor those servicemen who have sacrificed and paid the ultimate price for our FREEDOM. The guest speaker will be Mr. Willie Culberson. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served and the public is welcome to attend. For more information, click → [George M Jones VFW Post 1309](#)

Just a reminder that **CITY OFFICES** will be **CLOSED Monday, May 27, 2024** in observance of **MEMORIAL DAY**. Office hours will be 8-5 Tuesday through Friday (May 28<sup>th</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>).

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Otherwise have a great weekend and have a **Happy Mother's Day**.



**PHOTOS (5/10/24):**

**MLK Basketball Court Rehab**



**NW 1<sup>st</sup> Sidewalk & Main Street ADA Ramp Installation Project (TXDOT Grant)**



**BJ Anderson's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**



**PHOTOS (5/10/24) - CONTINUED:**

**2024 KSB Spotlight Award**



**NE/NW 2<sup>ND</sup> PRE-CON Mtg**



**Riverbend Park Entry Sign**



**Voting Day @ City Hall with 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders – Broccoli vs. Donuts**



**2024 LCRA "STEPS FORWARD" Day Project – Downtown Smithville**



**2024 Smithville Jamboree**

