

City Manager Update – 4/11/25

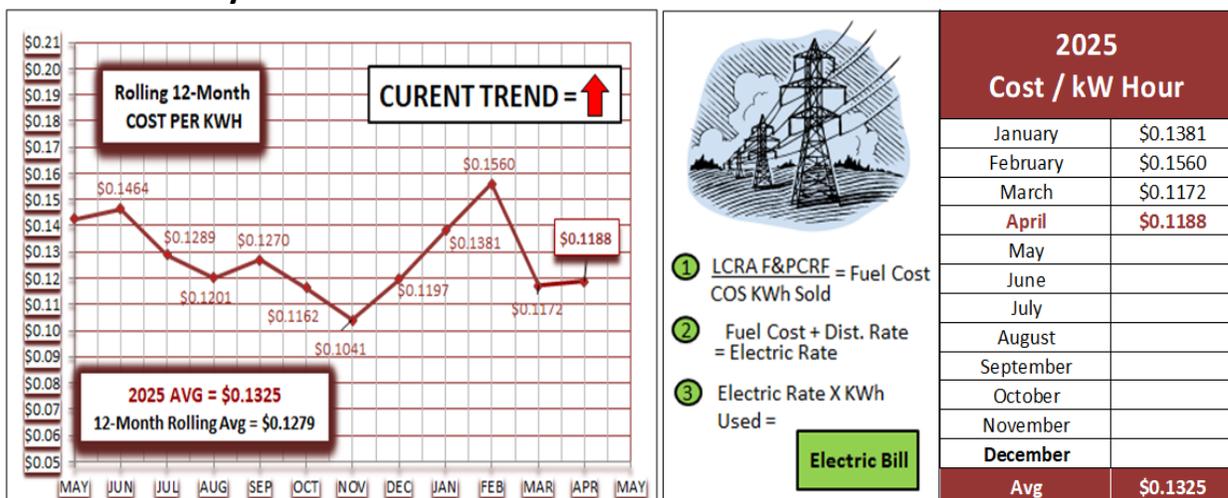
The mild temperatures and sunshine have been a welcome relief from the cold and dreary days of winter. It is my hope that we are finished with any arctic blasts until next winter as January and February were brutal. Local farmers say that winter is not officially over until the mesquite and pecan trees bloom. For the past 2-weeks, the oak pollen has left a film of yellow powder on everything outdoors and is wreaking havoc for those with allergies.

Jamboree preparations at Riverbend Park are in full swing. The annual celebration will be held **April 24, 2024 - April 26, 2025** marking the 66th year for the Critter. Click on the following links for the schedule and list of events → <http://www.jamboreesmithville.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/JamboreeCritter>. On behalf of the City of Smithville, I would like to extend a THANK YOU to the members of the Jamboree Committee for their efforts. This event takes months to plan and most folks in the community never give a second thought about what it takes to pull off a community celebration of this magnitude and duration. Last year approximately 25k people attended the 3-day event. Riverbend Park is looking great. Kudos to Edward Balusek and his team for paying attention to detail and going the extra mile mowing, weed-eating, and trimming trees at Riverbend Park. Edward’s crew will also be removing dirt and debris from the curbs and “gutters” along Loop 230. Loop 230 will be closed from 1:30 – 4:30 pm on Saturday, April 26th for the Jamboree parade. We will post on the city website, ND, and FB communicating the Loop 230 closure.

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

- 1) 2025 LCRA “Steps Forward Day” Project Held** – The City of Smithville submitted our 2025 “Steps Forward Day” project application(s) to the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) for consideration this past November and three (3) projects were approved. Volunteers from LCRA gathered on **Friday, April 11, 2025**, to work on community projects throughout LCRA’s service territory. Examples of potential projects include cleaning parks, painting pavilions, planting trees or doing carpentry work. Last year, LCRA volunteers repainted all of the ornamental lights in the downtown area. This year, LCRA volunteers supported the following projects: 1) repainted the interior and exterior of the restrooms at Riverbend Park; 2) re-painted / restriped the parking lot and wrought-iron fence at the Smithville Recreation Center; and 3) painted children’s art on the sidewalk at the Smithville Public Library. The provided the supplies and equipment necessary to support the project(s) with LCRA providing the manpower (approx. 40-50 volunteers). The City of Smithville is fortunate to have LCRA as a community partner. Programs like Steps Forward and the Community Development Partnership Program (CDPP) have definitely made a positive impact. (SEE PHOTOS)
- 2) Residential Cost Per Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Calculated** – An analysis of LCRA billing data was conducted to determine residential cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) in April. LCRA 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 April will be \$0.1188. This represents an **1.37% INCREASE** compared to March’s cost per kWh of \$0.1172. 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).

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh – APRIL 2025



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 – 4/11/25 (continued)

- 3) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for April 2025 vs. April 2024 (retail sales made primarily in February). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax that were purchased in Smithville. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for April was **\$62,494**. This represents a **4.43% DECREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. All municipalities in Bastrop County posted a decrease in net sales tax payments this month. The state collects 8.25% on every dollar of which the City gets 1.5%. A very rough calculation would show that for every \$1M spent, the State gets \$67.5k and the City receives \$15k. So, for the City to receive \$62.5k in monthly sales tax revenue in April, approximately **\$4,167,000** of local goods and services would need to be sold in December. This sounds like a lot of money but one needs to consider all the goods and services the businesses operating in this town provide to consumers in any given month (e.g., restaurants, grocers, C-stores, furniture stores, auto parts, retail shops, professional services, and Amazon Prime deliveries, etc.). As a reminder, sales tax dollars are used to make street / road repairs and help pay for community services like the LIBRARY, FIRE, and POLICE. Thanks to all who continue to SHOP LOCAL --- it makes a difference!!!

Bastrop County Sales Tax Allocation - April 2025

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2025 Payments To Date	2024 Payments	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	\$866,944	\$1,018,673	-14.89%	\$4,479,629	\$4,164,430	7.56%
Elgin	1.50%	\$303,963	\$307,549	-1.16%	\$1,439,447	\$1,319,554	9.08%
Smithville	1.50%	\$62,494	\$65,395	-4.43%	\$313,750	\$294,078	6.68%
Bastrop County	0.50%	\$624,576	\$685,616	-8.90%	\$3,137,306	\$2,827,291	10.96%

- 4) **“Notify Me” Alerts Available on City Website** – In an effort to enhance communication, improve community engagement, and increase transparency, the City has a new feature on our website whereby citizens can receive notification via text and/or email for a variety of city notices, meetings, and events. On the city website landing page, there is a [“Notify Me”](#) radial button that will allow citizens to sign up for over 2-dozen types of alerts (e.g., council agendas, specific meeting dates, general news, alerts, city manager updates, etc.). Citizens will need to set-up an account and user-defined password. Once the set-up and login are complete, citizens can select the type of notifications they would like to receive and method of delivery (e.g., text, email).
- 5) **EIA-861 Annual Electric Power Industry Report Submitted** – The City submitted the 2024 Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Power Industry Report." The annual report identifies the revenue generated, Megawatt Hours (MWh) used, line loss, and the number of customers for whom the City of Smithville provided power during 2024. Here is a summary of electricity usage from 2019-2024:

City of Smithville EIA-861 Annual Energy Use Report

City of Smithville Electric Power Use	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Revenue (\$USD)	\$4,967,000	\$5,286,000	\$5,540,854	\$5,589,000	\$5,383,000
Megawatt Hours (MWh) Billed	39,044	38,458	40,400	40,373	39,808
Average # of Customers*	2248	2272	2289	2301	2330
Megawatt (MWh) Purchased (LCRA / UGE)	43,432	42,730	44,731	42,974	42,320
% Line Loss (Includes unmetered use)	10.10%	10.00%	9.68%	6.05%	5.94%
*Includes residential, commercial, and customers with service outside the city limits	Average Line Loss				8.35%

As you can see by the data above, we had a slight increase in the number of utility customers served in 2024. We added an average 29 new utility customers in 2024 for a total of 2,330 customers. The City’s consumption in megawatt hours (MWh) was slightly lower in 2024 compared to 2023. There was a decrease in revenue of \$206,000 compared to the prior year. Our line loss in 2024 was calculated at 5.94% which represents a 1.9% decrease (improvement) from 2023. This includes losses due to inefficient transformers, uninsulated lines, and unmetered sales / use (e.g., street lights). EIA Electric Surveys are mandatory under the authority of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-275), as amended. The annual EIA-861 report was compiled and submitted well before the April 30, 2025 deadline. Special THANKS to **Nadine Harris, Rosie Johnson, and Cynthia White** for their efforts.

City Manager Update – 4/11/25 (continued)

- 6) **CenterPoint Energy Annual Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (GRIP) Interim Rate Adjustment (IRA)** - The City is a member of the Alliance of CenterPoint Municipalities (“ACM”). The ACM group was organized by a number of municipalities served by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., South Texas Division (“CenterPoint”) and has been represented by the law firm of Herrera Law & Associates, PLLC (through Mr. Alfred R. Herrera) to assist in reviewing applications to change rates submitted by CenterPoint. CenterPoint Energy is asking the Texas Railroad Commission for a Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (GRIP) Interim Rate Adjustment (IRA) to their base rate(s). Under Texas law (re: Gas Utilities Regulatory Act), we do not have the ability to oppose the rate increase. However, we can postpone the effective date of the proposed increase for 45-days. The rate will be increased by \$2.88/month for residential service from \$25.00 to \$27.88. The adjusted monthly charge (base rate) for small and large commercial service will be \$53.14 and \$291.20 respectively. This represents an average increase between 12-27%. The rate increase will help recover incremental spending for capital infrastructure improvements in its South Texas Division. The proposed IRA will become effective on **April 19, 2025** unless the City chooses to suspend the IRA effective date until **June 3, 2025**. This will be an item for consideration during the April 14, 2025 Council meeting.
- 7) **2025 City of Smithville Councilmember and SISD School Board Elections** – Candidate filing for the 2025 City of Smithville General Election is complete. A list of candidates and the position(s) for which they are running is provided below. Election Day is Saturday, May 3, 2025. Early voting begins April 22, 2025 and ends April 29, 2025. Voting will be held at the Smithville Recreation Center (106 Royston). Click on the following link for additional information (e.g., sample ballot, polling locations, etc.) → <https://www.bastropvotes.org/election-information-2/upcoming-elections/>. As a reminder, all political signs on private property must be removed within 7-days after the election per City of Smithville Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14 - Zoning, Part 3, General Development Standards, [Section 3.7.2 - “Political Signs”](#). Good luck to all the candidates!

City Council / SISD Trustee Candidates For 2025 General Election

	Position	Candidate	Term Length	Term Expires	Election Type	Candidate Status
City of Smithville	Alderman - Place 1	Tyrone Washington	2-Years	May 2027	General	Unopposed
	Alderman - Place 2	Brandon Dunham	2-Years	May 2027	General	Challenger
		Cale Lammerts*				Challenger
	Alderman - Place 3	Jimmy Jenkins	2-Years	May 2027	General	Incumbent
Brian Wells		Challenger				
SISD	Trustee - Place 5	Josh Magden	3-Years	May 2028	General	Unopposed
	Trustee - Place 6	Candice Parsons	3-Years	May 2028	General	Unopposed
	Trustee - Place 7	Michael Hancock	3-Years	May 2028	General	Unopposed

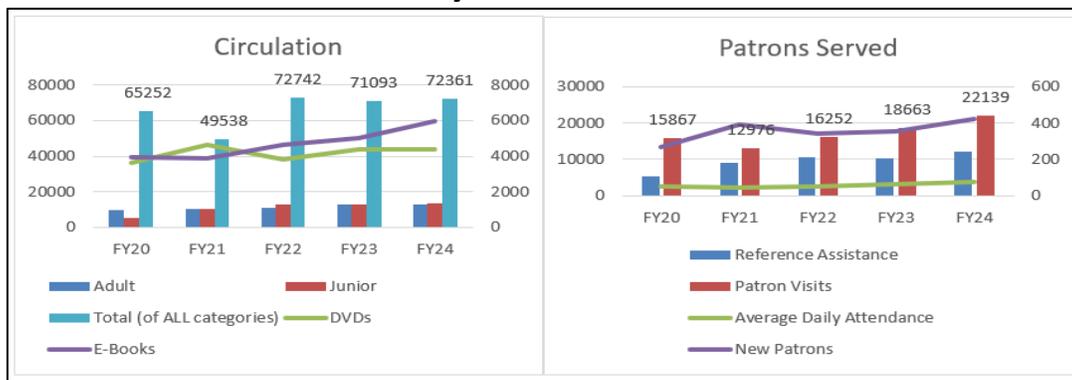
* Cale Lammerts is an official "Write-In" Candidate

- 8) **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event Held** - The City of Smithville partnered with the City of Bastrop, Keep Smithville Beautiful, Bastrop County, and Lee County to hold a PAINT, PESTICIDES, and USED CHEMICALS collection event on March 15, 2025 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility located at 109 Taylor and SE 2nd Street in Smithville. A special THANK YOU to the twenty-four (24) volunteers that helped make the event a success (SEE PHOTOS). The next HHW collection event is scheduled for **October 18, 2025**.
- 9) **WaterSmart (VertexOne) Customer Interface Portal Available to City of Smithville Utility Customers** – The WaterSmart (VertexOne) customer interface portal is now available to all Smithville utility customers. WaterSmart is a user-friendly platform that will help citizens better monitor and manage the water portion of their utility bills by providing the ability to set up leak alerts, track water usage, view historical trends, and pay on-line. WaterSmart can also generate a water “score” compared to other local neighborhood use and offer cost savings recommendations / solutions to help citizens conserve water and save money. For additional information, click on the following link to see the capabilities of → [WaterSmart](#) and/or contact the Smithville Utility Department on (512) 237-3282. Customers will need their utility account number to log in and set-up a password to access the [Smithville WaterSmart Portal](#). In the future, we will be adding an interface to allow citizens to monitor their electric use.

City Manager Update – 4/11/25 (continued)

10) Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Annual Report Submitted - The Smithville Public Library submitted its annual report to TSLAC on March 28, 2025 as required for accreditation (due 4/30/2025). 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 (pending TSLAC funding which is in question since The institute for Museum and Library Services has essentially been closed). The number of people that the Smithville Public Library served (through-the door count) was **22,139**. This shows an **18.6% increase in FY24** compared to FY23. So far this year, the number of patrons and people served continues to increase. Program offerings and attendance have **increased by about 35%** over last year, mostly due to the added Libraries for Health (L4H) programming. The library, however, is up to ~ 70% of pre-COVID numbers. (The above count only includes folks who come through the library doors - the L4H programs, offsite programs such as Summer Reading Club shows, "bookmobiles" at the SISD summer lunches, etc. have served an additional 5,573 people). The library's overall circulation (72,361 items) shows a slight (2%) increase over last year. 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 or decreased (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).

Smithville Public Library - Circulation and Patrons Served



11) FY23-24 Financial Audit Completed – Singleton, Clark & Company, PC completed the annual audit of the City of Smithville's 2023-24 financial statements during the month of March. The results of the audit indicate that assets exceeded liabilities by \$17,201,086 at the close of the fiscal year. The total net position of the city increased by \$709,426 (General Fund increased \$697,017 and Utility Fund increased \$12,409). The City's governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of \$3,344,317, an increase of \$716,393 in comparison with the prior year. The City's total debt increased by \$1,759,105 during the current fiscal year. The reason for the increase was due to the City issuing Tax Note, Series 2023 in the amount of \$2,915,000. The total outstanding bonded debt at the end of the fiscal year was \$9,146,820. The City currently has a "AA-minus" bond rating. The City was also required to perform a Single Audit for the fiscal year due to federal expenditures being greater than \$750,000. Federal awards/grants for the fiscal year totaled \$2,085,959 (e.g., GLO-CDBG MIT, TXDOT TASA, ARPA, TDA Innovation Center). There were no findings or questioned costs found during the Single Audit. Overall, the City received a "clean" financial audit for fiscal year ending 9/30/24. **Jack Clark** (Singleton, Clark & Company, PC) will be presenting the results of the financial audit during the April 14, 2025 City Council meeting.

12) Special-Called City Council Meeting / Workshop Scheduled – The City Council will hold a Special-Called Meeting / Workshop on **Thursday, April 24, 2025** from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at City Hall (317 Main) to discuss Wastewater Expansion options with a company based in Georgetown, TX named [reUse](#). This workshop will serve as an introduction to [advanced membrane bioreactor \(MBR\) technology](#) and its potential applications for the City of Smithville. The reUse team will present an overview of the system's capabilities, highlight its advantages over conventional treatment methods, and discuss potential implementation plans tailored to the city's long-term infrastructure goals.

City Manager Update – 4/11/25 (continued)

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

The **SMITHVILLE POLICE ASSOCIATION** will be hosting their annual **BLUE BUNNY EASTER EGG HUNT** on **Saturday, April 12, 2025** at 9:00 a.m. The Easter egg hunt will be at Martin Luther King, Jr (MLK) Park. Volunteers will be placing approximately 2,500 candy filled eggs throughout the park. Hope to see you there!!!!

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK is **April 13-19, 2025**. National Public Safety Telecommunications Week (NPSTW), has been set aside to recognize and celebrate the work of telecommunicators helping to save millions of lives every day. This week-long event is a time to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public by ensuring prompt and safe response of our local law enforcement, firefighters, and paramedics. The Smithville PD has a great team of dedicated Telecommunicators (Dispatchers) who effectively communicate and multi-task in emergency situations. Let's acknowledge their hard work and dedication!

The next **CITY COUNCIL** meeting will be held on **Monday, April 14, 2025** at 6:00 pm (City Hall). Click for link to access the [COUNCIL AGENDA AND DATA PACKET](#).

There will be a [PLANNED WATER OUTAGE](#) on the "HILL" – **Monday, April 14, 2025** from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am.

CITY OFFICES will be **CLOSED** on **Friday, April 18, 2025** in observance of **Good Friday**.

SOUTHSIDE PRIDE UNITY EVENT will be held on **Saturday, April 19, 2025** at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church (409 Walker St.) beginning at 11:00 am. For more information, click on the following link → [UNITY EVENT](#).

EASTER – Sunday, April 20, 2025.

EARLY VOTING begins **Tuesday, April 22, 2025** and continues through **Tuesday, April 29, 2025** at the Smithville Recreation Center (106 Royston). Election Day is Saturday, May 3, 2025.

The next **CHAMBER QUARTERLY LUNCHEON** will be held on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025** (from 11:10 am to 1:00 pm) at VFW Hall (557 NW Loop 230). TJ Greaney will be speaking. Mr. Greaney spent 20 years as an outdoor journalist, traveling the globe to write adventure stories. Today, he's the voice behind The Outdoor Zone, (a top-rated outdoor radio show airing Sunday mornings on ESPN-Austin). Tickets are \$25 in advance (\$30 at the door). You can register for the luncheon online at <https://smithvilletx.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/9187>

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL'S DAY is **Wednesday, April 23, 2025**. Many thanks to Jennifer Lynch (City Secretary) and all the City's "administrators" for everything they do.

There will be a **SPECIAL-CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING / WORKSHOP** on **Thursday, April 24, 2025** from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at City Hall (317 Main) to discuss Wastewater Expansion options.

The next monthly **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MIXER** will be held on **Thursday, April 24, 2025** (from 5-7:00 pm) sponsored by Subway, EH Mercantile, and surrounding businesses.

The **66TH ANNUAL [SMITHVILLE JAMBOREE](#)** will be held on **April 24-26, 2025** at Riverbend Park.

City Offices will be **CLOSED** at NOON on **Friday, April 25, 2025** for Jamboree.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Have a good weekend,

-- Robert --



PHOTOS – 4/11/25

NE/NW 2nd Street Drainage Project – Road Reconstruction / Paving



Loop 230 Detention Pond Construction Progress – Estimated Completion Date (October 2025)



2025 LCRA Steps Forward Day – Volunteers working at Riverbend Park, Smithville Public Library & Rec Center



Wildflowers on The Hill

Bluebonnets and Pink Phlox

“The Gas Flamingo” – Where Am I?

