

# December 2024 Administrators Update



The Christmas decorations went up last week. You may notice the absence of some decorations in the downtown area. This is due to power upgrades Liberty Utilities is making in the downtown area. Some of our 50-year-old decorations are starting to really show their age. I have started looking around for some “first of the year for deals” on replacing and/or acquiring some better Christmas decorations and lighting. I think if we replace some of the decorations in 2025 and then again in 2026, we can modernize the display. The shocking part of the upgrades is of course, the costs of commercial grade products.

The Chamber has expressed an interest in joining with the city in creating a drive through light display in Shadowrock Park. A committee will be formed after the first of the year to start looking into that process.

Public works has been working on the Lead and Copper pipe survey that is mandated by the EPA through the DNR. This is a huge project because it requires visual inspection of every meter pit in the city to determine what materials the pipes are made of going in to and out of the meter pit. The study is to ascertain how many households may have lead pipe or copper fittings (lead in the solder). Given that our community is young in comparison to other communities, it is unlikely that we have lead pipes in our system, therefore, our city will not likely be eligible for any grants that may soon be available to homeowners that may have lead or copper pipes inside the structure. However, the mandate to report the meter survey in the very short time frame given by the EPA remains a challenge for our small staff.

The SCADA system is still in the construction phase. We will start to see some activity around some of the bigger lift stations soon. The daily checking of the lifts remains one of the bigger consumers of the public works time. One of the more problematic locations is in the process of being fully upgraded with new pumps and hardware due to age.



Our fleet of trucks is in transition for winter. The public works crews are outfitting the trucks with the salt beds and are making sure the blades are ready for a winter event should one come about.

Chief Bower, Chief Brasher and I toured the Gateway trail this month. We had received a tip that there was a large tree down blocking the trail. The trail appeared to be in pretty good shape, however, maintaining the trail moving forward, we will need to consider obtaining some smaller equipment



that can access the thinner trails to move staff and equipment down into the more remote parts for general clean-up, limb removal and possible extraction of injured individuals.



The mayor has asked that we investigate improving our disabled access to city assets. A recent study has exposed a few things that we could be doing better for our citizens that have mobility issues. Over the next few months, we will be making some improvements around town. As always, if anyone needs special assistance accessing one of our buildings or meetings, they can call ahead to city hall, and we will make every effort to assist those individuals.

A lot of my time this month has been consumed with research and the preparation for the upcoming Use Tax. We will be hosting several public question and answer sessions between now and April 2025. If citizens have questions or need additional information, there are several new pages and a video available on our newly revamped website. [Forsythmo.gov](http://Forsythmo.gov)



The pickleball nets have arrived and are being installed. In addition to all the courts being fully refurbished, the lighting will also be updated with some new, modern, energy efficient LED fixtures.

Filing for the upcoming election is now open and runs through December 31<sup>st</sup>. There are three, two-year term seats open in this cycle. The mayor, and two aldermen, one from each ward. Citizens interested in running need to come to city hall and fill out the proper forms, have them notarized and turn them in to the city clerk before 5pm on December 31<sup>st</sup>.