

Town of Gate City
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Town Manager Report – December 10th, 2024

- **Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD): Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project: Phase II**

Phase two of the Park Street project includes the rehabilitation of five housing units, the substantial reconstruction of one unit and the clearance and demolition of one blighted unit, serving nineteen low- to moderate-income people.

December 2022 – DHCD was awarded funding for the Phase II Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project on November 16th, 2022.

Funding Awarded:

DHCD: CDBG:	\$687,968
AEP	\$35,000
Town (In-Kind)	<u>\$12,000</u>
Total	\$734,968

December 2024: Project Updates:

- 326 Park St (Fischer) is now completed.
- 347 Park St (Bradshaw) is under construction.
- 308 Park St (Jeffries) will start after 347 is completed.
- 309 Park St (Fish – demo) still working on finding demo contractor.

- **Dog Park Project**

July 2024 – Council has awarded \$5,000 in funding through the FY 2025 budget for this project. The Planning Commission will be moving forward in developing signage and amenities for the dog park in the coming months.

- **Request for Proposals: Scott County Historic Society Building and Wall Repair**

May 2023 - The deadline for the RFP has been extended to April 5th, 2023. We did not receive any proposals. A local contractor is interested in the project but wants engineering plans for the drainage. Town Council has approved Mattern & Craig to

develop a drainage plan. A new RFP will be developed once the drainage plan is complete.

December 2024: Construction Easement is in place and the design is nearly complete.

- **VDH Backup Generator Project – WSL 007-21**

November 2024 – I am currently working with the Virginia Resource Authority (VRA) to close on the backup generator project. VRA has requested data to assist them with their credit analysis. This will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

December 2024 – All of the documents VRA requested have been submitted. We are expecting to close this project very soon.

- **Decorative Street Light Removal**

December 2024: AEP has installed the new LED lights on Jackson Street. The decorative lights have been turned off to see the lighting coverage with the new LED lights. We will start the decorative streetlight removal process shortly.

- **Water Street Parking Lot Development Project**

December 2024: Council has approved the construction contract with Quesenberry Construction for the Phase I of the Community Park Development Project on Water Street.

I met with Quesenberry Construction and Spectrum Designs on December 4th, 2024, and discussed the following:

Pickleball Courts

The design team has proposed a modification that would allow us to include four pickleball courts instead of the originally planned two. The courts can be reoriented so that, if the Town decides to repurpose the area in the future, it can be converted into two tennis courts. While this redesign will slightly extend into the green space, the overall cost will remain the same.

Basketball Court and Surface Colors

We also discussed the basketball court and need to decide between a concrete base with a rubber coating or an asphalt base with a rubber coating. I've reached out to Leslie to see if she can contact Matt McClung for his input, but I'd appreciate your feedback as well.

In addition, we have the option to choose the colors for the surfaces of the pickleball court, basketball court, and skatepark. A suggested option is to use a color resembling "Gate City Blue" to create a cohesive and branded look for the park.

Skate Park Layout Options

The team also presented three different layout options for the skate park, designed to align with low-, medium-, and high-range budget levels. I would recommend going with the middle-range option, as it offers a good balance between features and cost. If Council chooses, we can always add additional amenities later as funding allows.

Fencing and Lighting

There was discussion about adding fencing around the pickleball and basketball courts. Since fencing wasn't included in the Phase I budget, I've asked the contractors to draft a separate engagement for this addition.

On the topic of lighting, I'll be meeting with AEP to gather their feedback on options for the park to ensure adequate and cost-effective lighting throughout.

Cost-Saving Opportunity

The team identified a potential cost-saving measure. The asphalt area between the parking lot and green space—currently reserved for a future stage—could be left as is for now and used as a temporary space for food trucks until we move forward with stage construction. This could be a practical, interim solution that enhances usability in the short term. Quesenberry Construction will inspect the existing asphalt to see if this can be done.

Pickleball Court Field Trip – December 19

To help us better visualize some of these plans, we've scheduled a field trip on December 19th to visit area pickleball courts.

- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

Both the funding match for the Kane Street Sidewalk Project and the Phase I of the Community Park Development Project are under contract. The remaining ARPA funds have been obligated. The two projects must be completed by December 31, 2026. The Treasury portal opens for reporting on April 1, and the signed contracts that demonstrate the obligation must be submitted by April 30th, 2025.

- **2024 Comprehensive Plan**

July 2024 – The Comprehensive Plan for Gate City is due by December 31st, 2024. The Planning Commission will need to adopt by December 3rd, 2024. The Town Council will need to conduct a Public Hearing and adopt on December 10th, 2024. Both Council and the Planning Commission will receive draft copies by the beginning of November 2024.

November 2024 – The Comprehensive Plan is expected to be complete in early January 2025.

- **Lead and Copper Compliance Program**

August 2024 – In May 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released final revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The rule requires all utility services to create an inventory of public and private water service lines by October 16, 2024.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has required monitoring of lead and copper content in drinking water since 1991. The town's water has been in compliance with safe standards since monitoring began.

The Town of Gate City must compile a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSL Inventory). The inventory must include the Town's portion of the water service line (before and including the water meter) and the customer's portion of the service line (after the water meter into the home or business). Lead service lines were primarily installed during the late 1800s through the 1940s with a federal lead ban effective June 19, 1986.

All municipalities in the United States are required to complete the Lead Service Line inventory. The Town of Gate City will be conducting a customer survey in order to gain information on the type of service lines going into their homes. Please watch for this survey in your next water bill. LENOWISCO has secured \$25,000 in funding for the Town of Gate City to help complete the inventory.

September 2024 – A webpage has been created: <https://mygatecity.com/water-line-survey-material-survey/#survey> This webpage provides the information about the program and online survey for the convenience of our residents. We have targeted eleven areas in Town that have galvanized water lines. Our Public Works Team will be surveying these areas for our initial submission that is due by October 15th, 2024. Letters about this project have been mailed to our residents as well.

October 2024 – The Public Works team completed surveys for Davidson Subdivision, Willow, Walnut, Lynn Drive, Ravine, Anderson, Elm, and McConnell Street areas. We received online responses from 58 residents and have received 151 responses from our direct mailing campaign. The data is currently being uploaded to the Virginia Department of Health's portal. The due date is October 16th, 2024 for the first initial reporting.

November 2024 – The initial deadline of October 16th, 2024 for the first initial reporting has been met. VDH has advised that we have until November 14th, 2024 to report the 'unknown' material. Our Town Crew is currently collecting that information.

December 2024 – The Town Crew completed the survey for the 'unknown material'. The data has been submitted through VDH's website portal on November 14th, 2024.

- **Kane Street Mural Project**

December 2024 – The Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed design with one minor change. The lettering ‘Town Gate City, VA’ has been added for context. **Council Action: Approve the mural design.**

- **Hurricane Helene – September 27th, 2024**

October 2024 – Hurricane Helene hit Gate City Friday morning, September 27th, 2024. AEP reported that 282,000 customers lost power. The hurricane caused 2,500 spans of fallen wire and damaged equipment, including 585 poles, 315 cross arms, and 150 transformers. Destructive winds and downed trees destroyed nearly 80 transmission lines across Appalachian Power's system. The power restoration began on Sunday, September 29th, 2024, with most of the residents power restored by Thursday, October 3rd, 2024. The Water Plant regained power on Sunday, September 29th, 2024, after being off line for 2.5 days. A voluntary boil water was issued for Estil Heights subdivision and area at higher elevation. The boil water advisory was lifted on Thursday, October 3rd, 2024.

Currently work is taking place to remove fallen trees. FEMA funding for Scott County has been allocated for this storm on Thursday, October 10th, 2024. The Town is presently working to bring in Asplundh Tree Removal Service to Gate City. All downed trees and storm debris should be placed (if possible) at the edge of the road for pickup. Please contact the Town Hall to be placed on the list.

FEMA announced individual assistance funding on October 14th, 2024. Funding can help pay for essential items, temporary housing, home repairs, and other needs due to the hurricane. Residents can call FEMA at (800) 621-3362 or apply online: [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov).

The Scott County Emergency Services Coordinator will be submitting funding requests to FEMA on the Town's behalf.

November 2024 - Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC and Top Notch Tree Services have been contracted for debris removal. The debris in Big Moccasin Creek alongside Old Nickelsville Highway will be the first area of concern that will be addressed. Once the debris in Big Moccasin Creek is resolved, they will move to the Hillcrest Subdivision and Beverly Circle area. Top Notch Tree Service will also help with the remaining trees that need to be cleared. Residents are encouraged to contact the Town Hall if they have debris from the hurricane that needs to be removed. If possible, the debris should be moved to the curbing for pickup.

December 2024 – Top Notch Tree Service has completed taking down the damaged trees as a result of the hurricane. Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC is expected to be in town for debris removal soon.