

20  
25



Year End Report  
Presented to Council by  
City Manager Richard Healy



February 17, 2026

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*A beautiful sunset at the July Jefferson Friday event.*

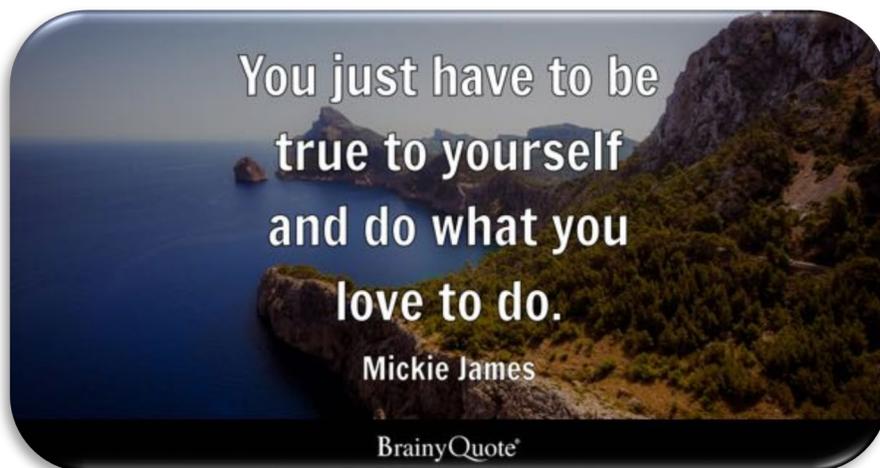
Mayor Randy Chamberlain  
Vice Mayor Sara Wood-Shaw  
Councilman Dennis Hall  
Councilman David Wood  
Councilman Eugene Saunders  
Councilwoman Ginger DeWitt  
Councilman Don DeWitt

Copy to: City Clerk Sondra Hewitt, Finance Director Karen Ankrom, Treasurer Lacey Williams, All Department Heads, Water Board Chair, Sanitary Board Chair, City-County Library, Local Media, Other Interested Parties, File

RE: Year End Report

February 17, 2026 *(Revised February 18, 2026)*

It is with pride that I present this year-end report for 2025, which outlines accomplishments and finances, reviews my year as City Manager, and looks ahead to 2026 and beyond. These accomplishments are not only by me, or a department head, or a councilperson, but by us, collectively. WE continue to move forward, whether it is with a new piece of equipment, a paved street, a dilapidated structure removed, or that extra assistance given by an employee. These efforts make other people's lives better. I cannot list everything that happens in a year, but hopefully this report gives a good snapshot of Moundsville – 2025!



## *Financial*

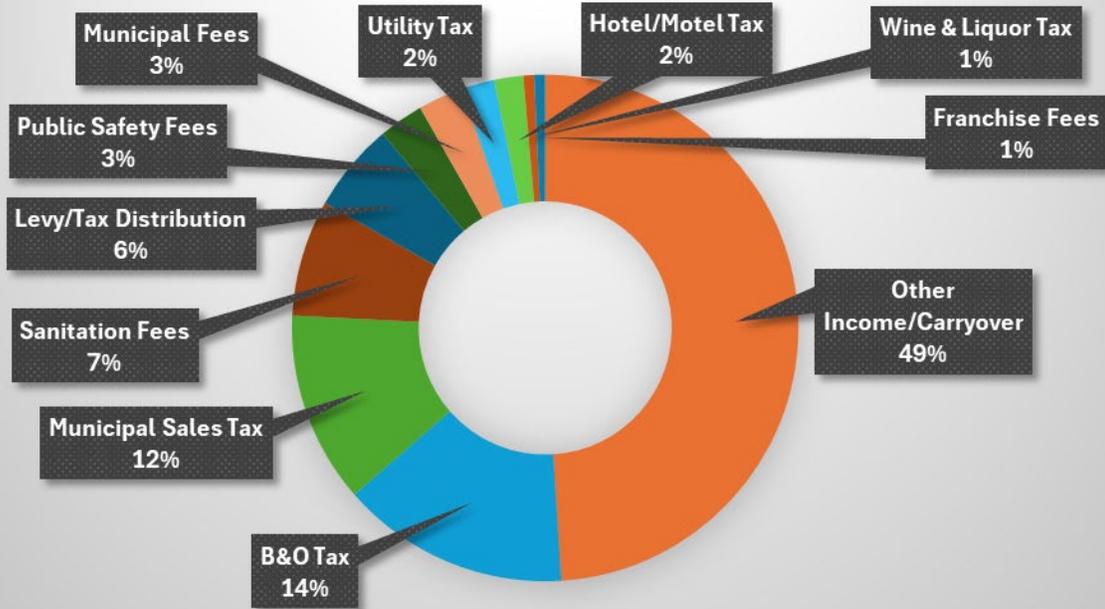
Total projected revenues for fiscal year 2025-2026 are \$18,844,091.00 with \$10,145,518.00 of that being new revenue. The balance of that (\$8,698,573.00) is carryover. The new revenue number is slightly ahead of the previous year. The leading source of revenue is the Business & Occupation (B&O) Tax, budgeted at \$2,750,000.00. This accounts for about 27.1% of the new revenue. This year the Municipal Sales Tax is budgeted at \$2,300,000.00. Together, they account for almost half of the new revenue. Any changes to the B&O or Municipal Sales Tax statutes that reduce these could seriously damage the growth and progress in the city. There continues to be legislation introduced to attack these revenues, primarily B&O. An overall elimination is highly unlikely without a mechanism to backfill. However, reducing one or the other of our prime revenue sources would be detrimental. The overall fiscal picture of the city is strong, with the Municipal Sales Tax continuing to provide the “extras” that improve the quality of life, and that the citizens deserve – even while funding the construction of a new Municipal-Public Safety Building.

Many capital expenditures were funded under the current fiscal year. In addition to on-going leases for cruisers, work trucks, and fire trucks, other departmental highlights included:

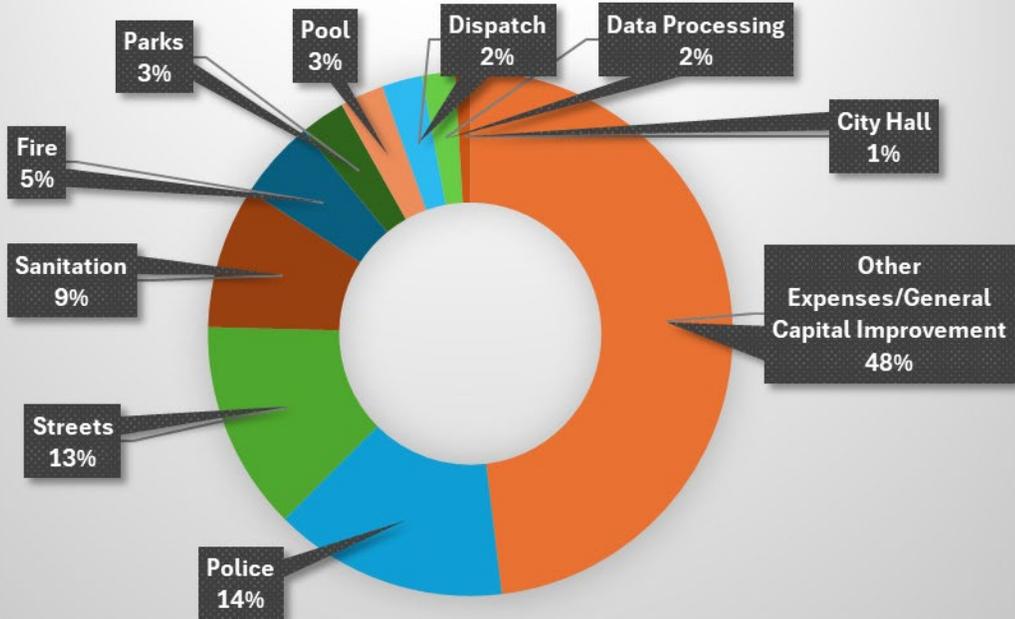
- Public Works
  - New Case Backhoe
- Parks & Recreation
  - New Storage Shed
  - New Softball Dugouts
- Police Department
  - Body Camera Storage
- Sanitation Department
  - New Dumpsters

The graphs on the next page illustrate the budgeted Revenues and Expenditures for the current budget year.

## 2025-2026 BUDGETED REVENUE



## 2025-2026 BUDGETED EXPENSES



Municipal Sales and Use Tax receipts for calendar year 2024 were \$2,295,249.34, up from \$2,110,339.94, approximately 8%.



The ability to purchase new equipment, vehicles, programs, etc. has been made much easier by implementing the 1% Municipal Sales Tax. This allows purchases without impacting the general fund. In 2025, the following larger projects/purchases were made using the 1% receipts:

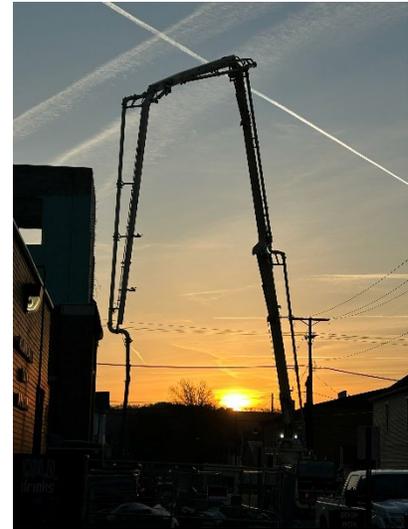
- Paving - \$355,709.24 was used to pay approximately one half of the 2025 Paving Program expenses. The balance is paid by Municipal Fee fund.
- Demolition - \$22,311.26 was used for demolition activities including asbestos inspections/abatement.
- Recycling – Since 2025 was a grant year, no expenses were needed for the program. However, \$18,624.12 was used (in part) to fund repairs/upgrades to the building.
- Police Department – purchased drone technology and gear expending \$4,353.07.
- Historic Landmarks - \$4,034.00 was used for landscaping, and sign brackets (for banners).
- Land Reuse Agency - \$6,469.10 was used for property purchases and training.
- On Trac – Grants and events were funded with \$7,457.61.
- \$25,000.00 was used to assist the Marshall County Historical Society’s purchase of a building for a museum.
- City Building – funds were used to pay the debt service for the new City Building.

The Business & Occupation Tax receipts seem to have leveled off, with the exception of the extraordinary B&O. This allows the city to fund pay raises, employee benefits, and operating capital. Caution must be taken, however, with the current State Legislature continuing to target this funding mechanism.

## **New Municipal/Public Safety Building**

On August 22, 2022, I signed a contract with &build to construct the new Municipal/Public Safety Building. The project was projected to be complete in thirteen months. Unfortunately, on Friday, March 22, 2024, we learned that the construction would be halted, as the contractor filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection. A Takeover Agreement was signed in October of 2024, naming Great Lakes Restoration as the new General Contractor. Work did not re-start until January of 2025. Although the new expected completion date is still moving, I can confidently say that we will be in the building in 2026.

In late 2025, plans for the actual “move-in” again started being discussed. Furniture and fixtures were selected and ordered, and more excitement was building with staff members. I expect there to be a very happy contingent of Council, employees, and residents when we officially open the facility. An open house, with tours, music, and snacks should be planned to commemorate this event. All of us that have been a part of this project will leave a legacy for many generations, and it is something that is worthy to be proud of.



*Early morning concrete pumping for the new City Building.*

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## **Technology**

Technology Services Group (TSG), located at the Highlands, continues to be a great partner with the city. They provide hardware support in the Police, Fire, Public Works Departments, as well as City Hall and the Water and Sanitary Departments. This feature provides a 24-hour help desk, and two hours of preventative maintenance monthly. TSG also monitors a cloud-based back-up system for City Hall and the Water Department. This assures the city of a quick recovery in case of a tragedy. They have been a major part of the overall IT design for the new city building. They are installing the entire sound system in Council Chambers, and they are also supplying training boards for the conference rooms. TSG also designed and supports our website ([www.cityofmoundsville.com](http://www.cityofmoundsville.com)) and accompanying app.

City Hall also added the Accu-Fund Work Order module in 2025. This function allows certain individuals to enter work orders into the system, which are then sent directly to the department. This has eliminated typing onto triplicate work order forms, which have been the norm for decades.

The Technology line item in the 1% is extremely important and allows us to replace/upgrade computer equipment as needed. Additionally, we can look for new innovative technology and add, as needed.

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## **Communications/Social Media/Transparency**

With transparency in government in the forefront of the news daily, the city continues to provide as much transparency as possible. With the opening of the new building in 2026, live streaming of meetings will be made available, joining the County Commission, who began streaming January of 2026. Civic Clerk has allowed the elimination of paper packets, and also provides live in-person voting, shown on the screen during meetings. Over 10,000 pieces of paper are saved annually by eliminating these packets. The city is also participating in the West Virginia Open Checkbook Program, offered by the West Virginia State Auditor's Office. This allows anyone to access financial information about the city. This program is another step to full transparency, but will also give an opportunity to highlight programs, such as the 1% Sales Tax success.

The city's website continues to be a strong way to connect with citizens and visitors. Approximately 41,000 people visited the site up from 27,050. The most visited page is the On-Line Bill Pay section, with 13,000 views, followed by the Parks & Recreation page with 4,200 views. Placed on the website are the minutes for Council Meetings, dating back to 2007. Another feature of the website is the "Contact Us" section. This allows residents to send quick comments, complaints, etc. through the website. I receive all of these and distribute them to the proper personnel. I also require them to copy me on any action, so I know it is completed. This feature has had almost five hundred submissions since it went live. Many forms have been added to the site, with the goal to increase the "fill-in" forms.

The website also ties to a free app, which allows notifications to be sent immediately to alert users about things like water boil orders, road closures, emergency weather alerts, etc. The items can be cross posted to Facebook at the same time. The Water Board uses this to issue and release all boil orders, and I encourage all departments to use the site for their information, as well.

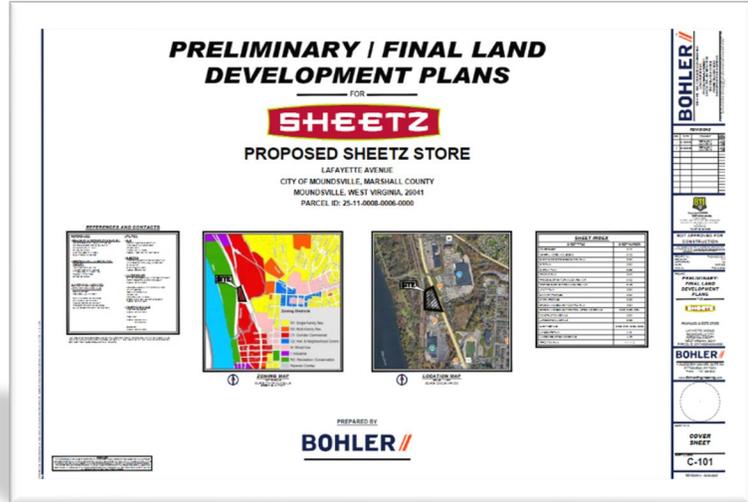
The Facebook page, administered by City Manager Healy and Administrative Secretary Jasenec, is used to announce city sponsored events, projects, employment opportunities, department highlights, Council presentations, local business announcements, sharing of local events, and much more. Using Facebook allows posts to be made anytime to thousands of people quickly, with no expense. After adding 800 followers in 2024, over 2,000 were added in 2025. While Facebook and social media in general have drawbacks, it is the medium used to get news quickly. Some interesting statistics are the largest age group is 35-44 years of age, only 53% are from Moundsville, and 84 messages were sent to the city for information over the Facebook Messenger platform. Overall views on the page for the year were 2,721,036, with 39,103 interactions. In 2025, the post that generated the most excitement was made on November 14, announcing the construction of Sheetz in Moundsville. That post had 124,884 views! In contrast, the largest post from 2024 had 26,225 views! Other popular posts were the Jefferson Friday post in July, House Decorating in November, and Family Pool Nights in June. Other city entities also operate their own websites including the Police and Fire Departments, Water Department, Arts & Culture Commission, On-Trac, and Friends of Park and Recreation.

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## **New Developments**

There were thirteen projects (residential, commercial, and public entities) including new and redevelopment projects that had contract values of \$100,000 or more. This is up from eleven in 2024. The cumulative total was \$17,586,714.76, up from \$6,635,228.35, a 253% increase from 2024.

The largest project is the long-rumored and long-awaited Sheetz project. This is being built at the old Elby's site along Route 2 across from Wal-Mart. The addition of this retail/gas location will add considerable revenue to the city's Business & Occupation tax revenue. It is evident that most citizens look forward to



this addition. Total project costs are \$7,604,194.00, leading this list. Next is the Ash and Elm Avenue Bridge Projects at \$2,874,338.85 (project completely grant funded), followed by the NCF Water Conservation Project at \$1,752,600.00. Next in line was the WVU Medicine Reynolds Rapid Care Renovation at \$1,478,000.00, the Parrs Camp Bridge Project on the Jefferson Extension at \$1,375,151.00, Marshall County Public Safety Building HVAC Project at \$632,832.72, 2025 City Paving Project \$524,404.88, Moundsville Housing Authority - Dorsey Apartments Door Replacement Project at \$264,000.00, City Concrete Street Repair (4th and 5th Streets) Project at \$148,500.00, 12 Sandy Avenue (Private Renovation) at \$126,000.00, Moundsville Housing Authority - Office Remodel Project at \$100,500.00, and the National Guard/Reserve Center Parking Lot Project at \$100,000.00.

Occupancy Certificates issued by the Building Inspection Department:

### New Business Openings

- |                                             |                       |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ➤ La Bella Hair Salon                       | 1203 First Street     |
| ➤ Salvation Army                            | 248 Jefferson Avenue  |
| ➤ Wild Bill's Tobacco                       | 1204 Lafayette Avenue |
| ➤ The Beauty Den                            | 401 Annadale Avenue   |
| ➤ RF Mobile Services (Office & Retail only) | 1110 Second Street    |
| ➤ Hometown Care                             | 200 Cedar Avenue      |
| ➤ Wolfpack Barbershop                       | 246 Jefferson Avenue  |
| ➤ Grave Creek Botanical                     | 318 Jefferson Avenue  |
| ➤ Adam's Trophy Club (New Owner)            | 803 Baker Avenue      |
| ➤ Hemp Adventures                           | 500 Lafayette Avenue  |
| ➤ You Nailed It Salon                       | 508 Fifth Street      |
| ➤ J.O.Y. Sports Center, LLC                 | 3 Forest Street       |

- Take 5 Oil Change 202 Lafayette Avenue
- Linx Community Services 245 Jefferson Avenue
- Achieve Behavioral Health 524 Seventh Street Second Floor
- Geo's Pizza 242 Jefferson Avenue
- Kathy's Kitchen (Fairgrounds) 2100 Twelfth Street
- Warehouse of Hope 250 Jefferson Avenue

Change in Ownership/New Location

- Bob's Lunch 800 Third Street
- Tommy's Twisted Shot Saloon 312 Jefferson Avenue
- DeFelice Pizza 805 Tenth Street
- Red Dragon Hybrid Tae Kwon Do 278 Jefferson Avenue
- Wellspring Pregnancy Center 133 Ash Avenue
- Signature Spa/House of Polish 511 Fifth Street
- WVU Reynolds Rapid Care 132 Lafayette Avenue

Alteration Certificate

- Buffalo Wild Wings 6 Walmart Drive

Temporary Businesses

- TNT Fireworks 10 Walmart Drive
- TNT Fireworks 1234 Lafayette Avenue
- Phantom Fireworks 1300 Lafayette Avenue

## **Building Inspection Department**

*Joe Richmond, Senior Building Inspector*

*Dan Edman, Building Inspector*

*Danielle Harmon, Administrative Tech*

This department is responsible for issuing building permits, contractor licensing, plan review, inspections, property maintenance/nuisance complaints, junk car and overgrown grass complaints, Rental Registration Program, Land Reuse Agency development, among other things. The staff requires continuous training, and logged 249 hours in 2025, 169 hours in 2024, more than doubling the hours in 2023. Like other departments from City Hall, this department fields a lot of inquiries. The total numbered 3,529 up 8% from 3,268, over thirteen daily. The breakdown is shown in the graph on the next page. These numbers do not include almost 2,800 interactions with the City Building for meetings, court, projects, and permit pick-up.

Building permits increased by 19% from 771 to 836. There were 537 residential permits, and 299 commercial permits issued. The highest activity month was May with 86 permits issued. Continued accountability on larger projects (requiring all subcontractors to obtain proper permits

and licensing), and a more watchful eye on contractors working in the community without permits keep this number high. Building permits have increased 26.5% from 2016 to 2025.

Inspections continued to increase to 1,709, up from 1,450. The large increase is due in part to 240 residential occupancy inspections as part of the Rental Registration Program. The largest category is Property Maintenance

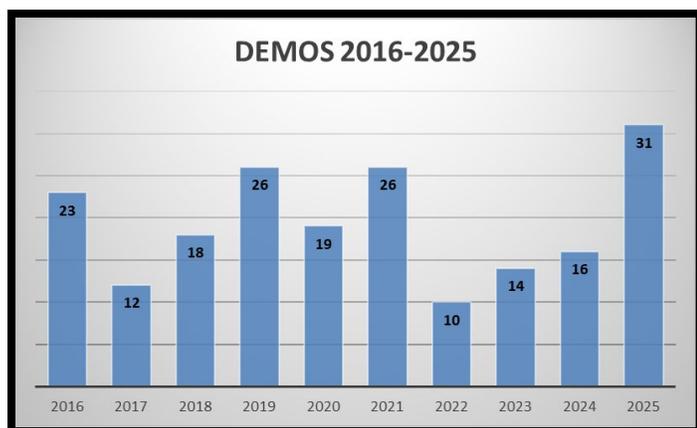
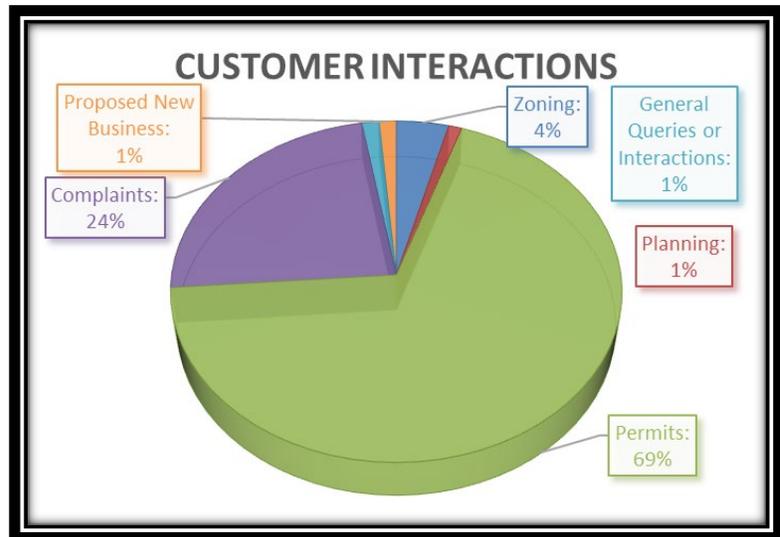
Inspections, numbering 986, up from 753. Others were pre-sale, projects, fire, and zoning inspections.

Complaints increased in 2025 to 539, up from 417, a 20% increase. However, 349 were closed up from 312. The largest category of complaints filed was 153, for high grass and excess vegetation, followed by sanitation issues (123), dilapidated structures (84), and junk vehicles (64). Others were for overgrown trees, fence complaints, animal/vermin complaints, and swimming pool complaints. The highest month was July with 94 new complaints. After following up on complaints, 428 Notices of Violation were issued and 66 citations.

A record year for demolition occurred in 2025, thanks to assistance from three different grants and funding sources, culminating in 31 structures taken down. A Community Development Block Grant, a RAISE Grant, and a DLAP Grant all were expended in 2025. This almost doubled our previous year's total. Since 2022, over \$482,000.00 has been awarded to rid the city of these properties that are unsafe, bring down property values, and destroy neighborhood stability.

- DLAP Grant – 8 Structures
- RAISE Grant – 4 Structures
- CDBG – 1 Structure
- Private – 13 Structures
- County – 1 Structure
- City – 4 Structures

The Rental Registration Program took off full force in 2025. This program will serve the tenant population that suffers from below standard living conditions. There were 323 additional properties registered in 2025 for a total of 1,144 properties. Of those registered, 227 are vacant and 354 are non-rentals. Inspection of 229 properties took place in 2025, and 126 Certificates of Occupancy were issued. 103 properties failed their initial inspections. Choosing to move alphabetically, so far A-L have been contacted



and are scheduling inspections and reinspections. Letters for M-P will go out in March, with additional letters to remind A-L of the need to schedule and reminders to reschedule for those who have failed inspections.

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## **Land Reuse Agency**

*Danielle Harmon, Director*

The development of a Land Reuse Agency (LRA or Land Bank) has been something I have long considered to be another great tool to combat dilapidated properties, vacant lots, and liens. In 2025, that became a reality when the City of Moundsville Land Resue Agency was formed after an approximate eight-month period. This agency will begin to acquire property in the city through tax sales, donations, lien releases, and other means. This LRA can take vacant property and place it in the hands of someone willing to purchase and revitalize it. This allows for a side-lot program, new construction, and economic development. The LRA is currently being funded by a share of the 1% Municipal Sales Tax. Moving forward, the LRA will grow and begin to show real benefit.

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## **City Hall Offices**

*Rick Healy, City Manager*

*Sondra Hewitt, City Clerk*

*Karen Ankrom, Finance Director*

*Lacey Williams, Treasurer*

Unusually, there was one position turnover in this office in 2025. Upon Julie Mitchell's resignation as cashier, Stacie Magers transferred from the Water Board. The current staff of nine boasts 149 total years of service to the City of Moundsville (excluding the Building Inspectors). The amount of information that flows through City Hall daily is staggering. Administration, starting and terminating services, payments, garbage collection and dumpsters, Business & Occupation Tax and collection, building inspections, meetings, Council agenda and information, elections, payroll, finances, court and citations, billing, general information, other departments, sales calls, and more are all completed in City Hall. Complaints are often received at this location as well.

Cross training is important in this office. When one person is on vacation, that person's work still needs completed. Most employees can perform the other jobs in the office, keeping the machine running for the citizens. This department (which includes the Building Inspectors and Meter Attendants) is anchored by City Clerk Sondra Hewitt, who also fills the role of Office Supervisor and Court Clerk. The staff is excitedly preparing for modern furniture and equipment, and a new office! TSG, our IT professional partner, continues to handle all problems timely, offering a help desk, and preventative maintenance visits. These visits recommend replacement and repairs before a problem occurs and have been extremely helpful to the overall health of the computer infrastructure and networking system.

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# **Parks & Recreation Department**

*John White, Director*

*Heath Logston, Working Foreman*

This department is led by Director John White, along with Working Foreman Heath Logsdon. Heath also doubles as the Pool Manager and is responsible for all pool chemicals and testing. He is also a Certified Pool Operator. Additionally, at year-end, the department employed eight certified lifeguards (four less than last year), nine Desk Attendants (one more than last), and four part-time support workers (same as last year), for a total of twenty-three people (three less than last year).



In an effort to increase the lifeguard staffing, opportunities were given to those wanting to become certified lifeguards by providing paid training, with a one-year work agreement. We continued to provide opportunities to pay for lifeguard certifications on a one-year payback obligation to increase our lifeguard staffing. Parks and Recreation worked the year without any injury. This is the sixth time in seven years the department has worked accident free.

Overall, the Parks and Recreation Department had a successful 2025. Four Seasons Pool was certified as a Red Cross Official Testing location for lifesaving. Much time was spent developing plans to construct an indoor Recreation Center to be located at the Sanford property at Third Street and Cedar Avenue (more information on that later in this section of the report). New additions to the park system included renovations to the Riverfront shelter, 2 new dugouts located at the softball complex, and a storybook section along the East End trail. Many other improvements were made and are listed below.

## Capital Improvements Completed in 2025:

- Riverfront Shelter Project
  - Funded by a Land & Water Fund Grant (50%), this project included complete renovation of the restrooms, addition of a sidewalk around the shelter, and the lowering of the concession service window. All of these improvements make the facility ADA compliant, and usable for everyone.
- Installed two new Dugouts at Valley Fork Girls Softball Complex.
  - Located on field 1, the dugouts were funded partially by the City and partially by a Pirates grant submitted by the Girls Softball Association. The cost was approximately \$20,000.
- A new storage shed was purchased and installed at the Park View playground. This shed will house a new DVR with three new cameras to be installed in January 2026.
- Purchased a new storage barn for Four Seasons Pool.
- Repaired the fitness room HVAC unit.

- A Story Walk was installed at East End along the paved trail. This project was the result of a grant written by the Marshall County Family Resource Network (FRN). Partnering for this grant were the FRN, Parks & Recreation Department, and the Street Department.

#### General Operation and Maintenance Improvements

- The Parks and Recreation Department grass maintenance program continued with Tammie's Lawn Care maintaining the Valley Fork Baseball/Soccer Complex and Riverfront Park while Sniegle's Lawn Care maintained the Softball Complex. Staff completes all other grass maintenance.
- Completed repairs to Valley Fork baseball field #5 dugout.
- Completed most of the Maintenance Report that was developed, with the biggest improvement being the cleaning of the Four Seasons Pool roof. The largest improvement to be done is the shower room flooring, which will be budgeted for future repair.
- Four loads of field dirt were delivered to the Valley Fork softball fields. This was a result of the flooding in April 2024 and was reimbursed by FEMA.
- Continued to install and repair/replace sections of the split-rail fencing at the Valley Fork Sports complex.

The department also recognizes the need for programming and services to the community. In 2025, the following events/programs were completed:

- The Second Annual Moundtown Showdown softball tournament was held in June. This event is managed privately but requires coordination for usage of the fields. The event consists of softball teams traveling from all over the tri-state area in addition to Virginia and Kentucky. The event was an enormous success and is a great economic benefit for the area.
- Infant Swimming Resource (ISR) continued at Four Seasons during the winter and fall.
- Swimming lessons are provided for people of all ages.
- Continued utilizing JDP in Pittsburgh for coaching background checks.
- Family Fun Nights were held every Wednesday evening during the summer months from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Admission was \$1.00 per person, which included a bottle of water and chips. This event continues to be very well received.
- The Annual Easter Egg Drive Through was held in April with approximately 160 kids participating. This event, which has grown, now includes additional partners hosting stations. Of course, the Easter Bunny is also present.
- Participated in the Home and Business Expo in March.
- East End was the home to both Moundville and Sherrard Middle Schools baseball teams. This is the fourth season that the Colt Field has been utilized. These games attract a large number of people.



- Continued to use the two baseball fields at East End for more games. In addition to the above-mentioned Middle School league, games were played by the Moundsville Baseball Association, the Girls Softball Association, and several traveling teams.
- Supported several charity events including softball, kickball, and pickleball tournaments.
- The Marshall County Flag Football League used the East End Colt field for their 51<sup>st</sup> season.
- Held several paddleboard yoga classes at the pool.
- The Marshall County Swim Team utilized the pool in June and July.
- The JMHS swim team continued to utilize the pool for practices and hosted four swim meets.
- The Kayak club continued utilizing the pool during the winter months on Sunday mornings.
- Several area schools held parties at Four Seasons Pool including McNinch Primary, Woodsdale Elementary, New Martinsville Elementary, and Bellaire eighth grade.
- Supported the Friends of Parks and Rec annual yard sale at East End.
- Hosted a charity pickleball tournament at East End courts.
- The JMHS Swim Team hosted a Kickball Tournament at Valley Fork Park in August.
- Continued to host pool parties with one time slot on Friday and Saturday evenings, and three time slots on Sunday (summer months this is reduced to one slot).
- Hosted the Annual Halloween pool party on October 29th. Treat bags and snacks were provided for all kids. Approximately 75 people attended.
- Offered a 15% discount for pool passes during the holiday season and offered a one-day Black Friday deal on passes with a 25% discount. A total of 82 passes were sold for a revenue of \$12,496.00.
- Hosted the 7th Annual Christmas Splash Party featuring Santa Claus. Free gift bags along with pizza and drinks were provided. Over 100 people attended.

Attendance at Four Seasons Pool continues to increase. The Four Seasons Pool had 17,503 swimmers, which is a 3% increase over last year. Revenue also increased to \$138,557.00 (compared to \$136,248.00 in 2024).

Private parties continue to be popular and a great source of revenue for the pool. In 2025, there were 206 available party times to book and 191 of those slots were booked, almost 93%! Because swimmers are not actually counted at each party, it is estimated that these parties made the pool available to over 7,500 people! The pool concession stand revenue for 2025 was \$16,430, down 13% from 2024. The concession area is getting a much-needed upgrade in early 2026. With this upgrade, which includes better lighting and a fresh look, hopes are that revenue will rebound. A better long-term supplier for certain items is also needed, eliminating out of stocks.

In 2025, a dream of Councilwoman Ginger DeWitt, Director White, and mine began to really take shape as we procured The Thrasher Group to design an indoor Recreation Center. As it is designed right now, this approximate 22,000 square foot facility will contain two high school size basketball courts, a two-lane walking track, drop down batting cages, a community/party room, gym/fitness room, shower rooms, office, and a concession area/kitchen. This project has

required much work, as we began to acquire partnerships for the facility. The first partner was the Marshall County Commission, who contributed \$1.5 million to the project! A request was made to the Vawter Foundation, which eventually landed us a \$500,000 contribution. The Vawter family were from Moundsville and lost their son Bernie at a young age due to a truck accident. The company was found to be at fault, and the Vawter family received a financial settlement. Their foresight to place funds into a foundation for Marshall County proved to be a real plus for this project. Also partnering is WVU Medicine at \$25,000, and a verbal commitment from the Evan G. Roberts Trust for \$20,000. Our hope is that this project will be bid in early spring and complete by end of 2026.

The Buy a Bench program installing benches at our parks across town continued in 2025. With four benches purchased and installed in 2025, city parks now have a total of 121 across all parks. What began as a small dream has blossomed into a huge program.

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## **Street Paving**

The base for this year's paving list was the balance of previous lists. A contract was awarded for \$542,404.48, which was under budget. This was to complete one rotation street and nine sections of other streets. After engineering costs of \$10,300.05, the overall program expense came in at \$ 552,704.53. An award was also made to replace sections of concrete on two streets. Due to the same company completing work at the City Building, this work was not completed in 2025. However, the bid will be honored, and the work completed in early 2026. Over the last few years, dedicating some paving funds to concrete streets has proven beneficial, as these streets are solid and just need sections replaced. All paving is completed using the Municipal Fee Fund and the Municipal Sales Tax Fund. Since 2019, Council has approved **\$4,253,881.61** in paving improvements(excluding concrete repairs).

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## **Public Works Department**

***Lewis DeVault, Director***

***Kevin Wallace, Working Foreman – Street Department***

***Terry Vessels, Working Foreman – Sanitation Department***

A leadership change took place in 2025, with long-time employee and director Frank Stocklask retiring. Taking his place was Lewis DeVault. "Louie" has been with the city since July of 2006. His first year was spent getting used to being the "boss" and dealing with all of the areas that his department handles. The sub-departments that fall under Public Works are Street, Sanitation, and Recycling. The staff includes one Director, one Street Working Foreman, one Sanitation Working Foreman, twelve Street Laborers, six Sanitation Laborers, and one Secretary.

## **Street Department**

Over the years the city has grown with events and demands, and the Street Department have adjusted their responsibilities. Historical duties include cold patching, sign repair and replacement, grass cutting and trimming (almost sixty properties), alley grading and graveling, building and equipment maintenance (one laborer is assigned to this position), snow and ice removal from city streets and city-owned sidewalks, and more. With the addition of the Recycling Program and the Arts & Culture Commission and On Trac, the department now regularly supplies staff to assist in the many activities throughout the year. Two pieces of equipment that the residents and businesses have grown to love and expect include the street sweeper and the leaf vac, both running daily on a seasonal basis.



*With Mayor David Wood and City Clerk Sondra Hewitt in the background, Finance Director Karen Ankrom gives the oath of office to new Public Works Director (and her son) Lewis DeVault.*

Some of the “regular” duties completed in 2025 included:

- Operated the street sweeper daily, except for severely cold weather.
- Trimmed and/or removed problematic trees and shrubbery.
- Sub-contracted tree removal in city ROW.
- Maintained grass on all city-owned lots, in ROW, and at locations as directed by the City Manager and/or Building Inspectors.
- Maintained and removed/installed banners in the Historic Business District.
- Provided “board up” services for vacant properties when directed by Building Inspectors or Police Department.
- Maintained, installed, and removed all Christmas decorations.
- Maintained and serviced all vehicles and equipment, including some from other departments.
- Continued mowing, and added private locations as directed by Building Inspection and City Manager.
- Straightened, installed, or moved many street signs, including street name signs.
- Respond to call-outs from City Manager or Police Department (accidents, flooding, signs down, etc.)
- Assisted other departments regularly with their projects.
- Operated the leaf vac during the fall and early winter season.
- Operated the crack sealer on several streets, including for the newly paved streets as a subcontractor for Klug Bothers Paving.
- Performed basic maintenance for the City Building and Police Department.
- Provided three to four employees for five Marshall County FRN food giveaways.

- Assisted Arts & Culture with the following events:
  - Three Jefferson Fridays, three to four employees.
  - Three Movie Nights, two employees.
  - Appalachian Dinner, one employee.
  - Autumn on the Avenue, two employees.
  - Christmas on the Avenue, three employees.
- Performed concrete repairs on certain city streets.
- Operated the Recycling Center, including working Saturday morning drop-offs, and transfer of plastic bags/films to Kroger for the NexTrex Challenge.
- Provided personnel to the Sanitation Department to cover vacations and call-offs.

Alleys continue to be a large maintenance item, with regular calls to grade, and add gravel. Like all items, gravel costs continue to rise. Numerous sections of curb were replaced, several trees were cut/removed, and overall maintenance done at many areas across the city.

As part of their capital projects for 2025, a new backhoe was purchased and placed into service on July 9<sup>th</sup>, replacing a 2002 model. The unit was purchased at a cost of \$132,028.80.

The Street Department was recipient of a Sign Package Grant awarded by the West Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program. This package of work zone safety items included signs, barricades, vests, cones, and more, and is valued at \$3,500.00.

I cannot stress enough the assistance given by the Street Department to all city departments and functions. Every department that contacts them is assisted. Additionally, several community events could not happen without the Street Department. Some of those include:

- Marshall County FRN food giveaways, helping with EVERY event.
- Most Arts & Culture events.
- Marshall County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade.
- Parks & Recreation Department on many occasions.
- Moundsville Historic Landmarks Commission installing brackets to extend the banner displays.
- Exclusively hang and exchange banners along the Historic Business District.
- All city Christmas decorations.

The department also operates a sign shop, which saves the city time and money when adding or replacing signs and banners. Signs are also made and sold to other municipalities and the Board of Education.

## Sanitation Department



This department operates with seven employees and four garbage trucks on a six-day work week collecting all the residential and commercial garbage in the city. Although all employees are valuable, this crew receives many “thanks” from citizens for their great work. For the fifth year in a row, the amount of garbage collected and dumped actually reduced from the prior year, amounting to 6,477.40 tons, down from 6,590.41 tons last year, and 6,700 tons in 2023. Although new growth in the commercial sector would see

additional tonnage, recycling has clearly helped. Tipping fees were less - \$204,052.05, compared to \$207,598.00 in 2024, and \$211,103.00 in 2023. A new 2025 Mack/McNeilus packer truck was delivered on September 5th, 2025, and placed into service on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Recycling

The city received our third straight Recycling Grant, sponsored by the WV Department of Environmental Protection’s REAP program. This year the grant was for \$32,174.00, which covers the entire operating costs of the program. It also provided funding to purchase bins for the acceptance of aluminum and steel cans. These mark the first items (other than glass) that can actually be “sold” to a recycler, further subsidizing the cost of the program. An application for the 2027 grant year will be submitted in July. This brings our collection items to:

- ❖ Mixed Paper and Cardboard
- ❖ Glass Jars and Bottles
- ❖ Plastic Bags/Films
- ❖ Aluminum and Steel Cans

Vehicles through the Recycling Center Drop-Off Program numbered 3,404 in 2025, averaging 65 vehicles per week. Individual categories were also tracked at the Recycling Center. Cardboard and Paper were the highest with 3,404, up from 2,970, Plastic Bags and Films recorded an amazing 1,711 pounds up from 827, and Glass recorded 920, up from 798. New in 2025 was collection of aluminum cans and metal cans. Both numbered drop offs of 240. We in turn actually turned over (sent to recyclers) 55,470 of paper and cardboard, down slightly from 57,022 pounds.

A recycling poster for Moundsville, West Virginia. The poster is green and white with a black border. At the top, it says "MOUNDSVILLE RECYCLES!!!". Below that, it lists four categories of items accepted: GLASS (with a glass jar icon), PLASTIC BAGS &amp; FILMS (with a Coca-Cola can icon and text: "Examples: grocery bags, bubble wrap, shrink wrap, any plastic that can be easily squeezed/squished. NOT water bottles, milk jugs, or rigid plastics."), PAPER &amp; CARDBOARD (with a cardboard box icon), and ALUMINUM &amp; STEEL CANS (with a Campbell's Soup can icon). At the bottom, it says "Saturdays 8AM to Noon 8 Brown Street (Old Kittle Hauling) Sanitation Department 304-845-3511". There is also a logo for Moundsville, West Virginia, featuring a tree and a bird.

Again, this year, we qualified for a free community bench through our relationship with NexTrex.

Superintendent DeVault and City Manager Healy continue to share the role of Recycling Coordinator. Two Street Department employees work at the Center on Saturdays during public drop-off, with Recreation assisting during summer months, as needed. Overall, this program has been a great addition to the city. Other recyclables continue to be researched, with plastic bottles being the number one requested (and most difficult) item.

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## **Police Department**

***Tom Mitchell, Chief***  
***Steve Kosek, Lieutenant***

The mission statement of this department, led by Chief Thomas Mitchell states:

*“The Moundsville Police Department’s fundamental duty is to serve the citizens of Moundsville and those people within the boundaries of the City of Moundsville as needs arise; to safeguard their lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception; the weak against oppression or intimidation; and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all people to liberty, equality, and justice.”*

Chief Mitchell is assisted by a Lieutenant, four Sergeants, five Corporals, and five Patrolmen.

Many personnel changes took place in this department in 2025. Sergeant Richard Milbert retired after 29 years of service to the community. Patrolman Peter Barton, who came as a certified officer from Benwood Police Department, opted to go back to his previous department, and resigned. Another local certified officer, Wyatt Setterstrom was hired, coming from the Glen Dale Police Department. One uncertified candidate was hired through the testing process. Nathan Reynolds was hired and started at the Academy in early January 2026. He left the Academy one day after and subsequently resigned his position with Moundsville. Mikael Rawls completed his probation and is now Patrolman First Class. Due to the retirement of Sergeant Milbert, two promotions occurred. Eric Burton was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and Anthony White to the rank of Corporal. In the Dispatch/Support Staff, one part-time dispatcher was hired.

The Department received four grants used for highway safety: DUI, Project Red, Click it or Ticket, and cell phone enforcement. Supplying an officer full-time to the Marshall County Drug Task Force, they received a HIDITA (Drug Task Force) reimbursement of \$19,000. For the twelfth consecutive year, the Moundsville Police Department received the “Community Traffic Safety Platinum Award” from AAA (sans COVID years of 2020 and 2021).

In-service training hours decreased from 2,189 to 625. The reason for the large decrease is the department has nobody attend the Academy in 2025. This included a wide range of trainings (some in house) such as Firearms Qualifications, Daylight and Lowlight, Taser X26P, and Use of

Force. Other trainings included Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARide), Tactical Movements, Instructor Development, Solo/Team Takedown, Vehicle Extraction



*Detective Zach MucHECK receives his 10 Year Service Award from City Manager Healy*

Techniques, Weapon Retention, Ground Defense, Control to Cuffing, Ghost Guns, Privately Manufactured Guns and MCDs, Autism, Purpose Driven Leadership, Harassment and Discrimination Training for Supervisors, Leadership and Career Development, Ethical Leadership, General Differences and Management in the Workplace, Dealing with Difficult, Toxic, and Problematic Co-Workers, Advanced Child Abuse, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, Child Passenger Safety Technician, and Taser. Some members also attended an FBI National Academy Conference, a West Virginia Narcotics Conference, and the Gatlinburg Tennessee Law Enforcement Conference.

Police cruisers have a lot of wear and tear, and the miles add up quickly. Chief Mitchell, City Manager, and Council, have worked together to keep them rotated regularly. Generally, when a cruiser reaches 100,000 miles, or ten years of age, it is replaced. Two new Ford Police

SUVs were purchased in 2025, with both being placed into service in early 2026. They will be replacing Car 1 (2015 Taurus) and Car 7, which will stay in service for now. Car 17 (Ford SUV), has been repurposed for the Peer Recovery Support Specialist use. Two additional cruisers (Cars 4 and 10) are 2016 models and will be added into the next budget year.

The department received a \$10,000 grant from EQT to purchase a drone. This is utilized by patrols for search and rescue, evidence, and photography. Three officers are certified to operate the drone. The Drug Task Force also utilizes a similar drone. The two new hires had new body armor purchased (life span of five years).

In 2025, the department saw a minimal decline in calls for service. This is the fourth year in a row with declining numbers, dropping from 4,751 in 2024 to 4,543, just under 12 ½ calls per day. The largest occurrence by officer was No Offense at 679, followed by Person/Welfare Check at 545, followed by Suspicious Person at 280, Alarms at 269, Assisting Another Agency at 193, and Trespassing at 141.

Citations increased slightly from 752 to 760, a 1% increase. The largest cause for citation is once again First Offense Shoplifting (<=\$500.00) at 154, a large increase over 2024 (64), followed by Stop Sign Violation at 38, Expired Registration at 32, and Defective Equipment at 30. Others include No Insurance, Red Light, Driving on a Suspended License, and Public Intoxication.

Chief Mitchell is also responsible for a secure Drug Drop-Off Box for unwanted pharmaceuticals, which is kept at the station. This program, in which the Department collects these in a secure location, allows for proper disposal by the DEA. The department also participated in a “Drug Take Back Day.” Collections from the box and Take Back Day totaled

298 pounds, 5 ounces of unwanted pharmaceuticals. This was an approximate increase of 30%! Since beginning of this program in 2012 – 3,641 pounds, 9 ounces have been disposed of safely.

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**Fire Department**  
***Gary Brandon, Chief***  
***Kevin Kimple, Assistant Chief***



In 2025, the City Fire Department again hit a new record for total calls, as they responded to 954 calls up slightly from 921 calls in 2024. This averages 3.7 calls per day. First Responder (EMS assist calls) remains the highest call volume, with 635, an increase of 25 calls. Other high number calls included 107 lift assists, 76 motor vehicle accidents, 26 fire alarms, 16 callouts, and 15 calls of lines down. There were 13 structure fires, up from 7. Four of these fires were ruled arson. Fortunately, there were no fatalities reported. Other calls included mysterious odor, water search and

rescue, dive team, DOA, lock outs, illegal burns, utility shut off (in conjunction with the Building Inspectors), gas leaks, Police Department assistance, electrical fires, rescues, service, medical alarm, smoke, hazmat, kitchen fire, good intent, trash fire, carbon monoxide, stand by, brush fire, and vehicle fire. The department also responded to 31 mutual aid calls (up slightly) and issued 158 burn permits. There were 13 calls turned over due to lack of manpower (already on a call or lack of manpower). The busiest month was July with 98 calls, and the slowest month was September with 64 calls. The department also completed 90 business inspections, 16 Building Enforcement Agency inspections, and 37 pre-planning inspections. 23 Fire/Safety Prevention Presentations were done and 13 fire investigations, up due to the number of arsons.

Having three new firefighters in 2025 caused the training hours to increase, going from 1,264 in 2024 to 2,166 in 2025. Total man hours of training were 3,024. Noteworthy training courses included Logan County Fire School (two attended), Auto Rescue Operations and Awareness (two attended), Attic and Basement Fires (two attended), and School Bus Extrication (three attended). Other training included Rapid Intervention, SCBA and Gear Training, EMT, Mouse Trap, and Search and Rescue Tactics. Fifteen smoke detectors were provided to residents, four of which were installed.

One important event occurred on March 7, 2025. A fire, which started in the rear of the former Remke Furniture building, quickly spread to the entire structure, eventually engulfing five

structures. The fire, which attracted interested bystanders the entire day, required assistance from over thirty fire companies to battle the blaze (see more on this story in the City Manager section). In the end, the west side of the entry from the northern end of the Historic Business District looked entirely different. All structures were considered a total loss and demolition began soon after. However, out of bad, comes good. At one point, when it was feared the fire was going to continue to spread to the building housing Frame and Fortunes, everyone jumped in and started emptying their store and warehouse. Deputies, friends, other business owners, and many others joined in like only Moundsville would do.

In addition to the “day-to-day” activities like keeping vehicles and equipment cleaned and prepared, the department also participated in the following:

- Fireworks Paperwork and Detail
- New Construction Plan Review
- GKT Light Up Night – Santa Delivery
- Inspection of all rides and food trucks for the Marshall County Fair.
- Car Seat Installation
- SCBA Tank Refilling for area Departments
- Career Fair at Moundsville Middle School and Central Elementary
- Numerous Fire Safety Presentations at Local Schools
- Christmas and Homecoming Parade, Trunk or Treat and other areawide parades.
- Hose Testing (26 sections of hose failed testing)
- Civil Service Testing
- Coordination with State Fire Marshal
- Project Lifesaver

The Fire Department Union, Local 543 continued to be active in 2025 with the following activities:

- Annual Teddy Bear Drive - collected 38 teddy bears that are distributed at hospitals.
- Muscular Dystrophy Association - raised \$60.00.
- Johnathon’s Closet - raised approximately \$400.00 worth of clothes and a \$200 donation.
- City Wide Food Drive – donated \$196.00 worth of canned goods.
- Sparky the Firetruck – raised \$13,498.00 to purchase Sparky the Firetruck. To be added to our Keep Kids Safe Program to teach fire safety.

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## **Arts and Culture Commission**

This nine-person, fully volunteer commission is without question the most active Board or Commission in the city. Their goal is to bring arts programs to the city, concentrating on children and families, and providing as many of the events at no cost to the participants. This Commission is funded with a small percentage of the Municipal Sales Tax and has also developed many valuable partners who sponsor these events. These are their programs and their activities from 2025:

- Create with MACC - this is a hands-on instructor-led series where attendees learn new artistic or cultural skills. Sign-ups first come, first served and spaces fill very fast! Six different workshops were held in 2025:
  - Watercolor – 13 Attended
  - Stained Glass – 10 Attended
  - Creative Writing – 5 Attended
  - Teen Sewing - 12 Attended
  - Cocktails – 15 Attended
  - Sourdough – 17 Attended
- Read with MACC – a new event in 2025, it was a virtual workshop based on a single book. Over three sessions, four people attended.
- Presentation of Macbeth by the Vintage Theatre Company at the Strand Theatre.
- Chalk the Walk – this event invited children and families to come to three different city parks and use creativity and chalk on the sidewalks/trails.
- Christmas in July – New for 2025, this event was a partnership with the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce and Moundsville OnTrac. It was well received by the community, and included vendors, crafts, music, and food. Plans are continuing to expand this for 2026.
- Jefferson Fridays – this event featuring food trucks, live music, and a beer garden takes on a community “block party” feel. Over a thousand people fill Jefferson Avenue between Second and Third Street for this event. Each event has an opening and main act, and often an intermission act. Several local businesses remain open late and offer special sales for event attendees. This has become a premier event in the area and highly anticipated by the public. Corporate sponsors have been very generous in their support of these events. Attendance for all three events was estimated to be over 3,000 people!
  - June - Opener: Dillon Gambol, Main: Gage Joseph, Intermission: John Marshall Dance Team
  - July - Opener: Libby Adams, Main: Eli & the Mojo Kings, Intermission: Strand Theatre’s Kennedy Wilkinson
  - August - Opener: Splash Panel, Main: Radio Tokyo
- Pumpkin Paint – this event, like most, has grown substantially. What started with 100 pumpkins has grown to well over 300. This is another event many people get on their calendar early, and over 500 people attended last year.
- Movie Nights – these are free family events, providing a movie, snacks, and drinks. Three were scheduled for 2025, unfortunately one was canceled due to weather. The



community votes on options for movies using social media. A Halloween Movie Night was also held in 2025 and was attended by 40 people.

- Gardening with Grandparents – this is a partnership with local nonprofit organizations. Marshall County has many grandparents raising grandchildren, and the goal is to provide community resources and fun artistic activities for the families. Arts & Culture members ran the flower planting station where families painted a flowerpot and planted a flower. It is not only open to grandparents raising grandchildren (this is the target population), but it is open to any grandparents wanting to spend an afternoon with their grandchild(ren). It was well attended with 30 people.
- Appalachian Dinner – this annual farm to table five-course dinner features local and regional foods that represent Appalachian Culture. This is a paid, ticketed event and the Chef is Matt Welsch. Drinks and live “themed” music are also included.
- Christmas on the Avenue – WOW! What an event. Christmas on the Avenue – this is a favorite of many and rivals any good Hallmark Christmas movie. Features include many hands-on activity stations, tree lighting, visits with Santa, horse and carriage rides, and train rides through the Historic Business District. Stations include cookie decorating, ornament decorating, homemade hot chocolate, snow globe creations, reindeer food, Christmas crafts, and more.

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## **Safety & Risk Management**

*George Carter, Safety Director*



Mr. George Carter oversees the Safety & Risk Management Program. The goal of the program is to reduce and/or eliminate accidents and injuries due to unsafe working conditions/practices. Mr. Carter starts every new employee off with an orientation meeting. This covers the city’s safety policy, and the employee views a safety video. He also oversees the Employee Safety Committee, which meets quarterly and contains a representative of each department. He also strives to bring an outside speaker in for presentations at these meetings (see next page). He conducts monthly safety meetings at all departments covering many topics, often keying in on a weather-related item or a problem area. Regular visits to departments and observations of employees are also done on a random basis to insure compliance with the safety program.

The following items were accomplished in 2025:

- 20 New Employee Orientations and audits of any injuries/accidents.
  - Ten for Parks & Recreation
  - Five for Street Department
  - Two for City Hall
  - One for Fire Department
  - One for Police Department
  - One for Sanitary Department
- 4 Meetings of the Safety Committee
  - Working in Cold Weather
  - Working in Hot Weather
  - CPR – (Fire Chief Gary Brandon)
  - Defensive Driving – (Troy Ball, WVCORP)
- 32 Safety Meetings covering:
  - Working in Hot Weather
  - Working in Cold Weather
  - Defensive Driving
  - Illicit Discharge, Detection, and Elimination
  - Trenching and Shoring
  - Equipment Tie Down
  - Haz Mat
  - Fall Protection
  - Call Before You Dig (West Virginia 811)
  - Lock Out – Tag Out
  - Material Handling
  - Ladder Safety
  - Slips, Trips, and Falls
  - Back Injury Protection
  - Hazard Awareness
  - Note: Some meetings included more than one topic.



*Workers listening to a presentation from a representative of West Virginia 811 – Call Before You Dig!*

\*\*The Employee Safety & Health Committee meets quarterly and contains a representative of each department. Topics covered for the committee in 2025 were Working in Cold Weather, Working in Hot Weather, CPR, and Defensive Driving. Both hot and cold weather working were made a part of the city safety program. New uses of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are always being considered and is discussed at the Quarterly Meetings.

Even with the strong safety program, departments recorded sixteen incidents/accidents in 2025, up from eight in 2024.

- ❖ Street – Four vehicular accidents, one medical & lost time (shoulder injury), and two incident reports only.
- ❖ Sanitation – Two vehicular accidents.

- ❖ City Building – One incident report only.
- ❖ Police – One medical and one incident report only.
- ❖ Fire – Two vehicular accidents.
- ❖ Sanitary – Two medical (no lost time) and one incident report only.

Any accident or incident is followed by a report, which is reviewed by Mr. Carter, and then discussed directly with the employee and/or the department. The report requires the employee to list what could have been done differently to avoid the accident. If multiple incidents of the same type are reported, this is discussed at safety meetings.

Mr. Carter also assists with the DEP Wastewater Permit for the Street Department garage, which requires groundwater testing twice a year. He also participates in the yearly Workers Compensation Review and utilizes their library to obtain safety literature (signs, posters, stickers, etc.) for distribution to departments. In accordance with the Safety Program, random inspections were made in all departments, and no issues were observed in 2025.

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## **Utilities** ***Water Department***

### ***Terry Roberts, Superintendent***

The Moundsville Water Department is maintained by a staff of fifteen, including Superintendent Terry Roberts, five Water Operators, five Laborers on the Maintenance/Distribution Crew, and four Office Staff (one at the plant and three in the billing office). The water treatment plant is staffed 24 hours a day by licensed Drinking Water Operators. The Water Operators are responsible for the full operation of the plant. All operators must have a Class II or higher Drinking Water Certification/License granted through the State of West Virginia. The Maintenance/Distribution Crew employees all hold an OIT certification, with two also having a WD certification. Their work includes fixing leaks, maintaining the water lines, and sustaining the entire water distribution system. This staff also provides on-call employees on a rotating basis. Plans are in process to have all members of that crew obtaining a WD certification. The Office Staff work behind the scenes to help the department stay in compliance with the government regulations and mandates, keep the financial and customer account books balanced, and handle all aspects of billing.

All employees with a Certification must renew every two years by attending state certified classes for continuing educational credits. Our employees attend on-site training through monthly safety classes instructed by City Safety Director George Carter. The employees also are required to attend annual Groundwater Protection and Environmental Protection training courses.

The Water Board experienced several personnel changes in 2025:

- Class II Water Operator Benjamin Gilbert achieved Class III status.

- Maintenance/Distribution Crewman Jody Anderson achieved a Class II Water Operator status.
- Two Class II Water Operators were hired on a full-time basis. One has stayed and is working in the Water Plant. The other has since taken a position at a Water Plant in North Carolina to be near his brother.
- Class II Water Operator Willis Howard retired again as of December 31st. Our backup Water Operator has filled that position.
- A new employee was hired to fill an opening on the Maintenance/Distribution Crew.
- A new employee was hired to fill an opening in the Billing Office.

The department is overseen by a three-member board and controls the entire water system in the City of Moundsville. This includes operation of a state-of-the-art drinking water treatment plant and a distribution system which contains 52 miles of water lines within the city limits. The Board serves around 4,000 customers in Moundsville, while also supplying water to several neighboring Public Service Districts. In 2025, the Moundsville Water Treatment Plant produced a total of 519,541,568 gallons of drinking water, with an average production of 43,295,131 gallons per month.

Beyond routine maintenance, the Maintenance/Distribution Crew completed the following in 2025.

- Repaired thirty-nine waterline leaks, resulting in:
  - Nine ¾” service line replacements.
  - Two 1” service line replacements.
  - Seven 2” main waterline repairs.
  - Ten 2½” main waterline repairs.
  - Four 4” main waterline repairs.
  - Four 6” main waterline repairs.
  - One 8” main waterline repairs.
  - One frost-free spigot replacement.
  - Installed one new 2” service.
- Installed insertion valves at five new locations:
  - 4” valve at Eighth Street and Baker Avenue.
  - 4” valve at Thirteenth Street and Water Street.
  - 4” valve at Second Street and Elm Avenue.
  - 4” valve at Linden Avenue and Park Street.
  - 8” valve at Eighth Street and Tomlinson Avenue.
- Installed new fire hydrants at:
  - Thirteenth Street and Thompson Avenue
  - Eighth Street and Jefferson Avenue
  - Eighth Street in front of Central Elementary School
- Flushed fire hydrants to cleanse the system and complete routine maintenance on the hydrants.

Additional special projects included:

- Three wells were cleaned and refurbished using the remainder of ARPA funds.
- An extensive cleaning of the Water Plant's nanofiltration softening system was completed.
- Three-year Lead & Copper testing throughout the City. The results of the testing came back with excellent results.
- Concluded visual inspections of all the service lines in the water system to update the inventory for the EPA's mandated Lead Service Line Inventory, with the Maintenance/Distribution Crew immediately replacing any lead service lines that were encountered.
- Finalized and submitted our Source Water Protection Plan, which was approved by the State of West Virginia in January 2026. This plan has to be completed and submitted every three years.

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## **Sanitary/Stormwater Department**

***Brock Castilow, Superintendent***

***Tim Minor, Assistant Superintendent***

The Moundsville Sanitary/Stormwater Utility Board is maintained by a staff of fourteen (14). The staff includes a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Laboratory Technician, three (3) plant operators, one (1) mechanic/electrician, one (1) sanitary/stormwater foreman, three (3) sanitary system maintenance workers, two (2) stormwater system maintenance workers and one (1) Administrative Assistant. The treatment plant is staffed seven days a week with at least one operator working day turn and afternoon.

The Superintendent, Assistance Superintendent, Lab Technicians, Plant Operators and Maintenance/Electrician all must hold a Wastewater Certification with the State of West Virginia. All Sanitary and Stormwater employees must hold a Collection System Certification with the State of West Virginia. All Certifications must be renewed every two years. Certification renewal can only occur by obtaining continuing educational credits.

In addition to the continuing education credits, employees also attend on-site training covering various topics. In 2025 the employee training hours total 147 hours.

The laboratory must be certified yearly by WVDEP. To remain a WVDEP Certified Laboratory, the Lab Technician must pass an on-site inspection and two sets of unknown samples. The Laboratory Technician performs analysis on the influent, plant effluent and sludge cake that is sent to landfill and various process control tests to monitor the plants efficiency. These test results are reported to WVDEP to assure compliance with our discharge permit. In addition to the testing performed in house, outside labs are utilized monthly for additional required testing.

In 2025, the Wastewater Treatment Plant processed 594.6 million gallons of treated discharge. Based on the filed WV PSC report, 52.52 % of the treated discharge is inflow and infiltration

which we do not receive revenues to treat. Treatment of the wastewater includes flow through bar screens, grit tank, primary clarifiers, aeration tanks, final clarifiers and through a UV system before entering the Ohio River at mile point 102.5. The treatment process averaged a daily removal of 96.7% of CBOD and 98.3% of the suspended solids.

Digested sludge is processed by two Ashbrook Belt Presses to remove water and create a sludge cake averaging 24.2% solids. Operators processed 1,142 wet tons of sludge cake for the year, which is disposed at Short Creek Landfill.

The department also handles complaints and problems from the residents, concerning the collection system. Complaints received in 2025 totaled 157, a large decrease from 242. Other routine but important work included smoke testing and televising and cleaning of several feet of sewer main and service laterals.

The plant also records rainfall. In 2025, 36.43” was recorded, down from 41.92”. There were five rain events at 1.0” or more, three of which were greater than 1.5.”

Below is a list of the larger projects completed in the plant in 2025:

- Repaired scum pit for south primary clarifier.
- Replaced chute for belt presses.
- Replaced septage receiving station auger.
- Replaced grinder for septage receiving station.
- Replaced back porch concrete.
- Installed two VFD drives and replaced motor on the main sewage pumps and replaced water seal.
- Rebuilt recirculation pump for digester and replaced water seal.
- Purchased International dump truck.
- Replaced recycle flow meter.
- Replaced motor on 50 HP blower.
- Replaced 100 HP blower.
- Repaired parking lot with concrete pad.
- Repaired and overhauled north primary clarifier.
- Replaced plant effluent pump.

Below is a list of the larger projects completed in the collection system in 2025:

- Removed storm sewer from sanitary sewer on Annadale Avenue.
- Relocated sanitary sewer on Sandy Avenue.
- Replaced 60’ of sewer on Sandy Avenue.
- Replaced manhole and sewer main in alley behind 13 Cherokee Drive.
- Installed new manhole and replaced sewer main on Washington Avenue.
- Installed 17 cleanouts.
- Replaced collapsed main on 4th Street, near Annadale Avenue.

Below is a list of the larger projects completed in the stormwater collection system in 2025:

- Installed new catch basin, 30’ of pipe, and raised buried manhole.

- Installed 100' of line at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Curtis Avenue.
- Replaced catch basin on Cedar Ave between 5th and 6th Streets.
- Extended outfall pipe rear of 91 N. Highland.
- Issued 15 Commercial and 48 Residential Stormwater Permits.
- Performed 33 Commercial Stormwater Inspections.

Many projects were completed using ARPA funds. The Board also spent considerable time preparing for the upcoming large project involving main line replacement in the 12<sup>th</sup> Street area to the plant, and work inside the plant. Even with a rate increase in 2025, rates for sewage rank the 42<sup>nd</sup> lowest in the State of West Virginia, out of 305 utilities. When the second tier is implemented, it would still rank around number 55. The rates are excellent based on the quality and service received.

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### *City Manager Overview*

This report is enjoyable for me to compile and compose, because it gives me the opportunity to “re-live” our accomplishments, and see what each department has done to better the City of Moundsville. As I enter my eighth year as City Manager, although there are barriers, each year seems to get better. I continue to be amazed at what we accomplish together.

It cannot go without saying that Home Rule and the implementation of the 1% Sales Tax have been huge factors in our ability to replace, install, purchase, build, and save! City Council considers all allocations of those proceeds carefully, we continue to involve partners (new and old), the administration has a vision, and our employees want to see progress.

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*“Working Together is Success” –  
Henry Ford*

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“Working together is success.” Likely others have said this in addition to the great Henry Ford. It truly is the only way to achieve success. It takes someone at the top steering the ship. It takes planners. It takes middle management. And of course it takes the “boots on the ground people.” Everyone is a part of success. The City of Moundsville has seen much success over the last 5-10 years, which is almost unbelievable.

In 2025, that success continued. While remaining financially stable, we still were able to purchase capital expenditure items for departments, purchase all the tools needed for our employees to do their jobs, maintained a fully paid premium on an ever-rising health insurance program, and granted a 5% raise to all employees.

One memorable event occurred on March 7, 2025. That morning, while sitting in my office, I heard a fire call at the rear of the former Remke building. I grabbed my radio and headed that way. When I arrived, City Fire was already on the scene, as Assistant Chief Kimple was spraying water onto a door opening, all I saw was smoke. I thought I would be back to the office in no time. Shortly after I walked around the front, and I could see dark smoke slowly rolling to the front of the store. I immediately knew this was going to be bad. That fire, which did start in the rear quickly spread to the entire structure, eventually engulfing five structures. The fire, which attracted interested bystanders the entire day, required assistance from over thirty fire companies to battle the blaze. In the

end, the west side of the entry from the northern end of the Historic Business District looked entirely different. All structures were considered a total loss and demolition began soon after.

However, out of bad, comes good. At one point, when it was feared the fire was going to continue to spread to the building housing Frame and Fortunes, everyone jumped in and started emptying their store and warehouse.

Deputies, friends, other business owners, and many others joined in like only Moundsville would do. The

owners demolished the remaining structure soon after, and the property was placed for sale. City Council again had the foresight to purchase this property, and soon after the lot took on a whole new look as a grassy area. While the area looks great and is a great spot on a Jefferson Friday night, Requests for Proposals were placed in early 2026. Ideally, a developer will see what we see in Jefferson Avenue and invest.



Along with that, we saw more properties change hands in that district than in recent memory. New owners and new visions create excitement and more traffic to the businesses. This combined with the Arts & Culture Commission and On Trac only make this revitalization more likely. There is more energy than there has been in years.

The development of the above-mentioned On Trac Program to the Historic Business District and the creation of a Land Reuse Agency were two enormous steps taken to revitalize our downtown district, and the city in general.

When the word was out that the food bank funding was going to be cut AND the local food resources were extremely low, the city organized a department food drive, with all collections to be donated to the Feeding Body and Soul Kitchen and Shepherd's Pantry. Wow, did our employees answer the call! Well over 2,000 pounds of food was collected and donated. I treated City Hall to a pizza lunch for their large amount donated but was so impressed that I bought donuts for every department and Secretary Jasenec and I delivered them.

Another new and exciting attraction came to Moundsville in 2025. The Ohio Valley Ironmen (a take-off from the Wheeling Ironmen) chose Monarch Stadium to play their home games in their inaugural season. Although the summer season was cut short, the excitement the team brought on game night was great to see in Moundsville, and obviously, a positive economic impact. The team has since joined a different league and hopefully will be back at Monarch Stadium this summer.



Partnerships continue to be so important as the city flourishes. Success breeds success, and people/groups/agencies will jump to be a part of something good. That has been evident with continued participation by other parties. In 2025, the city received \$4,902,739.00 in grant funds! Not listed below but reported in 2024 was the receipt of grant funds to operate the Recycling Program during 2025.

- |                                                  |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| ➤ Ash Avenue Bridge Project                      | \$1,302,595.00   |
| ➤ Elm Avenue Bridge Project                      | \$1,571,744.00   |
| ➤ LTAP Work Sign Package                         | \$3,400.00 Value |
| ➤ Marshall County Commission (Indoor Rec Center) | \$1,500,000.00   |
| ➤ Vawter Foundation (Indoor Rec Center)          | \$500,000.00     |
| ➤ WVU Medicine (Indoor Rec Center)               | \$25,000.00      |

The two bridge projects are funds appropriated by the Infrastructure Act and were the result of a written request to the West Virginia Department of Transportation a few years ago. The city also continued their partnership with the Marshall County FRN hosting the food giveaways. Although the location moved from Four Seasons Pool this year, departments continued to supply staff to assist. Four food “Blessing Boxes” around the city continue to be filled by citizens and groups, including the Moundsville Rotary Club, Simpson and Calvary United Methodist Churches, and the newly- formed Rotary Club. The Arts & Culture Commission has fostered excellent partnerships, who support their events regularly. This is not a complete list, but the point is made – people want to be a part of our success. This year, I asked all the departments to participate in the Christmas Parade. I was so pleased when all but one department joined us.



It shows the love for the community that our employees have. I also encouraged all departments to be a part of the Marshall County Business Expo, and again, all but one responded. The EXPO is a great place to meet our residents, answer questions, and have fun.

Continuing my goal of being a visible City Manager, I participated in every Ribbon Cutting, Grand Opening, Chamber of Commerce, and community event that I could, including the following:

- ❖ New Marshall County Health Department Open House
- ❖ Central Elementary Social Studies Fair Judge
- ❖ Meeting with WV Treasurer Larry Pack
- ❖ Marshall County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo
- ❖ Marshall County Chamber of Commerce Breakfasts
- ❖ Appearance on the Steve Novotney Radio Show
- ❖ Presentation to Rotary Club
- ❖ Regular Appearances on the Howard Monroe Morning Show
- ❖ Municipal League Summer Conference
- ❖ Presentation to Moundsville Tuesday Arts Club
- ❖ Moundsville Middle School Career Fair
- ❖ WJMH Interviews
- ❖ National Day of Prayer Reader for Local Government
- ❖ Ribbon Cutting for Hometown Care
- ❖ Celebrity Ice Cream Scooper for the United Way
- ❖ Regular Interviews on Local News Media (WTRF and WTOV)
- ❖ East End Story Walk Ribbon Cutting
- ❖ Panelist/Presenter for the Ohio Valley Economic Outlook Forum
- ❖ Marshall County Chamber of Commerce Tree Gala
- ❖ WVU Medicine Rapid Care Relocation Ribbon Cutting
- ❖ Black Balloon Day (along with entire City Hall office)
- ❖ Ribbon Cutting for WVU Medicine
- ❖ Presented to Three Classes for Mrs. Josie Mentzer at John Marshall High School



- ❖ Reader at Central Elementary for Mountain Readers Week
- ❖ Central Elementary Career Fair
- ❖ Christmas Parade
- ❖ Four Seasons Halloween and Christmas Pool Parties and Easter Event



Again in 2025, I spent a considerable amount of time working on the new Municipal Building Project. Calling this a huge undertaking is an understatement.

Unfortunately, we did not cut a ribbon for the new city building in 2023, 2024, or 2025, mainly due a contractor bankruptcy filing and associated (re)start-up issues. But I do look forward to planning that event for 2026. I envision a nice event where the citizens can come and take tours (given by employees), enjoy some snacks and maybe music. This building, although delayed, will be a wonderful asset to the city and a great facility to work in and do business in – for years to come. A building to last numerous generations – and we were all a part of it! All of the employees have been patient and are looking forward to this move.

As one of the city’s representatives, I attend all the quarterly Belomar meetings and serve on their Brownfields Task Force, and the Executive and Audit Committees. I also serve on the Marshall County Senior Center Board of Directors, the Marshall County Schools Pride & Progress Committee, and the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade Committee. I make regular appearances on local radio shows, especially the Howard Monroe Morning Show, giving updates and talking about new and exciting things happening in Moundsville. I also take part in almost every Arts & Culture Event, especially Christmas on the Avenue, where my wife and I make and serve over 750 cups of hot chocolate! I am also a member of a regional City Manager’s Group that meets quarterly. Moundsville will be hosting this group in early 2026 for the first time.



When I started this position on January 1, 2019, seven years seemed like forever. But here I am starting my eighth year as your City Manager. I recently used Artificial Intelligence (AI) and asked, “City Manager Definition”. Here is the response:

***“A city manager is the top appointed professional who oversees a city's daily administrative operations, implementing policies set by the elected city council, managing departments, preparing the budget, and acting as a liaison between officials and residents, focusing on efficient service delivery rather than political campaigning. They are hired experts, distinct from an elected mayor, to ensure professional, non-partisan management of the municipality.”***

That definition is accurate, except it does not include how much satisfaction a City Manager can receive from doing this job. I have often said that I am blessed to have this position, and I still firmly feel that way. This is certainly work worth doing. We are changing people’s lives for the better – residents, businesses, and employees. Moundsville is better today than yesterday, better this year than last year, and still progressing forward.

The construction of Sheetz, which started in late 2025 will change the landscape of Route 2. While most of us have wonderful memories of Elby’s, the demolition of that tired building is a huge boon to that area. Sheetz has been rumored to be coming to Moundsville for some time. And is truly a “gas station” to get excited about! The increased business will generate additional Business and Occupation and Municipal Sales Taxes for many years to come. 2026 looks like another strong year. Construction is occurring all over the city, businesses are opening, and the financial numbers are strong. Looking ahead, a completed municipal building, continued efforts to equip and staff our departments, and the construction of an indoor recreation center – all in our view! This makes the future exciting. Let’s keep success going and watch Moundsville keep moving forward!

Although time consuming, completing this report each year is one of my favorite tasks. The completion of this report would not be possible without the assistance of all of my Department Heads, who provide valuable information to me monthly and at year-end, and my staff, who assist me daily, especially my secretary Sara Jasenec. The city employees continue to report daily and complete the often-difficult tasks in front of them. Thank you! In 2025 Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Wood-Shaw, and all of City Council worked with and supported me regularly. Thank you! And lastly, my family, especially my wife Beth, who always has been, and always will be my biggest supporter. Having someone to bounce ideas and thoughts off of is so important, especially in this position. Thank you all!

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Richard P. Healy, City Manager

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Date

**Additional Pictures**



***Christmas on the Avenue***



***City Hall Food Drive Collection***





***Ironmen Welcome at MC Co-op***



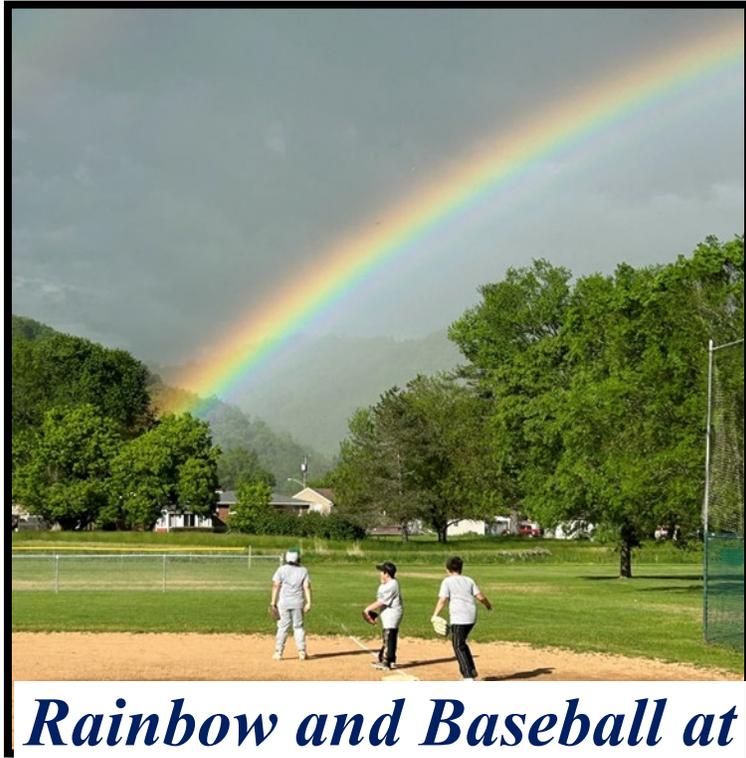
***Memorial Day Service***



***Marshall County Expo***



***Moundsville Display at Pool***



***Rainbow and Baseball at  
Valley Fork***



***Black Balloon Day***