



DISCOVER  
HAZELWOOD

# HAZELWOOD HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMER/FALL 2025



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## CITY COUNCIL

Matthew Robinson  
Mayor  
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### COUNCIL

William Hoops  
Ward 1  
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Robert Aubuchon  
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Ward 3  
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Kelly Wadlow  
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## COUNCIL APPROVES FY26 BUDGET

In late June, members of the Hazelwood City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2026 General and Capital Funds Budgets. The City operates on a July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> fiscal year.

David Tuberty, Director of Finance, reported the FY'25 will end with just under a \$1 Million surplus. This was based on conservative financial practices and projected spending, which has been a standard practice by officials for many years.

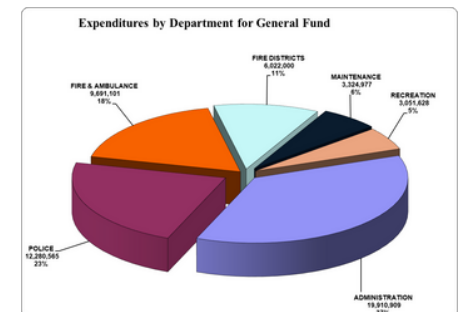
Tuberty estimated FY'26 revenues at \$50.5 Million with anticipated expenses of \$54.3 Million projected a \$3.7 Million deficit.

It was further pointed out every year we anticipate a deficit budget but are able to reduce or eliminate that gap due to sound financial practices. Even with these projections, the City is estimating a \$22 Million fund balance.

The City's Capital Improvement Fund is expected to fund normal capital expenditures such as improvements to the City Garage, engineering and design work for a possible new firehouse and the purchase of squad cars.

Hazelwood's Debt Service is producing strong results. The City has 2005 & 2007 Street bonds that will be paid off in FY'26; bonds for the Aquatic Center to be paid off in FY'27 and a leased fire truck with payments ending in FY'29. Our total outstanding debt balance at the beginning of the fiscal year stands at \$1.2 Million.

The Council began preparations in April with a Work Session and held a public hearing on the budget prior to its final approval.



# COUNCIL MEMBERS RE-ELECTED

In April, residents voted to return all incumbent Council members to their positions with all receiving oaths of office later that month.

Ward 1 Councilman William Hoops, Ward 3 Councilman Job Marquez and Ward 5 Councilmember Lisa Matlock were unopposed, while Ward 7 Councilman Robert Smith faced two opponents.

After the ballots were certified by St. Louis County, City Clerk Julie Lowery swore each member into office with Mayor Matt Robinson standing beside them.



# HAZELWOOD TORNADO AFTERMATH

In March, parts of the City of Hazelwood was struck by a sizeable tornado. While we continue to make great strides in cleaning up, these pictures show the devastation the tornado created.



## PROMOTIONS & NEW HIRES

Congratulations to all employees on promotions, anniversaries and newest hires!

### Promotions:

- Alex Spangler - Firefighter/Paramedic
- Matthew Payne - Building Inspector
- Jamarion Brown - Police Officer
- Tyler Jones - Police Officer
- Rhiannon Suter - Police Officer
- Gary Goessling - Police Officer
- Justin Anderson - Police Officer
- Nikki Miller, Community Development Coordinator

### New Hires:

- Charles Hill - Firefighter/Paramedic
- Debra Kottman - Custodian
- Molly Seebeck - Police Recruit
- Sara Carney - Plan Reviewer
- Devon Parks - Police Recruit
- Job Marquez - Code Enforcement Officer
- Shonda Bolar - Building Inspector
- Jose' Hernandez - Information Specialist
- Tracy Mutert - Telecommunicator
- Cynthia Escobar - Park Cleanup
- Jana Spencer - Recreation Leader I
- Brenda Thomas - Recreation Leader I
- Linda Trujillo - Records Clerk
- Deborah Fitzgerald - Permit Technician
- Cecile Denny - Planner

### Anniversaries:

- Norm Mars - Police Lt. (30 Years)
- Jennifer Chappie - Deputy City Clerk (10 Years)
- Keith Walley - Park Ranger (10 Years)
- James Taschner - Police Capt. (30 Years)
- Larry Epifanio - Head Custodian (30 Years)
- Angie Pingel - Code Enforcement Off. (30 Years)
- Barbara Wiles - Accounting II (5 Years)





## RECYCLE DAY

Members of the Green Committee hosted their annual Recycle Day in early June. The volunteers collected 425 pounds of fabric along with large amounts of paper for shredding, automotive parts, plastics, glass metals and televisions.

This continues to be a very popular event! We also want to thank the Public Works Department and Police for their efforts in assisting this event.



## NEW AMBULANCE

The Hazelwood Fire Department recently received its brand-new ambulance! It replaces a 2014 ambulance. The unit was placed in service on June 27<sup>th</sup> and will operate out of House 1.



## RON DARLING RECOGNIZED BY NORTH COUNTY INC



Hazelwood Green Committee Chair Ron Darling was honored by the North County Incorporated, Regional Development Association with a Special Recognition Leadership Award for his outstanding service to the community in promoting sustainability and environmental awareness.

The committee offers education programs at Hazelwood Day and conducts litter pick up efforts throughout the community. The City sent a large delegation, including members of the Green Committee, to the breakfast to honor Ron.



## POLICE RECEIVE MADD AWARDS

Members of the Hazelwood Police Department were recently recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Heartland for their efforts to combat drunk and impaired driving.

Officer Shane Olmsted was awarded the MADD Century Award, a prestigious distinction given to law enforcement officers who make 100 or more DWI arrests within a single calendar year. Officer Olmsted is one of only 17 officers across the entire State of Missouri to earn this recognition.

Chief James Hudanick received the MADD Roll Call Award recognizing law enforcement leaders who go above and beyond in the fight against impaired driving. Under his leadership, the Hazelwood Police Department has prioritized DUI enforcement, supported public awareness efforts like Saturation Saturday and DWI Checkpoints, and worked in close coordination with advocacy partners like MADD to make our community safer.

In addition, MADD Heartland were in attendance to honor Police Officers Michal Andreatta, Brandon Runyon, Jeffrey Lakebrink, Brandon Ulm, Daniel Johnston, Joshua West, and Shane Olmsted with the MADD Heroes Awards.

These seven officers were responsible for 169 of the 192 DWI arrests in 2024.

All received a standing ovation while receiving these awards at a recent Hazelwood City Council Meeting.



## GOVERNOR KEHOE VISITS HAZELWOOD



Hazelwood hosted Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe as he joined local McDonald's franchise owners from the St. Louis area and dignitaries at a special press conference.

The Governor praised the statewide McDonald's franchise owners who committed to hiring 10,000 people this year. Governor Kehoe also applauded the company on the 10th anniversary of Archways to Opportunity. This is a special program by the company and franchise owners to offer free career and educational opportunities for any McDonald's employee.

## ST. LOUIS HINDER CLUB OPENS IN HAZELWOOD

The region's new Hinder Club officially opened the U.S. National Handball Center in Hazelwood to a large crowd. This development ushered a new era and creating a state-of-the-art handball mecca.

Mayor Matt Robinson was joined by Councilmembers Lisa Matlock, Warren Taylor and Bob Aubuchon to celebrate the new center. Other local dignitaries like County Executive Sam Page, Senator Brian Williams and representatives from Ferguson and Florissant were also present.

United States Handball Association also announced at the



event the St. Louis Hinder Club was recognized as the National Club of the Year.

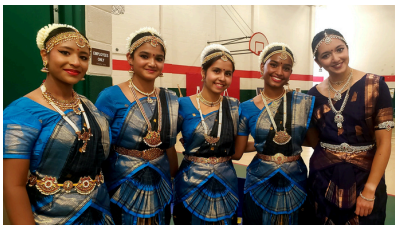
Renovations at the new facility included extensive work to ensure the courts were tournament ready. This involved preparing and finishing the floors, building the foundational walls, paneling and painting walls, and installing new lighting.



## TASTE OF HAZELWOOD CELEBRATION

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the Hazelwood Community Enrichment Commission hosted their first Taste of Hazelwood Art Soiree event at the Community Center.

The event provided the opportunity for local restaurants to showcase their food, attendees to sample a variety of food, and local artists to display their art works. The crowd was entertained by the colorful and invigorating "Dances of India" and "Alma Mexico" dance groups.



## HISTORIC HOMES TOUR



In early June, members of the Historic Preservation Commission once again participated in the Historic Saint Louis Homes Tour. A number of people visited including descendants of the Henke and Knobbe family.



## FIREWORKS!

The City of Hazelwood hosted another Independence Day celebration at White Birch Bay Park.

A spectacular fireworks show was witnessed by hundreds of citizens. Congratulations to our Parks & Recreation Department for putting together a fantastic event along with Police and Fire for safety and traffic control.

