

CITY OF RED BUD
2025 MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

As directed by the Illinois Municipal League, "The mayor or president is required to annually give the council information concerning the affairs of the city." Therefore, as Mayor of the City of Red Bud, Illinois, I present the following information for review. - Susan L Harbaugh, January 31, 2026.

Mayor, City Council and Leadership Team

9 ordinances, #1556 to #1564 and 5 resolutions, 25-001 to 25-005

The Mayor is involved with the following • Boards of Directors: Illinois Municipal League (Vice President and Conference and Credentials Committee, Nominations Committee), Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission, Monroe County Economic Development Corp, Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders Inc. • Member: Southwestern Illinois Conference of Mayors (Treasurer), Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois, Randolph County Mayors, So Illinois Mayor's Assoc. • Other - Named to the 2027 Class of Honorary Commanders at Scott Air Force Base.

The Leadership Team is involved with the following • Liz Cowell is a member of the Monroe Randolph Transit District Board of Directors • Josh Eckart is a member of the IMEA & IMUA Board of Directors, the chairman of the IMEA Generation Committee, IMUA Scholarship Committee member, and was a member of the IMEA/IMUA/IPEA CEO Replacement Hiring Committee • Jill Landgraf is a member of the Southwestern Illinois City Management Association, Southwestern Illinois Municipal Clerks Association, Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois, SI Now Business Growth & Development Task Force.

Noteworthy Events: February-Representatives attended the APPA Rally in Washington, DC. September-Representatives attended the IML Fall Conference in Chicago.

Code Administration/Zoning

54 Residential building permits, 4 Commercial building permits, 5 Home permits

3 Planning Commission hearings

Committees and Commissions

- Economic Development Commission – Tom Heizer resignation (8/4/25)
- Library Board – Cathy Thompson appointment (2/3/25), Brenda Salger resignation (4/7/25), Jill Miesner appointment (6/2/25)
- Parks & Recreation Committee – Brad Mayberry resignation (4/7/25), Matt Shields appointment (4/7/25)
- Planning Commission – Alan Lasley resignation (10/6/25)

Economic Development

- Revolving Loan funds available as of 12/31/2025: \$611,594 (\$460,342.49 of \$550k loan pending)
- Micro-Loan Funds available as of 12/31/2025: \$6,682
- Meetings held: March, May, June, July, August, September, December

Financial

May – Approval of FY2025 Budget, Capital Plans and Appropriation Ordinance

October – Approval of FY2025 financial audit, with surplus of \$1,107,318 available for transfer to capital plans

December – Approval of Tax Levy Ordinance #1564 requested \$791,997. Total Appropriation \$21,373,570.

History

On February 28, 1867, "The Town of Red Bud" was chartered. In 2025 we marked the city's 158th anniversary. City Hall has been in continuous use since 1894, marking 131 years in 2025.

Key Projects

See other materials, Project Update 2025.

Personnel

31 Full Time and 28 Part time employees as of 12/31/2025 (including library and seasonal pool)

2025 annual payroll of \$2,385,834. 87 W-2s produced.

50 - 1099 NECs produced. Total of \$1,356,209.

April – Approval for pay increases effective first full pay period in May: 2.9% for all.

Police

1,971 events handled (1,822 in 2024, 1,669 in 2023 and 1,791 in 2022)

During the year, \$8,090 in donations were received for Cops and Kids at Christmas.

December 17 shopping event with 18 children.

Ted Stellhorn retired in June, with 30 years of service to the City of Red Bud.

Population

2020 census showed 3,804 residents.

2010=3,668. 2000=3,422. 1990=2,918. 1980=2,850, 1970=2,559

Utilities and Streets

* Electricity - The City of Red Bud continues to be a member of the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency. We maintain our own six (6) diesel-fueled electric generating engines (five are dedicated units and one is an emergency only unit) which are utilized when called upon.

The 2025 annual average price statewide through October for electric sold to residential customers was 17.83 cents per kWh (no taxes or fees). The City of Red Bud's 2025 average price of electric sold to residential customers was 13.04 cents per kWh (no taxes or fees). In February, the Electric Department earned a Diamond designation for the 2024 APPA Safety Awards of Excellence. In May, the Electric Department received an Illinois Municipal Utilities Association safety recognition award.

Electricity Usage 42,687,196 kWh (44,614,375 in 2024 and 42,852,397 in 2023)

Electricity Revenue Rate \$0.1492 (\$/kWh) including taxes and fees

* Gas – The City of Red Bud purchases gas from Utility Gas Management.

Gas Usage 181,796 (MCF) (183,704 in 2024 and 169,250 in 2023)

Gas Revenue Rate \$9.12 (\$/MCF) including taxes and fees

* Water and Sewer - The City of Red Bud maintains two wells near the Kaskaskia River. In addition, Red Bud has two water towers – the north tower with a capacity of 500,000 gallons and the south tower with a capacity of 200,000 gallons.

Water Usage 95,592,866 (Gallons) (100,484,330 in 2024 and 102,689,744 in 2023)

Water Revenue Rate \$8.63 (\$/1,000 gallons) including taxes and fees

The City maintains a sewer processing plant with design flow of 300,000 gallons per day with a max flow of 600,000 gallons per day.

Sewer Revenue Rate \$5.34 (\$/1,000 gallons) including taxes and fees

*December usage billing: 2,367 electric meters, 1,737 gas meters, 1,911 water meters

* Utility Office – 591 utility locates

* Streets - The City of Red Bud maintains approximately 28 miles of streets.

\$227,400 of Rebuild IL and Motor Fuel Tax dollars were spent on street improvements.

Video Gaming

As of December 2025, there were 68 video gaming terminals in Red Bud. Per the Illinois Gaming Board Video Gaming Report for 2025, funds in were \$12,713,234 with funds out (winnings) of \$9,667,846 for a net of \$3,045,388. The city's share of the video gaming terminal tax was \$154,552 and these dollars were used to help support the various parks in our city.

**CITY OF RED BUD
PROJECT UPDATE 2025
AS OF 12/31/2025**

**FINANCE, PERSONNEL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and OTHER
COMPLETED –**

Updated logo shared 1/1/25. **W2s, 1099 NECs** issued. **OSLAD reimbursement** of \$400,000 received 1/17/25. **Regional Site Readiness Program** grant of \$926,046 announced 1/29/25. **Revolving (construction) loan approved** for Kristen Rahn, 6/11/2025-6/11/2026. **IP voice phone system** new phone system installed. **Vendor ordinances** – Special permission to allow the Sweet Treats and More ice cream truck. **RDMS/RISE Implementation** grant of \$932,041 announced 4/22/25. **Revolving loan approved** for First Stage Fabrication. **FY2026 Budget, Capital Plans, Appropriation Ordinance** approved. **Finance guidelines** approved. **MRTD Go Local** program renewed. **Façade grant** program extension approved. **Senior citizens services** offered through Red Bud Senior Link began April 2025, formally announced 7/10/25. **Microloan approved** for No Jack’s South. **Microloan approved** for T Stellhorn d/b/a SL.AM. Catering. **Virtual workspace** improvements made and will continue to expand. **IML RMA insurance, Travelers** renewal. **FY2025 financial audit** approval. **Historic building plaques** via Red Bud History Museum. **RBBP marketing materials** were developed to promote lot sales, with ongoing improvement edits. **“Made in Red Bud”** social media campaign launched 11/19/25. **Health insurance** moved to BCBS. **Tax Levy Ordinance** for \$791,997. **City Hall blinds** installed.

PENDING or IN PROCESS -

- * **Online accessibility** - Website redesign (approved 9/3/24), creating online fillable forms, auditing form content, improving online search functions for public records (Municode approved 7/7/25), notices and ordinances. In process, nearing completion.
- * **Document management** - OCR ability, historical records. IL State Archives team was on hand 4/15/25. Square 9 renewed to December 2026.
- * **America250** - Initial meeting held 7/23/25. List of ideas formulated, committees established. Registered as an Illinois America 250 community. Resolution 25-003 commemoration. IML time capsule item submitted. Donation and support letter sent, with fantastic community support thus far. One main community event planned, including fireworks, August 29, 2026.
- * **Enterprise Zone** – Updates to the zone pending. Plus inclusion of new residential construction pending.
- * **Housing needs discussion** – Began at the 5/28/25 Economic Development Commission meeting. Looking at other municipalities that have been successful in expanding housing.
- * **Caselle Cloud software** – Move accounting and billing software to a cloud-based environment. City Council approval 1/5/2026.
- * **Surplus and Capital Funds** – Discussions in process regarding FY2025 general fund surplus and saving for future projects
- * **Financial audit bids** – Seeking bids in early 2026.

**PUBLIC HEALTH and SAFETY
COMPLETED –**

Police Department staffing – Additional FT officer approved. **Police Department equipment** – Tire deflation devices. Eight (8) rifles. New vehicle in service. **Internal cameras and key fobs** – Cameras installed and key fobs distributed. **School Resource Officer** – Hired and will start in the Red Bud CUSD #132 in January 2026. **Kratom** – Ordinance 1565 banning possession, sale or distribution. City Council approval 1/5/2026.

PENDING or IN PROCESS -

*** Police Department equipment –**

- Tasers (approved 11/4/24) have arrived. 3/30/26 training pending (\$15,686 grant).
- Drone (approved 9/3/24) purchase pending finding grant dollars.
- e-citation reporting (approved 10/6/25). Printers arrived. Going online in early 2026.
- e-crash reports. Will soon begin utilizing, giving citizens online access to reports.

*** Towing Zones and Downtown Parking** – Discussing regarding automatic towing of vehicles parked illegally. Also discussing parking spots nearest the intersection could be used as five-minute drop off zones for handicapped/elderly.

PUBLIC WORKS

COMPLETED –

Water/Sewer - Ordinance 1556 revision to water and sewer rates approved. **Vehicles and Equipment** - New backhoe delivered. Truck #6 rehab parts of new bed/spreader and engine repairs. New truck #18 with spreader, roll tarp, and plow. New walk behind trencher/plow delivered. New sewer rodder/jetter delivered. New vacuum excavator delivered. **Piping** – Rehab and check valve replacement. **Taylor Street lift station** fencing. **Power plant** – Battery back-up bank for black start. **Tap Fees** – Ordinance 1560 approved. **Golf Course** – Lift station upgrades. **Locator** – In service. **Water/Wastewater Operator** – Jobs combined, and hire completed. **Permanent Streets Program** – • Overlays: McCarthy St, Hilltop St, Laverne Ct, Diane Ct, Patti Ct and Steven Dr. • Sealing: Ratz Park entrance/exit, walking trails: Lincoln Park, W. S. 4th Street Connector and SWIC Connector. **Shiloh station** – new regulator. **Motor Fuel Tax** - Oil & chip in the northwest quadrant, new culvert on Theodore/Rock Hill Dr, guardrail, curb & gutter replacement on Rock Hill Dr, Lakeview, Scheve, sidewalk replacements on S. Main St between 2nd and 3rd Streets plus other areas, and full depth patching on Locust St. **Fuel tank painting** – completed. **Hydrants** – both flushing cycles completed. **Electric Rate studies** – Financial Solutions review completed, updated ordinance 1566. City Council approval 1/5/2026 with a 5/1/26 effective date. **Utility building flooring upgrades** – Sewer and water, utility building done. **Local Government Billing Act** – Ordinance 1567 regarding back billing. City Council approval 1/5/2026. **Sewer ordinance updates** – Ordinance 1568 with tracer wire requirements. City Council approval 1/5/2026.

PENDING or IN PROCESS –

***Utility Gas Management** - Long-Term Discount Program still in process.

***North County Country Club** – Overflow pipe work pending

***Programmable Logic Controller upgrades** for the generators - Our service company is still in the process of reviewing options to ensure the best long-term solution for the City for servicing/maintenance. Possible cost splitting with other municipalities.

*** Lamp posts** – Plans are to remove about ten per quarter and deliver to UltraSite/work into their production schedule for recoating. The first batch of 11 were delivered to UltraSite the week of 3/17/25, returned week of 4/21/25. Second batch was delivered in December. Timing of deliveries is dependent on the work-load of UltraSite. Note, multi-year project.

*** Water towers** – Presentation on 3/17/25 from Maguire. On hold pending improved cash flow.

*** Hydrants** – Damaged units' repairs pending a couple of grants.

*** New electric distribution substation** – Preliminary design stage, approved 12/2/24.

*** Water and Sewer Plants** – As of 5/19/25, in agreement to begin discussions regarding new water and sewer plants.

*** Door replacements at utility plant** - Approved 6/2/25. All done except for one double door at the water plant.

- * **Motor Fuel Tax** - Resolution (approved 12/1/2025) for 2026 to invest \$400,000 in various street and sidewalk improvements. Subsequently updated to \$500,000 on 12/15/2025. Bid letting late February 2026.
- * **Project Ideas:** (FY2027 budget) concrete paving Rock Hill Dr/Theodore Ln, sidewalk extension of E Market St to Lockwood Dr

ZONING, PLANNING

COMPLETED –

Friess façade grant – Brick strip facing Route 3. **Huggins/Subway façade grant** – Storefront paint, etc. **Friess façade grant** – Awnings. **Mural permit application** – Red Bud Masonic Lodge. **Red Bud Masonic Lodge façade grant** – Mural, etc. **City hall updates** – • Phase 1 bell tower to basement assessment disclosed numerous building maintenance projects: new windows and outside trim, stabilizing the clock tower, replacement of the East entrance door, replacement of the front entrance porch, tuck pointing and masonry work in the basement, painting of the balcony door frame and iron decking/railing, storm windows in front of the stained-glass windows upstairs, painting of all features on the main entrance on Market Street, and painting of Mayors office door. Project awarded to Hunter Construction Services Inc on 1/20/25 for a total of \$186,063 including alternates 1, 2, 3. Most tasks complete, punch list remains. **Comprehensive Plan** – (\$7,500 grant) Approved 12/4/23 to proceed with Farnsworth Group. Phase 0-Steering Committee meetings held. Phase 1-analysis completed. Phase 2-stakeholder engagement completed (August and September 2024 meetings plus online public input 9/25/24 to 11/10/24) completed. Phase 3-draft plan meeting held 1/22/25 with staff. Draft plan was made available 4/4/25, implementation chapter received 8/8/25. City Council approval 1/5/2026. Note, previous plan was from June 22, 2010. **2021 International Building codes** – 2021 IRC building codes with alterations. City Council approval 1/5/2026.

PENDING or IN PROCESS -

- * **Red Bud Business Park** (RBBP) – 50.58 acres to be developed in phases for 26 light industrial and commercial business lots. Using ARPA dollars (\$473,575), 2023 and 2024 Energy Trans Comm grants (\$86,776+68,466), Regional Site Readiness Program grant (\$929,046), RISE grant (\$932,041) and city dollars to fund construction. Project bids for 7 lots awarded to Gelly Excavating on 1/20/25 for a total of \$890,466.88, plus gas and electric installed by the city. Ceremonial groundbreaking 4/21/25, construction began 4/22/25. Gelly addendum of \$498,318.99 approved 8/4/25 to get to 11 lots. (Phase 1=11 lots.) Minimum reserve bid pricing established 10/6/25. Covenants and final plat approved 12/15/2025. Engineering for an additional 6 lots approved 10/6/25. (Phase 2=6 lots.)
- * **City hall updates** – • Phase 1 punch list • Phase 2 tuckpointing pending. Quadrant Partners contract approved 12/1/25. Goes out for bids in early 2026.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, PARKS & REC

COMPLETED –

Community Garden – Five boxes were added. Total of 57. **Splash pad** – Baby changing stations installed, rules sign posted, improved the features capacity, donated shade features. **Ratz Park Parking Lot** – Retaining wall, dumpster pad, paving of lot, striping, dumpster fencing and parking blocks completed (rip rap pending). **Sports Complex** – Using IMEA’s Energy Efficiency Program, lighting upgrades for diamond 1. **Swimming Pool** – Pool house interior walls repaired. City assumed management of the pool. Building improvements: roof replacement, tuckpointing, painting and gutters. **Lincoln Park** – skate park removal.

PENDING or IN PROCESS -

- * **Dog park** – Proposal from UltraSite approved 9/3/24. In addition to pledged large and small dog area products, plus amenities, UltraSite held a square collection on 10/12/24 and a Jukebox BINGO event

11/16/25 to raise funds on the city's behalf. Plans are to hold until the summer 2026 OSLAD grant application.

* **Swimming pool** – Approval on 11/3/25 to move forward with replacement of floor drains in deck including to remove old piping and drains and replace with new (as well as concrete removal/replacement). Concrete removal scheduled to start week of 1/12/26. Filter room will remain as is. Plans are to paint the pool before the 2026 season. Lifeguard stand replacement approved 12/1/25. Note, our pool opened May 30, 1961.

GRANTS

ONGOING –

- ARPA \$473,574.59. To be spent by 12/31/26. The 12/31/25 balance was \$298,585.24.
- Energy Transition Community Grant for 2023 – \$86,776.00 to be spent by 6/20/25 + 1 year extension
- Energy Transition Community Grant for 2024 – \$68,465.55 to be spent by 6/20/26 – fully claimed.

APPROVED/AWARDED in 2025 -

- Regional Site Readiness grant – approval 9/3/24 to apply, \$929,046 for RBBP announced 1/29/25. All steps completed as of 9/24/25 and reimbursements have begun.
- RDMS/RISE Implementation grant – approval 6/3/24 to apply, requested \$932,041 for RBBP announced 4/22/25. Notice of Grant Award pending.
- IMEA Energy Efficiency program – approval 7/1/24 to apply, \$48,907.40 for Sports Complex lighting on diamond 1.
- IMEA Energy Efficiency program - \$5,028.02 for VSD blower motor at city sewer plant.
- IMEA Energy Efficiency program - \$5,028.02 for 2nd VSD blower motor at city sewer plant
- IMEA Energy Efficiency program – \$1,943.75 for exterior lighting at the firehouse.

PENDING or IN PROCESS –

- Energy Transition Community Grant for 2025 – approval 6/2/25 to apply. Submitted 12/17/25 for fire hydrant repairs, requested \$60,069.59.
- Cemetery Relief Grant – approval 10/6/25 to apply. Submitted 10/22/25 for upkeep at city-owned cemeteries, requested \$20,000.
- Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Development grant – approval 11/3/25 to apply. Submitted 11/21/25 for fire hydrant repairs, requested \$10,000.
- Southern Illinois Community Foundation – approval 12/15/25 to apply. Submitted 12/12/25 for fire hydrant repairs, requested \$5,000.
- Regional Site Readiness grant (#2) – approval 11/3/25 to apply. Cycle on a rolling basis through 3/31/25. Considering submitting for an electric substation near the RBBP. Award range \$100,000- \$5,000,000.
- ITEP – hold for 2026 cycle.
- Safe Routes to School – hold for 2026 cycle.
- IDNR OSLAD grant – hold for 2026 cycle.

DECLINED –

- HeroFund USA Inc grant – approval 9/3/24 to apply, requested \$23,000 for drone. Received word of \$500. Approval to decline on 8/4/25.

For questions about any of these projects, call the Mayor's office at 618-282-2319.