

We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Some statics for 2025 about our community:

75,600 feet of sewer lines,

2,757,220 pounds of trash picked up in our community

162,802,000 gallons of water were pumped from our wells

16,340,210 KW of electricity were purchased

50,005,000 gallons were processed in the wastewater treatment plant

137,941 feet of water lines

1,016,725 vehicles were east bound plus west bound, plus north bound, plus south bound estimated to be 3,000,000 passed through the main intersection in 2025.

Unknown number of miles of electrical lines

All the above plus miles of streets, water valves etc. all to operate our community.

2025 was certainly a busy one for us and you might or might not have noticed some improvements that occurred in the city. I want to thank the City Council for their dedication and hard work in getting things done. Also, a big thanks to the office and outside staff for being so willing to follow up on the Council's requests. I want to give a small summary of the work that was done last year.

Spring is the time for sealing the streets in Cimarron and it always causes us to worry about tar on our cars and shoes. Last year we did in fact increase the number of streets that were improved. New paved road on North 3rd and Penner, one block of Birch Street south of Hwy 50 and the Public Works parking lot. All these improvements help reduce the amount of dust and allow for better movement for citizens.

The swimming pool kicked off as usual but quickly had to close due to a major water leak. Through a collaborative effort, new parts were installed – the pool refilled and kids got back to the summer fun. The slide also was cleaned, painted and polished.

Cimarron Crossing Park has been so busy. Recently updated is the toddler playground near the Shelter House. The pickleball court has been a very popular addition to the west end of the park. Lights have been installed to allow for longer hours of play, not only for pickleball, but for the basketball court and volleyball. Lastly, the covered wagon that has long been a symbol of Cimarron and the Santa Fe Trail has gotten a new bonnet (the canvas cover). In the past, the wagon was removed from the park during the winter, but a metal roof was installed to keep the weather from causing deterioration, allowing it to be out all year long.

The city is now allowed to adopt out unclaimed dogs. Mark takes special care to make sure the dogs are healthy and appropriate to be adopted. All are spayed or neutered to help keep the dog population down. The CAAT program has also made a big difference in the cat population; please check out their Facebook page.

A project was started and completed this year that repaired and replaced many of the broken-out curbs in the downtown area. A grant was finally approved that will provide for a sidewalk along East Hwy 50 to the grocery store, from downtown to the Shepherd Center and from the liquor store to the recreation building. This project is projected to be finished in 2026. All of these are major improvements to our community.

The water lines in Cimarron are aging, and altitude valves have been installed around town to stabilize water pressure. Some parts of town have had too much water pressure and others not enough. In collaboration with the fire department, there are plans for replacing old lines that are also too small for the population relying on them.

Future growth for Cimarron can continue with the purchase of 62 acres of land just north of State department on the west side of the highway. It will be some time before anything will be apparent because the land is unimproved and there are no plans for use at this time. The Council wants growth to be controlled and focused as to what is best for Cimarron at large. Not only this project, but systems within the City have improved with license requirements for all contractors working in the city, helping citizens know who has insurance and the ability to do the work needed.

The generators that are in the process of being built should be installed during the year 2026. These two generators have been purchased to provide not only emergency electricity, but also to control our “capacity” costs. Make no mistake though, everyone in the United States will see increased electricity demand and costs. There is no way around it. The Council will work diligently to stay apprised of new technologies and possibilities to keep costs under control.

The staff have been working to update the technology we need to keep the city running. We have purchased a new program for billing and accounting. In just the last few days, they have gone live. Although there might be some hiccups, we are confident that this will help in many areas of the financial process of the city. In addition, we have stepped up our communication through an increased social media presence, and we have installed an emergency texting system that will contact individuals in the case of emergencies. Go to the website and get signed up.

You will notice some changes in the downtown area. Additional Christmas decorations were purchased this year, and you probably noticed many more poles had decorations. Not only residents but those passing through enjoyed the festive lights.

We are excited to be working with Mike Curtiss and the Ag Welding class at the school. They will be creating “Wayfinding” signs to place along the main highways into Cimarron. These will direct visitors to many of the locations in town that folks need to find. More details will be available as the year passes. We are also so appreciative of the students who were interested in being on the Leadership Advisory Board for Cimarron. You can visit Facebook to see who they are. One of the projects they have adopted is the Limestone Legacy Post project. These posts will bring attention to the citizens who helped settle Cimarron, insuring its importance from the late 1800s to now. These posts will be installed along Main Street and will educate both citizens and visitors alike. More information will be available as the year progresses. Big thanks to the young people who are interested in insuring that Cimarron is a great place to live.

This is a short summary of things that occurred in our community in 2025. There will be many more coming in 2026 so stay informed through the web site and other updates.

Thank you, Gilbert Benton Mayor