City Manager Details Water System Incident and Rapid Recovery

City Manager Gary Whitehead delivered an extensive report on the August 28, 2026 water system disruption during the September 9 Commission meeting, explaining how a combination of a contractor-damaged line and an unexpected failure at Well #6 led to rapidly dropping tank levels in the upper zone. The city shut down the northern tank to preserve remaining water while crews assessed the situation, contacted emergency management, and began repairs. Despite concerns about pressure loss, water continued flowing throughout most of the system due to looping and pumping capacity from Morgan Street.

Whitehead praised Malden Drilling, which pulled off another job and worked 18 straight hours to restore the well. By 7 PM the same day, system pressure had stabilized, and by Wednesday morning, water tests confirmed no contamination. Commissioners discussed communication challenges, noting that social media posts created confusion and impacted weekend tourism. Whitehead acknowledged the need for clearer follow-up messaging and emphasized that the city website—now updated through a new PIO platform—should be the primary source for official information. Commissioners commended staff for their rapid response and highlighted the importance of daily physical tank checks.

MainStreet T or C Announces Fall Events and Concert Series

The fall season is underway with the Levitt AMP music series, which kicked off Thursday the 10th at Ralph Edwards Park and will run seven straight weeks from 6–9 PM. The free, family-friendly concerts are open to all, with schedules available for community distribution. Recent activities included the ribbon cutting for the Foch Street project on Saturday, September 12, and upcoming events include the September 18 reveal party for MainStreet's third locally designed deck-of-cards art project. Additional fall events are also in motion, including Halloween, Small Business Saturday, Oktoberfest, and Old-Fashioned Christmas, marking one of MainStreet's busiest seasons of the year.

Adult Education Program Secures Another Year at Gardner Center

The Commission renewed its agreement with the Geronimo Springs Alternative Pathway Program, allowing GED and HiSET classes to continue at the Gardner Learning Center for another year. The partnership has become a quiet but meaningful success for the community, helping residents earn high-school equivalency credentials and opening doors to better employment. Library staff noted that several graduates have already applied for city jobs, and many more have used the program to meet regional hiring requirements.

The renewal keeps the classroom space available and adds a separate rental agreement to clarify scheduling and coordination with the Clerk's Office. Commissioners described the program as "very viable," emphasizing its role in workforce development and its value to residents who need accessible, local education options. With the vote, the city reaffirmed its support for adult learners and the library's growing role in community advancement.