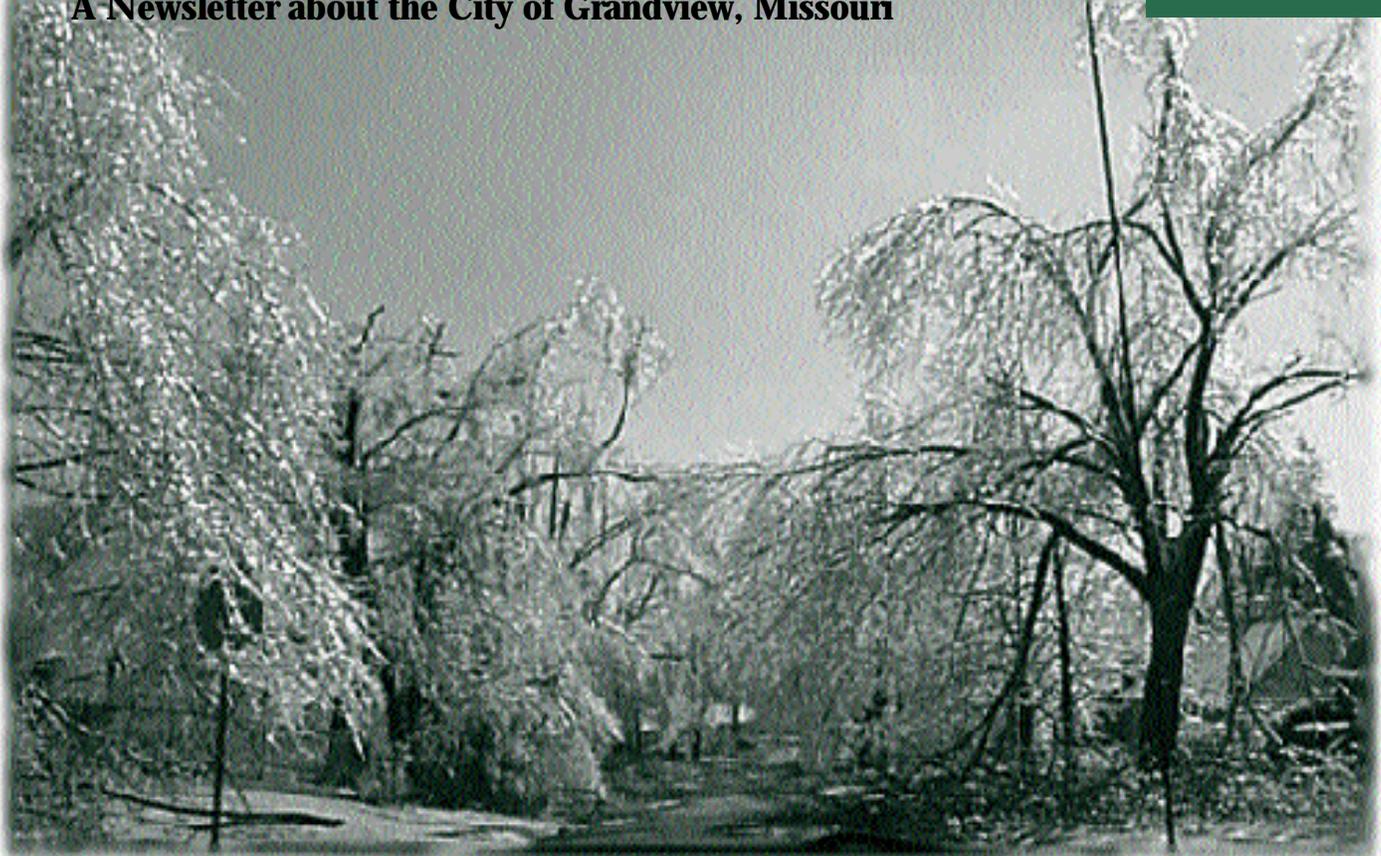


GRANDVIEW

A Newsletter about the City of Grandview, Missouri



More than Ice: Evaluating the Impact of Last Winter's Ice Storm

The ice storm of 2002 is one of those rare events where everyone has a story, whether it be about a week-long adventure without electricity, a scary drive to work, a night of listening to the eerie popping and cracking of branches giving way under the weight of the ice, or even the amount of work it took to make the yard look normal again after the ice had disappeared. For employees of the City of Grandview, the ice storm meant working overtime, lending a hand at emer-



gency shelters, clearing streets, contracting for help to pick-up and dispose of debris, and, finally, gathering information into a long report for state and federal reimbursement. When all was said and done, the Ice Storm of 2002 had cost Grandview three-quarters of a million dollars, 60% of residents had gone without power, and over 115,000 cubic yards of branches and debris had been collected from resident curbsides and the drop-off disposal site at Meadowmere Park. *(continued on back page)*

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GRANDVIEW
REPORT

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State of the City: Challenges and Highlights from FY2002



Mayor Harry O. Wilson

Grandview's Mayor Harry O. Wilson gave his "State of the City" address at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the Elks Lodge on Friday, January 24, 2003. Included here are highlights from his speech.

The past year saw a wide variety of challenges and opportunities for the City and the citizens of Grandview. From the difficulties that arose from the ice storm to the excitement of building a community center, countless hours were spent on numerous issues:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City collaborated with the Chamber and other entities in order to attract and assist realtors, developers, retailers, and other companies who might consider locating in the city. In addition, Community Development took the lead in the adoption of TIF District No. 7 for the West Frontage Road area and TIF District No. 8 for the Downtown area. These efforts should result in a commitment for a new anchor store in the near future, a new restaurant at Truman Corners, a new owner for the old House of Lloyd building, additional developments downtown, and possible developments along the West Frontage Road and Highways 150 and 71. Last year, several projects were started and/or completed, including:

- * Grand Summit Golf Course & Apartment Complex (phase I)
- * Rehab of the 8th & Main building for loft apartments and office space
- * O'Reilly Automotive's new retail facility on Harry Truman Drive
- * Kenny's Tile's new 30,000 square foot facility
- * Five M Enterprises' new 12,000 square foot facility on 142nd Street
- * Mid-States Heating and Cooling Co.'s new 28,000 facility on West Main

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Due to a difficult fiscal year, with unseen costs such as the ice storm and issues that arose from September 11th and the economy, the City looked for ways to develop a balanced budget that would not require any layoffs and would allow for at least modest raises according to the pay-for-performance system. The result was a freezing of job vacancies and the cutting of six positions from the fiscal year 2003 budget, or about four percent of the workforce.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

With Public Works taking the lead, many improvements in streets, sidewalks, curbs and sewers were completed in the 5th Street/Inman Square neighborhood and Cartwright Avenue. In addition, the Botts Road project reached its starting point, with construction to occur over the next year down to the city limits around 143rd Street, and design for the West Frontage Road Improvement Project was coordinated with MoDOT and the public. Meanwhile, the City's grant application for downtown parking improvements has now been approved.

COMMUNITY CENTER

With Parks & Recreation and a City-appointed selection committee taking the lead, a construction manager and architect were selected, other centers in the area were toured, and the design of the new community center in Meadowmere Park was completed. Bids from contractors came within budget, and construction is now in progress. The center will feature an aquatics center, track, gymnasium, fitness center, multipurpose rooms, and a climbing wall.

With 2002 behind us, it looks to be an exciting and challenging year of new beginnings and potential growth for our community. For all of those who helped us through the ups and downs of last year, thank you. May the fruits of our labors be evident in the year to come.

Grant Revitalizes an Older Neighborhood and Creates Opportunities for Qualifying Homeowners and First-Time Homebuyers

In 2000, the State of Missouri's Department of Economic Development awarded Grandview a \$600,000 Neighborhood Revitalization Grant to be used for the 5th Street/Inman Square Neighborhood, located to the southwest of downtown Grandview. The grant gives qualifying homeowners an opportunity to obtain financial assistance to improve their properties, and encourages first-time homebuyers to purchase within this neighborhood.

The grant also provided funds for the reconstruction of public improvements in the 5th Street/Inman Square Neighborhood, bounded by Highgrove to the North, DeWeese Ave to the South, 5th Street to the West, and the KC Southern Railroad tracks to the East. With this grant, the City has been able to fund new curbs and gutters, sidewalks, storm sewers, streets, and driveway approaches within the neighborhood.

With the financial assistance as a much-needed boost, the effects of the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant are now becoming evident. Several homeowners have used private or grant funds to improve their properties, both inside and out. The improvements have become contagious, spurring addi-

tional private investments in the form of new homes and other improvements in the area. As the evolution of this neighborhood continues, the City is encouraging more prospective homeowners and first-time homebuyers to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Loans for qualifying first-time homebuyers (those who have not owned a home in the most recent three years) for newly constructed homes can be up to \$10,000, while loans for the purchase of existing homes can reach \$5,000. As long as the homebuyers live in the house and continue to own it, the loans are forgiven at

a rate of 20% each year. At that rate, the loan is completely forgiven after five years.

Homeowners wanting to improve their properties to certain standards can be eligible to receive rehabilitation funds not to exceed \$15,000. This money is provided as a loan with a 1% interest rate over 10 years, but homeowners need not make payments on the loan as long as they live in the house and continue to own the property.

To get involved in bringing this Grandview neighborhood back to life, please contact the Community Development Department at either (816) 316-4820 or (816) 316-4822.



Proper Plumbing Maintenance Now Prevents Problems Later On

Periodically, the City must clean the public sewer system using high-pressure water to flush tree roots and grease. The release of this high-pressure water into the public sewer forces air down the sewer and back into individual house connections. This air normally escapes harmlessly out of

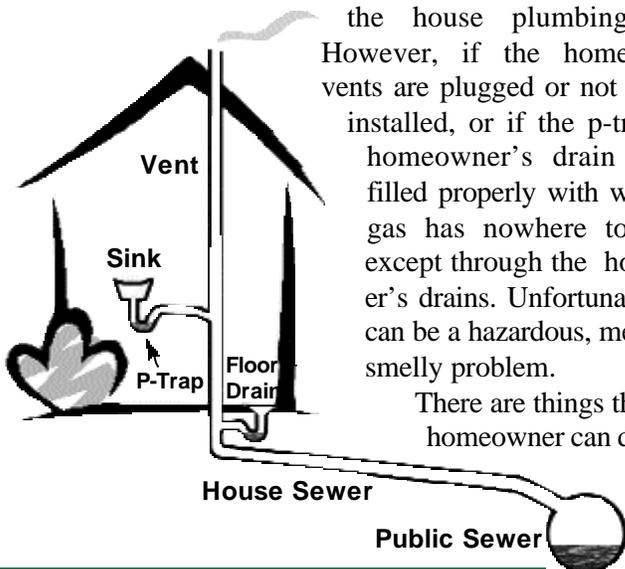
the house plumbing vents. However, if the homeowner's vents are plugged or not properly installed, or if the p-traps in a homeowner's drain are not filled properly with water, the gas has nowhere to escape except through the homeowner's drains. Unfortunately, this can be a hazardous, messy, and smelly problem.

There are things that a homeowner can do to pre-

vent this from happening. First, make sure that vents are working properly and are free from any blockage. You can make sure your vents are working properly by having them inspected by a professional plumber.

Second, make sure you have healthy p-traps. Drains such as sinks, toilets, and floor drains are constructed with p-traps, which use a reservoir of water to prevent the escape of sewer gas into your house. If there is a drain in your house (such as in a basement) that has not been used in a long time, the water in the p-trap can evaporate. Without the water in the p-trap to provide a barrier, sewer gas can escape through the drain and into the house. By running water in rarely-used sinks and pouring a bucket of water down floor drains occasionally, you can keep your p-trap filled with water, allowing it to function properly.

Unfortunately, if a homeowner's p-traps and vents are not functioning and a problem occurs during a City cleaning of the public sewer, it is the homeowner's responsibility to correct the problem. For more information, call Public Works at (816) 316-4856.



Taxpayers Needing Assistance Can Find Help at City Hall

Beginning February 3rd, taxpayers with middle and low income can receive free help figuring their taxes. The annual program, administered through the AARP Foundation in cooperation with the IRS, will once again have a site at Grandview City Hall. Those wishing assistance will be taken on a first-come-first-serve basis, with special attention given to those age 60 or older, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9am until 2pm through April 14th.

Taxpayers will need to bring the current year's tax forms and preparation booklet, a copy of last year's income tax return(s), W-2 forms from each employer, unemployment compensation statements, all forms indicating federal

income tax paid, all receipts or cancelled checks of itemizing deductions, and the Social Security number of all dependents. Those with children in daycare should bring the child care provider name, employer, ID, and Social Security number.

Some additional forms will need to be provided by taxpayers in certain situations. If you were paid Social Security benefits, please bring form SSA-1099. Bring all 1099 forms (1099-INT, 1099-DIV, 1099-misc, etc.) showing interest and/or dividends and documentation showing original purchase price of sold assets. In addition, bring form 1099R if you received a pension or annuity. More information can be found by visiting AARP's website at www.aarp.org/taxaide.

Top 10 Tickets and Fines FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)



When someone is issued a ticket, that information is given to the Grandview Municipal Court Clerk's Office, located inside Grandview City Hall, 1200 Main Street, to process. Municipal Court is held inside Grandview City Hall and usually meets on the last three Mondays of each month at 7:00 pm. Between court dates, however, the Court Clerks are often flooded with questions. The top ten are answered here for your convenience.

Q If my ticket does not show a court date, and I have not received anything in the mail, when do I need to appear?

A A court appearance is not necessary for all tickets. If there is not a court date on your ticket, then you may pay by mail within 45 calendar days according to the fine schedule on the back of your ticket.

Q If I receive a ticket for no insurance or no driver's license on hand, but I do have it, what do I do?

A Bring or mail proof of insurance or a driver's license and the court will reduce the fine according to the fine schedule on the back of your ticket.

Q How do I dispute a ticket?

A Contact the court and request a "not guilty" court date or make an appointment with the prosecutor on Wednesday evenings from 4:00pm - 6:00pm.

Q Can I pay double the fine to keep points off my license?

A You must get an attorney to represent you in order to have your ticket amended to keep points off of your driving record.

Q Can I make payments on my fine?

A Grandview does not grant extensions on ticket deadlines, nor does it accept payment plans. All fines are due in full within 45 calendar days for all mail-in fines and, if

assessed during court, fines are due that evening.

Q Can I pay for someone else's ticket?

A If you are paying someone else's fine you must obtain a permission form from the Court Clerk, or bring the ticket with that person's signature on it indicating they are pleading guilty.

Q How much is my ticket? What forms of payment are accepted?

A If your ticket does not indicate a court date, you will need to check the back of your ticket for the fine schedule. Grandview accepts checks, cash or money orders.

Q What if I miss the deadline for payment of a ticket?

A A warrant may be issued for your arrest and a \$25.00 fee added to your fine. Your license may also be suspended within 30 days from your failure to pay.

Q Can I get my court date continued?

A You may request one continuance by phone. If you have already had your case continued once, you must appear that night to request another one. If your case is set for trial, you may not obtain a continuance by phone.

Q Can I pay a Kansas City ticket in Grandview?

A Grandview only accepts payments for Grandview tickets.

Do You Want to Know More About What's Happening In and Around Grandview? There are Many Options...

Since the "Beyond 2000 -- A Vision for Grandview" strategic planning process was completed in 2001, a good deal has been going on in Grandview. Citizens and business leaders have been involved in several new initiatives over the past couple of years, and this has City staff busier than ever working with committees, neighborhoods, downtown merchants, and consultants to further some of the ideas that were developed in the recent planning process. If you are interested in what's going on in your city, there are numerous ways for you to stay tuned in. Here are a few ways to stay in touch:

City Newsletter -- The "Grandview Report" (you're reading it right now!) is a six-page publication mailed quarterly to all residents and businesses, which provides information on current activities and upcoming events, as well as updates on projects and other initiatives.

Web Site -- The City, Grandview Chamber of Commerce, and Economic Development Council share a web page on the Internet at www.grandview.org. If you are on the net, you may have already looked at the local information provided there. This site keeps you up to date on the progress of the community center project and other economic and construction activity, answers frequently asked questions, and gives information on nearly every facet of the City.



Channel 2 -- If you subscribe to cable television, you are probably aware that Channel 2 provides information on City meetings or events and timely announcements or information that may affect you during times of emergency or for special activities.

Parks and Recreation Brochures -- Twice a year, this department sends out brochures highlighting programming and upcoming recreational and educational activities, classes, and special events.

Community Development Brochures -- Numerous brochures briefly provide the basics on City code requirements, solid waste disposal, residential parking requirements, home occupations, garage sales, weed mowing, animal control, dog bites, driveway standards, zoning and building code matters, etc. These can be picked up at the front door of City Hall or at the Community Development counter anytime during office hours.



Info-Line -- The City provides a menu of services and "how to" information on a 24-hour information phone line -- an answer line for questions you may have about city services or programs. Just call 763-5524 to access the menu, pick

up a listing of topics and their codes at City Hall, or call 316-4801 to find out how to receive one.

City Development Update -- This is a quarterly report from the City's Community Development Department that highlights development activities, new construction, expansions, building additions, or remodeling projects around town.

City Hall Update -- Each week, the Jackson County Advocate provides an update from the City on the items coming before the Board of Aldermen and information on upcoming development and zoning matters, code enforcement, and neighborhood improvements, along with tips on caring of pets, reporting street lights out, etc.

New E-Mail Update -- For those who are interested, the City will periodically send out an e-mail update highlighting some of the latest things going on in the city, activities, accomplishments, development news, election issues, or other things affecting citizens. Call 316-4801 to get on the e-mail list.

Join a Committee or Commission -- One way to keep up on the latest is to join one of the City's ad-hoc committees which are formed from time to time on given issues (ex: historic preservation, downtown improvements, 150 Corridor development, etc.) or apply to be appointed to one of the advisory commissions or committees. These include the Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation, and the Construction Codes Appeals Board.



Attend Board of Aldermen Meetings -- Board of Aldermen regular sessions are held at 7:30 pm at Grandview City Hall on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. A "Public Discussion" time is set aside on each of the regular session agendas where citizens are encouraged to address the Board of Aldermen about matters that concern them pertaining to City government.

More than Ice: Evaluating the Impact of Last Winter's Ice Storm

After the metro area was declared a disaster area, Grandview became eligible for State and Federal aid. A special account was set up to help track the City's costs from the ice storm, and in May of 2002 a final report was sent to FEMA. The combined State and Federal reimbursement totaled over 87% of the final cost.

In addition to finances, the ice storm impacted Grandview's urban forestry program and tested the City's emergency plan.

"It was estimated that over 70% of the forestry canopy in the region, including Grandview, saw damage from last year's storm," said Parks Supervisor Don Fowler. "It will take years to recover."

The ice storm also put Grandview's emergency plan into action as the City set up a shelter at Grandview High School, organized and responded to the plethora of emergency phone calls coming in, and dealt with City Hall itself going without power.

"The Ice Storm of 2002 tested and taxed all public resources provided to the citizens of Grandview," said Chuck Thacker, Deputy Fire Chief. "This was a citywide disaster, and it took the effort of every City department, as well as help from the Grandview School District, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, and the U.S. Marine Corp, to make the system work."

A year later, the impact of the Ice Storm of 2002 is still evident in Grandview. Though the ice is long gone, the storm left in its wake a trail of broken trees, pages worth of numbers and figures, and a ton of stories and memories.



Finding the Funding: Final Costs of the Ice Storm

Total Contract Labor . . .	\$624,659
City Overtime Labor . . .	\$56,350
In-House Equipment . . .	\$53,286
Rented Equipment	\$11,506
Material	\$20,933
TOTAL COST	\$766,734
State & Federal Reimbursement	\$668,059
CITY'S COST	\$98,675

City of Grandview Directory of City Officials

Elected Officials

- Harry O. Wilson, Mayor
- Leonard D. Jones, Jr., Ward I Alderman
- Steve Dennis, Ward I Alderman
- Catherine Kelley, Ward II Alderman
- Kenneth L. Cox, Ward II Alderman
- James N. Crain, Ward III Alderman
- Eddie Garcia, Ward III Alderman
- Donald Crow, Municipal Judge

City Staff

- Cory Smith, City Administrator
- Brian Scott, Assistant City Administrator
- Phoebe Cameron, City Clerk
- Bob Beckers, Police Chief
- Chuck Thacker, Acting Fire Chief
- Larry Creek, Director of Public Works
- Tom Greenwood, Director of Community Development
- Steve Stadler, Director of Parks and Recreation
- Shirley Moses, Director of Finance

Schedule of Public Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and take place at Grandview City Hall, 1200 Main Street.

Board of Aldermen regular meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Aldermen work sessions are held the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission meetings are the the fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission meetings are the first Thursday at 7 p.m.



City Hall Information

City of Grandview
1200 Main Street
Grandview, Missouri 64030
(816) 316-4800 • Fax (816) 763-3902
www.grandview.org

City of Grandview
1200 Main Street
Grandview, MO 64030

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