

FALL 2013

# GRANDVIEW

*A Newsletter about the City of Grandview, Missouri*

REPORT



Sunset at the end of Main street



Grandview Parks & Rec. 7-10 Football League



Civic Plaza Construction at 8th and Main Street



Boo at The View October 31st



Little Blue River Trail

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# Front Porch Conversations with the Mayor...



Mayor Dennis

## “Talkin’ Trash”

Wow, what a great time of the year! Autumn is, by far, my favorite season. The high school, college, and professional football seasons are in full swing, giving us plenty to cheer about. The weather is wonderful and the leaves are beginning to transform, showing us all those incredible fall colors. And Grandview’s citizens are preparing to settle in for the winter months ahead.

I have been away for the past number of weeks in Europe fulfilling my annual duties with the U.S. Navy, and I couldn’t wait to get back home. Believe it or not, there I was in downtown Naples, Italy yearning to be back home in good old Grandview, Missouri!

And I’m glad to be back with my family and in our great city.

I hope you all had a great summer. We had a lot of fun activities here in town. From our “Concerts and Movies in the Park” to the terrific “Party in the Park” with it’s amazing grand finale of incredible fireworks, we definitely kept Meadowmere Park humming all summer long.

Then in September, the Grandview Chamber’s 10th Annual “Music On Main” delivered (as it always does) unbelievable music, delectable food, and lots of friends dancin’ in the street. If you missed it this year, don’t worry. Just mark your calendars for next September, when the event will be back, bigger and better than ever.

Well, I told you that I recently spent a few weeks overseas, and I was struck with the differences of the various cities where my duties took me. From Brussels, Belgium to Munich, Germany to Naples, Italy....I got to see a lot of history and culture.

But I also saw how different parts of the same city can seem so.... different....all in the way that they maintain their appearance. And the contrast could not have been more stark than in the city of Naples, Italy.

I had about 5 hours one afternoon to walk around a large portion of downtown Naples. I couldn’t help but be in awe of the classical architecture, the brick and stone paved streets, and the sheer majesty of the almost three thousand years of history all around me. But I was also struck by the amount of trash and graffiti that stained many of those historic avenues. I was amazed by the thousands of event posters that were left plastered all over the city long after the event it publicized had come and gone. It seemed like everywhere I looked I couldn’t see the history and beauty because of all the litter and “street art”.

Most of Naples, unfortunately, looked this “trashy”, and the very “unkept” appearance of much of the city really tainted my view of this historic icon of the Mediterranean. What a shame!

I’m telling you all about this experience because it really showed me how much aesthetics and cleanli-

ness mean to the perception of any community....even one as historic as Naples, Italy. A city and its inhabitants CHOOSE how they want to be viewed by others. We, here in Grandview, as individual citizens and business owners and as a city government CHOOSE how we want to be perceived by the other communities of the Greater Metropolitan Area. We CHOOSE by seemingly small acts such as keeping our yards mowed and houses kept up. We CHOOSE by how we look after the facades of our businesses. We CHOOSE by how we keep our city streets litter-free and well-maintained.

Unlike Naples, our city has ONLY been around for 100 years, but I sure like the fresh path we’re headed down. But it will take diligence and determination to maintain our new direction. Let’s CHOOSE well in the future...at our homes and businesses and within our city government.

And folks, I hope we all keep in mind the type of “community” that we would all like to live in....one where we raise good families, enjoy each other’s company, and help each other out. Let’s continue to make sure and take care of those closest to us....our family and friends....but let’s also keep an eye out in our neighborhoods and throughout our community for those who need our help. Let’s stay on that mission to be the best Grandview we can be.

Enjoy the season!

Steve

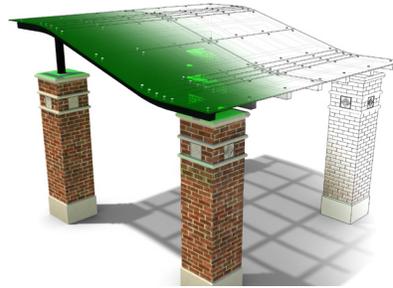
# Little Blue River Trailhead Enhancements



Parking at the Little Blue River trailhead on Byars Road has always been a problem, but things are about to change with an upcoming two-phase project.

In Phase I, what's now a grassy area will soon make way for an 8-space asphalt parking lot on the west side of Byars Road, just to the north of the trail crossing. Sidewalks will also be included to connect the new parking lot not only to the trail, but also to Brumble's Forest at Meadowmere Park. The plan is to have this phase completed by the end of the year, weather permitting. Next spring, the parallel parking along the east side of Byars Road will be removed and replaced with landscaping as part of our Byars Road Enhancement, Phase II project.

Phase II also includes extension of the sidewalk on the west side of Byars Rd. to connect it to the MO Hwy 150 trail. As of now, the sidewalk stops right at Fire Station #2, located just a couple hundred feet from Hwy 150 and its trail. That trail goes all the way from Botts Road to MO Hwy 291 in Lee's Summit, which means Grandview residents will be able to safely travel on trails and sidewalks from Longview Lake to Lee's Summit, and to Botts Road to the



west.

west.

And finally, the City will build a kiosk, including bench, water fountains, landscaping, and a structure to place City notices of events, on the northeast corner of Byars Road and MO Hwy 150.

Altogether, these two projects will greatly enhance pedestrian and bicyclist mobility in Grandview, and allow our residents to safely travel on one of the longest trail/sidewalk facilities in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

## How does a HAWK Signal operate?

### INSTRUCTIONS

Drivers		Pedestrians	
...will see this	...will do this	...will see this	...will do this
	Proceed with Caution		Push the Button to Cross
	Slow Down (Pedestrian has activated the push button)		Wait
	Prepare to Stop		Continue to Wait
	STOP! (Pedestrian in Crosswalk)		Start Crossing
	STOP! Proceed with Caution if Clear		Continue Crossing (Countdown Signal)
	Proceed if Clear		Push the Button to Cross

Phase II, which is being funded by federal grant money, will consist of safety enhancements that will give the avid runner, walker, cyclist and outdoors/nature lover, the ultimate trail use experience.

The project will include instal-

lation of a high-intensity activated crosswalk signal at the trail crossing on Byars Rd. The pushbutton-activated pedestrian signal, also known as HAWK, provides a way to increase pedestrian safety while reducing the amount of delay for vehicles.



The Civic Plaza at 8th & Main St. is almost complete. Ribbon Cutting will take place in early November!

# GRANDVIEW PARKS & RECREATION

## 2013 SAW EVEN MORE ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, AMENITIES

With an updated park system that consists of over 250 acres spread across 13 parks throughout the City, the citizens of Grandview have



*The View Front Desk*

been utilizing award-winning amenities such as the John Anderson Splash Park, Brumble's Forest playground at Meadowmere Park, and a community center (The View) that is still receiving accolades almost 10 years after its construction.

The Parks and Recreation Department is focusing a lot of time and effort in areas such as park renovation and youth program growth, making 2013 a very special year thus far! The bond project at Bobcat Park has been completed, and three other parks are currently under construction (Belvidere, Little Corner, and Southview), all of which will re-open around the first of December. During the first half of 2014, five additional park renovations will be finalized (Valley, River Oaks, Mapleview, Terrace, & the new Dog Park). This last phase of construction will complete the 2008 voter-approved "no tax increase"



*John Anderson Playground*

bond issue, which paid for 10 of our 13 park renovations, as well as the construction of a new public works and park maintenance facility. Furthermore, our trail system continues to grow annually (five miles) and connects to the Jackson County Trail System (six miles), offering our residents ample opportunities to get outdoors and enjoy nature.

When it comes to recreation and fitness, there are plenty of opportunities for residents with our extensive repertoire of special events, programs and activities. While 2013 saw the cancellation of the Truman



*100 foot slide at Party in the Park*

Heritage Festival due to cold weather, all of the other special events certainly picked up the slack with record attendance, including the Fit-n-Fun Fair, Easter Egg Hunt, Party in the Park, Ability Day, Boo at The View, Father-Daughter Dance, and Summer Movie and Concert Series. When you add in Music on Main (amazing!), all these events alone draw in excess of 20,000 people.

Just like parks and special events, new and improved sports programming for 2013 saw increased attendance and will be the driving force for our programs as we head into 2014. The new programs included two summer camps co-sponsored by the Grandview Police Department. The department also added

tackle football to the offerings this year, and over 80 local kids are



*Grandview Parks & Rec. Football league*

registered for our inaugural season! Geared toward children ages 7-10, the 10-week program has partnered with the Grandview School District to utilize the brand new (and beautiful) field turf on game days (Saturday mornings until Nov. 9) as the department works to build a feeder program for the high school football team. According to Jon Burnett, one of the league's four head coaches, Grandview's program fee (\$85 per registrant in 2013) is "very affordable" for most families. "I have seen \$250 and up, and that's not getting fully equipped, and you're getting hand-me-downs. Here, you get new equipment, and we're playing on turf – I love this!" says Coach Burnett. "Being in its first year, we're going to grow leaps and bounds over other local programs that have been in existence for 10-15 years."

"Its feedback such as this that led us to try indoor soccer for 3 to

6-year-olds, and which now has 75 kids participating," commented Recreation Manager Sky Smothers.



*Summer Camp*

# RECREATION & RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

With basketball season on the horizon and a new baseball program being designed for the spring of 2014, Youth Sports are set to be both popular and prosperous for years to come, but more importantly, bring quality youth athletic opportunities back to Grandview.

The Aquatics program continues to grow and make waves. In the summer of 2013, the Sharks Swim Team had 64 athletes, compared to about 40 the previous year. "The team's performance this past summer was outstanding!" says Head Coach Corrina DeMayo. "Each meet we swam, they improved times and stroke techniques. The relays did amazing this year. This makes me very happy because they have learned to swim together, and as a whole team." She beams when stating, "I am very proud to call myself their coach. The kids are such young, talented swimmers".



To be a member of the swim team, athletes must be able to swim 25 yards of freestyle and backstroke independently, or complete swim lessons all the way to Level 4 through The View. The View also offers fall/winter/spring conditioning for those who want to continue to improve their stroke. Swimmers can also sign up for a month at a time. Practices are Monday and Wednesday nights 6:00-7:00 p.m., and Saturday mornings 10:00-11:00 a.m.

The department isn't just focusing on youth, though. There are plans

for adult basketball this fall, and other adult and senior program activities are in the works. Grandview citizens will see recreational opportunities presented both inside and outside of The View, including sports, aerobics, fitness classes, and artistic endeavors that will continue to emphasize the departmental goal of providing well-rounded activities, focused on wellness throughout the community.

While the City and nation continue to face uncertain economic times, the Parks and Recreation Department has positioned itself as a leader in the area of health and wellness, and offers programs and activities for everyone. Hopefully you've had the opportunity to attend one or more of our offerings in 2013. If not, we hope that you will take time to join us sometime the rest of the year, and in 2014 to plan to participate because next year the staff is poised to provide just as much and maybe more!

Little Blue River Trail



## TAKE PART IN THE

# Teen Council

The Grandview Teen Council (GTC) provides Grandview's young people with an active role in addressing youth issues and opportunities. Students within the Grandview city limits, grades 8-12 are eligible to serve as volunteer representatives of the youth in the city. The young advocates will reach out to other Grandview teens, inform them of existing opportunities, and listen to suggestions on what the city can do to improve its youth-oriented efforts, while also learning about local government. Join us in our inaugural year; we have plenty in store for you!

### REQUIREMENTS TO BE PART OF THE TEEN COUNCIL:

- Attend seven of nine monthly meetings
- Attend one Board of Aldermen meeting
- Attend one Parks and Recreation Commission meeting
- Complete 40 volunteer hours (at events such as: "Boo at The View", Ability Day, the Senior Thanksgiving Dinner, etc.)
- Plan two events/community service activities of the Teen Council's choosing
- Maintain a 2.5 GPA or better during the school year

The GTC will meet once a month. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, at 3 p.m. at The View. Registration is not required, but highly encouraged. Contact Danielle Fesler at 816-316-4896 or email her at [dfesler@grandview.org](mailto:dfesler@grandview.org) to show your interest. She can answer questions about the GTC as well.

There is no limit on the number of students who may participate in the Grandview Teen Council.

# New 2014 Budget Continues to Squeeze City Operations, But Promises More Improvements

The Board of Aldermen adopted the new fiscal year 2014 budget last month, which began on the first of October (October 1st, 2013 through September 30, 2014). The budget totals nearly \$31 million, and includes \$14,591,774 for General Fund operations – the rest is used for the City’s sewer operations, street improvements, park improvements, equipment replacement, and other funds.

The General Fund provides for most city services like police, fire, EMS, street maintenance, park maintenance, neighborhood services, planning and development services, tax and license fee collection, court, human resources, etc.

The adopted budget reflects all anticipated revenues, a combination of both ongoing and one-time resources, as well as all expected expenditures. It is developed to keep the City moving forward in a financially judicious manner. Since the City and the entire country are still dealing with a period of economic uncertainty and fluctuation, the budget preparation process required balancing fiscal responsibility with maintaining a high level of quality service for its residents. Since the recession began, 6% of the workforce has been trimmed, along with any cost of living pay raises for employees, but no layoffs have occurred.

General Fund revenues have dropped this year due to the loss of Sam’s club, the City’s largest sales tax generator. Another factor was Jackson County’s change

in assessment practices regarding residential property values, resulting in a 4.6% drop in property tax revenues. Meanwhile, given the continued increase in health care costs, electricity, maintenance, contract services, material and supply items, it was clear early in the process that balancing the City’s budget would require further trimming, and would not allow for needed employee pay raises. About 76% of the

General Fund budget is allocated to personnel costs to support 155 full-time and 20 part-time and temporary employees. Another 44 are supported by other funds.

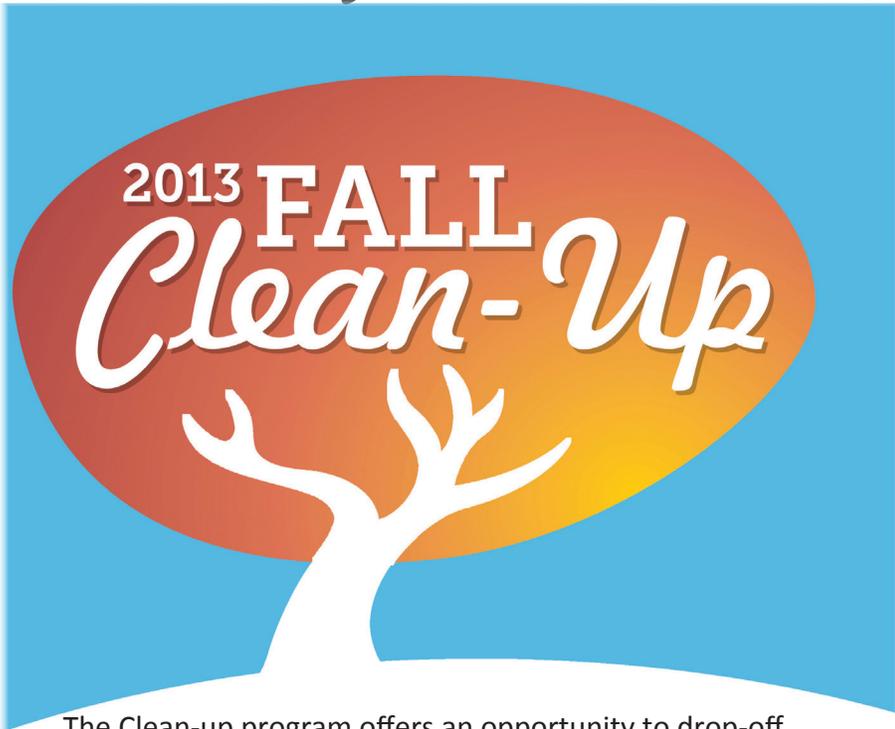
Fortunately for the City, citizens have been supporting special purpose voter-approved sales taxes for transportation purposes (streets and bridges) and capital improvement items (fire trucks,

ambulances, police cars, dump trucks, facility needs, public safety equipment, etc.). These still provide funding for priority items and projects, some of which are listed on the table above.

So, the new fiscal year will still continue to be a big year for parks, playgrounds, street improvements, and new ambulances for our community. Despite the setbacks, all Grandview departments stand ready to serve the citizens to the best of their abilities in the coming year and to continue doing more with less. The Mayor, Board and staff are committed to ongoing improvements to make Grandview even better, and they are optimistic that great things are coming in the near future.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NEWLY ADOPTED FY 2014 BUDGET INCLUDE:	
PROJECT	COST
Parking Lot - City Hall Grounds	\$ 40,000
Police MDT and DVR replacement	\$ 80,000
New Sidewalks and Repair	\$ 75,000
West Frontage Road Project Design	\$ 200,000
Storm drainage improvements	\$ 100,000
Annual Public Works vehicle replacement	\$ 120,000
Police package vehicles	\$ 175,000
Fire Department computer/communications upgrade equipment	\$ 25,500
Street overlay program	\$ 375,000
Main Street Corridor - Phases IV & VII	\$2,650,000
Valley Park improvements	\$1,137,000
River Oaks Park improvements	\$ 400,000
Mapleview Park improvements	\$ 350,000

# Get Ready For ...



**When:** Saturday, November 2 and 16

**Where:** Grandview Ball Park  
13200 Arrington Rd.

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15.00 per Vehicle Load

Examples of items accepted at disposal site: appliances, furniture, carpeting, scrap metal, scrap building material, porcelain items (sinks, toilets, tubs), small mechanical equipment. Waste oil will also be accepted, limited to a maximum of five gallons. **NO OTHER HAZARDOUS WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Checks will be accepted.

**Additional Cost Items:** Tires (8 max) - \$1.50 each and Appliances with freon (freezers, refrigerators) - \$30.00 each.

For further information, please contact 816-316-4856.

The Clean-up program offers an opportunity to drop-off bulk waste and/or yard debris. Citizens who participate in the program are asked to place their waste in the appropriate containers. Proof of residency or business ownership is required.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know each gram of dog waste contains millions of bacteria?

Every time it rains, thousands of pounds of pet waste wash down storm drains and into streams, ponds and lakes. If not disposed of properly, pet waste flows directly into nearby streams and creeks without being treated at wastewater treatment facilities.

When pet waste is **not** disposed of properly, water quality isn't the only thing that suffers — your health may be at risk, too. Adults working in their gardens, children playing outside and family pets are the most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.

Leaving pet waste on the ground is a violation of Grandview's city codes. Please pick up after your pet, even in your own yard. It's the right and healthy thing to do!



### Green Tip

**Crank Down.** In the winter, turn your thermostat down by two degrees and wear a sweater. It will save you \$180 per year on your energy bill (and just think of the huge energy saving around the City if everyone did this).

### Reminder:

The Grandview Community Recycling Center has moved to a new place with more space!

### NEW ADDRESS:

**4405 E. 140th St.  
Grandview, MO 64030 (on 140th  
Street, just east of Botts Road)**



## WE WANT YOUR COMMENTS AND IDEAS.

If you have a concern, compliment or suggestion about how we can better inform you, please send an email for consideration to [suggestions@ci.grandview.mo.us](mailto:suggestions@ci.grandview.mo.us)

# Upcoming Events

## FALL CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

November 2 & 16  
Grandview Ball Park - 13200 Arrington Rd.  
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Details Inside

## BOO AT THE VIEW

Thursday, October 31  
The View - 13500 Byars Rd.  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Haunted house, hayride, candy, games  
& much more

## SENIOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, November 21  
The View - 13500 Byars Rd.  
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.  
Elk's Lodge providing the meal - Bring dessert to  
share with 6  
Registration required - Call (816)316-4888

## MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Thursday, December 5  
City Hall - 1200, Main Street  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Elementary Schools Choir - Donations welcome  
to benefit the Grandview Assistance Program

## HOLIDAY WONDERLAND PARTY

Friday, December 13  
The View - 13500 Byars Rd.  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Pictures with Santa, crafts & games

City of Grandview  
1200 Main Street  
Grandview, MO

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Grandview, MO 64030  
Permit No. 19

**CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

# CITY OF GRANDVIEW Directory of City Officials

Steve Dennis, Mayor  
Leonard D. Jones, Ward I Alderman  
Brent Steeno, Ward I Alderman  
Brian Hochstein, Ward II Alderman  
Annette Turnbaugh, Ward II Alderman  
James N. Crain, Ward III Alderman  
John Maloney, Ward III Alderman  
Donald Crow, Municipal Judge

## CITY STAFF

Cory Smith, City Administrator  
Kirk Decker, Assistant City Administrator  
Becky Schimmel, City Clerk  
Ana Nixon, Public Information Officer  
Deb Angell, Manager of Human Resources  
Charles Iseman, Police Chief  
Chuck Thacker, Fire Chief  
Dennis Randolph, Director of Public Works  
Chris Chiodini, Director of Community  
Development  
Eric Lucas, 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  
(except Parks and Recreation Commission  
meetings)

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

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

Parks and Recreation Commission meetings are the  
first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the  
community center.

## CITY HALL INFORMATION

City of Grandview  
1200 Main Street  
Grandview, MO 64030  
(816) - 316 - 4800  
FAX (816) 763-3902  
[www.grandview.org](http://www.grandview.org)