

SUMMER 2011

# GRANDVIEW

*A Newsletter about the City of Grandview, Missouri*

REPORT



## Grandview Making Strides

Main Street Revitalization Project - Phase I

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GRANDVIEW  
REPORT

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# Front Porch Conversations with the Mayor...

The front porch at my home has a couple of rocking chairs, and over the 44 years that I have lived here, I've had some great conversations with lots of friends and family members. So, welcome! Pull up a chair. And let's talk...

Well, the summer is upon us, the outdoor thermometers are headed in the upward direction, the kids are enjoying their few months away from school, and the city is in the middle of a number of projects that look to improve life in our community. It's truly a great time to be living in Grandview. There's so much to be excited about... so much that I'd like to talk about.

First of all, let me say "Thank You." This is my first newsletter since my election to the office of Mayor, and I am honored to serve you in this capacity. I certainly plan to give you the best that I have in me to help improve this city that I have called "home" for over four decades. As the Mayor, I get to be, what I call, our city's "Chief Cheer Leader"...and it's easy to lead the cheers when there's so much to be proud of.

In case you haven't been out on the town lately, the beginnings of a new look and feel to Grandview are starting to take shape.

- Phase I of our Main Street Revitalization Project promises to give our Main Street a whole new look, and, hopefully, stimulate more business interest in our Historic Downtown District. New lighting, comfortable benches, pedestrian crosswalks, and modern landscaping, will all bring a new life to our community.

- In keeping with the downtown revitalization, we are pumping more energy into our downtown Farmers Market, with upgrades to the market and surrounding area. Saturday mornings at the market will have never looked (or tasted) so good!

- On the other side of the highway, we get to have some fun! Brumble's Forest at Meadowmere Park is already being talked about as one of the most unique, creative, and fun places for children (and their parents) to experience. When it opens in a couple of months, it promises to be a real "news maker" for Grandview.

- Grandview's South Side is bustling with economic activity. After Gail's Harley Davidson started the activity, Zipz, Sonic, and QuickTrip followed suit. The Honeywell plant, with its 2,500 employees is well underway with its construction, and the new Encompass Medical Plaza and Pharmacy should be opening in November. With all this exciting activity along the 150

Highway corridor, we have commissioned a "Sustainable Development Corridor Study" to strategically plan for the economic future of this vibrant transportation pathway.

- And in case you haven't heard, we're trying to create an economic competition between the east/west 150 Highway corridor and its north/south partner of 71 Highway. After many years of work and preparation, we are aggressively seeking the redevelopment of Grandview's "front door," Truman Corners Shopping Center. Though nothing is definite yet, we are working hard at giving new life to this historic market place.

- With troubles striking so many areas of our country and our world, it would be unwise for a community like ours NOT to have an Emergency Plan. We have recently started looking into a Citizens Emergency Notification System, referred to in some places as a "Reverse 911." Though this form of communication would be only a part of our Emergency Preparedness Plan, this interactive, but selective outreach, would allow City Hall to contact our Citizens in case of emergencies or other cases of urgency.

- I hope that every Citizen of our community will come out and enjoy our annual music festival, "Music On



Mayor Steve Dennis

Main” later this Summer. Last year, I sat there in the middle of Main Street with my wife on a beautiful Saturday evening, watching everyone so enjoy themselves with terrific music, great food, and warm friendships. I remember telling my wife, Kelli, “This is what real community is all about.”

- Finally, next year, in 2012, our history-rich town will celebrate its 100th Anniversary. Grandview’s Centennial Celebration will bring us a number of “blow out” events starting with a Birthday Celebration in February, to a larger-than-ever “Harry’s Hay Days” event and parade, along with many other fun-filled events to promote our history and to plan our future.

Folks, I can’t tell you how honored that I am to be your Mayor. I’m so excited about our town’s potential and will do everything that I can to promote our city and secure a prosperous future. Grandview is a great place to live, and our citizens are some of the most kind and benevolent around.

We look out for one another. We help those who can’t help themselves. We check in on the elderly in our neighborhoods. Let’s make THAT our city’s legacy, because THAT “is what real community is all about.”

*Steve*

## CITY OF GRANDVIEW ENHANCES EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

When a crisis affects our city, public safety officials must be able to reach residents instantly with warnings, information, and updates. In order to ensure that residents can be contacted quickly and effectively, the City of Grandview is in the process of signing a contract with Global Connect to implement an emergency notification system, which gives municipalities the ability to call thousands of residents, staff members, or volunteers within minutes.

“The Global Connect system will allow the police, fire and communications staff to record a message in his or her own voice and send that message to every telephone number listed in the directory within a matter of minutes,” explained Mayor Steve Dennis. “Whether residents need to be informed of a water main break, fast-moving fire, approaching storm or tornado, or other crisis or emergency, the Global Connect Emergency Notification System is the most efficient way to reach them with the news.”

The Global Connect system uses Voice over Internet Protocol to send a message to a database of telephone numbers, email addresses, or fax numbers. The system offers a number of features that render it particularly useful during a crisis:

**Instant Callback** – Residents who need additional information or require special assistance from the municipality can make a return call to a designated telephone number with the press of a single key on their telephone keypad.

**Customized Mapping Capability** – Municipalities can create a customized list of call recipients by selecting the area(s) on a city map affected by the emergency at hand. The system will instantly develop the list of telephone numbers for residents in that area and send the message out within minutes.

**Real-Time Reporting** – Municipal officials can see immediately which residents have been reached by telephone, and which have received messages. The system will continue to call residents who have not been reached as frequently and as many times as desired.

**All landline telephone numbers within Grandview will automatically be included in the database.** Residents will also be able to add all their cell phone numbers or email addresses, or even “opt out”, through the city’s website [www.grandview.org](http://www.grandview.org).

For more information on the Global Connect Emergency Notification System, please call Communications Coordinator Ana Nixon at 816-316-4812 or email her at [anixon@ci.grandview.mo.us](mailto:anixon@ci.grandview.mo.us).

# Grandview Projects Update –

## **Brumble’s Forest at Meadowmere Park**

With the constant rain in the past couple of months, construction at Brumble’s Forest has been delayed and will continue through the summer. A large pavilion has been completed, and the next steps are to build the parking lot, install utilities, sidewalks and pathways. In addition, the bridge that connects the parking lot to the playground will also be constructed during the next four weeks. A grand opening event is being planned for September! Follow the creation of the Forest and the arrival of Brumble’s friends at [facebook.com/grandviewparksrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/grandviewparksrecreation).



**What’s Next?** Park staff will also be developing renovation plans for Valley Park and Southview Park this summer. Improvements will include new play equipment, restrooms, parking and landscaping. These projects are part of the park improvement bond proposal approved by voters in 2008, and provided with no tax increase.

## **Main Street Revitalization – Phase 1**

Despite a couple of delays (inclement weather and two underground storage tanks to remove at the southeast corner of Main Street and 8th Street), construction on Main Street is moving right along. The installation of sidewalk and sidewalk ramps in several areas has been completed; installation of crosswalk pavement, as well as colored intersection pavement at 8th and Main, is reaching its final stages. In addition, streetlight bases have been installed, and contractors are in the process of placing new pavement between 8th and Main. The first phase of this project is scheduled to be completed by the end of this summer or early fall.

## **Botts Road - Phase II - 139th to 135th Street**

The City has hired Amino Brothers Co. to build this project, and contractors started construction on June 20th. The utility companies have already relocated the water pipes, gas lines, cable TV and telephone

lines in advance of the work. Botts Road is one of the major roads in Grandview, and one of the challenges with construction will be maintaining access to the two dead-end streets on the street’s west side, and access to the residents who live along the east side. However, the City has worked with the contractors on planning alternative routes to make sure access to these specific areas is maintained. The project has been designed to be constructed in four phases, which means that traffic will not be allowed to go from 135th Street to 139th Street during construction.

One of the first activities has been the installation of construction signs. You will notice signs have been installed along 135th Street, 139th/140th Street, and 15th Street that show two access routes, the BLUE and the RED. Please keep an eye on the routing signs as they change to let you know if you should be using the Blue



# Progress in the Works!

(north) Route or the Red (south) Route as the construction proceeds from the south to the north side of the project.

## **M-150 Sustainable Development Corridor Study**

A new development study along the Grandview M-150 corridor has begun. The purpose of the study is to create a design standard overlay district that will attract development and establish



a framework for sustainable land use and other preferred development practices, to include environmental, economic and social factors. The City is working with Parsons Brinckerhoff consultants on this project, and public input will soon be solicited. Visit the City's website at [www.grandview.org](http://www.grandview.org) for future updates. The study is tentatively scheduled for completion in October, 2011.

## **New Public Works/Park Maintenance Facility**

The Public Works Department has hired Vanum Construction to build the new facility, which will replace two outmoded, inefficient facilities, one currently occupied by Park Maintenance staff and equipment, and the other being used for Public Works Department personnel and equipment at 139th and Winchester.

Construction started in June, with contractors estimating completion by the end of the year. Designers have emphasized building energy efficiency in every area, from the shape and orienta-



tion of the buildings to the major mechanical systems used (heating, cooling, lighting). They have focused the design on efficiency, starting with clear-story windows that will provide natural lighting to all of the work areas, and continuing to cisterns that will collect rainwater for use in the vehicle wash bay. The shed-type roof designs will mean low maintenance for many years, and light colors on roofs and building exteriors will reflect the sun's energy to make cooling the buildings cheaper.

## **Farmers Market Enhancement Project:**

The City has received two Transportation Enhancement (TE) grants for projects along Main Street. The Farmers Market Place grant of \$225,000 will be used to provide landscaping, infrastructure, and several other improvements to Grandview's Farmers Market site, located at the northeast corner of 8th and Main Street. The intent is to develop a public "gathering place" that can be used by people visiting businesses in the downtown area,



coming to the market, attending events, or enjoying music or art at the Market. Currently, the City is working with Landworks Studio on the design process. The project will involve public input and workshops, which should take place in September. For more information, you may contact the Grandview Public Works Director, Dennis Randolph, at (816) 316-4855.



# SPECIAL ELECTION COMING UP ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 2



## Voters to Decide on the Imposition of a Hotel/Motel Tax



On Tuesday, August 2nd, Grandview voters will decide on a proposed new five percent (5%) hotel/motel tax to promote tourism in the community, which will, for the great majority of citizens, not cost any money.

### FACTS TO CONSIDER

- Unless you stay the night in a Grandview hotel, you will not pay this tax.
- Several cities in the metro area already impose a Hotel/Motel Tax: Lee's Summit – Belton – Independence – Blue Springs – Kansas City

For more information, visit [www.grandview.org](http://www.grandview.org).

Several other cities in Missouri, particularly in the KC metro area, have already approved and now collect the tax, and Grandview's proposed five percent tax would still be the same or less than most of the cities. Currently, it is 6.5 percent in Blue Springs and

Independence, 6 percent in St. Joseph, 7.5 percent in Kansas City, and 5 percent in Belton.

"This tax will be paid by visitors of Grandview and by some of our major employers who bring clients to the city," explained Economic Development Director Alan Kenyon, "It applies only to the room charges at local hotels and motels; it does not apply to restaurants or bars associated with the hotels/motels here."

If approved, the tax would generate an estimated \$120,000 annually, based on the current hotel rooms and occupancy levels. With the possibility of additional hotels or motels being built within the city limits, the revenue could grow in the future.

Ultimately, it would be dependent on the number of out-of-town travelers staying at local hotels and motels and the total number of days the rooms are occupied.

City officials have outlined several specific ideas on how the money would be spent. These include creating a civic center downtown at 8th and Main, where the Farmers

Market has taken place. Funds would also be used for marketing initiatives, like increasing promotional efforts for the City in general or enhancing key community events like "Music on Main" and the "Harry's Hay Days Parade".

With the City's centennial celebration coming up next year, it would allow the City to plan and carry out new events that would bring more visitors, musicians, artists, athletes, or other participants to Grandview.

"This is an opportunity to help promote tourism with virtually no tax impact on individual residents," said Mayor Steve Dennis. "And just about everywhere you travel these days, you generally pay this tax in other cities across America. This would help Grandview compete with other cities."

If the hotel/motel tax is approved by voters in August, the tax would go into effect in January of 2012, and the City would begin receiving the tax receipts shortly thereafter.

**Please mark your calendars and remember to vote on August 2nd!**

### WHAT WILL I SEE ON THE BALLOT?

#### Question:

Shall the City of Grandview impose a tax on the charges for all sleeping rooms paid by transient guests of hotels and motels situated in Grandview, Missouri, at a rate of five percent ( 5%) for the purpose of promoting tourism?

Yes

No



# Promises Family Fun for All

On Saturday, September 10th, from mid-afternoon to 10:30 p.m., on Main Street in front of City Hall (1200 Main), the Grandview Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Title Sponsor NASB and the City of Grandview, will present the **free music festival** in Grandview for its 7th year.

Gates will open at 3:00 p.m., and the musical line-up for the evening will include some of the best talent in the Kansas City area, including 2008 International Blues Challenge Winner “Trampled Under Foot” (TUF) and “The Transients”, who play regularly at the Power & Light District in Kansas City. Famous KC act, Cherry Bomb, will also add to the groove. The musical line-up will feature:

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	Grandview Jazz Band
4:15 - 4:45p.m.	IHOP University Band
5:00 - 6:30p.m.	Trampled Under Foot (TUF)
6:45 - 8:00p.m.	The Transients
8:30 - 10:30p.m.	Cherry Bomb

This year’s festival will feature a Children’s Activity Tent sponsored by U.S. Toy Company, and several different food and beverages will be available for sale at the event.

No coolers, outside beverages or pets will be allowed within the perimeter of the concert. Those attending are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and enjoy a fantastic evening of great music.



Don’t forget that UMB Sponsored “Hospitality Tent” tickets are also for sale prior to the event through the Chamber and include a full catered buffet dinner, covered seating and drink tickets for \$25. In addition, after 8:00 p.m., the tent will be open to the general public for a small fee for those who wish to sit and use the tables.

To obtain “Hospitality Tent” tickets, please contact the Grandview Area Chamber of Commerce at 816-761-6505.

For more information on “Music on Main”, contact the Grandview Area Chamber of Commerce at the number above or visit [www.grandview.org/chamber](http://www.grandview.org/chamber).

*“Music on Main” brings the best in the area together for this family-friendly event!!!*



**Green Tip**

Use mulch to preserve moisture. You won't have to water your plants as much, and it prevents the growth of weeds, which steal water from your garden.

## DID YOU KNOW...

The City has purchased a new financial management system from New World Systems. The new financial software is targeted to be operational in October. This will replace the City’s 18-year-old system, allow department directors real time financial information to more effectively manage their budgets, purchases, fixed assets, and overall operations.

## 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

## FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays, 7:00a.m. - sellout  
8th & Main Street  
Until October

## ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, August 2  
Cast your vote on the Hotel/Motel Tax proposal

## MOVIE IN THE PARK

August 12 at 8:30 p.m.  
John Anderson Park  
Call 316-4888 for more information  
**Free, fun evening of entertainment  
for the whole family**

## MUSIC ON MAIN

Saturday, September 10  
3:00-10:30p.m.  
Main Street (In front of City Hall)  
**Free Admission**  
Call 761-6505 for more information and  
"Hospitality Tent" tickets (include food and  
drinks)

## COMMUNITY FLU SHOTS

Wednesday, September 14, 1:00-3:00p.m.  
Thursday, October 27, 12:00-2:00p.m.  
The View Community Center  
Call 316-4888 for more information

## ABILITY DAY

Saturday, October 1  
**Free Admission**  
The View Community Center  
More info at [www.grandview.org](http://www.grandview.org)

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1200 Main Street  
Grandview, MO

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# CITY OF GRANDVIEW Directory of City Officials

Steve Dennis, Mayor  
Leonard D. Jones, Ward I Alderman  
Brent Steeno, Ward I Alderman  
Annette Turnbaugh, Ward II Alderman  
Joseph E. Runions, Jr., 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, Communications Coordinator  
Alan Kenyon, Director of Economic  
Development  
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  
Anthony Finlay, 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)