

WINTER 2012

# GRANDVIEW

*A Newsletter about the City of Grandview, Missouri*

REPORT



*From top left: Popular turtle race during the Labor Day celebration in 1928. Grandview High/Elementary School under construction at 10th & Main in 1921. Then President L. B. Johnson with President Truman at Truman Corners shopping center in the mid 60's. Main Street looking west in the late 40's. The newly built City Hall in 1975, and the groundbreaking ceremony for Richards-Gebaur Air Base, which closed in 1994.*

## Happy 100th Birthday, Grandview!

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GRANDVIEW  
REPORT

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# Front Porch Conversations with the Mayor...

## A Year of Renaissance and New Birth

Have you got your coat on? It's wintertime at the "Dennis Castle", but we still like to spend our time out on the front porch in the rocking chairs talking with family and friends. My hope and prayer is that you had a peaceful and prosperous 2011, as is my on-going wish for you in this year of 2012.

And as good as 2011 was, I'm even more excited about this year, with all that is planned for our city's 100th Birthday Celebration, the various structural and aesthetic improvements to our community, and the promise of new business developments will make life even better here in our home town.

In honor of 100 years of making our mark on the world, Grandview plans to begin its second century with various birthday events planned at our Community Center, The View, over the birthday weekend of February 4th and 5th. Make sure to bring your swimming suit and work out gear for free entrance and birthday give-aways at one of Grandview's "community crown jewels".

A little later in the year, from Thursday, May 3rd, to Saturday, May 5th our community gets to have even more fun with a city-wide celebration called the Truman Heritage Festival. From a huge parade...to an awesome carnival...a barbeque competition...to tons of arts & crafts booths...classic car & motorcycle judging contests...and various celebrity guests...to all the delectable food and drink you can consume...and so much more...

the City of Grandview is going to have an absolute blast! And if you want to show off your town to the rest of the Greater Kansas City area, go ahead and invite all your friends and family to join us.

A month later, on Friday Night, June 22nd, the entire City of Grandview is going to help our Kansas City Royals beat our cross-state rivals, the St. Louis Cardinals at the Grandview Day at 'The K'. We want to get 3,000 of our great citizens together for a "baseball party" and watch our Boys In Blue do battle, while Grandview gets to be recognized with pre-game festivities and scoreboard notoriety. And, get this, the Royals want to celebrate with us with their after-game fireworks (okay, they were going to shoot those things off anyway...but we can dream, can't we?). We're even putting together plans for tailgates parties before the game, so stay tuned as the date draws nearer.

And finally, on Saturday, September 8th, we're improving on the success that we've already had with our "Music On Main" Music Festival. As big of an event as these concerts have been in the past several years, this year's festivities promise to bring in even more famous music groups and larger crowds. This is always such an awesome event! I hope you will join me this autumn for great music, great food, and great "community".

2012 assures us all plenty of reasons to have fun, but there are plenty of other city projects that will, most

certainly, "breathe new life" into our town as well. With Phase II of our Main Street Improvement Project, we're giving a whole new look to our downtown corridor. I really think you're going to like the "classic look" that this next segment of Main Street improvements will bring. Our new childrens' play land, Brumble's Forest, will open at Meadowmere Park this spring. And we seem to have a ribbon cutting or grand opening for a new business about every month.

Of course, the biggest buzz around here right now is about the potential redevelopment of Truman Corners Shopping Center. We've had 12 months of meetings with various developers, putting together a real strategy for bringing "new life" to our aging shopping area, and looking methodically into how much risk our government should incur in an effort to move our city forward...I just can't tell you how much work (and loss of sleep) has gone into getting us where we are today. But I can say that we are within weeks of making a decision on the future of the shopping district that sits on Harry's old farmland.

But while I'm talking about shopping, let me take just a moment to urge all of us in one very important point: we are all, I truly believe, "family" here in Grandview...we look out for one another...we rejoice with each other in our successes and we hurt for our neighbor when they are struggling. I would also ask that we do everything we can to SUPPORT OUR LOCAL SHOPS AND RETAILERS.



Mayor Dennis

With so much tumult in our economy, every merchant is having to make adjustments in the way they run their business. Let's try our best to spend our money right here in Grandview. Now, I know that we're a little challenged in some categories of shopping (at least for now). But where we can...from the large wholesale purchases...to the local jeweler...to the auto repair shop around the corner...let us all make it a point to fight to keep our local businesses moving forward. It will make all the difference for them, especially if they are thinking about "calling it quits" and closing their doors, or if they're thinking about moving to another city with the hopes that they'll be more prosperous there.

Well folks, though it's cold today on my front porch, I sure see Grandview "heating up" in the near future. I really do love this city, and it is so much fun when I meet with the Mayors from other cities, and they ask me about all the excitement happening in our town. When they are telling me of their current struggles in their cities, I get to brag about the bright future I see for Grandview.

And I hope you all are starting to share in that vision with me. This is truly a great city, and as long as we keep building strong families and businesses and keep looking out for one another, we can be "the envy" of this area. May you all have a blessed and prosperous new year!

*Steve*

# GRANDVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS



Residents are being asked to get involved and lend a helping hand to their local police department through a new program called Volunteers in Police Service, which was launched last month by Grandview Police Chief Charles Iseman.

The Volunteers in Police Service (V.I.P.S.) is a community outreach program based on a very successful national model. The department is actively seeking members of the community, who are 18 years of age or older, and have the time and skills to contribute to the overall success of both the department and the community.

Volunteers are intended to supplement the current personnel, working hand-in-hand with officers and support staff on a daily basis. Potential volunteers can dedicate their time to a wide range of interests, including Citizen Patrol/Crime Watch, Traffic Control/Special Events, Records-Clerical, and Investigations-Clerical, among others.

Chief Iseman hopes this collaborative partnership with the community will enhance the department's proactive problem solving efforts and increase trust in police.



"This interaction with police personnel will further our initiative for greater community involvement and will promote a higher degree of transparency for the agency," he stated.

By becoming one of our V.I.P.S., residents can help reduce crime and create a better quality of life for their families, neighbors and fellow citizens. Now more than ever, municipal and state governments across the country are faced with the problem of having to do more with fewer resources. This program could be a great alternative to help preserve the quality of service the community wants and deserves.

To learn more, or to get involved, contact Captain Richard Rodgers by phone at (816) 316-4925 or by email at [rrodgers@ci.grandview.mo.us](mailto:rrodgers@ci.grandview.mo.us). More information and the downloadable application is also available on the city's website, [www.grandview.org](http://www.grandview.org)

If you would like to visit the national VIPS website you can find it at [www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org)

# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN THE WORKS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The City will celebrate its 100-year anniversary on February 6, 2012. And an exciting year-long celebration is in the works, including the new Truman Heritage Festival in May, a “Grandview Day at The K” at Royals Stadium in June, and an even bigger “Music on Main” event to close out the festivities in September.

In addition, the Centennial Celebration Committee plans to publish historical photos and information about Grandview on our website, [www.grandview.org](http://www.grandview.org), but not without your help! The committee would like to encourage you to share any personal stories, memories and historic photos about Grandview you may have. If you have memories to share, you can send them to: [suggestions@ci.grandview.mo.us](mailto:suggestions@ci.grandview.mo.us) or contact Ana Nixon at (816) 316-4812.

**NOW GRAB YOUR CALENDAR AND  
SAVE THESE DATES:**

**Truman Heritage Festival:**

This community festival will start on Thursday evening, **May 3**, and will last through Saturday, **May 5**, with most activities taking place on May 5. It will feature the largest parade in years, one of the nicest carnivals in the state (with lots of rides), food and drink vendors, performances by regional bands and singing groups, Grandview school bands and musical performances, both car and motorcycle shows, barbecue contest, beer gardens, and much more. It should attract a large crowd on Main Street downtown

between 15th Street and 7th Street on Friday evening and all day Saturday on the first weekend in May. The carnival will open on Thursday evening in the large parking lot just north of 8th and Main.



The Saturday program of entertainment will begin with a grand parade, complete with big cash prizes for the best floats and entries or performances. Everybody is encouraged to register to participate in the parade, whether featuring a float or not. For inquiries, call Kelli Dennis, parade chairman, at (816) 761-1344.



**Interested parties should go to [www.grandview.org/centennialcelebration](http://www.grandview.org/centennialcelebration) to register their group in the parade!**

A more detailed schedule of events will be available on the City’s website, [www.grandview.org](http://www.grandview.org), in the next month or so.

**Grandview ‘Day at the K’:** The City of Grandview is teaming up with the Kansas City Royals to provide all local residents with an exclusive ticket offer. Bring your family and friends out to the game on **Friday, June 22**, when the Royals take on the World Champion Saint Louis Cardinals, and let’s celebrate Grandview’s 100th birthday with Mayor Steve Dennis and Tampa Bay quarterback (and former Grandview High School football star) Josh Freeman. Seating for this special night game is limited, so reserve your seats as soon as possible by calling The View at (816) 316-4888.

**Music on Main:**

Now in its eighth year, this one-day music festi-



September 8

val will fall on September 8 this year. The Grandview Chamber of

Commerce, the event’s organizer, is already working hard to bring the best in regional musical entertainment to Main Street once

again for the benefit of the Grandview community. The City and Centennial Committee are working with the Chamber to recruit a top flight musical line-up, and more information on that will eventually be posted on the City’s website later this year.

# Highlights from 2011

## Reviewing the Past Year

Despite the struggling economy, housing market, and nominal increase in new jobs over the past year, the City of Grandview made some important strides in 2011. The following is a glimpse of some of the key accomplishments within the City of Grandview in 2011.

### Community/Economic Development

- The Board of Aldermen, after several public hearings and consideration of all evidence presented, voted to void the Truman Corners TIF plan (TIF No. 5) and redevelopment agreement due to the lack of progress and continued loss of business. That TIF plan was approved over 13 years ago. Since then, as many as three developers have submitted proposals for the redevelopment of the center, with two still competing for approval.



- The Board also gave approval of Chapter 353 tax abatement incentives for the construction of the new medical office building on Missouri Highway 150. The facility had its grand opening on October 31. The 20,000 square-foot building located at 7201 E. 147th street serves as the newest addition to the “New Grandview Triangle” and has added more than 60 jobs, including primary care and specialty physicians.



- The City completed dangerous building cases related to the Welcome Home and Daisy Apartments, forcing the owners in each case to bring these properties up to minimum building preservation code standards, thus providing for more safe and sanitary structures and conditions for tenants.

- The City was awarded CDBG neighborhood preservation funds to help promote the construction of new homes in the Norby Gardens subdivision.

- The City initiated the Highway 150 Sustainable Development Corridor Study to create a plan that will allow for the most sustainable and suitable development along there for many years to come, even during difficult economic times. The new plan should be adopted early this year.

- The City placed the hotel/motel tax before local voters in August of 2011 to promote tourism in the community, and the new 5% tax received a favorable vote of approval.

### Public Infrastructure and Facilities

- City contractors completed Phase I of the Main Street Corridor Project, from the Kansas City Southern Railroad tracks to 10th Street, with new concrete sidewalks, lighting, curb, driveways, landscaping, benches, signals, signs and more.

- City-hired architects completed the design of the new Park/Public Works Maintenance Facility, and construction started at the end of July. The new PPW facility will be located



at the corner of 139th Street and Winchester Avenue, the site of the existing Public Works complex. The new facility not only combines two previously separate operations, but will have architectural features that make it energy efficient and environmentally friendly. Occupancy is expected to take place this spring.

- Construction began on “Bumble’s Forest”, the new playground in Meadowmere Park, which is supposed to be the most unique and innovative playground in the region. Despite delays due mostly to weather, a grand opening is expected to take place in the spring of 2012.

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- The selected contractor completed the Botts Road – Phase II (135th Street to 139th Street) project and started Phase III of the Botts Road project.



- Construction/reconstruction of the 2nd/3rd Street Connection was completed.

- Public Works constructed the Skyline Sanitary Sewer Replacement project.

- Consultants worked with Public Works to complete the second year of inflow and infiltration studies to address sanitary sewer system leaks and stormwater infiltration.

- Architects completed the design, and Public Works secured federal grant funds for the new Farmer's Market Place improvements, which will begin this summer.



- Working in conjunction with the Grandview School District, a grant was awarded for the Safe Routes to School Program.

- Contractors completed the annual slurry seal, overlay, sidewalk/curb, pavement marking, sanitary sewer, and storm drainage improvements.

- Public Works hosted the spring and fall community solid waste clean-up.

- The City sent a Public Works crew and Fire Department team with equipment to assist in the Joplin, Missouri tornado recovery and clean-up efforts for a week last May.

## Public Safety



- The Fire department continued to improve its services, by enhancing its response system with the implementation of a web-based software system that is compatible

with the department's EMS incident reporting software.

- The Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit outperformed all other metro-area departments and was recognized for its excellent Lethality Assessment Program (LAP).



- The Police Department implemented new training standards for the SWAT unit, which now brings them into compliance with national standards.

- The City outsourced prisoners to the Ray County Jail, employed video arraignments, maintained a higher inmate population in our own facility, and used more flexibility in setting bonds, thus cutting overall detention costs by as much as \$50,000.

- The Police Department is now using an operational intelligence model that integrates location-based crime and traffic data to more effectively deploy law enforcement resources, particularly in certain target areas.

## Miscellaneous

- Despite declining revenues, the City successfully balanced its budget for 2012 without layoffs, pay cuts, benefit cuts, furloughs, or significant service reductions to the public. The City has, however, cut ten positions over the past three budget years, reduced liability insurance costs by over 20%, cut training/travel costs significantly, cut back on part-time and seasonal staffing, reduced vehicle maintenance costs, downsized vehicular equipment, cut back on legal fees, and reduced overall utility and supply costs.

- The City Clerk implemented a new digital records program to aid in searching for ordinances, resolutions and minutes electronically, which should be launched on the City website in 2012.

- The City purchased and successfully implemented a new financial management system, replacing the City's 18-year-old system, thus allowing department directors real time financial information to more effectively manage their budgets, purchases, fixed assets, and overall accounting operations.

- The Public Information Office implemented a new emergency notification system, which gives city staff the ability to call thousands of residents within minutes. Whether the community needs to be informed of a water main break, an approaching storm, tornado or other crisis, the new emergency notification system is the most efficient way to reach them with the news. Home phone numbers are already included, but residents' cell phone numbers can be added through the sign-up process on the website.

- The City expanded the Grandview Government Channel (Channel 2) broadcast by adding it to the AT&T U-Verse channel line-up.

- The 9th annual Pets Helping People event was once again a success, with over 500 rabies vaccinations being administered to enhance the health and safety of the community. Organizers also obtained record donations from businesses through sponsorships, making the total collection over \$4,500, along with 1,200 pounds of canned goods to benefit the Grandview Assistance Program.



- The Parks and Recreation Department hosted the 4th annual Kansas City Ability Day for families and disabled individuals at The View, and more than 400 people participated in the event last year.



- The City adapted its website ([www.grandview.org](http://www.grandview.org)) to be compatible with the small screens of smart phones and tablets. Visitors to the City's website can now use their mobile devices to view upcoming events and the latest news, visit the web pages of all city departments, and find specific resources or businesses within the community.

- Grandview became part of the social media world by creating accounts on Facebook and Twitter. Don't forget to "like" and "follow" the City for the latest news and pertinent information.



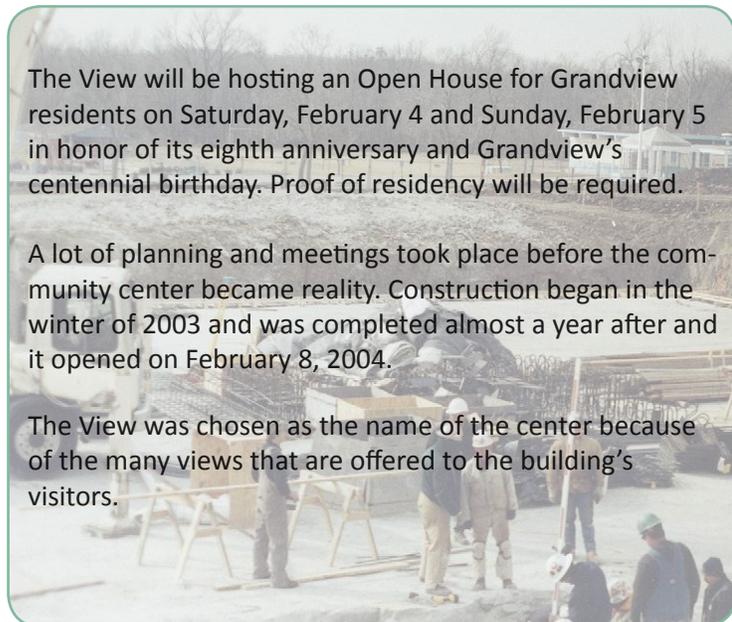
In spite of all the gloomy national and economic news, there are plenty of reasons to celebrate Grandview's 100-year anniversary this year. The City has weathered more than its share of adversity in the past thirty years or more, but Grandview is moving forward, and with a little help from the overall economy, we see many more exciting things happening in the near future, as well as the long term.

## DID YOU KNOW...

The View will be hosting an Open House for Grandview residents on Saturday, February 4 and Sunday, February 5 in honor of its eighth anniversary and Grandview's centennial birthday. Proof of residency will be required.

A lot of planning and meetings took place before the community center became reality. Construction began in the winter of 2003 and was completed almost a year after and it opened on February 8, 2004.

The View was chosen as the name of the center because of the many views that are offered to the building's visitors.



### Green Tip

Generator exhaust is toxic. Always put generators outside well away from doors, windows, and vents. Carbon monoxide (CO) is deadly, can build up quickly, and linger for hours.



### 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

## FATHER/DAUGHTER VALENTINE DANCE

Friday, February 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
The View, 13500 Byars Rd.  
Tickets in advance are \$10 for members & residents, and \$12 for non-members and non-residents. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Call the front desk at The View at 316-4888 to purchase tickets and for more information

## GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Tuesday, April 3  
Vote for Alderman for Ward 1, 2 & 3

## PETS HELPING PEOPLE

Saturday, April 14 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
At Conn-West Elementary Gymnasium (back parking lot facing Main Street)  
Rabies vaccinations for \$5 and two non-perishable food items.  
ID Microchips available  
All proceeds will benefit the Grandview Assistance Program  
Call 316-4856 for more information

## ARBOR DAY

Saturday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.  
Tree planting at Meadowmere Park

## SPRING CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

Saturday, April 7, 14, 21 & 28  
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Grandview Ball Park - 13200 Arrington Rd.  
\$12.00 per vehicle & load  
For questions, contact the Public Works Department at 816-316-4856

City of Grandview  
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  
Joseph E. Runions, Jr., 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  
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)