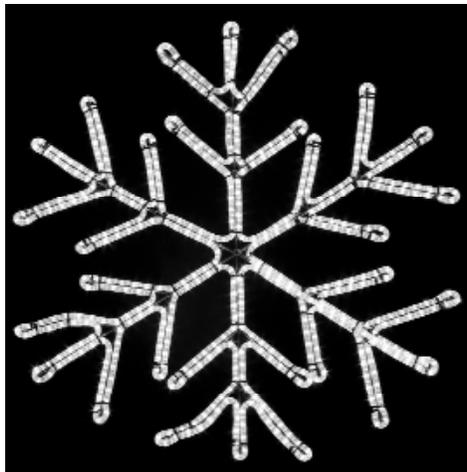


GRANDVIEW

A Newsletter about the City of Grandview, Missouri

REPORT



Holiday Lights Brighten the City

*Clockwise from top left—
Snowman: 6204 148th Terrace,
Wreath: 13111 Donnelly, Mayor's holiday tree:
Outside in front of City Hall,
Reindeer: 6403 150th Terrace, and Snowflake:
City light pole decoration on Main St.*



**INSIDE THE
GRANDVIEW
REPORT**

New Businesses, Staff Members, Improvements,
Construction and Ongoing Challenges
Highlight Progress in 2006, Goals for 2007





Mayor Bob Beckers

New Businesses, Staff Members, Improvements, Construction and Ongoing Challenges Highlight Progress in 2006, Goals for 2007

Over the past year, a great deal has occurred in Grandview. The City continues making strides toward the overall goals of enhancing our town (now about 27,000) through public safety initiatives, infrastructure improvements, landscaping and beautification, the addition of new businesses and jobs, parks and recreational opportunities, and support for neighborhoods and property preservation. We continue to find we need everyone's best efforts to keep Grandview, a first-tier suburb, moving forward, and making this a quality community in which to live, work, and raise a family.

■ Board establishes goals for the coming year —

The Board of Aldermen, which includes three relatively new members, plus the Mayor, who is just approaching two years into the job, spent several meetings last summer discussing goals and priorities. In general, they all agreed that the City should: (a) do all it can to promote retail development or redevelopment, as part of an overall economic development program; (b) continue to pursue various initiatives to improve the city's image; (c) work to attract more quality home builders to town, while initiating new programs to preserve neighborhoods and improve existing housing; (d) continue to make competitive pay and benefits a priority in order to attract and retain quality employees; (e) continue to provide quality services, and improve services to the extent funding and resourcefulness allow; and (f) maintain and continue to upgrade the infrastructure, facilities, and equipment owned by the City.

■ **City's first Economic Development Director reports for duty** — As of January of 2007, Alan Kenyon assumed the position of Economic Development Director. Alan comes most recently from the private sector, but has served previously as Chamber Executive and/or Economic Development Director for the cities of Winfield, Kansas; St. Joseph, Missouri; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Nevada, Missouri. As the City's first full-time director, he plans to spend a good deal of time initially meeting people from the business community, studying the local economy and commercial properties, contacting

the commercial real estate and development community, and developing ways to market Grandview to prospective businesses.

■ **New housing on the horizon** — While the City saw more new housing subdivision proposals in the past two years than in the past several prior years, the overall housing market nationwide has been stifled for several months. These include the new senior housing addition off 125th Street on the east side called Jordan's Keep, as well as the Creek Wood subdivision north of the new Harry Truman Drive on the east side. One other new subdivision, Sunrise Farms, just to the east of River Oaks along Byars Road, is still planning on over 600 new homes over the next few years. A lawsuit with Kansas City homeowners to the east had delayed this project, but that has recently been settled and the project appears to be back on schedule. The new subdivisions will be a welcome addition to the City and will provide more choices for prospective new residents, while creating increased demand for more new retail development.



A new retail store for outdoor apparel, E. Edwards, is the latest addition to Grandview Crossing.

■ **Red X redevelopment area grows** — Not long after the Grandview Crossing development group bought the former K-Mart property for retail redevelopment purposes, this temporarily blighted area got a facelift. TIF District No. 13 proved to be a lucky number for all involved starting with the new Grandview Red X store, featuring an array of grocery items, meats and produce, a wide selection of wine and spirits, a deli, and baked

goods. A new Grainger Industrial Supply store, E. Edwards, which features Carhartt outdoor wear, and the new OHS Comp Care clinic have followed and provide a variety of new retail and business opportunities there which seemed highly unlikely a couple of years ago.

■ **142nd and Botts Road development continues** — After working with the developer of the 142nd Street and Norby Road area to bring in new businesses like Burger and Brown Engineering and Fluid Systems & Components, PODS has built a new building along that new stretch of Norby Road. Industry is booming in this area, Kansas City has budgeted for the project, and the City expects Botts Road to soon receive approval from Jackson County to coordinate the project using County Urban Road System funds designated for Kansas City.

■ **Board makes decision following outdoor pool study** — Given the fact that outdoor pool attendance has dropped dramatically over the past 20 years or so, and the City has lost a substantial amount of money for the past two years on its two 1973 pools, the Board recently made the decision to close John Anderson Pool this coming summer. Of the two, Meadowmere has more amenities and can easily handle the patrons from both pools. A recent study showed that the pools are also in need of significant renovation in order to keep them in operation much longer. The Board has asked that citizen preferences, outdoor pool demand, and projected costs of operation be examined along with the various options presented by an aquatics consultant.

■ **Ambulance billing scrutinized** — The City's ambulance billing process was audited this past year in an effort to streamline this operation, which not only deals with ambulance patients, but ever-changing Medicare regulations and insurance payment procedures. Findings indicated that most cities our size now use outside billing services, which are able to expedite the billing and collection process, thus resulting in higher collections, quicker turnaround, and fewer write-offs. The City plans to seek proposals for such services in the near future.

■ **Police Department reaccredited through CALEA** — The national Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) spent a week on-site reviewing policies and procedures, along with numerous files and documents, and saw fit to grant accreditation to the Grandview Police Department for three more years. Grandview was one of the first cities in the state to achieve this recognition, which requires that law enforcement agencies meet most of the 600 standards

set by CALEA, and has now been an accredited agency for the past 16 years.

■ **Grandview's Crisis Intervention Team recognized in Missouri** — About half of Grandview's police officers have been certified in crisis intervention related to dealing with people who are mentally disturbed. The program trains officers to recognize mental disorders, coordinate with available mental health resources, use active listening and rapport building, understand medications and side effects, and provides techniques for suicide prevention. Although just two years old, Grandview's program has been so successful that it has been recognized as a model for crisis intervention and will be used to help train other agencies around the state.

■ **Court operations updated** — After an assessment by a national court consulting agency in 2005, the resulting report gave the Judge, court staff, and Police Department a chance to look at various aspects of our operation and consider ways to be more efficient, better handle tickets and warrants, reduce continuances, provide for pre-court arraignments, and lower the size of dockets going forward from week to week. Holding attorney plea dockets, reducing the size of the weekly dockets, accepting credit cards for payment of court fines, and processing people awaiting arraignment more frequently have resulted in more productive use of the court system, court staff, and jail facility.

■ **Chief Schurman concludes busy first year** — Dick Schurman, former Chief of Police in Colonial Heights, Virginia, and Assistant Chief of Police for Joplin, Missouri, became Grandview's Police Chief in January of 2006. Since arriving, Chief Schurman has overseen the development of a comprehensive pre-planning process for the security of all schools in the City, a system and program created by members of the department using specific data and numerous photos of each school, along with the application of tactical deployment procedures. Automatic emergency defibrillators were purchased for use in all patrol cars and officers trained accordingly. Also, through a \$17,000 grant this past summer, the department implemented "Operation Safe Teens," a program which uses checkpoints to monitor hazardous moving violations, speeding violations, and seatbelt usage. Chief Schurman is also emphasizing training and education, career development, and community outreach.

■ **Police officers received additional training** — All Grandview police officers experienced some additional training last year, from an emergency vehicle operations course in conjunction with the Western Missouri Police Academy to training courses provided by



A new ambulance is in the budget for 2007.

the National Incident Management System. Four officers attended a course on "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design", and will be able to work with multi-family complexes, businesses and City code enforcement staff to combat crime in various neighborhoods. Others attended Advanced Crime Scene Investigation School, Homeland Security training, case management, or management training in addition to annual POST certification training.

■ **New Community Development Director getting to know Grandview** — Allen May, who had held similar positions in Ottumwa and Urbandale, Iowa, started as the new Community Development Director in April of 2006. One of his first tasks was to hire a new City Planner for the department, following the departure of Chris Gilbert last winter. He has also implemented a new pre-planning process to review any new development proposals each Tuesday so that all members of the development team (Fire, Public Works, Planning, Building Services, and Water District) can schedule time and be present to review various development or construction proposals each week. He will be working with the Planning Commission and staff to facilitate quality housing, retail, and industrial development and construction in accordance with the City's comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance, and building codes.

■ **New construction for 2006 nears \$13 million** — In spite of the stagnant housing economy, construction permits for an estimated valuation of nearly \$13 million were issued last year.

■ **Code enforcement remained vigorous and effective** — Over 7,100 Neighborhood Services cases, involving inoperable vehicles, public nuisances, weeds, tall grass, loose dogs, animal neglect, and various zoning violations were completed last year, and more than 6,800 of those were abated by the property owners.

■ **Fire Department using new deployment model** — Following an outside analysis in 2005 of Fire and EMS operations, the Fire Department initiated a new deployment model this past year that allows both ambulances to operate 24 hours a day from the central headquarters station, while fire trucks operate with added staffing from Stations 2 and 3. The new model recognizes that around 75% of calls received are for EMS service and has allowed the City to respond to almost all those calls, with little reliance on MAST (Kansas City) ambulance service anymore.

■ **City hires and trains paramedics** — The City participates in the Mid-America Regional Council paramedic recruitment program in an effort to find qualified paramedics for the fire service. Due to the limited availability of these professionals, the City has put two firefighters through paramedic school in the past two years, and both graduated and were certified in July of 2006. Two others were recently hired while

attending paramedic school and have since been certified as well.

■ **Jones Lumber building gets new owner, new life** — This historic building was an "eyesore" last year, but after selling it to a local downtown businessman, it is now taking shape as a new downtown business office site. The building, which dates back to the 1920's when it served as a local lumber business office, and more recently was part of a City property acquisition to provide more downtown parking, is seeing a makeover which should allow it to once again provide a home to a local business.

■ **License Office to be remodeled** — This project is intended to provide more modern service windows and added space and seating for license office patrons, while providing the staff more security and efficiency. It will also give the office a more up-to-date look and be more user friendly, with separate driver's license and vehicle licensing areas on either side of the office.

■ **Harry Truman Drive completed east of 125th Street** — City engineering staff assisted Jackson County with the design, right-of-way acquisition, and contract preparation for the construction of Harry Truman Drive from 125th Street to Crystal Avenue. The finished project not only offers a nice, scenic new roadway, but connects Blue Ridge on the west side of 71 Highway to Byars Road on the east side.



The Grandview Road Project will include new curbs and sidewalks.

■ **Grandview Road project design determined** — Through a series of meetings between the residents along Grandview Road, the Board of Aldermen, the staff, and design engineers, agreement on the final design was reached last summer. The project, which adds curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, in addition to reconstructing the roadway along one of Grandview's oldest streets, will be under construction in 2007 at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million, to come from the half-cent transportation sales tax.

■ **135th Street sanitary sewer project finished** — This sizeable sewer project, which will provide a relief sewer to prevent sanitary sewer overflows in the Hidden Lake neighborhood and surrounding area, has recently been completed.

■ **Merrywood Bridge design initiated** — The Public Works staff selected engineers to design a replacement bridge at Merrywood as it crosses the Little Blue River entering River Oaks. This project should be completed in 2007 at a cost approaching \$1 million, and the funding will come from the half-cent capital improvements sales tax.

■ **Public Works partners with Kansas City Southern to take down old bridge** — The City Public Works Department negotiated an agreement with the railroad last year to remove the low clearance railroad bridge on Blue Ridge west of Grandview Road at a lower cost than the original project had anticipated. This allows more truck traffic to access the industrial areas without having to traverse Grandview Road, a residential street. At the Board's direction, Public Works also submitted a grant application to fund the removal of the second railroad bridge, which would allow for the eventual widening of Blue Ridge on the west side of the City.

■ **The View to celebrate third birthday** — As The View approaches three years of operation, staff members are excited about the programs and activities being offered for the coming year. Over the past two years, operating procedures have been tightened somewhat to insure the safety, security, and enjoyment of the members, which now number more than 5,000. This past year, the center received Aquatics International's "Best of Aquatics" award for indoor pool facilities. The conference center (The Grove) at The View hosted over 40,000 visitors last year, and the center continues to be self-supporting.

even better community event is being planned for 2007.

■ **City introduces new Wellness Program** — The City has initiated a new program for employees to promote fitness, dietary education, and overall awareness pertaining to individual health. The program uses health risk assessments, counseling and guidance on dietary habits, a regular fitness regimen, and classes on health issues caused by smoking, diabetes, stress, hypertension, obesity, and other chronic problems. It will also encourage use of the community center at least twice a week and offers incentives for weight loss, quitting smoking, and other fitness benchmarks.

■ **Additional park property acquired** — The City acquired the property across from Meadowmere Park in 2005, thus adding another 54 acres to the east of Byars Road and north of the Longview bike trail. In the coming year, the City staff will begin looking at current recreational needs and potential uses for the site, which could include soccer fields, other play fields, or additional trails, among other things. It would help bridge the gap between existing Meadowmere park facilities and Longview Lake park areas to the east and north. Meanwhile, more and more people are finding the benefits of the Longview bike and walking trail, which starts in Meadowmere Park and crosses Byars Road at around 138th Street and goes north and east for about six miles, ultimately reaching the Longview Marina.

■ **Crime rate remains low** — Despite a few high profile or isolated incidents, Grandview's crime rate remains very respectable in 2006, comparing favorably overall with neighboring suburbs. Through November of 2006, Part I (serious) crimes were down slightly, with the exception of domestic violence and simple assault cases, thus resulting in a slight increase from last year. Meanwhile traffic accidents were down 24.6% in 2006, from 585 to 441 this year.

■ **Capital Improvements Plan formalized** — The City's planning process for capital improvements and infrastructure improvements over the next five years included additional input and review this past year. It was reviewed by a Capital Facilities Committee, the Planning Commission, and a public hearing was held before the Board of Aldermen prior to approval of the latest Capital Improvements Plan for Grandview.

■ **City receives financial reporting and budget reporting awards** — For several years now, the City has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award, as well as the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. Next year, the City's comprehensive annual financial report will also need to be in compliance with the latest standard



The audience enjoyed Jazz Blast 2006 last September.

■ **Jazz moves to Main Street** — The annual music-fest, which moved to Main Street this past year, has turned out to be a wonderful community event for the fall, one which is well planned by the Grandview Chamber of Commerce and well attended, offering excellent jazz and other popular music, along with food and drink. Now that this has become a popular family night out, the audience seemed even more comfortable with the Main Street setting, and an

CITY OF GRANDVIEW Directory of City Officials

for governmental reporting, otherwise known as Governmental Accounting Standards Board Standard 34.

■ **City receives Loss Control Award** — MARCIT, the regional insurance pool for cities, recognized Grandview for the second consecutive year with the Loss Control Award, acknowledging the overall efforts of the City's Safety Committee and loss control program.

■ **New emergency generator installed at City Hall** — The newly purchased generator, to be used to keep public safety dispatching and other city functions operating during any power outage or emergency, replaces the former 20-year-old system, which has since been moved to Fire Station No. 1 and will be used as a backup.

■ **First Suburbs Coalition** — This group continues to expand and pursue various initiatives of importance to first-tier suburbs in the metro area. This includes cities like Raytown, North Kansas City, Gladstone, Roeland Park, Prairie Village, and Independence, as well as Grandview. This past year, this group featured its Idea Book for post-World War II housing renovation and remodeling at the Home Show, conducted tours for elected officials to see innovative new housing concepts, and negotiated a lower interest home remodeling loan program with Community America Credit Union to help renovate those post-WWII homes. More information will be available on this program in the coming months. Idea Books are available for a nominal amount at Grandview City Hall.

These are examples of some of the key items the City was involved in this past year, and which as a whole help make us more competitive, economically viable, and attractive as a community. With efforts continuing in this direction, the City of Grandview should be able to continue to attract new residents, new businesses, more retail, and to bring even more new jobs to the community in the future. The Board of Aldermen considered the year 2006 to be one of continued progress, and we look for more of the same in 2007.

City of Grandview
1200 Main Street
Grandview, Missouri

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**CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT
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Robert M. Beckers, Mayor
Leonard D. Jones, Jr., Ward I Alderman
Steve Dennis, Ward I Alderman
Debra McKinstry, Ward II Alderman
Joseph E. Runions, Jr., Ward II Alderman
James N. Crain, Ward III Alderman
Anthony Preyer, Ward III Alderman
Donald Crow, Municipal Judge

CITY STAFF

Cory Smith, City Administrator
Kirk Decker, Assistant City Administrator
Phoebe Cameron, City Clerk
Becky Schimmel, Assistant City Clerk
Alan Kenyon, Director of
Economic Development
Richard Schurman, Police Chief
Chuck Thacker, Fire Chief
Larry Creek, Director of Public Works
Allen May, Director of Community
Development
Matt Siders, Acting 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 7:30 p.m.

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

Planning Commission meetings are the fourth Wednesday of each month 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

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www.grandview.org