

GRANDVIEW

A Newsletter about the City of Grandview, Missouri

REPORT



Fall Festivities

Clockwise from top: Senior Thanksgiving at The View (see back page for information), Youth League Flag Football at Meadowmere Park, and Boo at The View (see back page for information).



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*Extending
the Capital
Improvements
Sales Tax
WOULD NOT
INCREASE
current taxes
because this
proposition is
not a new tax—
it is an
extension of the
existing sales
tax at exactly
the same rate.*

Board of Aldermen Proposes CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SALES TAX RENEWAL

Vote Set for November 6th

The Capital Improvements Sales Tax, first approved by voters in 1998, has been an ongoing source for equipment replacement for the City of Grandview, particularly for the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. Over the past nine years, the City has used this special tax to pay for numerous vehicles and equipment essential to public safety operations, as well as street maintenance and infrastructure.

The 1/2-cent Capital Improvements Sales Tax was approved for a period of ten years, and is now set to expire in 2008. The Board of Aldermen has indicated that the need is just as great now as it was in 1998, yet the cost for everything has increased, and in some cases dramatically — i.e., fire trucks, ambulances, police cars, asphalt, concrete, and construction labor costs. In order to plan for and address the needs of the next 10 years, the Board of Aldermen has decided to place this question before the voters of Grandview in the November election this fall. If approved, there would be no lapse in funding, and the 1/2-cent sales tax would be in effect through 2018.

The Next Ten Years

The plan for the next ten years would be similar to that of the first ten-year authorization. It would include the following:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Police vehicle replacement | \$1,750,000 |
| Fire truck, ambulance replacement | 1,400,000 |
| Public Works vehicle replacement | 1,200,000 |
| Police/Fire computer-aided dispatch replacement | 500,000 |
| Police mobile video recorder/mobile data terminal replacement | 330,000 |
| Fire Dept. breathing apparatus, defibrillation and bunker gear replacement, and station improvements | 440,000 |
| New sidewalks | 500,000 |
| Sidewalk repairs | 250,000 |
| Curb repairs | 500,000 |
| Storm channel renovation | 750,000 |
| Storm drainage improvements | 1,500,000 |
| City facility repairs, replacements | 780,000 |
| City computer, technology upgrades | 400,000 |
| TOTAL | \$10,300,000 |

In addition, the Board has decided to do three major projects with these revenues over the next 10 years:

Phase I of the Main Street Corridor Project

(Grandview Road to 5th Street) \$1,200,000

West Frontage Road Improvements

(Highgrove Road to 135th Street) 1,500,000

Botts Road Reconstruction/Widening

(135th Street to 139th Street) 1,000,000

The proposal to renew the 1/2-cent Sales Tax for Capital Improvements will come before voters in Grandview as a November 6th ballot issue this fall. ■



DESPITE LIMITED REVENUES

City Services and Amenities Enhanced

On September 11, 2007, the Board of Aldermen adopted the fiscal year 2008 city budget. Despite the constraints of nominal revenue growth over the past few years, and operating budgets stretched to cover the increased costs associated with oil, construction materials, health insurance, pharmaceuticals, and competitive wages, etc., the City plans to maintain staffing levels, while enhancing services in several areas. The new budget includes the following for the fiscal year that just began October 1, 2007:

PUBLIC SAFETY

- New mobile data terminals in Police and Fire vehicles to provide real-time data to officers and firefighter/paramedics at the scene.
- A Special Operations Detail in the Police Department to focus on localized crime, suspicious activities, problem areas, and specific citizen concerns.
- New school resource (police) officer planned for the Alternative School.
- New ambulance and six police cars (using the current Capital Improvements Sales Tax).

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION

- New systematic rental property inspection program to ensure that dwelling units meet the minimum building preservation code.
- Development assistance to focus on business, housing needs.
- New GIS equipment and software to enhance overall operational planning.
- Continued enforcement of nuisance, trash, disabled vehicle and weed ordinances, as well as for loose and dangerous dogs (around 7,000 cases a year).



Grandview Police Special Operations Detail Unit: Sergeant Mike Prindle, Corporal Daryl Shanks and Officer Rick VanSickle (not pictured: Officers Scott Graef and Mike Rigot)



Building inspectors Scott Karr and Chad Fouts will be performing apartment inspections as part of a new program implemented by the City's Neighborhood Services Division included in the fiscal year 2008 budget.

BEAUTIFICATION AND RECREATION

- Development of a new park master plan, using substantial citizen input.
- Enhanced park and streetscape maintenance and beautification.
- Swimming pool, picnic shelter, and landscaping improvements.

INFRASTRUCTURE

(using the Transportation and Capital Improvements Sales Taxes)

- Completion of the Grandview Road improvement project.
- Construction of the new Merrywood Bridge; and widening/reconstruction of 139th Street west of the KC Southern railroad tracks.
- Construction of the Fountain Lake overflow sewer project (from the Sanitary Sewer Fund).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- New plan developed, and the launching of the new Grandview Economic Development Alliance, a cooperative venture comprised of the City, Chamber of Commerce, School District, and Water District.
- Marketing of industrial and commercial sites, using the new enhanced enterprise zone designation, as well as existing incentives, as part of a consolidated effort.
- Initiation of the new Business Recruitment Rewards program — citizens invited to participate.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

- Collaborative web site updates and enhancements with the Chamber/EDC.
- Initiation of e-commerce payments on line for selected services.
- Local newspaper articles periodically on economic development issues and activities.

Loan Program Makes Remodeling Possible for Grandview Home Owners

Grandview home owners still have time to take advantage of a program that provides home remodeling loans for low, fixed-interest rates.

The City of Grandview, Mid-America Regional Council's First Suburbs Coalition and CommunityAmerica Credit Union have partnered to provide low-interest, fixed-rate home equity loans designed to fund the remodeling and modernization of qualified homes in Grandview from now until next summer.

Loans provided through the program may offer **"fixed-interest rates" as low as 6.99% APR, with terms of 10 years or less and loan amounts up to \$30,000.* (or lower due to Federal Reserve rate cut)**

The First Suburbs Coalition's *Idea Book* contains plans, drawings and suggestions for the best ways to make homes in the first suburbs as attractive, comfortable and valuable as possible. If you're interested in applying or have questions regarding the lending process, please contact CommunityAmerica at 913-905-6629. Funds are limited so apply as soon as possible!

The Web page for the program is now ready for homeowners to use as well! The link is <http://www.marc.org/firstsuburbs/loanprogram.htm> from the First Suburbs Coalition home page, www.marc.org/firstsuburbs, in the upper right-hand corner. ■

Grandview's Annual Fall Cleanup

It's time again for the Annual Fall Cleanup conducted by the Grandview Public Works Department for the City's residents. Be sure to mark your calendars for the two Saturdays scheduled for dropping off trash and yard waste: **October 27th and November 3rd.**

Grandview residents, local businesses and property owners may drop off their solid waste and yard debris from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. both Saturdays at the Public Works Maintenance Facility, 7000 East 139th Street

(139th and Winchester). The cost is \$12 per vehicle (or per load). Proof of residency is required at the site.

Appliances are accepted, but there is an additional charge of \$25 for each appliance with



With help from The First Suburbs Coalition home equity loan program, homeowners can now add rooms to their homes much like this home of Ronald and Billie Hall at 7005 E. 134th Terrace in Grandview, where a sunroom was added in the back.

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are subject to change with Prime and are based on applicant credit. Actual rate may vary. Minimum loan amount \$5,000, maximum loan amount capped at \$30,000. Tax assessed value of home may not exceed \$200,000. Minimum and maximum loan amounts, and tax assessed value restriction set by First Suburbs Coalition. Homeowners insurance required.

**Consult your tax advisor regarding deductibility of interest.

Turning Trash into Cash

Another way to help keep Grandview clean is by participating in the Trash Busters Program. Groups and individuals can earn \$5 for every bag of trash they pick up along main roads and highways. The Public Works Department provides the bags, the trash poker sticks, and orange safety vests. The department handles the responsibility for picking up the full bags of trash left along the sides of the roadways. Those interested in the program may call 316-4856 for information.

freon. Also accepted are tires, at the cost of \$1.50 per tire (maximum of eight tires), batteries, and a maximum of five gallons of waste oil. No other hazardous waste will be accepted, but may be dropped off at special household hazardous waste disposal sites in Kansas City (274-1811) and Lee's Summit (251-2116) by appointment only. The cost for disposal is \$50, but the City will reimburse Grandview residents who present their receipt and proof of residency at City Hall, 1200 Main Street, throughout the year.

For more information, call the Public Works Department at (816) 316-4856. ■



Tony Finlay

New Parks and Recreation Director to Oversee Master Park Plan

Not long after Tony Finlay arrived to fill the position as Grandview's new Parks and Recreation Director this year, he found he had his work cut out for him. Last spring, the City had conducted a citizen survey regarding the outdoor pool needs for Grandview residents. The results showed that the majority of residents who responded did not support additional taxes for a new outdoor pool. In addition, a lack of attendance had resulted in the closing of John Anderson Park's outdoor pool.

In an effort to address the future recreational needs of Grandview's residents, the new director recently recommended, and the Board of Aldermen approved, hiring a consultant to help the City develop a master park plan, which will incorporate public input and determine the best uses and long-term needs of all parks, pools, and recreational facilities in the City.

Finlay is excited to be able to take charge of the project's management. His experience in parks and

recreation administration includes serving as Director of Parks and Recreation for Olivette, Missouri for five years and for the City of Odessa, Missouri for four years.

Finlay says meetings will begin next month with GreenPlay, the consultants hired to study and conduct an analysis of the Grandview parks system. "Our city's parks are not being utilized as much as they should be," he says. "We need to find out what's missing so residents can be better served and get more enjoyment out of our parks." He will act as the liaison between the consultants, the Board of Aldermen, City staff, and the public.

The first step, he says, will be to begin an assessment of all open spaces and parks and facilities, conduct a citizen survey (to be mailed out to residents soon), and review past audits and surveys. There will be meetings with staff, the Board, and special focus groups, such as neighborhood associations and youth sports leagues, in addition to holding public meetings for citizen input.

The consultants will create a summary of the results of the meetings, assessments and surveys in order to prioritize the needs of the park system. There also will be an assessment using GIS technology to help determine the condition of the parks and their components, and



whether certain areas are serving high or low levels of residents.

After more public meetings and staff meetings are held to present results of all information gathered, the consultants will provide an action plan with cost estimates, e.g., drawings of changes, such as new trails or new facilities and the costs involved.

The entire process is anticipated to be completed by next April. Finlay is already gearing up for the initial staff and project meetings, and is anxious to get started on the project. He says the project will enhance the top-notch park system that Grandview residents have enjoyed for many years. "The View is one of the premier recreation facilities in the Midwest," he says. "Being able to provide recreational services to the public is definitely an important part of what a city can provide its residents, and I like being a part of that." ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE VIEW

Community Flu Shots

Oct. 2, 4-6 p.m. and Oct. 22, 1-3 p.m.

Kansas City Ability Day

Oct. 28, 1-4 p.m.

Breakfast with Santa Holiday Play Days

Nov. 23 & 24, Dec. 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Call 316-4881 for more information.

Upcoming Special Events IN GRANDVIEW

"BOO AT THE VIEW"

Safe trick-or-treating for children 5th grade and under accompanied by an adult over age of 18.
October 31, 5:30-7:00 p.m./\$4 advanced, \$5 at door

SENIOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

Ages 55+ Dinner with live entertainment.
Free/bring a dessert
November 15, 6-7:30 p.m.
Reservation deadline: November 8

MAYOR'S HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Annual community event with Santa and live entertainment.
Free/City Hall, 1200 Main Street
November 29, 6:45-8 p.m.

SENIOR HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR

Visit Christmas in the Park at Longview Lake, the Plaza, Crown Center and more! Hop on a tour bus with box supper, treats, and carols. December 11, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Reservation deadline: November 30
\$18/member of The View, \$25/nonmember

Call 316-4881 for all events listed above.



Spring 2008 Election Reminder

Any resident wishing to file for elected office for the General Municipal Election on April 8, 2008 must come in to the City Clerk's office to file for one of three Aldermen positions, one from each of the City's three Wards, during the following time period:

December 18, 2007 through January 22, 2008

For more information on candidates' qualifications, call the City Clerk's office at 316-4811 or check the City's Web site at www.grandview.org.

Any Grandview resident who is not registered to vote may do so through Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners, (816) 325-4600, or at the Mid-Continent Library at Main Street and Booth Lane, (816) 763-0550, no later than March 12, 2008, for the April 8, 2008 election. ■

City of Grandview
1200 Main Street
Grandview, Missouri

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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
Larry Dickey, Police Chief
Chuck Thacker, Fire Chief
Larry Creek, 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 7:30 p.m.

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

Planning Commission meetings are the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 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