

# GRANDVIEW

A Newsletter about the City of Grandview, Missouri

## Breaking Ground for the Future...

As Grandview's 90th Anniversary Comes to a Close, the City Looks Ahead with Plans for the Construction of its Community Center

**W**hile the City has spent some time this year reflecting on its past, the future of Grandview was the main topic on Saturday, October 26th, as the City held its ceremonial groundbreaking of Grandview's community center in Meadowmere Park. With construction on the center scheduled to begin this winter, the ceremony was held before the weather began to get too chilly for the outdoor event.

"So many residents have been involved in this process, whether working to get the sales tax passed to fund the community center, serving on the steering committee, or just attend-

ing a commission meeting and making their opinions known," said Janis Steele, Center Manager, "we wanted to have the groundbreaking ceremony when as many people as possible could attend, before the weather got too cold and before the busy holidays."



*Above: The first group to break ground at the ceremony were Aldermen Steve Dennis and Cathy Kelley, Mayor Harry O. Wilson, Aldermen Eddie Garcia, Leonard Jones, and Jim Crain, along with City Administrator Cory Smith. Below: An artist's rendering of the view of the Center from Meadowmere Park, looking north.*

Over 70 residents and community leaders attended the ceremony, which included speeches by Mayor Harry Wilson, Aldermen Steve Dennis, Alderman Jim Crain, and LaVelle March, President of the Parks & Recreation Commission. A wooden model and renderings of (story continued inside)



## Focusing on Community: A Time of Togetherness



**Mayor Harry O. Wilson**

*“It is once again time to think of families being together, of blessings received, of a difficult year winding down, of remembering special people or those far away, and of a new year full of opportunity and hope for peace and understanding in the world.”*

*It was an overcast day in late October with a definite chill in the air the morning Grandview kicked off the construction phase of its new community center project. An enthusiastic crowd of supporters, elected officials, volunteer participants in the design process, Chamber of Commerce representatives, construction managers and architects, and city staff members came together that morning to share in some of the pride and the excitement that such a project can bring to our community. It was a preview of brighter days for all who call Grandview home.*

*The many citizens who, with the help of staff, developed the idea from our strategic planning process two years ago, and who studied feasibility, financing and operating costs, have now seen it taken from the concept to the design phase. Soon bids will be opened on the various phases of construction, and that process will actually begin soon after the first of the new year.*

*Having our own community center has been a dream of mine for many years, and I'd like to thank Alderman Steve Dennis and the many volunteers who have helped bring the vision closer to reality. We are excited about the design, and, as it stands now, we hope to cut the ribbon on a beautiful new facility in March of 2004.*

*Now the holidays are almost upon us, and it is once again time to think of families being together, of blessings received, of a difficult year winding down, of remembering special people or those far away, and of a new year full of opportunity and hope for peace and understanding in the world.*

*I'd like to take this time to thank you, the citizens, for the many ways in which you participate in or serve our community. Whether it be through youth sports; as a volunteer city commission member; on the Downtown Committee; the School Board, PTA, or one of the district's many committees; the Grandview Historical Society or the Heritage Commission; the Shepherd's Center, Lions Club, Elks Club, or Rotary Club; the Grandview Assistance Program or Salvation Army Board; or any of the many church affiliated or charitable fund raising organizations, I'd like to express, on behalf of the Board of Alderman, our true appreciation for all you do to create a greater sense of community within the City of Grandview.*

*Whatever the future may bring, in a world where we now face the ongoing threat of terrorism and possibly even war, may this same sense of community and willingness to serve the greater good prevail. May we also truly appreciate the freedoms and opportunities that we enjoy as Americans as we celebrate the holiday season this year.*

*With the grove of trees that the community center was designed to embrace as his backdrop, Alderman Steve Dennis provided his thoughts at the Community Center Groundbreaking Ceremony while Mayor Harry Wilson and other members of the community looked on. Alderman Dennis was also the Chairman of the Community Center Steering Committee.*



# A Visit to Our Sister City: Haruna, Japan

**O**n March 19, 1991 Grandview's Mayor Harry Wilson and Mayor Saburo Shimizu of Haruna, Japan signed a "Declaration of Friendship" establishing a Sister City Agreement between our two cities. The cities pledged to "actively promote cultural, educational, and commercial exchanges...so that lasting, friendly relations and cooperation will evolve in the years ahead and for future generations." This October, to celebrate the 11th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship, 11 Grandview representatives, including Mayor Wilson, Alderman Jim Crain, Alderman Leonard Jones, and officials from the Grandview School District experienced the Sister City connection first hand as they made the journey to Japan.

**D**uring their week-long visit, the group attended an Autumn Festival, were presented Hapi coats in the town colors of blue and white, participated in a parade, toured Mount Haruna-Fuji and Haruna Lake, and visited three schools where the students, very appreciative of the visit, showcased their ability to speak at least some English. While in Haruna, the group from Grandview also spent their nights with their own host families, giving them a true sense of life in Japan.

"My wife Vonda and I thoroughly enjoyed our host family," Alderman Crain said. "We experienced Japanese cuisine at each meal--with occasional American food for our benefit. Even though limited English was spoken, we were able to communicate and develop a strong bond with the family. The mother and daughter of our host family had visited Grandview nine years ago, and we have invited them to stay in our home the next time they come to America."

The events of September 11th impacted all things, and the Sister City program was no exception. Usually, in July, the Grandview and Haruna school systems take turns sending a small group of youth from middle and high school to experience life in their Sister City. After the events of last September, however, the group from Haruna was unable to visit. Fortunately this July,

Grandview students will be able to continue the tradition with a visit to Japan.

The Grandview representatives' trip to Haruna was originally scheduled in October of 2001 to celebrate the tenth year of the Sister City relationship, but that trip also had to be delayed due to September 11th. Haruna officials and citizens understood the delay, and expressed their deepest sympathies for the attacks against our country.

When the group from Grandview was finally able to make the journey to Haruna, they were welcomed with open arms.

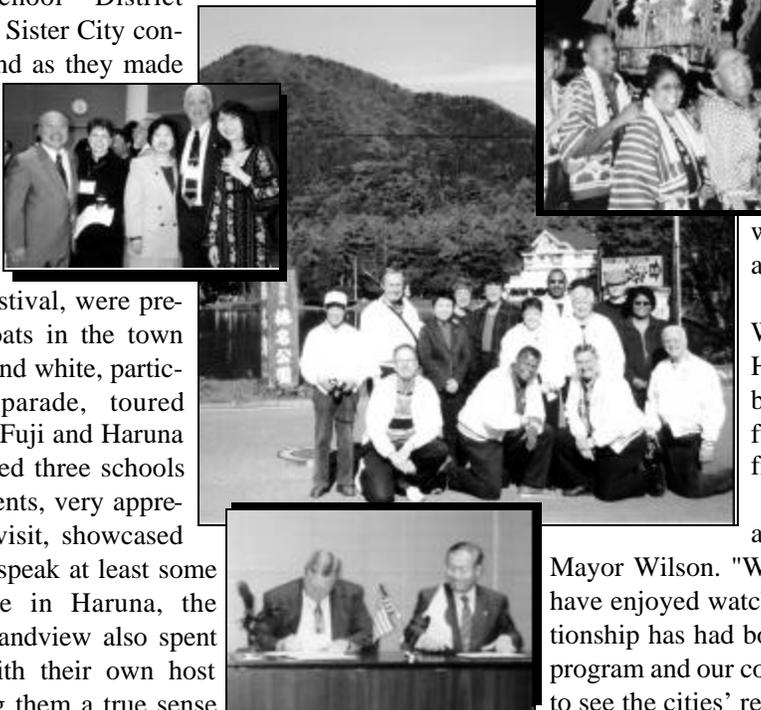
"We were all impressed by the overwhelming hospitality of everyone in the City," said Alderman Crain. "We were easily recognized by our blue and white Hapi coats, and all the citizens went out of their way to say hello and to welcome us to Haruna."

Before the trip's end, Mayor Wilson and Mayor Kiyokazu Ishii of Haruna reinforced the connection between Grandview and Haruna for future generations by signing a reaffirmation between the cities.

"Mayor Ishii and I have a real affinity for one another's City," said Mayor Wilson. "We have a strong friendship, and we have enjoyed watching the impact the Sister City relationship has had both on individuals involved with the program and our communities in general. We both hope to see the cities' relationship continue to thrive."

If you would like more information on the student exchange program, please call Mary Rhodes at 316-5800. If you'd like to view pictures and gifts Haruna has presented to Grandview over the years, there is a permanent display of items at Grandview City Hall.

"To have a connection with a Sister City where we can share ideas and learn from one another in a friendly and open environment is an important facet of this program," Alderman Jones said. "It makes you realize that, although our cultures are different, people are people, no matter where they are in the world."



*Above, from left to right: Alderman Crain and wife Vonda with their host family, the Takai's; the group touring Mt. Haruna-Fuji; Alderman Jones and wife Michelle wearing Hapi coats and participating in parade. Bottom photo: Mayor Wilson and Mayor Ishii signing a Sister City reaffirmation.*

# Qualifications & Filing Information for Declaration of Candidacy: Mayor, Municipal Judge & Aldermen Elections in April

**T**he positions of Mayor, Municipal Judge, and one Alderman position in each Ward will be up for election in April of 2003. Those interested in running for a local office need to be aware of the qualifications of each position and the deadlines for filing a declaration of candidacy with the City Clerk.

You must be a registered voter to run for office. Each of the offices below has a two-year term length. The qualifications for each of the positions up for election in April are as follows:

**MAYOR (Minimum Age - 25)**

- U.S. citizen
- Grandview resident for at least 1 year
- Current on all City taxes and fees, including business licenses, by close of filing.

**ALDERMAN (Minimum Age - 21)**

- U.S. Citizen
- Grandview Resident for at least 1 year
- Resident of ward from which elected
- Current on all City taxes and fees, including business licenses, by close of filing.

**MUNICIPAL JUDGE (Min/Max Age - 21-75)**

- Licensed attorney admitted to practice law in Missouri
- Grandview resident (no time restriction)
- May not hold any other office in City government, but may serve as Municipal Judge for another city
- Current on all City taxes and fees, including business licenses, by close of filing.

Declarations of candidacy will be accepted for the positions of Mayor, Municipal Judge, and Alderman in the City Clerk's office at Grandview City Hall. A nonrefundable filing fee of \$10 is payable at the time the Declaration of Candidacy is filed. Filing for the April 8th municipal elections opens this year on Christmas Eve (December 24). As required by State Law, the City Clerk's office will be open at 8:00 a.m. to accept candidate filings that morning. As the City's offices are normally closed on Christmas Eve, the Clerk's office will only remain open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 24th. The filing period ends on January 21st. For additional information, please call the City Clerk at (816) 316-4811.

## KC Disposal Site Now Accepts Grandview Residents' Brush & Leaves

**T**he City of Grandview recently signed an agreement with Kansas City which allows Grandview residents to use the nearby disposal site at Raytown Road and I-470. The site is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sundays from noon until 6 p.m. The site will be closed for the winter from January 13 - March 14.



In order for Grandview residents to use the site, they must first purchase a voucher for \$10 at Grandview City Hall. The voucher must then be given to the staff at the disposal site, allowing the resident to dispose of one load, up to 3 cubic yards, of their leaves and brush (not in plastic bags) at the site.

"This arrangement is the most cost-effective means for the City to provide brush and leaf disposal service to Grandview residents," said Mike Shumacher, Neighborhood Services Supervisor.

For more information on the disposal site and voucher, call the City of Grandview at (816) 316-4819.

## Holiday Calendar

- Nov. 21 . . . .Annual Seniors Thanksgiving Dinner  
RSVP at 316-4875
- Nov. 28 . . . .City Hall Closed
- Nov. 29 . . . .City Hall Closed
- Nov. 30 . . . .License Bureau Closed
- Dec. 5 . . . .Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting  
6:30 p.m - 8 p.m at City Hall
- Dec. 12 . . . .Seniors Holiday Lights Tour  
Register in Advance at 316-4875
- Dec. 24 . . . .City Hall Closed
- Dec. 25 . . . .City Hall Closed
- Jan. 1 . . . .City Hall Closed
- Jan. 16 . . . .BINGO & Chili Dinner  
Register in Advance at 316-4875



# Grandview Community Center Groundbreaking

(continued from cover) the center were also on display.

During their speeches at the event, the Mayor, Aldermen Dennis, Alderman Crain, and Parks and Recreation Commission President March thanked those who had worked hard to get to this moment, described the project up to this point, and reflected upon what the center will mean to residents and our community as a whole.

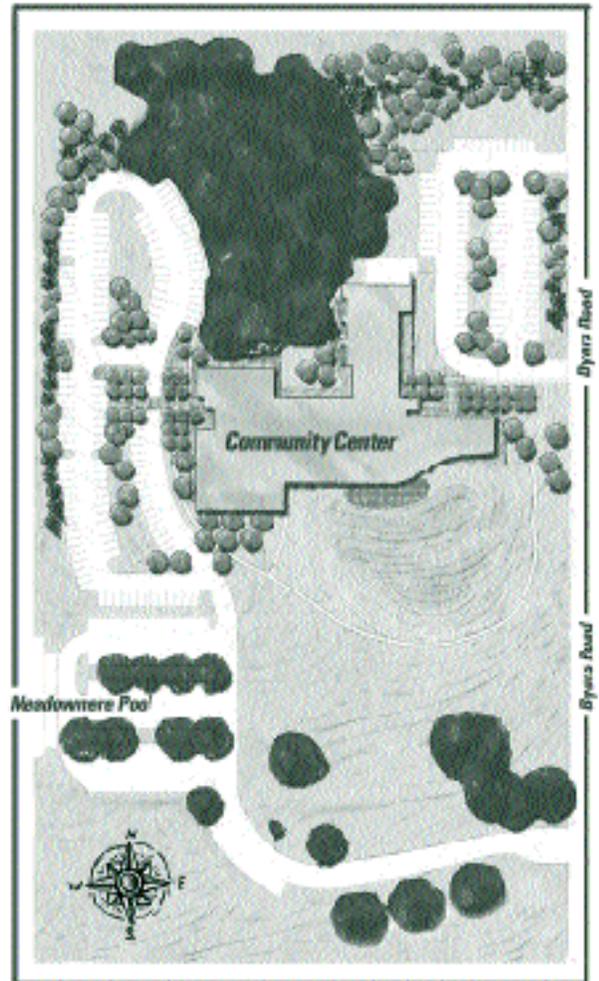
“To all of you who are here today to help us celebrate this great adventure--and especially to all of you who had a hand in making this vision become a reality--a deep and most sincere 'thank you' from one citizen who has had this vision in his heart for many years,” said Alderman Steve Dennis. “This center is being built with you in mind. A center of excellence. A center of great possibilities. A center of community.”

## Follow the Progress: [www.grandview.org/city](http://www.grandview.org/city)

One of the souvenirs from the Groundbreaking Ceremony was a magnet with a view of the south of the building. During the construction of the center, a total of four free magnets will be made available to the public, and those who are able to collect all four will be given a special discount upon the opening of the community center.

The magnets also serve as a reminder to “Follow the Progress” of the community center on the City’s website. With construction documents going out to bid in November, construction on the center is scheduled to begin upon the award of bid this winter. The City has created a special web page dedicated to keeping residents up-to-date on the progress of the community center. Currently, full-color renderings of the center, the site plan, floorplans, a brief history of the project, and a fact sheet can be found on the website. Once construction begins, the City hopes to include photographs of the construction and additional information as it becomes available.

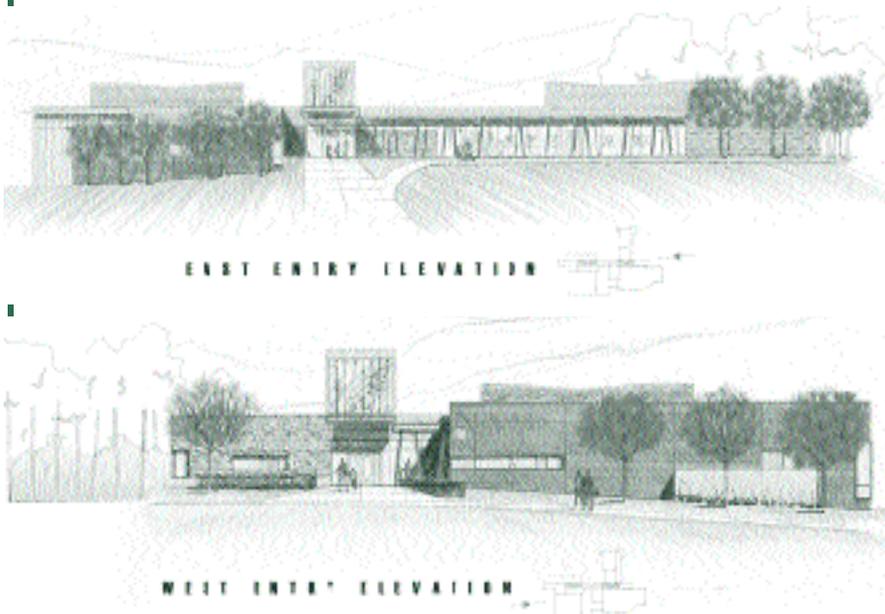
For additional information about this project contact Janis Steele, Center Manager, at 316-4884.



Above is the site plan, showing where the community center will be placed within Meadowmere Park. Byars Road runs along the right side of the image, and the existing playground and shelters in the park are to the south of the image.

At left are the two entryways to the community center. The top image is the entryway that faces Byars road, which will be the main entry for events and classes in the multipurpose/ banquet room(s) that are located within that wing.

The bottom image is of the main entry to the center, which faces to the west. The control desk for the center, which will give participants access to the aquatics center, gymnasium, fitness area, rock wall and locker rooms, will be located at this end of the community center.



## Downtown Revitalization Efforts Increase with new Committee

**D**owntown and the surrounding residential areas of Grandview played an important part in our City's rich history, and a Historical Preservation committee developed from the "Beyond 2000--A Vision for Grandview" process is stepping up their efforts to preserve and promote the historical nature of this area.

In 2003, a historic architectural survey of Downtown Grandview will be conducted and a historic district may be established, depending upon the results of the survey. These efforts should encourage private reinvestment in older buildings in the Downtown area, with the benefit of tax credits when renovation complies with guidelines that will be developed following the completion of the architectural survey.

On November 14, a Historic Preservation informational meeting was held for the public at City Hall, which explained the City's efforts in this area, upcoming plans, and how citizens can get involved. Presenters included Alderman Cathy Kelley and Director of Community Development Tom Greenwood, among others. For more information about historical preservation, call Tom Greenwood at 316-4820.



## Municipal Court Dates During the Holidays

**C**ourt dates during the holiday months of November and December will continue to be on three Monday evenings of each month. Those dates are as follows:

*Monday, November 11th, 18th & 25th*

*Monday, December 9th, 16th & 23rd*

If you have any questions about your court date, time, or need additional information, call the Court Clerk at 316-4837.

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Grandview, MO 64030

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## City of Grandview Directory of City Officials

### Elected Officials

Harry O. Wilson, Mayor  
Leonard D. Jones, Jr., Ward I Alderman  
Steve Dennis, Ward I Alderman  
Catherine Kelley, Ward II Alderman  
Kenneth L. Cox, Ward II Alderman  
James N. Crain, Ward III Alderman  
Eddie Garcia, Ward III Alderman  
Donald Crow, Municipal Judge

### City Staff

Cory Smith, City Administrator  
Brian Scott, Assistant City Administrator  
Phoebe Cameron, City Clerk  
Bob Beckers, Police Chief  
Lorenzo Gigliotti, Fire Chief  
Larry Creek, Director of Public Works  
Tom Greenwood, Director of  
Community Development  
Steve Stadler, 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.

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 held the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission meetings are the the fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission meetings are the first Thursday at 7 p.m.



### City Hall Information

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