

FALL 2009

GRANDVIEW REPORT

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2010 BUDGET REFLECTS DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES

Revenues have dropped

With approval by the Board of Aldermen on September 8, 2010, the City's budget for fiscal year 2010 which began **October 1, 2009**, reflects the times in which we live today. We have seen layoffs and job cuts throughout the private sector, and economic experts say this may continue through the end of this year and into next year or beyond before economic growth occurs. So far, our city has not been impacted on the whole as dramatically as those in California, Michigan, or the east coast, but it is the worst economic situation we have faced in 25 years or more. Even with a prospective recovery in 2010, revenue projections look bleak for the next couple of years.

In a General Fund budget of just over \$14 million, sales tax revenues have dropped nearly 8 percent, or \$220,000 in the past year, with little growth likely in the coming year. Property tax revenues, as

dropped \$25,000 in 2009; cigarette tax revenues are down over \$10,000; and interest earnings are down about \$26,000. Only a few items, like animal boarding fees for animals found running at large, court revenues, electric franchise fees, and building permit fees are expected to see much of an increase next year. Building permit fees were recently increased to more closely compare with other cities; and animal boarding fees were raised to partially offset the cost increase imposed by our local animal shelter, Wayside Waifs.

The General Fund budget provides funding for almost all of the general operations of the City, including police, fire, and ambulance services; street maintenance, traffic lights, and snow removal; nuisance abatement and animal control; municipal court operations; development planning, zoning, and land use regulation; building inspection and property preservation; occupational (business) licensing; driver's and motor vehicle licensing;

human resources; tax collections; and accounting and payroll operations – so the General Fund must bear the load for nearly all city operations.

So, what is in the budget for 2010?

As you might expect, the budget had to be reduced to match our revenues, so five vacant positions were not funded for the 2010 year, including Court Supervisor, Police Sergeant, Street Maintenance Worker, Park Main-

tenance Worker, and Sewer Maintenance Worker. No employee pay raises were budgeted. No capital items (equipment, computers, office machines, building improvements/renovations) were funded in the General Fund; and supplies and contract services were reduced, as were training funds and

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE FY2010 BUDGET

Main Street Corridor Plan – Phase I construction	\$1,050,000
Firefighter personal protective equipment	\$254,000
Police patrol car replacement	\$175,000
Annual storm drainage improvement projects	\$150,000
Sidewalks and curbs	\$125,000
2nd/3rd Street road improvement project	\$2,000,000
Annual street resurfacing contract	\$315,000
Botts Road Widening/improvements right-of-way acquisitions	\$100,000
135th Street improvement project engineering	\$100,000

a result of reductions in assessed values for both residential and commercial properties, are expected to drop by three percent, or about \$90,000 next year; service charges are expected to decrease by over \$50,000, or nearly 5 percent; gasoline tax revenues (the City's share of state taxes) have

other support costs. There will be a definite impact on operations, but, for the most part, it should not adversely affect citizens.

The Community Center Fund is a separate fund that is self-sustaining and depends on both a separate voter approved sales tax and membership fees, daily admission charges, and rental fees to operate and pay the debt service on the construction costs incurred in 2003-04. Since it serves primarily the members and users of the services at the center, the General Fund does not subsidize these activities. The Sanitary Sewer Fund is another example of a self-sufficient fund, which is dependent on user fees, both residential and commercial charges. Those revenues must pay for sewage treatment costs paid to Little Blue Valley Sewer District (about 84% of the costs) and Kansas City, sewer maintenance and cleaning, sewer lining and replacement, new sewer construction, and billing costs – for a total of over \$2.3 million a year.

Interestingly, and many citizens may not realize this, tax rates for general operating purposes in the General Fund have not increased for 25 or more years. The property tax rate for the General Fund, Park Levy Fund, and Debt Service (on bonds) Fund for FY 2010 of \$1.50 per \$100 of assessed value is the same as it was in 1985. The general purpose sales tax of one percent on all retail sales has been the same since 1971. Likewise, the franchise fee rates on utilities and the occupational license fee rates on business gross receipts have been the same since 1978. While that has generally been good for our citizens and businesses, it means that retail sales must increase, property values must increase and housing growth must occur, and businesses must grow and prosper, etc. in order for the City to pay for the increased costs of all the services mentioned above.

In the new 2010 budget year, 76% of the General Fund budget is allocated to personnel costs to support around 165 full-time and 22 part-time and temporary employees. Meanwhile, the cost of supplies and contract services needed to allow these

professionals to operate, like gasoline, salt for snow removal, asphalt, concrete, ambulance supplies and pharmaceuticals, software and network

PARK IMPROVEMENTS FOR FY 2010

Sprayground for John Anderson Park	\$350,000
Playground for Meadowmere Park	\$535,000
Shelters/restroom for Meadowmere Park	\$385,200
Shelter/restroom for Mapleview Park	\$190,000
Restroom/landscaping at Freedom Park	\$192,000

maintenance, prisoner detention fees, vehicle and apparatus maintenance costs, electricity and gas, phone services, health insurance costs, employee pension contributions, and previous efforts to maintain competitive pay levels have all increased at a much faster rate than our revenues in the past few years. With revenues down now, these types of increases impact the City even more.

Now, for the good news!

Special purpose voter-approved sales taxes for transportation purposes (streets and bridges) and capital improvement items (fire trucks, ambulances, dump trucks, facility needs, defibrillators, fire hoses, police cars and in-car video cameras, sidewalks, storm sewers, etc.) will still provide funding for these priority items and projects.

So, the new year will still be a big year for parks, playgrounds, and streets in our community. Despite the difficult economy in the new world we live in, all Grandview departments stand ready to serve the citizens to the best of their abilities in the coming year. The Board of Aldermen is committed to making the tough decisions that best serve Grandview residents and businesses, with a view toward the future and better things to come in the next few years.

FALL CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

The Grandview Public Works Department is again hosting the **Community Clean-Up Program** for residents and businesses of Grandview. The program offers residents an opportunity to drop-off bulk waste and/or yard debris. Citizens who participate in this program are asked to separate their waste and place it in the appropriate containers. **Proof of residency or property ownership** will be required.

When: Saturday, October 31st , November 7th and November 21st

Where: Public Works Maintenance Facility
7000 East 139th St. (139th & Winchester)

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12.00 per vehicle load

Examples of items accepted at the disposal site:

Appliances, furniture, carpeting, scrap metal, scrap building material, porcelain items (sinks, toilets, tubs), small mechanical equipment. Limbs, leaves, and grass clippings
Waste oil will also be accepted up to a maximum of five gallons.

NO OTHER HAZARDOUS WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING THIS PROGRAM. Checks will be accepted.

Additional Cost Items:

Tires (8 max) - \$1.50 each

Appliances with freon (freezers, refrigerators) - \$30.00 each.

For further information, please call the Public Works Department at 816-316-4856

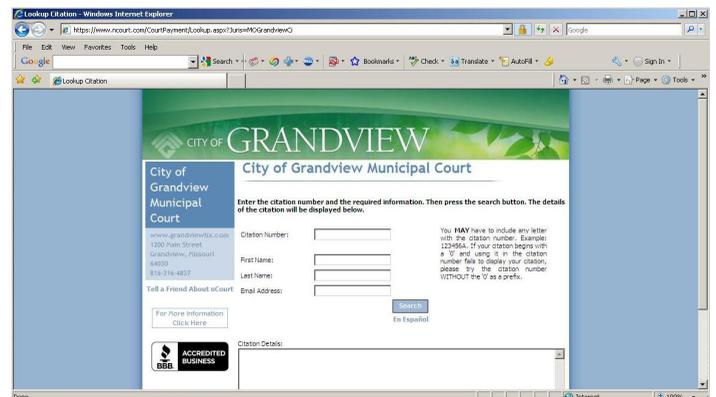
MUNICIPAL COURT NOW ACCEPTS PAYMENTS ONLINE

In its efforts to continually improve customer service, the City of Grandview now accepts electronic, online payments for certain traffic tickets issued within the City of Grandview. This online service is available 24/7 at www.grandview.org under the **"I want to"** tab, and select **"pay my traffic ticket"**, which is the first option on the drop down menu.

The online bill payment system is being administered by NCourt, and the company accepts payments by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express Cards and Debit cards. You will receive a confirmation number and an instant email confirmation for your records after you complete the transaction.

When you are ready to make an online payment, please have your citation number handy. You will also need to provide your email address for payment confirmation. After providing the information, click on the **"search"** button. If the ticket does not require court appearance, the amount due will appear and the payer can proceed. If the ticket does require appearance, you must come to court at the scheduled date.

If you have any questions about online or phone payments, please call NCourt directly at any time at (800) 701-8560 or (800) 701-8560.



SPRAYGROUND APPROVED FOR JOHN ANDERSON PARK



After three months of researching sprayground concepts and reviewing proposals, the Parks & Recreation commission presented their recommendation to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on September 22nd at the Board meeting. On the same day, City officials reviewed the recommended proposal, and approved an ordinance authorizing a contract with KC Gunite, Inc, for the purchase and installation of a sprayground at John Anderson Park. The community park is located on the west side of Highway 71 at 4701 E. 135th Street. At 34.44 acres in size, the park contains a variety of amenities including multipurpose fields, tennis courts, a number of

practice backstops, a natural area, shelters, and a brand new playground which should be ready in the near future.

Construction should start this fall, but the sprayground will not be open until Memorial Day of 2010.

This project is being funded by general obligation bonds, which were approved by Grandview voters in August of 2008. At that time, voters approved \$7.5 million in park improvement bonds to add playgrounds and numerous other amenities to eleven Grandview parks.

The option selected will have a “Nautical” and “Whale” theme layout. The sprayground will have over 43 features and components, which include:

- Two water cannons where children can pretend to battle on a ship.



- Sound sprays, consisting of four pads where children can step and hear different sounds, such as a whale, dolphin, penguin and seagull sound.

- I-Spy Storm, a transparent four and a half foot high tube through which water runs, like a whirlpool, and eventually, water shoots out from the top of the tube.



-Wally Whale Tail, which is over thirteen feet high with more than ten spray nozzles that shoot water a distance of ten feet on each side.

PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARD STILL AVAILABLE

With the cold weather soon approaching, germs tend to spread easily and more people get sick. Because of that, the City of Grandview would like to remind citizens of the **Prescription Discount Card** available to them.

The National League of Cities (NLC) Prescription Discount Card is a FREE

Most major retail pharmacy chains such as Walgreens, CVS, Wal-Mart and Rite Aid accept this prescription discount card. For a complete list of participating retail pharmacies call toll-free 1-800-516-1873.

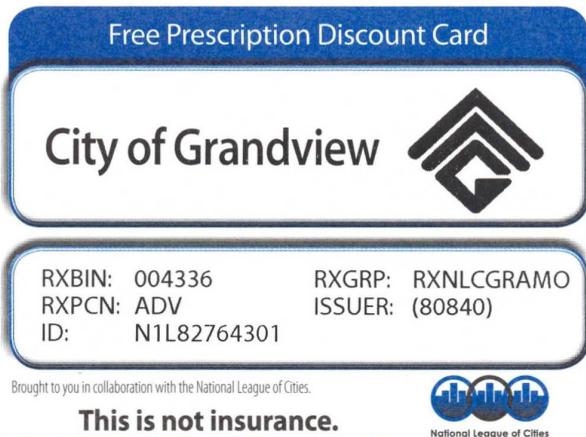
How they work

It is important to note that your **card cannot be used in conjunction with other insurance or discount programs.** However, you are able to use your card to purchase prescriptions that are not covered by these plans or other discount programs. The prescription discount card does NOT give discounts on over-the-counter products

or non-prescription medication. The Prescription Discount Card is brought to you by the City of Grandview in collaboration with the NLC as a cost saving option for citizens.

So, get your card and start saving immediately! Just present your prescription discount card at a participating retail pharmacy when you fill or refill your prescriptions.

For more information visit the NLC's website <http://www.nlc.org/>.



program offered to help you save money on the high cost of prescription medications. The card is **not** insurance, but it can save residents up to 20 percent on prescription costs not paid by insurance companies. It will also provide savings for people without insurance.

Where to find them

Residents can pick up a prescription discount card at City Hall, the Grandview Public Library, or *The View*, Grandview's Community Center. The card is completely free, there are no forms to fill out, and users can use it as many times as they want. There are no age limitations, and one card can be used for the entire family.

COMMUNITY FLU SHOTS



The American Red Cross will be available to administer Flu shots to the community at **The View (13500 Byars Rd)** on the date and time listed below, on a first come, first serve basis.

Wednesday, October 28th
From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$25.00

Medicare "Part B", Advantra, Humana, Medicare and Coventry members will be accepted at "no charge". You must bring one of these cards to be eligible for the free shot.

TRUNK OR TREAT! HALLOWEEN TAILGATING AT THE VIEW!

Join us for a different twist on The Boo this year: Bring your trick or treating candy and kids in costume, down to The View for some Trunk or Treating fun! Pull right into a parking stall, open your trunk and hand out candy from your trunk, instead of your house. According to 7-year-old Emily Nixon, who has experienced Trunk or treating before, "You go trick-or-treating when you go to people's houses to get candy," she explained for the uninitiated. "You go trunk or treating when you go to people's cars to get candy, and that's much better because you can go around the cars a million dozen times and you don't even get tired."

Trunk-or-treating is the latest twist on the quintessentially American ritual of door-to-door candy-collecting, bringing Halloween from often uncertain streets to the safety of churches, schools and community center parking lots, turning the backs of minivans and sport utility vehicles into the new front porch.

Don't forget to decorate your trunk too! A valuable prize will be awarded for the most creatively decorated trunk. There will be hay rides for all! Bring your own flashlight and join in on the Flashlight Candy Search.

Please take note of the Boo at The View schedule for **October 31st** of this year:

- 5:30 – 7:30pm Trunk or Treating (Northwest corner of parking lot, across from Meadowmere School); Hay Rides and Glow Necklaces for sale; FREE cider and smores
- 6:30 pm Flashlight Candy Search (bring your own flashlight)
- 7:30 pm Trunk Decorating Contest winner announced (prize is a FREE annual membership, up to a family of four, two adults and two children)

Call 816-316-4888 or stop by the Front Desk at *The View* Community Center to complete a registration form, to be eligible for the prize. Don't miss out on this opportunity to win a FREE annual membership!

In the event of inclement weather, come to The View gymnasium for trick-or-treating, candy hunt and costume contest (most creative).

DID YOU KNOW...

Residents whose pets have been impounded can now pick up their animals directly at Wayside Waifs during weekend hours. Wayside Waifs is located at 3901 Martha Truman Road - Kansas City, MO 64137. The phone number (816) 761-8151. They are open Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.



Green Tip

Starting in November, The Recycling Center in Grandview, FWI, will be accepting glass as a recyclable item. Visit their website, www.foundationworkshop.org for more information.

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

Upcoming Events

KANSAS CITY ABILITY DAY

Recreation and Education Fair
The View Community Center
Sunday, October 18th, 1 to 4 p.m.
Free of charge

DANCE LESSONS AT THE VIEW

Sessions available in October, November and December - On Saturdays
Ages 3 to 11
Fee is \$12 for members and \$17 for non-members

SENIOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

The View Community Center
Thursday, November 19th, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Pre-registration required
Free of charge - Bring a dessert to share with 6

MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Grandview City Hall
Thursday, December 3rd, 6:45 to 8p.m.
Donations to Grandview Assistance Program

THE LEGENDS AT VILLAGE WEST

Saturday, December 5th, 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Meet at The View east entrance for the 11a.m. departure
\$20 for residents and \$22 for non-residents (includes meal and discount coupons).

For more information on all these programs and events, visit our website at www.grandview.org or call The View at (816) 316-4888

City of Grandview
1200 Main Street
Grandview, MO

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CITY OF GRANDVIEW Directory of City Officials

Robert M. Beckers, Mayor
Leonard D. Jones, 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
Mike Ferguson, 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, Human Resources Manager
Larry Dickey, Police Chief
Chuck Thacker, Fire Chief
Larry Finley, Acting 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