

WINTER 2010

# GRANDVIEW

REPORT



INSIDE THE  
GRANDVIEW  
REPORT

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR.....	2
KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009.....	5
CENSUS 2010.....	9
UPCOMING EVENTS .....	11



# MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BOB BECKERS



*Mayor Beckers as the mystery reader for Mrs. Lang's second grade students (Belvidere)*

## Last Decade Gone, But Not Forgotten

Apparently, we never really agreed on a name for the past ten years, so one of the leading economists in the country suggested that we call it the Big Zero! According to Paul Krugman, "It was a decade when nothing good happened, and none of the optimistic things we were supposed to believe turned out to be true." As he noted, it was a decade with basically zero job creation – and the first decade on record when private sector employment actually declined. It was also a decade with zero economic gains for the typical family, and it was a decade with zero gains for home owners, even if they bought early on. Currently, housing prices, adjusted for inflation, are roughly back to where they

were at the beginning of the decade; and almost a quarter of all mortgages in the country are underwater. And finally, it was a decade of zero gains for stocks – the Dow first topped 10,000 in 1999, and just recently has again surpassed that mark. Given all the things that have occurred since 2000, and particularly in the past couple of years, Y2K seems like a distant and insignificant memory.

Before we put the "Big Zero" to rest, however, I'd like to look back on some of the things that happened in and around Grandview over the past ten years. At the local level, a good deal of progress was made, and so I'd like to put things in perspective before moving onward and upward. During the "decade of zero gains", here are some positives:



The Transportation Sales Tax was renewed by Grandview voters in August 2000, and over the decade has allowed the City to resurface or slurry seal a portion of its roads each year and add or replace curbs around town. In addition, we were able to construct several new or improved roadways in the City as outlined in the accompanying article on this special tax and what it has accomplished since 2000.



The idea of constructing a community center in Grandview was approved by voters just two months after the 9-11 attacks, and after a good deal of community planning and input, The View opened in February of 2004. Now getting ready for its 6th anniversary, this unique center of community activities and recreation still boasts around 4,000 members and is a popular spot for many community events, along with sports, fitness, and aquatics activities.



Over the past decade, the dreaded Grandview Triangle was redesigned, reconfigured, and reconstructed over about a seven-year period, fully opening up in early 2008 and vastly improving traffic flow between Interstates 435, 470, and US 71. MoDOT now has the Highway 71/150 intersection under reconstruction to create a new single-point interchange, which will really expedite

traffic movement through that busy road convergence. The project also includes the widening of Highway 150 eastward toward the city limits and Lee's Summit, opening up this corridor for more development.



The City started attracting interest in building new residential subdivisions back in the early part of the last decade, and despite the variety of less than desirable events that have occurred since then, several viable, desirable residential areas are now available. In fact, Grandview saw more new homes in 2008, then 50% more in 2009. Sunrise Farms now features 32 homes built or under construction, with more coming in 2010. Creekwood, the new subdivision west of Byars Road and north of Truman Drive, now has 12 homes built or under way. In other areas, the Villas of River Oaks now totals 32 homes; Meadowmere Estates around 139th and Winchester features 37; Fountain Lake, Phase 2 has completed 13; Grand Meadow now has 16; Fox Hill features another 13; and Jordan's Keep now has 9. In pre-existing subdivisions, another 116 were built and 11 more in two new, smaller subdivisions. In addition, Grand Summit, the apartment complex built around its own golf course and club house south of Highway 150, offers 453 apartment units. Altogether, a total of 782 new dwelling units since 2000.



In the area of economic development, the City has added several new TIF districts, which now number 14 altogether; created three enhanced enterprise zones that cover 60 percent of the City; and approved two Chapter 100 tax abatement projects involving existing buildings. Some of the new businesses over the last decade are Mead-Westvaco Calmar, Gail's Harley-Davidson, 54th Street Grill, UMB Bank, North American Savings Bank, Burger and Brown Engineering, PODS, Grainger, E. Edwards, OHS-Compcare, Snowmen and Sonic. Grandview continues to be home to over 10,000 employees and hosts 14 companies with over 100 employees.



The City took another step forward in the area of parks and recreation with the approval by voters in August of 2008 of a \$7.5 million bond package. This program will allow for improvements to be made to eleven of our parks, including new shelters, playgrounds, restrooms, and dog park. The bond package also includes a city-wide trails plan that is scheduled for completion this year, and the construction of a new parks and public works maintenance facility, which will replace two old, inefficient buildings with a new energy-efficient, combined maintenance complex on the site of the existing public works maintenance facilities. New playgrounds are also scheduled to open this spring and summer in John Anderson and Meadowmere Parks.



The Grandview Police Department has continually made increasing use of technology over the past ten years, from the \$1.5 million Motorola radio system to the digital in-car video cameras in all the patrol cars. Each car is also equipped with mobile data terminals, connecting them with a variety of data bases and information. Last year officers worked with Municipal Court not only to streamline the court, but to allow for video arraignments and now the new e-ticketing system, which will eliminate much of the duplicate data entry process on tickets. A Sergeant has also been assigned to the regional computer forensics crime lab, which investigates a variety of computer crimes using state-of-the-art equipment and technology.



The Fire Department uses the same radio dispatching system as the Police Department and, over the past decade, has added paramedics and a full-time second ambulance to address the increasing emergency medical service call load, now approaching 75 percent of all calls to the Fire Department. Station No. 1 also got a facelift during these past ten years. In the past two years, the department has also replaced two ambulances, a fire pumper truck, and defibrillators.



Public information, public relations, and media coverage have become a high priority for the City in the past few years, and this is exemplified by the City's new web site and new digital signage at City Hall. The City newsletter has become more colorful, informative, and community-oriented; and media coverage has increased significantly, with TV coverage of events like KC Ability Day, which Grandview has hosted for three years, and Pets Helping People.



Renewal of the Capital Improvements Sales Tax in 2007 not only allows the City to replace fire trucks and ambulances, police cars, public safety communications equipment, dump trucks and loaders, and city-wide computer equipment, but also sidewalks, storm channels and other storm drainage needs. It also funds some large projects, like the Main Street Corridor, Phase I, which is currently being designed and could be under way this summer. It is tentatively planned to extend from the railroad tracks downtown near 7th Street to 10th Street and will include new curbs, sidewalks, street lighting, trees, street resurfacing, and possibly a median to help attract both new businesses and more customers in the years ahead.



The emergence of the IHOP church and its many members here in Grandview and around the world, and their decision to locate their world headquarters here in the near future could be significant. The City is currently reviewing plans from IHOP for the modification of Grandview Plaza Shopping Center, which will once again be a center of activity, both as a temporary campus for students and for some retail activity. This will be a temporary center of operations until anticipated work on the new campus begins. It also appears that student housing will be addressed in the near future to meet the ever increasing demand.

While there is a good deal left to do to make Grandview the community that attracts everyone's favorite retail store into town, I think it would be impossible to say that nothing was gained over the past decade here in Grandview. And, because of certain projects that have come to the forefront over the past few years, the City should continue moving through the transitional stage of what could be a long-awaited transformation. The combined effect of all the above accomplishments and major projects on the horizon could easily bring about many changes in the dynamics of reinvestment in our community. As we say, "Goodbye and good riddance to the past decade", it looks like it should be an exciting year and decade ahead.

Have a Happy and Prosperous 2010!

# SOME KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

## Park Improvements

Thanks to voter approval in August of 2008, John Anderson Park will be the first to benefit from the no-tax-increase bond election. Its upgrades include a new playground, which is already completed, and a state-of-the-art “sprayground”, which will be open for the public by Memorial Day weekend. Construction of new restrooms and shelter are also in the plans for John Anderson Park in 2010. Meanwhile, construction will also begin in early summer on a new destination playground for Meadowmere Park, along with three shelters, restrooms, and landscaping. The City expects to complete a new city-wide trails plan this fall, along with a new shelter, playground, restroom and parking lot for Mapleview Park.

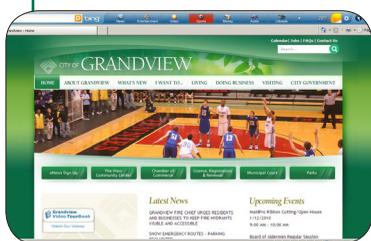


ter, and the Country Club Plaza. U-Parkit has moved into an existing building at 2nd and Main and will market a sort of mechanized parking garage system that parks and stacks cars in a framework that looks like a huge erector set. If successful, they may eventually try to manufacture the parking systems here. A new Quik Trip will begin construction this spring across Highway 150 from Gail’s Harley-Davidson. Nearby, a new Subway restaurant is planned. In addition, a local roofing company is planning a major expansion, with plans to add more jobs in the near future, and other prospects remain interested.

## New Equipment for the Police and Fire Departments

The Police Department received six new patrol vehicles this past year and implemented a new e-ticketing system, which allows officers to issue e-tickets that are later downloaded electronically into the court software for use in developing the weekly court dockets, thus saving hundreds of hours of data entry. Justice Assistance Grant funds provided additional money for other law enforcement equipment needs. Grandview firefighters have recently received a new state-of-the-art fire pumper truck. The brand new red pumper is around 30-feet long, 10 feet tall and 8 feet wide, with the capacity to carry 500 gallons of water at a cost of \$458,000. The Department has also acquired two new ambulances, also in the new red color.

## City Launches New Website



In May, Grandview launched a brand new website with an attractive design and the latest news, events, user-friendly components and other features. With

effortless usability, the site averages 1,500 visitors per week, and most of them are satisfied with the website and continue to use it as a resource.

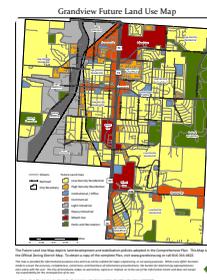
## New Businesses in Town

Pride Cleaners purchased the Skateland building and is moving its headquarters from Overland Park, to our City. The building is going through some renovations and the move should happen in the near future. The company will bring around 80 jobs to the city, with more planned in the future. Snowmen settled in as a unique new business and now serves clients such as Sprint, KU Medical Cen-



## GIS Technology Implemented

The City staff is now exploring the best geographic information system (GIS) software to create solutions for managing the city infrastructure and land usage. City Planner Sara Copeland is building the base of geographical data infrastructure and some of the maps that have been created are now available online. The technology will be applied to new and existing projects such as roads, buildings, bridges, pipelines and electrical applications.



## Road Projects Improve

### Transportation Corridors, Traffic Flow

The Transportation Sales Tax allowed the City to move forward with the 139th Street widening and improvements, design for the new 2nd to 3rd Street Connector, and design for Botts Road widening from 135th to 139th Street. More information is provided in the accompanying article.

### Grandview Television Network Gets a Facelift, New Equipment

Through the community television station (Channel 2 for most), the City's goal is not only to educate, but to increase viewers' awareness of events, programs and services provided by the City and also other public agencies, such as the local library and Grandview School District. In maintaining this goal, the City felt it necessary to upgrade the equipment. The City is also examining the possibility of having the channel available for AT&T U-Verse customers as well.

### Municipal Court Reorganized, Now Accepts Payments Online

The Grandview Municipal Court was reorganized this past year and is now providing better security, more organized processing during court, and improved customer service. The court is also taking advantage of

video arraignments to reduce detention costs and has worked with the Police Department in implementing the new e-ticketing system. Court now offers electronic online payments for certain traffic tickets issued within the City of Grandview. The online bill payment system is being administered by nCourt, and the company accepts payments by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express and Debit cards.

### Housing Starts Exceeded Previous Year

Despite the business climate around the country, the housing market, and the economy in general, Grandview saw an increase in single-family building permits this past year. In fact, home building permits have increased for each of the past two years. New housing will be a key in the coming years to help Grandview attract new retail

businesses which, though having economic difficulties, still look at growth areas when considering new store locations. You can read more about the newest subdivisions in town in the accompanying Mayor's annual message.



### Major Projects in the Area Move Forward

Continued progress and approvals occurred for the relocation of the Honeywell/NNSA facility to be located at Botts Road and Highway 150, just south of the Grandview city limits. While not in Grandview, the project will bring up to 2,100 high-paying jobs to the area, in a new energy-efficient facility with an investment of over \$600 million. The development agreement allows for the property to be privately owned, with a portion of the substantial tax payments being allocated to the Grandview School District. Construction, which will include the widening of Botts Road in Kansas City and a new interchange at Botts and Highway 150, should begin this year.

Additional development has occurred on the new CenterPoint Properties project at the former Richards-Gebaur airport, now transitioning to the new intermodal (truck/rail) facility south of Highway 150 and Botts Road. Continued development and freight handling could eventually lead to up to 2,000 jobs there.

The International House of Prayer, which announced in 2008 that it would build its world headquarters on the 125 acres across US 71 from Truman Corners, has purchased the former Grandview Plaza Shopping Center. While many of the businesses there (Burger King, Firestone, UPS store, Etc.) will be staying at the present time, IHOP plans to use the former grocery store and some other building spaces for an auditorium and classrooms for their students. They also plan to have a coffee shop there and hope to bring in a new restaurant to the center.

### License Office Still at City Hall

Despite the extensive bid process required by the Missouri Department of Revenue, the City was awarded the contract to continue serving citizens here.



# RED-LIGHT CAMERAS TO KEEP GRANDVIEW STREETS SAFER



## Citations to Start January 24

The City has installed the first red-light cameras at one intersection, **Main Street @ 15th Street**. Grandview's focus on safety program has been implemented to prevent dangerous red-light running. The City chose this location after evaluating where red-light running commonly occurs and where camera systems are most likely to improve safety. A review of the crash data for the first eight months of 2009, revealed 12 crashes at that intersection.

Drivers have had 30 days to heed traffic signals and stop for red lights or receive only a warning. The warning period will end on January 24. After that date, the Grandview Police Department will begin issuing citations to red-light runners with a fine of \$102.00. As with the warnings, violators will be sent citations via first-class mail.

### What is a red-light violation?

A red-light violation occurs when a motorist enters an intersection after the traffic signal has turned red. Motorists already in the intersection when the signal changes to red are not considered red-light violators. For example, a driver who enters on a green light will not receive a citation even if that motorist must wait until the light turns red to complete a left-hand turn after oncoming traffic clears. Drivers are allowed to make a right-hand turn on red, but remember that Missouri law requires drivers to come to a full and complete stop before making a right-hand turn. Grandview police officers will review each violation and issue official citations for those verified.

### How does it work?

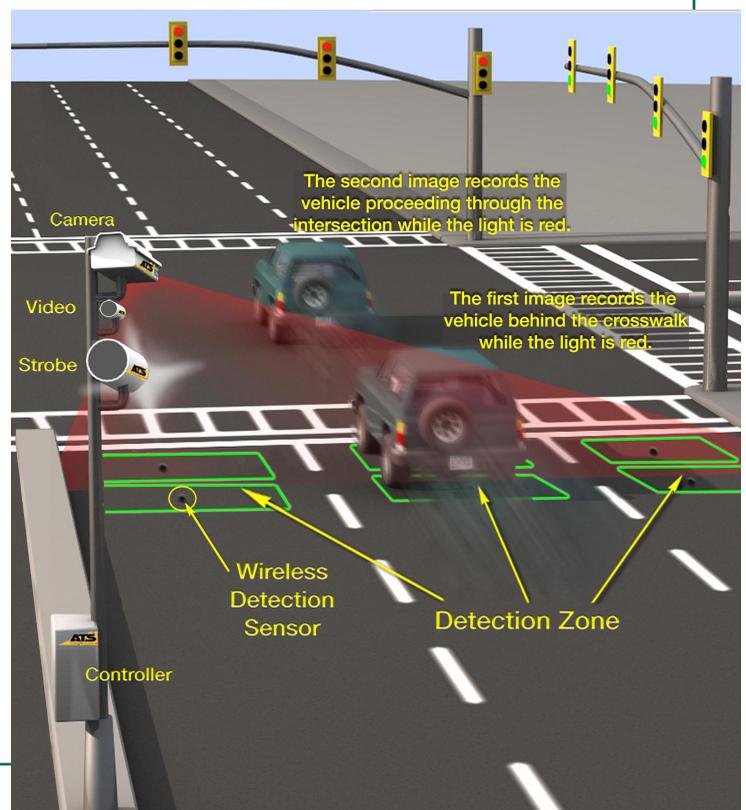
The camera is activated when motion is detected indicating a vehicle is entering the intersection AFTER the traffic signal has turned red. The camera captures two images of the offending vehicle - one showing the vehicle before entering the intersection on a red light and one showing the vehicle proceeding through the intersection on red.

A video is also made of the violation. The images are reviewed and the violation confirmed by an officer with the Grandview Police Department before a violation notice is issued.

### Does it really enhance safety?

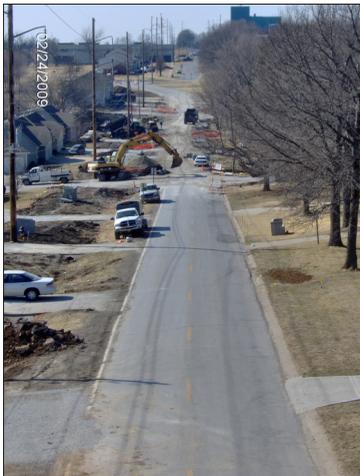
When red-light cameras are operational, deaths and injuries related to red-light running are significantly reduced. Here are some impressive statistics from red-light camera intersections around the country:

- In Philadelphia, signal violations at intersections with red-light cameras were reduced 96 percent after one year of operation.
- In Apopka, Florida, the number of violations dropped 88 percent from 289 in July 2007 to 35 in October 2008, and crashes at one intersection decreased 72 percent.
- Houston, Texas, reported a 30 percent reduction in crashes overall during the first six months of operation of that city's intersection safety program.



# TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX KEEPS US MOVING

The proposed 2010 Asphalt Overlay, Slurry Seal, Sidewalk and Curb Repair Program is ready to be reviewed and the Board of Aldermen would like your comments and input. On January 26, at 7 p.m., a public hearing will be held at Grandview City Hall to decide whether the proposed projects should be approved as the highest priority for 2010. This is your chance to be heard. To review the proposed programs, go online to [www.grandview.org](http://www.grandview.org).



All these programs are funded by the Transportation Sales Tax, which is a half-cent sales tax on all taxable items sold within the city limits. The Transportation Sales Tax was initially adopted by Grandview voters in 1986 for a five-year period, then approved again by voters in 1991 for 10

years and then again in 2000. The tax is scheduled to expire in 2010 unless Grandview voters authorize another extension in August of this year.

The Transportation Sales Tax is also the source of revenue for the construction and widening of roads, and without this continued

revenue, no more roads could be constructed. Even street maintenance would be restricted to around \$75,000 a year, which would not even cover the expenses for

basic maintenance needs, such as crack filling and lane striping.

The Transportation Sales Tax generates approximately 1.15 million a year to maintain and improve our roads, bridges and curbs. Extending the Transportation Sales Tax in August for another 10 years would not increase taxes because it would amount to just another extension of the existing tax.

In 2010, two Transportation Sales Tax funded projects are scheduled to take place: The reconstruction of Botts Rd. from E. 135th St. to E. 139th Street and the reconstruction and connection of 2nd to 3rd street from Blue Ridge Blvd. to Main Street.

<b>Projects Completed Using Transportation Sales Tax</b>
Widening of Blue Ridge Blvd. from the entrance of Truman Corners Shopping Center to the West Frontage Rd.
Reconstruction of Blue Ridge Blvd west of Grandview Rd. at the Kansas City Southern Railroad overpass to permit direct access by large trucks from US Hwy 71 to the industrial areas west of the railroad tracks
Reconstruction of Grandview Rd. From Blue Ridge to Main Street
Extension of Harry Truman Drive from Crystal Ave. to E. 125th Street
Reconstruction of 5th Street from Main Street to 135th Street
Reconstruction of 139th St. from Norby Rd. to KC Southern Railroad Crossing

**Census 2010 Snapshot**

**What:** The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.

**Who:** All U.S. residents must be counted—even illegal residents

**When:** You will receive your questionnaire in March 2010 either by U.S. mail or hand delivery.

**Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population and determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**How:** Households should complete and mail back their questionnaires upon receipt. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census takers will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person.

**The importance of census data:**

- Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to communities like Grandview and the distribution is based, in part, on census data.

- Census data are used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.

- Census data determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

When you respond to the questionnaire, you are ultimately benefiting YOU!

**The questionnaire is easy and safe.**

- With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including: whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages and races of others living in the household.

- By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual’s responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

**FAQ’s**

**Who should fill out the census questionnaire?**

The individual in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented should complete the questionnaire on behalf of every person living in the residence, including relatives and non-relatives.

**What kind of assistance is available to help people complete the questionnaire?**

2010 Census questionnaire language assistance guides are available in a variety of languages. Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QAC) will also assist those unable to read or understand the questionnaire. Large-print questionnaires are available to the visually impaired upon request, and a Teletext Device for the Deaf (TDD) program will help the hearing impaired. Contact your Regional Census Center at (816)-994-2000 for more details about the types of assistance available.

KEY DATES	
Feb. - March 2010	Questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households
March - April 2010	Questionnaires will be available at select public sites for individuals who do not receive one by mail
April 1, 2010	Census Day
May - July 2010	Census staff will visit households that did not return the questionnaire by mail
Dec 31, 2010	Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President

# WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR 2010?

We asked several residents what their hopes are for the new year. Below are some of them.

*I homeschool my daughter, so I hope to continue to have fun learning!*

Kelly Beard-Tittone,  
resident since 1991

*I hope that the economy gets better and that more jobs are created.*

Denise White,  
resident for 14 years

*I hope the economy stabilizes, so the people who want a job can get a job; I also hope the housing market stabilizes, so people who want to buy a house can buy one and I hope elected officials stop playing political games and do their jobs!*

Emmitt Mitchem  
resident for 32 years

*I hope to take charge of my finances.*

Anita Gonzalez,  
resident since 2002

*I hope we end the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. We've lost so many lives and we're still being threatened by terrorism.*

Peggy Owen,  
resident for 2 years

*I hope to, no matter the stress or severity of the situation, maintain a positive attitude. If I stay positive, things seem to work out and the journey is much more enjoyable than if I let myself dwell on momentary hardships or setbacks.*

Frank Merkle,  
resident for 50 years

*I hope that the Health Care Plan gets approved.*

Leon Mitchell  
resident since 1978

*I have lost 45 lbs and I hope to lose another 40 more! After that, I'll be in good shape and I hope to stay that way!*

Susan H.  
resident for 9 years

*I hope to drink a little less coffee and lose 15 pounds!*

Chris Nixon,  
resident since 2005

*I hope the City keeps up its fine level of service in the Police Department, Fire, and other services!*

Nancy Fox  
resident since 1983

*What do I hope for 2010? Well, I hope that it's better than 09 and I hope everyone does their part to make this community a better place.*

David McIlister  
Resident since 1994

## DID YOU KNOW...

AARP representatives will be available at Grandview City Hall on Mondays and Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting February 1. They will be there to provide FREE assistance for taxpayers with low and moderate income, with special attention to those age 60 and older. First come first serve basis.



### Green Tip

Cleaning your dryer's lint filter can slash its energy usage by as much as 30%!

## 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 12 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

*The View* Community Center

**Fee in advance:** \$10 for *The View* Members, \$11 for residents and \$12 for non-residents

**At the door:** \$12 for *The View* Members, \$14 for residents and \$16 for non-residents

## FIRST ANNUAL GRANDVIEW INDOOR TRIATHLON

Sunday, March 14 - Time To Be Determined

*The View* Community Center

Ages 16 and Up

Registration Required - Call 316-4888

Fee is \$30 for residents and \$45 for non-residents

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Medowmere Park

FREE

## PETS HELPING PEOPLE

Saturday, April 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Conn- West Elementary

Rabies vaccination and microchips for pets

Fees To Be Determined

All proceeds will benefit the Grandview Assistance Program

## ARBOR DAY

Saturday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Outside *The View* Community Center

A Tree will be planted for a special honoree

FREE

## BALLROOM DANCING

Saturdays, From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

*The View* Community Center

Ages 16 and Up

Learn the Waltz, Rumba, Tango, and Swing

Registration Required - Call 316-4888

# 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

Vacancy - 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, Manager of Human Resources

Larry Dickey, 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)



City of Grandview  
1200 Main Street  
Grandview, MO

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