

October 2005

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SUGAR CREEK

October 2005 Calendar

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252-4400
252-4413
252-4413

Police or Fire Emergencies
Non Emergencies
www.sugar-creek.mo.us/City_News.html

911
252-7058

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

**REMINDER: OCTOBER 10TH
FINAL BULKY ITEM PICKUP BEGINS**

							Grandma's Dinner Alzheimer's Fund Raiser Truman Heartland Awards Gala
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Refuse Route 1	Refuse Route 1	Refuse Route 2	Refuse Route 3	Yardwaste Pickup			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
<i>Final Bulky Item Pickup Begins</i> Refuse Route 1	COLUMBUS DAY City Hall/Public Works Open 6 p.m. Study Sess. • 7 p.m. Council Mtg.	Refuse Route 2	Refuse Route 3	Yardwaste Pickup			Hunter Safety Course - Onka Bldg. 6 p.m. Wells Park Dedication
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Refuse Route 1	Refuse Route 1	Refuse Route 2	Refuse Route 3	Yardwaste Pickup			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
6:00 p.m. Study Sess. 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg.	Refuse Route 1	Refuse Route 2	Refuse Route 3	Yardwaste Pickup			4-8 p.m. Family Fun Fest Harrison Park
30	31						8-11 a.m. Household Hazardous Waste Pickup - R.J. Roper Park
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS	HALLOWEEN Refuse Route 1	5:30-7 p.m. Youth Basketball Sign-up Sugar Creek Gym	11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. St. Cyril's Chili Dinner - Onka Hall				

Past due notification date



City Launches New Web Site to Streamline Interaction

As the world grows more complex, so too does the business of managing city government. Add to that, the desire to continually improve service and it is easy to see how the workload increases. But as most cities, companies and even nonprofit organizations have learned, leveraging the power of technology can make a dramatic difference in the level of service provided.

With this in mind, the City of Sugar Creek is launching a new website that will make it easier than ever to get important information, interact and communicate with city departments. The new site, which will be previewed and officially launched at the City Council meeting on October 10th, has been in the planning and development stages for the past six months.

City Clerk, Jana Dickerson, who oversees communication efforts for the city says the new site will streamline interaction between residents, businesses and the City -- something that is necessary as the expectations for service continue to increase.

"People today want fast and easy access to information," Dickerson says. "The Internet and e-mail provide a great opportunity to meet this demand, and help us expand the personal service that our staff already provides."

In addition to expanded information about City services and departments, the new website will also provide convenient access to:

- * Forms and applications to conduct business with the City.
- * Links to key community sites and other resources.
- * Regulations and other guidelines.
- * Calendars, announcements and news items.
- * On-line forms to contact departments with questions or problems.
- * Ongoing polls to provide feedback on key issues.

According to Dickerson, another key feature of the site is the ability to sign-up for email notices covering everything from emergency alerts to upcoming events.

"With email, we can deliver information to our residents, instead of them requesting it from us," Dickerson says. "This not only makes it easier for them, but it allows us to notify people quickly if there is an emergency situation like a water main break."

As people get more comfortable with using email to interact with the City, Dickerson hopes its use will grow.

Another major feature of the new website, is the ability for departments to update content through a secure database. By spreading out the work to keep the site updated with news and calendar events the City will more easily be able to keep the site up to date.

"We want this site to be a resource that people will return to for the latest information about the City," says Dickerson. "The ability to update content quickly and easily is an important part of this process -- even though it's behind the scenes for site visitors."

You can view the City's new website following its official launch on October 10. To do so, visit www.sugar-creek.mo.us. While you're there, make sure you give us your opinion of the site by taking the opinion poll on the home page. Also, be sure to sign-up for E-News to receive email updates from the City on a variety of topics. Then check out all of the information you can get and ways to interact with the City using the new site.

If you have questions about the new website, email Jana Dickerson at jdickerson@sugar-creek.mo.us.



The City of Sugar Creek Plans for the Future

"Approval of the recent sales tax initiative is only the beginning of the task ahead to insure the financial stability of our community," says Mayor Stan Salva. "The City of Sugar Creek must now look to the future and develop a strategy to preserve infrastructure and provide the necessary amenities to improve the quality of life for all residents.

"The health of a community is often measured in terms of the amount of fund reserve that is available for the City's General Fund as well as each of its Enterprise Funds. Our General Fund is now approximately 60 percent and generally considered to be very appropriate per state guidelines. However, many of our Enterprise Funds continue to reflect a trend of expenses exceeding revenues, causing fund reserves to decline. Although most reserves are adequate at this time, with the exception of Sanitation, this trend cannot be allowed to continue. We as a City must have our

revenues and expenditures balance. This may cause some increases in various fees and charges associated with the respective Enterprise Funds. The Board has not proposed any increase in our tax levy and has expressed no interest in doing so.

"In a City that is essentially 85 years old, basic infrastructure, such as streets, sewers, sidewalks, curbs, lighting, and etc. will need attention. Capital equipment requires periodic replacement as well as repairs and maintenance of facilities. The new sales tax adjustment will help, but a continual scrutiny of expenses and personnel costs must be a mandate of your current Board as well as Boards of the future. The Board's recent decision to establish an Oversight Committee is good indication that the Board's intention is to show good fiscal responsibility.

"Although the future is bright for potential new revenue sources, making them happen is sometimes a slow process. The Bluffs project has great potential for new business and a larger tax base. The new residential project being driven by the Community Development Committee will bring new home sites. The possibility for a new retail center on the south edge of our community brings new hope. The Sterling Avenue Improvement Plan will change the façade of our City. Recent grants for improved park facilities will make our community more attractive for investors and new families. All requires good planning and the total support of the community."

People in Profile: John and Dorothy Halastik



During the past 60 years, John and Dorothy Halastik have built a life of love.

The Sugar Creek couple, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 21, moved to the City from England, leaving behind family, friends and other familiar things to begin their new life after World War II.

Dorothy recalls the day of their wedding as a beautiful one. She and her mother worked hard to make the six bridesmaids dresses needed, despite the restrictions of rationing. Her wedding dress was purchased from a friend, who had worn it for her wedding. And, Dorothy's grandfather made the wedding cake, served with ice cream -- a rare treat for the kids in the neighborhood. A hall was rented and family members contributed what rationing coupons they could for the food and festivities.

For their anniversary party, 160 people attended a party at Mike Onka Hall. One sister surprised her by attending the gathering all the way from England.

"My sister showed up at our front door, and asked to use the toilet," she said laughing. Dorothy had no idea her sister was in the country. In fact, the sister had been in Texas for a week visiting her own daughter.

Dorothy said one secret to a successful marriage is, "You have to overlook a lot of stuff." In fact, many issues turn out to be "six of one, and half a dozen of another."

Over the years, Dorothy has stayed at home to raise their four children. John worked at Armco Steele Co. for 32 years before retiring at age 52. After that, he did "odd jobs" for several more years.

Today, John still gardens and enjoys fishing. Dorothy enjoys baking and cooking, gardening, knitting, sewing and "putting on tea" the English way.

She is also active in the local chapter of Parents and Brides Association, which has members in Sugar Creek and Independence. The social association originated in England. She also volunteers at the Nearly New Shop and is active in the Altar Society at St. Cyril's Church, making caddy bags for the walkers of area nursing home patients.

In addition to their four children, the Halastiks have seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and another on the way.

Mayor's Report on Sugar Creek

The Mayor's Report on Sugar Creek is intended to communicate and inform the citizenry of current Council discussions and actions as well as reporting on recent and upcoming events and meetings that impact the City as well as the entire community. My intentions are to provide the best and most accurate information to all the people of Sugar Creek. This mayor would welcome any suggestions or comments on how to make this report even more valuable.

-- Mayor Stan Salva
mayor@sugar-creek.mo.us

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS AND EVENTS:

- * Significant changes in the Zoning Ordinance
- * Adopted new Land Disturbance and Erosion Control Standards
- * Police to enforce new procedures on unlicensed vehicles
- * Tax rate to stay the same for coming year
- * City to participate in the KC Crime Commission TIPS Hotline program

Study Session: August 22, 2005

1. Community Development Corporation Annual funding request.
2. Discussion pertaining to Fiscal Year Budget 2005-2006.
3. Discussion pertaining to refuse changes -- Ed Layton, and Burnup Equipment.
4. Correspondence relating to Amoco remediation -- Mayor

Regular Council Meeting: August 22, 2005

1. Approved Ord. No. 2989 amending Section 31 Landscaping and Screening, of the Zoning Ordinance by adding fencing regulations. The Ordinance was originally approved in 1983 and amended in 1998 with height restrictions for fences in front yards and site triangles at corners so they would not be obscured.
2. Approved Ord. No. 2990 repealing Section 27, Accessory Uses, of the Zoning Ordinance and Enacting in Lieu thereof a new Section 27. The ordinance had been approved in 1983 and the update includes restrictions concerning size of structures based on lot size which affects water run off. Also, the amendment will not allow pole barn structures in residential neighborhoods and an accessory structure must have similar material to the exterior of the house. Outdoor storage in non residential neighborhoods has been added to the language and there has been **an addition concerning foundations and structural strength**. There will also be a limit to the number of structures since many lots presently have two houses plus several sheds.
3. Approved Ord. No. 2991 adopting Land Disturbance and Erosion Control Standards relating to the Development of Lands within the City of Sugar Creek. The ordinance was originally adopted by the Jackson County Storm Water Commission with several modifications requiring proof of the type of erosion control if there will be land disturbance.
4. Approved Ord. No. 2992 repealing Section 8 of the Subdivision Regulations and enacting in lieu thereof a new Section 8 adopting design standards for the improvements of lands within the City.
5. Approved Ord. 2996 amending the Code of Ordinances by adding thereto Sections 18-499 (j), 18-499 (k) and 18-499 (l), relating to parking of motor vehicles that are unlicensed and placed in yards of residences. The ordinance arose out of a committee that was formed to address property conditions. The Police had difficulty going onto private property and vehicles in question had to be declared a nuisance. This ordinance gives the Department the strength to issue an immediate citation if necessary and order the immediate removal of an unlicensed vehicle.
6. Approved Ord. 2997 amending the Code of Ordinances by adding thereto Section 18-96 (4), which permits the Police Department to tow unlicensed and unregistered vehicles. Ordinances and the statutes in the State of Missouri were researched and it was discovered there were no provisions or regulations for towing unlicensed vehicles parked on the street. There may be a 48 hour notice given to the owner but the vehicle could be moved within that time period. The vehicle can now be removed immediately from the roadway. Before enforcement begins, **this information will be communicated to the residents in the City newsletter**. Any vehicle parked unlicensed on the street will be ticketed and towed for violation of the ordinance.
7. Approved Ord. No. 2998 whereby the Board of Aldermen elects, pursuant to Section 105.485.4, R.S.MO. to establish and make public its own method of disclosing potential conflicts of interest. The City Clerk indicated that the ordinance presented is required by the Missouri Ethics Commission.
8. Approved Ord. 2999, approving an addendum to the agreement between Wilson Plumbing and the City to Ordinance No. 2985, authorizing the City Administrator to execute the agreement on behalf of the City, for a cost not to exceed \$21,234.40.
9. Approved Ord. 3000, assessing and Levying a Tax upon all of the taxable property within the corporate limits of the City. City Treasurer/ Finance Officer indicated that there were no significant changes to the tax upon all taxable property within the corporate limits of the City.
10. Discussed appointment of a new Planning Commission member to replace Michael Holmes. There is a consensus for a 2nd ward resident who will be the nominee.
11. Ordinance 3001 was approved declaring the election results of August 2, 2005, pertaining to an increase in sales tax.
12. Mayor's Report:
 - * Mayor Salva commented on a thank-you letter to Public Works from residents Anthony and Lois Bokarae thanking everyone for their dedication and details to service.
 - * Mayor Salva indicated that on September 21, in Jefferson City, there will be the unveiling of the Alex Petrovic Room in the Secretary of State Bldg.
 - * Mayor Salva spoke to the Board about the amount of work involved with revising the Zoning ordinances and believes that Planning Engineer Cynthia Moeller-Krass needs assistance. He asked that the Board consider allowing her to contract for that service, part-time. There would need to be recommendations from the Board for the salary level.
13. Heard Aldermen Report:
 - * THOMAS: asked that the Board rename Harmony Lot near the Police and Fire Bldg. in memory of John Wells. The Board concurred and the City Clerk was asked to create a Resolution for approval to bring to the next meeting.
14. The City Administrator commented on the new sales tax that was recently passed. The Finance Officer has indicated there is a deadline to notify the Department of Revenue but the actual effective date that the tax will start coming to the City will be the beginning of the second quarter following the MO Dept. of Revenue's receipt of the filing.
15. City Clerk reported the results from the Closed Executive Session on August 8, 2005. There was a unanimous vote to hire Daniel Reid as a Laborer at the Public Works Dept., effective August 15, 2005.
16. The Police Chief commented on the agreement with the KC Crime Commission that was discussed at the previous meeting. It was requested that the City pay a \$1,000 per year participation fee for networking provided to the TIPS Hotline and information to the various agencies. 2) The Police Chief brought to the Board's attention the ISO inspection concerning the fire rating and indicated the City has significantly improved it over the past few years. However, the back up Pumper recently failed the pump inspection which is mandatory. The repair costs are estimated to cost \$5,000-8,000.
17. Cynthia Moeller-Krass, at the request of the Mayor and Board, sent a letter to the owner of the moved houses on Scarritt a month ago notifying him of the Board's concern regarding the lack of progress in completing the houses. The Board is very concerned that these structures will not be completed within the time limit of the building permits. Copies of the letter were sent to both the builder and the owner. The current Building Permits expire on September 24, 2005. The house on Forest is connected to the sewer although none of the houses on Scarritt are connected to a sewer yet. Action will be taken on September 24 if the problem is not resolved.

Department News

Public Works

Extra Bulky Refuse Pickup The final Bulky Item Pick-up for 2005 will begin on Monday, October 10. Refuse must be out by 7 a.m., but not more than 72 hours prior to that time. Extra Bulky Refuse is defined as items of refuse which are not banned from landfills and are too large to be loaded in the Solid Waste Collection Vehicles.

Reminder To All Citizens City Ordinance Chapter 14, Article II, Section 14-17, Section 14-18, and Section 14-19 prohibits containers larger than 35 gallons to be used for storing residential household refuse. Containers shall not exceed more than 65 pounds and shall have handles as a lifting device.

Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection The City of Sugar Creek will be conducting a Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection on Saturday, October 29, 2005. It will be held at R.J. Roper Stadium parking lot, located at Kentucky Ave. and Sterling Terr. Please see the insert in the October newsletter for additional information.

Parks & Recreation

Upcoming Concert November 13, at the Mike Onka Memorial Building will be Don Lipovac with Music from Around the World. Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Upcoming Class Sugar Creek Parks and Recreation will be sponsoring a Hunter's Safety Class in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Conservation. The class is scheduled for October 15 at the Mike Onka Memorial Building.

Open Gym Time Please note that Open Gym time will resume on September 14, 2005. The times for this activity will be from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and will be at the Sugar Creek Gym, located at 11230 Chicago.

Open Jam Beginning September 12, 2005, Open Jam "sessions" will be held at the Sugar Creek Gym. To participate, please bring your instrument and come ready to play, or you are more than welcome to come just to sit and listen. Players range from beginner to professional, but anyone and everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. This will be held each Monday from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Sugar Creek Gym.

Family Fun Fest!

Remember to put October 28th on your calendar for the Family Fun Fest to be held at Harrison Park starting at 4 p.m. Games, food, treats, costume contest and much, much more!

Fun for the whole family, DON'T MISS IT!

For additional information on any of the activities listed, please contact Sue Mikula at (816) 252-4413 ext. 302

PLEASE NOTE!

CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2005

All residents will be able to hold a garage sale at their homes WITHOUT A PERMIT FOR THESE DATES ONLY!!

All other garage sales will require a permit issued from City Hall. For more information, contact Sue Mikula at 816-252-4413, ext. 302

City Bulletin Board

Jamboree, Dance Held to Benefit Local Children

The Maverick C.B. Club will hold a jamboree and dance on Saturday, October 29, 2005 at Mike Onka Memorial Building, 11520 E. Putnam, Sugar Creek to help support the kids at Drumm Farm.

The jamboree is free and will be held from noon until 4 p.m. with prize drawings throughout the day.

The dance will begin at 7 p.m. and admission prices will be \$8 per person, ages 16 and up, \$4 per person, ages 6-15 and free for ages 5 and under.

For additional information about this event, please call Ruth Sorisso, 816-231-1382 or Geraldine Stout, 816-833-4760.

Elementary School News

Hello neighbors!

A new exciting year is upon us and we look forward to great things. Our school has really grown. We have 218 students enrolled this year with 6 new staff members and many wonderful returning staff members.

One of our goals this year is to encourage our local neighbors to become more aware of the school's activities. We will be sending information through the Sweet Talk Newsletter about events going on at our school and ways students will be getting involved in the community.

To start the year, we will be concentrating on helping others. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, during the months of September and October the students will be collecting monies in aiding those in need of help. The monies will be sent to the Red Cross. The students may bring in \$1 to wear red shirts on Friday. If you would like to join our school efforts, you may drop a donation by the school or you may mail it to: Sugar Creek Elementary School, Attn: Maria Smiddy/Hurricane Katrina, 11424 Gill Street, Sugar Creek, MO 64054

(Please make all checks or money orders to the American Red Cross.) If you have any questions, feel free to call Maria Smiddy at 418-4206.

Thank you for your support and contributions.

FAMILY FALL FEST

Saturday

October 29

4:00 p.m.

**GAMES—FOOD—TREATS
COSTUME CONTEST
SAFE TRICK-OR-TREATING
MUCH MORE!!!**

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**WILLIAM HENRY
HARRISON PARK**



For info call
252.4413 ext. 302



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

ABOP (Antifreeze, Batteries, Oil, & Paint) = This event will only accept antifreeze, batteries, motor oil and paint. Please no aerosols.

CITY OF SUGAR CREEK HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE MOBILE COLLECTION

WHEN: OCTOBER 29, 2005

WHERE: RJ ROPER STADIUM PARKING LOT AT KENTUCKY AVENUE AND STERLING TERR

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (or the first 60 cars)

In cooperation with
Mid-America Regional Council
Solid Waste Management District
600 Broadway, Suite 300
Kansas City, Missouri 64105
816.474.4240
Recycling hotline: 816.474-TEAM
www.marc.org/hhwaste.htm

For more information call
Public Works 252-4413

COMMUNITY NEWS

Neighborly News

Cornshucker Will Be Missed

Bill Cornshucker, 77, of Sugar Creek, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, September 4, 2005. Burial will be in Clouds Creek Cemetery, Colcord, OK.

Life of Balko Remembered

Juanita W. Balko, 82, Sugar Creek, passed away Friday, September 9, 2005.

Juanita was born October 30, 1922 in Lincoln, MO. She was a resident of Sugar Creek for over forty years.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, James O. Williams, her second husband, George Balko, and a son, Michael Williams.

She is survived by two sons and a daughter, George M. Balko, Olathe, KS; Jim O. Williams, Overland Park, KS; and Judy A Dowdy, Pleasant Hill, MO; a sister, two brothers, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Notes of Importance

To All Citizens of Sugar Creek:

We Need Your Help in Keeping Our Community Beautiful

Any condition that provides shelter, food, or protection for rodents, allowing breeding and harborage, must be eliminated. Areas that can attract rodents are poorly maintained bird feeders, as well as leftover dog food which is one of the biggest attractions for rats and other vermin.

Unmaintained compost piles, improper outdoor storage, food, poorly maintained septic tanks and unmaintained gardens and fruit trees can all be contributing factors for an increase in the unwanted vermin and pest populations. The City of Sugar Creek is going to continue its aggressive stance against those who put trash out in front of the property when they have not arranged for a prompt pickup.

Violators will be summoned to court and immediately ordered to remove the trash. Failure to do so will result in the City hiring someone to clean up the mess, and the property owner being charged, with a lien against the property if not paid promptly.

Please do your part to help keep the community clean by keeping your property neat and clean.

A Few Reminders for the Fall Season

Halloween will soon be here. If you drive your vehicle, on October 31st, use extreme caution. Keep a watchful eye for our trick-or-treaters. As the leaves begin to fall so does the temperature. Let us not forget Mother Nature's ice storm in the past. Check the heating units in your home.

Make sure they are maintained and operating efficiently. Make sure your car battery and radiator system are ready for winter.

If you have any questions regarding safety, always feel free to call the Police or Fire Departments. Enjoy the fall colors and have a safe autumn season.

— Sgt. Rick DeFelice, SCPD

Library News

Events for the Sugar Creek Library for October are:

Needlework Unlimited Saturday, October 15, 2 p.m. Bring your project and work along with us. Or come and learn something new.
Read 'Em and Weep Monday, October 24, 7 p.m. Come join us as we discuss "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Kidd Monk.

If you have any questions, would like to register for any of these programs, or would just like additional information, please contact the library at 701-3489.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sweet Talk is published monthly by the office of the City Clerk of Sugar Creek, MO, 103 South Sterling, Sugar Creek, MO 64054. For more information call Jana Olivarez-Dickerson at 252-4400, ext. 128.

Board of Aldermen Study Session

Monday, October 10, 2005 at 6 p.m.
Monday, October 24, 2005 at 6 p.m.

Board of Aldermen Council Meeting

Monday, October 10, 2005 at 7 p.m.
Monday, October 24, 2005 at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission

Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 7 p.m.

All meetings are held in the John W. Gavin Council Chambers of Sugar Creek City Hall, 103 S. Sterling. Public comments are welcome.

Persons with disabilities that require a reasonable accommodation may call 252-4400, ext. 128 for assistance.

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