

Sugar Creek Sweet Talk

Newsletter for Sugar Creek, Missouri • April 2024

Sweet Talk is published monthly by the office of the City Clerk of Sugar Creek, MO at 103 South Sterling, Sugar Creek, MO 64054. For more information call Christine McGhee at 252-4400, ext. 1129 or visit Sugar Creek on the web at www.sugar-creek.mo.us

SUGAR CREEK ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor

Mike Larson

Aldermen

Robert Ray
Nancy Griego
Chris Steffen
Joi Hazelrigg

City Administrator

Joe Kenney

City Clerk

Christine McGhee

City Marshal

Christopher Soule

Fire Chief

Nathan Richardson

Finance Director

Keisha Guthrie

Building Official

Alan Gustin

Parks and Recreation Program Director

Sandra Smith

Director of Public Works

Ben Hedrick

City Attorney

Jennifer Baird

Municipal Judge

Garry L. Helm

Municipal Court Admin

Peggy Doss

Prosecuting Attorney

Andrea Welch

Barbecue Contest To Be Held April 26-27

The smoke will soon be rolling through Sugar Creek.

April 26-27, the city will host the annual Smokin' In the Creek Barbecue Contest at Mike Onka Memorial Park. This year the city anticipates 45 to 52 contestants in the event, which began in 2004.

The Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned the event, which is one of more than 300 events sanctioned by the organization in its 30 years.

While this is an important event for the community of Sugar Creek, the major focus is on the barbeque. Sue Mikula, with the city's Public Works department, said a big misconception about barbecue contests is that they're open for taste testing.

"Smokin' In the Creek is the same as other contests, only vendors are able to sell or give away food," Mikula said. "It's mostly because of the Health Department regulations. On Friday night the teams are getting ready for the next day's events."

With that in mind, Mikula said there will be a kick off celebration Friday at Mike Onka Memorial Park with food trucks and a concert beginning at 7:00 p.m. Shuttles will take guests to the opening festivities from the parking area off Elizabeth and Sterling. Saturday morning, a local Boy Scout Troop will be selling breakfast inside the Onka Building from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

The general public is also encouraged to walk around and meet the contestants and see their setups.

"I've seen some really amazing smokers they use," Mikula said. "one was a smoker that looked like a firetruck. I've seen a John Deere Tractor smoker; some have elaborate paint jobs; those are always



interesting to see."

There will be about \$7,000 in prizes divided into the different categories - chicken, pork ribs, beef brisket and pulled pork. This year the committee plans to offer an ancillary contest this year - dessert. The best scores from the main categories will be added to determine grand champion and reserve grand champion. Prize money is awarded to the top 10 in each category.

Mikula looks forward to the event every year - working with the teams and watching the crowd enjoy themselves. She's also deeply appreciative of all the volunteers

who make it possible.

"I can't say enough good things about the volunteers that give up their time to help organize the event," Mikula said. "Over the years many people have volunteered their time, starting with before the contest in the planning stages, and days leading up to the event, and working their tails off for two days, Friday and Saturday. I'd like to name them all, but I'm afraid I would leave someone out."

This year's contest will feature teams from across the country. Teams come from Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri.



FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR MIKE LARSON...

Council Meeting Minutes 2/12/2024

- In a moment of silence before the meeting began, the Mayor asked to remember the passing of Ike Wohlgemuth.
- Officer Skivers led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call established a quorum, and the Consent Agenda was passed unanimously. The Mayor then asked Officer Skivers to approach the front of the room and be sworn in to the Police Department.
- In business from the floor, Mr. Pat Casey asked for a \$50 fee to rent Mike Onka Hall in July to raise money for Downs Syndrome. The Aldermen approved the reduced fee unanimously.
- The only bill presented to the Aldermen concerned investing money in MOSIP, Missouri Investment Program. Money will gain higher interest. The Aldermen approved the bill unanimously.
- The Mayor gave the Aldermen Independence School District (ISD) invitations to Academic Achievement Awards on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at Chrisman High School at 7:00 p.m.
- The Mayor thanked Public Works for keeping the trail at LaBenite Park spotless. The Mayor then thanked the SC Police Department for detaining a thief that had been vandalizing a business on US 24 Highway.
- A School Board Candidate Forum will take place on March 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Mike Onka Hall.
- Alderman Ray thanked Sandra Smith for another excellent Princess Ball.
- Mr. Kenney asked for approval from the Aldermen to purchase and install tinting film over the new windows at the north end of City Hall. Talks have begun with Republic Trash Service to renegotiate our contract that expires in 2024. Mr. Kenney will begin the request for proposal process. Mr. Kenney was present for a review of our bank accounts. Accounts will begin earning substantially more interest than in previous years.
- Chief Soule announced Officer Skivers graduated last Thursday, is now a member of the Sugar Creek Police Department and because of his addition, the department is now at full strength. On Wednesday, 2/14, a couple of our officers will help with the parade in downtown Kansas City.
- Chief Richardson let us know Fort Osage High School is starting a program to shadow members of our fire department. The Rescue Truck is now in use.

- Mrs. McGhee let everyone know the Sugar Creek website will be undergoing and update over the next several months. With this new refreshed look, we will start a new contract. The monthly rate will go up 20% and the new features will cost a little extra per month.
- Mrs. Guthrie talked about getting more interest from our savings accounts by investing in MOSIP.
- Mr. Hedrick stated the MS4 report cited a few violations that have been fixed or are being fixed. The vandalism at Roper bathroom has been fixed. One of the mowers is back in the repair shop.
- Mrs. Sandra Smith announced the monthly Community Potluck on Tuesday, 2/13. Meatloaf is the main dish. In May, the Kite Festival will be held at LaBenite Park.
- Mr. Gustin reported the new software is coming along. Work along Allen Road is under the watchful eye of the Sugar Creek Codes Department. The are a couple of solar projects starting in the city.
- In New Business, Chief Soule reminded everyone the CVS on the corner of Sterling and US 24 Highway will be closing in March.
- In closed session, a business development was discussed with no vote or decision needed.
- The Aldermen voted to return to open session and voted to adjourn at 6:36 p.m.

Council Meeting Minutes 2/26/2024

- The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for the speedy recovery of Mr. John Kelsey.
- Fireman Brandon Smith led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call established a quorum. Seeing no business from the floor, the Mayor presented two bills to the Aldermen. Both passed unanimously.
 - a) #4715 authorized payment to Independence for the radio transmitters the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments use.
 - b) #4716 authorized payment to Playground Boss for the new playground at War Memorial Park.
- The Mayor's report included the following: 1) Toured and discussed BP property and KC Port Authority property, which is where they believe to be the source of gun shots. 2) On March 26, at Mike Onka Hall, at 7:00 p.m., the fourth ISD School Board Candidate Forum will

be held. Mr. Fox will moderate questions to candidates. 3) The St. Patrick's Day Parade will go off as planned. Begin lining up in the Heritage Center Parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

- Alderwoman Griego thanked the Police Department for showing up so quickly when needed.
- Alderman Steffen said thanks for figuring out where the early morning gunfire was coming from.
- Alderwoman Hazelrigg thanked the Fire Department for assisting Independence Fire on mutual aid calls during this windy, dry season. What can be done about the large trucks being dropped off at the Best Buy Car Lot? Chief Soule said he had found the ordinance that allows him to contact the owner.
- Mr. Kenney provided the following information: 1) Kudos to Sandra Smith for getting the playground project completed so quickly. 2) Thanks to the Fire Department for assisting with all the fires that occurred due to the wind and for getting the fire on Lexington under control as quickly as possible. 3) An ISO rating of 3 was issued to the Fire Department, which is important for insurance rating throughout the city.
- Chief Soule reported: 1) Working on contacting the owner of Best Buy Auto. 2) Todd Foster is retiring from MPR after 35 years of employment. 3) The speed trailer will be moved around now that the weather is nicer.

- Captain Brandon Smith was in the middle of his report for Chief Richardson when he got a fire call.
- Mrs. McGhee reported on the following: 1) Our contract with Revize, our website developer, is expiring this year. We have decided to have our website updated and a new feature will be a digital newsletter. 2) The Revize price was the least expensive of the quotes and offered the most features. 3) Regarding employee benefits, MPR projects there will be no annual increase in fees. There will be a second option concerning a dental policy - there will be an additional fee for the new dental plan.
- Mrs. Guthrie has viewed several MOSIP webinars and will begin putting money into interest bearing accounts. After a review of banking accounts, the city will be adding a few beneficial protec-

— See "From Mayor Mike Larson's Desk" on page 4

NEWS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

Fire Department

FIRESIDE CHAT– You may have noticed that we are seeing more burn bans and large brush fires on the news in our area. Most of this is due to the drier than usual conditions and shifting weather patterns our region is being impacted by.

A burn ban is a restriction on outdoor burning during drought or dangerous fire conditions. These bans are typically activated at the county level and enforced by localities. When a burn ban is in effect, any outdoor burning with an open flame that produces embers is prohibited. The goal is to prevent brush fires, protect communities and natural resources. When a burn ban is activated in our area, it's essential to follow the ban to ensure safety and prevent fire-related incidents.

Several factors can contribute to the county's declaration of burn bans, including:

Weather Conditions: Dry and windy weather increases the risk of brush fires spreading rapidly. During periods of drought or low humidity, vegetation becomes more susceptible to ignition.

Fire Danger Indices: The National Weather Service often use tools like the Fire Danger Rating System to assess the level of fire danger in a particular area. When the indices indicate high or extreme fire danger, burn bans may be implemented.

Resource Constraints: During peak fire seasons, firefighting resources may be stretched thin. Burn bans help alleviate the burden on emergency services by minimizing the number of preventable fires.

Burn bans can vary in scope and severity. Some bans may restrict all outdoor burning, including campfires, and previously permitted agricultural burning, while others may be more specific. Violating burn bans can lead to fines, penalties, or even criminal charges, as it puts both property and lives at risk.

As it pertains to Sugar Creek, when no ban is in place citizens are allowed to responsibly burn if these criteria are met:

- Burning in a store-bought, commercially manufactured or other approved containers.
- At least 50 feet from any structure.
- Burning of natural wood logs or sticks, NO yard waste, trash or construction debris.
- Means of easily accessible extinguishment on site.
- Adult (18+) on site.

All criteria are considered void if Burn Ban is in place.

Burn Bans will be announced on most weather apps, local news and the Sugar Creek Fire Dept's Facebook page.

If you should have any questions about a current ban or about the city's burn ordinance, please feel free to call the Sugar Creek Fire Department non-emergency line at 816-521-7923 ext. 3.

Stay safe,

— Captain Brandon Smith, Sugar Creek Fire Department

Public Works

REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION– All refuse and recycling for pick-up must be placed in the appropriate pick-up area (curbside) by 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays. All trash must be inside the container. Handles should be placed towards your house.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION– Yard waste will be picked up curbside on Fridays. Bundle 4 ft. long or less limbs with twine or cut up for large paper bags or 35-gallon containers.

SUMMER JOBS AVAILABLE– The City of Sugar Creek is accepting applications for the following part-time positions.

• **PART-TIME LABORER (SUMMER 2024):** The City of Sugar Creek Public Works Department is accepting applications for the position of part-time laborer; the minimum age is 16. The position is for a period of approximately 13 weeks, with a starting pay of \$14.06 an hour and at least 40 hours a week. Applications are accepted at Sugar Creek City Hall until May 3, 2024, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Work will begin at the end of May.

• **PART-TIME PLANNING INTERN (SUMMER 2024):** The City of Sugar Creek is accepting applications for a part-time planning intern. A student working towards a bachelor's degree in the areas of planning, public administration, or business administration is preferred. The position is for a period of approximately 13 weeks, with a starting pay of \$14.00 to \$16.00 an hour, not to exceed 30 hours a week. Applications are accepted at Sugar Creek City Hall until May 10, 2024, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

IF IT'S ON THE GROUND, IT'S IN OUR WATER– Everyone can play a key role in keeping our waterways clean and free of pollution through changes in behavior. Much of the pollution in our urban waterways can be linked to common lawn care practices such as applying too much fertilizer and pesticide or not properly disposing of pet waste.

TIPS FOR IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

- Landscape with native plants to increase water infiltration and decrease lawn maintenance.
- Never discard trash/yard waste down storm drains or in the street.
- Dispose of pet waste properly.
- Use lawn chemicals safely. Always follow label instructions and never apply before raining or watering the lawn, unless directed.
- Redirect downspouts to drain rainwater onto lawns and gardens.
- Wash your car at a professional car wash that filters wastewater or wash your car in a grassy area. Do not wash cars on driveways or in the street.
- Use rain barrels or rain gardens to conserve rainwater on your property.

Learn more in KC Water Services' "A Resident's Reference Guide to Stormwater Management." (from: www.cleanwaterkcmetro.org).

ANNUAL SMOKIN' IN THE CREEK CONTEST– The 2024 Smokin' In the Creek BBQ Cook-off will be held on April 26 at the Mika Onka Memorial Building. Friday night's events include a free concert. Food trucks will be available to purchase food by the public, food sales begin at 5:00 p.m. Be sure to follow "Smokin' In the Creek BBQ Contest" on Facebook.

Parks & Recreation

WALKING CLUB– Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Sugar Creek Gym.

ZUMBA– Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Sugar Creek Gym. Zumba is a Latin-inspired dance workout that is an aerobic workout all about having fun! Gym shoes only on the gym floor and don't forget to bring water. Certified Instructor: Krystal Thompson. No registration necessary, but if you have questions regarding the class, email krystalthompson300@msn.com. First class is free, then cost is \$5 each class. All ages and workout levels welcome!

— See "Sugar Creek Department News" on page 4



FROM MAYOR MIKE LARSON'S DESK

■ *continued from page 2*

tions and also begin earning interest.

• Mr. Hedrick is waiting for three pieces of equipment to be delivered. The water main break was repaired. A new employee will be hired next week.

• Mrs. Smith reminded everyone Music Bingo is the first Wednesday of every month. March Music Bingo will be 3/6 at Mike Onka at 6:30 p.m. A day trip is planned for 3/21 to visit the World War I museum. Community Potluck will be 3/12 - chicken fingers will be served. The Kite Festival will be held at LaBenite Park on May 4, 2024. The new playground has been installed at the old

swimming pool area.

• Mr. Gustin has inspected the following: 1) A retaining wall at Dollar General 2) Progress at the old Dollar Tree 3) Fire on Lexington with orange fencing and boarding up where appropriate. 4) The house that caught fire on Lexington was a 4-plex, but the area is only coded for a duplex. 5) Software for the Codes Department is coming along.

• Seeing no other business to be brought before the Council, the Mayor asked if there was a need to move into closed session. It was moved and seconded to move into closed session.

• In closed session, one matter of litigation and one matter of real estate were discussed. No vote was taken or needed.

• After voting out of closed session, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:37 p.m.



SUGAR CREEK DEPARTMENT NEWS

■ *continued from page 3*

MUSIC BINGO– Wednesday, 4/3, 6:30 p.m. at Mike Onka Hall. Music bingo is a fun spin on traditional bingo that allows players to listen to clips of favorite songs from the last 60+ years while marking off the titles on your card! 50 players maximum. Contact Sandra Smith at 816-252-4400 ext. 1137 or bring by City Hall. \$1 fee per player. **Bingo prize donations are welcome!**

COMMUNITY POTLUCK– Tuesday, 4/9, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Mike Onka Hall. April's potluck will be a taste of Italy, we will be serving lasagna for the main course. Please bring a side, dessert, or a \$5 donation if you don't bring a dish. No take home plates allowed.

CHI WITH BETSY– Tuesday, 4/2, 4/16, 4/23 and 4/30, 10:30 a.m. at the Sugar Creek Gym. Chi with Betsy is a gentle exercise program performed in the comfort of a chair or you may prefer to stand. Benefits of Tai Chi or Chair Chi can include improved balance, flexibility, range of motion, strength, energy, pain relief and stress reduction. Certified Instructor: Betsy Walderman. Class size limited to 20 participants in chairs. Bleachers available for additional participant seating. No fee.

PARKS & REC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING– Tuesday, 4/16, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

SMOKIN' IN THE CREEK– Friday, 4/26, 5:00 p.m. at Mike Okna Hall. It's the 18th year for our Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned contest! Everything starts heating up Friday night when the

public, vendors and food trucks start rolling in to enjoy the aromas and live music! K.C. Rukus Band will start at 7:00 p.m. so bring your lawn chairs. Make sure to come out on Friday because Saturday is closed to the public. To register for any of the competitions, send an email to smikula@sugar-creek.mo.us or call 816-252-4413.

SKY-HIGH KITE FESTIVAL 2024– Saturday, 5/4, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at LaBenite Park. In a joint venture between the City of Sugar Creek and the City of Independence, the Sky-High Kite Festival will have you gazing in true awe at the colossal kites flown by Great American Kites & Events! Festivalgoers are welcome to relax in the park with picnic blankets, chairs, and food, but for the safety of all guests, please do not bring pets or glass containers to the event. Vendors and food trucks will be onsite and small kites will be available for purchase. These incredibly massive kites will truly be a sight to see. Free event.

NEW (DINNER) THEATRE & RESTAURANT– Saturday, 4/27 at 12:15 p.m. Production will be *Squabbles*. Meal and production included. Limited number of reserved seats. Must call to register 816-252-4400 ext. 1137. \$40 per person. To ride Sugar Creek bus, park at the Police Station to leave at 11:00 a.m. sharp!

DAYTRIPPERS– Thursday, 4/18, 10:00 a.m. We will be going to the City Market downtown at 5th & Walnut St., then from there we will be getting on the City Tram, and you are free to shop, eat or roam the city as you please. We will meet back up at the City Market around 2:00 p.m. and head back to Sugar Creek. Please contact Sandra Smith at 816-252-4400, ext. 1137, to reserve your spot. No fee.

PLEASE NOTE: UTILITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED

Our utility account numbers have recently changed. Please ensure you are using the correct account number for faster processing, especially if you use the bill pay option made available through your banking institution. If you need help locating your account number, please contact City Hall at (816) 252-4400.



FIVE-TIME GRAMMY NOMINEE LYNNMARIE TO HEADLINE SLAVIC FEST JUNE 7TH AND 8TH

LynnMarie and the Polka Guys are headed to Sugar Creek to headline this year's event. It's just part of the entertainment planned as the festival continues to add to the experience. This year's theme is Women In Slavic Arts, honoring the contributions of women in entertainment, folk art, fashion and the culinary arts.

Come out and join us!

VISIT SLAVICFEST.COM FOR DETAILS!

Sugar Creek United Methodist Church will be closing May 31, 2024. More information to come in the May 2024 Sweet Talk.

Sky-High Kite Festival

May 4, 11am-4pm

LaBenite Park – 3117 North RTE 291



816-252-4400 ext. 1137
or 816-325-7115

VFW NEWS

APRIL 7: Join us for Sunday Breakfast. Served from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

APRIL 19: Selle Bros. Band will perform! 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in Kelsey Hall.

Come Grow With Us!

The Sugar Creek Community garden is a sunny place across from City Hall. This will be the 11th year our gardeners have been growing fruit and vegetables organically for their own use. We have donated much of what has been grown there. It is amazing how much can be grown in such a small plot. There are raised beds and ground beds available. Come grow with us!



For more information, please contact Sandy Mikulich at (816) 461-3528



At the library... APRIL 2024

■ AFTER LUNCH BOOK GROUP

The After Lunch Book Group meets on the second Thursday of each month from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This month, the group will meet on April 11. This month's selection will be *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. Contact the branch for more details.

■ SENIOR SOCIAL HOUR

Every Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come play games, socialize, and have a snack.

■ ADULT PUZZLE TIME

We meet every Friday 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to have fun putting together a jigsaw puzzle, or any number of other types of puzzles (word search, mazes, or crossword puzzles). Meet some new friends and have some fun.

■ DIAMOND PAINTING

Thursday, April 4, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come learn a new skill or have some fun with friends. Program is limited to 10 so RSVP is necessary.

■ VEGETABLE GARDENING INTRODUCTION

Tuesday, April 16, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Master Gardeners of KC will help people learn how to start a vegetable garden in this area. Please RSVP for this program.

■ PASSPORT AND NOTARY SERVICES

Remember your library offers both passport services and Notary Public services Monday through Friday. Call the branch for more information.

Watch the activities on kclibrary.org for any extra programs throughout the month. If you have questions about any of the programs or services mentioned above, please call the branch at 816-701-3489. Hope to see you soon.

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday - Thursday.....11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday..... 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday..... Closed

CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024 SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024



Been meaning to get rid of a few things? The City of Sugar Creek is going to have a city-wide garage sale in May! On these two days, residents will be allowed to have a garage sale at their residence **WITHOUT A PERMIT** on the specified dates. Additional fees may apply for extended dates.

Sweet Talk

April 2024 Calendar

City Hall Offices
Public Works
Parks & Recreation

252-4400
252-4413
252-4400, ext. 1137

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

911
252-7058

| | sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursday | friday | saturday |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|
| | | 1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY | 2 ★ ELECTION DAY ★ | 3 6:30 p.m. Music Bingo Mike Onka Hall | 4 Republic Refuse & Recycling Pick-Up | 5 Republic Yardwaste Pick-Up | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 12:00 p.m. Potluck Mike Onka Hall | 10 Republic Refuse & Recycling Pick-Up | 11 Republic Refuse & Recycling Pick-Up | 12 Republic Yardwaste Pick-Up | 13 | |
| 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. VFW Sunday Breakfast | 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 6:00 p.m. Parks & Rec Advisory Committee Meeting – City Hall | 17 10:00 a.m. DayTippers Republic Refuse & Recycling Pick-Up | 18 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC <i>Delinquent date for utilities</i> | 19 Republic Yardwaste Pick-Up | 20 | |
| 21 | 22 EARTH DAY | 23 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Municipal Court Police and Fire Building | 24 | 25 Republic Refuse & Recycling Pick-Up | 26 Republic Yardwaste Pick-Up | 27 | 12:15p.m. New (Dinner) Theatre & Restaurant <i>Squabbles</i> |
| | 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC | | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC | 5:00 p.m. Smokin' in the Creek Mike Onka Hall | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC | | | | | |

Past due notification date