

# Sugar Creek Sweet Talk

Newsletter for Sugar Creek, Missouri • March 2015

**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 Jana Olivarez-Dickerson at 252-4400, ext. 128 or visit Sugar Creek on the web at [www.sugar-creek.mo.us](http://www.sugar-creek.mo.us)

## SUGAR CREEK ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Mayor

Matt Mallinson

### Aldermen

Stanley J. Sagehorn  
Joseph D. Kenney  
Lorcan Doyle  
Robert Ray

### City Administrator

Ron Martinovich

### City Clerk

Jana Olivarez-Dickerson

### City Treasurer

Linda Martinovich

### Building Official

Paul Loving

### Director of Public Works

Ed Layton

### City Attorney

C. Robert Buckley

### Municipal Judge

Garry L. Helm

### Municipal Court Clerk

Cassie Williams

## Optimist Club Doing Good For Community

If it is good for the kids or the community, The Sugar Creek Inter-City Optimist Club is likely involved.

The Sugar Creek Optimist Club, established on December 8, 1966, is a totally volunteer and non-profit organization that hosts a number of events throughout the year – as well as conducting fundraisers to pay for the activities.

Through weekly bingo games and an annual fireworks sale, the Optimists are able to do these good things for the community, said Sharon Arnold, treasurer of the group.

Among other things, the group:

- Donates dictionaries to students in the Independence and Ft. Osage school districts. They are given to third graders in Independence and fourth graders in Ft. Osage. The group has given out more than 20,000 dictionaries during the nearly 20 years this effort has been under way.

- Awards \$1,000 college scholarships to one graduating senior from each of four high schools – Van Horn, Truman, Chrisman and Ft. Osage.

- Adopts 30 families, including their children, for Christmas. Families come from a pool collected by the Citizens Civic Relief Commission. Adoption includes food for the traditional Christmas dinner and gifts for the children.

- Hosts an Easter Candy Toss at Harrison Park. Every year 200 to 400 children turn out – depending on the weather – to participate in the candy toss conducted by age level as well as enjoy 600-700 hotdogs, popcorn and such. Drawings are held for Easter baskets as well.
- Hosts a Fishing Derby at James



A. Reed Nature Center in Lee's Summit for handicapped children. Hotdogs are served, gift cards given out and a contest held for the fish-child of the biggest, smallest and most fish caught.

- Sponsors a Respect for Law dinner every year, honoring the men and women law enforcement and fire service as well as those working in the judicial system. Last year the

group donated funds for a boat to be used for river rescues.

- Sends volunteers to help fill backpacks for Harvesters Backpacks for Kids program, which sends disadvantaged students home with food for the weekend.

- Honors war veterans by providing Wal-Mart gas cards to veterans

— See "Optimist Club Doing Good For City" on page 4



# MAYOR MATT'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

With the passing of our Police Chief, our city finds itself in the dilemma of choosing the right person with the right qualifications to lead our Police force.

We must be very methodical in this process. I would like to let our residents know the present and future directions.

First, our Board of Alderman made the decision not to do anything until after the Christmas Holidays. In respect to their wishes, we postponed the procedure until the first meeting of January.

The first problem that we needed to address was to bring our ordinances in line with state laws. Above all, we want to follow Missouri Laws and not deviate for

any reason.

The second step has been to address and determine the description of the office and what the requirements are expected to be. I want everyone (Alderman, City Administrator, Legal Counsel and Mayor) to agree before we progress. For

example, we MUST know what the compensation package is BEFORE we make an offer for the appointment. We cannot offer a job then change the description afterwards. What is the base pay? Is there extra pay for 'extra duties'? Is it a full or part time job? Is insurance to be offered? We want to be complete with our details.

When all of us are in agreement, then the next step I will take is to visit with every eligible person. Even if those qualified say they do not want to apply, I still want to hear their thoughts.

When this is done, we will be in a good place to make an appointment (or choose not to if the Board so desires). A methodical approach will prevent future hard feelings or potential legal problems.

As the Mayor, it is my responsibility to choose the next Chief for approval by our Board of Alderman. We are learning from our lack of preparedness for this and making efforts to bring more ordinances compliant with state law.

In summary, process has been and is: 1) Ordinances changed to be brought up to date with state laws. 2) Job description refined and adjusted. 3) Financial package looked at based on #2. 4) Financial package and description approved by City Attorney. 5) #2 and #3 prepared by City Attorney and presented to Board for approval. 6) Eligible persons visited with (not interviewed). 7) Potential candidates interviewed. 8) Chief of Police candidate chosen by Mayor 9) Alderman approval of candidate.

*Thank you,  
Mayor Matt Mallinson*



Representing Sugar Creek on issues in Jefferson City. Pictured, from left: Senator LeVota, Mayor Mallinson. Our two State Reps. Bill Kidd and John Rizzo.

# NEWS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

## Public Works

**YARD WASTE COLLECTION**– Yard waste pickup will resume on April 9, 2015 and continue weekly through October. Additional dates will be announced at a later time.

To use this collection, place yard waste out by 7:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings, but not more than 24 hours before. Limbs and twigs should be cut in 4-foot sections and tied into bundles with string or twine, NO WIRE. If placing in a container, the container cannot be over 65 lb. You can also use the paper bags that can be purchased at most hardware stores. Collection normally takes 1-½ working days to finish the entire City depending on the amount of yard waste in the City.

**LARGE ITEM PICKUP**– There will be two (2) large item pickups in 2015. The spring pickup will begin on May 4 and the fall pickup will begin October 5, 2015.

**EARTH FRIENDLY LAWN TIPS**– How we go about lawn care can have a big impact on the environment. With a few simple steps, you can make your lawn earth-friendly — and save time and money, too.

- Use native plants — Decrease the mowing area by planting native flowerbeds and shrubs. Native plants require little or no maintenance, and less water, fertilizer and pesticide than grass.
- Tune up your lawn mower — Routine lawn maintenance contributes significantly to air pollution in Greater Kansas City.
- Compost yard waste — Composting reduces strain on our landfills, water pollution, and provides a nourishing additive for your garden. Consider grasscycling – Recycling grass clippings by leaving them on your lawn instead of bagging and disposing of them has numerous lawn care and environmental benefits.
- Use lawn chemicals sparingly — When lawn chemicals are applied improperly, they run off into streams, harming fish and other animals and contaminating our drinking water.
- Test your soil — Have your soil tested before using fertilizers to prevent over application or using chemicals your lawn may not need.
- Dispose of chemicals properly — The health and safety of people and animals, as well as the health of our communities and the environment is endangered when household hazardous waste products — including many lawn chemicals — are discarded in household garbage, sinks or washed down storm drains.
- Pick up after your pet — If not disposed of properly, thousands

of pounds of untreated pet waste flows into streams and lakes every time it rains posing a danger to human health and aquatic life.

To learn more visit [www.marc.org](http://www.marc.org).

— Sue Mikula,

Public Works Administrative Assistant/Special Events Coordinator

## Parks & Recreation

**COMMUNITY POTLUCK**– The Parks and Recreation Department will hold its annual Community Potluck on March 10. We will provide Irish stew; please bring a side dish or desert, and enjoy visiting with your community. The potluck will be held at Mike Onka Hall, and lunch will begin at 12:00pm.

**CLUB WALK**– Club Walk is held at the Sugar Creek gymnasium Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for all those interested in walking to stay in shape. This will provide the option to keep exercising even during inclement weather. Eighteen times around the gym equals one mile! Periodically, we will have rehab facilities attend to enhance our walking program.

**TAI CHI EXERCISE**– This will be a 6-week session held at the Sugar Creek gymnasium on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at no charge! Next session will start in February 2015.

**ZUMBA CLASS**– Zumba Class is held Monday and Wednesday, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Sugar Creek Gym. Cost of class \$5.00. Please wear comfortable shoes and don't forget to bring water. Classes are taught by certified licensed instructor Krystal Thompson. Email questions to Krystal at [krystalthompson300@msn.com](mailto:krystalthompson300@msn.com).

**PITCH HIT AND RUN**– Participation is FREE! Saturday, April 18, 2015 for both boys and girls, ages 7-14. Pre-register by April 10, 2015.

**BOB ROSS OIL PAINTING CLASSES**– Next class will be held March 21. For a fee of \$35.00 you will be instructed by certified Bob Ross instructor Jean Libby. You will be able to take home your finished painting at the end of the class. These classes will be every other month on the third Saturday.

**YOUTH OF THE MONTH**– Youth of the Month is open to all youth residents of Sugar Creek, ages Kindergarten to 18. Nomination forms can be picked up at City Hall.

**CASINO DAY TRIP**– On March 28, travel with us to a local casino for the day, you need to pre-register for this event. Cost \$5.00 per person.

— Connie Dickinson, Parks and Recreation Supervisor

## PART TIME FINANCE ASSISTANT CITY HALL

Applications are currently being accepted for the position of a Part Time Finance Assistant at City Hall City of Sugar Creek, Missouri.

**POSITION SUMMARY:** Part time non-exempt hourly position providing direct assistance to the financial Department of the City. The employee performs professional accounting work primarily in the areas of utility billing, administration of payroll, administration of accounts payable, auditing and clerical functions of a professional nature in an office setting.

The City of Sugar Creek will be accepting applications beginning Monday, February 23, 2015 through Friday, March 20, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. A City of Sugar Creek employment application must be completed and submitted to Sugar Creek City Hall 103 S. Sterling, Sugar Creek, MO 64054.

*The City of Sugar Creek is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

## OPTIMIST CLUB DOING GOOD FOR CITY

■ *continued from page 1*



at the VA Hospital in Kansas City on Veterans Day.

- Conducts a Bike Safety event in the Spring when children can bring their bicycles over for simple repairs and registration through the Sugar Creek Police Department.
- Operates an ID trailer at various events to help parents gather their children's fingerprints and other vital information to be given to the Sugar Creek Police Department for use in the event of an abduction.
- Hosts Breakfast with Santa at Mallinson Elementary School. The event features a pancake breakfast, pictures with Santa and drawings.

In addition, the group has sponsored numerous teams of a variety of sports, children with cancer to attend Camp Quality in Excelsior Springs, Mo., and given funds to Project Grad to the four area high schools requesting the help.

Though the Optimists have just over 80 members, they can use more volunteers to help with their efforts.

Many hands make for light work, after all.

Thus, the group is going to have a N.O.W. (New Optimists Wanted) meeting and dinner on March 26 at their building, 11600 E. 24 Highway, in Sugar Creek. Normally these weekly dinners and meetings are \$7, but March 26 it will be free!

For more information about this event, leave a message at 816-254-2066, and someone will return the call.

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Sugar Creek Business & Civic Club is offering scholarships to students in pursuit of a four year degree at an accredited college.

Also available is Community College tuition reimbursement of one-half tuition paid up to a maximum of \$1,200 per year. Sugar Creek residency of two years or more required.

Applications are available at Sugar Creek Public Library.

# celebrate st. patrick's day in SUGAR CREEK

Sugar Creek's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 14th. The parade will line up in the Heritage Center Parking lot beginning at 9:30 a.m. The parade began in 2009 with Grand Marshalls Earl Casey and Jack O'Renck walking 20 steps across Sterling Avenue. Since then the parade has grown every year the parade route had to be lengthened to 2 full blocks to allow the parade to turn around. Anyone is invited to join in the fun family event and after parade Irish cheer at Kross's. It's fun for all ages - just wear your green!



# NEIGHBORLY NEWS

## Mikula Will Be Missed

Andrew John "Andy" Mikula, 82, of Sugar Creek, Mo., went to his Heavenly home, Sunday, January 25, 2015.

Visitation was held Wednesday, January 28, at St. Ann's Catholic Church, in Independence, with a Mass of Christian burial Thursday, January 29 at the church.

Burial will be at Mound Grove Cemetery with military honors.

## Sterling Culvert Clean-up



The two men in the hole were supported by a large excavator, three dump trucks, two large front end loaders, a 6-inch pump and a pump operator to keep them from going under water.

Thanks to this season's unusually warm and dry weather, city workers have been able to clean out the culvert under Sterling Avenue at Elizabeth Street, thus alleviating flooding in the area.

According to Ed Layton, Public Works Director for the City of Sugar Creek, at one point or another all of the Public Works personnel were involved in cleaning out the culvert.

He said the downstream area west of the culvert is at an elevation that causes sediment to backup in and around the culvert. It is estimated that workers hauled about 150 dump truck loads of debris from the site.

"All of the workers gave an extra effort on this job," said Layton. He said Bill Mikula, superintendent of operations at Public Works, was like a conductor at a symphony, keeping all the logistics flowing smoothly.

Historically there has been flooding in this area and this stretch of good weather gave the crew time to clean out the culvert before the spring rains hit.

**ALSO...Be sure to watch for more information in the coming months for Recycling Day. The city is planning a one day recycling event for household hazardous waste, electronics, and secure paper shredding.**

## At the library... MARCH 2015



### computer classes

**Computer Basics**— Tuesday, March 3 at 11:00 a.m. Learn more about getting around on your computer in this class, which offers insights into hardware and software components.

**Internet Basics**— Tuesday, March 10 at 11:00 a.m. Learn what the Internet and your Internet browser can do for you! This class concentrates on the basics of online searches.

**E-Mail Basics**— Tuesday, March 17 at 11:00 a.m. Sign up for a free e-mail account and follow along this tutorial teaches the ins and outs of sending and receiving email, as well as how to organize your messages.

**Google Docs**— Tuesday, March 24 at 11:00 a.m. Stop relying on email attachments and multiple documents! Discover Google Docs and how it can help you and your colleagues collaborate, share, and store multiple documents in one convenient place.

**Computer Basics**— Tuesday, March 31 at 11:00 a.m. Learn more about getting around on your computer in this class, which offers insights into hardware and software components.

### crafts

**Quilting For The People**— Saturdays, March 14 and March 28 at 1:00 p.m. This bi-weekly class at Sugar Creek offers many options for all levels of quilters. Bring a project, start a project, or come to learn something new. Class is every other Saturday at the Sugar Creek Library. Call Nancy at 816-252-3344 for more information.

### activities

**Teen Creek After Hours**— Friday, March 6 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Be creative. Be loud. Be here! The Sugar Creek Library stays open late for teens only. Come and hang out - play on the computers, watch a movie, or just meet up with friends. Food & noise allowed.

**Read It/Watch It**— Saturday, March 7 at 2:00 p.m. Join us for a special showing of Wuthering Heights.

**Family Movie**— Saturday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m. Contact us at the library for this month's Family Film. Admission and refreshments are always free. Join us!

**Toddler Time**— Thursday, March 5 and Thursday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m. Join us for a stories, songs, occasional crafts and fun for your little ones. Preschool age 3-5 (and parents!) welcome. For more information, call Christy at 816-701-3489.

### book clubs

**After Lunch Book Club**— Thursdays, March 12 and March 26 at 1:30 p.m. Join us for an After Lunch Book Club at the Sugar Creek Branch Library as we read and discuss great books. Discussions moderated by Christy Tapko.

**Fairmount Community Center Book Group**— Wednesdays, March 11 and March 25 at 12:15 p.m. Join us at the Fairmount Community Center. Books are provided by the Sugar Creek Branch Library. Discussions moderated by Mary Roberson.

**HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. | Closed Sunday**

# Sweet Talk

## March 2015 Calendar

City Hall Offices  
Public Works  
Parks & Recreation

252-4400  
252-4413  
252-4400, ext. 137

Police or Fire Emergencies  
Non Emergencies  
[www.sugar-creek.mo.us/City\\_News.html](http://www.sugar-creek.mo.us/City_News.html)

911  
252-7058

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Refuse Route 1	Refuse Route 1	Refuse Route 2	Refuse Route 3			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Refuse Route 1	Refuse Route 1 6:30 p.m. Study Session 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	Refuse Route 2 12:00 p.m. Community Potluck - Mike Onka Bldg. 5:30 p.m. Municipal Court Police and Fire Bldg.	Refuse Route 3 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sugar Creek United Methodist Church Corned Beef and Cabbage Fundraiser	7:00 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission Mtg. - City Hall		10:00 a.m. St Patrick's Day Parade
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Refuse Route 1	Refuse Route 1	Refuse Route 2 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	Refuse Route 3 <i>Delinquent date for utilities</i>	6:00 p.m. Garden Club Mtg. Sugar Creek Gym		Bob Ross Oil Painting Class
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Refuse Route 1 6:30 p.m. Study Session 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	Refuse Route 1	Refuse Route 2 5:30 p.m. Municipal Court Police and Fire Bldg.	Refuse Route 3		<i>Past due notification date</i>	
29	30	31				

### BE SURE TO REMEMBER....

**CLUB WALK:** Every Monday through Friday from 9-10 a.m. at the Sugar Creek Gym  
**ZUMBA CLASS:** Every Monday and Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. - Sugar Creek Gym - \$5.00 per class