

Sugar Creek Sweet Talk

Newsletter for Sugar Creek, Missouri • May 2022

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
Chuck Mikulich
Chris Steffen
Joi Hazelrigg

City Administrator

Patrick Casey

City Clerk

Christine McGhee

City Marshal

Christopher Soule

Fire Chief

Nathan Richardson

Finance Director

Keisha Guthrie

Building Official

Edward Cary

Parks and Recreation

Program Director

Pam Burnham

Director of

Public Works

Ben Hedrick

City Attorney

Jennifer Baird

Municipal Judge

Garry L. Helm

Municipal Court Admin

Peggy Doss

Prosecuting Attorney

Andrea Welch

City Slavic Festival Returns June 10 and 11



The Sugar Creek Slavic Festival celebrates Kansas City's rich Slavic heritage, and after a two-year hiatus it's back!

Plans are rolling and this year's event is going to be bigger than ever. Visit slavicfest.com or follow the Sugar Creek Slavic Festival on Facebook to learn more.

What's new this year? For starters, longer hours. Friday runs from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Saturday's schedule starts at noon (three hours earlier) and runs until 11:00 p.m.

Longer hours means more fun, and Saturday guests can see a kroj (traditional dress) fashion show and visit booths to learn more about Slavic culture, including the National Czech-Slovak Museum.

New bakeries will be at Slavic Fest, including Sugar Creek's KEMA Sweets Bakery. You'll find Slavic clothing, handcrafted arts and great food too. Feast on sarma (cabbage roll) meals, Polish sausage (made by Little BBQ joint), Slovak goulash, Strawberry Hill Povitica, and did we mention pastries!

Entertainment includes the Brian

McCarty Band, Kolograd, Sugar Creek Tamburitzaans, Sugar Creek Ethnic Dance Troupe and Kolo Kids. Hrvatski Obicaj, Baric Brothers, We Like Pivo, PromoUkraine, Miss Czech Slovak USA and fun for the whole family. The Cabbage Roll contest joins the schedule on Saturday, following Friday's traditional Sausage Eating Contest. Want to participate? Go to slavicfest.com/contest.

Publicity for the event brings people from across the Midwest (and beyond) to Sugar Creek. The Festival will be featured in Missouri Life magazine. And in recognition of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, the 2022 Slavic Festival will also be taking donations for Ukraine relief.

Slavic Festival is part of the Community Events series in Sugar Creek with assistance provided by sponsoring organizations. Thanks for your support!

Can you lend a hand? Visit slavicfest.com to get information on volunteering. It's fun and rewarding!

SLAVIC FEST SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

5:00 p.m. Festival Opens
5:30 p.m. We Like Pivo
7:00 p.m. Sugar Creek Ethnic Dance Troupe & Kolo Kids
8:00 p.m. Sausage Eating Contest
8:30 p.m. Brian McCarty Band

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

12:00 p.m. Festival Opens
1:00 p.m. Baric Brothers
3:00 p.m. Village Musicians
4:00 p.m. Kroj Fashion Show
4:15 p.m. PromoUkraine
4:30 p.m. Hrvatski Obicaj
5:45 p.m. Sugar Creek Tamburitzaans
7:00 p.m. Sugar Creek Ethnic Dance Troupe & Kolo Kids
8:00 p.m. Cabbage Roll Contest
8:30 p.m. Kolograd

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, BE SURE TO CHECK SLAVICFEST.COM FOR UPDATES



FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR MIKE LARSON...

Council Meeting Minutes 3/14/2022

• The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for the passing of residents Caroline Halastik, Mary Lou Francis Miller, Helen Martinez, and for the Ukrainians.

• The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. with Chief Richardson leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. After roll call established a quorum, the Consent Agenda was passed unanimously.

• In business from the floor, Mr. Darryl Payne, 11501 Hackett, asked if something could be done to stabilize the erosion occurring at the residence directly to the south of his property. The Aldermen took the question under advisement.

• Mr. Tom Ferraro, 128 S. Vermont Apt. D, asked if assistance could be obtained for the renter in Apt A. Chief Richardson said he would look into the matter.

• Seeing no further business from the floor, the Mayor presented 5 bills to the Aldermen. 4 passed unanimously.

a) #4513 approved Wald Co. to provide the fireworks display and technical expertise on July 4, 2022.

b) #4514 approved a site development plan at 11116 E. US 24 Highway.

c) #4516 authorized payment to Holliday Sand & Gravel.

d) #4517 approved an agreement with Asphaltic Surfaces to resurface the Kaw Field tennis courts.

e) #4515 did not pass. The owners at 11404 E. US 24 Highway asked for a special use permit, SUP, to add 4 gas pump islands to their convenience store. The vote was 2 ayes and 2 nays. The Mayor broke the tie vote by voting nay. Therefore, the SUP was denied.

• Alderwoman Hazelrigg asked if something could be done with a fallen tree on the CDC lots on Burton. The Alderwoman liked the Departmental goals but wondered if something could be done to help Sugar Creek Downtown build up the downtown area. The Alderwoman also wanted to

push for three firemen per shift rather than the current 2 men per shift.

• Alderman Ray asked if Mr. Hedrick could take a look at the top step at the northeast corner of the sidewalk of City Hall. Mr. Hedrick said it was already in the works.

• Alderman Steffen wanted to know what could be done with 3800 Union and 11331 Park. Mr. Cary said both were in the works. The Alderman wanted to know the rules for parking trailers at a residence. Mr. Cary said he would look into it.

• Alderman Steffen knows two young men that ride dirt bikes on the street and in the parks. The Alderman feels he has given each enough warnings and the parents and kids should be ticketed from now on. Alderman Steffen asked about 11501 Hackett. Mr. Cary said all pertinent parties had been contacted and something would be done but there were no set time limits.

• City Administrator Casey asked if the Aldermen would approve Ms. Cole for another term on the Board of Equalization. A motion was made and seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. A fund raiser will be held at Mike Onka Hall on July 23 to raise money for the Down Syndrome Foundation. The event will be called Step Up for Down Syndrome. The Aldermen voted unanimously to approve the \$50 fee for the organization to rent the hall. Mr. Casey has asked companies to resubmit bids for playground equipment for our parks.

• Chief Soule thanked everyone who helped out on an 11-car pile up close to the 291 Bridge.

• Chief Richardson reported a Boy Scout suggested an Eagle project to help out the city. Everyone in the assembly agreed the proposed project was not appropriate at this time. Other projects were suggested.

• Mr. Cary stated work had begun on the old Dollar General. The Dollar General in Sugar Creek has almost completed work

on the roof and exterior of the building. Mr. Cary said he was still working on putting together rules and regulations for Bed & Breakfast establishments.

• City Clerk McGhee reminded everyone the Mary Anne Davidson Scholarship deadline had been extended to April 4. Mrs. McGhee reported there would be a general election on April 5. New health insurance contributions will be reported at an upcoming meeting.

• Mrs. Guthrie reported that the first payment on the City's COP was made after the loan was refinanced at a lower interest rate. The city is 40% though the fiscal year with revenues at 34% and expenses at 34%.

• Mrs. Burnham talked about the clovers, the Grand Opening of the Sugar Creek Disc Golf Course on 4/2, there are now stall doors on the outdoor latrines, there will be a community potluck at noon on 4/12, there will be a Missouri River Cleanup on April 9, Hogan Prep will be renting Kaw Football Field from August through November, a soccer coach from Barça Academy - Independence may be giving soccer lessons to beginners this summer and the Kansas City Disc Dogs are looking for a place to practice as part of a league.

• Mr. Hedrick updated the council on the fact that PW is still two trucks down. PW has been doing a lot of work at LaBenite to help clean up the disc golf areas. The new Mike Onka Hall roof is almost finished. Sanitary sewer work will begin when the work in Joplin is complete.

• In closed session, a part-time employee was hired to monitor Mike Onka Hall, 2 new PW laborers were hired all three were approved unanimously by the Aldermen. A separate personnel matter was discussed with no decision being made.

• The Aldermen returned to open session and adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Building Codes Are There To Protect Your Investment

The biggest investment most people will ever make is when they buy a home. Following the building codes during construction, remodeling or maintenance will help protect your health and safety as well as your investment. The building codes include research from experts that help ensure every phase of your home project is done correctly. If yours does not comply with the codes, the value of your investment could be reduced as well as having a negative effect on property values.

A property owner who can show that code requirements were met

has a strong ally if something happens to trigger a lawsuit. Permits protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety and welfare. By following code guidelines, the completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury.

Invest wisely in your home, remodeling or maintenance project. It's a smart investment to build and remodel your home to the latest codes and ensure you have the necessary permits in place.

NEWS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

Fire Department

FIRESIDE CHAT– Severe weather and tornadoes can occur with little or no warning. Taking precautions in advance of the storms, such as developing an emergency plan, learning the warning signs, and monitoring watches and warnings can help you and your family stay safe in the event of severe weather. Tornadoes can occur anywhere and at any time during the year. In an average year, 800 tornadoes are reported throughout the nation. Tornadoes can appear rapidly, so it is important to be familiar with the signs in order to stay prepared.

Early warnings about a likely tornado can help save lives in our community. Weather radar systems are used to detect air movement which could indicate that a tornado or severe weather may be likely. Environmental clues may also suggest that dangerous weather is forming. Some signs to look for: **dark, often greenish clouds or sky; large hail; wall/funnel cloud(s); roaring noise.**

In the event of severe weather, tornado warning or activation of local sirens, pick a place in the home where family members can gather if a tornado is sighted or likely in our area. One basic rule is AVOID WINDOWS. An exploding window or projectile can cause serious injury or kill. The safest place in the home is the interior part of a basement. If there is no basement, go to the most interior room, without windows, on the lowest floor. This could be a center hallway, bathroom, or closet. For added protection, get under something sturdy such as a heavy table or workbench. If possible, cover your body with a blanket, sleeping bag, or mattress, and protect your head with anything available—even your hands. Avoid taking shelter where there are heavy objects, such as pianos or refrigerators, on the area of floor that is directly above you. They could fall through the floor if the tornado strikes your house.

Advance planning is especially important if you require assistance to reach shelter from an approaching storm.

- If you are in a wheelchair, get away from windows and go to an interior room of the house. If possible, seek shelter under a sturdy table or desk. Cover your head with anything available, even your hands.
- If you are unable to move from a bed or a chair and assistance is not available, protect yourself from falling objects by covering up with blankets and pillows.
- If you are outside and a tornado is approaching, get into a ditch or gully. If possible, lie flat and cover your head with your arms.

Preparedness involves a continuous process of planning, equipping and training. Planning for dangerous weather requires identifying a place to take shelter, being familiar with and monitoring our community's warning system, and accounting for individuals in the building and home. In addition, workers and/or families need to be trained and plans need to be practiced to ensure that individuals are familiar with what to do in the event of severe weather or tornado.

Stay safe,

— Captain Brandon Smith, Sugar Creek Fire Department

Public Works

REFUSE, RECYCLING, YARDWASTE– If you are having problems or have questions regarding refuse, recycling or yardwaste, please contact Sue Mikula, Sugar Creek Public Works at 816-252-4413.

LANDFILL PERMITS– City Council have decreased the number of permits that a resident can receive in a year from 12 to 4 per year, in which the new rules began Tuesday January 1, 2019. Permits are based on the calendar year January to December. Permits are date specific

and good for the date you request. If a permit is not used on that day, it can be returned and the date changed.

LARGE ROLL OFF CONTAINER RENTAL– You can rent a 30 or 40 yard container for \$130.00 to be placed at your home for cleaning up. Call 816-254-1470 and remind them that you are a resident of Sugar Creek MO and there is a special arrangement for the containers at a lower rental price. You DO need to come to public works to pick up a landfill pass when they are ready to pick it up from your house.

FROM THE WATER DEPARTMENT– A reminder to all residents that water meters can NOT be turned on or off by the homeowner or contractors. If you need to have the meter turned off for repairs, please contact City Hall to arrange a time for service. Thank you for your cooperation.

SUMMER JOBS AVAILABLE– The City of Sugar Creek Public Works Department is accepting applications for the position of part-time laborer; minimum age of 16. The position is for a period of approximately 13 weeks, with a starting pay of \$10.81 an hour and at least 40 hours a week. Applications are accepted at Sugar Creek City Hall until May 5th, 2022 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Work will begin at the end of May.

Parks & Recreation

WALKING CLUB– Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Gym. **No Walking Club 5/30.**

ZUMBA– Mondays & Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Gym. Gym shoes only on gym floor and don't forget to bring water! Certified Instructor: Krystal Thompson. Register at krystalthompson300@msn.com. \$5 per class. **No class 5/30.**

MUSIC BINGO– Wednesday, 5/4, 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. Bingo prize donations welcome! Contact Pam Burnham at 816-252-4400 ext. 1137 or bring by City Hall. \$1 fee per player.

ZUMBA GOLD– Thursdays, 5/5 and 5/19, 10:30 a.m. at the Gym. Combines music, rhythms and “dancing in your seat” fun! Certified SilverSneakers Flex Instructor: Pam Burnham. Class size limited to 20 participants in chairs. Bleachers available for additional participant seating. \$3 per class (class fee waived if SilverSneakers participant).

COMMUNITY POTLUCK– Tuesday, 5/10, 12:00 p.m. at Mike Onka Hall. Doubling up a Cinco de Mayo! The Parks & Recreation Department will provide the ground taco meat, you bring all the fixings and sides so we can enjoy a Taco Tuesday together! \$5 donation if you don't bring a side or dessert.

FITNESS EQUIPMENT TRAINING & WORKOUT– Held at the Gym by appointment only; call 816-252-4400 ext. 1137 to set up a time for Pam Burnham to meet with you and guide you through working out on our new fitness equipment! No fee.

CHAIR CHI– Thursday, 5/12, 10:30 a.m. at the Gym. Chair Chi is a gentle exercise program performed in the comfort of a chair. Benefits of Tai Chi or Chair Chi can include improved balance, flexibility, range of motion, strength, energy, pain relief and stress reduction. Certified Instructor: Pam Burnham. Class size limited to 20 participants in chairs. Bleachers available for additional participant seating. No fee.

EYE FOR TIE DYE– Thursday, 5/12, 6:00 p.m. at Mike Onka Hall. Explore different techniques of tie dye and create your coolest, summer shirt! You may bring your own garment instead! Registration is

— See “Sugar Creek Department News” on page 4



SUGAR CREEK DEPARTMENT NEWS

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required with shirt size by 5/4/2022. Class size limited to 20 tie dyers. \$12 per person

CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES– Friday & Saturday, 5/13 & 5/14. Get your Spring cleaning finished and sell your unwanted treasures from your garage, yard or driveway! No permit required this weekend.

PARKS & REC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING– Tuesday, 5/17, 6:00 p.m. at Sugar Creek City Hall

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS– Wednesday, 5/18, 9:00 a.m. Blood pressure checks at the Gym.

BOB ROSS OIL PAINTING CLASS– Saturday, 5/21, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Classes are every other month on the 3rd Saturday in the Police Training Room, 1001 Heroes Way, Sugar Creek, MO. Join Bob Ross Certified Instructor Jean Libby, as she directs you how to create your very own “quiet place with happy clouds and trees!” Class size limited to 12 with minimum age painter of 12+. Call Jean Libby to register 816-836-2356 or 816-377-4536. \$40 (includes all supplies).

ZUMBA ON THE LAWN– Saturday, 5/21, 10:00 a.m. at Kaw Field (Elizabeth & Putnam Streets, Sugar Creek, MO 64054.) Come One! Come All! Grab your friends and hit the lawn while Certified Instructor Krystal Thompson leads this group in an outside, beginner Zumba

class! No class size limit. No fee.

DRUMMING 2 FITNESS– Thursday, 5/26, 10:30 a.m. at the Gym. Cardio drumming takes a simple movement – drumming – and turns it into a workout that will leave you smiling, energized and feeling great! Cardio drumming brings together drumsticks, an exercise ball (beach ball) and ball stand to create one of the most fun workouts you’ll ever do! Instructor: Pam Burnham. Class size limited to 24 participants unless you bring your own exercise ball, stand and drumsticks. No fee.

CONCERT IN THE PARK– Friday, 5/27, 7:00 p.m. at Wells Park (Sterling Ave & Gill St.). On the Fourth Friday each month through September, bring your lawn chairs and favorite snacks and enjoy music under the stars! Faded Stranger will perform this month. No fee.

NEW (DINNER) THEATRE & RESTAURANT– Saturday, 6/18, 12:15 p.m. Production: *Million Dollar Quartet*. Meal and production included. Limited number of reserved seats. Must call to register 816-252-4400 ext. 1137. \$40 per person.

ALL RESIDENTS, PLEASE NOTE! The Little Free Library at 11420 Burton opened April 1, 2022. There are books for all ages. You are welcome to take a book or leave a book. We have plenty. **KEEP READING SUGAR CREEK!**

City Community Garden



It is time to start planning for the Sugar Creek Community Garden, across from City Hall. Come join us for our 9th season of growing organic fruits & vegetables.

For additional information, contact Sandy Mikulich at 461-3528

GO SUGAR CREEK NEWS

“Go Sugar Creek” is a grassroots volunteer organization working to improve our community. Sugar Creek residents and business owners are encouraged to join our group.

WE ARE IN NEED OF PROJECT VOLUNTEERS!

For more information, please contact Bill Haman at 816-254-8935

SUGAR CREEK VFW INVITES YOU TO JOIN US IN SUPPORTING VETERANS VETERAN AND AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY & YOUTH INVOLVEMENT:

- Participate or Conduct Flag Ceremonies & Present Flag Education in Schools
- Keep in contact with legislators regarding Veteran Benefit Issues
- Support Scouting Organizations by donating Kelsey Hall for meetings etc.
- Participate in Achievement Awards in the Community & Schools

- Provide Veterans with Medical Equipment and assistance when needed
- Support Homeless Veterans Programs
- Adopt Veterans and families in need when situation arises throughout the year
- Support “National Veterans Services” – Spot Clips, Unmet Needs, MAP Support Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention – 800-273-8255
- Veterans are available to go to schools and organizations to give presentations

VFW BREAKFASTS ARE BACK!

This month, Post 3976 will host breakfast the first Sunday of the month, May 1 and Mother’s Day, May 8

City-Wide Garage Sale

May 13 and 14, 2022

Been meaning to get rid of a few things? On Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14, residents of Sugar Creek will be allowed to have a garage sale at their residence without a permit!

NEIGHBORLY NEWS

Kay Will Be Missed

Carolyn Susan Kay of Lee's Summit, Missouri passed away March 8, 2022 at age 73 following a difficult but brave battle with pancreatic cancer.

She was born September 18, 1948, in Independence, Missouri. She will be lovingly remembered by her daughter, her son, her mother, one sister, two brothers, nieces, nephews and many cousins and friends who loved her dearly. Carolyn is preceded in death by her father and a nephew.

Life of Francis Remembered

Mary Lou Francis, age 89, of Sugar Creek, MO passed away Wednesday, March 9, 2022, from end stage Alzheimer's Disease, surrounded by family.

Mary Lou was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, one sister and a son. She is survived by a sister, her daughter, three sons, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends. She will be missed by so many.

Martinez Will Be Missed

Helen Faye Martinez, age 82, passed away Saturday, March 12, 2022. She was born on March 3, 1940.

Helen is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, four step daughters, several step grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren and two sisters. She was preceded in death by both her husbands, her parents, two sisters and two brothers.

Life of Anderson Remembered

Rebecca Anderson, age 64, passed away on Monday, March 14, 2022.

She was born January 12, 1958 in Vandalia, Illinois. In 1986, she married her first husband, with whom she had two children. Following her first husband's death, she remarried in 1998.

Rebecca was preceded in death by her parents, as well as one niece and one nephew. She is survived by her husband, her two children, one unofficially adopted daughter, one brother, and many nieces and nephews.

Mikula Will Be Missed

John David Mikula, of Sugar Creek passed away Thursday, March 17, 2022, at the age of 81.

He was predeceased in death by his parents, and five siblings. He is survived by his daughter, a granddaughter, and many nieces and nephews.

TALL WEEDS ARE VIOLATION

The City has an ordinance against tall grass and weeds. If your yard has weeds or grass taller than 12 inches, and it is not cut within the allotted timeframe, the City will send a mower and a lien will be put on the property for the cost of mowing plus processing fee.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
[facebook.com/SugarCreekMO](https://www.facebook.com/SugarCreekMO)



At the library...
MAY 2022

PASSPORT AND NOTARY SERVICES

Passport services are available any day of the week. Stop by on Thursday, Friday or Saturday for notary services. Our certified notary staff member will be happy to assist you!

AFTER LUNCH BOOK GROUP

The club will meet in person Thursday, May 12 at 3:00 p.m. May's title will be *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova.

LIBRARY HOURS:
Monday - Thursday11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday..... Closed

Dog Tethering Ordinance

An ordinance addressing dog tethering in Sugar Creek was approved by the Board of Aldermen on February 28, 2022, with a 60-day grace period in place to give notice of the new restrictions.

Sec. 8-42. - Restraint; tethering.

- (a) A dog owner shall keep his dog under restraint at all times.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to tether any dog except under the following restrictions:

1. No dog may be tethered as the primary method of restraining a dog to any property. No dog may be tethered for a period longer than thirty (30) minutes unless it has been provided with adequate food, water, and shelter suitable for the age, and condition of the dog.
2. No dog may be tethered between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
3. A tethered dog must not be tethered outdoors in temperatures below 32° Fahrenheit, temperatures over 85° Fahrenheit, or in other weather conditions that could likely cause harm to the animal.
4. No dog may be tethered unless supervised by a competent person physically present on the property.
5. The tether must be of a type and weight that allows for the free movement of the dog and shall be no less than three (3) times the dog's length or ten (10) feet, whichever is greater and contain a swivel at both ends. At no time may any logging chain, tow chain or similar device be utilized as a tether.
6. A tethered animal must be placed where the animal cannot be in danger of being strangled or hung, including in areas that are free of dangerous debris and obstacles.
7. Dogs must be tethered by a non-choke type collar or body harness constructed of either nylon or leather and no less than one (1) inch in width, unless the collar is rolled leather collar.
8. A tethered dog must be tethered using a properly-fitted collar that measures the circumference of the animal's neck with additional space to place at least two adult fingers.
9. No dog under six (6) months in age may be tethered.
10. Multiple dogs must be tethered separately and in such a way that they may not become entangled with one another.
11. When tethered, a dog's maximum reach must be no closer than ten (10) feet from any sidewalk or property line.

