

Sugar Creek Sweet Talk

Newsletter for Sugar Creek, Missouri • March 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

Foundation Extends Scholarship Deadline

Sugar Creek students in the class of 2024 have an opportunity to receive some financial help for college.

The Truman Heartland Community Foundation is extending the deadline for the Norman and Mary Anne Davidson Scholarship for eligible graduating seniors. The new deadline is April 1. The city awards the scholarship each year to deserving students who live in Sugar Creek.

Last year two students received the scholarship. The \$1,500 a year scholarship was established at the bequest of the Davidsons. To be eligible, students must live in Sugar Creek for a least one year, have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and must be pursuing a certification or degree at any accredited junior college, college or university.

Applications opened Dec. 15 and must include an essay about the students' passion for their career field and a letter of reference from a non-family community member. Students will be notified if they receive the scholarship this summer.

Norman and Mary Anne were married more than 71 years and owned multiple properties in Sugar Creek.

Christine McGhee, Sugar Creek City Clerk, said scholarships like this are an important tool for the community.

"Scholarships are crucial in helping seniors continue their education beyond high school by providing financial assistance to cover expenses such as tuition, fees, and books," McGhee said. "This can alleviate some financial burden, making it more feasible for seniors to pursue a higher education and helping to



Pictured are the 2023 Truman Heartland Community Foundation Scholarship recipients Norym Powell (above) and Jack Ryan (left).

cants who meet the qualifications to determine this year's recipients.

The Truman Heartland Community Foundation began in 1982 as the Independence Community Foundation in an effort to promote charitable giving in the community. As the organization grew, it started serving communities all over Eastern Jackson County, Cass County and Lafayette County. The organization changed it's name to Truman Heartland Community Foundation in 1996. It accounts for more than \$5.9 million in annual grants and scholarships. Truman Heartland helps individuals and families make the most of their private giving in the hopes for being an agent for change in the communities it serves.

avoid accumulating debt as they pursue their academic goals. This scholarship provides an opportunity for all areas of study, enabling students to attend colleges, universities, or vocational school, to pursue advanced degrees that can enhance their career."

McGhee said the city has an advisory board that will review all appli-

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR MIKE LARSON...

Council Meeting Minutes 1/8/2024

- The meeting opened with a moment of silence for the passing of Mr. Mark Moore and Mrs. Joanne Johnson.
- Mr. Jerry Zevecke led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by roll call which established a quorum. The Consent Agenda was then passed unanimously.
- In business from the floor, Mr. Zevecke asked about plans for the new playground. Mr. Kenney responded that the new playground will be placed in the old swimming pool area with parking in the old swimming pool parking lot. Mr. Zevecke asked about vandalism. Chief Soule said that has not been a problem in that area and that many neighbors are vigilant about watching out for suspicious activity.
- The Mayor presented 7 bills to the Aldermen. All passed unanimously.
 - a) #4702 provides for the Municipal General Election on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.
 - b) #4703 approves Hood and Associates, Certified Public Accountants to perform the annual audit for the 2023 Fiscal year.
 - c) #4704 authorized payment to 24-7 Enviro Solutions for the abatement of 110 S. Claremont.
 - d) #4705 authorized payment to Wil-Pav Asphalt and Concrete for the Public Works Building floor drain.
 - e) #4706 authorized payment to Axon Enterprise, Inc., for police body camera equipment and software.
 - f) #4707 authorized payment to Custom Truck One Source for repairs to the 2008 International Tandem Truck.
 - g) #4708 authorized purchase and installation of network cameras at the Public Works Building.
- The Mayor mentioned several Christmas events since the last Council Meeting including Christmas present wrapping with the Optimist Club and several Christmas parties. Bread baking at KEMA's and tacos at California Tacos were also on the list. The Mayor distributed a letter of support that Representative McMullen sent to lawmakers to review rules for distribution of Dispensary licenses last year with the hope of getting a Dispensary in Sugar Creek. The Mayor distributed a map of MODOT improvements to US 24 Highway with the purpose of describing storm water runoff once MODOT improvements are complete.

- Alderwoman Hazelrigg asked about the need to continue the Covid pop-up on the website. Mrs. McGhee said she would look into removing the notice.

- Mr. Kenney mentioned that the pile of cardboard behind the new Dollar Tree has been greatly reduced and plans for a dumpster are being completed. Second, Mr. Kenney reported that all 12 liquor licenses have been completed on time and before the deadline. This includes 10 Sunday liquor licenses. A discussion followed as to whether Sugar Creek should change its open for liquor sales to match the State hours of operation. No decision was needed until more information could be gathered.

- Chief Soule said he had been looking for snow route rules or emergency snow route ordinances. A new ordinance should be created so as to make snow removal quicker, easier and safer.

- Chief Richardson reported that the new pumper truck has arrived and is awaiting decal placement.

- Mrs. McGhee reminded everyone that there will be a Municipal General Election on April 2, 2024. There will be one question on the ballot for Sugar Creek voters asking to approve the candidate for Alderman to replace the unexpired term of Alderman Chuck Mikulich. The scholarship application period for Sugar Creek high school seniors is now open. Last but not least, City Offices will be closed on 1/15 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

- Mrs. Guthrie has updated the proposed Purchasing Policy with suggestions and ideas from Mrs. Baird. Aldermen can review the updated policy and be prepared to vote on the proposed policy at next meeting. Mrs. Guthrie announced that property taxes from the County appear to be almost the same as last year even with the protests.

- Mr. Hedrick has received three bids from contractors who looked at the scope of work on each corner of the gym. The Aldermen acknowledged the lowest bid as acceptable and will vote approval at the next Council Meeting. A plumber has been asked to give a bid on a new drinking fountain at the gym.

- Mrs. Smith stated that Potluck was cancelled for January due to inclement weather. Kooker's Kare has asked to rent Onka Hall for 3 days for the same price as last year, \$50. The Aldermen voted

unanimous approval. The Princess Ball is moving forward and the gym has been opened Monday – Friday to walkers until the weather breaks.

- Mr. Gustin made 4 points: 1) The old Dollar Tree is moving along with grading in the back of the lot and many trees being hauled off. 2) California Tacos is open. 3) The house that burned on Felton has completed the exterior work, so work can continue on the interior. 4) Permit Software for the Codes Department is coming along.

- In other business, Alderman Steffen asked if the requiring three bids when purchasing \$1,500 of goods or services was realistic. He suggested to raise the purchase amount of \$2,000 or \$2,500. One explanation was that the City was using other fourth-class cities as a guideline. Mr. Kenney said he has been working with Mr. Hedrick on a blanket bid which would eliminate a lot of the bid process. Mrs. Baird confirmed that there are no special rules for a fourth-class city. So, we are free to continue the 3-bid process or use a blanket bid process. A blanket bid would include, but not be limited to, purchases of concrete or asphalt as an example. Several bids would be accepted, the lowest would be voted on and that price would be locked in for a year.

- The Aldermen voted unanimously to move into closed session to discuss an acquisition matter. No decision or vote was necessary at that time.

- The Aldermen voted out of closed session and voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

Council Meeting Minutes 1/22/2024

- The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 6pm. Chief Soule led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call established a quorum and the Consent Agenda was passed unanimously.

- Seeing no business from the floor, the Mayor presented 5 bills to Aldermen. All passed unanimously.

- a) #4709 clarified ownership of water lines and sewer lines for residents and businesses.

- b) #4710 updated Sugar Creek Sunday liquor sales to coincide with Missouri statutes.

- c) #4711 levied a property lien against a residence on Claremont.

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

NEWS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

Fire Department

FIRESIDE CHAT- At the beginning of 2024, the Sugar Creek Fire Department took delivery of a 2022 Ford F-550 Super Duty Rescue Truck, replacing a 1999 Ford Rescue vehicle that was becoming outdated. After several months of planning and preparation, which included modifications, installing lights and rescue tools, and applying decals, the Sugar Creek Fire Dept was excited to put Rescue 1 into service in early February. Equipped with state-of-the-art rescue tools, specialized fire equipment, and rescue gear, this truck was designed to support various emergency response activities, including fire suppression, rescues, and hazardous materials incidents that may arise.

Rescue 1 will be operated by trained members of our department who will be tasked with providing logistical support to firefighting crews. Its primary function is to deliver personnel, equipment, and other specialized gear to the scene of an incident quickly and efficiently. Additionally, it will be used for search and rescue operations, natural disaster responses, vehicle accidents, and water/ice rescues. As well as being outfitted to assist with various vehicle rescues using the battery-operated rescue tools, struts, and backup generator on board. The Rescue truck will even be used to move SCFD's rescue boat to the Missouri River for water rescue operations.

The Rescue Truck is a direct result of the sales tax approved by the citizens of our city in June of 2020. Thank you for your continued support and allowing our firefighters to better serve the community.

Stay safe,

— Captain Brandon Smith, Sugar Creek Fire Department

Public Works

LARGE ITEM PICKUP- Please contact Republic for bulky item pickup. 816-254-1470. All refuse and recycling for pick up must be placed in the proper pickup area (curbside) by 7:00 a.m. each Thursday. All trash must be inside the container – do not put on the top. Drivers do not reload containers; all trash must be in containers. Handles should be placed towards your house.

LIGHTS OUT- During the spring/summer months, to better keep our city safe, should you see any street lights out, please report them to the Public Works Department at 252-4413. In order to expedite the replacement more rapidly, KCPL requires the following information:

1. Pole #: SC
2. Pole #: KCPL
3. Address nearest to pole: _____
4. Is light completely out or flickering? _____

SMOKIN' IN THE CREEK CONTEST ANNOUNCED- The annual Smokin' In The Creek BBQ cook-off contest for 2024 will be held on April 26, 2024, at the Mika Onka Memorial Building. Friday night's events include a free concert. Additionally, food will be available for purchase from several different food trucks, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more information and event details. Be sure to follow "Smokin' In The Creek BBQ Contest" on Facebook.

Parks & Recreation

WALKING CLUB- Monday through Friday, during the winter months, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Sugar Creek Gym.

PLEASE NOTE: If the Independence Schools have been cancelled for inclement weather, the gym will also be closed.

ZUMBA- Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Sugar Creek 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.

MUSIC BINGO- Wednesday, 3/6, 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 Sandra Smith at 816-252-4400 ext. 1137 or bring by City Hall. \$1 fee per player.

CHI WITH BETSY- Tuesday, 3/5, 3/19 and 3/26, 10:30 a.m. at the Sugar Creek Gym. Chair Chi is a gentle exercise program performed in the comfort of a chair or you might 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 Waldman. Class size limited to 20 participants in chairs. Bleachers available for additional participant seating. No fee.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK- Tuesday, 3/12, 12:00 p.m. at Mike Onka Hall. The Parks and Rec department will be providing hand breaded chicken tenders as the main course for March! Please bring a side, dessert, or \$5 donation if you don't bring a dish. No take home plates allowed.

BOB ROSS OIL PAINTING CLASS- Saturday, 3/16, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Police Training Room, 1001 Heroes Way. 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 is 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).

PARKS & REC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING- Tuesday, 3/19, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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!

OPEN GYM- Thursday nights, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Local kids 18 years and younger, accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, gather at the Sugar Creek gym to play some friendly basketball. Bring yourself and your kids or grandkids out for some fun!

WINTER PARK SCHEDULES- For the winter months, all parks with gates will be closed from dusk until dawn. During inclement weather, all parks will be closed. Gates will not be opened and park drives/roadways will not be plowed.

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.

FROM MAYOR MIKE LARSON'S DESK

■ *continued from page 2*

d) #4712 authorized purchase of a Feld Fire Rescue Truck for the Sugar Creek Fire Department.

e) #4713 authorized payment to Morgan Jacobs for repairs to the exterior of the Sugar Creek Gymnasium. Payment to be made upon satisfactory completion of repairs.

- The Mayor mentioned surviving the cold temperatures since the last meeting. He attended a conference on Elder Abuse sponsored by MARC. The Mayor distributed pictures of "e-affle" machines for the assembly. He also distributed an email response from Representative Sauls concerning the "legality" of these machines. In Representative Sauls' words, the State, the County and the Highway Patrol are not taking the lead on confiscating these illegal machines. Since Sugar Creek has a local ordinance that prohibits gambling and selling liquor, it is up to Sugar Creek to enforce the ordinance, look the other way on the ordinance or change the ordinance. The Aldermen took this message under advisement with no decision or vote.

- Alderman Ray thanked Public Works for the excellent work on the snow and roads over the last couple of weeks.

- Alderwoman Hazelrigg echoed Alderman Ray's thanks for the fine work Public Works has done on the roads.

- Alderman Steffen asked if the Shriners could use Mike Onka Hall on May 5, 2024 for their event. Mr. Kenney said the calendar had already been checked and was open for the Shriners. They should contact Mrs. Smith and work out the details.

- Alderwoman Griego thanked Public Works for showing up for water repairs and for the fine work they have done with the snow and ice in January.

- Mrs. McGhee provided the following information: 1) A meet-

ing has been set up with Revize, the developer of our website as our renewal date is approaching. 2) Other website developers are being looked at for pricing, email newsletter and other options. 3) The General Election Certification has been filed with Jackson County Election Board. 4) MPR benefits details will be coming in the next few months. 5) City Offices will be closed on February 19 for Presidents' Day. 6) Mrs. McGhee and Mr. Kenney are looking at updating the Personnel Policies Manual.

- Mrs. Guthrie reminded the Aldermen that the Purchasing Policy Manual has been updated and asked for adoption and approval from the Aldermen. In a voice vote, the Aldermen unanimously approved the new Purchasing Policy Manual.

- Mr. Hedrick commented on the following: 1) The new tractor will be ready in the spring. 2) The new truck will also arrive in the spring. 3) One of the plow trucks is down due to a malfunction in the dumping mechanism on the salt spreader insert. 4) A new drinking fountain should be installed at the Gym within the next three weeks. 5) One employee has left Public Works but will interview candidates.

- Mrs. Smith wanted to remind everyone about the Princess Dance in February. There will also be a benefit for Down Syndrome at Mike Onka Hall.

- Mr. Gustin mentioned how the Codes Department has been involved in the clean-up effort on Allen Road including clean-up of mattresses, furniture and fixing a hole in the roof. Mr. Gustin wanted everyone to know that the Codes Department is continuing education consistently.

- Seeing no further business, the Aldermen voted to move into closed session to discuss a matter of real estate. After short discussion, the matter was held over for further review. No vote was needed at that time.

- Council Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Dr. Lexi Salva, DVM, on her recent practice establishment at Cedar Ridge Animal Hospital! Dr. Lexi Salva grew up in Sugar Creek, MO.



Dr. Salva recently transitioned her veterinary services two days weekly at Cedar Ridge Animal Hospital in Independence, on 23rd Street. We are so thrilled she is establishing practice for the local clientele of Sugar Creek and Independence residents, family and friends!

SATURDAY MARCH 30TH

Sugar Creek Optimist Annual
Easter Candy Toss

Harrison Park - Sugar Creek, MO

Registration & hot dogs 11:00 a.m.

Candy toss starts at noon by age groups

PLUS...The Easter Bunny will be back
at the Easter Candy Toss!

Saturday, March 16 • 10:00 a.m.

Sugar Creek St. Patrick's Day PARADE!

Line up in the Heritage Center Parking lot
beginning at 9:30 a.m. Hope to see you there!

NEIGHBORLY NEWS

Day Will Be Missed

Virginia Day, 62, of Sugar Creek, Missouri passed away Friday, January 26, 2024.

She was predeceased by her parents, Mildred Fairest and Guy Day. She is survived by her six children, one brother, several sisters and many grandchildren.

Life of Jackson Remembered

Maurice Wayne Jackson, 89, of Sugar Creek, Missouri, passed away, Saturday, January 27, 2024.

He was predeceased by his parents and his nine siblings. He is survived by his wife, his five children, eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Wohlgemuth Will Be Missed

Henry James Wohlgemuth, 84, of Sugar Creek, Missouri passed away Sunday, January 28, 2024.

He was predeceased by his parents, his wife, his five siblings, and a brother-in-law. He is survived by his two daughters, nine grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, and two sisters-in-law.

VFW NEWS

MARCH 3: Join us for Sunday Breakfast. Served from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

MARCH 17: Ruben sandwiches! Rubens will be served from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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... MARCH 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's selection will be *The Heart o' Junk* by Luke Geddes.

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.

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

SUGAR CREEK MUNICIPAL AMNESTY MONTH 2024

Sugar Creek Municipal Court announces the opportunity to clear your current warrant and resolve your charges without the fear of arrest!

Anyone with an active Sugar Creek warrant is eligible.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- Provide a picture ID, i.e. driver's license, student ID, State ID card, etc. to the Court Clerk's office during business hours Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WHAT THE COURT WILL DO:

- Recall your warrant
- Give you a court date in the month of March or April 3/12/24, 3/26/24, 4/9/24, 4/23/24

PLEASE NOTE: You will NOT be arrested for active warrants from Sugar Creek. If you still have active warrants during the time of Court from other areas, you will be arrested at the time of Court.

Sweet Talk

March 2024 Calendar

City Hall Offices
Public Works
Parks & Recreation
252-4400
252-4413
252-4400, ext. 1137
www.sugar-creek.mo.us
911
Police or Fire Emergencies
Non Emergencies
252-7058

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
					Republic 1 Yardwaste Pick-Up	2
3 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. VFW Sunday Breakfast	4	5 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC	6 6:30 p.m. Music Bingo Mike Onka Hall	7 Republic Refuse & Recycling Pick-Up 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC	8 Republic Yardwaste Pick-Up	9
10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	11	12 12:00 p.m. Potluck Mike Onka Hall 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Municipal Court Police and Fire Building 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC	13	14 Republic Refuse & Recycling Pick-Up 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC	15 Republic Yardwaste Pick-Up	16 10:00 a.m. St. Patrick's Day Parade 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bob Ross Oil Painting Class Police Training Room
17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19 FIRST DAY OF SPRING 6:00 p.m. Parks & Rec Advisory Committee Meeting – City Hall 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC	20	21 Republic Refuse & Recycling Pick-Up 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC	22 Republic Yardwaste Pick-Up	23
	Delinquent date for utilities					
24 PALM SUNDAY	25	26 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Municipal Court Police and Fire Building 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC	27	28 Republic Refuse & Recycling Pick-Up 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – CCRC Past due notification date	29 Republic Yardwaste Pick-Up	30
31 EASTER	6:00 p.m. Council Meeting					12:00 p.m. Sugar Creek Optimist Annual Easter Candy Toss