

CITY OF GRAIN VALLEY

CITY VIEW

SPRING & SUMMER 2020



SAPP DESIGN ARCHITECTS + helix + McCOWN GORDON CONSTRUCTION

Proposed Grain Valley Community Campus

INCLUDING GRAIN VALLEY PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITY GUIDE!

CITY VIEW

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Spring Greetings!



Mayor Todd with a new friend at a GV YES event

I hope this finds you healthy, happy and warm after surviving a snow season that started way back on Halloween 2019! I am amazed at the work that our Public Works division was able to accomplish during the snow events, both through preparation and their commitment to being on-call 24/7 during the winter months. Their work, along with that of our amazing Grain Valley Police Department, keeps this great city safe, year-round. One thing that sets our boys in blue apart is their desire to engage and be a part of the community with positive encounters, special events and Camp Focus. They often take the extra step to follow up with citizens.

Warmer weather means more fun in the sun, which is often sought out by parents through our multiple Parks & Recreation programs, including tennis, baseball and swimming. There are also wonderful options for senior citizens at the community center such as monthly luncheons, fitness classes and pickleball. Be sure to check out the enclosed Activity Guide for information on all the programs offered.

Both the Grain Valley Fair and Trail or Treat that took place last Fall were our biggest yet, in attendance and number of businesses who participated. The Holiday Festival took place in early December with fairly mild temperatures and a great sense of excitement as folks

joined us to kick off the holiday season. All of these events are made possible for you by the work of our City staff and many volunteers, including the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). If you would like more information about how to be part of the VIPS program, call the police department - 816-847-6250 or email gvmopd@cityofgrainvalley.org.

2020 is certainly a year with much excitement for Grain Valley. New businesses, TempStop (including BluTaco and Champs Chicken) and Taco Bell, are great additions to the community, for the convenience of our residents, as well as, bringing commuters into town. And later this Spring, the much-anticipated QuikTrip will be opening.

Census 2020 is coming up. I strongly encourage each one of you to take the time to complete the Census. It is vital for our community that everyone is counted. Please read more about the options for how families can take part in the Census in the enclosed article.

I appreciate the hard work and dedication of our City staff and the Aldermen with whom I serve. I especially want to thank Yolanda West. She recently made the decision to not seek reelection for Alderman in Ward 2. She has served the City on the Board of Aldermen since 2011 and has been an integral part of many major decisions. The upcoming municipal election in April will give citizens the opportunity to vote for one alderman in each of the wards, as well as, vote for mayor. There will also be two questions on the ballot for no tax-increase bonds in which, if passed, will allow for the construction of the Grain Valley Community Campus. The civic complex would include City Hall, the Police Department, Community Center and incorporate park features as well. For more information about the project, check out the enclosed article and visit www.envisiongrainvalley.org.

Thank you for the honor of serving this community. I always welcome questions and concerns. They can be directed to me via email (mayor@cityofgrainvalley.org) or by calling me at 816-719-9736. Be sure to follow City of Grain Valley, Grain Valley Police Department and Grain Valley Parks & Recreation on Facebook and Twitter to stay informed about events, weather warnings and other important information.

–Mike Todd, Mayor

COMMUNITY NEWS

GRAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY CAMPUS

When the current City facilities were constructed in 2001, they were built to handle staffing needs for the population at the time, which was approximately 5,000 residents.



City Hall & Police Department Entrances

Since that time, Grain Valley has nearly tripled in size, however, the facilities were not designed to serve the unexpected growth or constructed to support expansion. Today, workspaces are full and as the departments have evolved, the building layout has not been conducive to the workflow needs. Additionally, the buildings have not withstood aging well. The community center recreation areas are small, and the gymnasium was constructed of materials that aren't standard for that type of use.

As part of the Comprehensive Plan completion in 2014, the property known as Sni-A-Bar Farms (corner of Sni-A-Bar Boulevard and Buckner Tarsney) was identified as a future location for public facilities. Through multiple transactions, the City has acquired just under 50 acres at a less than market value cost.



Trail North of facilities

The City, guided by numerous opportunities for citizens' feedback, finished the Master Plan for the property in late 2019 and is currently working to design the components of Phase I. This includes plans for a recreation center with an indoor pool, indoor walking track, kidzone, dedicated spaces for group exercise and more, a City Hall and Police Department built to accommodate future growth, outdoor walking trails, splash pad, play structures and green space.



Recreation Center

City staff have worked closely with advisors to analyze the project financing. Citizens are being asked to vote on April 7, 2020 to allow for the issuance of no-tax increase General Obligation Bonds to finance the project. There are two ballot questions regarding the issuance of the bonds, and BOTH must pass in order for the project to move forward. The issuance of these bonds does not increase the debt levy. In fact, the City has lowered the total City levy by \$0.13 over the past two years, even with the planning for this campus project. Should the ballot measures be successful, design work will immediately continue, with a projected completion date in 2022.

COUNT Me in Grain Valley

[CENSUS2020KC.org](https://census2020kc.org)

COUNT ME IN!

*Census Day 2020 is on April 1st.
Census questionnaires will be sent
to homes by mid-March.*

For the first time, respondents may answer the questions online, but also by phone or mail. The census form will include questions relating to the number of people living in the home, whether the home is owned or rented, a phone number for at least one person in the home and basic info about each person living in the home. It should take only a few minutes to complete and all information collected will be kept confidential and protected by the federal government. The data is used for statistical purposes only.

Census data is very important to our community and government funding to the state. It's used to allocate \$675 billion each year to fund federal programs, some of which may be related to public safety, healthcare, education and much more. Even a 1% undercount can cost a state millions! In addition to funding disbursement, the Census data determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as districts for state governments. Census data helps communities plan roads, schools, hospitals, senior centers and emergency services. Businesses use census data to determine the plausibility of placing their operations in communities.



Some folks have concerns about the security of personal information and releasing such info to the Census Bureau. Your information will be protected by one of the strongest confidentiality guarantees in the federal government. In order to protect yourself from fraudulent requests of information, remember the Census Bureau will never ask for the following: your full Social Security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party, bank or credit card account numbers or your mother's maiden name. If you have questions about any information request, contact the Chicago Regional Office of the Census Bureau by calling 1-800-865-6384.

COMMUNITY NEWS

GV YES EVENTS

GV YES (Grain Valley Youth Engagement Services) was formed in 2018.

The GV YES steering committee is comprised of leaders from throughout the community, including the school district, city staff, churches and business representatives. The vision for GV YES is to reach the youth of Grain Valley through positive experiences and build mentor relationships. GV YES hosted events in 2019, including pool parties in August and “Movie with the Mayor” in December. Moving forward, GV YES hopes to offer events for older youth and have a youth center available someday. For more information about GV YES, contact Mayor Todd, mayor@cityofgrainvalley.org or 816-719-9736.



Officer Danny Iiams chatting with a youngster after he took a swim... in uniform... with the kids

GRAIN VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

The City of Grain Valley works closely with the Grain Valley Partnership, which is an organization that combines the efforts of the former Economic Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce.



Ribbon cutting event at Guthrie Family Dental

The Partnership's primary objective is to stimulate the growth and vitality of existing Grain Valley businesses, as well as, to foster the creation and attraction of new businesses to the community. Grain Valley Partnership members are comprised of local businesses and organizations who meet regularly to network and support each other at events such as ribbon cuttings and fundraisers. Find Grow Grain Valley: the 411 on Facebook to stay up-to-date on local businesses, both new and established. The page is also a good resource for information regarding local non-profit organizations, community events and other announcements.

To contact the Partnership directly, please call 816-443-5162 or email info@growgrainvalley.com.

CITY VIEW

PAVEMENT ASSESSMENT

The City of Grain Valley's 2020 budget included a Pavement Assessment Program.

Pavement Assessment for municipalities is the method in which the conditions of streets and other surfaces are identified. The pavement assessment was performed by IMS Infrastructure Services, LLC. The services of the pavement assessment include:

- Laser Road Surface Testing of all the City's roads to determine pavement condition and prepare a customized prioritization of street improvements, allowing for a determination of the most cost effective treatment for each road.
- Right of Way data collection to identify all the City's assets within the street rights of way.
- Provide the information in a format to link to the City's GIS system to assist with map updates.



Vehicles like the one shown, recently drove all City streets. They gathered data which will be used to generate a customized street improvements program.

Grain Valley streets were evaluated in late February. The City will utilize this information to develop a five-year road improvement program.

NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR READING WATER METERS IN GRAIN VALLEY

All water meters installed in the city water system have radio read technology.

This allows the meter to be read remotely by a reading device. The City of Grain Valley currently reads water meters with a truck mounted device. The truck mounted device requires crews to drive the roads and collect all the reads on water meters. The 2020 budget includes funds for Grain Valley to upgrade to a new system. The new system will be a fixed base system. This will allow meter reads to be collected at intervals determined by the City and as needed. With this system, crews will no longer have to drive the routes to collect the reads. The new system will be partially installed by Public Works' Maintenance division. This will consist of placing equipment on existing assets such as the water towers. After installing equipment such as antennae and data collectors on the water towers, the tower will become a collection point. Then, the unit will send the data back to a collection point and computer at City Hall to be processed. Crews will be installing five

collection points strategically throughout the City based on a study conducted of the meter locations and topography of Grain Valley. Implementing this technology will help greatly with customer service. Utility customers will have access to daily readouts and can set alerts to identify usage issues such as leaks or increases. The fixed base system will allow customers to view detailed daily reports and even hourly reports if needed. The City will also be able to detect accounts with potential leaks or abnormal usages and inform the customer much earlier than before. This will give accurate data to be used by the City and the customer after fully implemented. The new technology will significantly decrease man hours of Public Works personnel that have in years' past been spent on reading meters. Call (816) 847-0091 or e-mail pmartin@cityofgrainvalley.org for more information or questions.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES

The City of Grain Valley has a vested interest in the senior citizens of this community.

We offer the following programs, discounts and opportunities for Grain Valley residents who are 65+:

- **OATS Transit** - available for residents who are senior citizens or age 18-64 with a disability. Rides cost only \$1 for each trip and are available MWF, 10:00 am-2:00 pm.
Rides can be scheduled by calling 816-380-7433 and include travel within the city limits of Grain Valley and Blue Springs.
- **Senior citizen luncheon** - including entertainment, informative presentations, meal and a free blood pressure check for a suggested donation of \$3 - 1st Wednesday of each month.
Call 816-847-6293 for more information.
- **Home delivered meals** - available to senior citizens who are homebound. The meals are coordinated by the Grain Valley Assistance Council and prepared by Cosentino's Price Chopper.
Call 816-355-0328 for more information.
- **Fitness center** - free admittance to the fitness center at the community center with access to all equipment.
Fitness classes are available for an additional charge, but many are free to members of SilverSneakers, Silver&Fit and Renew Active programs.
- **Utility bill discount** - available to residents who have provided identification and completed a senior discount form at the utility billing office.

CAMP FOCUS 2020



The inaugural Camp Focus took place last July.

The objective of the camp was to provide the youth of Grain Valley with an opportunity to experience positive interactions with law enforcement through education and mentoring. Attendees of Camp Focus completed intense training including lectures regarding internet safety, behavior science, drug & alcohol prevention, mental health information and life skills techniques. They took part in role-play situations, peer panels, and demonstrations.

Camp Focus was initiated by Chief James Beale as a unique opportunity for police officers to have facetime with local youth. He tasked School Resource Officers Dunnell, Iiams and Thompson with coordinating and implementing the camp with assistance from the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS).

Thanks to a grant presented to the Grain Valley Police Department by the Truman Heartland Community Foundation, Camp Focus will be expanded in 2020 to include two separate weeks and more than double the amount of young people who will be admitted into to the program. Applicants must have completed 6th grade or higher. The first week (July 13-17) will be for youth who are interested in pursuing a career in public service. The second week (July 20-24) will be for youth who are in need of additional guidance and/or behavioral management. This will be administered by using a strength-based model for conflict resolution, de-escalation and decision-making skills. For more information about how to apply, please stay tuned to the Grain Valley Police Department's Facebook page and look for information from the Grain Valley School District, later this spring.

City of Grain Valley, Missouri
711 Main Street

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STAY CONNECTED

FOR EVENTS, NEWS AND UPDATED INFO

City of Grain Valley, Grain Valley Parks & Recreation and Grain Valley Police Department are accessible on Facebook, Twitter and at www.cityofgrainvalley.org.

Upcoming Events

April 10 –19.....Storybook Trail
June 5.....Movie in the Park
June 18.....Community Development Event
August 4.....National Night Out

Paying your utility bill is easier than ever!

Visit www.cityofgrainvalley.org to print a bill, sign up for paperless billing, view account transactions & consumption history, "quick pay" or set up recurring payments.

GRAIN VALLEY CITY HALL
711 Main Street
info@cityofgrainvalley.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT
816-847-6250

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
816-847-6220

**PARKS & RECREATION/
COMMUNITY CENTER**
816-847-6230

ADMINISTRATION
816-847-6200

PUBLIC WORKS
816-847-0091
After Hours 816-990-1990

WATER & SEWER BILLING
816-847-6280