

# GRAIN VALLEY CITY VIEW

FALL/WINTER 2019-20



INCLUDING  
GRAIN VALLEY  
PARKS &  
RECREATION  
ACTIVITY GUIDE!



Grain Valley,  
Missouri  
*Come Home To Opportunity*

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

*I am proud to be part of this wonderful city.*



We know that Grain Valley has grown in leaps and bounds over the last two decades and we are excited to see what the future holds. Along with the growth we've observed with homes and businesses, our sense of community

continues to increase as well. We have seen more citizens taking an interest in local events and volunteer opportunities, which is why Grain Valley maintains its small-town charm.

Summer has flown by and the kids are back in school. I know many of our Grain Valley High School students did not want summer to end, but were quite excited to see the big changes that occurred at their school over the summer. The most recent phase of renovation was completed including a new main entrance, media center, courtyard and lecture hall. It is truly amazing what our school district and community have made happen for the growing student population.

Fall is my favorite season because it is when our biggest community events kick off, starting with the Grain Valley Fair, 2nd Annual Grain Valley Fair 5k and Parade all taking place September 6th-7th. Trail or Treat at Butterfly Trail, which is our largest community event, will be October 25th. Personnel from every department within the City of Grain Valley work together to make this event amazing for Grain Valley families and many who visit from other communities. The Holiday Festival has become a family tradition for many in Grain Valley as we come together to see the lighting of the Mayor's

Christmas tree, enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and listen to Christmas carols. This year, the Holiday Festival will be Thursday, December 5th at Armstrong Park. We hope to see you at all of these events!

We have been fortunate to have new businesses coming into the City and we encourage you to shop local. There are some great shops right here in Grain Valley to find gifts, home décor and even make your own pottery and other items. Cosentino's Price Chopper has been a welcome addition to our community, offering grocery shopping convenience as well as other services such as their floral and catering departments. Additionally, Price Chopper has become a great community partner, helping with several community outreach events for the City, Police Department, Home Delivered Meals with Grain Valley Assistance Council and with the School District. We are looking forward to the TempStop opening in late Fall. It will include two dining options – BluTaco and Champs Chicken. Within the next year, we'll also see the opening of a Taco Bell and a QuikTrip north of I-70.

I am impressed by the dedication our City staff and elected officials exhibit year after year as they serve our community. From the implementation of trail systems and programs by the Parks & Recreation Department, to keeping our streets cleared of snow by Public Works, City staff work hard to make Grain Valley a great place to live. The Police Department has implemented several new programs to continue to keep citizens safe and encourage more positive interactions with the officers. The Water Billing division has made many improvements with their payment system to make it more convenient for citizens to pay their utility bills.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to continue to serve this community as your Mayor. Please feel free to reach me with questions or concerns via email [mayor@cityofgrainvalley.org](mailto:mayor@cityofgrainvalley.org), by messaging me through the "Mayor Michael Todd" Facebook page or by calling me at 816-719-9436.

**–Mike Todd, Mayor**

## COMMUNITY FOR ALL AGES



*The City of Grain Valley is proud to be taking steps to be recognized as a “Community for All Ages,” by KC Communities for all Ages, the First Suburbs Coalition and Mid-America Regional Council (MARC).*

The program is designed to encourage communities in the Kansas City metro area to become more welcoming and accommodating to citizens of all ages. The overall age of our population has changed dramatically as communities have more older adults living in them than any other time in history.

The projected 55+ population in Jackson County will increase 56.8% from 2000-2030. In 2000, there were 81,981 residents 55+ in the county and by 2030 this number will reach nearly 130,000. Grain Valley City staff are working to look into current City

facilities, policies, programs and other amenities to determine how to best accommodate citizens of all ages. There are many common factors both young people and older adults consider to be of value in the community in which they reside: affordability, low-maintenance housing, walkability, mixed use development, transportation options and social engagement. These are some of the factors that will be considered as the City of Grain Valley becomes a Community for All Ages.



If you would like more information about Community for All Ages, please call 816-847-8293 or email [info@cityofgrainvalley.org](mailto:info@cityofgrainvalley.org).

## CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



*The Grain Valley Police Department offers an opportunity to the community each year in which citizens are invited to take part in a 10-week training (one evening per week), showcasing various aspects of law enforcement.*

*From left to right VIPS: Ken Hicks, Walter Little, Cindy Bell and Jerry Garcia*

The complete training is free of cost to participants, providing an opportunity to learn the day-to-day operations of police officers, including the laws that govern our City, use of force training, crime scene investigations, gang recognition, drug identification and more. The courses are conducted by Grain Valley police officers as well as officers from other area agencies. You must be 21 years or older and pass a background check to be eligible to attend the Academy. Citizens who complete the Citizens Police Academy are eligible to join the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). The VIPS are an integral

part of the operations of the Police Department and may be enlisted to assist officers in a variety of tasks including police/clerical assistance, detention/bonding, crime scene searches, community relations, traffic/parking, crowd control at events, search teams for lost children/adults, the community fair and parades. The 2020 Citizens' Police Academy will be held on Tuesdays, February 4th through April 14th.

If you are interested in enrolling, you must submit an application to the police department no later than January 15th, 2020. Applications can be acquired at the police department or by visiting [www.cityofgrainvalley.org](http://www.cityofgrainvalley.org). Call 816-847-6250 for more information.



## PUBLIC WORKS CREWS NEED YOUR HELP!

*Last winter, our streets saw more severe winter weather events than they had in many years.*

Grain Valley's Public Works personnel spent 1,000 hours collectively on snow removal during the winter season of 2018-19. They are on-call 24/7 during winter months, when hazardous road conditions are most likely to occur. They work around the clock, monitoring road and weather conditions and determining the best course of action to keep you safe. There are measures citizens can take to help crews throughout the winter:

1. Move vehicles, basketball goals, bicycles, etc. off roadways.
2. Ensure your mailbox is sturdy and up to postal code. Check out proper installation procedures at <https://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm>
3. Emergency snow routes are pertinent during major snow events as they are the first streets to be cleared to ensure emergency vehicles will be able to get through the City to those who need their services. Take notice of snow routes and their level of priority throughout the City (snow route map is viewable at [www.cityofgrainvalley.org](http://www.cityofgrainvalley.org)). Vehicles parked in emergency snow routes during a snow event, may be subject to towing.
4. Do not follow behind snow plows too closely.



5. When clearing your private driveway please shovel piles of snow on your property and not in the roadway. If placed in the road, unfortunately drivers sometimes inadvertently will place snow back in your driveway when clearing the roads.
6. Please give crews time to clear the roads. Public Works has two shifts with 3 route drivers per shift. With over 140 lane miles of roadway it can take up to 24 hours after the snow has stopped for crews to clear all residential roads and sometimes longer depending on the amount of precipitation.

When our community is under a winter weather warning, it is always best to stay home, if possible. However, if you must get out, please allow extra time for travel and be mindful that Public Works is working hard to keep you safe. The emergency snow routes will always be first priority as they are the highest trafficked roads under City jurisdiction. Citizens are encouraged to contact Public Works directly with concerns by calling 816-847-0091 or after hours, 816-990-1990.

## BLUE BRANCH TRAIL TO IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY



*The Blue Branch Trail project is underway and the first phase should be completed by late Fall 2019.*

The area for the trail extends from Buckner Tarsney Road, west to SW Eagles Parkway, running parallel to Blue Branch Creek. The area was cleared in Spring 2019 with base rock placed to mark the trail, but wet conditions prevented the pouring of the asphalt. When the trail is completed, it will be a 10-foot wide trail and just over a mile in length.

Additional improvements to the grounds around the new trail have been occurring over the last several years.

### **These improvements included:**

- The eradication of invasive and non-native plant species.
- The planting of prairie grasses and plants that were historically prevalent in this area.
- Over 4,000 new trees have been planted as part of this restorative effort.

- The addition of rock to areas of the creek and improvements to adjacent detention ponds was done to help reduce the erosion and flooding issues historically seen through that stretch of the Blue Branch Creek corridor.

In 2020, a pedestrian bridge will be added to the Blue Branch Trail. This is an integral part of the overall project as it will provide pedestrian connectivity from the Sni-A-Bar Farms neighborhood (the largest neighborhood in the City) to Sni-A-Bar Elementary, Grain Valley High School and the downtown corridor. If the Grain Valley Community Campus is approved by citizens for construction at the Sni-Bar-Farms property, the trail will eventually be extended to connect residents to it as well.

This network of recreational trails is a critical component of the City's Trail Master Plan that focuses on connecting neighborhoods to schools, schools to parks, and parks to the downtown corridor.

## POSSIBLE FUTURE FOR SNI-A-BAR PROPERTY



*The master plan for the Sni-A-Bar Farms property is being worked on by the City, in conjunction with Sapp Design and Helix Architecture & Design.*

McCownGordon has been retained as the construction manager at risk. The possible future location for the Grain Valley Community Campus will include City Hall, the Police Department and Community Center. City staff and elected officials have been consulted to determine the needs for a future community campus that will adequately accommodate our growing City. There have been visioning sessions in which business owners, school district staff, citizens and leaders from throughout the community discussed the initial stages of planning. Representatives from Sapp Design have been at community events that took place over the summer seeking public input as to what specific types of amenities and features they hope to see in a new community campus. Public meetings will be held this fall where the citizens of Grain Valley will be encouraged to express their ideas and ask questions about the possibilities of a future community campus.

Stay tuned to the City of Grain Valley's Facebook page and [www.cityofgrainvalley.org](http://www.cityofgrainvalley.org) for updates and for information about public meetings. If you have questions about the Grain Valley Community Campus, please send them to [info@cityofgrainvalley.org](mailto:info@cityofgrainvalley.org).

## CENSUS 2020

*The Census will be conducted on April 1, 2020.*

It is pertinent that citizens understand the significance of participating and how the results can affect communities. The ultimate goal of the 2020 Census is to "count everyone, only once, and in the right place." Census data is used to allocate more than \$675 billion to federal programs that directly impact all citizens of the United States. This funding can impact schools, roads, response to natural disasters, funding for hospitals, fire departments and more. For the first time, the Census may be completed online, in addition to responding by mail or by phone.

For more information about Census 2020 visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov).

### *On The Front Cover...*

**GRAIN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

*Photo courtesy of the Grain Valley school district*

**CITY STAFF AT THE GRAIN VALLEY FAIR PARADE**

**KIKI CLAPHAN**  
*at Trail or Treat*

**KARA EAKER WITH MAYOR TODD**  
*at the Holiday Festival*

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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](http://www.cityofgrainvalley.org).

## Upcoming Events

September 6th–7th .....Grain Valley Fair  
October 25th .....Trail or Treat  
December 5th .....Holiday Festival

### Paying your utility bill is easier than ever!

Visit [www.cityofgrainvalley.org](http://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](mailto:info@cityofgrainvalley.org)

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
816-847-6250  
[gvmopd@cityofgrainvalley.org](mailto:gvmopd@cityofgrainvalley.org)

**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