Sugar Creek Sweet Talk

Newsletter for Sugar Creek, Missouri • February 2020

Tax Dollars Used To Update HVAC Systems

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. 1128 or visit Sugar Creek on the web at **www.sugar-creek.mo.us**

SUGAR CREEK ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor
Mike Larson

Aldermen
Stanley J. Sagehorn
Robert Ray
Chuck Mikulich
Chris Steffen

City Administrator
Patrick Casey

City Clerk
Jana Olivarez-Dickerson

City Marshal
Christopher Soule

Fire Chief
Nathan Richardson

Finance Director
Christine McGhee

Building Official
Paul Loving

Parks and Recreation Director
Jack Sparks

Director of Public Works
Ed Layton

City Attorney
Jennifer Baird

Municipal Judge
Garry L. Helm

Municipal Court Admin
Peggy Doss



Sugar Creek City Hall was one of the five buildings selected for HVAC system replacement.

According to the old saying, "You have to spend money to make money."

Well, the City of Sugar Creek took the initiative a while back to invest your tax dollars in order to *save* money. And save they did.

According to Building Official Paul Loving, the city has been able to save $210,000 by replacing the HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) systems at five City buildings.

Here is the story.

"Ten years ago, the City buildings were operating with outdated, old, dilapidated heating and cooling systems," explained Loving. He said the City was spending a huge amount of money to keep the systems running between maintenance and repairs.

Thus, the process was started to find a program to upgrade the boiler-type systems. These systems were between 25- and 30-years-old.

Initially, estimates to replace the HVAC systems came in between $800,000 and $1.2 million.

Then it was discovered that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) started a program to help cities with utility expenses. The DNR was offering grants and loans to cities with "shovel ready" programs – meaning they had the plans in place and could start immediately.

As was the case for Sugar Creek.

However, it was about $700,000 beyond the City's reach to deal with all the buildings, said Loving.

So, they picked five buildings – the Public Works building, City Hall, the Onka building, the Public Safety building, and the Post Office – to improve and get the cost down to the $250,000 range. The City then applied for the grant and loan, the amount which would be determined by the DNR.

At first the City was offered a $16,000 grant and a loan for the balance of the five-building project.

Loving said it was then discovered that many of the cities applying for the program were not "shovel ready" whereas Sugar Creek was. So, in 2012, the City reapplied for the program.

Voila!

Sugar Creek was offered a $116,000 grant – which would not have to be paid back – and a loan for the remainder. The work was completed in 2012.

All debts have been paid, now the City can realize the investment.

Between the lower utility costs – in terms of electricity and gas – and maintenance costs, the City of Sugar Creek has saved $210,000 since the installation in 2012.

Though the DNR program is no longer offered, the city is searching for similar programs elsewhere to help with the HVAC system at the City's Gymnasium Building.

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR MIKE LARSON...

Council Meeting Minutes 12/9/2019

• A Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00 p.m. for the subject of discussing the increase in sewer rates. City Administer Pat Casey was the only witness sworn in. Mr. Casey explained the reason for the increases were two-fold. First, City of Independence water issued a 5-year scheduled yearly rate increase that Sugar Creek did not match from year to year and now the City is barely collecting enough to cover the costs. Currently, Independence is charging Sugar Creek $2.23 more per customer than the City is collecting. The Public Hearing was closed and the regularly scheduled Council Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

• The Consent Agenda which passed unanimously.

• In business from the floor, the Mayor wanted to recognize Mr. Jack Lasater for his yearly contribution of a case of apples to each of the City buildings. The Mayor wanted to thank Mr. Lasater for his thoughtfulness.

• Mrs. Baird, the City attorney, requested that the agenda be amended to include Bill 12-99-19 which would allow the City to raise sewer rates to Sugar Creek citizens. The motion was made and seconded and by unanimous voice vote the agenda was amended.

• There was a total of 10 ordinances offered to the Aldermen. One bill was removed as it should have been paid by one of the insurance companies for work completed by Byam Engineering. The remaining 9 ordinances passed unanimously.

Bill 12-90-19: Purchase of one Dodge Charger for the Police Department to replace the one that was wrecked. Through the diligence of Chief Soule, the insurance payment covered the cost of replacing the wrecked vehicle – passed unanimously.

Bill 12-91-19: Deleted

Bill 12-92-19: Approval to pay Holliday Sand and Gravel for de-icing salt - passed unanimously.

Bill 12-93-19: Approval to pay ACE Pipe Cleaning Inc. for CCTV and cleaning at 11422 Lexington - passed unanimously.

Bill 12-94-19: Approval to pay ACE Pipe Cleaning Inc. for CCTV and cleaning at 616 Forest - passed unanimously.

Bill 12-95-19: Approval of Water Termination Cooperative Agreement between the City of Sugar Creek and the City of Independence - passed unanimously.

Bill 12-96-19: Amends the City Code to address water shut-off to delinquent sewer services - passed unanimously.

Bill 12-97-19: Approval of a real estate contract between the City of Sugar Creek and Mr. John Dix for the purchase of the old Police and Fire building - passed unanimously.

Bill 12-98-19: Authorize transfer of funds from the Public Health Fund to the Sewer Fund for reimbursement of invoices paid to ACE Pipe Cleaning for sewer repair in the City - passed unanimously.

Bill 12-99-19: Authorizes the City to increase sewer rate charges for residential and commercial and industrial customers in the City of Sugar Creek - passed unanimously.

• The Mayor began his activity report by handing out a list of the activities he had been involved in since the last Council meeting. The Mayor pointed out that the Centennial T-shirts had arrived and distributed order forms. The Mayor mentioned that Mr. Caleb Teague had stopped by for his annual Truman Cup Bicycle Race wrap-up meeting. The City was presented with a check for $1300 to partially cover some of the City's cost in hosting the race. Mr. Teague then announced that he was stepping down from directing the Race and he was actively looking for his successor. He was offering the job to the City of Sugar Creek first. If the City was not interested in running the event, he would offer it to other Clubs that participate in the Race. Mr. Teague said he needed to appoint his successor by mid-January. The Mayor then handed out copies of the minutes of the BP-Sugar Creek quarterly meeting. Present at the meeting from BP were Mr. Ron Rybarczyk, Mr. Steve Gonzalski and Ms. Lori Lutrelle. Present from Sugar Creek were, Mr. Mike Larson, Mr. Pat Casey, Alderman Mikulich, Alderman Sagehorn, Mr. Ed Layton, Ms. Susan Davis, and Mr. Charlie Steele. The Mayor was present at the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting. Everything went off without a hitch. Santa and Mrs. C arrived in style. The lights came on because of the hard work of the Public Works Dept. There were plenty of activities for the kids to do compliments of the Fair Board. The hot dogs were well-done and the hot chocolate was hot due to the efforts of the Business and Civics Club. The kettle corn provided by Mr. Mitch Bosely was a hit for the third year in a row. A big thank you to Mr. Jack Sparks, our new Parks and Rec Director, who was afforded his first opportunity to oversee the Tree Lighting. Well done one and all.

• Alderman Mikulich commented on the BP meeting. EVERGY is falling right in line with KCPL and refuses to enter BP property to do any kind of electrical work. BP needs to get on the ball and get letters from EPA and/or MDNR that state that the area is free and clean of contaminates. Maybe BP can provide the training for the EVERGY crews. The City needs to closely examine the BP reuse agreement that Mr. Gonzalski continually references and see if the City is missing something.

• Chief Soule commented that the Tree Lighting was great. The Chief thanked Mr. Sparks for his hard work and communication on his first big project. Chief Soule also complimented Business and Civics Club for their efforts on another successful Tree lighting. The Chief wanted the community to know that the Police Dept was not laying off on any nuisance ordinances. Chief Soule wanted to hire Officer Daniel Standlee to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Captain Kline. The Aldermen voted unanimously to approve filling the vacancy.

• Mr. Layton wanted everyone to know that the Mike Onka Hall bathrooms were finished and looked wonderful.

• Mrs. McGhee handed out the most current updates on expenses and cash balances.

• Chief Richardson thanked everyone for the Employee Holiday luncheon.

• The Mayor and Mrs. Dickerson reported for Mr. Sparks as he was absent. Mr. Sparks thanked everyone for their help on the Tree Lighting. Looking forward to the Centennial Year activities. Moving forward with a 18-Hole Disc Golf at La Benite Park.

• Under Old Business, the Mayor handed out a summary of what other Cities due concerning short-term leases. The Mayor asked the Aldermen and any concerned citizen to put their ideas together with this list and see what we can come up with.

• Seeing no further business, the Aldermen voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

NEWS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

Fire Department

FIRESIDE CHAT– What is a Firefighter? The definition of a firefighter (noun) is: "A highly skilled man or woman who works to combat and extinguish fires. They also take steps to prevent fires, act as emergency medical technicians (EMT) and investigate the causes of fires. A firefighter is almost always the first official 'on the scene' of fires, car accidents, or other emergencies, which is why they are also sometimes called 'first responders.'"

Most firefighters are career professionals while others are Reserve firefighters or volunteer for duty within their communities. Sugar Creek currently employs 6 fulltime firefighters and 19 Reserve Firefighters, many that work at neighboring departments.

What does a Firefighter do? There are five primary responsibilities and duties – putting out fires, rescuing and caring for the sick and injured, inspections, working to prevent future fires, and investigating the sources of fires, especially in the case of suspected arson.

Fighting fires is commonly seen as the primary duty of firefighters, although it's the rarest of calls for most departments, fires also normally the most dangerous. After receiving notification that a fire is in progress, a firefighter will suit up in the appropriate safety gear before climbing aboard or driving one of several different types of fire apparatus. Pumper 1 and Pumper 2 carry and pump water, 750 gallons and 1000 gallons. These trucks are equipped with ladders, tools, extra hose, and medical equipment. For brush or grass fires, Bush 1 is a much lighter apparatus, allowing fire personnel to move over rough terrain but still able to carry 325 gallons of water.

In the case of an automotive accident that does not involve a fire, a firefighter will use their EMT training to care for the injured, stabilize the vehicle(s) and secure the scene before ambulances and police arrive. In some cases Rescue tools are needed to pry doors open or remove roofs of vehicles in extreme situations. Safety of the patient and all responders is the top priority when on scene of these calls.

Medical emergencies have become the bulk of the calls answered by fire personnel over the country. All of Sugar Creek's Firefighters are Missouri certified EMTs. These calls vary from cardiac arrest to small lacerations and assisting some citizens off the floor if needed. Sugar Creek's Pumper 1 will run the majority of these calls.

Sugar Creek Fire is also responsible for 9 miles or the Missouri River. These calls require the use of SCFD's rescue boat. All Fire personnel are trained in advanced river rescue and operation of the vessel in rescue situations. The Department recently purchased (through a donation from the American Legion Auxiliary) a set of swift water rescue and ice suits. All members of the department will be swift water rescued by the end of 2020.

A firefighter also educates the public. Many times this at the local elementary schools or through tours given to a variety of groups. Sugar Creek Fire also ensures that local businesses and rentals properties meet fire codes and make sure fire escapes, alarms, and sprinkler systems are in place and are in good working order by doing yearly inspections.

In addition to firefighting responsibilities, a firefighter must maintain fire apparatus, fire equipment, engage in regular drilling/training while keeping all certifications current with continued education and a variety of classes.

Stay safe, everyone.

— Lieutenant Brandon Smith, Sugar Creek Fire Department

Public Works

LANDFILL PERMIT PROCEDURES– What you need to know:

- Must be a resident of Sugar Creek and all city refuse charges are current and up to date.
- A current Sugar Creek utility bill must be presented at the time of obtaining a permit.
- Maximum number of daily permits shall be four (4) in a calendar year. Additional permits may be issued at the discretion of the public works director.
- Residents using haulers other than themselves must call ahead to approve hauler to pick up permit.
- All waste material being hauled to the landfill must be in compliance with the regulations that govern what items may be placed into a sanitary landfill as determined by state law. NO batteries, white goods, appliances, paint, or hazardous materials. For the full list contact Courtney Ridge Landfill.
- Permits for the landfill are only issued to property that is located in city limits of Sugar Creek. All refuse must be coming from the address located in Sugar Creek.

TRASH TOTTER NOTICE– Please do not overload trash totters. Totters are intended for household trash only. No construction debris, yardwaste or hazardous waste should be placed in totters.

SIDEWALK SNOW– The adjacent property owners are responsible for clearing and maintaining their sidewalks during a snow event. We ask that both business and residential owners maintain their sidewalks for safe pedestrian travel.

Per Ordinance No. 105, § 1, 1-4-22

Sec. 27-55. - Clearing of snow, ice, etc., required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to fail, neglect or refuse to keep the sidewalk or the gutter in front of the buildings, tenements, rooms or real property owned or occupied by him or her, or under his or her management or control, swept clean of mud, filth, dirt or snow and ice, and clear and clean from weeds and grass.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS– During times of emergencies from Public Works – such as trash cancelation, water breaks, special announcements, or street closures – the department will utilize the city's FaceBook page, City website and "This Week In the Creek."

— Sue Mikula, Public Works Administrative Assistant

Parks & Recreation

COMMUNITY POTLUCK– Tuesday, February 11, at Mike Onka Hall, 11520 Putnam. Lunch will be vegatable soup; please bring a side dish if possible. Otherwise a $5.00 donation would be greatly appreciated. Lunch will begin at 12:00 p.m.

CLUB WALK– Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Held at Sugar Creek Gym for those who want to stay in shape and keep exercising even during inclement weather. ***PLEASE NOTE: Walking will be suspended in the event the Gym is closed for any of the following reasons: Independence School District is closed due to weather, Sugar Creek City Offices are closed, or remodeling has started on the gym.***

ZUMBA CLASS– Monday and Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Sugar Creek Gym. Cost: $5.00 per class. Please wear comfortable shoes and don't forget to bring water. Certified licensed instructor Krystal Thompson, krystalthompson300@msn.com.

— Jack Sparks, Parks and Recreation Supervisor

City Community Garden



Spring is just around the corner, which means it's time to start planning at the Sugar Creek Community Garden across from City Hall! Come join us for our 7th season of growing organic vegetables and fruit. Want more information? Contact Sandy Mikulich at 461-3528.

• RESIDENTS, PLEASE NOTE •

SEWER RATE INCREASE

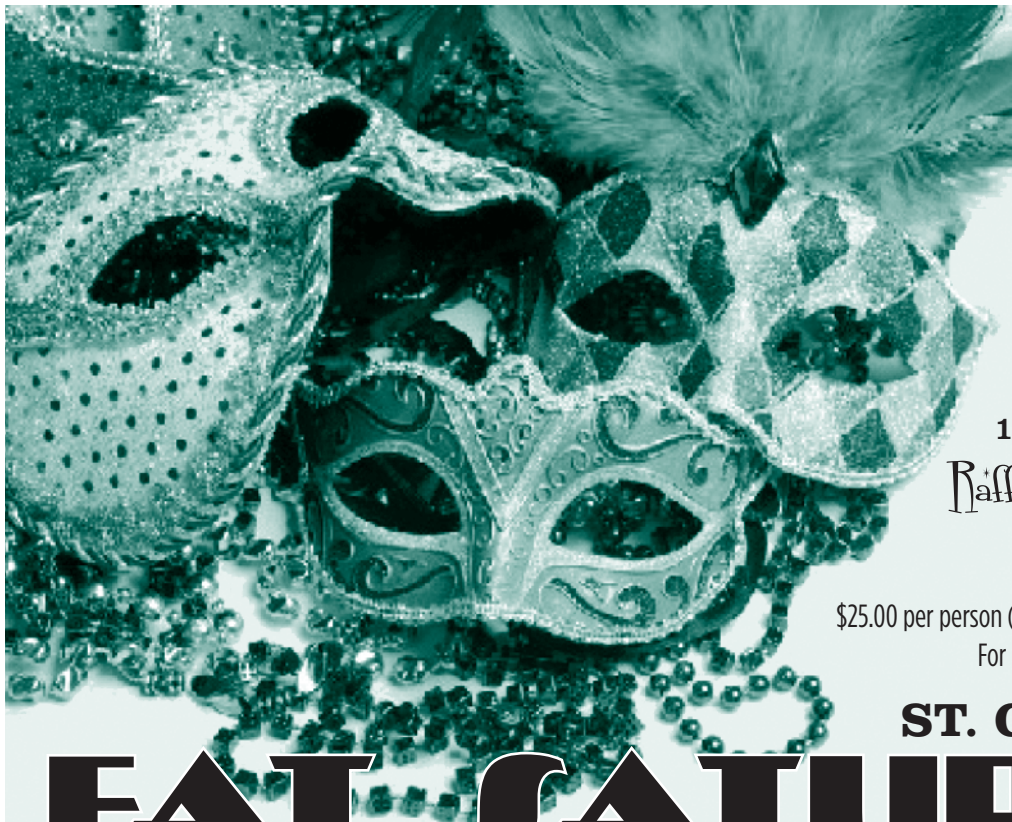
The residential and commercial/Industrial users in the City of Sugar Creek will see a monthly sewer increase beginning January 1, 2020. This increase will appear on utility bills beginning February 2020. Senior Citizen discounts of $1.00 still apply. The increase is due to the City of Independence adjusting the wholesale rate for waste water treatment. An outline of the sanitary sewer rate schedule is available upon request.

— Patrick C. Casey, City Administrator

PRIMACY FEES 2020

The annual charge for the Water Primacy Fee and Sewer Connect Fee are on the bill that will be received in February, 2020. The City remits these fees to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Water primacy fees are used to insure safe drinking water and the sewer connect fees are used for pollution control.

— Marline Gonzalez, Utility Clerk



Come Celebrate Mardi Gras Sugar Creek style!

February 22 • 6:30 p.m.
Mike Onka Hall
11520 Putnam, Sugar Creek

Raffle, auction, door prizes & fun!!

Music by the Sugar Creek Tamburitzans
Ticket includes: Dinner, beer, wine, set-ups
$25.00 per person ($30.00 at the door) • Children age 6 – 12 $12.00
For more information, call Debbie Ray 816-461-4877

ST. CYRIL'S CHURCH

FAT SATURDAY

Fundraiser Dinner and Dance

NEIGHBORLY NEWS

Life of Kolich Remembered

Theresa Joan (Povala) Kolich beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and sister passed away December 15, 2019.



The Sweet Spot of Missouri otherwise known as Sugar Creek, Missouri is where Joan was born on August 4, 1930 to John Povala and Agnes Mary (Diesko) and where she continued to live out most of her 89 years.

Joan attended Sugar Creek grade school where she later served as school nurse. Joan attended Northeast High School, received a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and completed her Master's Degree in Public Health. Her career and volunteer work were extensive and truly impressive.

Joan loved life and loved to dance. She met Edward Kolich at a Halloween dance in Sugar Creek. They were married August 1, 1953 at St. Cyril's Catholic Church. They glided, dipped, swirled and two-stepped through fifty-three years of life together.

Joan was proceeded in death by her Father and Mother and her husband Ed Kolich.

She is survived by her sister Mary Agnes Onka; five children, thirteen grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren. Joan Kolich's family expresses it sincere gratitude to the staff and caregiver of Stratford Commons Rehab and Health Care Center in OP KS. She will be missed, but all who knew her, know that there is now a guardian angel watching over us always.

Beal Will Be Missed

Mary Rose Beal, age 86, of Lee's Summit, MO, passed away on December 29, 2019, surrounded by her family.



Mary was born on October 28, 1933 in Sugar Creek, MO, one of 12 children born to Mate and Mandica Butkovich. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in Independence, MO. On November 13, 1954, Mary and Jack E. Beal took their vows as husband and wife, and they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this past November. In addition to maintaining a household and raising seven children, Mary also worked for the Kansas City Missouri Public School District for 35 years. She first started as a cook and was then promoted to cafeteria manager. Over the course of her career, Mary worked at Carlisle Elementary School, Sugar Creek Elementary School and Van Horn High School.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, five brothers, two sisters and a grandson.

Survivors include her husband, one brother, one sister, one daughter, six sons, 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

The City of Sugar Creek reminds all residents...

PLEASE BE SURE TO RECYCLE



At the library...

FEBRUARY 2020

■ open tech time

Every Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Do you have questions about computers? Did you recently get a new device and don't know where to start? We can help! Join us for Open Tech Time, where staff will assist you with setting up an email account, searching the internet, navigating popular websites, downloading apps on a smartphone and much more. No registration is required.

■ after lunch book group

The After Lunch Book Group meets every second Thursday of the month from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to discuss a variety of books. Come join us. It is free and open to the public. Ask at the service desk for this months book title. No registration is required.

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday - Thursday ..... 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday and Saturday ..... 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday ..... Closed

March 6, 2020

Sugar Creek Downtown Organization will be recognized as the Organization of the Night at the Kansas City Mavericks! Support the Sugar Creek Downtown Organization by purchasing tickets to the Kansas City Mavericks! $5 of every ticket purchased through this offer goes back to the organization.

Let's sell a bunch of tickets and have a great time!

Purchase tickets online at
www.kcmavericks.com/sugarcreek

If unable or prefer not to purchase online, contact Sugar Creek Downtown Organization at sugarcreekdowntown@gmail.com or 443-567-8143 and we will work with you to get tickets.

Sugar Creek DownTown
A Missouri Main Street Organization

KANSAS CITY MAVERICKS

Sweet Talk

February 2020 Calendar

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

BE SURE TO REMEMBER...
CLUB WALK: Monday-Friday, 8:30-10 a.m. at the Sugar Creek Gym
ZUMBA CLASS: Every Mon. & Wed., 6-7 p.m. at the Sugar Creek Gym - $5.00/class

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
						1
2 GROUNDHOG DAY ***VFW Post 3976 Breakfast***	3 6:00 p.m. Centennial Action Committee Meeting – City Hall	4	5	6	7 Republic Refuse & Yardwaste Pick–Up	8
9	10 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	11 **12:00 p.m. Community Pot Luck at Mike Onka Hall** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Municipal Court Police and Fire Building	12	13 7:00 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission Public Hearing and Meeting	14 Republic Refuse & Yardwaste Pick–Up	15
16	17 **PRESIDENT'S DAY** ***All City Offices Closed***	18 6:00 p.m. Parks & Rec Advisory Board Meeting – City Hall *Delinquent date for utilities*	19	20	21 Republic Refuse & Yardwaste Pick–Up	22 **6:30 p.m. St. Cyril's Fat Saturday Fundraiser Mike Onka Hall**
23	24 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	25 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Municipal Court Police and Fire Building	26	27	28 Republic Refuse & Yardwaste Pick–Up *Past due notification date*	29