

RESIDENTIAL SALT USAGE

Salt Improves Winter Driveway Conditions but harms Ecosystems

Keeping roads and parking areas free of ice and snow is an essential part of modern life. However, road salt – one of the main tools used to achieve this task – contains chloride as its principal ingredient, in both sodium chloride and potassium chloride based products. Chloride does more than melt snow and ice; it negatively impacts local lakes and rivers.

As snow and ice melt, they drain into landscaped areas or storm sewers, and then to natural bodies of water. Waters from a deiced area contain high levels of chlorides, which do not degrade, and there is no cost effective way to remove it. Excessive levels of chlorides can severely impair the ability of plants to absorb water and nutrients. These negative effects are common to both aquatic and terrestrial plants in residential gardens, landscaped areas and rivers. Fish and other aquatic organisms are then impacted by the decline in the habitat. In surface waters, such as lakes, ponds, and streams, salt can harm or kill aquatic life, including fish and plants.

What can I do to help?

- Shovel (or use a snow blower) before you use any product; never put deicing product on top of snow.
- Adopt the “Just Enough” principle, putting down just enough product to keep high traffic areas clear of ice.
- Sweep up un-dissolved product after a storm is over for reuse.
- Consider switching to a non-chloride deicer.
- Support changes by your municipality to minimize salt usage.
- Inform a neighbor about the impacts chlorides have in our streams and rivers.

The above information was provided by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Division of Environmental Compliance.

Youth Baseball

Calling all kid-o's! Come out and learn the great American pastime. The City of Sunset Hills will be offering a youth baseball league for kids, ages 5-8 years old. A T-Ball division for 5-6 year olds will be played on Monday nights. A Coach Pitch division for 7-8 year olds will be played on Thursday nights, with practices on Tuesday nights. Volunteer coaches needed, what a great way to bond with your kids! The 2010 season will start the week of May 10th. Registration forms will be available at the park office on March 1st. The cost is \$40 per child. All games will be played at the Sunset Hills Athletic Complex. For more information, go to www.sunset-hills.com <<http://www.sunset-hills.com>> or contact the park office at 314-842-7265.



Valentine Designer Cookie Decorating

Explore the popular art of rolled fondant. There is no limit to the decorations you can make on your Valentine cookies when you learn to roll, tint and cut fondant designs. We will make the cookie dough, cut out the cookies and then decorate. Apply everything you learn to the beautiful cookies that will be yours to take home. All supplies will be provided.

For Ages 9 and above
(Children and Adults are Welcome)

When: February 13

Time 10am – 12pm

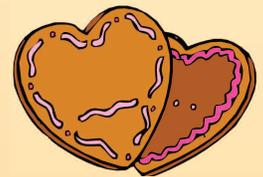
Location: Activity Center

Fee: \$30.00 for Residents

\$35.00 for Non Residents

Instructor: Jeannie Gearin

Minimum 6 students Maximum 16 students



Municipal Election

Tuesday, April 6, 2010 is Municipal Election Day. Candidate filing for office closes at 5:00 p.m. on January 19, 2010. At the time of printing, the following individuals had filed for office: Mayor – Mike Svoboda (incumbent), William J. (Bill) Nolan, Jr. and Mary B. Wymer; Alderman Ward 1 – Franklin A. Hardy, Jr. (incumbent); Alderman Ward 2 - Thomas Hrastich (incumbent) and Alderman Ward 3 – Stephen M. Webb (incumbent).

ALDERMANIC REPORT

Business conducted at the January 12th Board of Aldermen meeting.

The Board passed two ordinances:

Ord. No. 1765 – An ordinance amending Section 19-44 Swim and Dive Advisory Committee of the Code of Ordinances by deleting subsection (a) thereof and enacting a new subsection (a).

Ord. No. 1766 – An ordinance approving the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission STP – Urban Program Agreement for West Watson Road and Rott Road Improvements Project by and between the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the City of Sunset Hills.

February 9, 2010 Aldermanic Meeting

The following bill is scheduled for a second reading

Bill No. 19 – An ordinance defining additional

vegetation nuisances.

Any new business and/or PUBLIC HEARINGS to be brought before the Board will be dependent on action taken by the Planning and Zoning Commission at its meeting. Please see the Planning and Zoning agenda article for further information.

For any of our residents who may in the past have wished to attend a City meeting but have not done so because of a special need, i.e. hearing, sight impairment, etc., the City is pleased to announce that, with proper notice, we will make arrangements to accommodate your needs. In general we will need at least ten days notice prior to the meeting date.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

January 6th Agenda:

No items were submitted. A meeting was not held in January.

February 3rd Planning and Zoning Agenda:

- P-01-10** Petition for an Amended Development Plan submitted by Lucia's Pizza to construct a freezer addition as well as the addition of a vestibule to their building located at 10989 Gravois Industrial Drive.
- P-02-10** Petition for a Text Amendment to the City's Zoning Regulations, specifically Appendix B, Section 5.13-6 Installation and maintenance of landscaped areas, specifically regarding the establishment of a timeframe for the installation of landscape areas.

- There will be a Public Hearing on P-01-10 and P-02-10 at the February 9th Board of Aldermen meeting.

Any new business and/or PUBLIC HEARINGS to be brought before the Board will be dependent on action taken by the Planning and Zoning Commission at its meeting. Please see the Planning and Zoning agenda article for further information.

NOTE: Please check the website www.sunset-hills.com or call Trish Moore at 314-849-3400 prior to any meeting to make sure items have not been postponed or withdrawn from the agenda.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

December 15th Agenda

A meeting was not held in December.

January 28th Agenda

There has not been any items submitted for this meeting, therefore a meeting will not be held.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minnie Ha Ha Park

Legend has it that Minnie Ha Ha is one of the most historic sites in Sunset Hills. The name Minnie Ha Ha in the Sioux Language means Babbling Brook. And the name Minnie Ha Ha was the name of an Indian chief. The name of the river Mahr-ah mac meant "Waters of a bitter spring or waters of death." Either name would fit as it was treacherous and there were salt and sulphur springs that flowed into the river. The Meramec River in the 1800s and beyond was a clear sparkling stream with coarse gravel beaches and bottom of the river would shift, with the under currents making it very treacherous. Many Indian tribes crossed the river to the easily accessible landing site on the Sunset Hills side of the river. An 1800 Census showed 450 Indians in the area. (A monument was placed in 2009 to mark the landing spot). In 1833 a ferry ran from Ferry Street across the river to the area between the Bridge on Hwy. 30 to the one that is slated to be torn down. The ferry was replaced by a series of bridges. A covered toll bridge replaced the ferry. Traffic picked up and a more sturdy bridge was built in 1855, which was a wooden bridge built for horse and carriages and was quite noisy. Later the floor of the bridge was covered with metal strips in hopes it would muffle the horse and carriage noise. That bridge was replaced in 1925 and served Fenton until 1959 when the old iron bridge was built at a cost of \$19,000 and was in use until 2007.

Since this was the only bridge between the Mississippi River and Valley Park it was quite popular as city dwellers had discovered Minnie Ha Ha and would drive out for a day or weekend as it was becoming a resort. Soldiers from Jefferson Barracks would march from The Fort to the bridge for crossing. There is interesting Civil War History involving the bridge that was built in 1855.

Minnie Ha Ha became quite a resort in the early 1900s. Mr Henry Otto and Mr Bessinger owned much of the land along the river. When Mr. Bessinger died he left 51% of his holdings to Floyd Otto, Mr. Bessingers son. Gussie Busch provided funding to have one half of Gravois Road paved, which made it accessible for the city dwellers. Some would camp, others built club houses and some would now come for a day.

Mr. Otto had a dance pavillion, a small zoo and in the 1920s there were 15 slot machines. In the 1940s Mr. and Mrs. Otto purchased property and built a larger concession stand/grocery store. There was a place for dancing and boat docks along the river. The underbrush was cleared out and the tree trunks were painted white. Picnic tables dotted the shores. The Red Cross provided life guards on weekends, some times as many as 20 life guards in one day. While it was a nice family place the river claimed many lives even with all the help. The beach was also a spot where many baptisms took place. Rumor has it that when the last baptism took place the bottom of the river shifted and the man being baptized went under and drowned. That ended baptisms in the area. The invention of home swimming pools became popular as they began to spring up in Parks, and the charm of Minnie Ha Ha waned.

Then Gypsies took over the park. They were most unwelcome guests as they were reported to steal from the stores in Fenton, as well as pigs and chickens from farmers and were unruly as a whole. They would use the green river willows to make lawn furniture. The furniture looked great when it was new. However as it dried out and fell apart it was useless. The Gypsies eventually moved on and the park fell into a state of disrepair and was pretty much abandoned until the year 2000 when the City of Sunset Hills purchased it. The area that once was an Indian trail, wagon train and stage coach path, the highway came through and the property was developed into a very unique park. There is something there for every age group to enjoy.

The Sunset Hills Parks Department utilized the green space and surroundings to the fullest. Minnie Ha Ha Park is a one of a kind in the area and is enjoyed by residents and neighbors. Minnie Ha Ha is truly a jewel in the rough and another asset for the city.

For more information read your book "The History of Sunset Hills". Residents may obtain a copy free with proof of residency. Other interested friends may get a copy for \$5.00 each.



CRESTWOOD SUNSET-HILLS
AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber of Commerce asks you to support the businesses that support this community.

Please visit the Chamber website at www.ourchamber.com to see a list of member businesses. Thank you!

BRIDGE CLUB

The Drop in Bridge Club meets every Monday and Thursday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. in the Activity Center in Watson Trail Park, 12450 W. Watson. **New members are welcome.**

CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club meets in the Watson Trail Park Activity Center on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. – Noon. Beginner or advanced, players are invited to join the fun.



LUNCH AND BINGO

Mid-County Muni Lunch and Bingo is held the first Thursday of the month. We meet for two hours of bingo, socializing and lunch. Advance phone registration is required. All lunch and bingos are held at Webster Groves Recreation Complex, 33 E. Glendale unless otherwise noted.



First Thursday of the Month
11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Fee: MCM Res/Non-Res \$5.00/\$7.00 day of
Register with Webster Groves (314) 963-5600

Registration Deadline; One week in advance

2010 SUMMER JOBS

The City of Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Dive Coach – Pool Front Desk – Pool Snack Bar- Lifeguards

Applicants must be 16 years old. Applications are available in the Park Office located in the Activity Center in Watson Trail Park.

Softball Registration

As the snow melts, it's time to start thinking warm thoughts of summer! What better way to do that than getting a team together for the timeless game of softball! Recreational as well as competitive leagues are offered in both Men's and Coed categories. All leagues are doubleheader format. We will be using U.S.A. umpires so be sure to check their website for bat regulations. Cost is \$400.00 per team for 10 games plus playoffs. Registration for returning teams begins February 1st; all new teams may register after March 1st.

Let's get Energized

Improve your flexibility and stamina! Come and try our two new classes, Yoga and Pilates. These wonderful mind and body classes will change your body and leave you relaxed and energized! Classes taught by Artie Heizer, National Certified Personal Trainer, Yoga and Pilates Instructor. Join us at Watson Trail Park Activity Center 12450 W. Watson.

Yoga Mondays: 10:15am – 11:15am

Pilates Wednesday: 10:00am – 11:00am

*Yoga/Pilates Tuesday & Thursday 7:00pm-8:00pm

Outdoor Exercise Tuesday & Thursday: 8:15am-9:15am

Purchase a punch card for any 10 classes

Location: Watson Trail Park

Cards are \$100.00

*Evening classes start February 2, 2010

Outdoor exercise classes meet on the basketball court in the Watson Trail Park.

For more info call Artie Heizer at 314-581-0092.

Water Aerobics Classes

The Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Department will be offering water aerobics classes at the Days Inn (Indoor) Pool. Classes will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday beginning at 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

This shallow water total body guided exercise class is designed to increase cardiovascular endurance, muscle tone and flexibility in a refreshing and fun atmosphere. Hand held weights, noodles, and kickboards will be provided.

Cost: Residents \$6.00 per class or you can purchase a punch card which entitles you to 9 classes for \$50.00.

Non-Residents \$7.00 per class or you can purchase a punch card which entitles you to 9 classes for \$60.00.

Register by calling the Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Office at 314-842-7265.

ARGOSY ALTON CASINO AND FAST EDDIES BON AIRE

Join us as we try our luck at the first casino in the St. Louis Area, the Argosy Alton Casino. Before we head to the casino, we'll stop by the legendary Fast Eddie's Bon Aire for something to eat (lunch is on your own). Fill up on the 99 cent Fast Eddie Burger or the 29 cent Peel and Eat Shrimp or anything else

your heart desires. After you're full, we will head to the casino for an afternoon of fun. This trip is sure to be a winner! Transportation will be by van.

Friday - March 19, 2010 – 10:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fee: MCM Res. \$25.00; Non-Res. \$30.00

Register with Webster Groves by March 10, 2010 Call 314- 963-5600

PROGRESSIVE LUNCH AND SCAVENGER HUNT

Join the adventure as we eat our way around the yet to be disclosed destination, and crown the winner or our mystery scavenger hunt. We will enjoy salad, appetizers, soup, an entrée and desert, each from a different cuisine and restaurant, while visiting parts of the area you may not get to see very often. All food and transportation by Mini Gus is provided but bring some cash for beverages and shopping.

Thursday, February 18, 2010 – 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Fee: MCM Res. \$50.00; Non-Res. \$55.00

Register with Crestwood by February 9, 2010 Call -314-729-4860

ROCKIES HIGHLIGHTS BY TRAIN

Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation and Collette Tours presents Rockies Highlights by Train. On August 12-20, 2010 for \$3,249 per person 9 days, which includes 11 meals: 6 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch and 4 Dinners.

Listen to the peaceful sounds of a bygone era while natural beauty dances to life before your eyes in a scenic wonderland; it's a veritable journey back in time as you travel from Vancouver to Jasper. Relax and discover the delight of overnight training aboard VIA Rail's The Canadian. Heralded in 1955 as "the first and only all-stainless steel 'dome' streamliner in Canada," The Canadian has been exceeding passenger expectations ever since. Enjoy first-class meals and awe-inspiring Canadian Rockies vistas during the day. Spend the night in the comfort of your own bed inside a private sleeping room that includes a private bath. From the moment you board VIA Rail's The Canadian, you'll embrace the nostalgia of a golden era as rail lines trace history while whisking you through scenery far removed from the highway.

For more information call Collette Tours at 1-877-760-7614 or Sunset Hills Parks at 314-842-7265.

Parents Night Out

Parents, what would you do with three kid free hours? The City of Sunset Hills is offering parents the opportunity to have a few hours to themselves at an affordable price! Go out to dinner, a movie, or just go back home for some R & R! Whatever the plan, take ease in knowing your children are in good hands! Snacks and games provided! Space is limited to 15 kids.

February 12, 2010 6:00-9:00p.m.

Ages: 4 – 12 years old

Fee: \$20.00

Adult Strength & Flexibility Class

The Sunset Hills Parks & Recreation Department is offering a Strength & Flexibility class in the Park Office on Monday & Wednesday evenings from 7:00p.m.—8:00p.m. Starting February 1, 2010. Participants will receive instruction on exercises designed to challenge all major muscle groups; enhancing and increasing range of motion, flexibility, balance & strength. Floor, chair, and standing exercises will be taught. Please bring your own mat or thick towel. Purchase a punch card for any 10 classes for \$100.00

Amazing Balloon Creations!

You won't believe how much fun you can have with balloons! You'll learn to twist many different animal balloons. You'll master yo yo balloons, put a super ball inside a balloon so it bounces, launch a rocket balloon, a flying saucer balloon,.... You get to take home your balloon creations each week! In learning

balloon art, students will do some reading and jot notes in their balloon notebooks. So in addition to having fun learning balloon creations, they'll hone their reading and writing skills a bit too. Class culminates with the students putting on an exhibition of their balloon crafting talents for their families.

Fridays January 29th thru March 5th 2010
4:15 p.m.-5:15p.m. \$75.00/child

Swim & Dive Team Sign Up

The City of Sunset Hills will once again be offering a Swim and Dive Team Program. All practices will be held at Sunset Hills Watson Trail Park Pool. We will begin taking registration for the 2010 season starting April 1st. All participants must be registered by May 15th to ensure a spot on the team.

Pool Member Fees: \$95 Swim OR Dive Team
\$115 Swim AND Dive Team

Non-Pool Member Fees: \$145 Swim OR DiveTeam
\$165 Swim AND Dive Team

- \$10.00 discount for each additional child.
- Pool Member is identified as an individual who has purchased a season pass to the Sunset Hills Aquatics Facility for the summer of 2010.

Aquatics Facility and Community Center Construction Update

- 12-01-09 - Construction is underway. The old pool has been removed. The bath house is being

retrofitted for the pumps and piping required for the new pool systems. Most of the retaining wall footings and a section of wall has also been poured. Much of the storm sewer work for both sites is well underway. The basement of the new Park Activity Center has been dug and is receiving rock in preparation to start on the footings for the foundation of the new structure.

- 12-22-09 - The pool piping work continues, the retaining wall structure is in place, rough grading for the lazy rider has been accomplished, the south addition to the bath house foundation forms are in construction and site grading work continues. On the Community Center, site grading and storm sewer work continues, footings are being dug and are half poured with foundation forms starting now too.

- 1-14-10 - Pool piping work continues and is out into the area of the Lazy River. Grading for the floor of the Lazy River continues. Excavation of the competition pool is now underway. Foundation walls for the Community Center are being formed & poured. Roughly 1/4 of these walls are now in place. The cold & snowy weather last week did hamper the progress of both projects.

Tai Chi Class

The City of Sunset Hills Parks & Recreation Department will be offering a Tai Chi class. Tai Chi is a healthy - no impact exercise that has continuous, slow, circular and deliberate movements with strong emphasis on relaxation. Wednesday, February 17th from 6:30 - 7:15pm. Please contact Park office at 314.842.7265.

Waste Collection Information

With the changing over to a single hauler within the City and the new City Ordinance, here are a few facts for your information.

Storage a. The occupant of every dwelling unit shall provide sufficient and adequate containers for the storage of all solid waste. Bins can be rented from the hauler for \$3.00 per month.

b. The occupant of every dwelling unit shall place all solid waste to be collected in proper solid waste containers and shall maintain the area surrounding the containers in a clean, neat and sanitary condition at all times.

c. All containers shall be leak proof, waterproof, and fitted with a fly-tight lid and shall be properly covered at all times except when depositing waste or removing the contents.

d. Except while permitted to be located at the curb for collection by the Contractor, all containers shall be located behind all street frontages of the main building on the parcel or in a manner in which such containers are not visible from the street.

e. Collection of yard waste, at a maximum of ten biodegradable paper bags or ten marked lidded trash containers supplied by

residents, will be picked up at the front curb line on the same day as the solid waste and recycle. Yard waste will be picked up weekly for those residents that elect to receive this service. Brush and tree limbs are to be tied into bundles no longer than four (4) feet in length and having a diameter no greater than 18 inches. Limbs and bundles must be of a weight to be carried easily and safely by one man.

f. Recycle is part of the basic service to be provided for all residents. Recycle containers can be obtained through the trash hauler at no charge.

Schedule of Pickups

a. No collection shall occur on the six annual legal holidays. Each pick up day of the holiday week will be serviced one day late.

b. Any containers, tree limbs, yard waste, bulky items, white goods or other solid waste permitted by Chapter 12 of the Sunset Hills Code of Ordinances to be placed at the curb for collection shall not be left at the curb any time other than from 4:30 p.m. the evening before the scheduled pickup to 11:00 p.m. the evening of the scheduled pickup.

Prohibited Acts

a. Burn solid waste.

b. Engage in the business of collecting, transporting, processing or disposing of solid waste within the corporate limits of the City without a contract from the City.

c. Dispose of any solid waste in any manner other than by depositing it in approved containers for pickup by the collector.

d. Dispose of solid waste generated offsite or at another property.

e. Fail to have solid waste collected as provided in Chapter 12 of the City of Sunset Hills Code of Ordinances. .

A "Residential Recycling" flyer was included in the December newsletter. If you have misplaced yours, feel free to pick another one up at City Hall. This flyer may also be emailed by sending a request to Trish Moore at pmoore@sunset-hills.com or Rebecca Wulff at rwulff@sunset-hills.com. Recycling containers are still available through American Eagle Waste Hauler. Please contact them at 314-631-8381 if you need a recycle cart. Feel free to visit American Eagles website at www.americaneaglewaste.com for more information.

Are you interested in receiving the newsletter via e-mail? If so, provide us with your email address. We will be compiling a list through the end of March 2010. Please submit to Trish Moore at pmoore@sunset-hills.com.



3939 South Lindbergh
Sunset Hills, Missouri 63127

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TREE TRIMMING

Between December 13, 2009 and the end of March 2010, the City's Street Department will be trimming trees that are hanging into and over the City's right-of-way. The trimming is necessary so that the streets can be effectively treated with salt and cleared of snow during the winter months. The area that must be cleared is any vegetation within the area above the pavement up to 13 feet, which is the height of the City's trucks.

AMERICAN EAGLE WASTE

Twice a year bulky pickup is included in your basic trash service. If you would like to have a bulky pickup, please contact American Eagle directly to schedule the pickup. American Eagle can be reached at 314-631-8381.

CALENDAR FEBRUARY

- 2 Feb** – Public Works Committee – 7:00 p.m. – Public Works Conference Room
- 3 Feb** – Planning & Zoning Commission – 7:30 p.m. – Assembly Room
- 9 Feb** – Board of Aldermen – 7:00 pm – Assembly Room
- 15 Feb** – Pool Advisory Board – 7:00 p.m. – Park Activity Center
- 15 Feb** – Advisory Tree Board – 7:00 p.m. – Public Works Conference Room
- 17 Feb** – Business Development – 7:00 p.m. – Public Works Conference Room
- 22 Feb** – Historical Society – 7:00 p.m. – Assembly Room
- 23 Feb** – Board of Aldermen – 7:00 p.m. – Assembly Room (If required)
- 24 Feb** – Park Commission – 7:00 p.m. - Park Activity Center
- 25 Feb** – Board of Adjustment – 7:00 pm – Assembly Room

NOTE: City offices will be closed on Monday, February 15 for Presidents Day.

Aldermen Directory

Mayor

Mike Svoboda 842-2021

Ward I

Frank Hardy 965-3762
Bill Nolan. 966-0504

Ward II

Scott Haggerty. 842-2121
Tom Hrastich 849-5497

Ward III

Jan Hoffmann 842-5866
Stephen Webb 843-9263

Ward IV

Frank Gregory. 842-7549
Patricia Fribis 849-2022

Important Numbers

City Hall. 849-3400
Parks & Recreation Dept. . 842-7265
Pool 842-SWIM
Emergency
Police 911
Fire. 911
Ambulance 911
Police Information. 849-4400
Vacation Watch 849-7867