JANUARY 2008, ISSUE NO. 593

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#### Mayor's Memo

#### Year End 2007 Report of the Mayor

To guide our efforts during 2008 and in the future, the municipal government should affirm its commitment to the following goals

- Celebrate and enhance the residential character of the community by strict residential zoning enforcement and protection and expansion of green-space.
- Improve property values of the entire community by demanding excellence in the delivery of cost effective public services such as Parks, Public Works and Public Safety.
- Provide the necessary funding to achieve our goals by using appropriate public policy to improve the competitive advantages of our commercial core while remaining fiscally conservative.

As calendar year 2007 is closed, it is appropriate to review performance of your municipal government toward these goals.

#### **GENERAL ACTIONS**

- Began the celebration of our 50th Anniversary with a commemorative calendar delivered to all residents and conducted monthly events celebrating it.
- In February representatives of St Louis County and Fenton were invited to meet with Sunset Hills regarding replacement/repair of the Meramec River Bridge.
- In October the City learned the bridge would be replaced at no cost to Sunset Hills residents. In addition the City would no longer have the obligation to fund repair costs of the bridge now or in the future.
- Throughout the year we met with Mayors of Crestwood, Fenton, and Kirkwood to explore cooperative agreements in such areas as shared assets, bridge and road repairs and other state funding initiatives.
- Began a dialogue with Lindbergh School District to discuss sharing of athletic and indoor pool facilities.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

- Hired a new City Engineer and Director of Public Works Ms. Anne Lamitola.
- Completed City Hall Plaza and Hilltop Drive Improvement Projects on time and in budget.
- The city was notified of Federal Grant awards of \$959,949 for replacement of Old Gravois Road from Kennerly to the Meramec River Bridge and \$320,000 for bridge replacement along West Watson, as well as MSD Funding in the amount of \$31,468 for the Lincoln storm sewer project.
- Commenced two storm water studies to facilitate master plan of public works projects through 2015
- Completed several storm sewer maintenance projects with city staff, including one project recognized by the Missouri Department of Transportation.

#### **PARKS**

- Purchased former Dreamfields Athletic Fields and prepared it for spring and summer usage by area athletic associations.
- Requested resident's support for half-cent sales tax increase for parks, storm water and protection of green space. Residents overwhelmingly supported the tax increase at the April 2007 election.

## **Bone Marrow Drive**

A long time employee of the City was scheduled for a bone marrow transplant this month, however all the possible donors have been ruled out because they were not a close enough match. If you are 18 to 60 years of age and would like to join the Bone Marrow Registry as a possible donor then PLEASE join her family at the Bone Marrow Drive to be held on –

Saturday, January 26th from 1 to 4 pm. at the Rockwood Bank in Fenton Missouri located on Hwy 141 just south of I-44

1037 Majestic Drive, Fenton, MO 63026

All it takes is a mouth swab - no blood draw! For more information on what it involves to become a donor go to www.marrow.org

There is a cost of \$25 (tax deductible) per person that pays for the DNA testing, unless you tell them you have Black, Hispanic, Asian, or American Indian heritage anywhere in your family line then its free. This is because there is a federal grant that pays for them, due to the low number of donors who have these ethnic backgrounds.

This is open to the public so please tell your friends and family, post signs at your work, and let any club or organization that you belong to know about this!



#### ALDERMANIC REPORT

Business conducted at the January 8th Board of Aldermen meeting

#### The Board passed two ordinances:

Ord. No. 1710 — An ordinance approving the Boundary Adjustment Plat to convey 11.66 acres from 13070 Gravois Road to 13066 Gravois Road for the purpose of consolidating the developed portion of the site into one lot.

Ord. No. 1711 — An ordinance accepting all terms and provisions of the settlement Agreement with AT & T Mobility relative to municipal taxes.

#### The following Bill will come up for a second reading at the February 12 Board of Aldermen meeting:

**Bill No. 38** — An ordinance adopting and enacting a stream buffer protection ordinance.

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 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. (So that we may contact an interpreter, etc.) Please call City Hall at 849-3400.

#### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

## January 2nd Meeting Results NEW BUSINESS:

P-I-08 Petition for an Amended Conditional Use

Permit submitted by Missouri American Water

Co. for the property at 12950 Maurer

Industrial Drive To construct a 3,150 sf building located on the south east portion of the property. Recommended Approval to the

Board of Aldermen.

P-2-08 Petition for a Boundary Adjustment submitted

by Winter Brothers Material to convey

approximately 11.66 acres from 13070 Gravois

to 13066 Gravois for the purpose of consolidating the developed portion of the site into one lot. Recommended Approval to the Board of Aldermen.

## WEDNESDAY, February 6, 2008 NEW BUSINESS:

P-3-08

Petition for a Boundary Adjustment submitted by James Praprotnik to Convey approximately 990 sf from 12186 Bridle Trail to 12180 Bridle Trail to allow the owner at 12180 Bridle Trail easier access to the garage.

#### BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

No Board of Adjustment Meeting Held in December and January.

No Items were submitted for February, therefore no Meeting will be held in February.

#### MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008 is Municipal Election Day in Sunset Hills. Filing for office will close at 5:00 p.m. on January 22, 2008. At the time of printing of the newsletter the following individuals had filed for office: Mayor – Mike Svoboda; Alderman Ward 1 – Franklin A. Hardy, Jr. (incumbent); Alderman Ward 2 - Thomas Hrastich (incumbent) and Alderman Ward 3 - Lynn David Flowers, Jr. (incumbent).

#### TRASH PICK-UP INFORMATION

In the previous Newsletter we included a list of Trash Haulers that are licensed to haul in Sunset Hills. The licensed haulers are: American Eagle Waste, 314-631-8381; IESI, 636-321-2100; Waste Management, 314-506-1800; Veolia, 314-567-1800 and Allied Waste, 314-621-1853.

The prices shown on that list included once a week recycling per St. Louis County requirements. Haulers have been given an extension until April 1, 2008 to submit to St. Louis County their plan for recycling pick up (schedules, containers, trucks, prices, etc.). Until that plan is submitted, the rates

shown on the list we published **do not apply** and recycling will **not** be automatically offered. Therefore the earliest date that the new requirements will be implemented will be April or May, 2008.

Residents are free at this time to continue with their current trash hauler or to contact one of the others named on the list for services. As we receive further information from St. Louis County regarding when recycling will be included in the basic services and rates, we will publish it the Newsletter as soon as possible.

#### From the Police Department

#### Winter Driving

The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents. Preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving.

#### **BEFORE**

Have a mechanic check the following items on your car.

- Battery
- Antifreeze
- Wipers and windshield washer fluid
- Ignition system
- Thermostat
- Lights

Flashing hazard lightsExhaust system

- Heater
- Brakes
- Defroster
- Oil level

Install good winter tires.

Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.

Keep a windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal.

Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.

Plan long trips carefully.

Listen to the radio or call the state highway patrol for the latest road conditions. Always travel during daylight and, if possible, take at least one other person.

If you must go out during a winter storm, use public transportation.

Dress warmly.

Wear layers of loose-fitting, layered, lightweight clothing.

Carry food and water.

Store a supply of high energy "munchies" and several bottles of water.

Contact your local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter for more information on winter driving.

Winter Car Kit — Keep these items in your car:

- Flashlights with extra batteries
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Several blankets
- Sleeping bags
- Extra newspapers for insulation
- Plastic bags (for sanitation)
- Matches
- Extra set of mittens, socks, and a wool cap

- Rain gear and extra clothes
- Small sack of sand for generating traction under wheels
- Small shovel
- Small tools (pliers, wrench, screwdriver)
- Booster cables
- Set of tire chains or traction mats
- Bottled water

With the closure of Highway 40 all drivers are likely to experience periods of heavier and slower traffic flows on both highways and secondary streets. If you are on one of the highways where shoulders have been reduced or eliminated (I-44 and I-70) and experience car trouble or are in a minor accident make every effort to move off the highway to a safe location. Enforcement has been stepped up on secondary streets by most municipalities; if you are stopped in the middle of the intersection when the light turns red you may be ticketed. Remember to keep intersections with electric signals clear at all times.

#### Mayor's Memo

continued from page 1

- Completed an update to Parks Master Plan outlining a strategic plan thru 2015.
- Completed a comprehensive analysis of the municipal pool to facilitate a "repair or replace strategy".
- Received a Municipal Parks Grant in the amount of \$298,000 to purchase of 18.5 acres of property adjacent to Minnie Ha Ha Park. The Master Plan has identified this area as potential athletic fields, open space and trails. We also received (3) additional grants totaling \$44,000 for park maintenance and trail planning throughout the city.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

- Completed a comprehensive Salary and Benefits Analysis for all municipal job categories.
- In April 2007 the rezoning of Sunset Manor area from R-5 to R-6 will allow resident to improve their property with less restrictions. Also approved participation in block grant funding for Sunset Manor.

## In 2008 Sunset Hills should consider taking action on the following subjects.

As we outlook the coming year, municipal government provides a sample of some of the initiatives under consideration. The following are by no means all inclusive and will be in addition to the issues customarily considered throughout the year.

- Complete preliminary arrangements by formalizing contracts with Lindbergh School District for the sharing of public funded assets such as athletic fields, indoor pool and wellness facilities. Such sharing advances our goals, lowers the overall taxpayer cost (both operating & capital), improves the public health, and becomes a model of cooperation between taxing authorities.
- Approve the issuance of Municipal Bonds funded by Proposition P (passed in 2007) proceeds to be earmarked for the following types of projects:

## Construction of community center and wellness facility

#### Purchase and protection of green-space Construction of walking paths/trails

• Approve the issuance of Municipal Bonds funded by Capital Improvements Sales Tax (already in place but requiring voter approval to extend the term.) to be earmarked for the following types of projects:

#### Renovation and construction of storm water facilities Fund other Public Works projects as necessary Renovation and construction of roadway and bridge

- Consider the reduction of the Municipal Real Estate Tax from 5.4 cents per hundred dollars of valuation to .01 cents per hundred dollars of valuation. This action would virtually eliminate the Sunset Hills Residential Real Estate Tax now used to fund municipal governance. It allows the tax to remain on the books for future use as necessary.
- Consider development and redevelopment proposals from commercial property owners in the core commercial area of the city, which may include the use of state approved redevelopment tools. Our commercial area enjoy a competitive location advantage that should be to be developed to a higher use.
- Reorganize the staff administration of the city by hiring or promoting a Chief of Staff or City Administrator.
- Consider and evaluate the cost/revenue potentials of new public programs and facilities such as annexation of nearby areas, and the addition of a municipal golf coarse both of which allow for increased municipal revenue and leveraging the use of municipal staff.

As in all things related to municipal governance, we appreciate your thoughts, ideas and opinions.

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CITY

- 1. What Indians have burial grounds in Sunset Hills?
- 2. Where are the burial grounds located?
- 3. Where does the name of the Meramec River come from?
- 4. Name the oldest church in SSH.
- 5. What was the first school and years of service?

Look in the history book for answers or at the bottom of this article.

You may purchase a piece of Sunset Hills History at the archives for \$10.00; one of the banners from the utility poles that designated SSH 50th Anniversary.

The archives will be open the first Monday afternoon of each month. Come browse, get acquainted and check out books by area authors. Questions call Historical Society at 843-5649

Have you seen the new granite bench by the Veterans Monument???

The Historical Society invites you to become a member. The dues are payable each January- a family membership is \$12.00. Non residents are welcome.

Be sure to check the display case in the lobby of City Hall. Our January display is on Great Women of the American Revolution - featuring Betsy Ross - it was provided by the O'Fallon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. You may belong to an organization that would like to place a display in the case. If so, contact Historical Society at 843-5649.

#### Answers:

- 1. Mound Builders and Prehistoric Indians
- 2. Tapawingo
- 3. Indian Word MAHR-AH-MEC meaning "Water of Bitter Spring" or MAH-AHMAC meaning "Waters of Death"
- 4. St. Lucas Evangelical-1838
- 5. Log School/Log Cabin School 1865-1884 currently a residence. Designated as HISTORICAL in 2000 by Daughters of the American Revolution.

#### JANUARY 2008

#### PARK NEWS

#### **NEED ASSISTANCE**

If you need assistance around the house with raking of lawns, snow removal and/or grass cutting; please contact the Parks and Recreation Office. We have compiled a list of local youths that would be excited to assist! Call the Park Office at 314-842-7265.

#### Meramec Caverns and Jesse James Museum

Beneath the rolling hills of the Meramec Valley, lives a complex of mineral formations and color as rare and unique as they are beautiful. These precious underground jewels, which took thousands of years to grow, are preserved in the spectacular sights of the Meramec Caverns. We'll tour and eat at the caverns, then head up the road to the Jesse James Museum and learn all about Jesse James. Lunch will be Barbecue chicken breast with fries, baked beans and a dessert. Price includes transportation by van, tour admissions, and lunch. There is considerable walking, so wear your walking shoes.

March 27, 2008

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Fee: MCM Res. \$54; Non-Res \$58

Register with Webster Groves at 314-963-5600 by March 13, 2008

#### **Mystery Trip**

Don't even ask because we won't tell! Be prepared for anything and bring some walking shoes. Lunch and dessert included with transportation by van.

February 13, 2008

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Limit 40 Fee: MCM Res. \$45.00; Non-Res \$50.00

Register with Crestwood - 314-729-4860



#### **CHESS CLUB**

The Chess Club meets in the Watson Trail Park Activity Center on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. - Noon.

Beginners or advanced, ages 8 through 98, all are invited to join the fun.



#### **BURN BOOT CAMP**

If you are looking for RESULTS, Burn Boot Camps give the most bang for your buck! 5 week sessions-each class is different!

All levels welcome! Tuesday and Thursday at 8:15 am during school year, 7:00 am in the summer.

Price \$120.00 for 5 week session August 12 – September 11 April 8 - May 8 September 23 – October 23.

Reservations call: Val Strang at 314-941-May 20 – June 19 July 1 – July 31

8523 Location: Watson Trails Park

## Thank You To One Of Our Local Businesses

The City of Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank Smugala's Pizza for their generous donation to Lunch with Santa.



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!

# Sunset

## PARK NEWS

#### **SNOWMAN CONTEST**

The City of Sunset Hills Parks Department is sponsoring a snow man contest. The Snow man must be built in Lynstone, Watson Trail, Minnie Ha Ha Park or Eddie and Park Ballfield. Send a photo of your Snow man to the Sunset Hills Parks Department, 12450 W. Watson, Sunset Hills, MO. 63127. First and second place winners will receive an exciting prize. This contest will end February 29, 2008.



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## DADDY AND DAUGHTER/MOTHER AND SON VALENTINE DANCE

Join us at the Days Inn Motel, 3654 South Lindbergh on

Friday, February 8, 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a Valentine Dance. There will be a D. J. food, fun and dancing. Tickets go on sale January 7th at the Activity Center. Cost

\$10.00 a couple and \$5.00 for each additional child. We will need 40 couples to make this dance a success, please call 314-842-7265 for your reservations.

#### **PUPPET THEATER CLASS**

Looking for a fun class? In Puppet Theater class, kids make puppets they get to keep out of simple materials. They will choose a story, adapt it, and work with their peers to make props and sets. The class culminates with the students putting on a puppet show for their families and friends. If your child enjoys playing with puppets, arts and crafts, or stories, they'll have a great time in this class!

**When:** April 4 – May 9 (Fridays)

**Time:** 4:15 – 5:30 pm

Fee: \$85.00 for one and \$165.00 for two

Location: Watson Trail Park Activity Center

Ages: 5 - 10

\*Minimum registration for class to be held: 5 children

#### **2008 SUMMER JOBS**

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

Day Camp Counselors/Director - 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.

#### **INDOOR TENNIS LESSON**

The Sunset Parks and Recreation Department and Beginner World Tennis have teamed up to offer indoor tennis lessons at the Days Inn Motel. Students will receive five - 1 hour lessons for \$60.00.

Session 1 February 12 – 26 (T and Th)

**Session 2** February 28 – March 13 (T and Th)

Session 3 March 25 – April 8 (T and Th)

Session 4 April 10 – April 24 (T and Th)

Session 5 April 29 – May 13 (T and Th)

#### Times and ages

5 pm - 6 pm 7 to 11 years old

6 pm - 7 pm 12 to 15 years old

7 pm - 8 pm 16 to Adult

To register contact the Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Department at (314) 842-7265 or stop by the Activity Center located at Watson Trail Park.

#### VALENTINE CARD CONTEST



Sunset Hills is sponsoring this year a creating and decorating contest. All you have to do is make your own original Valentine Card and send it to the Sunset Hills Parks Department Office at 12450 W. Watson, Sunset Hills, MO 63127.

Prizes will be awarded for the best entries in three age categories, 3-5, 6-9, and 10-14. Deadline to enter is February 14, 2008.

#### **BATTERY RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Rechargeable batteries such as those found in cell phones require proper disposal. The City of Sunset Hills Parks Department now has a container located at the park office where residents can bring in their used rechargeable batteries. The Parks Department also collects used cell phones and used ink cartridges. The money the city receives



for recycling the above items is used to purchase recreation supplies and items for the day camp.

#### REMINDER

Day Camp registration will begin for Residents on May 24, 2008 and Non-Residents on March 31, 2008.

#### WATER AEROBICS CLASSES

Will your New Years resolution be to exercise more and to get into shape? Maybe we can help. Beginning Jan. 2 the Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Department will be offering water aerobics classes at the Days Inn (Indoor) Pool on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:00 am to 12 Noon. January 2 to May 23.

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

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



### **Employees** of Sunset Hills

This month we would like to introduce you to Lieutenant Greg Zveitel. Lt. Zveitel started with the Sunset Hills Police



department in May, 1977 as a patrol officer. He served as a Sergeant from 1983 to 1999 at which time he was promoted to his current position as a Lieutenant.

#### In Greg's own words;

"One of the things I like most about working for the city has been the opportunity to see the changes and growth that have taken place during my 30 year career. I have had the chance to work in a wide variety of assignments such as narcotics investigations and firearms instruction that have always kept the job interesting and let me meet, and work with, officers and prosecutors at all levels of law enforcement. While issues brought to the police are often a challenge, it is most satisfying when we can assist our residents and businesspeople in resolving their problems and receive their gratitude and thanks."

"Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my wife Tasha and our dogs, working around the house and vacationing at the beach whenever possible."

If you have any questions for the Sunset Hills Police Department please contact them at 314-849-4400.



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# FEBRUARY

**5** Feb. – Public Works Committee – 7:00 p.m. – Public Works Conference Room

6 Feb. – Planning & Zoning Commission – 7:30 p.m. – Assembly Room

**2** Feb. – Board of Aldermen – 7:00 p.m. – Assembly Room

**8 Feb.** – Pool Advisory Board – 7:00 p.m. – Park Activity Center

**Feb.** – Advisory Tree Board – 7:00 p.m. – Public Works Conference Room

**9 Feb.** – Gempp Commission – 6:30 p.m. – Public Works Conference Room

**26** Feb. – Board of Aldermen – 7:00 p.m. - Assembly Room

**27** Feb. – Park Commission – 7:00 p.m. - Park Activity Center (if required)

**28 Feb.** – Historical Society – 7:00 p.m. - Assembly Room

28 Feb. - Board of Adjustment (if agenda items are submitted) - 7:00 p.m.

Assembly Room

NOTE: City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 18th for Presidents' Day.

Aldelllell	DIFFCIC
Mayor	
John Hunzeker	

(Home) 842-8687 (Work) 842-1551

#### Ward I

Frank Hardy . . . . . . . . 965-3762 Douglas McGuire.... 965-6425 Ward II

John W. Littlefield.....965-6022 Tom Hrastich . . . . . . . . 849-5497

#### Ward III

Jan Hoffmann . . . . . . . . 842-5866 Lynn D. Flowers Jr. . . . . 843-8577

#### Ward IV

Frank Gregory . . . . . . . 842-7549 Mike Svoboda..... 842-2021

#### Important Numbers

City Hall......849-3400 Watson Trail Park . . . . . . . 842-7265 Pool . . . . . . . . . . . . . 842-SWIM Emergency

Police . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 911 Ambulance . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 911 Police Information....849-4400

Vacation Watch......849-7867