

City of Sturgeon Newsletter ~

Summer 2003

The 2002-2003 fiscal year ended June 30 “unofficially” on a positive note. The official figures will be determined after the annual audit, which will be done in September. The 2003-2004 Fiscal Year Budget is available for public review...feel free come by the office.

Up-Coming Events: Mark your calendars:

September 6, 2003 – MS 150 Bike Tour

The City Park has been designated once again as one of the rest & refreshment stops for this annual event. It is estimated that 1500 bicyclists will be passing through Sturgeon throughout the day

September 11 –14, 2003 – Sturgeon Fall Festival

Thursday 9/11/03

Royalty Night - beginning at 5:30 at the Sturgeon Rec. Center.

Open to Sturgeon School District Only. Call 687-3440 for details

Friday 9/12/03

Demolition Derby at 7:30.

Admission is \$5.00. Call 687-3910 for details.

Saturday 9/13/03

Parade – “Endless Summer Fun & Fiesta”

Car Show – Call (573) 489-5449 for details. Registration at 8:00 AM

Street Dance - The Missouri Outlaws

Sunday 9/14/03

Community Church Service at 11:00 AM

Pot Luck Lunch at 12:00 PM

Crafters: Space is available at the Youth Center for Saturday September 13.

Please contact Barbara Rush at (573) 687-3351 for additional information.

Set up will be at 7:00 AM

Doors to open at 9:00 AM

October 14, 2003 – Annual Fall Bulk Pick-Up

Appliance stickers MUST be affixed or they will not be picked up.

For more information, please contact or come by the city office for a copy of the changes.

The following appliances need stickers from Superior.

\$5.00 Stickers – Appliances not requiring freon ; Stoves, Washers, Dryers, Dishwashers, Furnaces, Boilers & Dehumidifiers. (Microwaves do not require a sticker)

\$20.00 Stickers – Appliances requiring freon; Refrigerators, Freezers & Air Conditioners.

News from the Police Department.....

For those of you that have not heard or seen, the city has hired a full time police officer to assist Chief Kamp. The city welcomes Alicia Walker, her husband, son and daughter and is confident that she will be a great asset to the Sturgeon Police Department.

Sturgeon Recreation Center:

July 1, 2003 the Rec. Center completed its second year of successful operation.

On the following dates the Rec. Center will be closed due to Private Events:

- August 16th August 23rd
- December 6th, December 13th December 23rd

Sturgeon Park & Tree Board:

From Bill Frazier:

The new basketball goals are now installed on the south end of the tennis court. They are set to regulation height and we hope the smaller youngsters will especially get good use of them. In addition, the new 6-seat swing set and two new BBQ grills arrived July 21st. The swing set will replace the 4-seat set and the BBQ grills will be installed near the shelter house, we hope to install yet this summer.

We encourage everyone to visit and enjoy the city parks and see if you can find the two Heritage Trees planted in honor of the City Employees. There are also several other Honor and Memory trees that have been planted over the years that help make the park a more beautiful and enjoyable place to visit.

Several years ago, the Sturgeon State bank gave away a good number of seedling trees to its customers. We are interested to know how those trees fared and would like to hear about them.

The Parks and Trees Board is shy three members and we are looking for interested folks with new and fresh ideas. We meet the third Monday evening at 7:00 p.m., usually at the park, other times at the Methodist Church. All interested parties may contact the City Office at 687-3321.

Fairgrounds Board & Fall Festival Committee:

Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month. 7:00 P.M. at the Youth Center.

Historical Society Committee:

The following individuals have volunteered their time to serve on this committee:

Paul Heywood - Chairman	Cheryl Ritchie - Board member
Jeff Stephens - Vice Chairman	Bill Wilson - Board Member
Debbie Taylor - Secretary	Sid Seymour - Board Member

Planning & Zoning Committee:

The committee meets the third Monday of each month.

The following individuals have volunteered their time to serve on this committee:

Stanley Robinson	Gary Lear
William Hesser	Andy Perkins
Doug Graybill	Dean Connolly - Alternate

Regarding Building Permits - Building Permits **ARE** required by City Ordinance per Boone County Building Codes on:

- New Construction over 500 sq. feet
- Remodeling projects over \$5000.00 or more.
- Electric & Gas Tags.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the city office or a member of the planning & zoning committee.

Sturgeon Chamber of Commerce:

The Sturgeon Chamber of Commerce is asking for your assistance with the continuation/extension of the “Sturgeon Missouri Then & Now” yearbook. The next yearbook will be covering Sturgeon History, events, and growth from 1981 to 2006.

If you have any pictures, articles, ...anything that has historical significance please submit them to the City Office either in person, mail or e-mail.

Please note that this information will NOT be returned, so we suggest that you submit copies.

Of Interest to all:

There has been concerns from citizens regarding the recent flooding(s) within in the city limits, primarily in the areas along the tributary that runs through the northern half of the city. Questions have been raised about the size of culverts currently in place and the need to replace them with larger ones in hope of reducing flooding.

The City has retained the services of a Retired Professional Engineer to do a Hydraulic Study to determine what can be done, if anything, to help eliminate or cure some of the flooding. For liability reasons the city can not simply replace existing culverts with larger ones, or do any minor or major work to the tributary that runs through Sturgeon without first knowing what the outcomes will be and what effects this will have further downstream.

The City of Sturgeon lies West of the Saling Creek, which is located in Zone A as shown on FEMA’s Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). In addition there is a small tributary that runs through Sturgeon beginning North of Proctor Street, under Stone Street to Wentz, Odgen, Ruby and Rollins where it flows into the Saling Creek.

Updates from Boone County Public Works- The county has plans to overlay Fairgrounds Road out to Highway 22 and Chip & Seal Benson Road in the upcoming months. They recently replaced two culverts along North Fairgrounds and will be replacing the culvert at the west end of Francis Street.

Growing, Growing, Growing.....

Sturgeon is seeing a growth in new construction within the city as well as on the outskirts of the city limits. New growth has a direct impact to the operations of the city government. In addition to increased revenues for water and sewer services, there is also additional revenue generated from: franchise fees (collected by Ameren UE, Galaxy Cable and Century Tel), personal property & real estate taxes, 1% and ½ % sales tax, cigarette tax and motor vehicle taxes. *(The current property tax rate is set at \$.49/\$100.00 assessed valuation.)*

With new growth, there is also an increase in the city’s expenditures, which you as a citizen will not outwardly notice this.

More residents equal more drivers and more children out on the streets, which adds an increase to the patrolling efforts of our police department as they enforce not only state laws, but city ordinances as well. With the increase in vehicular traffic on the streets there is more wear and tear to the road surfaces.

No one likes to pay taxes however little or small; however without these taxes, the City of Sturgeon as well as other cities, would not have the financial means to maintain or upgrade existing services that are currently provided to residents. So the next time you hear of a proposed tax increase, whether it be local or state, stop and first consider how this may or may not benefit you as a resident residing in the State of Missouri, Boone County, City of Sturgeon.

Street Projects:

The city's 2003 Street Project consisting of: Seal & Chip sections of Patton, McDowell, Hicks, Burks and paving three blocks of West Francis Street is estimated to cost \$32,790.50.

Of this amount, the city will receive from the Boone County Revenue Sharing program \$20,000.00 leaving a balance of \$12,790.50 for the city to pay. The city will use revenues collected from the ½ % sales tax, motor vehicle taxes and BC Road tax reimbursement to pay the balance.

- The city does not and has not assessed a “park board” tax, which in some cities statewide is an additional tax that is collected used specifically for city parks. The city currently transfers 20% of the 1% sales tax collected to the park board to cover expenditures. The “Park Board” fund oversees the Youth Center, the City Park and the Fairgrounds. Other sources of income for the “Park Board” include rentals, deposits and donations. As most of you are aware the youth center is not air-conditioned, which is one reason why the city increased the rental rates.
- The Sturgeon Recreation Center maintains itself and does not receive monies from the city. The sources of revenue are membership fees, rentals, deposits and donations.
- Mount Horeb Cemetery is maintained by the perpetual care fund as well as revenues collected from the sale of lots, interest earned from the certificate of deposits (CD's), donations and administrative fees.

Addressing Concerns:

During the last several months, the council has brought up for discussion concerns about abandoned buildings, ordinances that pertain to: house numbers, animal nuisances (ie: Vicious dogs, dogs at large) and most recently concerns about electric scooters and golf carts on the city streets.

For a city to run efficiently there has to be in place certain limitations, restrictions and ordinances that pertain to and deal with state and local laws, which inevitably causes a stir as everyone has different opinions and views on these issues; **however** safety for all residents young and old is the primary concern.

Abandoned buildings that are no longer used for human habitation raise numerous issues. Primarily there is a safety concern which, ultimately you the property owner are liable should anyone get hurt. Second if the house or building remains vacant and unused for a great length of time and is not properly maintained the structure will begin to deteriorate causing an “eyesore” to the community as well as becoming “home” to unwanted creatures. This crosses over to a very gray area, because what is an “eyesore” to one may not be to another. Here again SAFETY is the main concern. The bottom line is that we should all take pride in our homes and in our community so we can maintain the “picturesque” small community that we do have.

House Numbers:

City Ordinance # 279, section 3:

“It shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of each business, house or dwelling to install or display the assigned number of such business house or residence in a conspicuous place on the front of such business, house or residence and each such number shall be at least 2 ½ inches in height.

RSMo 67.318

“The governing body of any county or municipality may by order or ordinance require that all residences and commercial businesses have the numbers of their street addresses **conspicuously posted so that providers of fire protection services or other emergency services may better find the proper location when responding to an emergency call.** Where such an ordinance or order is established, the fire department, fire protection district or volunteer fire protection association which provides fire protection services for the municipality or county, or portion thereof, shall enforce the provisions of such ordinance or order. The ordinance or order shall prescribe a grace period for persons who violate the ordinance or order, which shall allow such violator at least fifteen days to comply with the ordinance before any fine may be imposed.

Vicious Dogs... There has been an increase in the number of “vicious dogs” living within the city limits. The city does have an ordinance that pertains to Vicious Dogs. You may request a copy by calling the office if you have specific questions. Not only has Sturgeon dealt with this issue, but other communities throughout Central Missouri have gone to the point where certain breeds are banned. Once again, SAFETY is the main concern.

Scooters, Skateboards, Etc....

Scooters, skateboards, golf carts, ATV’s and bicycles have also raised concerns and again, the primary concern from the city’s viewpoint is safety.

It only takes one person’s reckless and careless actions to put a damper on everybody else’s. Keep in mind that the city does not want to give the impression that we would rather not see these modes of transportation on the streets, because that is far from the case. We just want to impress upon each and everyone, young and old that you must keep in mind first and foremost, safety. Stop signs are there for a reason. If an accident occurs and the fault is with the individual who is on an other “mode of transportation”, your homeowners policy may be affected.

Sturgeon in Publication.....

The article below was recently published in the June 2003 issue of “Missouri Water Lines” which is put out by the MRWA.

System Profile: The City of Sturgeon
By Randy Norden, Water Training Specialist

The American Dream. If there is any place in this nation where that could be realized, it is the City of Sturgeon, Missouri! The City of Sturgeon, located in northern Boone County, is quite a soft-spoken jewel of Missouri. If you take one quick drive through Sturgeon, you will find that it is the quintessential small town that shows so much pride from its residents. Lawns are neatly mowed, yards are bristling with redbud trees and forsythia bushes, houses are well kept, and it’s so peaceful that in the middle of town you can easily hear numerous bird songs and the kids playing at the school playground.

Likewise, the employees of the City of Sturgeon take pride in their town as much, if not more, than any resident. Any day you can find Dean Connolly, Maintenance Superintendent, Gary Lear and Romie Thornhill keeping the city wheels rolling smoothly. These men are expert operators and maintenance workers who take care of the drinking water, wastewater, streets, and other maintenance work that keep the City of Sturgeon running so peacefully and professionally. However, take a stroll into City Hall and you’ll meet the lovely smiles of Jean Richards, City Clerk, and LaVern Jennings, Assistant Collector. Jean and LaVern are two professional office workers that orchestrate the resources of finance and information that the City needs to keep moving and provide unsurpassed customer service to the residents and visitors of Sturgeon. Of course, one cannot forget the mayor and four aldermen that dedicate their time to serve their town.

The City of Sturgeon has quite a history, too! Originally, Sturgeon was named Buena Vista. However, when Isaac Sturgeon, President of the North Missouri Railroad, brought the railroad through to serve the area, the town was relocated closer to the railroad and renamed after the railroad President. The streets in Sturgeon are named after the shareholders of the Sturgeon Depot Company. In addition, Sturgeon was located in the middle of some of the fiercest fighting during the Civil War. The area around Sturgeon was where a great deal of guerrilla warfare carried on in an area of southern sympathizers occupied by northern forces. Sturgeon also has a 19th century courthouse that has hopes of future restoration.

Today, however, the 944 residents of Sturgeon live in one of the most peaceful and picturesque towns around. The City of Sturgeon presently purchases their drinking water and has a well-noted wastewater system. Their wastewater system consists of a two-cell overland flow lagoon with four wet cells. It performs so well, the City hosts a regular attendance of engineering students from nearby University of Missouri at Columbia. As well, individuals from Kansas and the Highway Department, that utilize the same wastewater treatment technology at various rest stops, come to Sturgeon to study the operations of this wastewater treatment technology. If you’re ever in northern Boone County, take the time to make a stop in Sturgeon and take in the peaceful pride the residents have. You, too, will find that it’s quite a jewel of a town that MRWA is proud to have as a member. If you can’t visit the town, then take some time to peek at their website at <http://www.sturgeon-mo.org>

Water Tips:

Here are just a few of the tips that can be found at Earth 911 (www.earth911.org) to help check for leaks and to help conserve water.

- Verify that your home is leak free, because many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year.
- Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 30 minutes.
- Check the toilet for worn out, corroded, or bent parts. Consider purchasing Low Flow toilets that can reduce indoor water use by 20%.
- Insulate your water pipes. You'll get hot water faster and avoid wasting water.
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost them overnight in the refrigerator, or by using the defrost setting on your microwave.
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run to get a cool glass of water.
- Fully load automatic dishwashers; they use the same amount of water no matter how much is in them.
- Unlike your dishwasher, the amount of water your washing machine uses is adjustable; adjust according to load size.

Regarding Adjustments for water leaks – The city will allow one adjustment per leak. It is primarily your responsibility as the consumer to notify the office when you suspect that you may have leak. This does not apply to large uses of water such as filling up water pools or excessive watering in the spring & summer months.

Interesting Info – Once in a lifetime!!!

The Red Planet is about to be spectacular! This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287. Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the Last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification, Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye. Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10 P.M. and reach its azimuth at about 3 A.M.

By the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30 A.M.. That's pretty convenient to see something that no human being has seen in recorded history. So, mark your calendar at the beginning of August to see Mars grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month.

Available at the City Office:

2003 Missouri Drivers Guides – No Charge
Voter Registration Applications
Boone County Maps - \$2.25

Rental Information – Call (573) 687-3321

Youth Center:

\$100.00 Deposit
\$50.00 Rent – Sturgeon School District
\$100.00 Rent – Outside Sturgeon School District

Sturgeon Recreation Center:

\$100.00 Deposit
\$100.00 Rent – Fridays
\$150.00 Rent – Saturdays
\$75.00 Rent – Sundays 12:00 – 6:00

Sturgeon City Park

\$25.00 Deposit

Sturgeon Municipal Court

Held the same evening as the City Council at 6:00 PM

City Council Schedule:

- August 25, 2003 7:00 PM
- September 22, 2003 7:00 PM
- October 27, 2003 7:00 PM
- November 24, 2003 7:00 PM
- December 22, 2003 7:00 PM

Handy Phone Numbers

Ameren UE	(800) 552-7583
Century-Tel	(800) 201-4099
City Office	(573) 687-3321
Galaxy Cable	(800) 365-6988
Non-Emergency	(573) 442-6131
Police Dept.	(573) 687-3300
Post Office	(573) 687-3885
Superior Trash	(800) 778-7652

Even though Sturgeon is a small community, crime can still occur so here are a few safety tips:

- Lock your vehicles when unattended.
- Do not leave your vehicles running while unattended.
- Make sure all windows and doors of your residence or business are secured when you leave for any amount of time.

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 7: 00 AM – 3:00 PM

Friday: 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

City of Sturgeon

PO Box 387

303 Station Drive

Sturgeon, MO 65284

Box holder-Sturgeon, MO