

City of Sturgeon Newsletter ~ Winter 2005

From all of us to you ... we wish you a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!! The City Office will be CLOSED Monday December 26, 2005 & Monday January 2, 2006

Greetings from the City Office ~

Since the last newsletter there have been several changes with the operations of the City of Sturgeon... Dean Connolly retired in December 2004, faces on the board of alderman have changed; Alicia Walker is Sturgeon's first female Mayor, and there are a couple of new faces working for the city of Sturgeon.

In May of 2005 Gary Lear was promoted to the position of Maintenance Superintendent, which left his FT Position vacant, which was filled in September 2005 when Bruce Carter was hired.

Elizabeth "Beth" Taylor was hired in April 2005 as our part time police officer and beginning February 2006 she will become full time, thanks to your support during the November Special Election.

It is our hope that you feel as if Sturgeon is growing and improving in a positive manner and that we have your continued confidence and support in the day to day operations of how the city is managed.

Street & Road Projects

The City of Sturgeon every year submits a Revenue Sharing Application to the Boone County Public Works Department which consists of a proposed project to improve and maintain streets. The proposed projects are determined based upon the recommendation of the maintenance department with final approval from the board of aldermen.

The 2005 Street Project consisted of Seal & Chip on 38 blocks (completed) and some culvert work; which has yet to be completed at this time. This year, as in previous years there has been several complaints voiced by some unhappy residents. Please understand that we do sincerely understand your concerns and sympathize with your frustrations with the loose gravel and dust; we live here as well and also drive the same streets as you; however in order for the city to maintain and improve the road surface of our streets these projects must be done.

Ultimately asphalt would be the preferred method over seal & chip for resurfacing the streets however there is a greater cost associated with that and in which case if we chose to go that route we would have to limit the number of streets that are done each year. If you have any suggestions or would like to put your "two cents" in, please attend the council meetings or talk to your alderman.

The city receives roughly \$20,000.00 annually year from the 1/2 of 1% Transportation Sales Tax which that along with the revenue we receive from Boone County is used to fund the street work projects.

We will soon begin working on the 2007 revenue Sharing Application, which has to be submitted by July 31, 2006.

Current City Council: (Ward I is West of Ogden & Ward II is East of Ogden)

- Mayor Alicia Walker
- Kelly Streck ~ Ward I
- Andy Perkins ~ Ward I
- Paul Heywood ~ Ward II
- Ray Cranmer ~ Ward II

Upcoming Election April 4, 2006: There will be two seats open for this upcoming election.

If you are interested in running for election the first day for candidate filing is Tuesday December 13, 2005 and the last day is Tuesday January 17, 2006.

Qualifications for Alderman:

RSMo 79.070: No person shall be an alderman unless he or she is at least twenty-one years of age, a citizen of the United States, and an inhabitant and resident of the city for one year next preceding his or her election, and a resident at the time he or she files and during the time he or she serves, of the ward from which he or she is elected.

Deadline to Register to Vote is March 8, 2006. Voter registration cards are available at the City office and the Post Office.

Transportation Enhancement Projects ~

The City Council is actively working with Mid Missouri Regional Planning in looking for funding for sidewalks. Currently proposed for this project at this time, is the replacement of existing sidewalks and construction of new sidewalks in order for the Elementary/Middle School to be "connected" to the high school, which would allow a safer route for kids of all ages to walk. In addition preservation of the old sidewalks that have been engraved by past graduates is also up for consideration.

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) will be accepting enhancement grant applications beginning February 1, 2006. Enhancement funds are used to support transportation activities for a variety of project types that are located in both rural and urban communities. These funds have been used to fund a variety of projects such as sidewalk construction, bike lanes, renovate historic buildings, streetscape improvements, landscaping and visitor centers.

If you are interested in getting involved with this project please contact the city office.

Other Areas of Committee Involvement:

- **Sturgeon Recreation Board**
- **Historical Society Committee** ~ 4 Vacancies
- **Fairgrounds Committee/Board**
- **Planning & Zoning Committee** ~ 3 Vacancies
- **Park & Tree Board** ~ 2 Vacancies
- **Cemetery Board**
- **Chamber of Commerce**

Community involvement is a great way to meet other residents, learn more about the history of Sturgeon and to further enhance the future of Sturgeon!!

Regarding your Utility Bill ~

The city has switched to a new utility billing system and with that change is a new utility bill that although similar in size to the previous ones has a smaller print and is just black & white. Our policy for payments is outlined on the backside of your bill just as it was on the previous ones.

On the Cashier's Stub that you return with your payment there are three (3) dollar amounts shown; the **first one** is the amount to pay **BY the 10th**, the **second is the late fee** that is included in the **third amount** which is the amount to pay **AFTER the 10th**.

Each month the city generates over 400 utility bills and delivers those to the post office. It goes without saying that there is always a chance that your water bill may get lost in the shuffle from the time that it leaves our hands at the post office. Please check your delivery address and notify us of any changes.

If you are ever in question as to whether or not your bill has been mailed out or we have received your payment please do not hesitate in calling the office for verification.

Unfortunately we do not have the time or the manpower to contact each and everyone that has not paid their bill by the 21st of every month as during any given month there are at least 40 accounts that remain unpaid as of that date.

Unless prior arrangements have been made with the city office these accounts are subject to disconnection..

Everyone living inside the city limits is billed for trash based upon the contract the City of Sturgeon has with Onyx; with the only exception being if a building, house, apartment or duplex is not being resided in.

Per city ordinance every lot, parcel of land or premises to which water is supplied by the City Waterworks System and sewage service has been contracted, shall be subject to a water and sewer bill; with the only exception being that services have been disconnected permanently or temporarily.

The Minimum Rates are:

- Water ~ \$7.50 (1000 gallons)
- Sewer ~ \$13.06 (4000 gallons)
- Trash ~ \$12.00 Residential; \$11.15 Senior; \$20.50 Commercial
- If you live outside the City Limits you are charged a 30% Surcharge.

Police Department: DOG & CAT TAGS are up for RENEWAL January 1, 2006

Ordinance # 632 ~ An Ordinance Regulating Registering, Licensing and keeping of Dogs and Cats was approved August 23, 2004. (Copies are available at the city office)

- No one shall keep at any time, harbor or own at one location within the city more than a **TOTAL** of four dogs or cats over the age of 6 months.
- Any dog or cat over the age of 3 months **MUST** be registered and have an animal tag
- Certificate of **RABIES & IMMUNIZATIONS** **must be presented to the city office.**

- Tags are good for one year – January 1 – December 31, **regardless** of when purchased
- **\$2.50** – Spayed or neutered dog or cat and **\$5.00** – If not spayed or neutered

To renew your pet tag, simply bring in your current tag along with payment or you may mail your payment to: PO Box 387, Sturgeon, MO 65284. **If you mail your payment please indicate the tag #, type of animal and name of pet.**

House Numbers ~

On behalf of David Ritchie; Emergency Management Director and the personnel of the BCFPD Station # 6, I would like to point out that house numbers are required by **City Ordinance Number 279**, which is allowed by RSMo 67.318 Even though Sturgeon is a small community and most everyone knows who everyone is and where most everyone lives; calls to 911 are not dispatched by landmarks or generic descriptions. To ensure that fire, police and medical personnel arrive at your residence or business in a timely manner, please make sure that your house, business or building is clearly marked with its assigned number.

Ord. # 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.

Winter Road Conditions ~

The first day of winter is December 21, 2005. Maybe we will have a White Christmas??

With snow in the forecast and the fact that we are overdue for a true winter, it goes without saying that at some point we will have our fair share of the white stuff possibly mixed in with ice; which will mean that the city streets will need to be cleaned. Following is part of City Ordinance Number 462, which was passed and approved March 28, 1988 that pertains to snow removal.

Section 1

It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, shovel, dump or otherwise places or cause to be placed any snow onto any street in the city, or to otherwise interfere with efforts on the part of city agents or employees to clear snow and/or ice from city streets

Section 2

It shall be unlawful for any person to park any motor vehicle ten (10) feet on either side of the centerline of any street in the city at any time during the period commencing on November 1st of any year and continuing until March 31st of the following year.

Any person who violates this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and any motor vehicle found to be parked in violation of this ordinance may be towed from its illegal location by the city at the owner’s expense.

Please keep this in mind if you currently are in the habit of parking on the street. We do realize and understand that there are some places in town where driveways do not exist and for those areas we make exceptions as there are no other parking options.

School Cancellations ~

- The Sturgeon R-V school district notifies the following Television Networks and Radio Stations when school is cancelled due to bad weather: KRCG Channel 13, KOMU Channel 8, KMIZ Channel 17 KWIX Radio, KRES Radio, KFRU Radio and KXEO Radio.

Community-at-Large Transportation Survey

The City of Sturgeon has been asked by the Boone County Community Partnership and Mid Missouri Regional Planning to assist in distributing a Community - at -Large Transportation survey to the residents of Sturgeon. Included in this newsletter is a short survey that we would appreciate if you would take a few moments of your time to complete and return to the city office. http://sturgeon.mo-acte.org/community_at-large_survey_10-19-05.pdf

Sturgeon Recreation Center:

Membership Rates ~ SRC

Payments may be made at the city office or the Recreation Center.

- Single/Monthly - \$15.00
- Single/Annual - \$75.00
- Family/Monthly - \$20.00
- Family/Annual - \$150.00
- Senior/Annual - \$35.00

Please call the city office if you are interested in reserving the Recreation Center. (573) 687-3321

- **Fridays & Holidays** - \$100.00
- **Saturday's** - \$150.00
- **Sunday's** - \$75.00 (Noon to 6:00 P.M.)
- **Deposit** - \$100.00

Youth Center:

Please call the city office if you are interested in reserving the Youth Center. (573) 687-3321

- \$100.00 **Deposit**
- \$50.00 – **Rent** (residents within Sturgeon School District)
- \$100.00 – **Rent** (non-residents)

City Council Schedule ~

The council meets the 4th Monday each Month. Tentative agendas are posted in the window at the city office.

Public attendance is encouraged and the public is given an opportunity to speak at the first part of the meeting. If you would like to be placed on the agenda as a guest, please contact the city office no later than the Wednesday before the Scheduled Date of the council meeting and if you have any documentation that you need would like to have presented to the board of alderman submit that at the same time. The council packets are delivered to the council the Friday afternoon before the scheduled meeting.

Here are the dates for the next several council meetings:

- There will NOT be a meeting in December 2005
- January 23, 2006
- February 27, 2006
- March 27, 2006

Sturgeon Chamber of Commerce:

On July 3, 1856 Sturgeon officially became a town!!

The Chamber of Commerce is currently working on the 150th Anniversary Book which will include the 1981 Sturgeon Then and Now 1856-1981 along with news and pictures from the last 25 years. In addition, the Chamber is also planning a city wide celebration around July 2006 to mark this historic day. If you would like to help organize this celebration or share your ideas, please contact someone from the Chamber.

The Chamber meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Crossroads Restaurant.

If you haven't already reserved your copy of the 150th Anniversary book there is still time. The books are \$35.00 if you reserve your copy before December 31, 2005, after that they will be \$40.00. There will be a limited number of books ordered. Order forms are available at area businesses: Ritchie's, The Buzz, Casey's, the Bank and the city office.

For questions contact Chamber President Joyce Kemner at 687-3752 or Book Chairman Greg Kelly (kelly@missouri.edu) or 687-2122.

Park Board News:

The Park Board is busy preparing the paperwork necessary to re-certify as a Tree City USA for the tenth consecutive year. It is going to be close and without a grant this year, it becomes doubly difficult but we shall make it.

Creek Park has grown by a donation of partial lots from Peggy and Dwayne Brooks in 2004 and will soon grow by another lot from Boone County as soon as research is completed. The intent is to keep the area as natural as possible and used as an outdoor classroom for students of all ages who love nature.

We welcome Peggy Richards as the most recent member of the park board. She has volunteered many times before during tree planting days and we are happy to have her with us. There are still two vacancies to fill.

Mrs. Lee's fourth grade class participated in a school beautification project by planting eighteen trees on the grounds November 17, 2004. Sturgeon Park and Tree Board via Forest ReLeaf provided the trees.

Many thanks go to the members of the Fairgrounds Board for their help back in May 2004 transplanting trees to the fairgrounds and parks.

Also thanks to the Missouri Department of Conservation for funding urban forestry with TRIM II grants.

Early in spring 2006 we will apply for a Communitree grant from Forest ReLeaf of Missouri for 100 free trees for planting on public lands within the city. If we are successful, we will plant a number of them in the parks and in the south lift station area next spring and fall. The rest are available to schools, churches and anyone who will plant within the city right of way. Nearly all of the species are likely large trees at maturity and must have a large open area. They are not suitable for planting near overhead utility lines. For more information and a site visit, call the city office.

Tree care and Maintenance are concerns most all home-owners have and a ready source of information is as close as the bulletins issued by The National Arbor Day Foundation and contained in a 3-ring binder at the city office. Nearly any topic you may need information about is included. Bulletin # 4 The Right Tree for the Right Place advises you which tree types are best around your home. Bulletin # 19 How to Select and Plant a Tree when you are ready. Bulletin # 6 gives you essentials on How to Hire an Arborist and when you need one. Bulletin # 8 is especially informational concerning tree topping. **Experts agree, don't top trees!** Tree topping is the senseless brutalizing of older trees. It brings about the uglification of America's urban forest, striking some communities like a plague. (Taken from the first paragraph of this bulletin)

The Missouri Community Forestry Council in conjunction with The Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division and the International Society of Arborists all agree that this practice causes more long-term problems and should be stopped. The certified arborists and forestry professionals, who really care about trees, will never advise it nor execute the procedure. Think of it as a bad haircut that kills. More information is available in the city office.

Please come and ask for it.

Thank you, Peggy Richards, Mitch Taylor, and Bill Frazier

Winter Weather Tips on Traveling:

Here are just a few tips to keep in mind when traveling not only to and from work, shopping but when visiting friends and family out of town during the winter months. **Make sure you have the following items tucked away in your trunk, cargo area or back seat:**

- Extra Blankets
- Salt (ice melt) or sand
- Small shovel
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Candles that will fit in a metal coffee can
- Non-perishable food items, bottled water or juice
- Extra Clothes, shoes and socks

If you have **small infants & children** keep an extra diaper bag in your vehicle stocked with:

- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Extra clothes
- Extra blankets
- Food
- Bottled water or juice

If you do travel a long distance, it is advisable that you let someone know when you are leaving and when you estimate your time of arrival; allow extra time in case of bad weather or traffic delays.
It doesn't hurt to let them know the route you will be taking or your itinerary if you will be going on vacation.

If you **carry a cell phone**; program the name and number of someone who want contacted should there be an emergency. Enter them in as **ICE** (In Case of Emergency).

Office Hours:

(573) 687-3321

Monday ~ Thursday: 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Friday: 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Sturgeon Police Dept:

(573) 687-3300

In case of an **Emergency - 911**

Non-Emergency – (573) 442-6131

Check out the State of Missouri Web Page (www.dor.mo.gov) for information on Show Me Proof.

Missouri requires the following documentation for applicants applying for or renewing a Missouri Driver License, Nondriver License or Instruction Permit:

1. **Proof of Lawful Presence**
2. **Proof of Identity** (including proof of name change)
3. **Proof of Residency**

City of Sturgeon
PO Box 387
Sturgeon, MO 65284

Resident
Sturgeon, MO