

CITY OF GRAIN VALLEY

# CITY VIEW

SPRING & SUMMER 2022



INCLUDING GRAIN VALLEY  
PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITY GUIDE!



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE: STATE OF THE CITY 2022



Happy Spring! We survived another Midwest winter season, primarily in thanks to our Public Works division through their preparation and commitment to being on-call 24/7 during the winter months. Their dedication, along with that of all of our City departments from Police to Water Billing to Parks & Recreation, makes Grain Valley a great place to live! The Community Development Department has made great strides in improving our roads over the last year. The Board of Aldermen and myself have approved \$1 million budgeted this year to continue that work. There is still much to be done and we will continue to move forward with necessary repairs and resurfacing.

2021 was a year of transition as our country learned to move forward and adapt, despite the challenges and losses that many have suffered due to Covid. We live with a new normal that allowed us to come together. We were excited to once again be able to hold the Trail or Treat event, which was our biggest yet. Several days of rain leading up to the event

made for less-than-ideal conditions, but City staff made last minute adjustments to ensure the event was able to move forward. Thank you to them and to the 30+ local businesses and organizations who showed up with treats for more than 1,000 kiddos! I was overjoyed to be able to celebrate the holiday season once again together, as I served double-duty (Mayor/Santa) at the annual Holiday Festival at Armstrong Park. Santa saw almost 200 kids at the event.

The City has continued to see growth with new businesses on the North and South sides of Grain Valley, including Burger King, Panda Express and Club Carwash and we look forward to more to come! Recent Grain Valley High School graduate, Joe Pittman, will be opening Joeshmoes Coffee & Waffles at Olde Town Center Marketplace, opening soon!

City staff has grown too. Over the years, positions have been added to keep up with our expanding community. The current City Hall/Police Department facility was opened in 2001, which was just when the City's growth was really gaining momentum. Obvious insufficiencies have come to light in the Police Department that may affect the safety, efficiency and privacy of citizens and officers. Over the last year, City staff, along with consultants, began the process of determining solutions, including the potential for constructing a new police station. The Grain Valley Police Station Study Group was formed of residents and business owners from each Ward to delve deeper into options for a new police facility. The study group recommended that a bond measure in the amount of \$14 million be placed on the ballot for the upcoming election on April 5th. More information, including a virtual tour of current conditions, regarding a new police station can be found by visiting [www.cityofgrainvalley.org](http://www.cityofgrainvalley.org) or check out the enclosed article.

Thank you for the honor of serving this community. I always welcome questions and concerns. I can be reached at [cjohnston@cityofgrainvalley.org](mailto:cjohnston@cityofgrainvalley.org) or 816-847-6278. Be sure to follow City of Grain Valley, Grain Valley Police Department and Grain Valley Parks & Recreation on Facebook and Twitter to stay informed about events, weather warnings and other important information.

– **Chuck Johnston, Mayor**

## SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES

The City of Grain Valley has a vested interest in the senior citizens of this community. We offer the following programs, discounts and opportunities for Grain Valley residents who are 65 and older:

- **OATS Transit** – available for residents who are 65+ or age 18-64 with a disability. Rides cost only \$1 for each trip and are available MWF, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. They can be scheduled by calling 816-380-7433 and include travel within the city limits of Grain Valley and Blue Springs.
- **Fitness center** – free admittance to the fitness center, located in the community center, with access to all equipment. Fitness classes are available for additional charge, but many are free to members of SilverSneakers, Silver&Fit and Renew Active programs. Call 816-847-6230 to see if you are qualified.



- **Senior citizen luncheon** – entertainment, informative presentations, meal and free blood pressure check for a suggested donation of \$3 – first Wednesday of each month. Call 816-847-6232 for information and to RSVP.
- **Home delivered meals** – available to senior citizens who are homebound. The meals are coordinated by the Grain Valley Assistance Council and prepared by Cosentino's Price Chopper. Call 816-355-0328 for more information.
- **Utility bill discount** – available to residents who have provided identification and completed senior discount form at the utility billing office.

**ON THE COVER:**  
NEED INFO

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION ON APRIL 5TH

*The April 5th General Municipal Election will include ballot items that will impact our community.*

Included on this ballot is one alderman for each of the three wards as well as the mayor position. There will also be a bond question which will, if approved, include the complete design, construction and furnishing of a new Police Station (more information regarding this can be found in the enclosed article).

Residents of Jackson County can register to vote at Grain Valley City Hall anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. You also may register online at the Jackson County Election Board's official website: [www.jcebmo.org](http://www.jcebmo.org). Additionally, the election board is your source to find information regarding upcoming ballot issues and to identify polling locations. Valid identification and proof of residency are required for voter registration. The deadline for registering to vote for the upcoming election is March 9th.



## POTHOLES: NOT A LOT OF FUN

*Winter precipitation, followed by warming temperatures, unfortunately creates the perfect conditions for potholes.*

Water gets into small cracks in the street, freezes and expands. Over time, with the weight of vehicles traveling over weakened areas, the pavement breaks down forming potholes. Public Works repairs potholes as soon as they can, usually within a few days of being reported. It is vital that residents report troublesome potholes.

They can be reported utilizing any of the following methods:

- Call Public Works at 816-847-0091
- Email pothole location to [info@cityofgrainvalley.org](mailto:info@cityofgrainvalley.org)
- "Report an Issue" on the City of Grain Valley app
- "Report a Concern" at [www.cityofgrainvalley.org](http://www.cityofgrainvalley.org)

## POTENTIAL FOR NEW POLICE STATION TO BE ON APRIL BALLOT

*The Grain Valley Police Department has grown along with the rapidly increasing population of this community.*

They currently operate out of a shared building, which was constructed in 2001 as the population's growth was starting to gain momentum. Since then, the police department staff has more than doubled in size. The current police station is no longer adequate to accommodate the needs of the staff or Grain Valley citizens.

The Grain Valley Police Station Study Group was formed in Fall 2021 to evaluate the need for a new police station. They met together six times in meetings that were open to the public for observation. They also held a community open house in which they gathered ideas and recommendations from those in attendance. The study group consisted of Grain Valley residents and business owners- two from each Ward - and one member at-large. The group also toured three modern metro area law enforcement facilities, spoke with police staff there and consulted with the architectural experts on behalf of the community.

The recommendations for a new police station include more secure holding facilities that meet current standards, adequate records storage and an appropriate evidence processing area. There is also a need for safer environments for officers as well as visitors, privacy for those needing to conduct business with the police department and an overall better environment that serves our men and women in law enforcement.



The Study Group compiled the information they collected into a document presented to Mayor Johnston and the Board of Aldermen. Our elected officials approved their recommendations as feasible and voted to approve an ordinance at the January 10th Board of Aldermen meeting authorizing a ballot question for the April 4th election. If passed, the measure will approve General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$14 million to fund a newly constructed police headquarters. It is anticipated that the no levy increase bond initiative will allow the headquarters to be built without maxing out debt capacities or increasing the current tax rate by the City. For more information regarding a new police headquarters call 816-847-6296.

## GV POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CAMP FOCUS

*Camp Focus gives kids the chance to connect with officers, develop skills and have fun with peers.*

Camp Focus was a dream of Chief James Beale's that came to life in 2019 with the objective of providing youth with an opportunity to learn valuable life lessons through education and mentoring. Grain Valley's three School Resource Officers took the project on and have facilitated each of the camps. Preparations are underway for the 3rd Annual Camp Focus, July 25-29, 2022 (the 2020 camp was canceled due to COVID). The Camp focuses on life skills, leadership and information for those interested in public service careers. Hands-on learning opportunities include lifesaving skills, physical endurance, use of force simulation, hiking and firefighting skills.



“Camp Focus offers kids from our community the chance to connect with officers through a variety of skill and character-building activities, but also to just allowing them to have fun with peers,” Chief Beale said.



The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) and other supporting agencies such as the Central Jackson County Fire Protection District, the Jackson County Park Rangers and Metropolitan Community College work together to make Camp Focus memorable for attendees. The camp is made possible through generous donations from citizens and business owners, as well as a grant which was awarded to the police department from the Truman Heartland Community Foundation.

Students who have completed grades 6th up to 12th are eligible to apply for Camp Focus, which is free for attendees.

For more information about Camp Focus, call 816-847-6250 or email [gvmopd@cityofgrainvalley.org](mailto:gvmopd@cityofgrainvalley.org).

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## JOIN OUR TEAM

The City of Grain Valley has grown exponentially over the last three decades. This is one factor that lends to the excitement of being part of the City staff team. The community's growth as more residents and businesses are drawn to it each year ingrains a sense of pride in those who work for the City. All staff works together to make a difference to build and improve the community.

The City of Grain Valley operates under the guidance of a Mayor and Board of Aldermen and the leadership of a City Administrator. The functions of city staff are divided among five (5) departments and include a variety of vocational skill sets such as law enforcement, city planning, recreation, administrative and skilled hands-on work.



*(The work we do has purpose) as we are able to serve the community and keep citizens going about their lives with minimal disruptions to common life items such as good drinking water, functioning sanitary and storm water systems and roads to travel.*

**– Patrick Martin, Public Works**



*I enjoy being able to provide the best service for youth and other citizens of the community and providing police services in the community where I was raised and currently reside.*

**– Matt Arends, Police Department**

Collectively, the city employs 66 full time staff in 40 different roles, as well as part-time and seasonal positions. The city's part-time and seasonal positions have flexible hours and schedules and include: Concession Attendants, Swim Instructors, Seasonal Park Maintenance and Seasonal Public Works Maintenance.

The City offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package for full-time employees including 12 paid holidays, paid sick leave and vacation leave, city paid insurance (medical, dental and short-term disability), LAGERS retirement, longevity pay and additional options.

If you have a desire to work in a progressive, unique culture with a close proximity to your home, consider joining our team! Career opportunities can be found and applied for at [www.cityofgrainvalley.org/careers](http://www.cityofgrainvalley.org/careers). If you have questions regarding employment, contact Khalilah Holland, Human Resources Administrator at [kholland@cityofgrainvalley.org](mailto:kholland@cityofgrainvalley.org) or 816-847-6292.

City of Grain Valley, Missouri  
711 Main Street

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# STAY CONNECTED

FOR EVENTS, NEWS AND UPDATED INFO

City of Grain Valley, Grain Valley Parks & Recreation and Grain Valley Police Department are accessible on Facebook, Twitter and at [www.cityofgrainvalley.org](http://www.cityofgrainvalley.org).

## SAVE TIME

### PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL BY PHONE!

Call 866-290-8885, 24 hours a day, 365 days a week.  
Enter your info securely through an automated system.

### Paying your utility bill is easier than ever!

Visit [www.cityofgrainvalley.org](http://www.cityofgrainvalley.org)  
to print a bill, sign up for paperless  
billing, view account transactions  
& consumption history, "quick pay"  
or set up recurring payments.

## GRAIN VALLEY CITY HALL

711 Main Street  
[info@cityofgrainvalley.org](mailto:info@cityofgrainvalley.org)

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
816-847-6250

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
816-847-6220

**PARKS & RECREATION/  
COMMUNITY CENTER**  
816-847-6230

**ADMINISTRATION**  
816-847-6200

**PUBLIC WORKS**  
816-847-0091  
After Hours 816-990-1990

**WATER & SEWER BILLING**  
816-847-6280