

City of Maryville Newsletter



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City Officials

Mayor—Chad Jackson
 City Council Member—Carole Coutts
 City Council Member—Pat Cummings
 City Council Member—Ron Moss
 City Council Member—Mike Thompson
 City Manager—Matt LeCerf
 City Clerk—Sheila Smail
 Finance Director—Denise Town
 Human Resources Manager—Amy Strough
 Parks & Recreation Director—Rod Auxier
 Public Safety Director—Keith Wood
 Public Works Director—Greg Decker

City Receives TRIM Grant

by Greg Decker, Public Works Director

On September 19th, 2008 the City of Maryville received notification of award from the Missouri Department of Conservation's Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grant. The total funds available to the City through this grant are in the amount of \$9,280.00. These funds are a direct disbursement to the City with a 20% match that will be accomplished with in kind labor by city employees. This grant will allow the City of Maryville to fund work needed to complete additional tree projects within city parks and city right-of-ways. Some of the projects covered under this grant include grinding many of the stumps that have been left behind from tree

removal in city right-of-way. Many trees that were damaged as a result of the December 2007 ice storm still remain. Some of these damaged trees were removed in April of this year during the FEMA cleanup, but some of the stumps remained. These remaining stumps will be ground down below the soil surface and new top soil will be added in order to reestablish the lawns in the right-of-ways. Additionally, many of the city parks still have damaged trees with broken and damaged limbs hanging throughout. These hanging branches will be removed and the area around the tree will be cleaned up to allow for limb growth and replacement. Also

as part of this grant, an inventory of the northeast quadrant of Maryville will be completed. This inventory will be a comprehensive inventory which will include information including size, species, tree condition and maintenance needs. High risk trees will be assigned a high priority for maintenance. Public information will also be incorporated in this grant to provided citizens with information related to improving landscape and tree management, as well as educational brochures that are related to the TRIM grant.

For more information related to this program please contact the Public Works office at 660-562-8012.

Get to Know the Maryville Optimist Club

by the Maryville Optimist Club

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with 121,000 adult and youth members in 3900 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico and throughout the world. Carrying the motto "Bringing out the best in kids," Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year. The local Maryville Optimist Club sponsors and helps support numerous youth related activities such as Youth Appreciation Week, Promise Yourself to be Drug Free, Oratorical contest, Essay contest, Fishing contest, Camp Quality, Highway Cleanup, Toys for Tots, Relay for Life, Respect for Law, and others.

The Mission statement and the Optimist Creed state the purpose of the club succinctly.

Mission Statement: By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.

The Optimist Creed:
Promise yourself-

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others

as you are about your own.

- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

If you would like more information about the Maryville Optimist Club, please contact Bob Cooper, 582-5603 or Betty Bush, 582-8486. We invite you to join us as we work for Maryville's youth.

If you are interested in becoming a guest columnist in upcoming newsletters, please contact either Sheila Small or Amy Strough at 562-8001.

Got a Comment or a Suggestion?

Visit the **Feedback** section of our website at www.maryville.org and voice your opinion.

Tips for Hiring a Contractor

- **Seek referrals from friends.**
- **Get bids from at least three contractors.**
- **Be wary of bids that are much lower than other bids.**
- **Insist on a written contract.**
- **Hire only contractors that have a license.**
- **Verify license with the City of Maryville at 660-562-8027.**
- **Withhold final payment until the entire project is finalized and inspected.**

City Offices to be Closed for Holidays



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 19th



President's Day

Monday, February 16th

Transforming Blight into a Pretty Sight

by Abbie Renshaw, Executive Assistant

In an effort to honor Maryville homes and businesses for the beautification and improvements to their property, the City of Maryville is considering establishing a beautification awards program. Those homes or businesses which have made Maryville a more beautiful place to live will be rewarded through this program.

If approved by the Council, the awards program will take effect in April of 2009. When and if

established, the program will issue up to four awards to either commercial or residential properties each month from April to October. Nominators will be given four categories to choose from; Commercial, Residential, Rehabilitation of Residential and Rehabilitation of Commercial. Commercial and residential will be judged on the continuous beautification of the property, while rehabilitation of residential and commercial will be judged on the transforma-

tion of the property for the better. Criteria will be based on curb appeal, turf quality, aesthetics, etc. Winners will have a picture of their home or business posted on the City's website and will receive a proclamation from Mayor Jackson.

The City of Maryville appreciates the work that goes into improving your home or business and we want to make sure that citizens are recognized for their efforts.

Protect Yourself: Hire a Licensed Contractor

By Jim Wiederholt, Code Enforcement Officer

Every year hundreds of homeowners call the Attorney General's office or the Better Business Bureau with home repair horror stories. There are tales of contractors disappearing half way through the job, con-artists who have just scammed the homeowner, and of poor quality construction. One of the simplest ways to avoid becoming a victim is to hire a licensed contractor.

Although a licensed contractor doesn't insure quality work, it does imply a level of professionalism and integrity. A contractor is required by law to be licensed to work within the city limits of Maryville. This license requires the contractor to show proof of liability insurance. A contractor with insurance means that the homeowner is protected if property damage is caused by the contractor. The homeowner is also protected if the contractor injures or damages someone else's property. Some people mistakenly believe that their homeowner's insurance protects them. Many homeowners' policies exclude work done without permits and by unlicensed contractors.

Unlicensed contractors can't obtain permits and often don't follow building codes. The

homeowner can be responsible for repairs or even removal if the work doesn't meet the building code. Unlicensed contractors don't have to meet specific standards and are usually less experienced and maybe even unqualified to do the work. This results in poor quality work for the homeowner and possible safety hazards. Electrical, plumbing and HVAC work should only be done by persons licensed in that area and who have passed a test to prove competency.

Scams in the construction industry are nothing new. Con-artists often take advantage of the elderly and unsuspecting. The results are sloppy work and often a homeowner who has lost their hard earned money. Home repair fraud costs consumers billions of dollars every year.

A homeowner needs to protect themselves when hiring a contractor. Certain warning signs can help a homeowner spot an unqualified or dishonest contractor. Be cautious of any contractor who contacts you and offers a *too good to be true* offer. Some con-artists will try to scare the homeowner and often use high pressure tactics. An offer that is good "now or

never" is probably never good. If the contractor asks for too much money up front or is not willing to sign a contract, you should be cautious. Finally, a contractor should provide you with information to verify that they are licensed and insured. You can contact the City of Maryville at 660-562-8012 to verify a contractor has a license.

A properly licensed and insured contractor will want to get the agreement in writing. A well-written contract protects the contractor as well as the homeowner. A contract should outline the entire agreement including starting and completion dates, a description of work to be done, payment schedule, detailed material list, warranty information and clean-up agreements. Be sure you understand the terms of the contract and have an attorney review the contract before it is signed.

A homeowner who does a little extra work before a contractor is hired can save themselves time, energy and money in the long run. The simple act of verifying that the contractor is licensed can help your project run more smoothly.

City Redefines Its Mission, Vision & Values Statement

By Matt LeCerf, City Manager

Approximately six months ago, the City was in a strategic planning process to review and redefine its Mission, Vision and Values Statements as they pertain to the City and providing the services that citizens expect and deserve. This work involved collaboration between the Mayor and City Council along with City staff, specifically key personnel and department heads. As a result, the City has developed the following Mission, Vision, and Values Statements:

Mission Statement:

The City of Maryville City Council and Staff, in cooperation with members of the community is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life, while inspiring economic growth and vitality within the community.

Vision Statement:

Maryville will be renowned as a dynamic community with excellent and responsive public services, where neighborhoods are safe and the economy is vibrant.

brant.

Values Statements:

PEOPLE: People are priority as we value, respect, trust, recognize and effectively communicate in our interactions.

INTEGRITY: We strive to excel in our performance by exemplifying professionalism and excellence in our service to others.

COMMITMENT: We are committed to our community through perseverance, dedication and follow through.

TEAMWORK: Through collaboration with others, we optimize planning, decisions and outcomes.

As an organization, we hope that the Mission Statement personifies why this City exists and accurately articulates the purpose of those in the organization and how we serve the public as an organization.

As an organization, the Vision Statement focuses on our organizations future and the expectation that we have upon ourselves within the organization and for you as citizens who hold us accountable for how we represent and conduct business in the organization.

As an organization, the Values Statements are key descriptions which outline the principles and ethical guidelines by which our organization operates and will continue to operate in the future.

As leaders in the community and for this organization, collectively we hope that we have encompassed a Mission, Vision & Values Statements for which we currently operate from and will continue to operate from in the future.

As the current City Manager for Maryville, I welcome your comments and constructive criticism on these representations of the City and how we might continue to improve the services we deliver to you. I wish all of the citizens and the community of Maryville a Happy

City Receives Grant Money Through HeRO/DREAM Program

by Abbie Renshaw, Executive Assistant

The City of Maryville received \$132,000 in HOME Repair Opportunity (HeRO) and Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance to Missourians (DREAM) program funds. The grant is funded by the Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Missouri by expanding opportunities to improve and make more livable owner occupied single-family properties in eligible areas.

A maximum of \$20,000 per house was allocated to the City to repair seven homes in the DREAM area. An application process, administered by the City, will determine which homes will be awarded the

money. There are two general eligibility requirements an applicant must meet 1) the owner must occupy the property as their primary principal residence and 2) the total annual household income must be less than 80% of the area median income. Eligible repairs may include, but are not limited to, weatherization, repair/replacement, environmental, accessibility and lead risk reduction. Duplexes, Condominiums and Cooperative Unites are not eligible for funding. The program is non interest-bearing, requires no payments and will be forgiven after three years of occupancy when the project is completed.

The DREAM boundary has been

extended, solely for this particular grant, so that more homes can become eligible. If you would like to know if your home is located within the designated area, please contact City Hall at 660-562-8001 or you can visit the City's website at www.maryville.org and view the DREAM HOME Repair map. Further information including but not limited to public hearings, public outreach and the application process will be made available in early 2009 at City Hall. For more information regarding the HOME Repair Opportunities (HeRO) and Downtown Revitalization & Economic Assistance for Missouri (DREAM) program visit www.mhdc.com or www.dream.mo.gov.

City Council Elections

If you would like to run for City Council in the April 7th election, you must sign up by January 20, 2009 to get your name on the ballot. Contact Sheila Smail, City Clerk at 562-8001 to sign up.

Not on our mailing list?

Call Sheila Smail at 562-8001 or email her at ssmail@maryville.org



"A maximum of \$20,000 per house was allocated to the City to repair seven homes in the DREAM area... The program is non interest-bearing, requires no payments and will be forgiven after three years of occupancy when the project is completed."

Phone Numbers

City Hall	562-8001
Airport	582-2233
Animal Shelter	562-3333
Code Enforcement	562-8027
Court Clerk	562-3526
Finance/Water Bill	562-8005
Transfer Station	562-8018
Mozingo Golf Maint.	562-2638
Mozingo Golf Course	562-3864
Mozingo Lake Maint.	562-2089
Public Library	582-5281
Community Center	562-2923
Park & Rec Maint.	562-2636
Swimming Pool	562-2663
Public Safety	562-3209
Public Works	562-8012
Street Dept.	562-8012
Water Maint. Dept.	562-8019

Visit our website at
www.maryville.org to
 view Current Job
 Openings with the City

Hours of Operation

City Hall

M–F 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Maryville Community Center

M–Th 5:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Fri. 5:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

Sat. 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Sun. 12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Library

M–F 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Sat. 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Landfill

M–F 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Mother Nature Makes Ice and Snow Removal Difficult

by Greg Decker, Public Works Director

After last winter's ice storm, city staff was hoping for a much more normal winter this year, but so far this winter is starting off with a sample of just about everything that Mother Nature can deal out. When the recent sub-zero temperatures added to thunderstorms and rain/ice during the week of December 15th, we struggled to get the ice melted and the streets safe for traffic. The major point of frustration has been the extremely low temperatures that essentially stop the ice melt product from melting the ice on city streets. Studies have shown that once the surface temperature of a street reaches 15 degrees Fahrenheit the ice melt product is basically useless. Thus the case over the last few weeks, the air temperature on Monday the 22nd of December was -12 degrees at 7:00 am. While we always make every effort to keep all of the city streets safe for vehicular traffic, our main focus this day was to keep the emergency snow routes open for everyone's safety. We used a mix of salt and sand on the streets on this day to help with vehicle traction

on the streets that had excessive ice cover, but with the street temperature at or below zero, the sand was even freezing in clumps on the street in some places. Some residents asked why we don't use straight sand when the temperature reaches so low that the salt is useless. We have found that by using a large volume of sand on the street, it causes a mess for vehicles and we then get requests to remove the excessive sand from the street. This is why we use the mix of salt and sand and just not straight sand on the street. With the air temperature predicted to return to somewhat normal for this time of year, we hope the ice melt material will activate and continue to melt the ice on the driving surface.

Also with the winter weather comes the issue of snow piled up on the curbs of the streets in the downtown area. City crews plan to make every effort to clean the curbs of the streets in the downtown area to assist patrons entering and exiting businesses. We will generally clean the snow from the curb after all of the streets have

been cleared and the snow removal can be accomplished with out requiring overtime for the street crews so as to stay in line with the operating budget of the street department. This means that in some instances the snow may remain on the curb for some time, but we do plan to remove the snow just as soon as the weather and time allows. We do not want to ignore the driving surface to address snow removal from the curbs in downtown. Also with our employee's safety in mind, we must allow some time off for our employees to rest before calling them out for the next storm. The middle two weeks in December required us to have crews on the streets basically 24 hours per day for 6 days per week.

Hopefully this helps patrons further understand the situation that we are dealing with here at City Hall. Lastly, we want everyone to allow a little extra time when traveling to allow for what ever Mother Nature deals us this winter. As always please contact the Pubic Works Office anytime with comments or suggestions at 660-562-8012.

Golf Course Gets New Carts

by Rick Schultz, PGA Professional

Hello Mozingolfers!

As we roll into the New Year we can only hope that this winter is nothing like the last one. Being shut down for so long is a strain on golfers as well as the people who work at the course. The forecast for January and February is for warmer conditions and presents the hope that we all may be able to hit a few shots from time to time.

The next time you are out at the

course look for our new golf carts from E-Z Go. They should be arriving any day and promise to help us save on gasoline costs with better miles per gallon. Also new, will be the sand and seed bottles attached to the cart. From now on instead of replacing your divot, you'll be asked to fill that depression with the sand and seed mixture.

Dates have been set for the following events in 2009. Senior League begins April 14th,

Men's League begins May 27th, Ladies League begins June 2nd and Junior Golf starts June 10th. Speaking of Junior Golf, Mozingo Lake will be hosting one of the statewide events in the Hieronymus Junior Amateur Golf Series for 2009. The date is Monday June 22nd and is open to boys and girls ages 10-18. More information and a sign up will be available this spring. Think warm thoughts and hope for an early spring!