

Mayor and City Council Update

Friday, October 28, 2011

Playground Structure Installed at Krug Park (courtesy of Jeff Atkins & Sharon Ritchey)...

A new playground structure was recently installed at Krug Park, on the upper level near the picnic grounds and shelters. The old equipment had seen better days and was in need of replacement. The unit and supporting fitness equipment was manufactured by Landscape Structures International. The three fitness units include a cardio stepper, chest/back press, and Tai Chi wheels. These units can be used by parents whose children are using the playground, picnickers, walkers, and runners utilizing Krug Park. All three units have settings to raise or lower the resistance.

Surfacing will be installed in the spring when the temperature is assured to remain consistently over 54 degrees for multiple days. For the short term, parks maintenance staff will put in wood chips to allow the children to use the equipment before the recycled tire poured-in-place surfacing can be installed.



The total cost of the project is \$64,260, with \$40,000 coming from the Bode Trust. The remaining funding is coming from CIP funds. Parks maintenance employees performed all the site preparation work.



Cardio Stepper



Chest/Back Press



Tai Chi Wheels

Section 106 Posting for Public Comment (courtesy of Scott Des Planques)...

The city of St. Joseph is seeking public comment on the proposed city-ordered demolitions of the dangerous buildings listed below. The city's chief building official, after hearing the evidence at the October 19 dangerous building hearing ordered these properties to be demolished. Should you have any questions or comments about the proposed demolition of these properties, including information on any historical or architectural significance,

please send them to me in writing, 1100 Frederick Avenue, Room 101A or e-mail, sdesplanques@ci.st-joseph.mo.us. In order for your information and/or comments to be considered they must be received by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 9, 2011, and city staff will include them with the Section 106 report that will be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office.

1701 Messanie St. (Commercial Structure)
916 Douglas St. (Residence)

Please do not attempt to enter these buildings without owner consent because they are private property and the city of St. Joseph has designated them as dangerous structures.

City Council Meeting Date Changed (press release October 27, 2011)...

The St. Joseph City Council, at a previous council meeting, voted to change the date for the upcoming City Council meeting due to Halloween falling on Monday, October 31. The next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, located on the third floor of City Hall.

The meeting can also be viewed live on cable channel 19.

Youth Volleyball Leagues Conclude (courtesy of Chuck Kempf)...

This week was the last week of the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities youth volleyball league for grade school girls. The league, which consists of a seven game schedule began two years ago and is designed to create an opportunity for 3rd - 6th grade girls to learn and participate in the sport of volleyball.

This year, five teams participated in the 3rd/4th grade league, while seven teams were involved in the 5th/6th grade league. The parks department facilitates the program in conjunction with the St. Joseph School District, with the parks department providing scheduling, supervision, and officiating. The school district offers the Keatley Center as the host site for league games.



Next up, youth basketball. Sign-ups are underway, with the deadline for entering teams, Friday, November 4. For more information, call the parks department at 271-5500.

Public Meeting to Discuss State Rail Plan (press release October 28, 2011)...

Passenger rail service was once a common service available to most cities up through the early 1970s. Since that time, our country has been completely dependent upon the automobile.

About four years ago, the federal government began examining the issue again with the aim of shaping a national strategy toward providing passenger rail service to connect some of the larger populations in the country.

Missouri is somewhat unique in that its major population centers are on its periphery and also those centers are natural connections to urban centers in surrounding states. Two years ago, the Missouri State Legislature appropriated funds to study the feasibility of developing connections from Kansas City to Omaha, through St. Joseph, as well as other communities including separate routes to St. Louis and Springfield.

As the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) begins its study, a meeting will be held in St. Joseph to gauge public support and to learn more about possible service options. Details of the meeting are:

Tuesday, November 1

5:30 - 7pm

St. Joseph MoDOT District Office

3602 North Belt Highway

At each meeting, a brief presentation will be made at 6pm. All public meeting sites are wheel-chair accessible.

Although state driven, it is becoming increasingly recognized that there is a need for a nationally comprehensive strategy toward developing viable passenger rail service that links urban areas on a regional and national scale, much like the interstate system. It will represent a new paradigm that will be necessary to support the significant investment needed to develop and operate such a system.

MoDOT is developing a new State Rail Plan that will provide the strategic framework for the development of freight and passenger rail service in Missouri for the next 20 years. It is important that your voice is heard to ensure Missourians' needs are incorporated into this process. You are invited to attend the meeting to be held in St. Joseph next week.

We want to know your thoughts on:

- The freight rail system's ability to move goods to the marketplace
- Proposed intercity passenger rail improvements
- Publicly funded improvements to privately-owned railroad systems
- Investments in rail projects versus other infrastructure needs

Public Notices (courtesy of Cindi Meers)...

Request for Bid: Bid #420-820, County Line/York Pump Station and Sewer

Sealed bids will be accepted by the purchasing agent on the second floor of City Hall 1100 Frederick Avenue, Room 201, St. Joseph, Missouri 64501 until November 10, 2011, at 3:00 p.m., at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A pre-bid conference will be held on November 1, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., in the first floor conference room at City Hall located at 1100 Frederick Avenue, St. Joseph, Missouri 64501.

The work generally consists of the removal of nine unused vent pipes below the roof surface and patch holes before applying a fluid spray of coating over the metal standing seam roof on the higher arena roof and a fluid spray coating over the existing lower office and locker room.

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from the purchasing division at the address shown above or by calling 816.271.4696.

Complete set of bidding documents will require a deposit of \$25. The deposit will be refunded, if bidding documents are returned within fifteen days after bid opening date.

Please pay close attention to State Prevailing Wage Determination.

These bids are subject to a Local Preference as outlined in General Ordinance 2211.

The city reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. The city of St. Joseph is an equal opportunity employer.

Notice of Public Hearing: Notice is given to all citizens of the city of St. Joseph, Missouri, that a meeting of the Planning Commission of the city of St. Joseph, Missouri, will be held on November 17, 2011, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall wherein the Commission will hold public hearings for the following items and at which time all interested persons will be heard:

- JEFF PICKEREL – Requesting approval of a Conditional Use Permit to construct a church at 2407 Messanie Street on property presently zoned C-3 Commercial District.
- PIONEER INVESTMENT by Ross Freeman, agent – Requesting approval of a Zoning District Change from P-1, Downtown Precise Plan District to P-11, Uptown Development Precise Plan District generally located north of Faraon Street between 6th Street and 10th Street, and not extending past Hall Street on the north.
- PIONEER INVESTMENT by Ross Freeman, agent – Requesting approval of a major preliminary subdivision plan to be known as The Quarters, Plat 1 on property generally bound on the north by Robidoux Street, on the south by Faraon Street, on the west by 7th Street and on the east by 9th Street. Said subdivision proposes 21 lots on property currently zoned P-1, Downtown Precise Plan District with a pending zoning district change to P-11, Uptown Development Precise Plan District.
- CITY OF ST. JOSEPH—Requesting approval of an amendment to the P-1 Downtown Precise Plan District to remove that part of the downtown area bounded on the south by Faraon Street on the west by North 3rd Street; on the east by North 10th Street, and on the north by Robidoux Street in order to create a new legal description for P-1 that does not include any property that will be located in the P-11 Uptown Development Precise Plan.

A complete legal description of the properties along with additional information is available for review in the Planning Division offices at City Hall, 1100 Frederick Avenue, Room 107.