

The Windmill

News From City Hall



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CITY PARK UPGRADES

The final touches of improvements at City Park have been completed. This year saw the installation of new fencing around the basketball court with an additional light, as well as new lights in the park. The merry-go-round was also sandblasted and refinished. Numerous trees have been planted and relocated within the park as well this year. Several new benches have been placed within the park with a grant from the Clearwater Lions Club assisting on the purchase of the benches.

The City along with the Recreation Commission have spent approximately \$120,000 upgrading the park with new equipment and other fixtures during the last two years. In the coming years, the city and Recreation Commission will be looking at installing a walking path loop within the park and replacing the shelter houses.

The City and Recreation Commission are also working on a grant that would expand the walking trail in the Chisolm Trail Park. The grant is thru the Sunflower Foundation and we will know in June if we are successful.



Swimming Pool Info

Pool Opens

Saturday May 28th

Daily Fee is \$3.25 and Twilight Swim is only \$1.00 this year

Family Memberships and Punch Passes are available for the season

Swimming Lesson Sign Up Starts

Monday May 2nd at City Hall

Lessons are \$30.00 and the Recreation Commission has coupons for \$10.00 off



SPRING AND SUMMER ROAD WORK UPDATE

The City received notification from Sedgwick County that the bids for the mill and overlay of 135th and intersection work at Ross and Tracy and Ross and Lee has been awarded. APAC Shears of Wichita was awarded the contract last month. The city will share in a portion of the costs for the project but our share will be significantly less than was anticipated. The total cost for the city will be less than \$100,000. When budgeted it was estimated to be approximately \$350,000. APAC will work with the City and County to coordinate construction at the intersection of 4th and Ross to avoid conflicts with school traffic. The work should be completed late summer or early fall.

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City Administrator

Justin Givens

City Clerk

Courtney Meyer

Deputy City Clerk

Carol Reitberger

Utility Billing

Sharon Lampe

2017 BUDGET PROCESS

While we are only four months into the year, the City will begin its budget process soon. The annual budget must be submitted to the state in August. Staff will review operations and make recommendations to the Governing Body before the budget is approved. In late July or early August the City Council will have a Public Hearing prior to the budget for 2017 being adopted.

Last year, the Governing Body was able to keep the mill levy constant at 54 mills. This was the second year that the mill levy had remained the same. As Clearwater's population has grown so has the demand for services. In 2002, on a per person basis, Clearwater residents paid \$207.32 per year for municipal services or \$17.28 per month, to keep the roads paved, the parks mowed and have full time police, fire and EMS protection. Today, that number is \$310.64 per year and \$25.89 per month.

In 2002, the average housing unit in Clearwater paid approximately \$532 in city taxes with an average value of \$113,469 or just \$44 a month for municipal services. Today, those averages equate to \$798 per year and \$66 a month. Still significantly less than a cable, internet and phone bill for most of us!



Weed Nuisances

Section 6.24.027 of the Clearwater Municipal Code defines a weed nuisance as any grass or weeds causing a blighting effect in excess of 8 inches.

With the rain and cool weather grass and weeds can quickly get away from even the most courteous homeowner. Residents should be mindful of grass and weed violations as they do distract from the quality of life for all residents.

TONS OF TRASH

On Friday April 15th and Saturday April 16th the bi-annual City Wide Clean Up was held. The City holds these events with Waste Connections as part of the franchise trash service agreement. The agreement calls for twice yearly events that allow residents to drop off items. This year should definitely be called a success. We generally have six dumpsters for the Spring Clean Up and four in the fall. This year, just on the spring date, residents filled 12 full trash roll offs .

Based on input from residents, the city is exploring the option of curbside pick up for the fall date to help assist those that might have items that need to be hauled away but do not have the means to bring them to the dumpsters.