

BALLWIN

Bringing People Together

July - September 2008

Elected Officials

MAYOR

Walt Young
227-2016 (Office)
391-8259 (Home)

WARD 1 ALDERMEN

Tim Pogue
207-2386 x 3320

Jimmy Terbrock
207-2386 x 3330

WARD 2 ALDERMEN

Kenneth Buermann
394-9105

Jane Suozzi
227-6260

WARD 3 ALDERMEN

James Robinson
207-2386 x 3360

Frank Fleming
207-2386 x 3370

WARD 4 ALDERMEN

Ray Lembke
207-2386 x 3390

Richard Boerner
207-2386 x 3380

Utility Tax

On July 14, the Board of Aldermen voted to reinstate the utility tax rate to 7% from 5%. The rate had previously been lowered in 1996 in conjunction with a voter approved 1/2 cent Capital Improvement sales tax. Proceeds will be used primarily to insure continuation of services and programs such as leaf collection, mosquito fogging, brush pick-up and tree trimming. Since 2001, retail sales tax receipts have stagnated. Ballwin is one of only 13 St. Louis communities that does not impose a municipal property tax.

In the past year, the annual street lighting bill has increased from \$375,000 to \$410,000. Based on current estimates, our 2008 motor fuel costs will be at least \$120,000 over budget. Meanwhile, renewals for Liability and Workers' Compensation insurance have come in at 14.5% above current rates.

In these difficult financial times, the Board of Aldermen has explored, and will continue to be receptive to, every option that will insure continuation of the high quality programs and services that you expect and enjoy. Unfortunately, this standard comes with a price and the Board decided by a 5 to 3 vote that this was the least painful interim option. It is expected that the utility tax increase will be reflected in your August or September billing statements.

Impact: If your average monthly utility payments (gas, electric, water, phone) currently total \$275 (before taxes), the 2% tax increase will equate to about \$5.50 more per month.

Fuel for Thought

During the month of May, the City paid \$26,489 for motor fuel. Over 6,600 gallons was consumed. As expected, the police department used almost half of the total (3,050 gallons) followed by Public Works 2,777 gallons; Parks, 537 gallons; and Administration, 265 gallons. \$202,150 was budgeted for the year and we now expect to exceed this amount by 40%.

The Public Works Department, in the interest of saving fuel for both the City and employees, is working a "Fuel Savings Schedule until August 29. In order to assure availability to respond to the public needs on a typical 5 day work week, the department was split with half working Monday - Thursday and the other half working Tuesday - Friday. Except for the superintendent, administrative secretary and city engineer, 17 employees will work Monday - Thursday and 17 will work Tuesday - Friday. The 10 hour work day is 6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. It is expected that fuel consumption will be reduced by about 20%. If the program is successful, it will be extended until the end of daylight savings time.

The rising fuel costs have also negatively impacted street improvement projects. The price of asphalt rose from \$95.50 per ton in June to \$109.50 for the month of July, another 14.66% increase. Since the beginning of the year the price has risen 38.6% with no end in sight.



Mosquito Fogging

The city-wide mosquito fogging resumed July 7. This program was delayed due to the street preparation work that had to be completed by June 30 to allow the City's contractor to place with new asphalt overlays.

Fogging will be conducted Mondays through Thursdays. Rain will cancel fogging for that evening.

In the meantime, here are some simple precautions to alleviate these pests:

- Dump all sources of standing water. Mosquitoes will breed in wading pools, bird baths, clogged gutters - anywhere water can sit and turn rank.
- Protect yourself during outside activities. Spray clothing and exposed skin with insect repellents. Always follow label instructions and precautions.
- Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks while outdoors.
- Limit outdoor activity at dawn and at dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

For more information and the fogging schedule visit the City's website at

<http://www.ballwin.mo.us>

Police Service Fees

The Board of Aldermen recently amended city ordinances to reflect an appropriate and equitable fee for police services.

Service	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Auction/Estate Sale Fee	\$25	\$50.00
Bond Processing Fees	\$10	No Change
False Alarm Fines	\$25/\$50/\$100	No Change
Fingerprinting (Non-Resident)	\$15	No Change
Fingerprinting (Resident)	No Charge	\$15.00
Notary Service	No Charge	\$2.00
Police Report Fee	\$6	\$7.00
Records Check	\$5	\$6.00
Solicitation Permit	\$10	\$20.00

Special Enforcement Areas Established

In response to ongoing complaints of speeding vehicles in certain locations, the City of Ballwin has established Double Fine Zones on selected streets in the city. The Double Fine Zones, also known as Special Enforcement Areas, were established in an attempt to educate the public to the importance of obeying the posted speed limit, particularly in residential areas. The locations where Double Fine Zones were established are:

- Aspen Village – from Reinke Rd. to Westglen Village Dr.
- Bitterfield - from Henry to Woodsmill
- Claymont Dr. – entire length of street
- Clayworth Dr. – from Hwy 141 to Henry Rd.
- Clear Meadows Dr. – entire length of street
- Cleta Dr. – Ries Rd. to Asilomar Ct.
- Dutchmill Dr. – entire length of street
- Glen Meadows Dr. – Henry Rd. to Brightspur Ln.
- Hillsdale Dr. – entire length of street
- Hill Trail Dr. – Baxter Rd. to Wildwood Parkway
- Old Ballwin – entire length of street
- Parker Dr. – entire length of street
- Ramsey Ln. – entire length of street
- Reinke Rd. – entire length of street
- Richland Meadows – Westrun to Kiefer Creek Rd.
- Rustic Valley Dr. – entire length of street
- Twigwood Dr. – entire length of street
- Westglen Village Dr. - full length from both accesses to New Ballwin Road
- Wildwood Parkway – entire length of street
- Windcliffe Dr. – entire length of street

The Double Fine Zones are identified by a sign located beneath the speed limit sign on the affected street. The fine for speeding is based upon the number of miles above the posted speed limit the violator was traveling. The Double Fine Zone only affects the fine, not the associated court costs.

Safety Barriers for Family Swimming Pools

Swimming pools should always be happy places. Unfortunately, each year thousands of American families confront swimming pool tragedies – drownings and near-drownings of young children. These tragedies are preventable.

Each year about 300 children under 5 years old drown in swimming pools. Nearly half of the victims were last seen in the house and another 23% were last seen on the porch, patio or yard before the pool accident occurred. Figures show that fully 69% of the children who become victims in swimming pool accidents were not expected to be in or at the pool but were found drowned or submerged in the water.

While just as tragic, fewer than 2% of pool accidents were a result of children trespassing on the property where they didn't live or belong. Finally, 77% of the swimming pool victims had been missing for five minutes or less when they were found in the pool drowned or submerged.

In addition to diligent supervision, it has been concluded that the best way to prevent pool accidents is for pool owners to construct and maintain pool barriers that can prevent young children from gaining access to pools.

General Pool Barrier Guidelines (For more details call Ballwin's Code Enforcement Office):

Yards containing a pool should be completely enclosed by a fence a minimum of 48 inches above grade, measured from the side of the barrier that faces away from the pool.

If the horizontal members of the fence structure are less than 45 inches apart, the exterior surface of fences should be made of vertical members spaced not to exceed 1-3/4 inches. If the horizontal members of the fence structure are over 45 inches apart, the vertical members should be less than 4 inches apart. The mesh size of chain link fences should not exceed 1-1/4 inches. This helps to prevent small children from climbing over a fence. The bottom of the pool barrier or fence should not exceed 2 inches above grade.

For above ground pools, the pool wall may serve as part of the barrier as long as it is at least 48 inches high and the wall is smooth. The ladders to above ground pools should be enclosed by a barrier (fence) a minimum of 48" high with a self-latching gate. The releasing mechanism for the gate should be not less than 54 inches above the bottom of the gate and not more than 3 inches below the top of the gate and face the inside of the barrier. All areas within 18 inches of the gate latch release should have no openings larger than 1/2 inch.

Gates in pool barrier fencing must be self-latching and conform to the requirements mentioned above.

When the house wall forms part of the pool barrier, passage through any doors in the house wall must be controlled by security measures. This means that all doors, including screen or storm doors that give access to a swimming pool, must be equipped with an audible alarm, which sounds when the door is opened. The alarm should sound for at least 30 seconds after the door is opened.

It is important to note that these regulations apply not only to traditional swimming pools but also to spas, hot tubs and the currently popular inflatable pools that exceed 24 inches in depth, unless they are equipped with a safety cover that complies with ASTM F1346-91.

Most of the information contained in this article is taken from the US Consumer Products Safety Commission Publication Number 362. For more details please contact the Ballwin Code Enforcement office at 227-2129.

Harmless Prank Violates Ordinance

A common misconception by both teens and adults is that the act of "TP-ing a house" is a simple and harmless prank. This is usually done to a teammate or close friend's residence as a sign of spirit or acceptance. On occasion, it may be done out of spite by an ex-boyfriend or girlfriend to prove a point.

The misconception lies in that this simple prank is actually a violation of two city ordinances. It is covered first under the City's 'Destruction of Property' ordinance which states, "No person shall willfully deface, injure, tamper with, break, disturb, interfere with, damage or destroy any property, real or personal, belonging to or under the control of another." The key words in this ordinance pertaining to TP-ing are that it immediately tampers, disturbs and interferes with the landscaping of the residence. The second ordinance which covers TP-ing is "Littering". It states "No person shall throw, dump, deposit or place any paper, rubbish, garbage or debris of any kind on any roadway, parking lot or private property." Seldom do the subjects who TP someone's residence take the time to consider the house they TP is not the only house it affects. The toilet paper often gets blown yard to yard or tree to tree by the wind or the dew in the morning causes the toilet paper to disintegrate and become stuck in the trees. On some occasions people have been hurt falling out of trees by climbing up them to remove the paper.

The act of TP-ing could also violate City ordinances covering Trespassing and Curfew. The facts are clear that what might have started as a simple prank could land you in more trouble than it was worth. The Police Department encourages parents to talk with their children to explain the importance of respecting another person's property and define other type activities that would really fall under the "simple prank" definition.

The Pointe Offers a Free Day of Play

Please plan to visit the city's award winning community recreation center, The Pointe at Ballwin Commons, located on Old Ballwin Road one-half mile south of Manchester Road, for our "Open House" scheduled all day on Saturday, September 13. If you have been curious to see what The Pointe has to offer, this is an excellent opportunity to check it out and play for free all day long.

Pointe activity areas include a double gymnasium, 1/8 mile track, aerobics studio, fitness area with cardiovascular as well as weight training equipment, and an indoor leisure pool complete with lap lanes, a two-story water slide and a spa.

Spinning, aerobics, and yoga classes will be scheduled throughout the day for visitors to try "mini" versions of each program free of charge. Attendance prizes and complimentary refreshments will be available as well as our health and wellness professionals to answer your questions. For the convenience of parents with small children, complimentary child care will be available from 8:00 am until noon.

Visits are all complimentary on September 13; however, during the entire month of September The Pointe is offering a "Fall Back into Fitness" membership special which includes 10% off the regular annual membership price. Discounted memberships are always available to employees of Ballwin's business community.

For more information on the schedule for the Pointe's Free Play Day or any other parks and recreation information, visit the Ballwin website at www.ballwin.mo.us. We're bringing people together!

Digital Road Rally

Round up, it's rally time! Teams of three or four race around by car taking pictures in a scavenger hunt. You are given clues and point possibilities, then sent off to digitally capture your experience. While we judge the rally results, enjoy complimentary pizza, salad, soda, and beer. Top Team and attendance prizes will be given. Teams bring their own digital (or Polaroid) cameras (bring USB cable for the camera). No phone cameras please. Teams must provide their own transportation. Pre-registration required. Sign up your team at The Pointe or call (636) 227-8950.

When: Saturday, August 16

Time: 6:00-10:30 PM

Where: Ballwin Golf Club

Ages: 21 and over

Fee: \$40 per team

Sponsored by



St. Louis Adventure Challenge

The cities of Ballwin, Ellisville, Town & Country, Des Peres and St. Louis County have teamed up to offer our version of the "Amazing Race." Co-ed teams of three will travel the West St. Louis area searching for hidden check points, by walking, running or biking. The team will be tested with both mental and physical challenges. Teams may choose to compete in the short course (approximately 2-4 hour race) or the long course (approximately 4-8 hour race). Adult teams of three may be made with any combination of female/male ratio but must be co-ed. Youth (under 18) may only compete in the family division with a parent/guardian on the same team. This is a self-sufficient race. Each team is required to bring their own food and water, one compass and one cell phone. Each teammate requires one bike and one helmet.

The Race takes place Saturday, October 4, 2008 and starts at Queeny Park.

For more information visit

www.desperesmo.org or call

Chris Conway at
Ballwin Parks and Recreation
636-207-2352

or

Nikki Thole
Des Peres Parks and Recreation
314-835-6150

Financial Safeguards

In these troubled times, it is important to point out that we have numerous safeguards and policies in place to insure that your public funds are protected. Each year finances are scrutinized by an independent auditing firm. Their report is certified and available for public inspection. Board policy dictates that the city cannot retain the services of the same firm for more than five consecutive years. Ballwin has never received a negative finding in terms of accepted accounting practices.

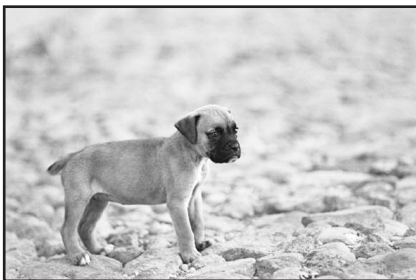
Since 1998 Ballwin has maintained totally separate operating and capital budgets. This insures that all revenue from the voter approved Parks and Capital Improvement sales taxes are legally applied as promised and intended.

There is a rigid investment policy that requires dealing exclusively with local financial institutions. All investments are FDIC insured and must be collateralized at 102% of the Federal rate. Ballwin never goes out longer than 18 months on CD investments and will sacrifice interest for the preservation of principle and liquidity though competitive quotes are solicited for every investment opportunity. The current investment has a portfolio of about \$4.9 million (34% of Operating budget) in interest bearing accounts which can be easily liquidated in the event of an emergency.

The City also engages the services of a financial advisor who is affiliated with a nationally recognized brokerage firm. The primary role is to monitor debt obligations in relation to changing market conditions. An independent wealth management firm coordinates the management of the Police pension fund. All other employees are under the state mandated LAGERS system. Social Security contributions are required for all employees.

Finally, Ballwin has a stringent purchasing policy that requires solicitation of at least three informal price quotes for any expenditure over \$1,000 and a formal bid process with advertising and public Board approval for anything over \$5,000. Collectively, these and other measures provide accountability and help to insure that you are receiving maximum value for your money.

Lost Pets



The Ballwin Police Department would like to remind citizens to contact the police dispatch center if they lose their pets. Officers frequently find dogs running at large. The officers bring the dogs to the station while they attempt to locate the owners.

Owners are encouraged to microchip their pets or have a collar on their dogs and cats that lists a valid phone number where they can be contacted

if their pet is found. Ballwin has an ordinance that prohibits pet owners from intentionally allowing their animals to run at large. The police dispatch center may be contacted at 636-527-9200.

Pedestrian and Bike Safety

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

- When walking on a street without a sidewalk always walk facing oncoming traffic.
- Ballwin ordinance 15-392 requires pedestrians to use a sidewalk when one is provided.
- Cross streets only at marked crosswalks or at intersections if no crosswalks are marked.
- Ballwin ordinance 15-5 prohibits any person riding on or using roller skates, skateboards, coaster or any wheeled toy from doing so on any street.
- Ballwin ordinance 15-387 requires the driver of a vehicle to yield the right-of-way by slowing down, or stopping if need be, to yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk, when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.
- This same ordinance also requires that no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.

BICYCLE SAFETY

- Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.
- Always check your bicycle for properly operating equipment before riding.
- Bicyclists under age 16 may ride their bicycles on the sidewalk, but must yield to pedestrians. Bicyclists 16 and over must ride in the street obeying all traffic laws.
- Ballwin ordinance 15-442 requires all bicyclists to obey all traffic laws when riding on any street.
- Always ride defensively and watch out for motor vehicles and other hazards.

Visit our website at www.ballwin.mo.us for the most up-to-date information

NUMBERS YOU CAN USE

Government Center
227-8580

**The Pointe At
Ballwin Commons**
227-8950

Police Department
227-9636

Public Works
227-9000

Ballwin Golf Shop
227-1750

Zoning Hotline
207-2326

Permits/Inspections
227-2129

License Bureau
230-5041

St. Louis County
314-615-5000

Real Estate Tax
314-615-5500

Property Tax
314-615-1500

Hazardous Waste Drop-Off
314-615-8958

Animal Control
314-726-6655

Passport Information
1-877-487-2778



CITY OF BALLWIN
14811 Manchester
Ballwin, Missouri 63011

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The Pointe Open House

Saturday, September 13

- Free admission all day
- Facility tours by our professional staff
- Complimentary babysitting services, 8:00 A.M. – Noon
- Sample classes to come and try: Spinning, aerobics, yoga and other activities
- Attendance prizes and complimentary refreshments
- Discounted memberships available for attendees
- For a complete schedule of the event visit the Ballwin website: www.ballwin.mo.us