



The Village Voice

Special points of interest:

Sign Ordinance

Traffic Ordinance

Nuisance Ordinance

Fees and Schedules

Crafting Ordinances

Public Comment Requested on Updating Village Ordinances

During the past year, there have been several instances that have brought to light deficiencies in the existing ordinances for the Village. The ordinances have served the Village very well, but are (in some cases) decades old and do not address specifics required in today's legal climate.

For example, there were requests to Board of Trustees to address nuisance issues. When the Board of Trustees asked both our legal counsel and the Missouri Municipal League about enforcing the existing nuisance ordinance, we were advised that it was not enforceable using the current legal definition of a nuisance. Other municipalities can enforce these issues under a traffic ordinance. The Village does not currently have a traffic ordinance.

Another example is signs that were placed in the Village. The Board of Trustees forward the existing ordinance information to the property owners, but determined that the existing ordinances were not specific enough to take any additional action.

The Board of Trustees decided to begin working on a sign ordinance, a traffic ordinance, an updated nuisance ordinance and an ordinance (where a municipal or county judge is not required) to collect fines when residents refuse to pay by adding the fine amount to real estate or personal property taxes. Each ordinance will be patterned on existing ordinances from other municipalities. They will contain as much specificity as possible to address issues we have today and issues we might encounter in the future.

A rough draft of the sign ordinance is modeled off of the existing Gladstone sign ordinance. It will have specific sections on what is allowed, what is not allowed, sign sizes and how to receive approval for temporary signs with approval from the Board of Trustees. It has an entire section on political signs that

attempts to find the balance between free speech and maintaining a good Village appearance.

The rough draft of the traffic ordinance is derived from Chapter 300, consisting of Sections 300.010 through 300.600, Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSMo), known as the "Model Traffic Ordinance". It contains specific detail on recreational vehicles, watercraft and utility trailers.

With the traffic ordinance is an additional ordinance that details the Fees and Schedule for violations. The traffic ordinance is required if we appoint a Marshal, create a municipal court or contract out traffic enforcement and court hearing to the County court. These are additional details we plan to work out over the coming year, but we first must have a traffic ordinance in place

The rough draft of the nuisance ordinance has additional details on what constitutes a nuisance and addresses structures that might pose an immediate danger to the public health, welfare or safety. It contains language that states if the Village has to remove the nuisance and if the property owner does not pay the village for costs incurred by the village, the cost can be assessed to the property owner's real estate tax bill.

The ordinance for collecting fines is to address the concern that our ordinances do not have any "teeth" and can be ignored if the property owner so chooses.

The process of creating ordinances is not easy because it has to be fair and equitable to all Village residents. It can not address one person's concerns or rights over those of another.

If you are interested in seeing the draft ordinances and providing your assistance in crafting fair and equitable ordinances, please contact the Village clerk via email at clerk@villageofoaks.org.

The Village Voice is published for the benefit of the residents of the Village of Oaks, MO.

It is published four times a year (Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter).

To receive the Village Voice via email (to save on postage) or for questions, comments or suggestions send an email to clerk@villageofoaks.org.

Emergency contact numbers:
Sheriff - 407-3750
Fire/Ambulance - 436-3550
NKC Hospital - 691-2000
St. Luke's - 891-6000
Children's Mercy - 413-2500
Poison Control - 800-222-1222
Power Outage - 888-544-4852
Before You Dig - 800-DIG-RITE
Nat. Gas Leak - 800-582-0000
MODOT - 800-222-6400
Highway Patrol - 800-525-5555

Public Presence and Comment Requested At Board of Zoning Adjustment Meeting



The last issue of the Village Voice reported that the case against the Village Board of Zoning Adjustment was dropped. The Board of Zoning Adjustment is setting up a public meeting for January. The date has not been determined, but will be mailed to all Village residents at the end of December.

The purpose of the public meeting is to:

- Review the events that have occurred.
- Answer any questions from those not familiar with history of the legal case.
- Present information provided by the Bill Hershewe of Hershewe Real Estate Co.
- Receive residents' input on the information presented.
- Provide a background and summary of the current zoning ordinance.
- Answer any questions related to the zoning ordinance.

Improving Basic Services

Fire and Ambulance

The Board of Trustees determined contracting with Gladstone Public Safety would better serve the residents of the Village for Fire Suppression and Ambulance service.

Roads and Snow Removal

In the past few years, it has been difficult to find companies to bid and work on road repairs for the Village. At a meeting of local municipal leaders we learned that Oakview has been added to Gladstone road work projects. We are talking with the Gladstone Public Works department to find out if we can add the road work our budget will allow to the Gladstone contract. The goal is to get the work completed and save money as it is part of a larger contract.

Also, Ryan Hicks (our "road guy") is coordinating with Gary Geiger (Oakwood's "road guy") in preparation for this winter's snow removal and salting.

Street Lights

The monthly cost for street lights increased from \$287.60 to \$334.00.

Saving Money on Solid Waste Disposal

Though the Village does not currently have the

budget to provide solid waste disposal services, at the meeting of local municipal leaders, we learned that other municipalities can be added to the Kansas City Solid Waste Disposal contract. At the meeting, we learned that Kansas City's contract for trash pick up is less than \$10 per month per household. Village residents pay Allied Waste approximately \$20 to \$25 per month. The Kansas City contract also has provisions for recyclables, yard waste and bulky trash pickup. Kansas City recently put to bid their 2010 contract, but does not yet have new pricing. The Board of Trustees will continue to investigate if being added to the Kansas City contract makes sense for the Village residents. If it does, there are two possible scenarios:

1. The winner of the bid bills each Village resident separately and we get the benefit of the Kansas City contract pricing.
2. The Village residents vote on enacting a solid waste levy to pay for solid waste disposal.

With either option, if there is not a benefit to the Village residents, it will not be pursued.

What else is enclosed?

Property Tax Bill

Please mail or drop off your payment. Let our clerk know if you need a receipt.

Biannual Financial Statement

The statement is included as required by Missouri statutes.



Learning about Village Zoning

Reviewing Village Services

