

NEWSLETTER

July 2011



Mayor:
Scott Douglass

Alderpersons:

Susan Shea, Ward 1
Jim Meyer, Ward 1
Honora Schiller, Ward 2
Wendell Sittser, Ward 2
Scott Schultz, Ward 3
Lin Midyett, Ward 3

- Review Budget—2nd Page
- Read Comments

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We're on the Web!
www.clarksonvalley.org

MAYOR COMMENTS

Re: Our e-mail dated August 2nd explaining what was coming

The City Council approved the City's 2011-2012 fiscal year budget (page 2) at our July 5 meeting. Please review before reading on. I'm sure you noted a balance budget with a small amount of surplus. We feel this is realistic. However, the council has several concerns they want to share with you: 1) revenue projection for this fiscal year; 2) future revenues beyond fiscal 2011-2012; 3) expense control beyond this year. And we want your opinion, so we will be mailing a citizen survey later this month. What's the concern about this year? As you noted from your review of this year's budget, the largest source of revenue for us is the sales tax revenue (comes from the county sales tax), with the projected slow economic recovery, will a 2.4% increase over last year be realized? Our first month (July) of the new year was over 3%. A similar uncertainty (with reassessment) is true with personal property and real estate taxes. Gasoline tax revenue and utilities taxes are influenced by the economy; therefore, are difficult to estimate. We have exhausted expenses reduction; i.e. our police contract has not increased in the last two years; the trash contract was reduced by discontinuing City-paid yard waste pickup; employees salaries are frozen; about all that's left is trash pickup at the curb. Our current surplus is \$226,500.

Looking forward, there may be changes in the method of distribution of the tax revenues resulting in less for cities like us. Several cities with retail outlets (referred to as 'A' cities) are requesting a change in the state law formula for distribution of these monies to all cities in the county. Currently a portion of this tax is transferred into a pool that is then divided among those cities not having retail. 'A' Cities are requesting the state legislature to allow them to keep all the dollars generated in their respective cities. There-

fore, cities without retail ('B' cities, including us) would no longer receive funds from this source. The distribution system is more complex than my example, but this is an accurate overview. There are numerous discussions within each group now with a goal of the two groups coming together with a possible compromise to suggest to the legislature. We expect the state legislators to take some kind of action this fall – no idea what – all the way from nothing to something dramatic with no indication of a timeframe. Future concerns on the expense side include a possible increase in our police contract and an overall inflation increase.

Now you have an overall view of why the council passed this budget with the proviso: should expenses exceed estimates and revenues drop below estimates, the trash contract could be modified to curbside pickup without penalty, with an annual savings of \$78,936. With this savings come some downsides: more possible debris on our streets on collection days and the inconvenience for those with long driveways and those fellow citizens with physical ailments. We want your opinion. The survey will ask the question:

Yes – change to curbside trash pickup as soon as possible.

No – not at this time

If curbside is the decision and you wish to continue with rear door, it will be available for a charge of \$7.60 a month, payable to Meridian. Watch for the survey and reply as soon as possible.



Meridian Waste—Contract for fiscal year 2011-2012 approved.

Recently passed ordinances:

2011-2012 BUDGET

Revenue

Sales Tax Revenue	345,500.00
Personal Property Tax	15,000.00
Real Estate Tax	121,000.00
Permits & Inspections	19,000.00
Utilities/Franchise Fees	95,000.00
Cigarette Tax	7,000.00
Interest Income	1,900.00
Gasoline Tax	78,000.00
Traffic Fines	200,000.00
Fee Increase	11,500.00
Miscellaneous	3,000.00
Board of Adjustment	3,000.00
Total Revenue	899,900.00

Expenses

Audit	8,000.00
Dues	2,200.00
Office Expense	1,600.00
Postage	3,000.00
Computer Expense	1,000.00
Telephone	2,800.00
Professional Fees	12,000.00
Engineering Fees	25,000.00
Election Expenses	1,000.00
Legal Notices	1,000.00
Salaries	84,850.00
Salaries/Mayor & Alderpersons	12,600.00
Training	2,000.00
Police Protection	365,136.00
Rent	7,140.00
Health/Dental	15,000.00
Liability Insurance	6,500.00
Sanitation	222,425.00
Signs and Installation	1,100.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00
Mosquito Spraying	1,100.00
Taxes - Payroll	7,500.00
Court Expenses	49,000.00
Board Meeting Expense	1,200.00
Codification	5,000.00
Board of Adjustment	2,900.00
Bank Fees	963.00
Total Expenditures	843,014.00

Difference 56,866.00

County Older Resident Programs

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to find a "cause" near your home, where you can contribute time and really help out? Are you a "people person" who enjoys interacting with others, especially individuals who will appreciate an interested listener? If so, you may be interested in a program offered by the Saint Louis County Department of Human Services' County Older Resident Program (CORP). CORP's **Neighbor Driving Neighbor** program matches volunteers with older adults living nearby and needing rides for medical appointments.

Having never learned to drive, or no longer able to do so, many older residents also are unable to access public or even senior transportation and are not able to afford taxis. Family members may live out of town, work full time or have serious health issues that impact their ability to help out when needed. Through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, CORP's Neighbor Driving Neighbor program provides a vital link that enables seniors to stay healthy and remain living independently in the community. Volunteers use their own cars for rides that are scheduled at least 5 days in advance and are free of charge for the senior. The program offers volunteers flexibility for designating preferred days and hours, as well as geographic areas to which they will drive. Orientation, defensive driving training and mileage reimbursement, plus other educational and social activities also are available.

CORP provides many opportunities for helping older adults, utilizing professional skills, plus assisting with administrative activities. **To learn more about the Neighbor Driving Neighbor program or other volunteer openings, please call CORP at (314)615-4516, or e-mail tlabovitz@stlouisco.com**



Forest Hills Club Estates 4th of July Parade

What Your Burglar Won't Tell You



1. Of course I look familiar. I was just here last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Yes I do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
4. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
5. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables, but if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
6. If you have a GPS system in your car, do not program the 'Home' button. If someone steals your car, they know where you live and that you are not home, but away looking for your car.

A lot of residential thefts in West County are through unlocked cars and garage doors left unsecured overnight.

Never leave your garage door opener outside in a car, even if it's locked. Always close your garage doors when you are working in the yard. Always keep the back doors to your home locked.

MERIDIAN WASTE REPORT

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Recyclables													
2011 Tonnage	31.48	26.72	24.95	26.36	35.43	26.53	25.24						
Recyclables													
2010 Tonnage	25.10	21.02	28.39	25.13	25.91	32.10	24.45	30.64	24.45	24.79	33.11	27.47	322.56
Recyclables													
2009 Tonnage	23.91	19.93	29.08	22.05	25.94	28.93	19.58	22.50	22.53	21.83	31.65	27.87	295.80
Recyclables													
2008 Tonnage	19.54	16.89	19.93	22.56	22.51	26.55	22.51	23.13	29.03	22.01	23.13	34.57	282.36
Recyclables													
2007 Tonnage	20.85	14.27	15.08	22.45	19.65	17.48	23.92	19.53	20.21	23.80	22.19	30.40	249.83
Household Trash													
2011 Tonnage	76.12	61.56	70.53	73.66	87.05	88.44	74.06						
Household Trash													
2010 Tonnage	74.74	60.72	93.50	70.10	75.19	101.21	77.95	92.81	67.29	69.54	98.28	72.73	954.06
Household Trash													
2009 Tonnage	97.96	79.37	92.21	86.30	94.53	122.13	89.47	85.55	95.89	83.42	102.41	93.57	1,122.81