



Branson Briefs

A monthly e-Newsletter for the community providing information about activities, projects and events in the City of Branson

Volume 3, Issue 12

December 2011



Merry Christmas



City Hall
110 W. Maddux
Branson, MO 65616
417-334-3345
417-334-6095 fax
www.bransonmo.gov

Hours

8-a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Mayor

Raeanne Presley

Board of Aldermen

Cris Bohinc
Mike Booth
Rick Davis
Patrick Parnell
Bob Simmons
Rick Todd

City Administrator

Dean Kruithof

Board of Aldermen

meeting schedule
2nd & 4th Tuesday
of each month
7 p.m.
Council Chambers

Sales tax revenue update

The 1% sales tax received in November (for September spending activity) was up 1.1% for the month, with year to date for 2011 down 0.1%. Tourism taxes received in November (October sales activity) were down 0.9% as compared to the same month a year ago, and down 4.% year to date. The tourism tax is levied only on ticketed attractions like theaters, restaurants and lodging.

Filing period for aldermen opens Dec 13

Branson residents who are interested in serving on the Board of Aldermen can file as a candidate beginning December 13. The filing period continues through January 17. Aldermen seats are up for election from each of the city's three wards. All elections are for two-year terms. The candidate filings must be done at the city clerk's office in Branson City Hall. The city-wide election will be held April 3, 2012.



Recycling now convenient 24/7

The city of Branson and Jubilee Foods have made it even easier to recycle. A new blue recycling trailer has been placed under the Jubilee Foods sign on Hwy 76. Residents and visitors can dispose of recyclable material in the trailer anytime day or night.

Employees rewarded for sustainability ideas

The city of Branson is rewarding its employees who think green and implement sustainable ideas in their departments. Depending on how much the city realizes in energy savings, employees can earn cash or a half-day off work. Recently, Branson City Administrator Dean Kruithof, in the center of photo, presented utilities department employees Don Eby on the left and Brian Whisenhunt with a half-day off. These two men lowered the ceiling and installed energy efficient lighting in one of the city's water plants.



Santa visits recycle center

Even Santa Claus recycles in Branson. St. Nick took some time out of his busy schedule and really surprised the workers at the Branson Recycle Center by stopping by to recycle his trash and pose for a picture with the employees.

Parnell Park improvements

Work has started to upgrade Parnell Park located off Parnell Circle. The north tennis court is being transformed into a multi-use court that will include basketball, volleyball, four square and hop scotch. Another tennis court is being prepared for resurfacing next spring. Also, crews plan to renovate the playground fall zone for better appearance and drainage.



**Ozark Mountain
Christmas now
through
January 2**



Rick Ivey (left) with Alderman Rick Davis

City Employee of the Month

Rick Ivey, a firefighter in the fire department, was named the November Employee of the Month. Rick was recognized for going “above and beyond” in terms of helping to maintain fire department facilities and equipment. While Rick has specific duties to accomplish daily, he’s often found taking on extra tasks using his skills to fix, repair or replace items that save the city money.

One noted incident occurred during the recent Community Day of Caring. Rick not only spent that day with the city team building a 30-foot handicap ramp, but he also returned on his day off to finish the job.

Citizens’ Service Request Line

If you need a question answered about the city, or need to report a problem or express a concern, contact the Citizens’ Service Request line at 337-8502. The line is open 24/7 and the city will respond to your request within five working days.

You can also e-mail a request from the city of Branson website www.bransonmo.gov.

Branson Recycle Center 601 Compton Dr

Hours

Mon– Sat 7:30 am to 1pm

Thur. 7:30 am to 6 pm

Branson city offices will be closed

December 23 & 26
Christmas

January 2
New Year’s

Let it snow

The city is ready for the snow season. All plows and salt spreaders are checked and ready to go. The salt and other snow fighting materials have been stockpiled for use when needed. And snow plowing crew assignments are complete and ready.



Enjoy Breakfast with Santa

There is still room to sign up for “Breakfast with Santa” sponsored by the city’s parks and recreation department at the RecPlex. Employees will be serving pancakes, sausage, milk, juice and Starbucks coffee. The event takes place on Saturday, December 10, and each child will receive a gift from Santa’s workshop. Cost is \$5 per person. Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras and get those pictures with Santa!

Historic bridge reopens to traffic

Renovations to the historic Lake Taneycomo Bridge connecting Branson and Hollister were completed in mid-November and celebrated with a bridge Stroll-About Tuesday afternoon November 15. Then a dedication ceremony was held at the convention center on Wednesday, November 16, followed by a motorcade across the Taneycomo Bridge featuring antique cars from the 1930 era, when the bridge was originally built.



Branson’s first Diverging Diamond opens

Also opening in November was Branson’s first Diverging Diamond interchange at Missouri Highway 248 and U.S. 65. Under the Diverging Diamond Interchange design, the opposing lanes of Route 248 will criss-cross at traffic signals at the ends of the bridge over Route 65. Crossing the bridge, oncoming traffic will be on the right. This configuration will provide left-turning vehicles on Route 248 a “free left” onto U.S. 65.

City officials keep walking Highway 76

Branson Board of Aldermen and city officials conducted the fourth of five walking tours along 76 Country Boulevard on December 1. They were joined by business and property owners along the highway. Purpose of these walks is to identify areas that can be improved to make the popular 76 Strip more attractive. The final walk is set for December 15.

Capacity increased at wastewater plant

The city has increased the capacity of the Compton Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant that will keep up with continued growth and development in the community for many years to come. The \$4.5 million upgrade allows the facility to efficiently treat 10.6 million gallons per day of sewage during its peak flows. Before, the plant had an 8.5 million gallon treatment capacity during peak flow periods.

Happy Birthday Branson

On April 1, 2012, the city of Branson turns 100. Several events and shows have been planned starting on that date and continuing into the summer. For more information on the centennial celebration, go to www.Branson100.org.

Adoration Parade Sunday, December 4, 5 p.m. in downtown Branson