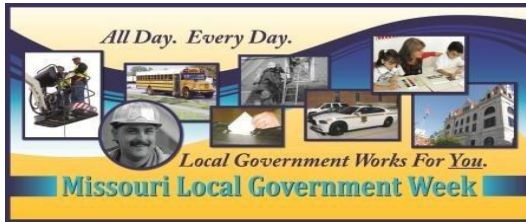


# City of Higginsville

Local Government Works for You ..... All Day! Every Day!



## Missouri Celebrates Local Government Week May 1-7, 2017

Every day local government has a direct impact on each of us in Higginsville. Working together, your city, county and schools are the backbone of the community.

Missouri celebrates Local Government Week May 1-7, 2017. Please join the City of Higginsville in their recognition of local City Departments and employees!

### Local Government Is...

- Clean water coming out of your tap each morning
- Your favorite local park facilities
- The first responders to a fire, traffic accident or emergency
- Law enforcement patrolling your street or county road
- The convenience of trash service right at your curb
- Reliable electric service provided by a City owned utility company
- 24/7 Dispatch center
- Public information access and reading enjoyment at your local library
- Sidewalks that provide connectivity for safe scenic walking and fitness
- A progressive community with a local Airport for business and pleasure
- Your local roads cleared of snow in winter, and potholes repaired in the spring

## STORM SHELTER INFORMATION

When there is inclement weather, Central Christian Church at 16 W 20th Street will open as a storm shelter. The entry door will be the Southwest Basement Door. If you have questions about the Storm Shelter Area, call the Police Department at 660-584-2104.



# SOLAR ECLIPSE 2017

## Eclipse Safety Concerns

The Sun can be viewed safely with the naked eye only during the few brief seconds or minutes of a total solar eclipse. Partial eclipses, annular eclipses, and the partial phases of total eclipses are *never safe to watch without taking special precautions*. Even when 99% of the Sun's surface is obscured during the partial phases of a total eclipse, the remaining photospheric crescent is intensely bright and cannot be viewed safely without eye protection [Chou, 1981; Marsh, 1982]. Do not attempt to observe the partial or annular phases of any eclipse with the naked eye. Failure to use appropriate filtration may result in permanent eye damage or blindness! In spite of these precautions, the total phase (and only the total phase) of an eclipse can and should be viewed without filters. It is crucial that you know when to take off and put back on your glasses.

## Eclipse Viewing Site

Walking Track - Fairground Park

On August 21, 2017, American skywatchers will be treated to a rare and spectacular celestial show — the first total solar eclipse visible from the continental United States in nearly four decades.

### SOLAR ECLIPSE FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. This will be the first total solar eclipse in the continental U.S. in 38 years. The last one occurred February 26, 1979. Unfortunately, not many people saw it because it clipped just five states in the Northwest and the weather for the most part was bleak. Before that one, you have to go back to March 7, 1970.

2. A solar eclipse is a lineup of the Sun, the Moon, and Earth. The Moon, directly between the Sun and Earth, casts a shadow on our planet. If you're in the dark part of that shadow (the umbra), you'll see a total eclipse. If you're in the light part (the penumbra), you'll see a partial eclipse.

3. Everyone in the continental U.S. will see at least a partial eclipse. In fact, if you have clear skies on eclipse day, the Moon will cover at least 48 percent of the Sun's surface. And that's from the northern tip of Maine.

Continued on back:



Monday, May 1, 2017  
Board of Aldermen Meeting  
6:00 p.m.  
City Hall Auditorium

### STAFF DIRECTORY

**Jeanette Dobson**  
City Administrator

**Sheri Tieman**  
Administrative Asst./City Clerk

**Donna Brown**  
Director Economic Development

**Sandra Stephens**  
Zoning Adm./Building Official

**Matthew Cushman**  
EMS Director

**Shawn Smith**  
Police Chief/EMD Director

**Josh Thompson**  
Sergeant

**Tom Long**  
Captain

**Danny Logan**  
K-9 Officer

**Jeff Graham**  
Animal Control Officer

**Mark Kays**  
Street Superintendent

**Tina Myrick**  
Librarian

**Brian Welborn**  
Park Director

**Danny Duffey**  
Park Maintenance Supt.

**Mark Epperson**  
Utility Director

**Daren Mattson**  
Electric Distribution Supv.

**Ron Kumm**  
Power Plant Supervisor

**Randy Amor**  
Water/Wstwtr. Maint. Supv.

**Brandon Craig**  
Water Plant Operator Supv.

**Shane Hallowell**  
GIS Coordinator

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

## Planning a Summer Remodeling Project???

The Building Official for the City of Higginsville issues building permits for those construction projects that require them. New homes, room additions, fences, most pools, water heater replacements, decks, some accessory storage buildings, and the addition of plumbing and electrical wiring are just some of the projects that require the issuance of a building permit. Part of this process may involve reviewing plans or drawings to ensure that the construction will conform to adopted building codes and local zoning ordinances. The Building Official inspects the project during all phases of construction. The Building Official acts as the Zoning Administrator, preparing staff reports for the Planning Commission, providing background information which is essential for the Commission. Input from the Zoning Administrator significantly contributes to the Planning Commission's decisions regarding site plan reviews, rezoning requests, conditional use permits and other zoning related issues. The Building Official also works to remove dangerous and blighted structures from the City and works closely with the City Nuisance Officer to improve the aesthetics and safety of Higginsville.

## Curbing, Asphaltting, Drainage and MORE!

The City of Higginsville prides itself in all areas and **Street Improvements** is indeed one of them. In the past 25 to 30 years special programs have been implemented and many improvements have taken place to provide the citizens with a better more consistent City Street System. The addition of approximately 30 miles of concrete curb and gutter, hot-mix overlay and storm sewer drainage structures constructed throughout the city have helped citizens and visitors get to their destination in a safe manner.

At the present time, nearly 95% of all the streets have **curb and gutter** and the City will continue with these improvements. The main reason for the addition of curbing is due to a rebate program implemented in 1985 through a 1/2 cent sales tax approved by the voters. This gives citizens a chance to hire a contractor to construct the curb and gutter and receive a rebate from the City of Higginsville for a large portion of the initial cost.

Many **drainage improvements** were also made in the past and drainage improvements continue to occur as time and funding become available.

A program of **hot-mix overlay** began in 1990. Overlaying has occurred in areas where curbing has been constructed for the entire length of a block or more. As of now, overlaying is also occurring on partial blocks. Many streets have been hot-mix asphalted and others will be completed as time and funding become available.

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Since 2010, the Street Department has also taken over the duties at the **City Cemetery** which is located along the easterly side of town. The property was previously a private cemetery owned by one of the original funeral homes before the City took ownership. The grounds are neat and well kept, and is very pleasing to the eye. The cemetery grounds now include a total of 28 acres with 7 acres waiting to be developed. There are presently more than 5,000 burials with in the cemetery. A database of the Cemetery information is in the works and will be included on the City of Higginsville web page. Until this site is up and running, please feel free to contact City Hall Staff for locating your loved ones gravesite.

### Local Government Week Contest

All correct Sudoku puzzles turned in to City Hall by May 5, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. will be entered into a drawing for two **\$25.00** Gift Cards. Give it a try, you may be one of two lucky winners!!

(1 entry per residential address)

### Eclipse Facts (continued)

4. **It's all about totality.** Not to cast a shadow on things, but likening a partial eclipse to a total eclipse is like comparing almost dying to dying. I know that 48 percent sounds like a lot. It isn't. You won't even notice your surroundings getting dark. And it doesn't matter whether the partial eclipse above your location is 48, 58, or 98 percent. Only totality reveals the true celestial spectacle: the diamond ring, the Sun's glorious corona, strange colors in our sky, and seeing stars in the daytime.

5. First contact is in Oregon. If you want to **be the first person to experience totality** in the continental U.S., be on the waterfront at Government Point, Oregon, at 10:15:56.5 a.m. PDT. There, the total phase lasts 1 minute, 58.5 seconds.

6. **Totality lasts a maximum of 2 minutes and 40.2 seconds.** That's it. To experience that length, you'll need to be slightly south of Carbondale, Illinois, in Giant City State Park. You might think about getting there early.

7. **Cool things are afoot before and after totality.** Although the big payoff is the exact lineup of the Sun, the Moon, and your location, keep your eyes open during the partial phases that lead up to and follow it. As you view the beginning through a safe solar filter, the universe will set your mind at ease when you see the Moon take the first notch out of the Sun's disk. Around the three-quarters mark, you'll start to notice that shadows are getting sharper. The reason is that the Sun's disk is shrinking, literally approaching a point, and a smaller light source produces better-defined shadows. At about 85 percent coverage, someone you're with will see Venus 34° west-northwest of the Sun. If any trees live at your site, you may see their leaves act like pinhole cameras as hundreds of crescent Suns appear in their shadows.

8. This eclipse will be the **most-viewed ever.** I base this proclamation on four factors: 1) the attention it will get from the media; 2) the superb coverage of the highway system in our country; 3) the typical weather on that date; and 4) the vast number of people who will have access to it from nearby large cities.

9. **Only Totality is safe to look at. All other times must be looked at through protective eyewear.** During the time the Moon's disk

covers that of the Sun, it's safe to look at the eclipse. In fact, to experience the awesomeness of the event, you must look at the Sun without a filter during totality.

10. Yes, the Sun's a lot bigger. Our daytime star's diameter is approximately **400 times larger than that of the Moon.** What a coincidence that it also lies roughly 400 times farther away. This means both disks appear to be the same size.

11. **You won't need a telescope.** One of the great things about the total phase of a solar eclipse is that it looks best to naked eyes. The sight of the corona surrounding the Moon's black disk in a darkened sky is unforgettable. That said, binoculars give you a close-up view — but still at relatively low power — that you should take advantage of several times during the event.

12. Nature will take heed. Depending on your surroundings, as totality nears you may **experience strange things. Look.** You'll notice a resemblance to the onset of night, though not exactly. Shadows look different. **Listen.** Usually, any breeze will dissipate and birds (many of whom will come in to roost) will stop chirping. It is quiet. **Feel.** A 10°–15° F drop in temperature is not unusual.

13. **Maximum totality** is not the longest possible in 2017. The longest possible duration of the total phase of a solar eclipse is 7 minutes and 32 seconds. Unfortunately, the next solar eclipse whose totality approaches 7 minutes won't occur until June 13, 2132. Its 6 minutes and 55 seconds of totality will be the longest since the 7 minutes and 4 seconds of totality June 30, 1973.

14. **The future is bright but long.** The next total solar eclipse over the continental U.S. occurs April 8, 2024. It's a good one, too. Depending on where you are (on the center line), the duration of totality lasts at least 3 minutes and 22 seconds on the east coast of Maine and stretches to 4 minutes and 27 seconds in southwestern Texas. After that eclipse, it's a 20-year wait until August 23, 2044 (and, similar to the 1979 event, that one is visible only in Montana and North Dakota). Total solar eclipses follow in 2045 and 2078.

Don't forget! Enter your completed Sudoku puzzle for a chance to win \$25.00