The City Budgeted $11 Million for Transportation Projects in 2011?

In 2010, a Community Survey indicated residents wanted to see more done to maintain and develop a road infrastructure adequate for a community of our size. City leaders understand the importance of keeping Wentzville roads well maintained and designed to handle not only current traffic volumes, but also the increased volumes that will develop over the next several years. That’s why last year they budgeted about $11 million for transportation projects. Most of that total was for road improvements, but over $900,000 of that amount was designated for repair and maintenance of roads.

One significant project included in the 2011 Transportation Budget was improvements to Mexico Road, which is on schedule and estimated to be completed by fall of 2012. Another important project was the improvements to Church Street, which is part of the City’s Village Center/Downtown Redevelopment Plan. Construction on this project was delayed due to problems with right-of-way acquisitions from adjacent property owners, but it is expected to begin this spring. In 2011, the City also completed the construction bid process for improvements to the Wentzville Parkway and Pearce Boulevard intersection. Construction on this intersection is expected to begin this spring as well.

An important factor in enabling the City to finance needed road improvements and planning is its Transportation Sales Tax and Use Tax. In 2011, those taxes funded about $2.1 million of the amount budgeted for transportation projects. Equally significant is the additional transportation dollars those funds enabled the City to receive. Nearly $6.7 million of last year’s Transportation Fund budget came from other governmental sources like the St. Charles County Road Board or the Missouri Department of Transportation. Transfers from the Capital Fund, Other Taxes, Interest, and use of Fund Balance make up the balance of the revenues.

To qualify for many state and federal grants, cities are often required to provide a specified percentage of the cost for the proposed project. Since 2000, Wentzville has used its Transportation Sales Tax revenue to bring home more than 21.7-million dollars in grant funding. If the City hadn’t had adequate funds to cover its portion, this grant money would have gone to other municipalities around the state and the nation.

A well-maintained and adequate road system is essential for the health and vitality of a community. Good roads do more than move motorists in, out and through a city efficiently. They foster economic and residential growth, which in turn enable enhanced amenities for residents and a better quality of life. A high-quality road system is also a factor in ensuring property values don’t diminish. People and businesses won’t move into a community if the road system is deteriorated or seriously inadequate. Quality roads will always be important to our residents’ welfare and the continued development of our City.
Who to Call:

Got a problem with tall grass in the neighborhood? Have questions about your water bill or what you can and can’t recycle? Want to know which Ward you live in or who represents you on the City’s Board of Aldermen? The numbers below can help you reach the right City department with answers to these and other questions. And remember, you can always call the City’s Customer Service Center with your concerns or complaints.

You can also find phone numbers and e-mail addresses for City officials and City department heads online at www.wentzvillemo.org. When you move your mouse cursor across the topic choices directly below the Web-site heading banner, drop-down boxes will appear with department options. Just click on the option that closest matches your question or concern.

Call the **Customer Service Center** at (636) 639-2121

For issues like:
- Property Maintenance (Tall Grass, Debris, Junk and Nuisances)
- Derelict Vehicles
- Street and Sidewalk Repairs
- Mud on the Streets
- Code Enforcement

Call the **Utility Service Center** at (636) 639-2155

For issues like:
- Water-Bill Questions
- Sewer/Water

Call **Community Development** at (636) 332-5102

For issues like:
- Occupancy Inspections
- Permits (New Structures, Repairs, Pool, Fence, Shed, Finish Basements, etc…)

Call **Public Works** at (636) 639-2049

For issues like:
- Trash Questions and Concerns
- Recycling
- Infrastructure/Transportation Project Inquiries

Call **Parks** at (636) 332-9236

For issues like:
- Sports Leagues and Lessons
- Concerts
- Banquet Hall and Pavilion Rental

For the **Activity Hotline** call (636) 639-2192

Call **City Hall** at (636) 332-5101

For all other City-related issues and questions like:
- Finding Out Which Ward You Live In
- Who is Your Aldermanic Representative
- How to Get in Touch With One of the City’s Elected Representatives

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**From the Board: Meeting the Challenge**

Like other municipalities, starting in 2009 Wentzville saw a decrease in its sales and use tax revenues as people curtailed their spending in response to the worst economic downturn our nation has seen in 70 years. To meet this financial challenge, elected officials asked City staff and department heads to consider new ways to trim City budgets.

Our goal from the beginning has been to reduce City spending sufficiently to meet budget demands, but still maintain the City’s high standard of services and amenities. Not an easy task considering by the end of 2009 our City’s total revenues were down by nearly a million dollars from what they had been in 2008.

Although the City’s budget has been squeezed, we realize many Wentzville families have also had to adjust their personal spending budgets in response to the recession. To demonstrate to residents that we care about the economic hardships they currently face, for the 2012 City Budget we asked staff to reduce the City’s real estate and personal properties taxes by a total of $500,000. We’re happy to say staff was able to come up with a fiscally responsible budget that not only reduced by one-half million dollars the amount the City will collect from residents in these two tax areas, but still preserved the City’s commitment to maintaining good public infrastructure and City amenities.

The good news is revenues have begun to climb again and we even saw a slight sales tax revenue increase in 2011. While this is encouraging, we know we still have budget challenges ahead and full recovery will take some time. We promise residents we’ll continue doing whatever we can to meet those challenges with as little impact as possible on the quality of life residents have come to expect.

As we begin 2012, we pledge to our constituents we will continue working with City staff to ensure Wentzville’s long history of fiscal responsibility remains the foundation of how we do things in Wentzville. We and the many elected representatives before us have worked hard to earn Wentzville a reputation as a City that knows how to get things done, and goes about it the right way. That reputation is why Wentzville can boast an Aa2 bond rating by recognized bond rating services, and why it was named Missouri’s Boom Town. We are proud of our reputation and promise to do everything we can to preserve it.

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**Wastewater Expansion Phase II**

Phase II of Wentzville’s Water Reclamation Center Expansion is going strong and running ahead of schedule. The project construction contractor, Plocher Construction, has taken advantage of the weather to keep the project moving forward at a great pace, and at this time the expansion is scheduled to go online for wastewater treatment as early as October 2012. Residents can find more photos of this project, from the start through today and with monthly updates, by visiting the City’s Web site at wentzvillemo.org and clicking on the Construction Updates link near the bottom of the Home page. Then just click on the Water and Wastewater Capital Projects link and scroll down to the Wastewater Expansion Phase II section.
Mayor’s Comment:
A Look Back and a Look Forward

The last eight years as your Mayor and two previous years as Alderman have been a privilege that has left me with many fond memories along with a few impressions and observations I would like to share with residents.

First, Looking Back:

It’s been a pleasure to work with the greatest residents I can imagine. Our community is blessed with well-educated, concerned, and caring people, who roll up their sleeves and work to make things better.

A 2007 comprehensive survey put an estimated value of over 12 million dollars for the volunteer hours our citizens gave through churches, not-for-profits and City parks. That total was equal to the City’s fixed operating expenses! But more important than dollars are the thousands of lives touched by volunteers. I say “Thank you” to all of our volunteers. You’re an inspiration and your service encourages others to volunteer. Without you, many human needs would fall to government, or worse go unread.

Another indicator of the quality of our community is I’m able to publish my home telephone number—something that surprises many residents and reporters. Even with my personal number out there, I only get about two telephone calls a week concerning City business, and most of those are questions about City processes. Only about one call every other month is a complaint, which tells me our professional City staff is doing a remarkable job caring for our citizens and providing a high degree of customer satisfaction. The low volume of calls coming to me also indicates people feel connected to all the City’s elected officials, and realize they truly care about their constituents.

During my tenure as Mayor I’ve served with many different Aldermen. I appreciate and thank all the men and women who ran for office, were elected, and served on the City’s Board of Aldermen. Without their ideas, support, and service we would not have the insightful and important Plans that set the tone and direction for our City—Plans like the Parks Master Plan, Village Center Master Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Corridor Preservation Plan, and Economic Development Master Plan, just to name a few. These Plans give our community a distinct and cohesive visual appearance, protect our environment and provide the quality of life we want for ourselves and families.

An incredible amount of the work on these Plans is done by the City’s Boards and Commissions, which are comprised of citizens appointed by the Mayor and who give countless hours of service. This service largely goes unrecognized and completely uncompensated, but it is a crucial part of who we are. The Planning and Zoning Commission, Park Board, Board of Appeals, Board of Adjustment, Storm Water Commission, and Tree Board all provide public input and recommendations to the Board of Aldermen. Their input was crucial in forming our Master Plan and is still vital in updating and following it. Our City owes the members of our Boards and Commissions, whose tenure often exceeds the Mayor and Aldermen, a great debt of gratitude.

I need to also thank all the Mayors and Aldermen who preceded me. Their vision laid the foundation of our greatness today. We stand on the shoulders of those who had the vision to attract General Motors, to begin a Master Plan, the guts to build a Parkway through corn fields in the face of public opposition, and the foresight to build a waste water treatment plant that would support a community of 40,000 when our population was only 4,000.

Looking Forward to What’s Important to Our Future:

Post Secondary Education: In my opinion, of all the things leaders must facilitate to be great, education is number one. Horace Mann said it best, “Education then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men, the balance-wheel of the social machinery.”

Our ability to attract, create, and maintain high-paying jobs is dependent on this cornerstone. To achieve the greatest success for our community, we must strive to have the best educated and trained workforce possible.

Transportation, Water, Waste Water, Storm Water, Parks and Recreation:

Infrastructure, I believe, comes a close second. Infrastructure is basic to provide for growth, revenue, and quality of life. We must continue to invest in these projects, even in tough economic times. Economies are cyclical. If we’re not ready when the economy begins to rise, we can’t catch up. The best example I can think of is the Wentzville Parkway. It was planned in the 1980s during a difficult time for national and local economies, and when the City was not nearly as prosperous. The sacrifice then led to later abundance and our ability to weather the current bad economy. Sacrifices now will support our City through the next economic downturn.

Preparing for future federal regulations on stormwater runoff requires large capital expenditures today. That is why the best and fairest solution is the Stormwater Utility Plan we started working on in 2007. Failure to act now would force a far more costly alternative on the City. A small cost today will give us time to build capital reserves that will later be needed to protect our residential properties and waterways, yet still allow for our City’s future growth.

Vision: Without vision the people perish, but I believe our vision and future is bright. I see Wentzville continuing as a regional and national leader in planning for the future, and fully realizing its potential as the Crossroads of The Nation. I see us becoming a national model for Employer Driven Curriculum with the highest educational average in our region, a highly-trained vocational and technical workforce, and attracting green manufacturing and research companies that will meet future energy needs as well as increase auto manufacturing opportunities. I see Wentzville increasing its potential for tourism by preparing a FIELD sports complex that will be the premier central-U.S. location for soccer, football, and bicycling competitions. I see our Village Center becoming a new growth area with opportunities for corporate headquarters, senior housing, and a vibrant place for entrepreneurs’ growing new businesses. I see it as a place where entertainment, art and culture draw visitors and give Wentzville a unique identity in the region.

I want to close this article by saying Wentzville is a great place to live, work and raise families. I ask all of our residents to please stay involved and help “A Community of Neighbors Working Together” continue to grow.

Mayor
Paul Lambi

Parks Development Update

In August 2010, voters approved a special one-half of one percent sales tax that made it possible for the City to move forward with plans to develop two new parks and a new outdoor aquatic center—Peruque Valley Park, located at 1335 South Point Prairie Road; Heartland Park, located behind Dierberg’s at 100 WM. Dierberg Drive; and Splash Station located at 1141 Peine Road, next to Peine Ridge Elementary. When all Phases are completed, in addition to other amenities these three new recreation areas will add to the City’s outdoor recreation options seven ball fields, four soccer/football fields, additional playgrounds, loop trails, a lake, and an Olympic-size pool with special water-activity areas for both children and adults.

By the end of 2011, site surveys of both Heartland and Splash Station were complete, and concept planning was continuing on all three projects. Weather conditions and some extended work relating to the purchase of property adjacent to Heartland Park has slowed progress with Peruque Valley and Heartland slightly, but development of all three areas is progressing and the City hopes to be able to see grading of these areas start early in 2012. Actual construction on all three park projects is expected to begin this year.

Residents can keep up to date with the development of these parks by going to the Parks and Recreation section of the City’s Web site and clicking on the Project Parks Update link in the right column, under Quick Links. Residents can also stay on top of all changes by submitting their email address at the bottom of the Project Parks Update page, under the “Notify me when this page changes” option, and clicking on “Sign up.”
**January Calendar of Events**

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<td><strong>Progress Park Recreation Center Closed for New Year’s Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Municipal Election Candidate Filing Closes</strong></td>
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**Visit the City’s Web site: www.wentzvillemo.org**

**See article in this edition of Vision. * Call City Hall at (636) 327-5101.**
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<td>6:30 p.m. Board of Adjustment 310 W. Pearce Blvd.</td>
<td>6:00 p.m. Daddy’s Little Sweetheart Dinner &amp; Dance** Progress Park Center</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 p.m. Social Dance—for Mature Couples** Progress Park Center</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. Municipal Trials 1019 Schroeder Creek Blvd. 6:30 p.m. Board of Aldermen 310 W. Pearce Blvd.</td>
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*M Call City Hall at (636) 327-5101. ** See article in this edition of Vision.
Get Active—Get Healthy

This year, make a New Year’s resolution that can change your life. Resolve to improve your health by getting more active. Wentzville’s Parks and Recreation Department offers such a wide assortment of choices, you’re certain to find several you’ll enjoy! Resolve every month to be more active through either weekly workouts at the Recreation Center, participation in an exercise class, or attending one of the fun dance events scheduled. The important thing is to get active! If you do, you’ll be surprised at how much better you’ll feel by the end of 2012. Below are some suggestions on ways to get active. You can find many more in Wentzville’s Fun Times and in the Parks and Recreation section of the City’s Web site at www.wentzvillemo.org.

Recreation Memberships—An Affordable Step to Better Health

A membership to Wentzville’s Recreation Center is a great way to fit workout routines into your schedule at an affordable price! Recreation memberships include use of the gymnasium, weight room and track. Resident Individual memberships are only $75—that comes out to only $6.25 a month! Resident household memberships are also available for just $105, and a household consists of two adults and three children (ages 22 and younger) living in the same household. That means for only $8.75 a month a family of five can use the Recreation Center any time during normal operating hours. Residents ages 60 and up get even lower rates.

Daily rates, Pool Memberships, and Complex Memberships that include use of the Pool are also available. For full information on memberships and fees, check out Wentzville’s Fun Times, or go to the Parks and Recreation section of the City’s Web site and click on the Recreation Center Information and Fees Quick Link in the right column.

Job Fair for Summer Parks and Recreation Positions

Want to have fun while earning a little extra cash this summer? If so, then be sure to attend Wentzville Parks and Recreation Department’s Job Fair on Thursday, March 8, from 2:00-7:00 p.m., at Progress Park. The City will take applications for several temporary summer positions, such as Lifeguards, Concessionaires, Day Camp Counselors, and Umpires. Applications should be prepared to be interviewed at that time, highly motivated, and age 16 or older by May 1, 2012. Starting pay varies depending on position and experience.

Applications can be filled out in advance by downloading them from the City’s Web site at www.wentzvillemo.org, or they can be picked up and completed on the day of the Job Fair. No advance appointments will be provided.

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Office at (636) 332-9236.

Social Dance Mature Adults Can Enjoy

Does the music from the 40s, 50s, and 60s trigger fond memories for you? Then you’ll want to be sure to attend Wentzville’s Social Dance for Mature Adults from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., on Saturday, February 11, at the Progress Park Center. It’s the perfect evening of music from the 40s, 50s and 60s, with the opportunity to dance swing, fox trot, waltz, rumba, and the cha-cha. Bring your own bottle of wine and spend the evening enjoying music, dancing and conversation with good friends.

The cost for the evening is $8 per person for residents and $10 per person for nonresidents. Advance registration is required.

Fitness Classes

Want a high-calorie burn as you workout to heart pounding Latin rhythms? Then sign up for one of our two Zumba sessions and start dancing your way to fitness. You can choose from Monday/Wednesday classes or Tuesday/Thursday classes. Both sessions begin the week of January 9 and will be held from 7:15-8:15 p.m.

If you want a more tranquil approach that will reduce stress while increasing your flexibility and strength, don’t miss signing up for Yoga. Yoga classes begin January 10, and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

You’ll find full information about these and other fitness classes in the Fun Times or online in the Parks and Recreation section of the City’s Web site at www.wentzvillemo.org.

Daddy’s Little Sweetheart Dinner and Dance

Wentzville’s annual Little Sweetheart’s Dinner and Dance promises a night your little sweetheart will remember for years. On February 3 and 4, little sweethearts ages 3-12 can share a special night of dinner, dancing, games and a craft with Dad or another special man in their life. Escorts for the girls can be their dad, grandpa, uncle, adult brother, or special family friend.

The Sweetheart Dinner and Dance evenings will be held at the Progress Park Center, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Cost for the evening is $50 per resident couple, $62 per nonresident couple, and $20 for each additional child. Registration deadline for the Sweetheart Dinner and Dance is January 27, but space is limited so register early. A $10 late registration fee will be added for couples registering after the deadline.

Residents can call the Parks and Recreation office at (636) 332-9236 to register for any of these programs or for more information.
Water and Sewer Line FAQs

Of all the modern conveniences we take for granted, probably the most important is indoor plumbing. Not too many generations ago indoor plumbing was a luxury. Today, however, every residence in the City is provided water and sewer service. City-provided water and sewer service has become such a given factor in our lives, sometimes residents are confused about where the City’s responsibility for these services end and the homeowner’s begin.

Although sewer lateral lines and water service lines are buried underground and can’t be seen, they are just as much the homeowner’s responsibility as any other part of their home. Both the sewer lateral from the sanitary sewer main to the home as well as the water service lateral from the water meter to the home are the responsibility of the homeowner. Problems that occur within these sections must be rectified at the homeowner’s expense.

Below are some questions residents have concerning the different portions of their water and sewer service lines, and explanations of who is responsible for repairs in those areas. If after reviewing this information and the adjacent Residential Water/Sewer Service graphic residents would like more information, they can call the City’s Public Works Department at (636) 639-2049.

**What is a sewer lateral?**
A residential sewer lateral is the portion of the dwelling’s sewer line that runs from the structure/house to the City’s main sanitary sewer line, and is the responsibility of the property owner. (see adjacent Residential Water/Sewer Service graphic for clarification of where this utility line is located)

**What is a water service line?**
The residential water line is the portion of the dwelling’s water line that runs from the structure/house to the City’s main water line, and is the responsibility of the property owner up to the water meter. (see adjacent Residential Water/Sewer Service graphic for clarification of where this utility line is located)

**What if my water meter lid is broken?**
Your residential water meter lid is the top portion of the water meter pit, which encases the water meter. Please note that the water meter lid, not the water meter itself, is the responsibility of the property owner. If you believe your water meter lid is broken, please contact the Public Works Department at (636) 639-2049 and someone will come out to examine your water meter lid. If it is determined your water meter lid needs repair, the City will replace the water meter lid at the homeowner’s expense. (see adjacent Residential Water/Sewer Service graphic for clarification of where your water meter is located)

**What if I have a blockage in my sanitary sewer or see a sinkhole?**
If homeowners need a cable run through the sewer lateral line to clear a sewer blockage, they must contact a St. Charles County licensed plumber or drain layer to do the job. If the blockage is unable to be cleared or if cabling the sewer lateral line indicates that there are structural defects in the line, a repair to the line must be made. Residents should realize that all of this work will be done at the homeowner’s expense.

**What if I have a persistent water leak around my property?**
If homeowners notice or suspect a leak in their water line, they must contact a St. Charles County licensed plumber to examine the water service line for potential leaks. If a leak is determined within the water service line, a repair to the line must be made. All of this work will be done at the homeowner’s expense.

**Yard-Waste Pickup Resumes**
Yard-waste pickup for the City of Wentzville will resume the first week in March and continue through the last week of December. Residents who have not canceled the service and were receiving the service when it ended last year will automatically be put back on the list for 2012. Residents who were not receiving yard-waste pickup last year and want to subscribe to the service in 2012 will need to call Wentzville’s Public Works Department at (636) 327-5102. Also, residents who receive yard waste pickups cannot stop it and then start it later in the season. Once yard waste service begins, it continues throughout the year.

Now that the City has gone to a five-day-a-week pickup schedule, residents who receive yard-waste pickup service can put their yard waste out on the same day they put out their trash and recycling. Everything should be placed at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on the appropriate morning.

Residents can place their yard waste in brown recyclable bags or in a trash can. If residents use a can, however, they need to paint or apply a “Yard Waste” sign on the side of the can. Residents can also rent a cart for yard waste for an additional fee.

The City will also accept bundled yard waste/limbs. The bundles should not exceed 4 feet in length, 18 inches in diameter, or 40 pounds in weight. Also, the bundles should be tied with a natural twine or other bio-degradable binding material.

If residents have questions about fees, recycling, yard waste, or regular sanitation pickup, they can call the Public Works Department at (636) 327-5102. They can also go to the Public Works section of the City’s Web site at www.wentzvillemo.org, and then click on the Solid Waste and Recycling Quick Link in the right column.
Cars Must be Moved off Streets When Snow Emergency is Issued

Anytime snow is predicted, moving your car off the street not only makes it easier for snowplows to clear the street, it lets you avoid the hassle of digging through a snow pile to get to your car. In addition, if the conditions are such that five inches or more of snow are predicted, the Mayor will issue a snow emergency. When a snow emergency is issued, all City streets MUST be cleared of all vehicles. Snow emergency announcements will be posted on the City’s Web site, sent out via the W.I.N.D. system, and released to radio and television stations.

Even with lesser snowfalls, it’s a good idea to remove all vehicles from the street. Cars parked on streets during and after a snowfall create problems for snowplow crews, especially when two cars are parked across from each other or in cul-de-sacs. In some instances, there is not enough room for snowplows to safely navigate and the streets must be left unplowed.

Holiday Hours

City offices will be closed for the following holidays:
January 2, for New Year’s Day holiday
January 16, for Martin Luther King’s Birthday
February 20, for Presidents’ Day

Progress Park Recreation Center will be closed on:
January 1, for New Year’s Day

Free Curbside Christmas Tree Recycling

It’s not too late to easily banish the ghost of Christmas past with Wentzville’s free, curbside Christmas tree recycling service. Through January 13, residents can place their live, evergreen Christmas trees at the curb in front of their house for recycling at the same time they put out their regular household trash.

Residents need to be sure they remove the tree stand, tinsel, lights and plastic bag or tree cover before setting their tree out at the curb. If residents have other questions on how to recycle their Christmas trees, they can call (636) 327-5102.