Snow Removal, Street Priority List

With the prediction of heavy snowfall in the forecast, snow removal will be completed using the following priorities:

Maintained by MoDOT: Main, Malone, and West Salcedo Road

City maintained major streets: East Salcedo, Ingram, Kingshighway, New Madrid, Murray Lane, South West, North West, Henning, Wakefield, Helen, Tanner, West North, George E. Day, Rose Parkway, Jaycee, School St., Downtown Area, Ables Road, Broadway, Illinois, Plaza, Industrial Drive, Marion, County Line, Glenn, Mitchell, Garwood, Pine, Selma, Kennedy, Smith, Linn, Industrial Drive, all railroad crossings, streets fronting all schools, hills and curves.

For additional information go to www.sikeston.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS
FEBRUARY-MARCH 2010
Meeting dates and times are subject to change

Monday, February 1
4:30 PM – Library Board of Trustees
5:00 PM – City Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 2
4:00 PM – Planning & Zoning Commission

Monday, February 8
Noon – Housing Authority Commission
4:00 PM - Board of Adjustments
5:15 PM – Park Board

Tuesday, February 9
4:00 PM - BMU Commission

Monday, February 15
President’s Day – City Offices Closed

Tuesday, February 16
11:30 AM – DED Executive Board

Thursday, February 18
11:30 AM – Strategic Plan Implementation Commission

Monday, February 22
7:15 AM – City Council Meeting
11:30 AM – LCRA Commission Meeting
4:00 PM – Board of Adjustments

Friday, Feb. 26 - Youth in Government Day

Monday, March 1
4:30 PM – Library Board of Trustees
5:00 PM – City Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 2
4:00 PM – Planning & Zoning Commission
2009 – A Year in Review

2009 was quite a year! Here's a recap of the year’s events on the municipal level.

The ice storm of January 2009 presented significant challenges for residents as well as the City. City and BMU crews coordinated with State and Federal agencies for the establishment of emergency shelters, provision of emergency services and the restoration of power. By March of that year more than 70,500 cubic yards of debris had been deposited at the Compost Site. That is the equivalent of 2,350 30-yard roll-off dumpsters.

On a brighter note, the Vision for Tomorrow Strategic Plan was completed and submitted to the Sikeston City Council in March 2009. Upon its approval an implementation commission was created. The Commission, headed by Roger Sherman and Megan Looney, conducts quarterly meetings to keep residents abreast of their progress.

City Staff continues to work with HMDG to promote Downtown revitalization and the LCRA to promote neighborhood revitalization.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: In 2009 the Sikeston Department of Economic Development finalized locating Orgill, Inc. to the Sikeston Business, Education and Technology Park. Sikeston DED assisted Orgill and ARCO Construction Company though the construction phase. A grand opening celebration was held on October 24. To date, Orgill has hired 300 new employees and will eventually employ 350.

Sikeston DED oversaw the completion of new water and sewer lines, the extension of McCullah Blvd., and improvements to the water retention basin at the Industrial Park. This project was made possible by a $550,000 CDBG grant awarded to the city for infrastructure improvements. DED also oversaw the addition of turn lanes on U.S. 61 at the Industrial Park, which was made possible by a $450,000 Delta Regional Authority/MODOT grant.

DED Director Ed Dust, along with Sikeston city officials attended a meeting with Kentucky Transportation Cabinet officials in Frankfurt, Kentucky to discuss conceptual improvements to the Highway 60-62 bridges. Dust also participated in Sikeston’s Vision for Tomorrow meetings. He serves on the Economic Development Committee and is helping plan strategies for improving Sikeston’s marketability to industry prospects.

Trade shows and conferences attended this past year include the Delta Regional Authority, Orgill Fall Dealer Show, National Plastics Exposition, Governor’s Economic Development Conference, SEMA-AAPEX Auto Parts Show, ICSC, West Pack and the Mississippi Delta Grassroots Caucus.

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Sesquicentennial Corner . . .

7th & 8th Grade Center – Sesquicentennial Contest Winners

Sikeston Public Schools 7th and 8th Grade Center recently held a Sesquicentennial Door Decorating Contest. Judging was conducted by Mayor Jerry Pullen and City Manager Doug Friend. Winning classroom doors and their instructor(s) are pictured above.

If your club or organization conducts a Sesquicentennial event, please send us a photograph and short narrative. We'll be happy to highlight your event in our monthly "Sesquicentennial Corner”. Send your photo and narrative to cityhall@sikeston.org.

Strategic Plan Implementation Update

In March 2009, Sikeston’s residents received a formal report detailing the community’s needs and long-term goals identified during the Vision for Tomorrow Strategic Planning Process. With its release the City and Strategic Plan Implementation Commission began efforts for the accomplishment of these goals. Today, ten months since acceptance of the plan, the Strategic Plan Implementation Commission is revisiting Sikeston’s Vision for Tomorrow, and assessing the progress that has been made within the areas of quality of life, housing, economic development and education.

Improved community-wide communications was identified as a primary goal for an improved quality of life. These goals are being addressed as follows: A. The Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce (SACC) continues to provide a community-wide calendar of events and meetings. B. The City of Sikeston provides the date, time and location of all monthly City Council, board and commission meetings to local media, the SACC for its Community Calendar of Events, and Sikeston Public Schools for announcements on Channel 12. C. Sikeston City Council agendas and approved Council meeting minutes can be viewed on the City’s updated website, www.sikeston.org. D. The City continues to issue its monthly electronic newsletter, The Sikeston Scanner, updating the public on municipal issues and projects. E. The Strategic Plan Implementation Commission conducts quarterly public meetings to inform residents on progress being made, and to obtain public comment on changing conditions within the community.

The Vision for Tomorrow Report recognized a need to improve public accommodations, services and activities. Specific goals included installation of marked pedestrian crosswalks/ signals, development of design and zoning standards for commercial areas, improvement of sidewalks, development of trails to accommodate pedestrian and bike travel,

See Strategic Plan, Page 4
**Strategic Plan, Continued from Page 3**

improved traffic flow, increased funding for parks and recreation, and encouraging residents to take personal responsibility for their property. These issues are being addressed as follows: A. Within the last 60 days Sikeston’s Traffic Committee sent a series of recommendations for improved traffic flow to the City Council. These recommendations were accepted and will become effective February 4, 2010. B. The City of Sikeston’s 2010 Street Improvement Program addresses improvement of Downtown pedestrian crosswalks. C. Federal funding was acquired in a joint effort of the City and Sikeston Public Schools to obtain funding for construction of a sidewalk from Southeast Elementary School to Twitty Street. This funding also provided for the purchase of bicycle safety helmets for elementary school students and bicycle safety instruction. D. Federal/State funding has also been acquired to construct a walking trail through Veteran’s Park connecting its static displays to the walking trail in the Recreation Complex. E. State funding has been acquired to assist with the creation of design guidelines and standards for the Historic Downtown Commercial District. F. A formal committee for the beautification of the community has been formed with Councilman Kathy Teachout and Strategic Implementation Commission Co-Chair Megan Looney serving as co-chairmen.

In regard to Housing goals, the national economy and a volatile housing market created by the home mortgage fraud scam is slowing progress. Work continues as follows: A. The LCRA has obtained stimulus funding for the demolition of properties unable to be rehabilitated. B. Removal of substandard housing and the replat of parcels to provide modern, buildable lots have resulted in increased property values within LCRA targeted neighborhoods. C. CDBG funding allowed the LCRA to remove the former Compress Building, a neighborhood eyesore and safety hazard. D. The City of Sikeston continues to sponsor the Home Repair Opportunity (HeRO) Program. Administered by DAEOC, this program provides low-to-moderate income homeowners with grants of up to $20,000 for approved home repairs. Seven local homeowners qualified for $151,952.96 in funding through the 2009 DREAM HERO Program. Three additional homeowners, not residing within the Downtown District, qualified for $47,462.10 in home repairs. Repairs addressed defective roofs, electrical upgrades, installation of siding, window replacement, correction of code and safety issues (such as electrical, lead, etc.) and installation of handicap accessibility ramps and bathroom facilities.

Within economic development, the status of the national economy remains a factor. Establishing a four-lane interstate between I-55, I-57 and I-24 continues to be a long-term goal, as is organizing a right-to-work by county statewide legislative effort. A more reachable goal of establishing a Sikeston Industrial Development Corporation is on-going. Councilman Tom Hedrick and Strategic Plan Implementation Commission Member Chip Thornton are spearheading these efforts.

Long-term goals within education include development of a needs and resource inventory, and the development of campaigns to promote educational opportunities and awareness within the community.

**Year in Review, Continued from page 2**

Local community involvement is important to DED. Staff attends Historic Midtown Development Group and Chamber of Commerce meetings on a continual basis. Sikeston DED continues to work with Missouri DED officials to bring industrial leads to Sikeston. DED met with several prospects this past year and gave tours as needed. Lengthy proposals were filled out for prospects. The DED continues to work on new retail leads for Sikeston. Industry retention is important to Sikeston’s economy. Dust meets regularly with plant managers and maintains a good working relationship with them. Sikeston DED generated $120,000 in lease rent last year from the Essex Building.

DPW - STREETS: DPW Street Division spent most of the first six months of the year dealing with ice storm related issues. In addition to monitoring contractors performing the clean-up for compliance with SEMA/FEMA requirements, Street Division performed clean-up and repairs on municipally owned property. Street Division supervised Compost Site operations including the nine-day community clean-up campaign and leaf collection program. Street Division monitored completion of the City’s 2009 Street and Stormwater Drainage Improvement Program, completion of the Downtown Sikeston Streetscape Project and start-up of the Safe-Route-to-Schools sidewalk grant project connecting Southeast Elementary School to Twitty Street, and improvements at Sikeston’s Municipal Airport.

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DPW - PARKS: This year Park Division installed the first playground equipment in R.S. Matthews Park. A new picnic shelter (#3) was constructed in the Recreation Complex replacing one of the original shelters built in the mid-'70's. Four new dugouts were constructed on the Little League baseball fields completing the replacement of all the old wood-framed dugouts with aluminum benches on the Little League fields. New foul ball nets and support frames were installed on the southwest and northwest Little League baseball fields and Junior Babe Ruth baseball field. These replaced nets and supports destroyed by the ice storm. A new pro-style backstop was installed at VFW Stadium. This was prompted by damage to the existing backstop from the September 2008 windstorm.

The last of the chat parking lots adjacent to the soccer fields in the Recreation Complex was paved and striped. Also, paved parking and a paved walkway to the bleachers were installed at the high school soccer field in the Complex to provide handicap access. A new chat parking lot was added at the northwest part of the Complex to provide additional parking for soccer and softball activities in that area.

The Park Division provided weekend support for special youth sporting events including the annual invitational soccer tournament in November (130+ teams), and the Cal Ripken 14-year-old state baseball tournament in July and August. Park employees kept restrooms cleaned and trash barrels emptied during these events.

DPW – CODE ENFORCEMENT: Sikeston’s Code Enforcement Officers assist citizens each day providing information and/or instructions regarding zoning, construction, and property maintenance ordinances, codes and policies. During the 2009 ice storm these officers were active surveying storm damage and performing 300 storm related inspections totaling more than $300,000 in repairs. Additionally, Code Officers provided transport of citizens to and from warming centers for the duration of the 2009 ice storm.

In 2009 Sikeston’s Code Officers performed 2,078 inspections on commercial and residential structures and properties. They responded to 563 animal control calls for service. During 2009, nine single family residential permits were issued totaling $968,500 in construction costs. In 2008, 17 residential permits were issued totaling $2,093,550 in construction costs. In 2009 four major commercial permits were issued for Mancino’s, Scott County Health Department addition, Ponder Funeral Home addition, and the BMU Office Building for a total of $4,237,990 in new construction. In 2008, 6 major commercial construction projects were completed for $39,652,768.

DPS: During 2009, the Sikeston Department of Public Safety responded to 18,351 calls for service. These calls came from throughout the community and included the following: 5,425 vehicle stops, 3,624 citations issued, 2,416 arrests and 368 pedestrian checks made. Of the 2,416 arrests only 24 required use-of-force reports. During the year DPS conducted 14 internal investigations of which eight were founded and six were exonerated.

Sikeston’s 2009 statistics for Part 1 crimes are as follows: 3 homicides, 10 rapes, 37 robberies, 184 burglaries, 644 thefts, 42 vehicle thefts, 6 arsons, and 908 assaults. Domestic violence: 324 assault and 181 non-assault calls. Motor vehicle accidents: 1,079 accidents, 2 fatalities, 470 with injuries, 112 left the scene, and 20 delayed reports. DPS responded to 1,178 disturbance calls, 14 reports of large crowds or gatherings, and 228 loud music calls. Mental health transports totaled 89, with 35 individuals transported to mental health facilities in Farmington, Poplar Bluff and other institutions throughout the state and 54 committed to the Senior Lifestyles unit at Missouri Delta Hospital. During 2009 DPS received 101 missing person reports - 48 adults and 53 juveniles. Juvenile violations consisted of 114 ungovernable juveniles, 12 curfew violations, and 4 truancies. Liquor violations totaled 25 with 4 for consumption, 4 for possession, 5 open containers, 8 public intoxications and 3 supplying alcohol to a minor. 67 driving while intoxicated arrests were made. DPS received 40 reports of identity theft. Ninety-five weapons violations were processed with 60 involving shots-fired, 5 weapons discharged within the city limits, 28 brandished weapons, and one concealed carry issue.

During 2009 DPS Officers were involved in 3 vehicle-pursuits, 5 foot-pursuits, and conducted 51 business walk-throughs. Stolen property totaled $928,068. Recovered property was valued at $313,768. Overall, it was an exceptional year for the department. No officers that were seriously injured during the performance of their duties. Public Safety staffing levels remained fairly even throughout the year.

FIRE DIVISION: Fire Division responded to 900 calls for service consisting of 66 structure fires within the city limits; 13 responses to the fire protection district; 21 vehicle fires; 38 natural cover or grass fires, and 92 rescue calls. Fire Division responded to 144 coal train stand by’s and 48 helicopter stand by’s at the Missouri Delta Hospital.
Officers attended approximately 2,740 hours of training during the year. This consisted of general firefighter 1 & 2 class, grain bin rescue, fire investigator’s class, structural collapse training, rope rescue training, confined space training, driver training, and CPR recertification. DPS instructors provided training to 100 Sikeston BMU Power Plant employees, as well as those of ATMO Energy. Fire Division’s annual fire prevention efforts focused on area schools providing information and demonstrations to 8 schools and over 1,500 children during fire prevention week.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT: The criminal investigations unit investigated 1,641 cases in 2009 and cleared 1,263 cases for a clearance rate of 77%. In 2009 the criminal investigations unit was responsible for the service of 80 search warrants, and the associated arrest of 324 individuals. The social security unit, funded by the federal government, and consisting of one CIU officer investigated 28 new cases and closed over 40 cases (some cases were carried over from 2008). The Social Security Administration estimates this unit saved the government over $2.2 million dollars in fraudulent claims.

POWER SQUAD: The Power Squad made 351 arrests, wrote 830 summons, and recovered 5 guns. They confiscated 21.6 grams of cocaine, 1 meth lab, 5.8 grams of methamphetamine, 1,896 grams of marijuana, and 1,800 grams of pseudoephedrine. They also worked with the United States Marshall Service in Operation Falcon. This was a 2-day nation-wide sweep that netted 13 felons.

SCHOOL RESOURCE (SRO) AND DARE OFFICERS: These officers are responsible for investigating violations that occur in the school system. During this school year 15 juveniles were arrested for fighting, 17 for drug violations, 4 for weapons possession, 3 for sexual misconduct, 8 for threats and 10 for theft-related issues. The SRO’s are also responsible for the city court detail. In 2009 the SRO’s assisted the Power Squad and the U.S. Marshalls with Operation Falcon. The new DARE car (donated by the Bedell family), took first place in two car shows and placed third in a second car show.

PUBLIC HOUSING OFFICERS: Public Housing Officers forwarded 487 reports this year, resulting in 21 tenants evicted from the Section 8 program, and 30 evicted from public housing. The breakdown is as follows: Crime violations - Section 8 – 4 removed, Public housing – 5 removed; Drug violations - Section 8 - 7 removed, Public Housing – 3 removed; Housing violations - Section 8 - 4 removed, Public Housing-14 removed; other violations - Section 8 - 6 people removed, Public Housing - 8 people removed. Officers issued 14 trespass warnings barring residents and citizens from public housing. Currently DPS has 3 officers residing in various public housing areas.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP: Special Operations Group assisted in/executed 23 search warrants this year. Many of these search warrants were executed within the city limits of Sikeston. Others were executed outside of Sikeston with DPS assisting the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigations. Thirty-two arrests were made for dangerous drugs and weapons. The special operations group was called out for three barricaded subjects during the year. All three incidents were resolved peacefully without any injury to the officers or to the suspect. In 2009 the special operations group received 3,280 man-hours of training in hazardous material response, special operations and tactics, technical rope rescue and water rescue.

PATROL DIVISION: Patrol division is comprised of 24 uniformed officers that work 8.3 hour shifts. Six patrol officers with two supervisors are assigned to each shift. As stated earlier, officers responded to 18,351 calls of service. Additionally patrol division participated in a number of special details including the Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo, the Rodeo Parade, the Sikeston Cotton Carnival, the Cotton Carnival Parade, Halloween detail, Fourth of July detail, Spring Fest, Red Pepper Rally, High School Graduation, Return-to-Sunset Celebration, Cotton Ramble Bicycle detail, Kindergarten Patriot Day, Kenny Rodgers/Neal Boyd Concert, Return-to-School, Martin Luther King Parade, and Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Day. The patrol division also maintains an honor guard responsible for posting the colors at various events in the community. During 2009 this unit participated in the CP Telethon, the Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet, Captain Jim Hailey’s retirement ceremony, and Law Enforcement Memorial Day in Cape Girardeau.

With 2009 behind us, the men and women of the City of Sikeston will continue to make every effort to maximize tax dollars while maintaining appropriate levels of service for Sikeston’s residents.