



FESTUS FOCUS

City of Festus
(636) 937-4694

Festus Focus also available at
www.cityoffestus.org!

May 1, 2012

Find the Most Up to Date Information at www.cityoffestus.org.

Tourism Tax Increase Passes Festus voters approved a 3% increase in the Tourism Tax on April 3 and also gave their approval to use the money to promote activities and events as well as for recreational improvements.

The Tourism Committee will be reviewing options presented by city officials and interested parties in a couple of months. The committee will decide how to distribute current funds and in what areas they think are important.

We have begun collecting samples of printed materials for review, have heard from recreational groups asking for financial assistance, and are talking to other tourism groups to get ideas.

Three new members will be added this year as the terms have expired for Todd Mahn, Rich Townsend, and Jeff Adams. We thank them for their time and dedication and you can see the improvements they set into motion. Notice will be posted on the website and in front of city hall when the committee will meet.



Gannon Avenue Enhancement Project—

The project on Gannon Drive is steadily moving along. We now have new areas of pavement along the east and south side of the street.

Summer Street Projects

2012 Overlay Projects— The City has selected the streets that it would like to resurface this summer. The projects are currently being bid on. We are hoping the City has enough funds to resurface all of the selected streets. However, if the bids come in too high, one of the streets may have to be delayed. Likewise, a street may be added if there are extra funds available. The streets selected for the 2012 Overlay Project are Sunnyside, Midmeadow Lane, England Drive, Hillcrest, and Westwind. We will provide an updated list in next month's newsletter after we have opened the bids.

Sidewalks— The Street Department is putting in new sidewalks on Palliet Street this summer.



Sinclair— The old Sinclair gas station on Main Street has reopened for business!! The gas station has been resurrected once again as a full-service station.

Yoga & Zumba in the Park

Please join us for our first ever free fitness program in the parks, sponsored by the Friends of the Festus Parks. There will be attendance prizes awarded at the first session scheduled for both the Zumba and Yoga classes!



Yoga— There will be Yoga every Tuesday from 6:30pm-7:30pm beginning May 15. These classes will be taught by Donna Freese, the owner of The Zen Zoo

Fitness Studio. In case of rain during the scheduled time, an extra class will be added to the end of the session.



Z u m b a - Zumba classes in the park will be on Wednesdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm beginning

May 16. These classes will be taught by Mandi and Sheree from Total Body Fitness. If there is any rain at all on a scheduled day, the class will be moved to the old band building directly behind City Hall.

Upcoming Events

Festus Gong Show— We are looking for contestants for the Gong Show. This year, we will be having a talent show from 7:30pm-8pm for contestants under the age of 15. There will be attendance prizes for the talent show portion. The Gong Show will be limited to contestants over the age of 15. Again, the prize for first will be \$200, second will be \$100, and third will be \$50. If contestants will be singing, we require providing us a CD without lyrics at least one week prior to the event.

Little Mr. & Miss Firecracker Contest— We are also looking for contestants for this contest at the Firecracker Festival. This contest is for ages 2-7. The kids may dress up and may perform an act. Winners receive a \$50 savings bond.

Please call **937-4694** to obtain forms for both of these events!!

Festus Public Library

Summer Reading Program- The registration for the Annual Summer Reading Program will be June 1, 2012.

Passports- It takes 4-6 weeks to process passports. Please keep this in mind if going out of the country is in your summer plans.

May is National Bike Month- The Festus Parks Department has installed bike racks at Public Works and City Hall. We encourage all residents to use the racks when you have business at either location. Also, take a ride along the bike path and enjoy the beautiful

areas of town the path leads you through. A map of the bike path can be found on the City website in the Park Dept section. Please visit www.GetFitFestus.com to see what activities are planned for biker safety and instruction as well as other fitness activities.



Soulard Blues Band

great food and drinks again this year. New activities are also in the works for this year. We will keep you updated in the coming months and hope to see you there!!

Blues & Funk Concert is Scheduled for August 11—

The Friends of the Festus Parks has booked the Soulard Blues Band, along with Torrey Casey & Friends, to play at the Blues & Funk Concert in August. Taytro's Bar & Bistro

will be on hand to provide

Tip for Lowering Your Summer Water Bill

Rain Barrels are a great way to save on your water usage and decrease the cost of your water bill during the summer months.

- Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer.
- Rain barrels provide free soft water that is ideal for watering plants and washing cars.
- There is no chlorine, lime, or calcium in the rain water.
- Rain barrels save most homeowners 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months.

This information was made available by www.epa.gov/reg3esdl/garden/rainbarrel.html. If you visit this website, you can find information about purchasing and constructing rain barrel systems.



Pet of the Month—

The City of Festus has a female cat and male dog that both have fantastic personalities. They are very loving and would be good with kids. The adoption fee is \$80 if you would

like to take one home. The fee includes an exam, rabies shots, and spaying/neutering. If you would like to adopt, please contact Tim Mullins at 937-6646. Thank you!!



Paint & Paint Can Disposal-

It is required that paint be hardened prior to disposal. Any type of paint can be hardened by adding kitty litter or sand to a paint can. Latex and acrylic paints can be hardened with a store bought paint hardener called Homax. Homax is only a couple of dollars and hardens up to 2/3 of a gallon of paint.

The Homax is advertised as being earth friendly and can be found at your local hardware stores. Once the paint is hardened, you may set the paint can out next to your trash can on your normal trash day. Please leave the lid off of the can so the trash haulers can verify the paint has been hardened. Thank you!!

News Updates—

- **Council Meetings**— May 9 and 23 at 7pm.
- **Workshops**— May be held on May 2, 16, and 30 at 7pm
- **Park Board**— May 24 at 6pm
- **Planning & Zoning Meeting**— May 17 at 6:30pm
- **Board of Adjustment**— May 14 at 7pm
- **Yoga in the Park**— May 15, 22, and 29 at 6:30pm at the Sunset Park Bandstand
- **Zumba in the Park**— May 16, 23, and 30 at 6:30pm at the Sunset Park Bandstand