

# SPRING NEWSLETTER



## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- 04/14 Board of Trustees Meeting (7:00 PM)
- 04/15 Municipal Court (5:00 PM)
- 04/17 Neighborhood Watch Meeting (7:00 PM)
- 04/18 *Good Friday*
- 04/20 *Easter*
- 04/21 Zoning Board (7:00 PM)
- 04/23 Historical Society Meeting (10:30 AM)
- 04/28 Board of Trustees Meeting (7:00 PM)
- 05/05 EDC - Economic Development Council (6:30 PM)
- 05/05 *Cinco de Mayo*
- 05/06 Municipal Court (5:00 PM)
- 05/11 *Mother's Day*
- 05/12 Board of Trustees Meeting (7:00 PM)
- 05/19 Zoning Board (7:00 PM)
- 05/26 Memorial Day/CITY HALL CLOSED
- 05/27 Municipal Court (5:00 PM)
- 05/28 Historical Society Meeting (10:30 AM)



## Monday, May 26, 2025



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## Planning an Event??

Rent/Reserve the gazebo at Mildred Keeney Memorial Park. The park is located at 55 N Poe. More information and rental forms are available online by visiting <https://claycomo.org/rent-mildred-keeney-park>. If you're planning an indoor

event, consider our Community Building. More information, photos, and the rental contract can be found at <https://claycomo.org/rent-community-building>. You can also get rental forms in the lobby of City Hall. Call 816-452-5539, opt. 7 to see if your date is available.



## From Police Chief Coonce

### Animal Control

Claycomo no longer offers Animal Control Services. We don't have staff or a proper kennel area to safely facilitate "dogs at large". Residents with dogs that get out of their owner's yard, will be ticketed. In addition, if your dog is not registered with the Village for their Claycomo Dog License, you will be cited for that as well. As a reminder, you must renew your dog's license in January of each year.

**Mowing season has arrived – I just want to remind you again, you are not allowed to leave grass clippings in the roadway after you mow your yard.**

Sec. 21-2 Prohibited.

(q) The dumping of any junk, refuse, garbage, waste, animal or vegetable matter, or dead animals on any streets, highways, or other property within the limits of the village

As always feel free to contact me at City Hall if you have any questions or concerns.

Business number – 452-4613

Dispatch non-emergency – 781-7373

Emergency - 911

***Matt Coonce — Chief of Police***



Officer Rivers and Captain Lorenson completed the Missouri Counter Terrorism Officer Academy. Currently, under 250 officers in the State of Missouri hold this certification.



**K9-AXL turns 4  
June 28**





## From Fire Chief Shaumeyer



# Working SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

a smoke detector will need to call and schedule an appointment (816) 452-4612. Some appointments may need to be scheduled for a later date, depending on demand.

Claycomo Fire Department has received Smoke Detectors from the Red Cross. Firefighters can install these new alarms for Claycomo residents, free of charge. Anyone who is interested in receiving

## New Ambulance Photos

Thanks to the bond that voters approved last year, on March 2, 2025, Claycomo Fire Department took delivery of our brand new ambulance. A “Push In Ceremony” will be scheduled for a later date.



## From Claycomo Citizens Alliance

Claycomo Citizens Alliance is seeking community volunteers. We are a small group of volunteers and need your help to keep things running smoothly. Hours are flexible. We work with your schedule.

We're seeking volunteers for the following:

- ◆ Keyholder: Open and close the pantry/thrift store. Hours are based on your availability. Protect the client's privacy and provide excellent customer service.
- ◆ Assistant Keyholder: Assist the Keyholder with pantry/thrift store duties. Great for teens who need community volunteer hours.
- ◆ Community Liaison: Meet with local groups (churches, businesses, etc.) to discuss the community's greatest needs. Partner with groups to plan community events.
- ◆ Assistant Director: Help grow our volunteer base. Be the main contact for community questions.
- ◆ Grant Writer: Apply for grants and run all fundraising events. We are all volunteers, but we need to keep the lights on!
- ◆ Pantry Manager: Inventory of clothing and food. Pick up donations from local donation centers. Expand our number of donation centers. Stock our indoor and outdoor pantries.

Let us know if you're interested in knowing more or can help in other ways. Here's our contact information:

Text: 816-607-1499, Email: [claycomoca@gmail.com](mailto:claycomoca@gmail.com) , Facebook: Claycomo's Pantries-keep up to date on volunteer events and pantry openings.

We hope to see you soon! Thanks so much for your support!

***Claycomo Citizens Alliance***

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## Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays each month, and begin promptly at 7:00 PM. Meetings are held at the Claycomo Community Building, located at 28 S Drake St, and are open to the public. The Board of Trustees encourages all of our residents to attend the meetings, and become involved in our community. Contact Information for all of our Trustees can be found on our web page, at <https://claycomo.org/trustees>.





# From City Hall

## **Waste Management Program fact sheet, Division of Environmental Quality, Director: Kyra Moore**

With warm weather and sunshine comes the sounds of birds singing, kids playing and lawn mowers running. Maintaining your yard and preserving the natural landscape can create a lot of waste that needs to be managed. Yard waste can represent up to 20% of the solid waste stream going to Missouri's landfills. Missouri's solid waste management law focuses on the need to reduce the volume of waste generated and sent to our landfills. Fortunately, yard waste is one part of the waste stream that can be managed in our own backyards, using techniques such as mulching and composting.

**Mulching:** Mulch is any organic material such as wood chips, grass clippings, leaves or compost spread over the surface of the soil. Mulch conserves water, keeps down weeds and keeps soil temperatures from becoming too hot or too cold. Mulch also protects sloping ground from soil erosion and stops compaction caused by driving rain or foot traffic. In addition, mulch provides ideal conditions for earthworms and other soil organisms which are necessary for healthy soil and plants. When mulches break down, they become humus that feeds the soil. A good mulch will do all this and be readily available, free, easy to apply and will stay in place without much effort.

The best place to look for mulch materials is in your own yard. Every yard has grass, leaves and other green materials that can be made into mulch. If you can use wood chips, try contacting a tree service or landscaper listed online. If they are working in your area, they are often happy to deliver woody wastes and avoid extra travel and dumping expenses. Some wood shops and coffee roasters make their organic byproducts available to customers and the general public.

**Don't Bag Grass Clippings:** The easiest way to start mulching is to take the grass catcher off the lawn mower. Your mower service agent should be able to put a trapdoor over the discharge vent if your mower does not already have one. For conventional side discharge mowers without a trapdoor, mulching may require a bit of raking following mowing to break up the little rows of clippings. To avoid raking the entire lawn, mow from the outer edge in ever smaller circles toward the center, making sure that the side discharge mower is "walking" or blowing the grass clippings ever closer to the central point. In this manner, clippings are chopped several times and most fall between the blades as mulch. The few left near the center can easily be raked and placed into the compost bin or spread in.

Cutting grass higher and with only one-third the blade height is easier and faster than cutting grass that has become overgrown. Fertilizing can be decreased since grass clippings contain 4% nitrogen and act like a time-release fertilizer when they are returned regularly to the soil. Grass clippings return to the soil to form organic humus that helps hold water while keeping the soil loose and aerated.

When asked in a recent survey in Texas, many householders stated the main reason they bag their grass is to avoid generating thatch. While thatch is a problem in many lawns, turfgrass specialists have numerous studies that show grass clippings do not cause thatch to build up. Thatch is caused by high-lignin stubble at the plant base derived from roots, rhizomes, crowns and stolons that decompose slowly. The green clippings contain little if any, lignin and decompose quickly. If anything, mulching green grass clippings can actually help decompose thatch by supporting a healthy soil ecosystem. With grass mulching, some lawns may need additional aeration and watering to help soil organisms decompose the clippings properly, especially during dry periods.

**Tools for Mulch-Making:** A rotary mower run across dry leaves will make a fine-textured mulch for annuals and smaller plants. Mulching mowers have become quite popular in recent years and their new features are proudly displayed by dealers. Advertising campaigns are helping convert homeowners over to these new "zero discharge" mowers. Mulching mowers are designed differently from conventional mowers with closed trap doors. The first difference is, of course, the lack of a discharge point and a catcher. The second is the horsepower rating, since mulching mowers require more horsepower to cut and re-cut the grass. The special blade not only cuts, it also acts as a vacuum and fan that circulates the clippings back to the blade for additional pulverizing. The air pressure then forces the chopped clippings downward into the lawn. Mulching mowers require a lawn not overly wet and has not been left too long between cuttings. The height of the grass should be somewhat higher than the height of the blade. For the average lawn, if the grass is left at 2-inches following mowing, the grass would be cut when it reaches three inches.

While the new system takes some getting used to, user satisfaction is running near 100% for those who have made the switch.

*(Continued on next page)*



## From City Hall *(Continued)*

The lawn must be mowed more often than with conventional mowers, but the time actually spent in the yard is less because there is no need to continually stop and empty the catcher. Mulching mowers should be used every five to six days instead of every week.

A small electric chipper will make a fine-textured mulch of woody stalks and branches up to 1-1/4 inches thick. Gas-powered shredders of 5 to 8 horsepower capable of processing materials up to 3 inches in diameter can be rented or purchased. Large gas-powered chippers able to handle woody-wastes up to 6 inches in diameter are available at rental shops. In general, the larger the machine, the faster the mulch-making.

Where to find mulch-making tools? Look under "Rental Service Stores" and "Yards" online and find tool rental locations nearest you. Call ahead, because not all tool rental stores carry chippers and shredders. Let them know the type of material you want to turn into mulch and find out if their machine can do the job. Shredders and chippers are also sold at lawn and garden equipment stores listed online.

### Applying Mulch

**Some general rules for mulching:** Annuals and perennials (both flowers and vegetables) should be mulched with materials, such as grass clippings and leaves, that break down in a relatively short time. This allows you to turn under the mulch on annual beds when the soil is dug. Grass clippings can be spread regularly in thin layers over vegetable and flower beds, or mixed with leaves and spread in a thicker layer. Spread grass clippings no more than 1 inch thick so they don't mat and prevent water from penetrating into the soil. Leaves of deciduous trees can be spread as mulch in the fall. Evergreen leaves can also be used, but they take longer to turn a dark color and decay. Sawdust and other finely-ground woody materials can be used on the surface, but should not be mixed into the soil. These finely ground materials that have not been composted may tie up nitrogen in your soil, causing your plantings to become yellow and stunted. Trees and shrubs should be mulched with an attractive thick layer of wood chips that requires little maintenance. Paths can also be covered with wood chips in layers as thick as is practical to wear longer and keep down weeds. Some experts recommend placing a layer of plastic or cardboard underneath the mulch.

**Applying mulch materials:** Weed the area to be mulched before applying the mulch. For best results, mulch can be spread around any plant as far as the distance of its outermost branching (this is called the drip line), or it can cover an entire garden bed. Mulch can be spread thickly if water is able to penetrate and if it does not smother the roots of the plant being mulched. Three inches of mulch is safe for any woody plant and up to eight inches of mulch can be used for large trees. Thick mulches are harmful to shallow-rooted plants such as rhododendrons and azaleas.

**Composting:** Compost is a natural fertilizer made of food scraps and yard waste, which can be added to soil to help retain moisture, feed plants, improve the soil around trees and shrubs and top dress lawns. Compost stimulates plant growth through time release nutrients. It also protects the landscape against weather extremes, especially drought, by keeping soils warmer in winter and cooler in summer. By using food scraps and yard waste to make compost, we keep those materials out of our landfills, where they take up valuable space and release methane, a greenhouse gas. For more information about composting at home, see [Homeowners' Composting Guide - PUB0183](#).



### NEED INFORMATION??

**Check our website!** Visit [www.claycomo.org](http://www.claycomo.org) to get the latest information on events happening throughout the Village!



# Community Reminders

## DIRECTORY INFORMATION

### **EMERGENCY—CALL 911**

Police Dispatch  
Non-Emergency  
(816) 781-7373

Fire Dispatch  
Non-Emergency  
(816) 513-0900

**\*Identify Yourself as a  
Claycomo Resident or Business**

### **Village of Claycomo City Hall**

115 E US 69 Highway  
Claycomo, MO 64119  
(816) 452-5539 Main

Email: [VillageClerk@Claycomo.org](mailto:VillageClerk@Claycomo.org)  
Office Hours M-F 8AM—5PM

### **Municipal Court**

(816) 452-4539

**NEW** Office Hours Mon—Fri  
9AM—5PM

### **Police Administration**

115 E US 69 Highway  
(816) 452-4613

### **Claycomo Fire Station**

333 E US 69 Highway  
(816) 452-4612



**Village Market Days**  
June thru October

2nd and 4th Saturdays  
7am - noon  
City Hall Parking Lot  
Contact City Hall for your free Vendors permit  
[www.claycomo.org](http://www.claycomo.org)

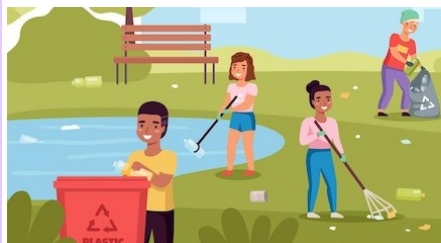


There will be a Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM at Claycomo Community Building (28 S. Drake). Other upcoming meeting dates for 2025 are: July 17 and October 16. All will be held at the Community Building, unless otherwise notified. Everyone is welcome!

The Spring Village-wide Clean up day will be Saturday, June 14. There will be dumpsters available for your items in the City Hall Parking Lot. We will begin accepting items at 8:00 AM. When the dumpsters are full, they will be closed off. **DO NOT CROSS the barriers!**



## Stream Team News



Stream Team will meet on Saturday, June 21 at 10AM at Mildred Keeney Memorial Park. Volunteers are needed! If you would like to volunteer your time, contact Melody at 816-452-5539.







*Village of Claycomo*

115 East US 69 Highway  
Claycomo, MO 64119