

City of Velda Village
Hills
3501 Avondale
St. Louis, Mo. 63121

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APRIL 2018
CITY OF VELDA VILLAGE HILLS, MISSOURI

FROM THE MAYORS' DESK

SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION U (USE TAX)

Greetings Velda Village Hills City Residents,

As we draw closer to April 3rd I want to urge our residents to please consider passage of Proposition U. This is a bill proposed by your board to benefit not only city residents but small business throughout the North County area. As stated earlier, essentially, a use tax is a sales tax applied to purchases from out-of-state companies with a physical presence in Missouri, designed to eliminate the disadvantage retailers have in the market against online sales.

As a starting point, it's important to understand how sales and use taxes are assessed. Both taxes are based on retail sales of most tangible goods and some services. If there is a taxable purchase, either sales or use tax will apply, but not both. Sales and use tax apply to both individuals and businesses. There are exemptions for certain goods such as medicine and medical equipment and for certain businesses, such as manufacturers.

Passage of a use tax would close a significant tax loophole, and level the playing-field for local businesses, eliminate an unfair incentive to buy tax-free goods and services outside Missouri, and help retain jobs. This is why the Mayor and Board of Aldermen placed the use tax on the April 3rd ballot.

We understand the issue and what it would mean for member businesses and for the citizens. Our local businesses cannot continue to thrive when placed on this unlevelled playing field.

In addition to potential lost in-store sales for the retailers, the lack of a use tax subsequently had an effect on local governments who realized no increases or even a loss in sales tax receipts.

Passing a use tax, ensures the taxes in place will continue to support city services. A full use tax would mean at least \$1 million annually in tax revenue for surrounding cities.

Passage of the Use Tax could prove critical for the future of brick-and-mortar retailers, particularly the small non-chain shops.

If the measure fails April 3rd the city may see a reduction of services such as public safety or public works. The city continues to lose sales tax revenue to online shoppers. Sales volume at local retailers continues to decline as online sales increase, which again could jeopardize the future of north county retailers.

If voters approve the use tax measure, the city theoretically would receive a larger cut from the Missouri Department of Revenue after the state collects all the sales taxes. Velda Village Hills will receive a small portion of those proceeds from the Usage Tax and that portion would go to the general fund which supports police, fire, streets, parks and storm water control. Please consider this important Proposition April 3rd.

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Calendar and Copy of Election Ballot	Insert

Important Numbers

American Water
1-866-430-0820

Laclede Gas
314-621-6960

Northeast Fire Dept.
314-382-1501

Ameren U. E.
314-342-1111

Normandy School District
314-493-0609

North County Co-Op

Emergency: 911

Non-emergency
314-427-8000 ext. 1

MSD
314-768-6260

Waste Management Customer Service
1-800-964-8988

Animal Control
314-615-0650

For further assistance contact City of Velda Village Hills City Hall at

314-261-7221 (main)
314-261-7225 (fax)
(email)
veldavillage@sbcglobal.net

Board of Alderman

Mayor
Earlene Luster
314-660-3884

Alderman Roy Wade –Forestry
314-300-8090

Street and Building Commissioner
Alderman Henry Brooks
314-620-1099

President Pro-Tem
Alderman Effie Moore
314-660-2967

Health Commissioner
Alderman Jimmie E. Ross
314-974-0984

OUR CITY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



Residents,
As stated in an earlier board meeting we will be introducing **Proposition U** on the April 3rd, 2018 ballot and asking for your support.

Voters in the City of Velda Village Hills will decide April 3rd, 2018, whether our city shall impose local use taxes on out of state purchases at the same rates as our local sales tax rates, with the provision the use tax will change to match future voter-approved changes in the sales tax.

The self-reported tax applies only to persons whose out-of-state purchases exceed \$2,000 per year.

The purpose of the use tax is to level the playing field between hometown and out-of-state merchants. The use tax will not be collected in addition to existing local sales taxes. It reduces the incentive to buy out-of-state by keeping outside sellers from enjoying a permanent tax holiday.

A number of surrounding cities already have a use tax to help fund local government services as local sales taxes decline.

Amazon sales account for 43 percent of all U.S. online retail sales. Amazon announced earlier this year it will begin collecting city and county use taxes in Missouri, meaning it will add 3.75 percent to purchases by people living inside the city and 2 percent for county residents if voters in both jurisdictions approve the new use taxes, the same totals now applicable for existing sales taxes.

The only fix for the loss of local revenue from out of state purchases would be a national sales tax paid by buyers based on where they live, collected and distributed by a federal agency for further distribution by states. This is technically feasible but the feds so far have not been able to muster the will to consider it, so the drain on local tax revenues grows worse. The use tax or a nationally administered sales tax would simply apply local sales taxes to internet and other out-of-state purchases. Lets keep our tax dollars right here where we live. Your board of Aldermen are asking for your support of **Proposition U**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Residents,
The Board of Aldermen would like to announce resurrection of the Velda Village Hills Community Garden. The board has given careful consideration for this project and believe it will be of great benefit to the residents of Velda Village Hills. The board would like to make this garden a success and we need your help.

Participating in or starting our own garden comes with plenty of benefits. You can improve your nutrition, exercise habits, and mental health. Also, some studies show that a community garden can raise property value!

Today, we utilize community gardens for different, yet equally important reasons. While the Americans who lived through the eras of the Great Depression and the World Wars harvested their own produce as a means to survive, city dwellers in the 1970s revitalized the trend as a response to urban abandonment and an aspiration to forge neighborly relationships.

Planning the city garden is in its infancy stage, but help is needed. If you would like to help make our garden a success please call city hall and add your name to the list. The garden will be planted on a vacant lot on Myron which is owned by the city. If you would love to be a part of this venture please call and add your name to the list. Any help will greatly be appreciated.

SPRING CLEANING



Residents,
Spring is right around the corner and we would like to remind you of city ordinances violations that will prevent you from being cited.

Please make sure that your grass is maintained. Grass over 6 inches is a violation of city ordinance.

If you hire a contractor to repair your home that contractor MUST apply for a work permit. Our building code enforcer will put a stop order against that contractor if they are found to be working without a work permit.

Please make sure your overheads are in good condition. Chipping paint on overhead is also a violation.

Please make sure your property is clear of debris (trash) in front and back yards. If your trash service is cancelled that is also a violation. All residents without trash service will be summoned to court. Also, remember to remove your trash can from the easement after it has been emptied. Leaving trash cans on the easement after they have been dumped is also a violation.

If your steps, fence, and handrails are deteriorating please repair your steps fence and handrails.

Another concern of the board is the address placards. If your residential property does not have an address placard this also is a housing violation. Each home is required to have a placard which is visible from the street. Please adhere to this ordinance.

If you are uncertain of any ordinance governing the city's property codes you may come to city hall and read the list of ordinances for yourself.



Mayor Luster and The Board of Aldermen would like to wish all residents born in the month of April a Happy Birthday!!!

SPEEDING IN CITY LIMITS



Residents,
Speeding within the city limits of Velda Village Hills is a traffic violation. The city has set the speed limit at 20mph inside our city limit. City hall is bombarded with calls from residents with complaints of speeding. We ask that you please adhere to the speed limit. Careless and irresponsible driving can result in someone being injured or possibly killed. Again, we ask that all residents and visitors adhere to the speed limit. Make our community safe for the people that live here especially our young children.

Game Night at City Hall

Residents,
Alderman Jimmie Ross would like for you to join him and board members for the monthly game night. Game Night begins at 5:30 until 7:30. Please join us for a fun filled evening. Light refreshments will be served.



ELECTION INFORMATION

Residents, because of changes in the Board of Elections location the board would like to share information with regard to dates time and ballot content. Please see the information below so that you are informed of the April 3rd election.

Types of Voter I.D. accepted:
CURRENT Missouri Driver or Non-Driver License, Military ID, US Passport, Voter Registration Card, ID from a MO University or College, Utility Bill, Bank Statement, Government Check, Government document showing your name and address) and sign a statement confirming your identity.

If you have neither of the above IDs, but are a registered voter, you will cast a provisional ballot. Your vote will only be counted if the signature on the ballot matches the signature we have on the Voter Registration file.

March 28 Last day (5:00 pm) absentee applications will be accepted through the mail or in person from a guardian or relative of the applicant for the April 3rd General Municipal Election) March 31 *
*Office opens (times optional) for absentee voting in the April 3rd General Municipal Election.

April 2 Last day (5:00 pm) for voting an absentee ballot in person at the Election Board office for the April 3rd General Municipal Election.

April 3 ELECTION DAY, Polls open from 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

For more information you may contact the board of election at: (314) 615-1800 .Office location is 725 Northwest Plaza Dr., St. Ann MO, 63074.

Please look on the back of your calendar for a copy of the election ballot.

Velda Village Hills residents: City hall will open at 6:00 a.m. April 3rd please enter on the Avondale side.

Cell Phone Numbers Go Public

Residents,
All cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls. :You will be charged for these calls. To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone 1-888-382-1222. It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number for five (5) years.



You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked. You cannot call from a different phone number. Help others by passing this information on.

VACANT PROPERTIES



Residents,
Many of you have inquired about the vacant properties within the city and the maintenance of those properties. While the board utilizes every effort to contact the owner of these properties, many have since moved and not forwarded their address or the property has been taken through tax sales. Because Missouri has implemented new procedures when it comes to handling vacant properties we must adhere to these new laws. Vacant properties which are left unattended must have a letter sent to the owners last known address. The owner is permitted 10 days to rectify the problem or in rare cases 30 days. We will be monitoring these homes to make sure they are not a health and safety issue. If you find that transients' are hanging out at these properties please call North County Co-Op and report this behavior. It will take all of us working together to curb this problem.