



# THE SPARTAN PAGE

JULY 2019

Volume 1, Issue 2

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- INFORMATION ABOUT NEW POLICE UNIFORMS
- YOUR FAVORITE UTILITY CLERK TAKES YOU WHITEWATER RAFTING
- A THANK YOU FROM THE PARK PRESIDENT

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM – Board of Alderman Meeting

August 15<sup>th</sup> – First Day of School

August 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM – Board of Alderman Meeting

August TBA – Movie Night in the Park

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM – Board of Alderman Meeting

September 28<sup>th</sup> – Light Up the Night 5K

Check the website occasionally for more event updates!

## PARK PAVILIONS

PARK PAVILIONS CAN BE RENTED OUT FOR \$25 A DAY. THE PARK MAKES A GREAT PLACE TO HOLD EVENTS SUCH AS BIRTHDAYS, FAMILY PICNICS, AND BABY SHOWERS. CONTACT CITY HALL TO RESERVE ONE SOON!

## Madam Mayor's Memo by Jenni Davis

Hello neighbors! I hope you all are taking time out this summer to enjoy it. As Mayor of the City of Sparta, I want you to know that we have been moving forward on a number of fronts to revitalize the city. We've seen lots of growth and new development in Sparta this past year, and I'm excited to continue to network and market our great city to keep that momentum going. My hope is to eventually have a vibrant, thriving main street that will attract lots of visitors to stop and enjoy our quaint town.

One of my main goals is for Sparta to have a positive image and for people to take pride in their city. So, a major area I am working on is cleaning up our neighborhoods. Cleanliness and curb appeal are a large aspect to a growing community, having pride and attracting people to stop and visit.

Along with summer comes yardwork. Here are a few reminders to help maintain your property. A messy, overgrown yard can drive down neighborhood appeal and property values. Per city ordinance, grass must be cut before it reaches 12 inches in height. If the owner or occupant fails to maintain their yard, a notice will be mailed or left at property. If not taken care of in a timely manner, you could receive a summons to court. Also, keep in mind city ordinance prohibits the storage of inoperable vehicles on your property. So why not pick up a piece of litter every day, recycle old tires and repair those fences. Let's all do our part to beautify our great community.

As we enjoy the rest of these summer days, I think it's important to note that your staff here at City Hall is working on several things to be able to provide top-notch services and planning for you all. Whether you've lived here a few months or a few decades, we will continue to work to find new and better ways to serve you. Have a great rest of your summer!

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## Police department to get new uniforms by Chief Taylor

If you have watched shows like COPS or Live PD you may have noticed a trend of moving to a Molle web system.

In the near future you will see a similar change in the Sparta Police Department uniform. We will be switching from the traditional style uniform, button up shirt over body armor and a duty belt, to a more user-friendly and comfortable uniform. You will see officers wear an outer carrier with Molle webbing and pouches on the vest. The objective is to move the weight of the officer's equipment from the hips, to the torso. There have been many studies done at the university level, and their findings are astounding.

With a traditional style uniform, sitting in a vehicle or office chair with items pushing on their back and hips, combined with the weight of the items on the belt, cause back and hip problems. The idea of wearing the equipment off the hips has shown a considerable decrease in doctor visits. So, the change in the uniform will help improve officer's well-being, job performance and job satisfaction.

## WATER BILLING CYCLE

15<sup>TH</sup> – WATER BILLS DUE

16<sup>TH</sup> – PENALTIES ASSESSED

25<sup>TH</sup> – ACCOUNT SHUT OFFS FOR  
NON-PAYMENT

## UPCOMING COURT DATES

JULY 11, 2019 AT 1:30 PM

AUGUST 8, 2019 AT 1:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 AT 1:30 PM

## WEBSITE INFORMATION

[www.spartamo.com](http://www.spartamo.com)

- Pay your Water Utility Bill online
- Make Court Fine payments online
- Keep up to date event info
- Find contact info for city departments and your elected officials

## CONTACT US

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Have a suggestion? A comment?  
An event you would like us to  
mention? Reach out to us!



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## Calm Waters by Ellen Szudajski

Have you ever been on a river rafting trip? The experience starts out smooth and relaxing. You calmly take in the sights and you feel relieved. Suddenly, you approach rough water, and realize why a helmet was required for the trip.

Dealing with your Utility Department should not be like the latter part of that experience. Anytime you have a question, or problem, call me. I cannot always give you the answer you desire, but I can try to smooth out the waters for you a little. You are valuable to us here, and it is important that when you pay for the water you have used, your experience is not like white water rafting. Come see me, or call our office; calm waters are always better.

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## Letter from the Park President by Julia Letterman

The Sparta Park Board would like to thank everyone that was able to make it to the firework display this year. It went amazingly well, and we are hoping next year will be even better! We would like to send out a huge thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for their donation. We would also like to thank the Sparta Police Dept. and Sparta Fire Dept. for coming out to help. We are beyond blessed to have such an amazing community and could not have done it without them!

With the year halfway over, we are already thinking about the Persimmon Days Parade, as well as the Christmas Parade. Also, we are currently looking into better ways to secure the park from vandalism, as well as researching options for permanent restrooms. There have also been quite a few requests for a public swimming pool in Sparta so we will be starting the research to see if it would be financially feasible in a community as small as our own. As of right now, we desperately need members and of course are always looking for volunteers for the Sparta Park Board. If you are interested, please email [parkboard@spartamo.com](mailto:parkboard@spartamo.com) or contact Julia Letterman at 417-543-2029.

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## A Reminder from the Police Department

In 2018, the City revised the seat belt ordinance to make it a primary offense, meaning that could be the reason for a traffic stop. This change helps keep those that travel upon the roadways of our city safer. This has also allowed us to obtain money from MoDOT to do Mini Grants. Those grants help fund overtime hours, allowing more hours of coverage for the city. The Mini Grants cover violations like Click it or Ticket, and DWI enforcement.

So please, Buckle Up and Don't Drink and Drive.

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## Upcoming road projects

Currently, we are in the middle of clearing and cleaning the ditches at Elm street to improve drainage. Research is underway to determine which of our streets will receive top priority.

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## Quality Water

The Utilities Department provides an annual water quality report. Last year's report was released in March. This report is available at [www.spartamo.com/information](http://www.spartamo.com/information) or a paper copy can be obtained in person at City Hall. Every month our public works supervisor, Richard, takes water samples that are sent to Jefferson City for processing. Safe drinking water is essential for life and we are proud of the water that we supply.