

## Proposed Fire Protection District Sales Tax



On April 7, the City Council is asking the voters to consider a 1/4 cent sales tax that, if passed, would bring in an estimated \$600,000 that could only be used for fire equipment and fire-related services. This new dedicated funding source for the fire department would mean they would need a smaller amount of general revenue funds for their existing budget. The savings to the general revenue fund would then be used to address the continuing employment issues that the City faces. These issues include:



**1. Recruitment and Retention of City Workers** – The City is seeing fewer qualified applicants for jobs and are expending more dollars to provide training that used to be a basic requirement of an applicant before being offered a job. Because of this training, employees are becoming more marketable and leaving their employment with the City for better pay elsewhere.

**2. Pay Plan Inequities** – There is not enough pay difference between the pay ranges resulting in two affects: 1) Employees do not value promotional opportunities due to limited pay difference coupled with more responsibilities; and 2) Employees who are paid overtime compensation make more money than their supervisors.

The City Council hopes to use the general revenue money that would become available if this tax passes to *consider* a variety of options to enhance employee salaries and benefits. On average, hourly City employees would receive an estimated 3.5% increase, or 47¢/hour; While exempt or salaried employees would receive an average increase of approximately 6%. The City Council is hoping to focus the majority of the funding on bringing the public service employees salaries more in line with that of other cities of similar size and composition. This means the average public safety employee in the fire department and police department would see an increase of 8%.

This will not solve the problem completely but it would be an important first step toward a sustainable solution, and consequently improving recruitment and retention.

The Council believes there is never a “good” time to increase taxes. The city has been exploring their options in regards to city employee salaries for some time. This issue was brought to the forefront again in our recent contract negotiations with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Union. One of the issues discussed during these negotiations was the salary of Kirksville fire fighters compared to what their counterparts in other Missouri cities earn. Although the union ultimately agreed to no pay raise for their members, this issue was a



major point of discussion. The IAFF Union did bring to the council's attention this sales tax, as a potential way to help address the salary differential for many city positions. The sales tax will be paid by all individuals who purchase retail goods within the city limits, regardless of the location of their personal residence.

### Election Information

**When: April 7, 2009**

**If you have questions about your polling place, please contact:**

**Adair County Clerk's Office  
665-3350**

### For Additional Information About the Sales Tax

A full list of FAQs regarding this proposed tax and specific salary comparison information is available online at [www.kirkvillecity.com](http://www.kirkvillecity.com); then click on the Proposed Sales Tax Information Button on the left-hand side of the page or call City Hall at (660) 627-1224.

# Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday



Effective with 2009, the City of Kirksville is participating in a new sales tax holiday, the Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday. From 12:01 a.m. on April 19<sup>th</sup> through midnight April 25<sup>th</sup>, state and Kirksville city sales taxes will be exempted on the sale of certain energy star certified appliances, up to \$1,500 per appliance. Only appliances that have been approved by both the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy that display the energy star label are eligible for exemption from sales tax under this holiday. Appliances that are eligible include clothes washers and dryers, water heaters, trash compactors, dishwashers, conventional ovens, ranges, stoves, air conditioners, furnaces, refrigerators and freezers.

## Spring Time Is Here...

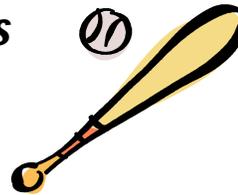
Spring has arrived and the Community Services Department has planned a variety of events to celebrate!

Event	Date	Time	Location
31st Annual Easter Egg Hunt	April 11	10 a.m.	Truman State Quad
Kirksville Skate Park Grand Opening	April 19	2 p.m.	Kirksville Skate Park
Hershey Track and Field Meet	April 25	1 p.m.	KHS Track
Aquafina Hit, Pitch and Run	April 26	2 p.m.	North Park Complex

All of these events are free and open to the public. The Hershey Track and Field Meet and the Aquafina Hit, Pitch and Run both require pre-registration. For additional information or to pre-register, please contact the Kirksville Aquatic Center at (660) 627-1485 or email Robin Loft at rloft@kirksvillecity.com.

## Adult Softball League Registration Begins

Registration for all adult softball leagues will be held March 30th-April 24th at the Aquatic Center. When leagues fill, registration will close. For registration information visit [www.kirksvillecity.com](http://www.kirksvillecity.com) or call the Aquatic Center at (660) 627-1485



## Spring Cleanup Continues

Spring Cleanup continues for the residents of Kirksville. Residents are limited to the amount of debris placed at the curb. Anyone with more debris than can be carried in one dump truck load will need to make other arrangements.

The day of your normal trash pickup determines your cleanup week.

<b>Monday Trash Day</b> — March 23-27	<b>Tuesday Trash Day</b> — March 30—April 3
<b>Wednesday Trash Day</b> —April 6—10	<b>Friday Trash Day</b> — April 13-17

Residents should not put items out for pick up earlier than one week before their pick up date. For more information on Spring Cleanup visit our website at [www.kirksvillecity.com](http://www.kirksvillecity.com) or call Public Works at 627-1291.

### Kirksville Regional Airport (IRK) Flight Schedule

Monday—Friday	Depart STL-7:45 AM	Arrive IRK-8:45 AM
Monday—Friday	Depart IRK-9:00 AM	Arrive STL-10:00 AM
Sunday—Friday	Depart STL-4:45 PM	Arrive IRK-5:45 PM
Sunday—Friday	Depart IRK-6:00 PM	Arrive STL-7:00 PM



Flights to St. Louis starting at \$65.00! Tickets can be purchased on-line at [www.airchoiceone.com](http://www.airchoiceone.com). For more information, about the Kirksville Regional Airport visit [www.kirksvillecity.com](http://www.kirksvillecity.com).



### Let us serve you:

Airport	665-5020
Aquatic Center	627-7665
Business Licenses	627-1251
City Manager	627-1225
Codes/Inspections	627-1272
Community Service Dir	627-1224
Economic Development	627-1224
Engineering	627-1272
Finance	627-1251
Fire Department	627-3734
Municipal Court	627-1237
Parks & Recreation	627-1485
Police Department	785-6945
Public Works	627-1291
Water/Sewer Bills	627-1251

Kirksville Connection  
City of Kirksville  
201 S. Franklin  
Kirksville, MO 63501  
660-627-1224  
660-627-1026 fax  
[www.kirksvillecity.com](http://www.kirksvillecity.com)