Use Tax Proposal on April Ballot

The Internet has made shopping for basically anything easier and convenient. It has also resulted in less tax revenue for communities such as Fulton. As a way to recoup some of the lost revenue, the City of Fulton is placing a use tax proposal on the April 7 ballot.

Similar to a sales tax, a use tax is placed on items that are purchased online and from vendors with no connection to the state of Missouri. If passed, not everyone will have to pay the use tax. Only those online customers whose purchases total more than $2,000 a year.

The City has committed to use the first $200,000 in use tax revenue to capital improvements for the fire and police departments. This could range from new police cruisers and fire trucks to

See Use Tax, Page 3

Use Tax Proposal Official Ballot Language

Shall the City of Fulton impose a local use tax at the same rate as the total local sales tax rate, currently 2.5%, with the first $200,000 of annual revenue to be designated for Police and Fire capital expenditures, provided that if the local sales tax rate is reduced or raised by voter approval, the local use tax rate shall also be reduced or raised by the same action? A use tax return shall not be required to be filed by persons whose purchases from out-of-state vendors do not in total exceed two thousand dollars in and calendar year.

☐ YES  ☐ NO

U.S. Census Plays Important Role

As we begin a new decade, perhaps nothing else is more symbolic of the occurrence than the collecting of the United States Census. While many use historic census data to find information on ancestors, it also has an important governmental role.

Beginning in early March, invitations will be sent to Fulton households asking residents to fill out the census online. If the U.S. Census Bureau has not received a response by early April, a reminder letter will be sent along with a paper questionnaire. If there is still no response by late April, a census worker will attempt to visit your home. The census can also be completed over the phone.

Data collected helps with deciding how many seats Missouri will receive in the U.S. House of representatives, as well as drawing state and local political boundaries. In addition, the census helps determine the amount of money Missouri will receive from the federal government.

Responses to the census will be kept confidential for 72 years, or until 2092. For more information, go to the U.S. Census Bureau website at census.gov.
**MEETING SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/11</td>
<td>City Council Work Session</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/11</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/24</td>
<td>Utility Board</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>ECR</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/25</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/10</td>
<td>City Council Work Session</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/10</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>03/17</td>
<td>Historic Preservation</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>ECR</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/23</td>
<td>Utility Board</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>ECR</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/24</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/30</td>
<td>Human Rights Commission</td>
<td>5:15 p.m.</td>
<td>ECR</td>
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NOTE - Meeting times are subject to change.
CC - Council Chambers; ECR - Executive Conference Room

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

City Hall will be closed and solid waste collection schedule is changed.

Monday, Feb. 17  Presidents Day
Trash collection will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

NOTE - Due to the holiday, there will be no recycling or yard waste collection between Feb. 17 and Feb. 21.

**WATCH LIVE OR ON DEMAND**

Stay up-to-date with city business by watching the Fulton City Council meetings live at fultonmo.org/factlive.

Previous meetings can be viewed on the City’s YouTube channel at youtube.com/CityofFulton.

**Employee Spotlight**

Casey Bailey
Health Inspector
Planning & Protective Services

When Fulton residents head to a local eating establishment, they can rest assured knowing that the food is safe thanks to the efforts of Health Inspector Casey Bailey. She has been proudly serving you since 2014.

Conducting health and safety inspections for businesses, restaurants and other facilities might take up most of Bailey’s time, but she does much more. She also handles nuisance property complaints, ensure stores are aware of food recall items, issues temporary food permits and more.

When not at work, Casey likes to spend time with family, watching sports and playing board games such as Monopoly.

**FROM THE MAYOR’S DESK**

Dear Citizens of Fulton,

As we ring in the new year, it’s important to look back and evaluate how we did last year. All in all, it was a successful year for the City of Fulton. We overcome many obstacles and challenges, but the 2019 finances are going to come in very close to our actual budget. To that end, it takes dedication by our staff, from top to bottom, to make the most of the resources we’ve been trusted with and try to live within our means. I’m also proud to say that the City Council made it possible to work in some well-deserved pay raises into our new 2020 budget.

With 2020 already upon us, the biggest thing to look forward to this year will be the new recreation center. That project is in full swing with the landscape of Veterans Park changing dramatically. At the current pace, the project will be near completion by the end of 2020 and will open in early 2021. To see other improvements that the City will be making simply go to our website and take a look at the budget for this year. It’s easy to access and full of answers to many questions you may have as a taxpayer.

Another major happening in Fulton recently has been the change of management at our hospital. We are hopeful that the new folks will continue to make positive steps in making it a place we can all be proud of. The Fulton Medical Center continues to increase the number of doctors and services being provided. They now provide testing, X-rays, labs, and have specialists in allergy, cardiology and rheumatology. They also have a physical therapist on staff as well as a family practice clinic open Monday through Friday for appointments and walk-ins. I would encourage everyone that has a medical need in 2020 to give Fulton Medical Center a try.

I will leave you with a couple of quick reminders. As of the new year, the City will no longer be collecting court ticket payments. That will all need to be done at the Callaway County Courthouse as they have taken that over. Also, if you are like many and struggle with higher utility bills in the winter, consider level billing. You can contact City hall to see if you’re eligible to sign up between May and July. Let’s have a great 2020!

Proudly Serving You,

Lowe Cannell
Mayor
Use Tax to Benefit Fire and Police

Rec Center • From Page 1

ballistic vests and bunker gear.

There are more than 200 cities in Missouri that collect a use tax, including Boonville, Moberly and Sedalia. Callaway County and the State of Missouri also have a use tax. So if residents are not currently paying the use tax for Callaway County and the state, you will most likely not need to pay the city use tax.

The use tax will always be the same rate as the city sales tax, which is currently 2.5 percent. And both taxes will never be applied to the same purchase.

More information on the City of Fulton use tax proposal can be found on the city’s website at fultonmo.org/usetax.

Rec Center Walls Rise from Ground

Seeing progress on construction of a new building can seem slow at the beginning. But if you look closely at the site of the new community recreation center in Veterans Park, much progress has been made in the past two months.

The floor for the lower level gymnasium and fieldhouse has been leveled and footers for it continue to be poured. In addition, walls surrounding three sides of the lower level are also being built. This portion should be completed by mid-February.

Work will pick up as the weather warms up. Additional dirt will have to be moved near the corner of State and 8th streets in order to properly grade the parking lot. In early April, the building’s steel framework will be delivered and assembled. The recreation center is still scheduled to open in early 2021.

Meanwhile, the Parks and Recreation Department has teamed up with students and staff at William Woods University to create an operational plan for the new facility. The plan will be presented at the end of the college’s current semester.

Clean Sweep Celebrates 20 Years

Clean Sweep Saturday will be celebrating a major milestone in 2020 as it will be the 20th edition of the citywide cleanup. Since 2001, nearly 23 tons of trash has been collected from city streets and parks.

Groups and individuals can now sign up for this year’s event, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 18. It is free and anyone can participate. The day will begin at 9 a.m. in Memorial Park when participants pick up their T-shirts, supplies and cleanup locations. Following the cleanup, participants can return to the park for lunch beginning at 11 a.m. and features hot dogs, chips and drinks.

To register for Clean Sweep Saturday, go online to fultonmo.org/css-signup and complete the form. You can also visit the Parks and Recreation counter at City Hall. The first 200 participants to register by Friday, March 27 will receive a complementary T-shirt.

A group picks up debris on Second Street during last year’s Clean Sweep.

Single Contested Council Race

The candidates for the Fulton City Council election is set with only one ward to be challenged. In Ward 4, Steve Moore, who has been on the council since 1984, will be competing against Bob Washington.

In the other wards, current councilmembers Ballard Simmons, Mary Rehklau and John Braun are running unopposed. Simmons and Braun are completing their first term.

The 2020 municipal election takes place on Tuesday, April 7. Anyone needing to register to vote in the election has until March 11 to do so. To register online, go to the Missouri Secretary of State website at sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri.

2020 City of Fulton City Council Candidates

Ward 1   Ballard Simmons*
Ward 2   Mary Rehklau*
Ward 3   John Braun*
Ward 4   Steve Moore*
           Bob Washington
* incumbent candidate

Most of the concrete wall on the southeast side of the new community recreation center has been poured. Rebar continues to be installed for the wall on the southwest side of the building.
City Has New Bill Pay Site

The next time City utility customers pay their bill online, be aware that there is a new website available to handle the task. The best way to access the site is by going to the City of Fulton’s official webpage at fultonmo.org and then click on the “Pay Utility Bill” tab in the center of the page.

Once on the site, customers can make a “quick pay,” which requires your account number and previous bill total. Also, customers can set up an account, which tracks transactions and consumption history.

Anyone who has saved the old bill pay site on their computer should delete the old link and add the new site. Anyone with questions can contact the Finance Department at 573-592-3111.

New Curbs for Jefferson St.

Plenty of infrastructure upgrades have been taking place on Jefferson Street during the past couple of years. But residents along this stretch of road can rejoice in the face that all of the improvements are nearly complete.

In the upcoming weeks, old curb and gutter will be removed and replaced. In addition, new intersection ramps that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards will also be completed. Later this year, the street will be overlayed with new asphalt, signaling the end to construction on the street.

Other work that has been completed on Jefferson Street includes replacement of sanitary and stormwater sewer lines in various locations between Second and Seventh streets.