

City of Monett
P O Box 110
217 Fifth Street
Monett, Missouri 65708

James Orr,
Mayor

Jerry Dierker,
Commissioner

Mike Brownsberger,
Commissioner

Dennis Pyle,
City Administrator

Building Inspector
235-5306

Casino Reservations
235-3544

Cemetery
235-3495

City Administrator
235-3355

City Clerk
235-3763

Fire Non-Emergency
235-7799

Golf
235-6076

Human Resources
235-3763

Municipal Airport
476-5112

Municipal Court
235-4677

Police Non-Emergency
235-4241

Street/Sanitation
235-3495

Utilities
235-3300

Waste Treatment Plant
235-7455

Website
www.cityofmonett.com

Frisco Line News



April 2012

FORMER GYMNASTICS CENTER TO REMAIN A COMMUNITY ASSET AS MONETT R-I ANNOUNCES PLANS TO USE FACILITY

The City of Monett and the Monett R-I School District have announced that the school district plans to purchase the former Gymnastics Center building located just east of the Southwest Area Career Center (SWACC) on the high school campus. This partnership is a win-win for the community by allowing an under-utilized asset for the City to be re-purposed as an indoor athletic facility for Monett R-I. The result is the facility will continue to be a training ground for today's student-athletes and community youth.

The original construction of the Gymnastics Center was made possible by a donation of land from Randy and Julie Witt to the City in 1999. The City then constructed the 8,000 sq. ft. facility for the Recreation Department's growing gymnastics program that had previously been located in the old armory, and later, in the former NAPA building. The City purchased equipment which was further supplemented by donations of equipment from the Monett Gymnastics Team and parents association.

At the peak of its popularity nearly ten years ago, the Monett gymnastics program had approximately 325 kids enrolled from age 2 through the high school level. The program was sanctioned by USA Gymnastics and competed on Level 4 through Level 8 at venues as far away as St. Louis, Kansas City, and Fayetteville. A number of team trophies line the walls of the building as evidence of the program's competitive success.

The City later transferred management of its recreation programs to the Monett YMCA and began leasing the facility to an individual that offered youth gymnastics but later focused on tumbling programs. When the tenant provided notice to the City that he would not be renewing his lease and requested to be released from the balance of his contract, the City made the difficult decision to offer the building for sale. The City used a Request-For-Proposal process and established four criteria in choosing a buyer: the bidder's proposed use of the facility and its potential benefit to the whole community; the bidder's ability to operate the facility to its maximum use; the bidder's past history of operating and managing similar facilities; and consideration of the price offered.

The Monett R-I School District responded with a proposal that met all of these criteria. The district wanted to utilize the building as an additional facility for athletic practices throughout the school year and the summer months. The primary purpose would be for the school's successful wrestling program which currently utilizes an undersized room at the high school and the field house near the football stadium for their middle school program. The facility would also be used for other sports and activities to practice at other times of the year such as cheerleading, dance team, and winter guard and also for softball, baseball or football teams during inclement weather.

The school district had indicated in their proposal that the facility would likely be made available to the public for youth program practices such as the Monett youth wrestling program and to other groups for a small rental fee similar to the other school gymnasiums.

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Former Gymnastics Center (cont'd)

Another benefit from school ownership of the facility would be the ability to expand the district's current weightlifting and fitness room in the current high school building due to the relocation of the wrestling program to the new facility. Also, by purchasing the former Gymnastics Center and not having to expend funds on a new addition to the high school, the district will be able to use the savings as part of the funds required to match a grant to construct two additional FEMA Community Safe Rooms.

Taking into consideration the appraised value of the property and the school district's offer, the City and District agreed on a price of \$279,000 with the district gaining possession no later than June 1, 2012. The City is currently working with local residents who were involved in the gymnastics program as coaches and gymnasts, to sell the remaining equipment in the hope that a local gymnastics program may be started.

We look back with fond memories of the City's involvement in Monett's gymnastics program and what has been accomplished with the construction of a facility used exclusively for that purpose. We're appreciative of the donation of land by the Witt's, and we're encouraged by the school district's plans to more fully utilize the building for the benefit of the Monett community.

DREAM INITIATIVE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT

The Monett DREAM Initiative has launched a web survey to gather public input as part of the ongoing information gathering process for the Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri (DREAM) Initiative. The short online survey asks respondents questions regarding future improvements to downtown Monett.

To take the online survey, please visit the following link:
<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22EOKWVY9AY>

RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE OF MONETT EVENT MAY 11-12 5:00 PM TO 5:00 AM BURL FOWLER STADIUM

Residents of Monett and the surrounding cities are invited to the annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Monett event. This community celebration is open to anyone who wants to learn more about Relay for Life and how to get involved. Relay for Life is a community event that honors cancer survivors, current cancer patients and caregivers. Relay also pays tribute to those who have lost their battle with cancer.

The Relay for Life event is an overnight community celebration where individuals and teams camp-out, eat great food, play games and take turns walking around the track relay-style to raise funds to fight cancer. At nightfall, participants will light hundreds of luminaria around the track in a moving ceremony to honor cancer survivors, as well as friends and family members lost to the disease. This year's event is scheduled to take place on May 11-12, from 5:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. at Burl Fowler Stadium in Monett. For more information, please visit the website www.relayforlife.org/monettmo, like on Facebook under 2012 Relay For Life of Monett or receive text message alerts by texting 4970 to 22723.