

Raymore Review

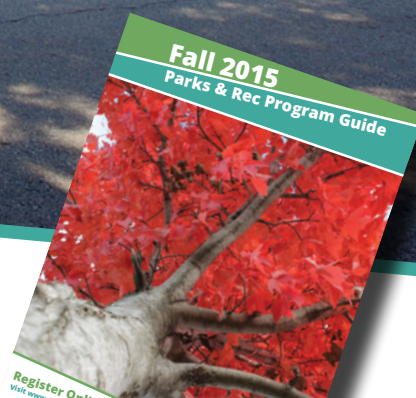
Fall 2015



The City of Raymore is dedicated to being a quality community in which to live, work and play.



Look Inside!
Fall 2015 Parks & Recreation Program Guide



Raymore Review

The Raymore Review is produced by the City of Raymore. For more information or for comments about this publication, contact Communications Manager Mike Ekey at 816-892-3109.

Important Numbers

City Hall	816-331-0488
Municipal Court	816-331-1712
Animal Control	816-331-0530
Building Inspection	816-331-7916
Cable Service (Comcast)	816-795-1100
Chamber of Commerce	816-322-0599
City Clerk	816-331-3324
Communications	816-892-3109
Community Development	816-331-1803
Economic Development	816-331-5000
Electricity (KCP&L)	816-471-5275
Emergency Management	816-892-3032
Engineering	816-331-1852
Fire Department -	
South Metro Non-Emergency	816-331-3008
Gas (Missouri Gas Energy)	816-756-5252
Parks & Recreation	816-322-2791
Planning & Zoning	816-331-1803
Police (non-emergency)	816-331-0530
Post Office	816-331-2736
Public Works	816-331-2377
Raymore Peculiar Schools	816-892-1300
Trash Service - Residential (Town & Country)	816-380-5595
City Utilities Office	816-331-5182

Meeting Schedule

City Council Meetings

2nd and 4th Mondays, 7 p.m.

City Council Work Sessions

1st and 3rd Mondays, 7 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission

1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Arts Commission

2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Park Board

4th Tuesday, 7 p.m.

All Meetings in City Council Chambers,
100 Municipal Circle • Raymore, Mo.

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COVER: Artist rendering of the finished Depot shelter under construction. **Read more on page 8**

Contact Us

Have a Question?

Ask questions and report concerns to the City 24/7 on our online Request Tracker. Visit www.Raymore.com and click on Report a Concern.

City Officials

Peter Kerckhoff, Mayor
Jim Feuerborn, City Manager

Ward One

Kevin Kellogg
Jeffery Stevens

Ward Two

Joseph Burke, III
Derek Moorhead

Ward Three

Kevin Barber
Jay Holman

Ward Four

Sonja Abdelgawad
Charlene Hubach

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RaymoreEmergencyManagement



@CityofRaymoreMO
@RaymorePD

City Hall

City of Raymore
100 Municipal Circle
Raymore, MO 64083
(816) 331-0488

www.Raymore.com



Commission members: Becky Martin, Bob Berry, Vice Chairwoman Harriet Lawrence, Chairwoman Sharon Parys, Patricia Setser, Heather Gambrell and Desiree Canovic.

City forms first Arts Commission

Commission members waste no time getting to work in first official meeting.

Artwork that inspires residents and encourages them to get involved in the arts; that is the vision of members of the newly formed Raymore Arts Commission, who met officially for the first time on Aug. 11.

The seven-member commission set out this past month to tackle a long list of creative arts projects that they see as important, not only for those who enjoy the arts, but also for those interested in spurring on possible economic development.

"I am excited to begin working with everyone on the commission," newly elected Chairwoman Sharon Parys said. "It is great to start something from the ground because the only place to go is up."

The City Council officially voted to create the Raymore Arts Commission at its July 27 meeting. Since then, the commission members have already been busy meeting with community partners and creating a stronger network

of artists and art advocates to help advance more art projects within the city.

As part of their official charge, the commission has been tasked by the City Council to engage citizens to cultivate art in the community and promote close cooperation among the City, residents, businesses and other organizations so that all arts resources within the community may be coordinated to maximize promotion and support of the arts.

"This is a dynamic and ambitious group of creative individuals will give City staff and the City Council great insight into how we can use existing resources and create new programs to grow the presence of art in Raymore," Assistant City Manager Meredith Hauck said.

In the coming months, commission members will begin meeting with residents and members of the business community to discover what direction the city would like to go when it comes to long-range planning for arts throughout the community.

The commission meets the second Tuesday of the month at City Hall. Agendas and minutes from the meeting can be found online at www.Raymore.com/Arts.

Missouri Municipal League recognizes Chaplain program

The Missouri Municipal League recently honored the Raymore Police Department's Chaplain Program.

Head Chaplain J.C. Beckner accepted the award on behalf of the program. Beckner is a pastor at the First Baptist Church of Raymore and worked with the Department to form the program. Since then, several chaplains of other faiths have joined the program.

The Raymore Police Chaplains call the program a "Ministry of Presence" and see their purpose as twofold: to provide more sensitive responses to the public in times of crisis; and to provide members of the department with personal assistance.

Beckner and Mayor Peter Kerckhoff received the award at MML's annual West Gate Civic Leadership Banquet in Blue Springs. The Award honors community groups and citizens who have had a positive influence on their community through a variety of initiatives.

Civic leaders from Jackson, Clay, Platte, Ray and Cass counties were nominated for this honor by their respective mayors as a tribute to the exceptional leadership and contributions made to the community.



Blue Springs Mayor Carson Ross presents Pastor J.C. Beckner and Mayor Peter Kerckhoff with the award from the Missouri Municipal League

In 2014, Raymore's Allison Bruflat was nominated and reconized by Mayor Kerckhoff and MML.



Four officers join Raymore Police Department

The Raymore Police Department welcomed four new officers in July.

Each took their oath of office and began field training with current Raymore officers immediately.

"We are excited to bring four highly-qualified officers

to Raymore," Raymore Police Chief Jan Zimmerman said. "Their recruitment represents a continued commitment by the City to the safety and security of our entire community."

Raymore wants to welcome officers Shane Bush, Matt Huff, Nicholas Jones and Nathan Rogers.

Raymore recognized as a regional Gold-level Solar Ready Community

City is only one of two in the region to receive the recognition from MARC.

The City of Raymore was recently recognized as one of the first cities in the region to earn a designation as a Solar Ready Community. Raymore received a gold level recognition from the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Solar Ready Community Recognition Program. This program honors Kansas City area jurisdictions that have implemented best management practices to increase the use of solar energy and taken other actions to promote and facilitate solar power installation.

“Creating a sustainable community is an important priority for the City. We have worked hard to streamline the process to make using sustainable building components, like solar energy, easy for our residents and businesses. Receiving this designation from MARC is an honor,” City Manager Jim Feuerborn said.

Mayor Peter Kerckhoff and Community Development Director Jim Cadoret accepted the award on behalf of the City during the MARC Board of Directors meeting on June 23.

Cities and counties may earn bronze, silver or gold Solar Ready Community status, based on the number of actions taken. Raymore and Gladstone achieved gold level recognition. Belton, Lee’s Summit and Liberty earned silver level status.

All five cities have included solar energy provisions in their development codes, posted solar-ready construction guidelines on their websites, and completed additional solar ready action steps, such as implementing solar permit checklists and establishing fixed fees for residential solar permits.

The Mid-America Regional Council developed the Solar Ready Community Recognition Program as part of its Solar Ready II initiative, which is dedicated to making it easier for residents and businesses to use solar energy. The Solar Ready II program and its predecessor, Solar Ready KC, were funded by Rooftop Solar Challenge awards from the U.S. Department of Energy’s SunShot Initiative. The Rooftop Solar Challenge seeks to reduce solar soft costs, such as permits and fees.

Locally, 26 jurisdictions are actively participating in the Solar Ready II program, including the cities of Belton, Blue Springs, Gladstone, Grandview, Independence, Kansas City, Lansing, Leavenworth, Lenexa, Lee’s Summit, Liberty, Mission, North Kansas City, Oak Grove, Olathe, Platte City, Prairie Village, Raymore, Raytown, Roeland Park, Shawnee and Sugar Creek, as well as Clay, Jackson, Johnson and Wyandotte county governments.

Nationally, MARC has partnered with the National Association of Regional Councils to replicate its model for encouraging solar energy use in nine metro areas across the country, working with regional councils in central New York, northwest Indiana, southwest Florida, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Dallas, Cincinnati, Tampa Bay and Washington, D.C.

More information is online at www.marc.org/solarready.



Despite slight increase, water rates remain lower than others in the region

In June, the City Council approved an increase in the water and sewer rates for commercial and residential users. Still, even with slightly higher water and sewer rates, the City of Raymore continues to be one of the more inexpensive cities for a high-quality water service.

“When it comes to setting water rates we are not in the business of trying to make a profit,” Finance Director Cindi Watson said. “Our rates are set so that the money

The new rate, which will take effect Nov. 1, sets the cost of water at \$6.70 for every 1,000 gallons used.

The new sewer rate, which also takes effect Nov. 1, is set at \$7.05 for every 1,000 gallons. Previously, the city was charging \$6.15 per 1,000 gallons for both water and sewer.

Saving Money under Winter Averages

The assumption for calculating the sewer usage is based on the idea that all the water that goes into a home, which is read by the water meter, will eventually go back out through the wastewater sewer system.

This billing system, however, does not take into account the times someone might wash their car in the front yard

or water their lawn. Here the water would be absorbed into the ground or flow into the stormwater system. For this, the City uses a system of averaging residential monthly water bills based only on the amount of water used in the winter call the Winter Average program.

Based on the water usage in the winter, the city would average those monthly costs and that would become the monthly water/sewer charge each month the rest of the year.

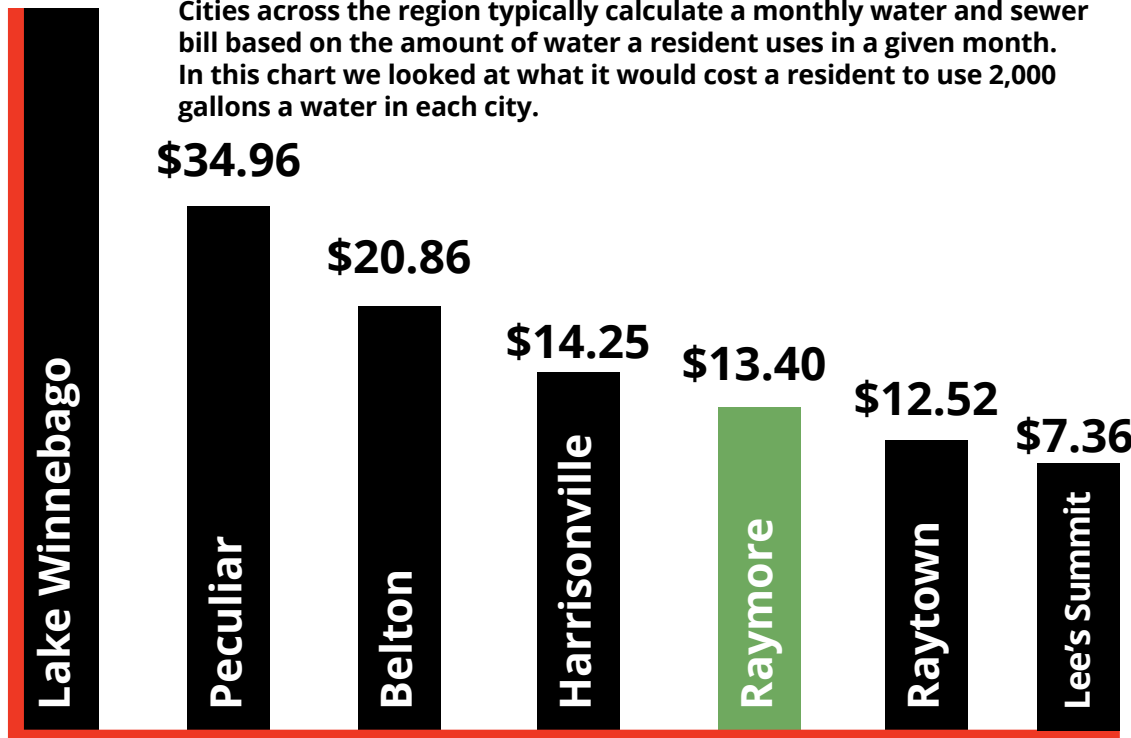
It creates a reliable and consistent bill each month where residents know exactly what they will need to pay. Plus, residents who use more water in the summer months—watering their lawn, filling a pool or washing their vehicles at home—could actually see significant savings since their monthly billing average is only based on usage in those winter months.

“It is simple and economical way for people to save money on their monthly water bill and know they can rely on the same cost each month without any seasonal spikes,” Watson said.

To learn more about the Winter Average program, visit www.Raymore.com/SewerBilling or call 816-331-5182.

\$47.25 WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE...

Cities across the region typically calculate a monthly water and sewer bill based on the amount of water a resident uses in a given month. In this chart we looked at what it would cost a resident to use 2,000 gallons a water in each city.



WHY DOES MY BILL LOOK DIFFERENT?

There could be a number of reasons your bill does not exactly match this graph. This graph only shows the water rates and not sewer rates, which vary widely from city-to-city and are added to every water bill.

It also does not show some of the standard, monthly fees some cities charge regardless of how much water is consumed. This was intended only to demonstrate where Raymore fell among other similar cities when it came to council-approved water rates.

All data was collected from the respective public city websites.

Keep Raymore Clean: **Make sure your trash is at the curb on-time and packed correctly.**

Trash and recycling pickup for all Raymore residents is scheduled for Wednesdays (even holidays) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Residents have complimentary use of a 64-gallon, wheeled trash cart with a black, hinged lid, as well as a 48-gallon, wheeled recycling cart with a blue, hinged lid.

The City asks that you have the following on the curb by 6:30 a.m:

- Trash
- Recycling
- Yard Waste
- One (1) Bulky Item

Yard waste is collected on a weekly basis between the May and November. Additional yard waste pickups are conducted on the first and third Wednesday of December, March and April.

In January, only Christmas trees are collected for yard waste.

Yard waste should be placed curbside in brown paper bags (available for purchase at area home improvement stores) and branches should be tied in bundles not exceeding 40 inches in length and 18 inches in diameter.

Rocks, dirt, glass and construction debris will not be accepted. There is no bag limit for yard waste pickup.

If you have an appliance (such as a refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, etc.), please call Town & Country 24 hours in advance to have them pick it up. You can contact Town and Country at 816-380-5595.



got old paint?

Make sure you dispose of your household hazardous waste in a way that is safe for the environment! Raymore residents have two options, both provided FREE by the City.

Year-Round Drop Off

Items can be taken to the Kansas City, Missouri HHW Facility (4707 Deramus, KCMO) or Lee's Summit Facility (2101 SW Hamblen Road, Lee's Summit) year-round. For more information, including hours of operation, visit www.recyclespot.org/hhw.

Mobile Collection Event

Raymore will host the Raymore/Belton Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection Event on Saturday, Sept. 12 at Eagle Glen Intermediate School, 100 S. Foxridge. This event will be limited to the first 400 cars so get there early!



Note: These services are only available to residents. No business waste will be allowed.



Artists rendering of the Depot Shelter. Once completed, the shelter will become the permanent home for the Original Town Farmers Market.

Depot Shelter project begins to take final shape



The rough shape of the new Depot Shelter is beginning to come together. Crews this past summer were hard at work preparing the foundation and erecting the steel that will frame the new farmers market site.

“We are excited to see such visible progress on a project that we know many residents have been anticipating for years,” Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Musteen said. “This will be a truly valuable asset in the Raymore community.”

The Original Town Master Plan envisioned the creation of a central gathering place for Raymore residents and visitors to the community.

This spring, work started on the land where the current Farmers Market is located to create such a place. These improvements will provide on- and off-street parking, sidewalks, a decorative plaza, and a 40' x 120' shelter.

The Parks Department is also adding several garden areas to the space. The Original Town Farmers Market brings vendors from across the region selling food, handmade crafts and other items. The market will be open every Tuesday 4-7 p.m. through Oct. 13.

Be sure to check www.Raymore.com for more updates and to see when the Depot will officially open.



TOP: Steel beams frame the Depot shelter, which is under construction. BOTTOM: Crews move the steel beams into place on the new site.

Johnston Drive Reconstruction project begins in Silver Lake

This past summer, the City of Raymore shepherded several ambitious Public Works projects along Johnston Drive in the Silver Lake neighborhood.

The stormwater, curb and water main projects all led up to this final project—a complete reconstruction of the Johnston Drive roadway—which is slated to begin this month.

The City's goal was to complete as many of these projects this past summer as possible to create the smallest window of disruption—rather than have crews working on projects for several years in the area.

As work continues in the area, the City of Raymore wants to ensure that residents are aware of these projects and understand the planning process that took place in an effort to reduce the amount of disruption that some of the construction will cause.

Unlike a typical overlay project, the reconstruction of Johnston Drive will involve the complete removal of the street and dirt below to rebuild the foundation that is ultimately failing under the street.

Once completed, the new street will be smoother and safer to drive. The reconstruction will also lengthen the life of the roadway.

The City has already negotiated with the contractors to ensure access is available and disruption to services minimal:

1. Although some access will be limited along Johnston Drive, contractors must ensure that every resident has access to their driveway by the end of each day.
2. Fire, Police and ambulance service will have access to homes 24/7 regardless of construction progress.
3. Contractors will be in constant contact with school bus providers and trash haulers to ensure service is maintained throughout the project.

Project Details

Cost: \$330,000

**Anticipated start:
Beginning of September**

**Anticipated completion:
Mid-November**

A Timeline of Progress

Summer 2014

City Council adds the Johnston Drive water main project to the Capital Improvement Plan anticipating it would not be funded until summer 2016.

Aug 2014

City Council approves funding for Johnston Drive reconstruction in the annual budget with construction anticipated to begin in summer 2015.

Fall 2014

The City removes the failed stormwater culvert and replaces it with two larger ones improving stormwater management.

Winter 2015

Anticipating that the city would again be in the Silver Lake neighborhood, the City Council approves a budget amendment to advance the Johnston Drive water main replacement from 2016 to 2015 allowing all projects to be completed in one construction season.

Spring 2015

City Council sent bids to contractors for all projects that were to be completed this summer.

July 2015

Materials for the water main project arrived ahead of schedule and were delivered to the worksite. Construction began shortly after with crews working on the west side of Johnston Drive to install the new water main.

August 2015

As crews finish and test the water main, contractors will begin reconstruction on Johnston Drive

November 2015

All work on Johnston Drive is expected to be completed.

Weather remains a factor

Despite all the planning and work done before ground is even broken, construction crews still must contend with the weather. This summer has been one of the wettest for the region.

Although we work with our contractors to try and ensure deadlines are met, we still might run into some delays due to weather.

Public safety, parks & rec rank highest in recent resident survey

City continues to serve as a regional benchmark for resident satisfaction scores

In spite of a slight decline in overall satisfaction compared to 2012, residents still rank many of Raymore's city services and programs to be very satisfactory.

In fact, of those who responded to the spring survey, more than 80 percent said the level of service provided by Raymore was excellent or good and 81 percent of respondents said they continued to have a positive perception of the City of Raymore.

Also, 100 percent of survey respondents said they agreed or strongly agreed that Raymore was doing a good job of creating a community where residents feel safe.

It is a positive sign in a city that continues to undergo a tremendous amount of growth and change over the past couple of years. As more residents continue to move to Raymore, City Manager Jim Feuerborn said it is critical that City staff keeps up with demands while also

ensuring that Raymore continues to offer quality services and programming.

"This really is an opportunity for our residents to tell us what they see as a priority among all the programs and issues that come before us on a regular basis," Feuerborn said. "It really gives staff and the City Council a good direction for future projects, programs and decisions that need to be made."

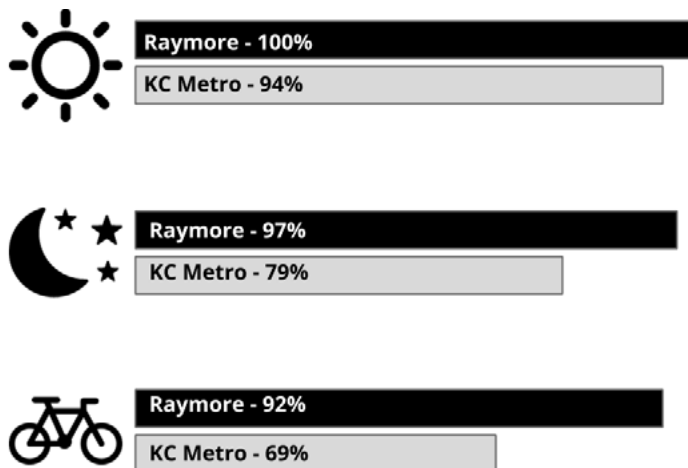
Since 2006 Raymore residents have been surveyed every two years (with 2014 being the exception). The goal is to gain a better understanding of what residents thought of specific programs and services. The recent ETC Institute Direction Finder resident survey, typically taken in December was pushed back to March 2015.

"This really is an opportunity for our residents to tell us what they see as a priority among all the programs and issues that come before us on a regular basis,"
 - Jim Feuerborn, Raymore city manager

The seven-page survey was mailed to 1,500 randomly selected households in the city. Along with the paper

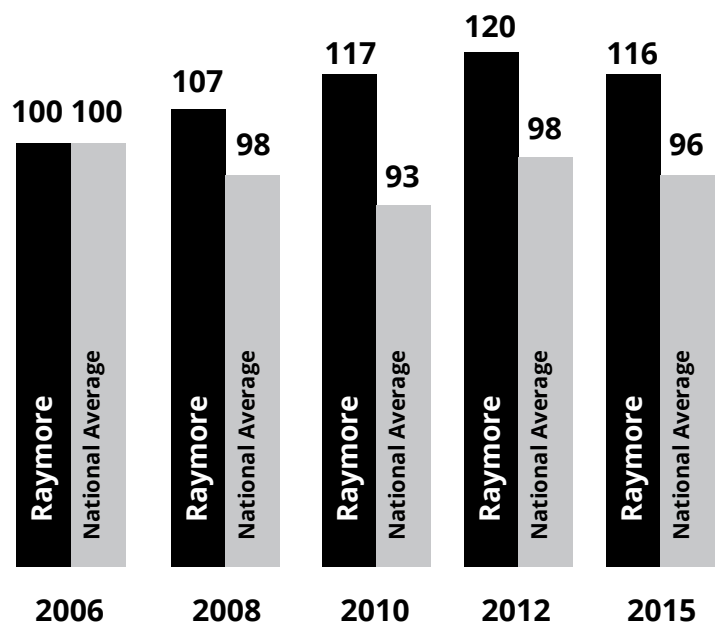
FEELING OF SAFETY

Percent of respondent who said they felt safe or very safe in the community during the day, after dark and on city trails or biking paths.



OVERALL SATISFACTION

The ranking used to score overall satisfaction of the community and city services in Raymore.



surveys, ETC also called residents to help increase the number of respondents. In all, 416 people completed the survey.

Setting the benchmark

Raymore's commitment to using ETC also means the City can compare survey responses with similar responses in other cities in the Kansas City metropolitan region. This gives the City a unique perspective into how well Raymore delivers services as compared to similar suburbs in the area.

According to the survey, Raymore rated 24 percent higher than the national average and 25 percent higher than the KC average in the overall quality of City services provided.

Raymore also rated above the national average and the KC average in 41 of the 50 areas (parks, public works, public safety, etc.) that were compared.

"These results tell us that we are not just keeping pace, but we are excelling as well," Assistant City Manager Meredith Hauck said. "When we compare ourselves to other cities, we see that Raymore is setting the standard both here at home and throughout the United States."

Setting priorities

Along with satisfaction levels, the survey also asked residents what they saw as a priority when it came to creating or maintaining services in public safety, parks, public works and other city departments. Those results will be used to help set future project and program goals.

PRIORITY CITY SERVICES

VERY HIGH PRIORITY

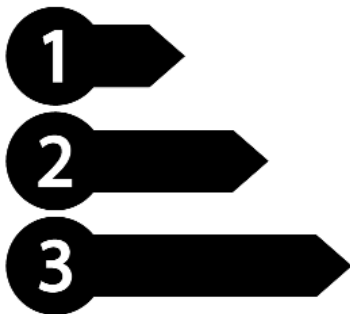
1. Flow of traffic and congestions management
2. Overall maintenance of city streets

HIGH PRIORITY

1. Overall value received for your tax dollars

MEDIUM PRIORITY

1. Enforcement of codes for buildings/houses
2. Parks & Rec programs & facilities
3. City Communication
4. Stormwater management
5. Emergency preparation
6. Public Safety services
7. Service from City employees
8. Maintenance of City buildings



For a copy of the full report, go www.Raymore.com

AREAS OF SUCCESS

In these areas, the number of survey respondents indicating they were satisfied or very satisfied increased as compared to previous years.

SNOW REMOVAL



NEIGHBORHOODS

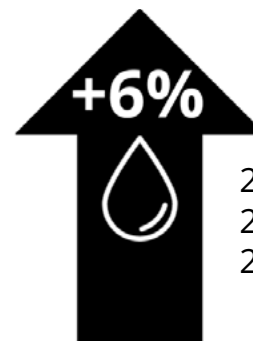
- 2015 - **73%**
- 2012 - **60%**
- 2006 - **45%**



MAJOR STREETS

- 2015 - **90%**
- 2012 - **82%**
- 2006 - **76%**

WATER/SEWER FEES



- 2015 - **46%**
- 2012 - **40%**
- 2006 - **21%**

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

In these areas, the number of survey respondents indicating they were satisfied or very satisfied decreased as compared to previous years.

MAINTENANCE OF STREETS



NEIGHBORHOODS

- 2015 - **55%**
- 2012 - **70%**
- 2006 - **45%**



MAJOR STREETS

- 2015 - **69%**
- 2012 - **83%**
- 2006 - **63%**

FALL EVENTS CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

Movie Night in the Park
Friday, Sept. 11, at dusk at
Memorial Park.

OCTOBER

Final Farmers Market
Tuesday, Oct. 13 from 4-7
p.m. at the Original Town
Farmers Market

Harvest Night 2015
Friday, Oct. 23 from 6-9 p.m.
at Recreation Park

NOVEMBER

Veterans Day Flag Raising
Ceremony - 4 p.m. on
Tuesday, Nov. 10, at City Hall

Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday-Friday, Nov. 26-27,
City offices closed.

DECEMBER

Mayor's Christmas Tree
Lighting - 6 p.m. on Friday,
Dec. 4, at City Hall.

Christmas Holiday
Dec. 24-25, City offices closed.

New Year's Eve
Dec. 31, City offices closed.

JANUARY

New Year's Day
Jan. 1, City offices closed.

Keep up-to-date with city
news and events by visiting
www.Raymore.com or
contact us at 816-892-3109.

Don't Forget!

The Fall 2015 Parks &
Recreation Program Guide
is inside.

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Parks & Rec Program Guide

City of Raymore
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