

CRESTWOOD NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2023

CITIZENS ACADEMY RETURNING IN 2024



WEDNESDAYS 6:30-8:30 P.M.
STARTING JANUARY 10, 2024

Starting on January 10, 2024, the City will be rebooting its Crestwood Citizens Academy, a free seven-week program that teaches residents of Crestwood how local government works.

Classes are scheduled to be held from 6:30-8:30 P.M. on Wednesday nights, from January 10 - February 28 and hosted by City Administrator Kris Simpson as well as the City's department heads and division managers. This is the first class held since fall 2022.

Citizens Academy will cover more than a half dozen different municipal government topics including administration, planning and economic development, parks and recreation, policing, and emergency medical services.

"We want residents to come away with a better understanding of how decisions are made, how each department operates, and how residents can get involved," City Administrator Simpson said.

Each course will include tours, demonstrations, a question-and-answer session, and educational discussions to help participants better understand City services and current projects. The classes are open to any Crestwood resident or business owner over 18 years of age.

Pre-registration is required by December 15. To register, please contact Deputy City Administrator Jeff Faust by email at jfaust@cityofcrestwood.org.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN EVALUATING NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

The City of Crestwood has spent the past twelve months planning improvements to the City's Parks and Recreation system. As part of this process, the City adopted the first ever comprehensive Parks Master Plan that asked residents for their opinions and ideas on how to enhance the City's parks, playgrounds, recreation programming, and facilities.

One of the main conclusions from the Parks Master Plan was that the City's Community Center in Whitecliff Park, which was built in 1978, needed a major upgrade.

"The Community Center is a vital hub for the community, offering a variety of activities for residents of all ages; however, the current facility is outdated and doesn't meet the expectations of today's users," Parks and Recreation Director Eilien Ramirez said.

"Residents want more modern amenities, such as an indoor walking and jogging track, an updated and expanded fitness area, a yoga studio and exercise class space, and more community meeting space."

City staff explored two options: renovating and expanding the existing

facility, or building a new one. After consulting with a team of experts, staff concluded that building a new facility was the best option going forward.

"We initially thought that renovation and expansion would be more cost effective, but after we considered all the needs identified by residents, the building code updates that would be required to bring a 1970s-era building up to 2020s standards, and the impact on services from having the City's Community Center shut down for more than a year, we came to the conclusion that new construction was the best option," Director Ramirez said.

During a presentation to the Board of Aldermen in June, Director Ramirez summarized all of the needs, challenges, and financial plans for operating a new community center.

In August, the Board of Aldermen approved a contract to hire Bond Architects to prepare the conceptual design of what a new community center would look like.

The City plans to hold several community engagement events in early 2024 to share more details about the project and get feedback from residents.

NEWS BLURBS

PARKS MASTER PLAN

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan, approved by the Board of Aldermen, will guide the City as it makes improvements to all seven Crestwood parks over the next 10-15 years. For more details on the Parks Master Plan, please visit the City's website at www.cityofcrestwood.org/parksmasterplan or by scanning this QR code



MUNICIPAL ELECTION, APRIL 2

The City of Crestwood's General Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Voters will elect four aldermen, one from each of the four wards to serve until April 2027. The first date for filing with the City Clerk or her designee is Tuesday, December 5 at 8:00 A.M. The final date is Tuesday, December 26 at 5:00 P.M. If you have questions about this process, please contact City Clerk Helen Ingold at 314-729-4711.

PUBLIC WORKS HIRING

The Public Works Department is looking for qualified applicants for the Street Maintenance Worker I & II position. The position offers a competitive wage, strong benefits package, and will even train the right applicant for their CDL, needed for snow plowing. For more information or to apply, please contact Human Resources, Janet Gravagna at jgravagna@cityofcrestwood.org.

CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

The Department of Public Works would like to remind everyone that October and November are wonderful months of the year to do work to trees on residential properties, as roots take better hold in the spring and fall. However, when it comes to tree removal, here is your reminder that all stumps need to be ground out at least three inches below ground level and filled with soil before the area is leveled.

PUBLIC WORKS CORNER: FENCES

The City's Public Works Department administers many different permit processes for residents of Crestwood, including fences. Staff would like to take a moment to remind all residents of a few key points when installing or replacing residential fences:

Permit Application

- Be sure to obtain a Fence Permit from the City. Approval of this type of permit application typically takes about one week. *More information about the permit application is outlined in the below text box.*

- Contractors and Homeowners (just the main contractor is required, not both parties) installing a fence must also obtain a Contractor's Business License from the City of Crestwood.

Fence Materials

- Fences may be constructed of wood, metal, stone, masonry, vinyl, composite, or other permanent durable material.
- New and replacement chain link fences must be vinyl-coated or powder-coated in black or earth-toned colors such as brown, tan, or dark green.
- Fences cannot be constructed of chicken wire, barbed wire, bamboo, or any readily flammable material such as paper, cloth, canvas, etc.

Installation Requirements

- Fences cannot exceed 6-ft in height.
- Fences cannot be installed in a front yard, except in the side street front yard of a corner lot, although these fences must comply to certain setbacks. Please ask the City Planner Danny Jendusa if you believe this might apply to you.
- Fences must be installed with the decorative side of the fence facing out towards neighboring properties, while the hardware, posts, framing, etc. must face towards the interior of the property.
- Fences should typically be installed slightly onto the owner's property. A fence may be installed as close as 1" from a property line, provided it's located on the

owner's property. Neighbors may enter a mutual private agreement to have a fence installed exactly on a shared property boundary line as a civil matter.

- The property owner is responsible for locating their property line boundaries. Disputes between neighbors about the true location of a property line are a civil matter - to be resolved between neighbors. The City is not responsible for determining the location of a property line in any such dispute.

Other Requirements

- Residents with swimming pools must provide a barrier around their swimming pool area and/or yard that adheres to the 2015 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code regulations.
- The construction of two fences along a property line by the same owner is prohibited.
- All fences must be maintained in good repair at all times.

Please refer to Chapters 7 and 26 of the City Code for additional fence requirements and regulations.

PERMIT APPLICATION

One major requirement of fences is to obtain a permit from the City. Fence Permit applications can be found on the City website and dropped off at the Government Center, Department of Public Works office.

Please include with your application:

- o Your contact info
- o Your contractor's contact info
- o Proposed fence materials and fence height
- o Photos or renderings of the proposed fence type
- o Two (2) copies of your fence plan, drawn onto a copy of your property survey to identify where you'll be installing your fence
- o The associated permit application fee, which is currently \$60.

COMMUNITY POLICE UNIT CREATED

This fall, the Police Department is expanding their community outreach efforts by creating the Community Police Unit.

This unit is tasked with addressing community concerns and will concentrate their attention in areas where there is an on-going concern, like speeding on a residential street, addressing crime trends, and quality of life issues.

Police Chief Jonathan Williams is excited to announce the creation of this community-focused unit, which will work with the intent of not allowing the urgent to overshadow the important.

"The creation of the Community Police Unit gives the Department a unique opportunity to focus more resources towards resolving concerns throughout our community, while at the same time creating more availability for our patrol officers to respond to calls for service and proactively patrol throughout the City," Chief Williams said.

This new unit will be staffed with the Community Police Sergeant, the Community Resource Officer, and two Traffic Officers.

Sgt. Chris Midyett, who has been with Crestwood for more than eight years, including more than five years as a supervisor, has been selected as the first Community Police Sergeant.

"Sgt. Midyett brings many years of experience to the job and I have complete faith that he will help make this unit a success," Chief Williams said.



PARKS AND RECREATION CORNER



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT 20 MOVIE IN THE PARK

THE ADDAMS FAMILY (2019)

7:00pm @ Spellman Park

OCT 28 HALLOWEEN FAMILY FEST

11am-2pm @ Whitecliff Park

NOV 11 KIDS GARAGE SALE

10am-2pm @ Community Center

NOV 17 FRIENDS BINGO

7pm @ Community Center



Saturday, October 21 6:30-8:30pm

Come inside and listen to the Spirits of Sappington House as they talk about their lives and times that occurred in their very rooms 200+ years ago. The event also features colonial surgeon Dr. John Murphy showing off his medical equipment including rusty hacksaws and blood-sucking leeches. Tours of nearby Father Dickson Cemetery will be conducted by lantern light. S'mores and cider will be served. Additional parking is available across the street at Crestwood Elementary School and south of the pond off Reco Avenue. For more information, call 314-822-8171.

\$8/Adult and \$1/Children under 12

Halloween Family Fest

It's beginning to feel like Halloween at Whitecliff Park, and we want you to celebrate with us! There will be a Trunk-or-Treat, Bounce House, Hayrides, Face Painter, Balloon Twister, the Bubble Bus, Food Truck and more to get everyone in the fall spirit! Attendees are encouraged to dress up and participate in the costume contest at 1pm. Admission will be charged for children only. Child wristband purchases can be purchased the day of the event (cash or credit card). Call 314-729-4860 if you have any questions.

FREE Trunk or Treat! **October 28th Whitecliff Park** **FREE Hayrides**

11:00am - 2:00pm
\$5/Child

The Trunk or Treat & Hayrides are FREE of charge! All other activities will require children to have a \$5 wristband.

Halloween Family Fest

October 28th
Whitecliff Park
11:00am - 2:00pm

SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION

NAME OF GROUP/ ORGANIZATION: _____
CONTACT NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____
ADDRESS: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

☐ PRESENTING SPONSOR (LIMIT OF 3 SPONSORS): \$500 MONETARY DONATION
• SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAIL BLAST RECOGNITION THAT INCLUDES LOGO AND WEBSITE HYPERLINK.
• PAID SPONSOR AT EVENT.
• NAME ON ALL PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.
• ON-SITE PRESENCE AT EVENT.

☐ ACTIVITY SPONSOR (LIMIT OF 3 SPONSORS): \$250 MONETARY DONATION
• YOUR BUSINESS WILL RECEIVE A POST ON THE EVENT PAGE WITH ACTIVITY SPONSORS
• YARD SIGN AT THE EVENT

☐ IN-KIND DONATION: PLEASE CONTACT THE CRESTWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER TO DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES

Donation inquiries can be sent to Tracy Whitaker at whitaker@dcgcrestwood.org

CHRISTMAS IN CRESTWOOD INVITES YOU TO

Santa Comes to Crestwood

December 2, 2023

12:30 Car Cruise
1:00 - 3:30 Winter Wonderland activities at St. Elizabeth's including balloon clowns, photos with Santa, and face painting
6:30 Fireworks at St Elizabeth's

For more information, see our Facebook page or visit
CHRISTMASINCRESTWOOD.ORG



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please check the City website at
www.cityofcrestwood.org
for any updates and cancellations.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

All Day, NOV 10, 23, 24; DEC 25
Half Day, DEC 22, 29

BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETINGS

7 P.M., OCT 10, 24; NOV 14, 28
and DEC 12

HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN FEST

11 A.M., OCT 28

KIDS GARAGE SALE

10 A.M., NOV 11

CONTACT INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT CENTER

314-729-4700

POLICE

Non Emergency:
314-729-4800

FIRE

Non Emergency:
314-729-4740

PUBLIC WORKS

314-729-4720

COMMUNITY CENTER

314-729-4860
cityofcrestwood.org/parks

MUNICIPAL COURT

314-729-4776

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Kris Simpson, ICMA-CM
ksimpson@cityofcrestwood.org

MAYOR

Scott Shipley
sshipley@cityofcrestwood.org

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

WARD 1:
Jesse Morrison
jmorrison@cityofcrestwood.org
Jim Zavist
jzavist@cityofcrestwood.org

WARD 2:

Michael Balles
mballes@cityofcrestwood.org
Justin Charboneau
jcharboneau@cityofcrestwood.org

WARD 3:

Greg Hall
ghall@cityofcrestwood.org
Grant Mabie
gmabie@cityofcrestwood.org

WARD 4:

Tony Kennedy
tkennedy@cityofcrestwood.org
John Sebben
jsebben@cityofcrestwood.org

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CityofCrestwood



CrestwoodParksandRec



TheCrestwoodPoliceDepartment