

CRESTWOOD NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

We've all been there - sitting at home or walking through the neighborhood when suddenly a car speeds past, leaving us wondering why they can't just slow down. It's frustrating, and, if we're honest, many of us have probably been that driver at some point.

The Crestwood Police Department works hard to patrol our streets, but they can't be everywhere, all the time. That's where the City's new Traffic Calming Policy comes in.

Traffic calming is designed to make streets safer through physical changes that encourage slower driving. This is not about additional enforcement but about creating an environment that naturally causes drivers to slow down.

For example, narrow streets or speed humps often make drivers reduce speed without needing to think about it. The goal is to reduce speeding, improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and minimize accidents in our neighborhoods.

The development of the Traffic Calming Policy has been a multi-year process, beginning as a goal set by the Board of

Aldermen. Since then, it has evolved into a collaborative effort involving our Police Department, Public Works, and Crestwood residents. In fact, earlier this year, Crestwood officials held a neighborhood meeting to discuss traffic calming, providing a platform for residents to share feedback.



The policy was shaped by those conversations and approved by the Board of Aldermen in June 2024. Crestwood has already implemented some traffic calming measures on two streets: Yorkshire Estates Drive and Crest Oak Lane.

Both now have speed humps, and the early feedback has been very positive with empirical data to back up observational differences.

These measures have been effective at reducing speeds and making the streets safer for everyone. The police will continue to monitor these streets, collecting data on traffic speeds and volume to evaluate their long-term impact.

These projects are part of a larger effort outlined in our city-wide policy.

(continued on page 3)

ONLINE PERMITTING COMING IN JANUARY

The City of Crestwood's permitting and licensing process is going paperless.

After going through a Request For Proposal (RFP) process for online permitting and licensing software earlier this year, the City selected the LAMA land management software from the Davenport Group.

Since June, staff have been working with the Davenport Group to understand and configure the City's permitting, licensing, development, and variance processes.

Residents, businesses, and contractors will be able to create a free account once the software goes live, in January 2025.

Once an account is created, individuals will be able to apply, track, interact, and once approved, pay for a variety of applications through the website. Applications can be applied for and tracked on a computer, tablet or phone. While payment with credit card will be the main form of payment received by the City, cash and check will still be accepted at Crestwood's Government Center.

Residents can also submit general concerns/questions in the new LAMA system. The system will continue to allow you to submit your concern, either anonymously or with your contact information attached. If you select to provide follow-up information, City staff can use the information to assist in their inquiry and even provide a minor update.

Staff is excited about these changes and hopes residents, business owners, and contractors will find the new software easy to use and efficient.



NEWS BLURBS

MUNICIPAL ELECTION, APRIL 8

The City of Crestwood's General Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Voters will elect four aldermen, one from each of the four wards, to serve until April 2028.

The first date for filing with the City Clerk, or her designee, is Tuesday, December 10 at 8:00 A.M. The final date is Tuesday, December 31 at 5:00 P.M. If you have questions about this process, please contact City Clerk Helen Ingold at 314-729-4711.

WATSON RD PROJECT UPDATE

While originally scheduled to begin in summer 2024, MoDOT's Watson Road project start date will now be Spring 2025. The project will resurface the entirety of Watson Road from I-44 to the City of St. Louis limits, improve all existing sidewalks/crosswalks to current ADA standards, and replace the bridge over Gravois Creek (between Brookview Drive and Pardee Lane) in Crestwood. The current construction completion date is Fall 2027.

WINTER PARKING REMINDER

As we head into the winter weather (snow) season, please remember that the City asks for you to park on the EVEN side of the street for the entire 2024-25 winter season. If you see street crews out and about plowing, please give them a wide birth and allow them to do their job, to keep all residents safe.

CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

The Departments of Public Works/Parks would like to remind everyone that November is a wonderful month of the year to do work to trees on residential properties, as roots take better hold in the spring and fall.

Due note, 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.

PROP A: BOND RATING, PROJECT UPDATES

Following voter approval of Prop A in April 2024, the City has worked through the process over the past few months and issued more than \$33 million in general obligation bonds to fund the associated projects.

During that process, the City earned the highest possible credit rating, 'AAA', from S&P Global Ratings. Less than 500 cities nationwide hold this prestigious rating, including just five in the State of Missouri. With this credit rating, the City will save residents upwards of millions of dollars in interest over the next 20 years.

Current Project Updates

The City has been continually working on the design of the new community

center in Whitecliff Park. For nearly six months, the City has been meeting with the project architects, stakeholders, Board members, City staff, and others to finalize design plans and work through all of the proper site due diligence needed for a project of this scale.

Early next year, the new community center project will go out to bid, with groundbreaking expected in early 2025.

Aside from the new community center project, the City is close to approving a construction contract for a new playground and surfacing at Crestwood Park, which is scheduled to be completed in mid-2025.



CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES FOR FY2024



Crestwood budgeted for almost \$5 million in capital projects in 2024. The City has made progress on these projects throughout the year and below is a quick update of those 2024 projects:

Completed Projects

- In our parks, the City replaced the playground and surfacing at Ferndale Park and updated the lighting at Sanders and Spellman Parks.
- In our streets, the City spent nearly \$1 million on mill and overlay for more than 20 streets and added concrete curbing to three more, performed pavement preservation efforts, started traffic calming efforts, and replaced more than 400 sidewalk slabs throughout the City.
- For City-owned property, the City

repaired a portion of the roof at the Government Center, received the Fire Department front-line pumper truck and soon will receive the reserve ambulance, and replaced five fleet vehicles, including three new police cars.

In Progress/Under Construction

- The Whitecliff Park bridge replacement is under construction and will be opened before Memorial Day 2025.
- The bathroom at the Quarry and the lower parking lot expansion at Whitecliff Park, further traffic calming efforts, the new sidewalk from Rayburn Ave to Spellman Park (along Samoa), and the Gravois Creek gabion wall projects are all finalizing engineering for a 2025 completion date.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

The “Demonstration Projects” phase allows us to test these measures on select streets to see how well they work before considering expansion of similar steps for other areas. If you believe your street could benefit from traffic calming, you can submit a request for a review.

It's important to note that traffic calming measures are only considered for residential streets. Major roads like Watson, Big Bend, Sappington, and Eddie & Park fall under different jurisdictions and are not included in this program. Additionally, some streets may not qualify due to specific criteria, such as courts or cul-de-sacs where speeding is less likely.

If you want to see traffic calming measures implemented on your street, Crestwood's policy outlines the process for getting involved. The first step is to submit a request, which can be done via the Police Department's Traffic Calming page on the City's website (cityofcrestwood.org/traffic) or by scanning the QR Code located here:



The Police Department will then review your request, collect data such as speed studies and crash reports, and determine if traffic calming is needed. If the data supports it, a proposal will be developed and shared with residents for feedback before moving forward.

Please keep in mind that this process takes time. Many residents have already submitted requests, and data collection can take several weeks, so it could be months before it's your street's turn to be evaluated. We ask for your patience as we work through these requests.

For more information, including how to submit a request, visit the Traffic Calming Policy page on the City's website. Together, we can make Crestwood's streets safer for everyone.

-Scott Shipley, Mayor

PARKS AND RECREATION CORNER

Crestwood Parks & Recreation

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov
9

Kids Garage Sale

The Office Bingo

Nov
15

Nov
23

Whimsical Wrapping & Crafty Creations

Candy Cane Hunt

Dec
14

Dec
20

Holiday Light Scavenger Hunt

CRESTWOOD
Parks and Recreation

(314)729-4860

www.cityofcrestwood.org

9245 Whitecliff Park Lane ~ Crestwood ~ MO ~ 63126

Scan for detailed event information!



SANTA COMES TO CRESTWOOD

December 7, 2024

New Location! All activities at Crestwood Community Center
9245 Whitecliff Pk Ln, St. Louis, MO 63126

2-3:30pm Car Cruise – Begins and ends at the Crestwood Community Center in Whitecliff Park. Full route and signup information available on our website and Facebook page

3-6pm Winter Wonderland Activities – Professional photos with Santa (register on our website or Facebook page), professional balloon artists and face painters, goody bags for first 200 kids, and more

6:30pm Fireworks

Connecting Crestwood businesses and area residents through the true spirit of Christmas year-round!

www.ChristmasInCrestwood.org



facebook.com/ChristmasInCrestwood



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

All Day, NOV 11, 28, 29; DEC 25
Half Day, DEC 24, 31

BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETINGS

7 P.M., NOV 12, 26; DEC 10

KIDS GARAGE SALE

10 A.M., SAT, NOV 9

SAPP HOUSE DAYTRIP TO QUAINT COUNTRY CHURCHES

9:30 A.M., THURS, DEC 19

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
Rebecca Now
rnow@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

CITYOFCRESTWOOD.ORG



CityofCrestwood



CrestwoodParksandRec



TheCrestwoodPoliceDepartment