
CRESTWOOD

NEWSLETTER

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2019

THIS YEAR marks the 243rd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in which the Founding Fathers declared that, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

The Declaration famously sets forth 27 grievances against King George III, the 21st of which was, "For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments."

This was a reference to the 1774 "Massachusetts Government Act", the second of the so-called Intolerable Acts, in which the Charter of Massachusetts and local control was taken away from the colonists, with all colonial government powers turned over to the King and the British Parliament.

This year also marks the 72nd anniversary of the City of Crestwood, one of only 38 Constitutional Charter cities in the State of Missouri.

The Charter of the City of Crestwood was approved by voters in 1995, and provides for the supremacy of the legislative branch (Board of Aldermen), imposes term limits on elected officials, provides for professional administration via a full-time City



Administrator, allows for public comment at meetings, and requires employment and promotion of city employees to be on a merit basis, among other provisions of good government.

By now, I'm sure most of you have heard of the proposal from Better Together calling for a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to reorganize the structure of government in St. Louis City and County.

I have been working closely with the City Administrator, the Board of Aldermen, and Mayors from other cities around the region to analyze and fully understand the sweeping proposal. It would eliminate municipalities in St. Louis County (including Charter cities such as Crestwood) and turn them into Municipal Districts. These Municipal Districts would have no local control over land use and zoning, no local police, no local public works, and would redirect many taxes to a new Metro City. If approved, certain property previously owned by the Municipality of Crestwood would be seized by the new Metro City, including police cars, snow plows, and even our new Public Works building.

Unlike our present Charter providing for professional administration and legislative branch supremacy, the new Metro City would empower an initially unelected Metro Mayor with sweeping executive powers,

SEE "MAYOR'S MESSAGE" (Continued on page 3)

PROP P "PUBLIC SAFETY" SALES TAX



IN 2017, voters across St. Louis County approved Proposition P, a new half-cent sales tax for public safety. Crestwood began receiving monthly "Prop P" revenues late in 2017, and 2018 marked the first full year of receipts for the city.

Crestwood considers public safety spending to mean police and fire services, as those are clearly related to the preservation of life and property.

In 2018, Crestwood received \$605,543 in Prop P sales tax revenues.

Before Prop P, from the years 2013-2016, Crestwood averaged \$5,181,230 in public safety spending per year. That excludes capital purchases such as vehicles and facility maintenance.

In 2018, after Prop P went into effect, Crestwood spent \$5,891,863 on public safety, an increase of \$710,633. That is \$105,090 more than what Crestwood received in Prop P sales tax revenues for that year. Again, that excludes capital purchases such as vehicles and facility maintenance.

Crestwood will continue to responsibly monitor our revenues, ensure our spending is done in accordance with applicable laws, and seek to enhance the quality of life for residents.

BLURBS

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Now that spring is finally here, residents should remember to keep their grass mowed and trimmed to the appropriate length. Crestwood Code requires grass to be below 8 inches.

Please remember to store your trash, recycling, and yard waste containers behind the building line. Cans can be brought out to the curb after 4:30 P.M. on the day before pick up and should be taken in by 8 P.M. on the scheduled pick up day.

PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Crestwood will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 7 P.M. to discuss the estimated allocation of \$23,400 in Community Development Block Grant funds which will become available after January 1, 2020. The public hearing will be held at the Crestwood Government Center, One Detjen Drive, Crestwood, Missouri 63126. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, or if you are a person with a disability or have special needs in order to participate, please contact Helen Ingold at (314) 729-4700.

FENCE PERMITS

Building a new fence? If so, then don't forget to stop by the Department of Public Works to apply for a fence permit. Applications are available on the City Website, or call Public Works at (314) 729-4720 for more information.

VOLUNTEER FOR BEAUTIFY CRESTWOOD

Beautify Crestwood is in need of volunteers for their upcoming projects: Moving Dirt to new Firehouse Garden (Date TBD) and Planting at City Hall (May 9). If you would like to help, contact Beautify Crestwood at beautifycrestwood@gmail.com.

BEAUTIFY YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

THE CRESTWOOD BEAUTIFICATION Committee wants to help Crestwood citizens make their neighborhoods more beautiful and are offering to help neighborhood volunteers fund their projects.

If you would like to beautify the entrances, common areas, or islands in your neighborhood, the Beautification Committee will assist you by paying 50% of the total cost up to \$500 per project.

In addition to the funding, the Beautification Committee will help you get started with project design and fundraising ideas, however the neighborhood volunteers will be in charge of their project.

For more information please visit
<https://beautifycrestwood.wordpress.com/>

If you have any questions, please contact Beautify Crestwood. Email: BeautifyCrestwood@gmail.com



(Tahiti Island Project - 2017 Grant Recipient)

SAPPINGTON HOUSE EVENTS

COUNTRY CRAFT FESTIVAL

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 27-28 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

Discover a cache of treasures from the silly to sublime at an open-air fair featuring antiques, arts and crafts, books, garden and home décor, jewelry and things that resist categorizing – originals handmade by talented vendors. See old-time artisans ply their historic skills. Enjoy live music and delicious food and animals to pet. Kids will have fun at the Young'uns Outpost, with a costumed passport program for craft activities. Free admission and parking at Crestwood Elementary School and in the overflow lot off Reco Avenue. In case of inclement weather, the fair will be rescheduled for June 29-30. Phone 314-822-8171 for more information.

Vendors and Historic Demonstrators:

Contact Dyann Dierkes if interested in participating – 314-605-5895
dyannd@historicsappingtonhouse.org

STUDENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

MAY 30 - JUNE 15 (EXCLUDES SUNDAYS & MONDAYS)
11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

The last three summers high school students unearthed the summer kitchen foundation and cistern. What will they find this June? Come watch students and supervising professional archaeologists as they dig through time to discover what Sappington family and maybe even Native American artifacts will tell us about their lives. Fun hands-on activities provided for children. Co-sponsored with the Archaeological Institute of America, St. Louis chapter and the Sappington-Concord Historical Society. For more information, phone 314-822-8171.

High School Teachers and Students:

Contact Stephen Hanpeter if interested in participating – 314-918-1617
stephenh@historicsappingtonhouse.org

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 10 A.M.

\$2 Residents/\$4 Non-Residents

All Ages

Join us at Whitecliff Park for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. There will be activities for all children big & small. Eggs will be filled with goodies and special surprises!

Take a picture with Peter Cottontail himself. The event will be moved to the Community Center in the case of inclement weather. *Get your tickets by Apr. 19 at the Crestwood Community Center.*

FAMILY NERF WAR NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 6:30 P.M.

\$9 Residents/\$11 Non-Residents

All Ages

Gather the whole family for this indoor Nerf War event! Safety glasses and Nerf darts are provided, but each participant should bring one Nerf gun (please no automatic Nerf guns). The event will wrap up with refreshments. At least one parent is required. *Register at least 48 hours before the event by calling the Crestwood Community Center at (314) 729-4860.*

MAYORS MESSAGE *(Continued from page 1)*

including the power to line-item veto Municipal District budgets. Crestwood would maintain responsibility for fire protection and local parks, but our ability to fund these services would be severely curtailed.

In February, the City responded to the State Auditor's request for a fiscal impact analysis of the Better Together proposal. That analysis concluded that the proposal would be devastating to Crestwood's finances, with expenditures exceeding revenues by roughly \$3.5 million per year largely due to Crestwood revenues being taken by the new Metro City. We continue to study this proposal and plan to engage more with our residents on this topic in the future.

In the meantime, most of what Better Together proposes could be accomplished via the existing Board of Freeholders process, which would meet in public and transparently craft a proposal for only voters in the city and county to consider. The region certainly has ways it can better cooperate and improve, and I encourage residents to learn about this effort by visiting www.stlmuni.org/board-of-freeholder.



SPLASHTACULAR SUMMER KICKOFF

FRIDAY, MAY 24

SAVE THE DATE for our annual Splashtacular Summer Kick-Off event at the Crestwood Aquatic Center. Enjoy an evening of free family fun with food trucks, games, and activities, free water exercise class demos, music by a fun rockin' DJ, and a showing of *Moana*.

New this year are the Lazy River Duck races, and a live Superhero and Princesses will be joining us at the event.

The Aquatic Center will open to the public at 5 P.M., and the movie will begin at dusk. Don't forget to bring your towels and bathing suits for this Splashtacular event!

QUARRY FISHING

Sat. Apr 13 & May 18, 9 A.M. to Noon

\$6 Residents/\$8 Non-Residents

Children ages 12 and under must have an adult with them. Pre-registration is required 2 days prior.

CITY-WIDE YARD SALE

Sat. May 4, 8 A.M. to Noon

Registration form due by Wed, May 1

Participate in a city-wide yard sale. Map and list of addresses will available on Fri, May 3.

WINE AND DESIGN PAINT NIGHT

Thu. May 16, 6:30 to 9 P.M.

\$25 Residents/\$35 Non-Residents

Canvas and supplies provided. Please bring snacks and drinks. Registration is required by May 9.

BINGO NIGHT FUNDRAISER

BENEFITING



ON SATURDAY, APRIL 13, the Crestwood Animal Shelter is hosting a BINGO Night fundraiser. The event will be held at the Elks Lodge located at 6330 Hege Road, St. Louis, MO 63123.

Attendees will be able to purchase a pack of 9 cards for \$25, plus an additional set of 9 BINGO cards for \$10. Purchases include 12 rounds of BINGO, dauber, and draft beer or soda. No food will be provided, but feel free to bring your own! Players must be 16 years or older, and no outside liquor or alcohol permitted. \$100 cash prize goes to the winner of each round. \$100 round sponsorships are available.

Please note that this event is **CASH** only. Doors open at 5 P.M. and BINGO starts at 6. Contact Mary at (314) 607-1884 or Lisa at (314) 691-3020 for more information.



1 Detjen Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETINGS
7 P.M. APR 9, APR 23 & MAY 28

CITY OFFICES CLOSE AT NOON
APR 19

EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE
10 A.M. APR 20

CITY-WIDE YARD SALE
8 A.M. MAY 4

SPLASHTACULAR SUMMER KICK-OFF
5 P.M. MAY 24

CITY OFFICES CLOSED
MAY 27

CONTACT INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT CENTER

(314) 729-4700
Fax: (314) 729-4794

MUNICIPAL COURT

(314) 729-4776
Fax (314) 729-4882

POLICE

Emergency: 911
Non Emergency:
314-729-4800
Fax: 314-729-4848

FIRE

Emergency: 911
Non Emergency:
314-729-4742
Fax: 314-729-4751

PUBLIC WORKS

Administration
314-729-4720
Maintenance

314-729-4734
Fax: 314-729-4738

COMMUNITY CENTER

314-729-4860
Fax: 314-729-4877
cityofcrestwood.org

CONTACT
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
cityofcrestwood.org/BOA

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