



# EYE ON KIRKWOOD

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WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®



Mayor Art McDonnell was interviewed by Maggie Hallan (left) and Devan Cogan, co-editors-in-chief of the Kirkwood Call, Kirkwood High School's student-run newspaper.

## Every Day is Make a Difference Day in Kirkwood by Art McDonnell

Kirkwood is full of that good old neighborhood friendliness and good will. One good example was Roy Overholt, whose passing we marked this past month and who without fanfare was always reaching out to help others. Thank you, Roy. We will miss you. We also marked the passing of Tony Balota, who owned the Kirkwood Bakery for decades, selling delicious baked goods that always made people feel good. I asked Tony a few years ago, as he stood covered in flour, how he made those great dinner rolls. His reply: Lots of butter. He too will be missed.

This month I signed a proclamation for Mr. and Mrs. Whitmire, who celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. They have been long-time volunteers in the community, helping with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and with generous gifts to the science departments at St. Louis Community College at Meramec and Kirkwood High School.

The good will of the good people of Kirkwood seems boundless. On October 9, the Kirkwood Baptist Church held its annual Hands on Kirkwood event. Volunteers helped out all over Kirkwood, including clearing honeysuckle and brush in Fireman's Park. On October 23, we had another successful Make a Difference Day in Kirkwood. We want to thank Donna Halsband and the folks at St. Louis Community College at Meramec for hosting a breakfast for volunteers and helping to organize this event.

We closed out the month by celebrating the work of the volunteers who help lead this City at the annual Boards and Commissions reception. This City could not function without the support and hard work of these citizens. We thank them. Remember – it takes every one's effort to make Kirkwood a great place to live. Thank you.

## KIRKWOOD IN BRIEF

### NEWS FROM CITY HALL

**United Way Campaign:** Once again, City employees gave generously to the United Way. The City campaign raised \$6,298.70 in pledges for the United Way and \$1,781 in pledges for Community Health Charities.

**Safety First:** The Kirkwood Sanitation Department has now completed its second quarter without a single employee injury. Typically, sanitation workers have the highest rate of injury for public employees. Reducing workplace injuries helps keep down the City's insurance costs. Safety Manager Christian Dunman and sanitation employees have been working hard to work safe and reduce injuries, and that work has paid off. Way to go!

**Dollar Aid:** KirkCare depends on the people of the Kirkwood R7 School District for support, volunteers, and food for its pantry. KirkCare delivers non-perishable food and food vouchers to the needy within the district. This year has been a challenge. Please help by checking the box for Dollar Aid on your utility bill. Thank you.

**Curbside Recycling Update:** Information on curbside recycling will be coming to all Kirkwood residents with their November utility inserts. Recycling carts will begin to arrive at households the second week of December. These will be accompanied by more information, including a map that will tell you which day of the week your trash, recycling, and yard waste will be collected. Recycling Tip for November: Did you know you can recycle your asphalt shingles when you repair or replace your roof? Contractors are not required by law to do so, but you can personally prevent these old shingles from entering landfills by asking your contractor to recycle them. For every ton of shingles recycled, two barrels of oil are saved. Contractors save money too. For more information, visit [www.midwestshinglerecycling.com](http://www.midwestshinglerecycling.com) or call 314-382-4200.

### BEEES IN TREES

Nobody wants a bee to be homeless. Honey bees are essential for pollinating flowers and plants, including the plants we eat, and in recent years, bees have been disappearing at an alarming rate. It's called Colony Collapse Disorder, and it's affecting 35 states in this country as well as Europe, South America, India, and China. According to Wikipedia, since 2006, 20 to 40 percent of the bee colonies in this country have disappeared. Scientists had speculated that the collapse was due to a variety of causes, such as pesticides

and genetically modified food. However, the most recent theory is that it may be a combination of a fungus and a virus that have teamed up to kill off our bees. In any event, here in Kirkwood we want to save the bees we still have.

Recently, Kirkwood street department employees discovered a tree in a right-of-way area that had died, was posing a potential safety hazard if it fell onto nearby power lines, and needed to be removed. There was just one problem: There was a major bee hive in the tree. Bill Langton, a local beekeeper, volunteered to work with the street department's arborist Dave Brigman, to try and save the bees before the tree was taken down. Here's what has been happening.

The hive is located about 50 feet up in a hollow area of the tree. The Street Department used its bucket truck, operated by Dave Brigman, to raise bee keeper Bill up to the hole. Bill placed a large bee box in the tree next to the hole in hopes of luring the bees away from the hollow tree and into the box so they may be safely removed. The box had some honey in it, some empty cones, and some lemongrass extract, which closely resembles the molecular structure of the queen bee's pheromones, to attract the homeless bees.

Bill then placed very fine screen over the three entrance/exit holes. The last screen had a hole in it so he could place a small cone-shaped screen in it. The cone shape allows the bees to exit the hive but makes it hard for them to get back in (similar to a minnow trap).

"Our intent is that the cool nights will force the homeless bees into the box for shelter," said Tony Bonastia, streets director. "Once a majority of the bees are in the box, the queen bee may follow them over there. We will check back periodically and hopefully next week remove the box with the bees in it."

Readers can follow the story of the bees in the next issue of the Kirkwood E-News. We'll provide status reports and more photographs in the coming weeks to follow the progress of the bees as they are relocated. To receive the E-News in your email inbox, send an email to: [vonbehen@kirkwoodmo.org](mailto:vonbehen@kirkwoodmo.org).



Kirkwood Street Department Arborist Dave Brigman (foreground) operates the bucket truck as beekeeper Bill Langton works to save a hive of honey bees.



## KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**OCTOBER 30:** 50 Trees for 50 Years Inaugural Planting. Mudd's Grove, 302 W. Argonne, 8:15 a.m.

**OCTOBER 30:** Dino O'Dell's Not-So-Scary Halloween. Kirkwood Public Library, 140 E. Jefferson, 10:00 a.m. Call 821-5770 for details.

**NOVEMBER 12:** Stargazing in Kirkwood Park, sponsored by Kirkwood Park Rangers. FREE. Telescopes and refreshments provided. Meet in the ball field behind the water tower. Starts at 6:00 p.m. Call 822-5855 for more information.



Mayor Art McDonnell greets Santa and Mrs. Claus after their arrival at the Train Station during the 2009 Holiday Walk in Downtown Kirkwood.

**NOVEMBER 20:** Downtown Kirkwood Holiday Walk, beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the arrival of Santa Claus at the Train Station. Bring your camera to take candid photos with Santa between 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Free refreshments and entertainment. Preview holiday gift ideas. Free trolley rides. Enjoy dining at one of Kirkwood's many fine downtown restaurants. Stories with Mrs.

Claus and more! Shop, stroll, and celebrate in historic downtown Kirkwood. It's a holiday tradition!!

**NOVEMBER 25:** Kirkwood-Webster 28th Annual Turkey Day Run. Registration is now open for both the three-mile and six-mile races between Kirkwood and Webster. Entry forms available at [www.kirkwoodmo.org](http://www.kirkwoodmo.org) or in person at the Kirkwood Community Center.

**NOVEMBER 27:** Richard Fuegner, author of "Gaslight Square Illuminated," will discuss his book and his research, at Kirkwood Public Library, 140 E. Jefferson, 10:00 a.m.

**KIRKWOOD AREA ARTS COUNCIL.** Art at the Station: Portraits by Mary Beth Flynn, November 1 thru December 6, Kirkwood Train Station. Opening reception November 4, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Poets at the Station: Dwight Bitikofer, publisher of the Webster-Kirkwood Times, will read some of his selected works, with musical guest Raven Wolf, Tuesday, November 9, 7:00 p.m. Both programs are free and open to the public. Donations welcome. Call 965-7100 for more information.

**KIRKWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION:** Class registrations are now open for the following. Advance registration is required for all classes. Call 822-5855 for details or to register:

**Ballet Classes:** Ages 3.5-10, Tuesday evenings. Session starts November 9.

**Ice Skating Lessons:** All levels. Next session starts November 1.

### Kirkwood Meetings Calendar

- 11/1 Architectural Review, 7pm
- 11/3 Planning/Zoning: Canceled
- 11/4 City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
- 11/8 Bd of Adjustment, 7pm
- 11/9 Human Rights, 6:30pm
- 11/10 Landmarks, 6:30pm
- 11/11 City Council WS, 7am
- 11/12 Citizens' Finance, 7am
- 11/15 Architectural Review, 7pm
- 11/15 Park Board, Comm Ctr, 7pm
- 11/17 Downtown Bus Dist, 7:30am
- 11/17 Library Bd, Library, 5:30pm
- 11/17 Planning/Zoning, 7pm
- 11/18 City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
- 11/23 Urban Forestry, 7pm

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are typically held at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road. Please check the Meetings Calendar on the City's Website for agendas, room locations, or any last-minute changes.

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Mayor: Arthur J. McDonnell • Council Members: Timothy E. Griffin, Iggy Yuan, Gerry Biedenstein, Gina M. Jaksetic, Paul Ward, Bob Sears. Chief Administrative Officer: Michael G. Brown  
The City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

The City of Kirkwood is interested in effective communication for all people. Upon request, this newsletter can be reproduced in an alternate format by calling 822-5894. Visit the City's Website for detailed information on City services, upcoming meetings and events, and contacting elected officials and staff: [www.kirkwoodmo.org](http://www.kirkwoodmo.org)