



EYE ON KIRKWOOD

April 25, 2014 | www.kirkwoodmo.org

WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT EASEMENTS

Part Two – Easements: In February, we wrote about the right-of-way. In this issue, we will cover utility easements and electric service wiring. Utility easements and the City's right-of-way are two different things, although they are somewhat similar in nature. Easements are areas on private property that are set aside for access and construction of overhead and underground utility equipment. Although there may be poles, wires, underground pipes or wires located in or on an easement, the property is still owned by the homeowner.

Trees located in an easement are therefore located on private property and are the responsibility of the homeowner. During normal operating conditions, a utility may trim a tree in an easement and remove any debris associated with that process to keep it clear from any

overhead wires or equipment. However, the homeowner is responsible for removal of the tree or any debris associated with that tree if Mother Nature causes the tree or any of its limbs to fall. Tree trimming related to storm-damaged trees and performed by City employees is limited to clearing the line and electrical equipment so that repairs can be made, but the disposal of storm damage is the responsibility of the homeowner.

Part Three – Electric Service Wiring: The wires connecting your house from the poles and wires located along the backyard fence line are called the electric service drops. Electric service drops are found on private property and are the property of the homeowner. Consequently, any trees impacting the electrical service drop are on private property and are the responsibility of the homeowner. Tree



ALDRED AVENUE EASEMENT

trimming for the line clearance for electrical service drops as well as the removal and disposal of any brush or trees associated with operations to maintain that drop are the responsibility of the homeowner.

The responsibilities associated with trees and storm damage debris can be confusing and a source of frustration during challenging periods. The key is to focus on the location of the tree. If you know the owner of the property, you've got a handle on the responsible party for disposal of problems caused by severe weather.

A Message from the Mayor by Art McDonnell

Greetings. Beauty is everywhere. Take a walk around Kirkwood and view the glory of Spring.

The Rotary Club has placed two new bike racks by the Farmers' Market. Marielle Brown, a consultant with Trailnet, presented the City Council with the beginnings of their study for biking and pedestrian traffic in Kirkwood. They will be holding multiple public sessions to gather information, and we have established a citizens' committee to assist with the study. So get those bikes oiled up and those walking shoes ready. The best is yet to come.

Our new Chief Administrative Officer, Russ Hawes, will

start work in May. A welcome reception for Russ will be held at City Hall on May 14, at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited. We look forward to his being a part of our City team. Georgia Ragland, the City's Assistant Chief Administrative Officer has been doing double duty handling all of Mike Brown's duties as well as her own. Great job, Georgia!

Enjoy May, pull out that BBQ pit, plant some happy annuals, enjoy graduations, take lots of pictures, eat strawberry short cake with lots of ice cream, attend the Library's Book Fair this weekend (details below), and RECYCLE, RECYCLE. Please be careful of pedestrians

EDGAR DENISON DAY AT THE MARKET: Mayor Art McDonnell proclaimed April 19 Edgar Denison Day in Kirkwood. Pictured (L) with Kirkwood resident Bill Ruppert. Photo by Bill Burckhalter.



when at intersections. See you around town. If you wish to chat, call 314-497-4036.

FAIR HOUSING STATEMENT

The City of Kirkwood is committed to fair housing for all of its citizens. It is unlawful to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, handicap, familial status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The City of Kirkwood has enacted a Fair Housing ordinance, which prohibits discrimination and spells out the process for filing a complaint. If you believe you have been discriminated against, call the City at 822-5801.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HONORS HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY WRITERS

Several Kirkwood-area high school juniors have been honored by the Human Rights Commission for their essay writing this spring. The First, Second, and Third Place, as well as Honorable Mention, awardees were recognized at the City Council meeting on April 3, 2014. Here are the winners. The winning essays may be read on the home page of the City Website.

- Dalia Bitar, First Place: "Divisions of Dictums and Deeds"
- Soley Hyman, Second Place: "Defining our Freedoms"
- Jeffrey Kuziel, Third Place: "Longing for Liberty: Defining Human Rights"
- Julie Havlak, Honorable Mention: "What Makes Life Worth Living"
- Helen Morse, Honorable Mention: "Natural Freedoms"
- Maggie Cox, Honorable Mention: "Keeping Humanity Human"
- Allison Hubbard, Honorable Mention: "Human Rights and Responsibilities."



HUMAN RIGHTS ESSAY WINNER: Kirkwood High School Junior Dalia Bitar (holding plaque) won First Place in this year's essay contest. Pictured with Dalia, left to right: Mayor Art McDonnell and Human Rights Commission members Denis Hart, John Hoffmann, Darnel Frost (Chair), and Romona Miller.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN KIRKWOOD

• **Annual Kirkwood Library Book Fair:** Continues this weekend. Today, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, April 26, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, April 27, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 12309 Old Big Bend Blvd., just east of I-270 and Big Bend, in the old McDonnell's Market building.

• **Art at the Station:** The Kirkwood Area Arts Council will feature the work of the Kirkwood High School Advanced Placement Art Students through April 28. The multi-media work of Sandra Griffin will be on display in May. Please join us for her opening reception on Thursday, May 1, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., at the Kirkwood Train Station 110 W. Argonne at South Kirkwood Road. Exhibits and receptions are free and open to the public. Art may be viewed when the station is open for passengers.

• **Nature Hike, Saturday, May 10:** Exploring the River's Edge, led by John Christensen, Webster Groves Nature Study Society, will be held at Emmenegger Nature Park, on Saturday, May 10, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Come explore the hiking path next to the Meramec River in Emmenegger. Learn how the plants have adapted to live along the river corridor and in the flood plain. Wear hiking shoes and weather-appropriate gear, and bring a camera and notebook, if desired. Meet at the trailhead kiosk by the creek. The walk will be held rain or shine. The program is FREE and open to all ages.

• **Favorite Buildings Awards, May 14:** The Landmarks Commission will hold its annual Favorite Buildings Awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 14, at 7:00 p.m., at the Kirkwood Train Station.

• **Kirkwood Pool Opens for the Season:** Saturday, May 24, at 10:00 a.m.

• **City Offices Closed:** Monday, May 26, for Memorial Day. There will be NO SANITATION collected on Memorial Day. All routes will be delayed by one day all week, with Monday routes collected on Tuesday and Thursday routes collected on Friday.

• **Summer Citizens' Police Academy:** The Kirkwood Police Department invites residents to enroll for free in the Summer Citizens' Academy. Learn more about how the police do their jobs. Topics/activities include: History of

the police department, tour of the police station, radio communications, crime prevention, drug interdiction, traffic stops, Internet safety, identity theft awareness, and canine introduction and demonstration.

2014 AQUATIC CENTER SWIM PASSES ON SALE NOW

Pool Hours, May 24 through August 18:

- Monday thru Friday: Noon to 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Holidays: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Located in the Kirkwood Community Center complex at 111 S. Geyer Road. Please visit the City Website for additional information, including costs for open swimming, season passes, and swim classes: KirkwoodMO.org, select City Departments and Aquatic Center. Don't wait until the lines are long: Sign up today!

Kirkwood Meetings Calendar

- 5/1 City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
- 5/5 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 5/7 Planning/Zoning Commission, 7pm
- 5/8 Council Work Session, 7am
- 5/12 Board of Adjustment, 7pm
- 5/13 Human Rights Commission, 6:30pm
- 5/14 Landmarks Commission Favorite Buildings Awards, Kirkwood Train Station, 7pm
- 5/15 City Council, 7pm, WS 6pm
- 5/19 Aquatic Advisory Committee, 6:45pm at Pool
- 5/19 Park Board, 7pm, Community Center
- 5/19 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 5/20 Arts & Culture Commission, 5:30pm
- 5/21 Library Board, 5:30pm, at Library
- 5/21 Planning/Zoning Commission, 7pm
- 5/26 CITY OFFICES CLOSED
- 5/27 Urban Forestry Commission, 7pm
- 5/28 Greentree Committee, 7pm at Community Center

Except where noted, meetings are typically held at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 South Kirkwood Road. Please check the Meetings Calendar on the City's Website for agendas, room locations, or any last-minute changes. Meeting agendas are also posted at City Hall. CC=Community Center

Eye on Kirkwood is published 12 times per year on the last Friday of every month by the City of Kirkwood, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122. For information or questions about content, contact the City's Public Information Officer, Beth von Behren, at 314-822-5894. To sign up for the weekly electronic newsletter, send an email to Info@KirkwoodMo.org.

Kirkwood City Council: Mayor: Arthur J. McDonnell. Council Members: Gerry Biedenstein, Gina M. Jaksetic, Paul Ward, Bob Sears, Nancy Luetzow, Tim Griffin. **Kirkwood Administration:** Kirkwood City Clerk: Betty Montano. To reach the City Clerk or Council, call 822-5802. To reach City offices, call 822-5800 for a list of extensions. The City Council meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road. The public is invited to attend. For information about other meetings, City services, and events, visit the City's Website: www.kirkwoodmo.org.