



EYE ON KIRKWOOD

December 26, 2014 | www.kirkwoodmo.org

WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

THE HISTORIC KIRKWOOD TRAIN STATION: YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

By guest writer Barb Byerly

Iconic Landmark Needs Repairs and Renovation: It is one of Kirkwood's most enduring and beloved buildings. It is brimming with historical memories. Its design harkens to a time from the distant, perhaps more genteel, past. It is immediately recognizable by Kirkwood residents and visitors alike. It is situated at the center of our town. It is our beautiful, historic Kirkwood Train Station.

The Kirkwood Historical Society reports that the Train Station is both historically and architecturally significant and is an outstanding example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. The first railroad station on the site was called Collins' Station for Owen Collins, whose farm constituted the larger part of what later became the town of Kirkwood. A larger Carpenter Gothic station was erected in 1893, and the old station was moved to a spot west of the new station. Little has changed with the Station since then, except the removal of the platform shelter, minor renovations in 1941, and replacement of the roof in 1985. Thanks in large part to the efforts of former



Volunteers have staffed the Train Station for 11 years.

State Representative Francis "Bud" Barnes, private donations covered the cost of the 1985 roof replacement.

Purchased by the City of Kirkwood in December, 2003, the Train Station is staffed entirely by a large group of dedicated volunteers, who work under the direction of the station manager. These volunteers collectively donate thousands of hours to keep the station open and operating. In addition to welcoming hundreds of Amtrak passengers weekly, the Train Station has become a valuable asset to the community as a venue for both public and private events. More than 700 people visited Santa during Downtown Kirkwood's recent free Photos with Santa sessions, for example.

Kirkwood Train Station Strategic Planning Committee: Last summer, a Train Station committee was established by Mayor Art McDonnell to study the building's needs and to ensure its viability into the future. Michael Brown, former City of Kirkwood Chief Administrative Officer, serves as Chair. One of the group's sub-committees was charged with investigating the Station's condition and submitting a preliminary report. Kirkwood's City Council and the entire Train Station committee then toured the Station to see first-hand what needs to be done to sustain and protect the structure.



This vintage photo of the Train Station shows where the platform shelter, demolished in 1941, was located.

Included in the list of critical needs are: Tuckpointing; a new roof, fascia, and soffit; expanded, ADA-compliant restrooms; windows, doors, lighting, and a more efficient HVAC system; the addition of a storage building; and a platform shelter replacement.

The cost of these projects is yet to be determined. The committee is currently involved in establishing a 501c3 nonprofit organization, in preparation for raising funds to help support these efforts. "We hope to launch a formal campaign in late spring to raise private donations to help cover the expense," explained Mr. Brown. "We are pleased and proud to participate in this worthwhile endeavor."

Monthly reports on the committee's activities will be included in future issues of the Eye on Kirkwood. They will also appear on the City's Website at www.kirkwoodmo.org. For information about the Kirkwood Train Station, contact Bill Burckhalter, station manager, at burckhwm@kirkwoodmo.org, or visit the City's Website.

A Message from the Mayor by Art McDonnell

By the time you read this, Christmas and Hanukkah will have passed and Kwanzaa will be winding down, but the spirit and good will of the season lives on. Hold on to that spirit and pass it forward each day of 2015. Volunteer where you can, and make a difference in the lives of others and in the betterment of our community. Kirkwood stores are there to help you if you need that extra gift. Take a friend to lunch or dinner in our fine eating establishments. Enjoy a walk around Walker Lake in Kirkwood Park.

Don't miss the Winter Fireworks this Saturday, December 27, in the Downtown Kirkwood – right over City Hall! The event starts at 5:00 p.m. with the musical group Project 324 performing at Station Plaza, along with dancers from the West County Swing Dance Club, U Can Dance Studio, and Lucille Rapp Dance Studio. Performances will be on two stages until 6:30, when the fireworks start. Reservations are recommended if you plan to go to one of our

many great restaurants. It will be a blast – see you there!

The enhancements around your City Hall are almost finished and will be open to the public soon. Spring will be a special treat when all the plantings burst into bloom. The lighting of our historic City Hall is almost completed as well as the replacement of the columns on the west side.

Updates: The findings of the special committee working on the Kirkwood Train Station will be presented to City Council next year. A feasibility study on the Community Center is moving forward (see article). The Citizens' Finance Committee is finishing up its work on next year's budget and the City Council will begin discussing it in January. Citizens are always invited to attend these discussions at Council Work Sessions, which start an hour prior to the regular Council meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. We are working hard to make Kirkwood better.

I want to send a shout-out to the City's sanitation staff. Due to being short-staffed recently, they have all been working very hard to get your trash and recycling picked up. For that matter, all City employees work hard year-round. THANK YOU.

Take care. Look forward to 2015. Make some new friends and help those who are in need. Finish off the fruit cake (I love a good fruit cake) and the cookies, and then be sure to get in some walking each day. See you around Kirkwood, and if you wish to chat, please call 314-497-4036.



INFORMATION FOR UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

CITY HALL/CITY OFFICES:

- Friday, December 26: Open normal hours.
- Wednesday, December 31: Open normal hours.
- Thursday, January 1: Closed for New Year's.
- Friday, January 2: Open normal hours.
- Monday, January 19: Closed for Martin Luther King's Birthday.

COMMUNITY CENTER OFFICE/ICE RINK:

- December 26 and 27: Open normal hours.
- December 31: Office will close at 4:00 p.m. Public skating sessions will be held.
- January 1: Office is closed. Public skating sessions will be held. For the full public skating session schedule, visit: www.KirkwoodMO.org/IceRink.

SANITATION HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

- Friday, December 26: Thursday routes collected.
- Thursday, January 1: No sanitation collected.
- Friday, January 2: Thursday routes collected.
- Monday, January 19: Martin Luther King Birthday. No sanitation collected. All routes are delayed by a day all week.

"WINTER FIREWORKS" WILL LIGHT UP THE SKIES OVER KIRKWOOD SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Bring the whole family to Downtown Kirkwood this Saturday, December 27, for the third-annual Winter Fireworks Festival. Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m. Fireworks start at 6:30 p.m. Arrive early to shop and dine. Dinner reservations recommended. Bad weather date: December 28.

THANK YOU to this year's sponsors:

- Downtown Kirkwood Special Business District • Des Peres Hospital • First Church of Christ Scientist
- Adams Place Retirement Community • Riggs Construction & Design • BRIC Partnership, LLC
- Kirkwood Station Restaurant & Brewing Company • Gaffner Realty • Hardy R. Washington, Jr., State Farm Insurance Agent
- Billy G's • Simmons First National Bank • Spencer's Grill • Barb & Jim Byerly • Barbara & Art McDonnell



NEW SUGARBERRY TREE GROWS IN KIRKWOOD PARK

A new, young sugarberry tree has been planted in Kirkwood Park, near the location of its predecessor. The new tree was grown from the seeds of the tree that was removed in 2012 after disease and damage from a lightning strike caused the tree to fail. The original tree was named a Missouri State Champion Tree in 2011

and was estimated to be more than 150 years old. Seeds were harvested from the tree before its removal, and Jost Greenhouses and Forest ReLeaf of Missouri were able to produce trees from the seed. Kirkwood's Urban Forestry Commission distributed about 50 of these trees to the public at the 2014 Greentree Festival. Additional trees will be planted in Forest Park, at St. Louis Community College at Meramec, Washington University, and Carondelet Park.

COMMUNITY CENTER OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED: PUBLIC INVITED TO GIVE COMMENTS

As a portion of the existing Kirkwood Community Center approaches its 50th birthday, a feasibility study is being conducted to examine the future of the building. A statistically valid survey completed earlier this year has given direction to the feasibility study, which is being conducted by Jacobs Engineering. As part of the feasibility study process, the public is being invited to review and comment on some very

preliminary design ideas and conceptual plans. This opportunity will take place during two public comments sessions. The first will be held Wednesday, January 21, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. and the second will be held Saturday, January 24 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Both sessions will be held at the Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road.

— Kirkwood Meetings Calendar —

- 1/5 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 1/7 Planning/Zoning Commission, 7pm
- 1/8 City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
- 1/12 Board of Adjustment, 7pm
- 1/13 Human Rights Commission, 6:30pm
- 1/14 Landmarks Commission, 6:30pm
- 1/15 City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
- 1/19 City Offices Closed
- 1/20 Arts Commission, 7pm
- 1/20 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 1/21 Library Board, 5:30pm, At Library
- 1/21 Planning/Zoning, 7pm
- 1/26 Park Board, 7pm, at Community Ctr
- 1/27 Urban Forestry, 7pm
- 1/28 Greentree Planning, 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 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:** Chief Administrative Officer: Russell B. Hawes. 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.

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