



EYE ON KIRKWOOD

May 30, 2014 | www.kirkwoodmo.org

WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

EMERALD ASH BORER ARRIVES IN THE ST. LOUIS REGION

A little more than a year ago, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources notified the City of Kirkwood that an emerald ash borer infestation was expected in the St. Louis region. The EAB had been spotted in other parts of the state, and the expectation was that it would arrive in this region within the next year to 18 months. At that time, the City notified residents in a utility bill flyer that the EAB would likely make its way to Kirkwood eventually. Recently, the City was notified that the EAB has been found in St. Charles County.

EAB is an exotic, invasive, wood-boring insect that infests and kills native North American ash trees, both in forests and landscape plantings. The native range of EAB is eastern Russia, Northern China, Japan, and Korea. It was first identified in this country in Michigan in 2002. EAB was found in Missouri in 2008, south of Greenville at a Lake Wappapello campground. Since then, it has moved to 11 Missouri counties. Left unchecked, the EAB is fatal to all three of the state's native ash trees – blue, green, and white ash. Pumpkin ash, an ornamental tree, is also susceptible. Mountain ash and prickly ash have “ash” in their names, but they are not true ash trees and are not at risk.

Ash trees are popular in Missouri. They were a favorite choice to replace the American elms that were lost to Dutch elm disease, according to a press release from the University of Missouri Extension, Department of Forestry. The crown of a tree with an EAB infestation will most likely be dead within

two years of showing symptoms.

The City of Kirkwood began assessing and removing ash trees that were in poor health, and thus more susceptible to EAB, from the City's right-of-way and parks last year. Many of the sites where trees have been removed will be replanted with different kinds of trees. Kirkwood's Urban Forestry Commission welcomes suggestions for planting sites for new trees. A “Street Tree Planting Request” can be accessed on the City's Website under Boards and Commissions (in the right-hand gold navigation list) and Urban Forestry Commission. The tree assessment and removal will be a multi-year effort by Kirkwood's Street Department.

Residents who have ash trees on their properties can remove the trees and replant, or they may choose to protect their trees with available treatments. At this time, residents are strongly discouraged from planting new ash trees. Hank Stelzer, a state forestry specialist with the University of Missouri, suggests that homeowners first make an inventory of their ash trees with the following questions in mind. Do you have ash trees on your property? If so, how many? What is their general condition? Are you willing to invest time and money to protect your ash trees? Available treatments only protect the tree from attack. Once you stop treating a tree, it will once again be vulnerable. “If that tree is providing shade to your home, then I think the cost of losing that shade in terms of an increased energy bill justifies the expense of protecting the tree,” said Stelzer in the press release.



EMERALD ASH BORER: Photo courtesy of the University of Missouri Extension

If you decide to remove your ash tree and replace, Stelzer recommends choosing a native species that is adapted to growing in the St. Louis area. It should be planted in a place where it will not interfere with utility lines or building foundations. If you are replacing more than one ash tree, Stelzer suggests you vary your tree selections. “Just like diversifying your stock portfolio, planting a variety of species will help minimize future losses when the next invasive insect or disease shows up,” said Stelzer.

For more information, please visit the University of Missouri Extension Website at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/treepests/emeraldashborer.aspx>

A Message from the Mayor by Art McDonnell

Greetings! Summer has come, and that means lots of our citizens will be planning fun things to do, such as picnics, concerts in Kirkwood park and at Station Plaza, strolling through the Farmers' Market, having a delicious meal at one of our cafes, working in the garden, playing golf, having a drink on the front porch with friends, taking a walk, cooling off at the pool. The list is endless and pleasurable.

City Council recently approved the Kirkwood City Hall Enhancement Project, which will repair the crumbling steps and walkways in front of the building, remove old landscaping, add new wider steps and a new plaza, with seating walls, gardens, and professional lighting on the east and west sides that will

enhance the night-time beauty of this historic building. Full details will soon be available on the City Website.

Today, I signed a \$1.2 million bill to allow for a major water and street project to go forward on Clay Avenue and connecting side streets. The old wedge on North Clay will be adjusted to allow for two-way traffic. We are also planning to repave many other streets in the City this summer. I also signed a bill to purchase new safety coats, pants, and boots for our firefighters, at a cost of \$118,000. The old ones needed to be replaced to continue to keep our firefighters safe!

Thanks to City Council Member Nancy Luetzow, who introduced the legislation, a bill prohibiting texting while

Mayor McDonnell presented David and Gillian Kirkwood with a plaque proclaiming June 2 “James Pugh and David Kirkwood Day” in Kirkwood



driving for all ages passed its first reading by City Council on June 19. We have had a great, positive response to this bill. The final vote will be held on July 3.

Have a fun July. Come to the Kirkwood Fireworks on July 4 (details below). Take a walk through Downtown Kirkwood, smile often, and enjoy each day. See you around town. If you want to chat, please call me at 314-497-4036!

HELP OUR NEIGHBORS: KIRK CARE FOOD DRIVE

People go hungry year-round, but food pantries have a hard time filling their shelves during the summer months, when donations are typically much lower than during the holidays. Kirkwood Parks & Recreation is partnering this summer with KirkCare to collect food for the KirkCare food pantry. Please drop off food donations at the Kirkwood Pool or at the Ice Rink, from July 7 through 20. Here is what they need:

- Packaged, non-refrigerated items
- Canned or packaged meat, stew, pasta, fruit, cereal, vegetables
- NO refrigerated or frozen items, please

The National School Lunch Program, which provides free and reduced-price lunches and often breakfast for low-income school children, is on hiatus after school lets out, but kids still need to eat. Please consider making a donation. Thank you.

MAKING MUSIC 2014 IN KIRKWOOD PARK JULY SCHEDULE

- **July 12: Funky Butt Brass Band.** Read more about them at: www.funkybuttbrassband.com.
- **July 26: One More Time: A Tribute to Johnny Cash** Read more about them at: www.jcashtribute.com.

KIRKWOOD WATER “2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT” AVAILABLE NOW

The Kirkwood Water “2013 Water Quality Report” is currently available for viewing and downloading on the City Website at <http://www.kirkwoodmo.org/2013MO6010430>. Anyone with questions should call 314-822-5936.



WHAT'S COMING UP IN KIRKWOOD

• **Dive-In Movie TONIGHT (Friday, June 27):** Gather the kids and come enjoy a family-friendly movie from the comfort of the leisure pool and deck at the Kirkwood Aquatic Center. Doors open at 8 p.m. Movie starts at 8:30 p.m. Residents/nonresidents with ID card, \$3 each; all others \$5 each. Season pass holders are free. Concessions available.

• **Kirkwood Community Freedom Festival and Fireworks:** This year's entertainment, Fanfare, takes the stage at 7 p.m., in Kirkwood Park. Fireworks start at dusk. Tropical Moose will be open at the park concession stand, and refreshments will also be available from Kirkwood Lions and multiple food trucks. TRAFFIC NOTE: West Adams will be closed between Geyer and Couch from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., due to the large volume of pedestrian traffic.

• **City Offices Closed:** City Hall and most City offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. The Ice Rink and Community Center office will be closed. Pool hours on the holiday are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sanitation will be unaffected.

• **Art at the Station:** The Kirkwood Area Arts Council will feature the paper cutting work of Stephen Davis, June 30 through August 4. Please join us for his opening reception on Thursday, July 3, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Kirkwood Train Station, 110 W. Argonne at S. Kirkwood Rd. Exhibits and receptions are free and open to the public. Art may be viewed when the station is open for passengers.

• **Family Night at the Pool:** Friday, July 11, 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. Bring the whole family for an evening of swimming under the stars at the Kirkwood Aquatic Center. Music, games, and fun! Residents and nonresidents with ID cards are \$3 each; all others \$5 each. Season pass holders are free.

• **Blood Drive in Downtown Kirkwood:** Wednesday, July 16, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sponsored by City of Kirkwood and Kirkwood Fire Department. The Blood Drive van will be located in the parking lot just west of the Kirkwood Train Station. To schedule your appointment, visit: www.bloodcenterIMPACT.org (use sponsor code 10356.) A link is available on the City Website, or call 314-822-5894.

“HOTDOG DAYZ OF JULY”

- July 11: Monfort Park, corner of Briargate and Barbary Lane
- July 18: Loewnau Park, corner of Oakland and Sappington
- July 25: Fillmore Park, corner of Fillmore and Clinton

50 TREES PROGRAM CALLS FOR SITE NOMINATIONS FOR 2014

The organizers of the “50 Trees” street-tree planting program are requesting the help of Kirkwood residents to nominate street-tree planting sites for Fall 2014. Plans call for about 65 trees to be planted in November 2014, bringing the five-year total to nearly 350 trees planted by Kirkwood volunteers. Nominated sites must meet certain requirements. Please visit the home page of the City's Website for full details and a nomination form.

— Kirkwood Meetings Calendar —

- 7/2 Planning/Zoning, 7pm
- 7/3 City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
- 7/7 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 7/9 Human Rights Commission, 6:30pm
- 7/9 Landmarks Commission, 6:30pm
- 7/10 Council Work Session, 7am
- 7/14 Board of Adjustment, 7pm
- 7/15 Arts Commission, 5:30pm
- 7/16 Library Board, 5:30pm, at Library
- 7/16 Planning/Zoning, 7pm
- 7/17 City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
- 7/21 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 7/21 Park Board, 7pm, Community Ctr
- 7/22 Urban Forestry, 7pm
- 7/23 Greentree, 7pm, Community Ctr

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:** 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.