



EYE ON KIRKWOOD

November 28, 2014 | www.kirkwoodmo.org

WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

HOW THINGS WORK IN CITY GOVERNMENT

Budget Process: The budget development process in Kirkwood, which is winding down this month, begins in August of each year and includes input and review by a Council-appointed Citizens' Finance Committee (CFC). City department heads begin to review their current-year budget expenditures in August. They create a proposed budget for their department, which they submit to the Finance Director in September. The CFC begins meeting in September and continues through December, discussing budget priorities with City department heads, before sharing their thoughts and recommendations with City Council. Council meets with the CFC in a January Work Session to analyze and discuss the Committee's recommendations. The Council then spends January and February in discussions before a final budget is approved in March of each year. It's a deliberate, detailed process, but it ensures that City funds are spent efficiently and wisely.

How a Bill Becomes a Law: The City of Kirkwood Code of Ordinances is where all City laws are found. A copy of the Code can be found on the City Website. All laws, new and revised, end up in the Code. Consideration of a new or revised law can be initiated by City Council or City staff. Some

new or revised laws come about because of a change in state law. The bill starts out in the City Clerk's office where it is drafted and included in City Council meeting packets. The bill goes before City Council twice for consideration – the first and second readings. The first and second readings take place at two separate meetings. At the first reading, Council typically discusses the topic and then votes yes or no in a voice vote or show-of-hands vote as a group. If the bill passes the first reading, it comes back to Council for a second and final reading at the next meeting. There may be additional discussion during the second reading, and the bill requires a roll call vote (by individual) before it can be passed. A bill remains a bill until it is approved, at which time it becomes an ordinance. Each ordinance will have a bill number and, once approved, an ordinance number.

Citizen Comments: City Council meetings are legislative sessions. Just as with state and federal legislative sessions, citizens are not allowed to comment during this process. However, any citizen with a comment on any ordinance, or on any other issue they want to bring before the City Council, can do so during "Public Comments," which is part of every Kirkwood City Council meeting (typically



occurring at the beginning of each meeting). Some bills require public hearings, such as zoning code issues, and citizens are invited to speak during the comments section of the public hearing. Citizens are also encouraged to express their opinions to Council members by phone or email. Contact information for all Council members is available on the City Website at www.kirkwoodmo.org. Use the "Contact Us" button at the top of the page to access contact information for Council and staff. Current Council members and their City email addresses are:

- Arthur McDonnell (mayor): mcdonnaj@kirkwoodmo.org
- Paul Ward (mayor pro-tem): wardpw@kirkwoodmo.org
- Gerry Biedenstien: biedengj@kirkwoodmo.org
- Gina Jaksetic: jaksetgm@kirkwoodmo.org
- Bob Sears: searsjr@kirkwoodmo.org
- Nancy Luetzow: luetzong@kirkwoodmo.org
- Tim Griffin: griffite@kirkwoodmo.org

A Message from the Mayor by Art McDonnell

Go Pioneers! Do you like to run? Come on out for the Kirkwood Webster Turkey Day Run! It starts at the Kirkwood Farmers' Market on Thanksgiving morning at 7:30 a.m., and if you didn't register in advance, you can do so on the morning of the race. I will see you there. Look for me at the end of the runners in the white shorts. Just kidding. Actually, I will be shooting the starting gun and wishing all a good, fun time. If you're not a runner, you can come out and help celebrate current and former Kirkwood football players at the annual football breakfast at Kirkwood High School, in the lunch room, starting at 8:00 a.m. Come send off the Kirkwood Football team to victory in the annual Turkey Day Game, and hear some great stories from former players.

When Thanksgiving is deliciously over, it is time to shop.

Start in Kirkwood. Please support Small Business Week and your community. Kirkwood stores are stocked with unusual gift items, and you can also buy gift cards from the Downtown Business District office. They are located at 130 E. Jefferson, or call 822-0084.

New Businesses! Strange Donuts is now open in Kirkwood on E. Argonne. McDonald's has just re-opened their restaurant in a new building on South Kirkwood. The new Jimmy Johns is now open across from Andy's Frozen Custard. Jason's Deli is open in the shopping center near Hobby Lobby on Kirkwood Road. Sola Salon is ready to open on December 2 in Station Plaza. Sammy Soaps is now open on Argonne, and the new BreadCo building is open on the Schnucks parking lot on Manchester. Visit them all!

Mayor McDonnell (center) works with some young volunteers to plant the new sugarberry tree in Kirkwood Park. (See story below.)



This is the time of year when we remember those in need. Please give to Kirk Care, the Post-Dispatch 100 Neediest, the Toys for Tots Drive sponsored by the Kirkwood Fire Department, or any of the many organizations collecting for holiday donations. A gift of kindness is always appropriate. Happy Holidays! Enjoy your family and friends. Try some of your family's holiday recipes, go Christmas caroling, stand under the mistletoe, call an old friend, and don't get stressed out. I wish the best to you all. See you around Kirkwood. If you want to chat, please call me at 314-497-4036.

FIRE DEPARTMENT INVITES YOU TO STUFF THE AMBULANCE... WITH TOYS!

The Kirkwood Fire Department and the Magic House will team up on Saturday, December 13, to "Stuff the Ambulance" full of toys (new, unwrapped), for the annual Toys-for-Tots toy drive sponsored each year by the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation. The toy drive will run from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at the Magic House, 516 S. Kirkwood Road. However, if you can't make that date, bring your toy donations to: Kirkwood Fire House 2, 11804 Big Bend, anytime between now and December 13. Thank you.



WINTER FIREWORKS FESTIVAL IN DOWNTOWN KIRKWOOD DECEMBER 27

Bring the whole family to Downtown Kirkwood on 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. 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. [Bad Weather Date: December 28]

CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

City Hall and most City offices will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28. There will be no sanitation collection on Thanksgiving. Thursday routes will be collected on Friday. The Community Center will be closed on both Thanksgiving and the day after but will be open Saturday morning, November 29. The Ice Rink will be closed on Thanksgiving but will be open the rest of the weekend. Please check the City Website for the full public skating schedule: kirkwoodmo.org/IceRink.

COMING UP IN KIRKWOOD

- December 2: FREE Pickleball Clinic, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., at the Community Center. Equipment provided. Indoor Pickleball drop-in sessions start December 4. Drop-in fee: \$2/residents, \$3/nonresidents.
- December 6: Forum on Race and Justice. Sponsored by the Kirkwood Human Rights Commission and the Committee for Understanding and Hope (CFUH), the forum will involve a dialogue and discussion group on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., at Kirkwood Baptist Church, 211 N. Woodlawn Avenue. The topic will be "Race and Justice." The opening speaker will be Willis Johnston, Pastor of Wellspring United Methodist Church in Ferguson. After the opening session, attendees will break out into facilitated dialogue circles. The public is invited to attend.
- December 9: The quarterly meeting of the Kirkwood Historical Society will take place on Tuesday, December 9, at Mudd's Grove, corner of Harrison and Argonne Avenues. The featured speaker will be June Nystrom, who will give a Swedish Christmas presentation. Swedish Christmas treats will be served. The meeting is free and open to the public.
- December 13: The Swedish Council presents the Santa Lucia Christmas Pageant, at 2:00 p.m., at the Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road.
- December 20 and 21: Dance Center of Kirkwood presents "The Nutcracker" ballet at the Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Kirkwood Road. December 20 and 21, 1:00 and 6:00 p.m. For ticket information, call 314-821-6663.

COUNCIL MEETING TIMES IN JANUARY WILL CHANGE SLIGHTLY DUE TO HOLIDAY

Due to the New Year's holiday, Kirkwood City Council will meet on January 8 and 15, rather than their typical 1st and 3rd Thursday schedule, in January only. The formal meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. on both dates. Information on work sessions will be in the next issue of Eye on Kirkwood and can be viewed on the City's Website calendar.

SKATE WITH SANTA/CHRISTMAS ICE SHOW

Skate with Santa on Saturday, December 20, at the Kirkwood Ice Rink, during the public session from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. Normal admission policies and prices apply. Then stay for the: FREE Christmas Show at 4:15 p.m. The January-February skating-lesson session begins January 5. Call 822-5855 for information.

CITY OF KIRKWOOD WILL CONDUCT COMMUNITY SURVEY

The City has contracted with ETC Institute to perform a statistically valid community survey, which will be mailed to a random sample of Kirkwood residents beginning the end of November. Those residents who receive the survey are encouraged to fill it out and return it in a pre-addressed, stamped envelope. Residents can also access the survey on the Internet, via instructions provided with the survey. Some residents may receive a phone call reminding them to complete the survey. All responses will remain confidential, and the City will not be informed about which residents received or complete surveys. Questions will primarily deal with the level of satisfaction residents have with City services, such as police, fire, parks, and utilities. ETC will compile results and present to City Council in January 2014. For any questions about the survey, please contact Georgia Ragland, assistant chief administrative officer, at 314-822-5801, or by email: ragLangL@kirkwoodmo.org.



Kirkwood Meetings Calendar

12/1	Architectural Review Board, 7pm
12/3	Planning/Zoning Commission, 7pm
12/4	City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
12/5	Citizens' Finance Committee, 7am
12/8	Board of Adjustment, 7pm
12/9	Human Rights Commission, 6:30pm
12/10	Landmarks Commission, 6:30pm
12/10	Pedestrian-Bike Committee, 7pm
12/11	Council Work Session, 7am
12/12	Citizens' Finance Committee, 7am
12/15	Park Board, 7pm, Community Center
12/15	Architectural Review Board, 7pm
12/16	Arts Commission, 5:30pm
12/18	City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
12/19	Citizens' Finance Committee, 7am

Note: The Library Board and Urban Forestry Commission do not meet in December.

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 Biedenstien, 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.

- PAID ADVERTISEMENT -