



EYE ON KIRKWOOD

May 30, 2014 | www.kirkwoodmo.org

WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

WALKER LAKE: COMING INTO ITS OWN

Walker Lake, in Kirkwood Park, was originally constructed in 1990, with funds generously donated by Earl and Myrtle Walker. Over the years, the Walkers also donated to a variety of other causes and projects in Kirkwood, including Walker Park and facilities at the YMCA and Kirkwood High School, among others.

To build the dam and create the lake, one house was acquired and demolished, and its occupant relocated to a neighboring house with a lifetime lease. The original lake contained an island, with a bridge leading to it, and was built along the lines of an old ravine that had traversed the park. The pair of bronze turtles that found a home on the island had also been donated by the Walkers. The turtles now live on the peninsula.

In the 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan it was recognized that Walker Lake needed a facelift to become a more beautiful and functional feature of the park. In the fall of 2010 work started on Phases 1 and 2 of the proposed lake improvements.

HANDBALL COURTS DEDICATED

Kirkwood Parks & Recreation Director Murray Pounds speaks at the May 10 dedication of the Handball Courts in the Kirkwood Park Courts Complex. A plaque was unveiled that honored the memory of Neal Losse, an avid handball player whose family made a significant contribution to the development of the two new handball courts.

Left to right behind Murray: Park Board Chair Alan Hopefl, Matt Losse, Sarah Losse, Mayor Art McDonnell.

These improvements included adding stone outcroppings at the lake's edge, rebuilding the bridge leading from the Community Center parking lot into the park, reconfiguring the island into a peninsula, hauling out sediment from the lake bottom, adding a trash filtering system, and adding plantings all along the lake edge.

In the Fall of 2012, Phase 3 of the Walker Lake improvement project began. This phase included removing the old handball courts, adding rain gardens and bio-retention cells, and rebuilding the perimeter walking path around the lake to make it ADA compliant. Lighting was also added to the path at this time. New handball courts were built over the past winter in the tennis court complex, along with a new tennis pro shop, and those were completed and dedicated this past month (see photo).

The final phase of the redevelopment of Walker Lake is set to occur this fall, when the concrete channel that leads from Geyer Road to the lake will be removed and replaced by a more



natural stream system. A grant from the Municipal Park Grant Committee will pay for a significant portion of the project, with additional financial assistance expected from the Missouri Department of Conservation.

AWARD-WINNING DESIGN

Planning Design Studio, the firm that worked on the Walker Lake project, received an Honor Award from the St. Louis Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects this past February. The award in the category, for general landscape architecture design, recognizes the use of cutting edge methods of storm water control used throughout the project, in addition to the enhancements of the lake's beauty and functionality. The award honored the first three phases of the Walker Lake project, including control of storm water entering the lake, edge conditions, making the perimeter path ADA compliant, removing trash from the lake, and adding plantings in and around the lake.



A Message from the Mayor by Art McDonnell

Greetings! May is about to turn into June, and school will be out, which means lots of happy children filling our neighborhoods, riding bikes, playing baseball, having water gun fights, playing hide and seek, and...reading a good book from the Kirkwood Public Library. Summer is a magical and fun time for school-age children. For adults, it's a time to be extra careful on the roads, to slow down and watch when you turn the corner. Stop at the lemonade stands, help the young business entrepreneurs. Attend a baseball game, or listen to the game on the radio, like the old days... take a walk around Walker Lake, have your children attend one of the fun camps offered by the Parks Department, and enjoy daylight savings time.

Walk through downtown Kirkwood, visit one of our special restaurants, get an ice cream cone, talk to your neighbors, invite them over for a drink – what an exciting time to be in Kirkwood!

Russ Hawes, the new Chief Administrative Officer for Kirkwood, has been on the job for two weeks now, and already he is very busy. But he is thrilled to be here and thinks Kirkwood is the perfect place. And it is!

There's lots of stuff coming up in June – all the summer concert series are starting, the pool is open, Father's Day will be here soon, and the Kirkwood family – descendants of the founder of our City – are coming to visit. I'll see you around town! If you want to chat, please call me at 314-497-4036!

NEW BIKE RACKS: Kirkwood Rotary Club members, from left, Tom Riggs; Pete Broeder, current club president; Kirkwood Mayor Art McDonnell, and Dave Jayne pose with one of the four bike racks recently installed around the City by the Rotary Club. This one is located near the concession stand in Kirkwood Park. There is another by the new Tennis Pro Shop in the Park and two more downtown at the Kirkwood Farmers' Market. Let's Ride!!



KIRKWOOD ONCE AGAIN HOSTS "HOTDOG DAYZ OF SUMMER" IN THE PARKS

The Kirkwood Police and Parks & Recreation Departments are once again teaming up to reach out to Kirkwood and Oakland children on Fridays over the summer. Starting June 20 and running through July 25, our staff will cook up some hotdogs and have some fun games ready to play with the kids. This is a great way for children to interact with the Police on a positive basis and for the children to learn they can call on the Police when or if they need help. All Hotdog Dayz run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dates and locations as follows (this schedule is subject to change due to weather, and there will be no Hotdog Dayz on July 4):

- June 20:** Meacham Memorial Park, corner of Meacham and Orleans
- June 27:** Walker Park, corner of Washington and Taylor
- July 11:** Monfort Park, corner of Briargate and Barberry Lane
- July 18:** Loewnau Park, corner of Oakland and Sappington
- July 25:** Fillmore Park, corner of Fillmore and Clinton

WHAT'S COMING UP IN KIRKWOOD

• **National Train Day 2014:** Saturday, May 31, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Downtown Kirkwood Amtrak Station. Join us for this annual Open House at the Station, featuring the Kirkwood Police and Fire departments, Union Pacific Railroad Police Special Agents, the National Museum of Transport, the Morse Telegraph Club, Amtrak, the Big Bend Model Railroad Club, the National Railway Historical Society, and more! Live music after 10am. Food will be available from the Kirkwood Optimists.

• **Meet the Kirkwoods!** On Monday, June 2, at 12:30 p.m., the community is invited to meet David and Gillian Kirkwood, from Scotland, at the Kirkwood Train Station. David is the great, great-grandson of a cousin of James Pugh Kirkwood, the founder of the City of Kirkwood. Meet the Kirkwoods! is free,

DOWNTOWN SUMMER CONCERT SERIES BEGINS JUNE 5

Music will be in the air in Downtown Kirkwood again this summer. Downtown Kirkwood's Summer Concert Series begins Thursday, June 5, and continues on most Thursday evenings throughout the summer. This will be the tenth season of this popular concert series. Local businesses sponsor bands that perform at Kirkwood Station Plaza from 6:30-9:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Downtown Kirkwood Special Business District organizes the June concerts. Bring a chair and enjoy! Here's the June schedule:

- June 5:** The Ralph Butler Band. Sponsored by Downtown Kirkwood SBD, Riggs Construction & Design, and Summit Produce & Plants
- June 12:** Rosewood. Sponsored by Workman Group, Great Harvest Bread Company, and Checkered Cottage
- June 19:** Fair Warning. Sponsored by The Haiti Orphan Project, an initiative of The Keane Insurance Group
- June 26:** Soulard Blues Band. Sponsored by STL Real Estate, Spencer's Grill, and One 19 North.

open to the public, and hosted by the Kirkwood Historical Society. There will be bagpipers.

• **Art at the Station:** The Kirkwood Area Arts Council will feature the oil paintings of Elaine Harris through June 30. Please join us for her opening reception on Thursday, June 5, 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.

• **Strawberry Festival.** The Kirkwood Historical Society invites you to its annual Strawberry Festival on Tuesday, June 10, at Mudd's Grove, on the corner of Harrison and Argonne. They will serve hotdogs and ice cream with strawberries. This event is free and open to the public.

MAKING MUSIC 2014 – SUMMER CONCERT SERIES IN KIRKWOOD PARK

June 14: St. Louis Wind Symphony. SLWS is one of the Midwest's premier concert band organizations. This 65-member ensemble is comprised of music educators and professionals from the greater St. Louis region. The ensemble's musical versatility is reflected in its extensive repertoire, which embraces the classical wind literature, new compositions, patriotic showpieces and marches, Broadway show tunes, jazz, holiday music, and more. Performances are tailored to entice, entertain, and educate our audiences. To read more about them, visit their Website at www.stlwindsym.org.

June 28: Gateway City Big Band. This 17-piece dance band with two vocalists has been entertaining audiences in the St. Louis area and beyond since 1966. Read more about them at: www.gatewaycitybigband.com.

— Kirkwood Meetings Calendar —

- 6/2 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 6/4 Planning/Zoning, 7pm
- 6/5 City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
- 6/9 Board of Adjustment, 7pm
- 6/10 Human Rights Commission, 6:30pm
- 6/11 Landmarks Commission, 6:30pm
- 6/12 Council Work Session, 7am
- 6/16 Park Board, 7pm, Community Ctr
- 6/16 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 6/17 Arts Commission, 5:30pm
- 6/18 Library Board, 5:30pm, at Library
- 6/18 Planning/Zoning, 7pm
- 6/19 City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
- 6/24 Urban Forestry, 7pm
- 6/25 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.