



EYE ON KIRKWOOD

January 30, 2015 | www.kirkwoodmo.org

WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

AMTRAK AND MODOT RECOGNIZE KIRKWOOD TRAIN STATION AND VOLUNTEERS FOR EXEMPLARY CUSTOMER SERVICE



The Missouri Department of Transportation has recognized the Kirkwood Train Station and its volunteers for exemplary customer service in 2014 in a letter to Station Manager Bill Burckhalter. Nationwide, all Amtrak train stations compile and report on customer satisfaction scores for Amtrak stations. For 2014, the Kirkwood Train Station was rated Number 1 in "overall station experience."

The Station received a 95 percent score for overall station experience. Customers rated the volunteer staff "high" in all categories, including friendliness and helpfulness of station personnel, personal safety at the station, the ease of the train

boarding process, the overall cleanliness of the station, and the condition of the platform and boarding area. *Passengers wait to board an Amtrak train at the Kirkwood Train Station. Photo by Margy Terpstra.*

boarded process, the overall cleanliness of the station, and the condition of the platform and boarding area.

Kristi Jamison, Railroad Operations Manager for MoDOT, wrote a letter of congratulations to the City. "I want to congratulate and thank you and all the wonderful volunteers at the Kirkwood Station," she said. "This is truly a testament to the great work and the dedication you and the rest of the volunteers exhibit to customers every day, as well as the wonderful community outreach that occurs at and around the station."

A Message from the Mayor by Art McDonnell

Greetings. In this month's photo, I am standing by Kevin Reiter, the security officer for City Hall. When you come in the door of Kirkwood City Hall, Kevin will give you a very happy hello, along with a smile, and ask how he can help you. He expresses the attitude and commitment of all Kirkwood City employees. They believe in friendly customer service. Everyone is important. Kirkwood citizens and all visitors to Kirkwood count.

The public viewing sessions for two concepts for the Kirkwood Community Center were well attended, and the comments will be considered by the committee and the designers. The City Council will hold a work session in February to consider the concepts and the next steps forward. The plans are very exciting and reflect the results from the citizen survey sent out last year.

In February, City Council will work on the upcoming fiscal year budget, consider the Trailnet Bike/Walk Plan for Kirkwood, and consider repair options for the Kirkwood Train Station. A special committee of citizens and business people will start work to develop a Comprehensive Plan for Kirkwood's future. We welcome everyone to attend the work sessions and the formal City Council meetings. Check the City's Website for dates and agendas or call 822-5802.

The improvements at City Hall will be finished soon. The contractor just needs a few more warm days. Spring will also bring forth the variety of new beautiful trees and plants surrounding our historic City Hall. The work on the estuary feeding Walker Lake is in full swing (see story below) and is also dependent on warmer weather. Many new homes and additions to

Mayor McDonnell (right) and City Hall Security Officer Kevin Reiter at City Hall.



established homes are moving along around the community. The Architectural Review Board hears more than 10 cases each meeting. They are very busy, and we appreciate their commitment to Kirkwood and to the look of Kirkwood.

Have a fun February. Don't forget your Valentine. Enjoy the beautiful sunsets. Make a delicious soup. Make sure your football is properly inflated. Eat some cherry pie. Do something good for someone else. See you around Kirkwood. If you wish to chat, call 314-497-4036.

KIRKWOOD WINS OUTSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD

The City of Kirkwood was recognized this year by the East-West Gateway Council of Governments for its efforts in and support of the 2014 Operation Clean Stream project. The City received the "2014 Outstanding Local Government Achievement Award for Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction" at a ceremony in November. City personnel stepped in and supported this year's clean-up efforts after the National Guard was unable to do so. Public Works and Parks' employees provided equipment to remove debris from the riverbanks as volunteers brought in what they had collected, provided security and access to park facilities at Greentree Park, and helped in a variety of other ways. The City was nominated for the award by the Open Space Council, which sponsors and runs Operation Clean Stream each year.

KIRKWOOD WOMEN'S TENNIS ASSOCIATION SEEKS PLAYERS

The Kirkwood Women's Tennis Association is currently screening players at all levels of ability for regular AND substitute positions for their 2015 season. Doubles matches are played weekly at the courts in Kirkwood Park from May through September at a cost of \$65.00 for the entire season. There is no cost for substitute players. For more information or to set up a screening, please contact Pam Henze at 314-406-6803 or pamhenze@gmail.com.

WALKER LAKE CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES WITH PHASE 4

The construction of the Walker Lake Phase 4 project in Kirkwood Park kicked off on Monday, January 19. The contractor for the project, Two Alpha, hit the ground running, taking advantage of the unseasonably warm and dry weather conditions. Already, Two Alpha has started tearing out the walls of the concrete channel, or swale, that leads from Geyer Road to Walker Lake. Materials are on site, including the ledge rock that will form the new channel walls. The park staff has been actively involved in the project: Setting up tree protection fencing and temporarily striping the central entrance between the pool and Reim Theatre, as the temporary entrance into the Community Center parking lot. The temporary striping will allow for two-way traffic in this area to compensate for the closure of the north drive during the duration of the project. The project is expected to last 100 to 120 days, unless there are weather-related delays.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED ON WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

City Hall and most City offices will be closed on Washington's Birthday/Presidents' Day on Monday, February 16. Sanitation will be collected normally that week. The Community Center office will be open, and there will be open skating sessions at the Ice Rink. Visit Kirkwoodmo.org/IceRink for a full schedule.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES 2015 ESSAY AND ARTS CONTESTS

The Kirkwood Human Rights Commission (HRC) will once again hold an Essay Contest for Kirkwood high school students who are juniors during the 2014-2015 school year. The contest is open to all 11th-grade students enrolled at Kirkwood High School, Vianney High School, or Ursuline Academy, all 11th-grade Kirkwood residents enrolled elsewhere, and all 11th-grade home-schooled students residing in Kirkwood. This year's essay topic is: What are the practical steps to improve racial justice?

Essays will be judged on thematic maturity, content, and communication. The deadline to submit essays is 4:00 p.m., on Friday, February 20, 2015. For full essay rules and guidelines, please visit the City Website, on the home page or the HRC page, and click on the press release.

Art Show and Competition: HRC will also host an Art Show and Competition, in partnership with Robinson Elementary School and the Kirkwood School District. This will be a juried art competition that is open to all students in the Kirkwood community, grades 4 through 12. The theme for the Art Show will be "My Community." Work submitted should be the artist's interpretation of his or her community. The deadline to register is Friday, February 20. Full details and a registration form are available on the City's Website, on the home page and on the HRC page, at www.kirkwoodmo.org.

ARTS COMMISSION SEEKS PEOPLE WHO LOVE ART

The Kirkwood Arts Commission is looking for people who love art and would like to be involved in arts-related activities in Kirkwood. They currently have three specific needs: 1) Most immediately, help is needed with Art at the Station. This involves approximately two to three hours per month, helping with hanging art work and/or help with setting up and hosting the artist receptions on the first Thursday of the month. 2) Over the summer months, three to four ushers are needed to help with the "Making Music" concert series in Kirkwood Park. This involves a couple of hours at each concert - two concerts in June, two in July, and two in August, on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. 3) Finally, volunteers are also needed to serve on a sub-committee involved in developing a public art program for the City. This is a longer commitment. The Commission needs three to four individuals for this project. An initial meeting to organize will be scheduled between late February and the middle of March. Anyone interested and available or who would like to know more, please send an email to Arts@KirkwoodMO.org, or call 314-822-5894. Thank you.



RECREATION DATES & DEADLINES COMING UP

The spring and summer Parks & Recreation Program Guides were mailed out this week.

- Registration for all spring and summer programs opens February 2. This includes aquatic registrations and pool passes and ID Cards.
- Camp Kirkwood resident registration opens February 11.
- Registration opens this month for adult volleyball and adult summer softball teams.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN FEBRUARY?

- **February 2:** Friends of the Kirkwood Historical Society meeting, 10:00 a.m., at Mudd's Grove, corner of Harrison and Argonne. The featured speaker will be Barb Albrecht, with a presentation on "Writing Your Own Book." The meeting is free and open to the public.
- **February 2 through March 2:** Art at the Station will feature the watercolor work of Sharon Wyman at the Kirkwood Train Station, 110 W. Argonne. The opening reception will be February 5, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Exhibits and receptions are free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated. Art may be viewed when the Station is open for passengers.
- **February 26:** Kirkwood Police Pancake Supper, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m., at Kirkwood High School. Tickets are \$4.00 and are available at the Police Department, 131 W. Madison, at City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, and at the door. "All the pancakes you can eat" plus sausage, eggs, coffee, milk, applesauce. No carry-outs, please.



Kirkwood Meetings Calendar

- 2/2 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 2/4 Planning/Zoning Commission, 7pm
- 2/5 City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
- 2/9 Board of Adjustment, 7pm
- 2/10 Human Rights Commission, 6:30pm
- 2/11 Landmarks Commission, 6:30pm
- 2/12 Council Work Session, 7am
- 2/16 CITY OFFICES CLOSED
- 2/17 Arts Commission, 5:30pm
- 2/17 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 2/18 Library Board, 5:30pm at Library
- 2/18 Planning/Zoning Commission, 7pm
- 2/19 City Council 7pm, WS 6pm
- 2/23 Park Board, 7pm, Community Center
- 2/24 Urban Forestry, 7pm
- 2/25 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.

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.