



EYE ON KIRKWOOD

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WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®



A Message from the Mayor by Art McDonnell

The office of Mayor of Kirkwood is a special honor and opportunity that I have been privileged to hold for these last eight years. It is sacred because I have had the responsibility of representing you and your ideas and visions for an exceptional and unique community that is Kirkwood.

I have tried never to lose sight of my duty to you and your children, your neighborhoods, your business community, and the public services the Kirkwood government brings you. Kirkwood shines like a star in St. Louis

County and is the envy of many.

You, the wonderful citizens of Kirkwood, are the reason Kirkwood is what it is. What a thrill it has been to work for you and be your ambassador. Listed below are just some of the accomplishments we have achieved over these last eight years. Thank you and bless you all. I will see you around Kirkwood. If you wish to chat, call me at 314-497-4036.

EIGHT YEARS IN KIRKWOOD: WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER

2008

- A year of coming together.
- Phase 2 of Kirkwood Park's renovations was completed, including the replacement of the concession stand and restroom with new facilities, a new playground, and improvements to the Lions' Amphitheatre.

2009

- Remembrance Ceremony: Hundreds of people from all over the region gathered on February 7, 2009, to mark the one year anniversary of the shootings at Kirkwood City Hall and to remember the six people who gave their lives in service to the City.
- Historic Kirkwood City Hall Renovated: After a year of planning, work began in early spring on the renovation of the historic building and was completed in early fall 2009.



- The Downtown Kirkwood Business District was placed on the National Historic Register.
- The City's credit rating was upgraded by Moody's Investors' Service from Aa3 to Aa2
- Rehabilitation of historic Quinette Cemetery was completed, and the cemetery was formally dedicated.
- Kirkwood Park's Phase 3 Renovations were completed, including rebuilding of the Lions' Pavilion and addition of the Sugar Creek Ridge pavilion and restroom facility.



2010

- The Memorial Walkway was dedicated.
- A new state-of-the-art maintenance facility opened in Kirkwood park, housing the park maintenance division staff and equipment.



- The newly restructured Human Rights Commission was launched.

2011

- After years of planning, the City launched its new Curbside Recycling service. New trucks were purchased. Recycling carts were purchased and distributed. Within six months, more than 60 percent of residents were actively participating in the City's single-stream recycling program.



- The Craig Woods Subdivision Historic District was established.
- Kirkwood Electric Received its first of three RP3 awards for reliable and safe electric service delivery.
- Renovation of the tennis courts in Kirkwood Park was completed, and eight new state-of-the-art, post-tensioned concrete courts opened, in a cooperative project between the City and the Kirkwood School District.



- The City launched a new, redesigned Website at www.kirkwoodmo.org.



- A new water tower was built on Rose Hill Avenue, replacing the older one that was later torn down



- The Kirkwood Human Rights Commission held its first-ever Symposium on Diversity.

2012

- The Parks and Recreation Department opened Avery Park, the newest entry in the City's 14-park system.



- Kirkwood Fire Department added Emergency Medical Dispatching to its services. Medical Dispatching is a system of evaluating and prioritizing medical 911 requests for assistance. It is now considered the norm both nationally and internationally.
- The Fourth of July Fireworks were canceled due to severe heat and drought conditions.
- The City established a volunteer program for parks – the Kirkwood Parks Assistance Corps (KPAC).
- The Prairie State Energy Generating Campus began delivering power to Kirkwood Electric customers.
- Kirkwood was named a "Train Town USA" by the Union Pacific Railroad.
- The City held its first-ever Winter Fireworks in December.

2013

- The City Celebrated TEN years of ownership of the historic downtown Kirkwood Train Station and ten years of an all-volunteer staff at the Station.
- Kirkwood's Long-time Chief Administrative Officer Mike Brown retired.
- The Walker Lake Phase 3 project was completed, and the path around Walker Lake in Kirkwood Park was rebuilt and new landscape completed.
- New athletic field lights were installed in Kirkwood Park on Baseball Diamond 4.

2014

- The City passed an anti-texting ordinance.
- New Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes was hired.
- The City Hall Façade Enhancement construction project, involving tuckpointing, painting, and new sidewalks and steps on the west side of City Hall, was begun.
- Kirkwood Park Phase 4 Renovations were completed, including a new racquet sports center building, racquetball/handball courts, and pickleball court facility.
- The Kirkwood Arts Commission was established to coordinate and promote arts programming, such as Art at the Station and the Making Music summer concert series.
- The City launched a committee to plan for the renovation and future needs of the historic downtown Train Station.

2015

- The residents of Kirkwood said "YES" to the Fire/EMS Sales Tax, which passed in April and allowed the City to add seven new firefighter/paramedics.



- The City hosted the start of the Great Race and its very first Route 66 Festival in Downtown Kirkwood. Plans are underway to hold another Route 66 Festival in 2017.
- The City held a series of Community Day events in City parks.
- Work was finished on Walker Lake Phase 4, replacing a 25-year-old concrete channel leading to the lake, with a naturalized channel.
- New businesses began development on the northern end of Kirkwood Road at Manchester, accompanied by renovations of existing businesses and buildings, for a fresher, more modern entrance to the City on that end.
- The City embarked on a Comprehensive Planning Initiative called EnVision2035 and began the planning process to renovate the Kirkwood Community Center and add a Performing Arts Center.



2016

- The City survived massive flooding in two of its parks, with plans to rebuild already under development.
- Kirkwood Electric dedicated the new Alfred Avenue Substation, which was part of a series of upgrades over several years intended to increase capacity, update infrastructure, and improve reliability.
- City Council completed its fiscal planning and approved a new budget for 2016-2017. The future is on the doorstep.



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