



# EYE ON KIRKWOOD

May 27, 2016 | [www.kirkwoodmo.org](http://www.kirkwoodmo.org)

WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

## KIRKWOOD EMPLOYEES CONTINUE TO SHATTER SAFETY RECORDS AND SAVE THE CITY MONEY



A little more than a decade ago, employee injuries and their costs were a growing concern for the City. Many City employees work in areas where the risk for injury is never completely gone, especially electric linemen, police officers, and firefighters, but also sanitation workers, who typically have the worst safety records nationwide of all municipal employees. As the City's safety record worsened, insurance costs of course were on the upswing.

City Council and City Administration decided something needed to be done. State law allows municipalities to insure themselves ("self-insure") up to a certain level, carrying extra insurance for larger claims above that level. However, self-insurance requires the City to meet strict safety guidelines as required by the State's Division of Workers Compensation. This involves establishing policies and procedures to reduce injuries, mitigate risk, and keep employees safe on the job. The City therefore established a Safety Program and hired a Safety Manager, and in June 2006, Kirkwood was approved by the State to become self-insured.

Then tragedy struck when both employees and elected officials were killed in a City Council meeting on February 7, 2008. In addition to the grief and trauma experienced by employees and residents, the City's safety rating skyrocketed to 1.58 from 1.28 in 2010 as a result of the workers' compensation expenses associated with the tragedy (1.00 is considered normal or within a good range).

The Safety Program involved hiring a Safety Manager, establishing a Safety Committee, and creating ongoing rules and procedures in all departments, including training for office workers, electric linemen, sanitation workers, street department workers, water personnel, and police and fire personnel. The number and severity of claims slowly began to improve. Safety Manager Christian Dunman has worked one-on-one with employees to produce consistently good results, and City employees have embraced a new Culture of Safety, working diligently to reduce injuries in all work areas.

As a result, in 2013, the City's safety rating (called an "Experience Modification Rating") fell to 0.83. In 2014, it fell again to 0.77, and A.J. Gallagher, the City's insurance broker, recognized City employees for their diligence with an award (photo). This year marks the fourth consecutive year Kirkwood has kept its safety rating to under 1.00.

This month, City Council will approve an insurance renewal package that is \$108,000 lower than what the City paid last year. That is a 33 percent cost savings over last year – thanks to the ongoing commitment to safety awareness and injury prevention by City employees and to the good work of our insurance partners, A.J. Gallagher and Midwest Employers, who met with City staff to hear first-hand about their safety efforts and philosophy.

Safety Manager Christian Dunman told City Council that the goal of City staff is to get to zero. "Zero claims, zero expenses," Dunman said. "We want the work day to be the safest part of our employees' day." Kirkwood employees are clearly taking that to heart and producing extraordinary results.



## NEW WAY TO CONTACT THE CITY CLERK

The City continues to explore ways for residents to communicate easily with the City. You can now send text messages to the City Clerk directly from your mobile phone, and she will receive it on her landline and her computer and reply to you. Send your texts with questions, concerns, and compliments to: 314-822-5802.



## BE A VOLUNTEER WITH THE CITY!

The City of Kirkwood is seeking citizens willing to serve on a board or commission. We have many volunteers in this capacity that dedicate their time and energy to the City. We invite you to apply by submitting a Volunteer Profile Form. The Volunteer Profile Forms are considered and reviewed by City Council anytime there is an opening on one of the City's boards or commissions. They remain on file in the City Clerk's office for two years. Most vacancies occur in the spring. If you are interested in serving your community in this way, please visit the City Website and complete the fillable Volunteer Profile Form, at: [www.kirkwoodmo.org/VolunteerProfile](http://www.kirkwoodmo.org/VolunteerProfile).

## BE A VOLUNTEER IN THE PARKS!

Volunteer efforts go a long way in the maintenance and enrichment of Kirkwood Parks. Kirkwood Park Assistance Corps (KPAC) volunteers participate in a wide variety of activities. By helping out with tasks such as gardening, honeysuckle removal, and general park clean up, volunteers make a significant impact in our parks. The Kirkwood Parks Department needs volunteers on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. You can volunteer as an individual or with your family and friends for a one-day event or on a weekly basis at your favorite park. Volunteers of all ages have something to offer and are welcome at any of our volunteer events. To learn more or to sign up, visit [www.kirkwoodmo.org/KPAC](http://www.kirkwoodmo.org/KPAC).

## OFFICER VESELSKY RECOGNIZED FOR LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS

The Kirkwood Fire Department recognized Kirkwood Police Officer Joseph Veselsky for his "Life Saving Actions" during a 911 call in April. Officer Veselsky performed CPR on an individual while paramedics were en route to her location. The individual has recovered from her medical incident. Assistant Fire Chief Leo Meyer presented Officer Veselsky with a glass plaque at the May 19 Kirkwood City Council meeting (see photo).



## COMING UP IN KIRKWOOD

### POOL OPENS FOR THE SEASON MAY 28

The Kirkwood Aquatic Center opens for the season on Saturday, May 28, at 10:00 a.m. For full hours, costs, and programming, please visit the Aquatics page on the City's Website at [www.kirkwoodmo.org/pool](http://www.kirkwoodmo.org/pool). Summer hours, through August 15, will be:

**Monday through Friday:** 12:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Saturdays/Sundays:** 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Holidays:** 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### CITY OFFICES CLOSED MAY 30 FOR MEMORIAL DAY

City Hall and most City offices will be closed on Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no sanitation collected on the holiday, and all routes will be delayed by one day all week. The Community Center will be open the entire holiday weekend, during the following hours: Friday, May 27, 8:00 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 29, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday, May 30, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



### NEXT COMMUNITY DAY WILL BE AT WALKER PARK

The next "Community Day at the Park" event will be held at Walker Park, 135 E. Washington Avenue, on Saturday, June 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. These events feature touch-a-truck exhibits with police and fire vehicles as well as booths staffed by representatives from all City departments - fire, police, electric, water, parks, Kirkwood Public Library, and others. This is a great opportunity for residents to get to know their local government, ask questions, pick up some information, find out about volunteer opportunities, and learn more about the City's comprehensive planning initiative - EnVision2035. Light refreshments will be served.

### CITY WILL HOLD SPECIAL ELECTION IN AUGUST

With the election of Council Member Timothy Griffin to the position of Mayor, a seat has opened on Kirkwood's City Council. The City will hold a special election to fill this Council seat on August 2. As of the closing date for filing, there are two candidates who completed the process for filing and will be on the August ballot: Gerry Biedenstein and Mark Zimmer.

### — Kirkwood Meetings Calendar —

- 5/30 CITY OFFICES CLOSED
- 6/2 City Council 7pm, WS 5:30pm
- 6/6 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 6/7 Industrial Development Authority, 6pm
- 6/8 Landmarks Commission, 6:30pm
- 6/9 Council Work Session, 7am
- 6/13 Aquatic Advisory Cmte, 6:45pm, at Pool
- 6/13 Board of Adjustment, 7pm
- 6/14 Human Rights Commission, 6:30pm
- 6/15 Library Board, 5:30pm, at Library
- 6/15 Planning/Zoning, 7pm
- 6/16 City Council 7pm, WS 5:30pm
- 6/20 Park Board, 7pm, at Community Center
- 6/20 Architectural Review Board, 7pm
- 6/21 Arts Commission, 5pm
- 6/22 Greentree Planning Cmte, 7pm, at Community Center
- 6/28 Urban Forestry Commission, 7pm

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 electronic newsletter, send an email to [Info@KirkwoodMo.org](mailto:Info@KirkwoodMo.org).

**Kirkwood City Council:** Mayor: Timothy E. Griffin. Council Members: Paul Ward, Bob Sears, Nancy Luetzow, Maggie Duwe, Ellen Z. Edman. **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](http://www.kirkwoodmo.org).

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