

Crestwood Connections

December 9, 2011

Volume 2, Number 23

In This Issue

- [In The Next Two Weeks](#)
- [Special Events](#)
- [Programs](#)
- [Aldermanic Meeting Review](#)
- [Volunteer Opportunity of the Week](#)

City Contacts

- City Hall
(314) 729-4700
www.ci.crestwood.mo.us
- [Contact Your Aldermen](#)
- [Department of Fire Services](#)
(314) 729-4742
- [Department of Police Services](#)
(314) 729-4800
- [Parks Department / Community Center](#)
(314) 729-4860
- [Department of Public Works](#)
(314) 729-4720
- [Aquatic Center](#)

Welcome to the City of Crestwood e-Newsletter!

Hello readers, new and old! We hope this eNewsletter has improved communications between City government and the citizens. As we continue this publication, we want to know what additional information you would like us to include. Some of the proposed ideas are: spotlights on classes offered at the community center or summaries of the meetings of other city boards. If any of these ideas sound interesting or you have suggestions of your own, please email Nikki Koehnemann at:

nkoehnemann@ci.crestwood.mo.us. The City staff and volunteer publisher thank you for your interest and support, and we hope to see you at future City events!

In The Next Two Weeks

- Candle Light Tour – Saturday, December 10th, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Sappington House Complex
- “Old fashioned” Christmas story - Saturday, December 10th & 17th, 10:00am – Sappington House Complex
- Gingerbread House Creations - Saturday, December 10, 10:00 am – 12:00pm – Community Center
- I Like Your Snowman Contest begins – Monday, December 12
- Board of Aldermen Meeting – Tuesday, December 13, 7:00pm – BOA Chambers
- Doughnuts with Santa - Saturday, December 17, 9:00am - 11:00am - Community Center
- Artfeast at Crestwood Court – Saturday, December 17, 11:00am – 3:00pm

Local Spotlight

Crestwood Elementary named 2011 National Blue Ribbon School

Congratulations to Crestwood Elementary School, which was named a 2011 National

(314) 729-4870

- [Sappington House](#)

(314) 822-8171

- [Animal Control](#)

(314) 729-4868

- Park Maintenance

(314) 729-4875

Volunteer Opportunities

- [Community Center](#)

Todd at (314) 729-4860

- [Sappington House](#)

Rosann at (314) 822-8171

- [Animal Control](#)

Nancy at (314) 729-4870

- [Neighborhood Watch](#)

Char at (314) 842-9243

- [Make a Difference Day](#)

Carol at (314) 849-6466

Contact Us

nkoehnmann@ci.crestwood.mo.us

Blue Ribbon School by the US Department of Education on Thursday. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either high performing or have improved student achievement to high levels, especially among disadvantaged students. To qualify in the “high performing” category, Crestwood was required to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets in all subgroups, making achievement of this honor more challenging than in previous years.

Crestwood Elementary is also the only school in the US to achieve both the National blue Ribbon award and the National School of Character award in 2011. Click below for more details: <http://www.lindberghschools.ws/?p=1053>

Crestwood Named one of America’s Best Places to Raise Your Kids

As some of you may have seen already, Bloomberg Businessweek, a national publication, named Crestwood and one of the best places in America to raise your kids. Citing the proximity to the culture, music, and jobs of St. Louis—not to mention the World Series-winning Cardinals—“the suburban community of Crestwood, as the town [website points out](#), offers lower tax rates and better municipal services. It is part of the Lindbergh School district, which was the state’s first to offer the International Baccalaureate program”. Click below for more details: <http://images.businessweek.com/slideshows/20111115/the-best-places-to-raise-your-kids-2012/slides/26>

Filing Period Approaches for Aldermanic Elections

On Tuesday, April 3, 2012, voters of the City will elect five aldermen, one from each of the four wards to serve until April 2015 and one from Ward 2 to serve an unexpired term ending in April 2013. The aldermen currently serving terms in offices that are scheduled for election are:

Ward 1 Alderman Darryl Wallach

Ward 2 Alderman Chris Pickel

Ward 2 Alderman Steve Knarr (currently filling an unexpired term)

Ward 3 Alderman Paul Duchild

Ward 4 Alderman Deborah Beezley

Under the City’s Charter, the term for the Office of Alderman is three years, unless filling a vacancy. Anyone wishing information regarding the qualifications for office, the process for filing, or a candidate filing packet, may contact the City Clerk’s Office at (314) 729-4700. The filing packet includes general information about the City and the office, as well as Declaration of Candidacy and Petition forms. Information regarding finance disclosure reports from the Missouri Ethics Commission will also be provided.

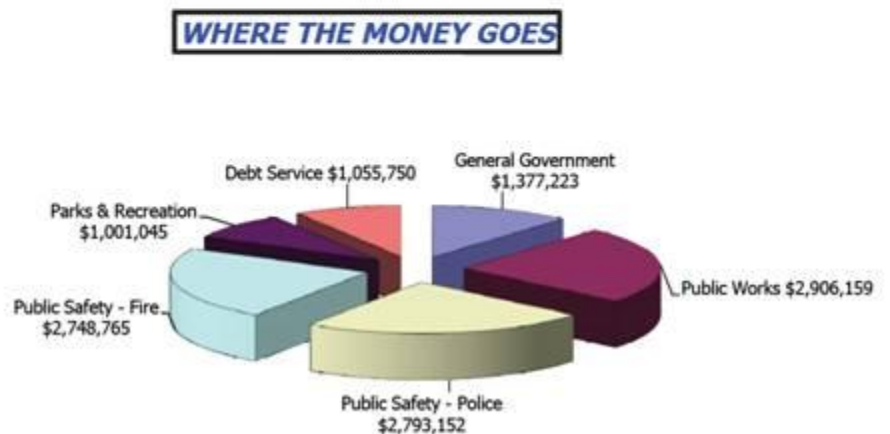
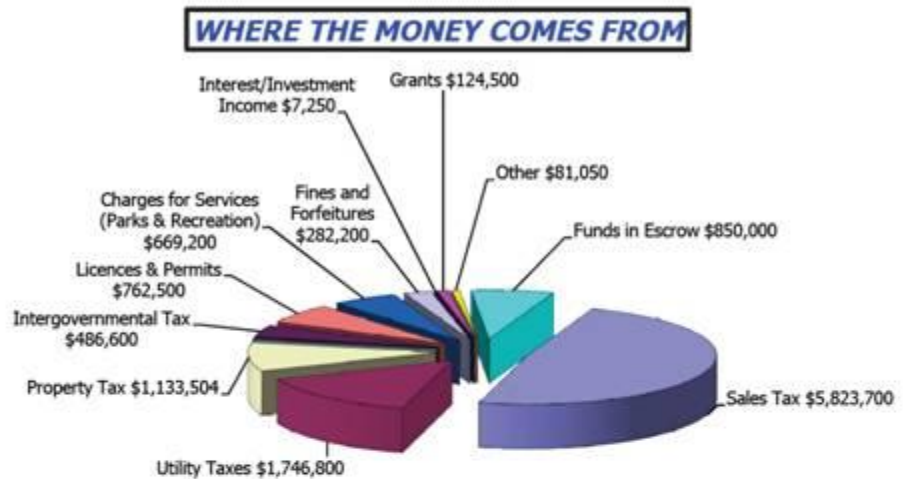
In order to file as a candidate, a qualified person must gather signatures of at least 20 registered voters of the City supporting his/her candidacy and pay a \$5.00 filing fee. Ballot order is determined by the order in which candidate filings are received

by the City Clerk. The filing period is set in accordance with State law and City ordinances.

The filing period will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, and will end at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. Due to holidays, Government Center Offices will close at noon on December 23 and December 30, 2011, and will be closed all day on December 26, 2011, January 2, 2012, and January 16, 2012. Candidate packets will be available starting Monday, November 28, 2011.

Budget and Property Tax

Shown below are two pie charts which demonstrate exactly how much money comes from where (revenues), as well as where the money is spent (expenditures):



Most of our (City of Crestwood) funding, about **52%**, comes from Retail Sales taxes. Only about **10%** of the City's revenues come from real estate or property taxes. We do not expect the Mall redevelopment and businesses that may come as part of actual development to add significantly to our revenues from retail sales for several

years.

So where does the rest of your property taxes go? To schools, MSD, the County and myriad other “taxing districts”:

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAX BILL

How are the monies shared?

	<u>Rate/\$100</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
Metropolitan Sewer District	\$ 0.0818	\$ 27.20	1.2%
Sewers - Gravois Cr.	\$ 0.0800	\$ 26.60	1.1%
School - Lindbergh	\$ 4.0619	\$ 1,350.58	58.3%
St. Louis Community College	\$ 0.2200	\$ 73.15	3.2%
Special School District	\$ 1.0125	\$ 336.66	14.5%
County General	\$ 0.2000	\$ 66.50	2.9%
County Health Fund	\$ 0.1400	\$ 46.55	2.0%
County Park Maintenance	\$ 0.0500	\$ 16.63	0.7%
County Bond Retire	\$ 0.0280	\$ 9.31	0.4%
Roads and Bridges	\$ 0.1050	\$ 34.91	1.5%
Sheltered Workshop	\$ 0.0840	\$ 27.93	1.2%
State of Missouri	\$ 0.0300	\$ 9.98	0.4%
Metropolitan Zoo Museum Distirct	\$ 0.2671	\$ 88.81	3.8%
County Library	\$ 0.1630	\$ 54.20	2.3%
City of Crestwood	\$ 0.4410	\$ 146.63	6.3%
Total Property Tax	\$ 6.9643	\$ 2,315.63	100.0%

Market Value of Home
\$ 175,000.00

Assessed Value of Home
\$ 33,250.00

Assessed value is equal to
19% of Market Value

Remember, when calculating your property taxes you first multiply the “Market Value” of your home by 19% to get your “Assessed Value”. Then you multiply your Assessed Value by the total rate to get the total property taxes paid. As you can see, in your average Crestwood home, **only about \$147 or 6.3% of your entire property tax bill comes to the City.** These funds help the City provide to citizens police and fire services, maintain our infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, bridges) and our parks. Contact City Administrator Petree Eastman with any questions at 314-729-4700.

Parking During Snow

Parking after snowfall: The City of Crestwood utilizes an “even and odd” system for parking during snow events. The “even and odd” system allows residents to park on the side of the street with odd addresses during winters which begin in odd years (this year is an odd year) and the side with even addresses during winters which begin in even years. Vehicles parked on the restricted side will be ticketed and required to move immediately.

This winter (the 2011-2012) season, owners will be required to park their vehicles in a driveway or on the side of the street with odd house numbers. This will move all the vehicles to one side of the street, allowing the streets to be plowed quicker and more efficiently. Please call the Public Works Department at 314-729-4720 with any questions.

Special Events

- A Christmas Story Time

Visit the Sappington House Library for an “old fashioned” Christmas story on Saturday mornings, December 3rd, 10th & 17th at 10:00am. Children ages 4-7 will enjoy holiday stories, refreshments and a special treat for the cost of \$3 per child. Advance registration is required; please call 822-8171 or 729-4837.

- Candle Light Tour

On December 7th, from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm, and December 10th, from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm, the Sappington House Complex will hold its annual CANDLE LIGHT TOUR. Enjoy decorations from the 1800's and experience how families celebrated the Holidays during that era. The Gift Shop and library will be open. For any information call 822-8171 or 729-4837.

- Gingerbread House Creations

On Saturday, December 10, from 10 am till noon, children age 4 -12 are invited to bring a parent, two fun kinds of candy to share as well as their imagination and we'll teach you how to build a gingerbread house to take home and display for the holidays. Royal Icing, bases and other construction materials will be provided. This class will take place at the Community Center and costs \$8 for resident children and \$10 for non-residents.

- Doughnuts with Santa

Come and celebrate the holiday season with the Crestwood Parks and Recreation staff on Saturday, December 17, from 9 till 11 am at the Community Center. The morning will include food, games, crafts and, of course, pictures with Santa. Be sure to bring your camera. Tickets must be purchased in advance at \$3 for residents and \$5 for nonresidents and will be available November 1 - December 10. Everyone in attendance must have a ticket. Call 729-4860 for more information.

- Free Income Tax Assistance to Senior Citizens

FREE assistance with simple federal and state income tax forms and the Missouri Property Tax Credit Claim (Mo-PTC or “Circuit Breaker”) is available through the St. Louis County Department of Human Services' County Older Resident Programs (CORP). Tax assistance is provided by appointment at the following locations:

- St. Louis Deaf Community Center at 8764 Manchester Road, Suite 201 in Brentwood,
- Oak Bend Library at 842 South Holmes in Oakland
- St. Louis Government Center-South, in Mehlville

This service is available to St. Louis County residents who are 60 years of age or older. Appointments may be scheduled, beginning January 30, 2012, by calling 314-615-4037, Monday through Thursday, 9:00am – 2:00pm. Persons with hearing impairments may call 314-615-4001.

- **ArtFeast**
Crestwood Court, Saturday, December 17, from 11:00am – 3:00pm



Featuring **INSIDE DINING!**

Enjoy the delicious variety of cuisine served by some of St. Louis' favorite

FOOD TRUCKS!

Shop for unique, one-of-a-kind gifts from the ArtSpace

ARTISTS & Merchants!

FOOD DRIVE

Donate a high-protein, non-perishable food such as tuna fish or peanut butter and be entered to win a FREE HD radio from Emmis Communications HD Radio*!

*You need not be present to win.

K-HITS's "Radio Rich" Dalton & FM News Talk 97.1's Jason Church will be on-hand to talk HD radio!



Programs

Pastimes for a Lifetime: Fall 2011 & Winter 2012 Activity Guide Available NOW online!

[Click here](#) to browse Crestwood Parks & Recreation's newest activity guide. Resident (R) registration begins at 9am on Tuesday, August 23 and Non-Resident (NR) registration begins at 9am on Tuesday, August 30.

- **I Like Your Snowman Contest**

If you have a Facebook account and the creativity to build an award winning snowman, this is the contest for you. Just become a fan of the City of Crestwood Parks and Recreation Department's Facebook page and then submit a photo of your snowman. The snowman with the most "likes" will win a \$20 gift certificate for the recreation program of their choice. Begin submitting your pictures December 12. The winner will be announced via our Facebook page March 1.

Aldermanic Meeting Review

Summary of November 22, 2011 BOA Meeting

The following public hearings were held:

- Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for DaVita Dialysis
- Proposed budgets for FY2012

The Board of Aldermen approved the following measures:

- Conditional Use Permit for DaVita Dialysis
 - Ordinance granting a CUP for construction and operation of a dialysis center at 9560 Watson Road, Suite A.
- Fee structure modifications for Community Center and Aquatic Center
- Chapter 2 Municipal Code modifications
 - Ordinance amending certain sections of Chapter 2, Article IV of the municipal code of the City of Crestwood, including Sections 2-82 (Fiscal Year), 2-96 (Budget Estimates), and 2-101 (Contents of Budget).
- First reading of ordinance regarding General Fund budget for FY2012
 - The second reading of this ordinance will take place at the next scheduled meeting.
- First reading of ordinance regarding Capital Improvement Fund budget for FY2012
 - The second reading of this ordinance will take place at the next scheduled meeting.
- First reading of ordinance regarding Park and Stormwater Fund budget for FY2012
 - The second reading of this ordinance will take place at the next scheduled meeting.
- Ordinance regarding Sewer Lateral Fund budget for FY2012
 - Ordinance approving the Sewer Lateral Fund budget and containing a summary of Sewer Lateral Fund expenditures.
- Contract amendment for City Administrator retirement benefits

Summary of Upcoming December 13, 2011 BOA Meeting

Patrolman Jason Balsman will be presented with the Lt. John Walsh award.

The Board of Aldermen will consider the following measures:

- Extension of agreement for sanitary sewer lateral repair work:
 - Ordinance approving an extension of the agreement with A-Alpha Incorporated for sanitary sewer lateral repair work in connection with the sanitary sewer lateral program within the City of Crestwood, and authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute said agreement on behalf of the City.
- Extension of agreement for sanitary sewer lateral investigation services:
 - Ordinance approving an extension of the agreement with Accurate Sewer Company for investigation services in connection with the sanitary sewer lateral program within the City of Crestwood, and authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute said agreement on behalf of the City.
- Annual maintenance agreement with St. Louis Electronics-Wireless USA:
 - Ordinance approving an annual maintenance agreement with St. Louis Electronics – Wireless USA for annual repair and maintenance to the City's communications systems and equipment and authorizing the Mayor to execute said agreement on behalf of the City.
- Annual law enforcement services agreement with REJIS Commission:
 - Ordinance approving a law enforcement services agreement with REJIS Commission for services and support and authorizing the

- Mayor to execute said agreement on behalf of the City.
- Agreement with Botz, Deal and Company PC for auditing services:
 - Ordinance approving an agreement with Botz, Deal & Company, PC to provide financial auditing and related services for FY2011 and authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute said agreement on behalf of the City.
 - Appointment of special and bond counsel for Crestwood Court redevelopment
 - Modification of Animal Control code
 - Year end salary adjustments
 - 2nd reading of ordinance regarding General Fund Budget:
 - Ordinance approving the GF budget and containing a summary of GF expenditures.
 - 2nd reading of ordinance regarding Capital Improvement Fund Budget:
 - Ordinance approving CIF budget and containing a summary of CIF expenditures.
 - 2nd reading of ordinance regarding Park & Stormwater Fund Budget:
 - Ordinance approving PSW budget and containing a summary of PSW expenditures.

For full agendas and minutes of city meetings, please visit the City website, <http://www.ci.crestwood.mo.us/events/events>.

Volunteer Opportunities of the Week

City Boards & Commissions

There are currently vacancies on the Animal Control, Park, and Planning & Zoning boards. If you are interested in volunteering your time and being a bigger part of the community, please fill out the attached form and either email to nkoehnemann@ci.crestwood.mo.us or mail/drop off at #1 Detjen Drive, Crestwood MO 63126.

County Older Resident Program (CORP)

Would you like to find a cause near your home, where you can contribute time and really help out? CORP's Neighborhood Driving Neighbor program matches volunteers with older adults living nearby and needing rides for medical appointments. Volunteers use their own cars for rides that are scheduled at least 5 days in advance and are free of charge for the senior. Orientation, defensive driving training and mileage reimbursement, plus other educational and social activities are also available. CORP provides many opportunities for helping older adults, utilizing professional skills, plus assisting with administrative activities. To learn more about the Neighbor Driving Neighbor program or other volunteer openings, please call CORP at 314.615.4516 or email tlabovitz@stlouisco.com.

The City of Crestwood Parks and Recreation Department is in need of volunteers throughout the year for various events and activities. Most of the volunteer opportunities are fun, rewarding and a great learning experience. The department is looking to recruit people that have a strong desire to help, lively personalities and the ability to work in many settings with a diverse group of individuals. Does this sound like you? If you are interested, the following are some upcoming events that need volunteer support:

Doughnuts with Santa – Saturday, December 17 at Crestwood Community

Center – Contact Phil Lanio at 314.729.4863 or planio@ci.crestwood.mo.us.

Whitecliff Valentine Trail Run – Saturday, February 11, 2012 – Contact 314.729.4860

Rajin' Cajun Trivia Night – Saturday, February 25, 2012 - Contact 314.729.4860

St. Louis County Government Holiday Adopt a Family Project

For the past 18 years, Saint Louis County Government employees have taken the lead to provide food, clothing, toys, household items, help with rent and utilities for over 2,800 families living in Saint Louis County who were in need during the Holidays. **Businesses, groups and individuals are invited to help make this worthwhile effort a success.** You can help by adopting a family or donating gift cards. Gift cards will be distributed to families who are not adopted for the holidays. Every donation helps to put a smile on a child's face during the holiday season. A catalog of families and their needs can be found at www.stlouisco.com and clicking on the Adopt A Family icon.

For information, please contact **Susan Schafers**, 615-4041
sschafers@stlouisco.com.

Please note that the deadline has passed for inclusion of additional families in this project.

The content of the newsletter is gathered from city publications and staff, assembled and published by a volunteer. If you do not wish to receive this email, simply click the following link and send an email saying you wish to be removed from the list. If you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter, have them send an email from their address to the link. This link may also be used to send comments or suggestions on the content.

Comments, suggestions, to be added or removed, click here: nkoehnemann@ci.crestwood.mo.us