

Crestwood Connections

December 9, 2011

Volume 2, Number 23

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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

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

- I Like Your Snowman Contest begins – Monday, December 12
- Board of Aldermen Meeting – Tuesday, December 27, 7:00pm – CANCELLED
- Planning and Zoning Meeting – Wednesday, January 4, 7:00pm – BOA Chambers

Resident Requested

We're starting to receive suggestions on content you'd like to see in the eNewsletter. This week will include holiday safety tips to keep you and yours safe during the winter season.

The holidays are an exciting time of year for kids, and to help ensure they have a safe holiday season, here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Trees

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant"
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

- [Aquatic Center](#)

(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

nkoshnemann@ci.crestwood.mo.us

- Cut a few inches off the trunk of your live tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- Be sure to keep the stand filled with water, because heated rooms can dry live trees out rapidly.

Lights

- Check all tree lights, even if you've just purchased them, before hanging them on your tree. Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples, not nails or tacks. Never pull or tug lights to remove them.
- Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks.
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

Decorations

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders and place candles where they will not be knocked over.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of reach of children to prevent them from swallowing or inhaling small pieces. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a young child to eat them.
- Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair". Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.
- Remove all wrapping papers, bags, paper, ribbons and bows from tree and fireplace areas after gifts are opened. These items can pose suffocation and choking hazards to a small child or can cause a fire if near flame.

Toy Safety

- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.
- Before buying a toy or allowing your child to play with a toy that he has received as a gift, read the instructions carefully.
- To prevent both burns and electrical shocks, don't give young children (under age ten) a toy that must be plugged into an electrical outlet. Instead, buy toys that are battery-operated.
- Children under age three can choke on small parts contained in toys or games. Government regulations specify that toys for children under age three cannot have parts less than 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches long.
- Children can have serious stomach and intestinal problems – including death – after swallowing button batteries and magnets. Keep them away from young children and call your health care provider immediately if your child swallows one. Children under age 8 can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons. Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children.
- Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length. They could be a strangulation hazard for babies.
- Parents should store toys in a designated location, such as on a shelf or in a

toy chest, and keep older kids toys away from young children.

Food Safety

- Bacteria are often present in raw foods. Fully cook meats and poultry, and thoroughly wash raw vegetables and fruits.
- Be sure to keep hot liquids and foods away from the edges of counters and tables where they can be easily knocked over by a young child's exploring hands. Be sure that young children cannot access microwave ovens.
- Wash your hands frequently, and make sure your children do the same.
- Never put a spoon used to taste food back into food without washing it.
- Always keep raw foods and cooked foods separately, and use separate utensils when preparing them.
- Always thaw meat in the refrigerator, never on the countertop.
- Foods that require refrigeration should never be left at room temperature for more than two hours.

Happy Visiting

- Clean up immediately after a holiday party. A toddler could rise early and choke on leftover food or come in contact with alcohol or tobacco.
- Remember that the homes you visit may not be childproofed. Keep an eye out for danger spots.
- Keep a list with all of the important phone numbers you or a baby-sitter are likely to need in case of an emergency. Include the police and fire dept., your pediatrician and the national poison help line 1-800-222-1222. Laminating the list will prevent it from being torn or damaged by accidental spills.
- Traveling, visiting family members, getting presents, shopping, etc. can all increase your child's stress levels. Trying to stick to your child's usual routines, including sleep schedules and timing of naps, can help you and your child enjoy the holidays and reduce stress.

Fireplaces

- Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open.
- Use care with "fire salts", which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.
- Do not burn gift wrap paper in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Candle Fire Safety

- If possible, avoid using lighted candles
- If you must use candles, ensure that they are placed in sturdy holders
- Keep candles away from children and pets
- Be sure to extinguish candles after each use
- Never leave burning candles unattended

Check out the Crestwood Fire Department's holiday cooking safety tips here:

<http://www.ci.crestwood.mo.us/city-departments/department-of-fire-services/safety-issues/>

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.

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.

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.

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 December 13, 2011 BOA Meeting

Patrolman Jason Balsman was presented with the Lt. John Walsh award.

The Board of Aldermen approved 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.
- Modification of Animal Control code – elimination of the pet tag program.
- Year end salary adjustments – directed City Attorney to draft ordinance for 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.

The Board of Aldermen voted to reissue the Request for Proposals (RFP) for special and bond counsel for Crestwood Court redevelopment.

Summary of Upcoming December 13, 2011 BOA Meeting

This meeting has been cancelled

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:

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