

The Vision

Your Source for City of Wentzville News



March/April 2016

Make Plans Now for Summer Camp

Wentzville Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of youth summer camps.

- From full-day Camp Wentzville, which is held at both Progress Park and Peine Ridge Elementary, to four-day sessions that include a cheer camp, spy camp, art camp, magic camp and more. Camps cover a range of ages: full-day campers must be ages 6-12; Tons of Fun camp is for 4-5 year olds; and ages vary for the four-day session camps. To sign up for Camp Wentzville, a birth certificate must be presented at registration.
- Dive in! New this year, Camp Wentzville campers can add on swim lessons to help with busy summer schedules!

For details about summer camps, including pricing, days, times, etc., please browse the Winter/Spring issue of *Fun Times* at bit.ly/WVsummercamps.

Utility Tax Refund

From April 1 through May 31, eligible residents can apply for a City-utility tax refund. The refund amount is a portion of the "City Tax" or "Franchise Tax" listed on the resident's electric, gas and phone bills during 2015. To be eligible for the refund, individuals must rent or own their primary residence in the City of Wentzville, be at least 65 years old or considered totally disabled by Social Security, and have a maximum 2015 gross income of \$39,400 for single-person households and \$45,000 for married-couple households. This refund program is based on your total gross income for filing year 2015, social security income included. Refunds are only available for the months when the resident lived in Wentzville and was at least 65 years old or considered totally disabled.

Residents can apply for the refund at City Hall (310 W. Pearce Blvd.) or at Public Works (200 E. Fourth St.). When applying for the refund, residents will need proof of residency (such as a current utility bill), income, age, and/or disability, and copies of their gas, electric and primary phone bills for the months they were eligible. Also, to comply with Missouri's section 208.009, which prohibits a local public benefit being distributed to illegal aliens, residents will be required to present one of the following: a driver's license, Social Security card or birth certificate. For more information, please call the Finance Department at (636) 639-2155.



Recycling Reminders

In Wentzville, recycling is simple and helps control our waste management costs. The City strives to keep it easy by offering single-stream recycling services at no additional cost to residents. That means you can mix it all together, with no need to sort!

Did you know that you can recycle pizza boxes and paper towel holders? You also don't have to remove lids or labels from jars, and cans don't have to be completely cleaned out in order to recycle them. Today, recycling requires very little preparation, other than a quick rinse for heavily soiled items. All junk mail and paper products, "if it tears," are recyclable unless it has germs (i.e. napkins, tissues, paper towels/plates). You don't even have to worry about breaking down cardboard boxes, unless it's windy out. Simply set them next to your cart.

Since mixing the wrong items in with recyclables can contaminate the whole load (which means the whole load must be landfilled), please remember that no plastic bags/wraps or Styrofoam cups of any kind can go in the recycling cart. Happy recycling!



INSIDE: Wentzville's New Website, GM Earth Day Festival and More!



City Launches Dynamic New Website

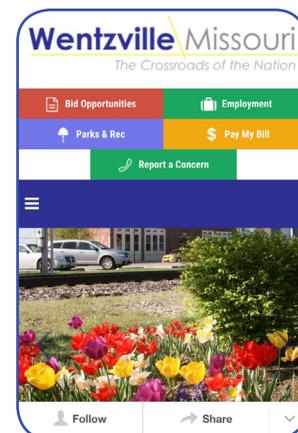
The wait is over! The City of Wentzville has launched a new website to meet the ever-changing needs of our growing community. While the URL, www.wentzvillemo.org, will stay the same, the new site offers greatly enhanced functionality and visual appeal, easier access to important information, and improved intuitive search capabilities. Based on both internal and external surveys and analytical data, the new site has been structured to facilitate more effective and efficient communication between the City and its residents, businesses and visitors. New website features include:

- **City Highlights** – These quick snapshots on the homepage quickly inform and update residents on timely topics.
- **Social Media** – At the top of each page, visitors can directly access the City's social media pages. Icons on the right of each page allow users to share content on their own social media pages. A live Twitter feed is also featured.
- **Quick Links** – The icons at the top of each page provide one-click links to our most-visited departments, including Bid Opportunities, Employment, Parks and Rec, Pay My Bill, and Report a Concern.
- **Mega Menus** – These new menus eliminate the use of drop downs, allowing visitors to easily find what they are looking for.
- **Improved Functionality** – Enhanced search features, calendar upgrades and "bread crumbs," which indicate a visitor's location on the site at any given time, will help improve overall usability.
- **Responsive Design** – This intuitive function of the site provides optimal viewing, easy reading and navigation across a wide range of devices – from desktop monitors to mobile phones.



The City is very excited to offer this new and improved resource to the public. Residents are encouraged to visit the site frequently as additional content and new website features will be added in the coming months. New features and tools will be highlighted on the City's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Wentzville.

Please note, in order to improve the user experience, top navigation changes have been made to the Finance, Utilities and Public Works departments. Some of the pages that have been bookmarked in the past may need to be saved again. The sitemap provides a big-picture look at the site layout. The site is best viewed in Internet Explorer 10 or 11. Look for a website tutorial video coming soon!



Check out these new Wentzville businesses!

Gypsy Moon Boutique
6 W. Main St.

Olive Tree Marketplace
513 W. Pearce Blvd.

Otto Orthodontics
1002 Schroder Creek Blvd.

Lava Hookah Lounge
107 S. Linn St.



2015: A Look Back

2015 was another fantastic year for Wentzville! We opened new parks, completed several major road construction projects, selected a site for our new City Hall and much more.

I'd like to begin by highlighting Wentzville's unemployment rate. Since January of 2015, we've watched our unemployment rate drop steadily from 4%. Recent data puts Wentzville at 2.8% – the lowest in the County and one of the lowest in the St. Louis Metro area. With a rate this low, it's no surprise Wentzville was named "best place to find a job" and recognized in December as one of "the best places to live in Missouri." Some of this rate drop can be attributed to work in the construction trades – building new developments like Knapheide and the growth at Wentzville Bluffs. General Motors (GM) continues to be the major employer in Wentzville, adding an additional 1,000 employees in 2015 (the total employment for GM is now more than 4,200).

It's true, we're rapidly growing – but not simply for the sake of growth. As growth occurs in Wentzville, the City's leadership team – our Board of Aldermen, myself and our staff – continue to consider how to best build out our infrastructure, handle transportation issues, promote economic development and maintain a high quality of life for our residents. We want to ensure that the City's vision for growth blends with our goal to maintain and preserve Wentzville's history and small town feel.

Speaking of history, Wentzville takes extreme pride in being home to the first Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the United States. This year, we added directional signage to guide visitors and residents to the memorial at 209 W. Pearce Blvd. Another new addition downtown, are the tree carvings on Main Street. These carvings pay tribute to Wentzville's rich history. The wood carvings depict J.C. Brown, who served as mayor for several terms in the early 1900s; and the pipe carving, represents Wentzville residents and brothers Robert and Caleb Dula, who operated two tobacco factories in Wentzville in the mid-to-late 1800s.

Wentzville's history certainly has a story to tell, but so does our present and our future. In 2015, through ongoing collaborations between staff and the Board, we've accomplished great things as a City. Here's a quick look at a few of those positive changes.



Mayor
Nickolas Guccione

- **New City Hall:** As you may know, we've selected a design for the new Wentzville City Hall. The centrally located facility will be built on Schroeder Creek Boulevard, adjacent to Wentzville Parkway. We expect to break ground on this project in March. Currently, the City Hall on Pearce Boulevard is one of nine buildings that house City staff. This new building will allow all departments and administrative offices to be consolidated, leading to more efficiency. The new facility will offer a more customer-service oriented environment, with adequate parking, technology-driven meeting facilities and one-stop services for residents. The building will also include security features designed for resident and employee safety. Residents will be able to address any department, sign up for service, pay bills, go to court or attend City meetings – all at one complex. Additionally, the cost of this facility comes from internal resources, with no debt.
- **Awards:** Speaking of fiscal sustainability, for the 12th year in a row, the City has received the "Excellence in Financial Reporting" award from the Government Finance Officers Association; we've also received the "Distinguished Budget Presentation" award for our 2015 Budget.
- **2015 Construction Projects:** New growth brings with it the need for additional infrastructure – both new roads/sidewalks, etc., and repairs to existing ones. In 2015, City staff coordinated 20,000 square yards of concrete slab replacement and 12,000 square feet of sidewalk, along with 28 new ADA curb ramps. And, earlier this year, we finalized construction on the Wentzville Parkway Turn Lane Project, which added a multi-purpose trail and a center left turn lane from William Dierberg Drive to Schroeder Creek Boulevard. This trail and turn lane will greatly improve accessibility and travel safety and will reduce travel delay for our residents and visitors. The new Corporate Parkway roadway is also now open. This project involved the removal and replacement of the roadway, increasing pavement lane width, improving stormwater drainage, and adding sidewalks and pedestrian crossings to enhance safety, accessibility and mobility for our residents and businesses customers in that corridor. This area is now a great location for economic development growth opportunities!
- **2016 Road Construction:** Upcoming road projects in 2016 include right-of-way acquisition and utility relocations for the Highway 61/Route P/Peine Road interchange and the extension of Schroeder Creek Boulevard from the Law Enforcement Center south to Pearce Boulevard – with connectivity to William Dierberg Drive and Heartland Park.

2015 has been a big year – one of growth, redevelopment, major infrastructure projects and positive changes. As a City that has more than doubled its size in the last 15 years, we aren't afraid of growth and change and we are very excited to see what 2016 has in store!



Check out the State of the City video at www.wentzvillemo.org.

Did you KNOW?



April 5 Election

All eligible City residents are encouraged to vote and make their choices known in the April 5, 2016, election. Residents who have not yet registered to vote have until March 11 to register. Voter registration forms are available any city hall, public library, public school or vehicle registration office, or at the St. Charles County Election Authority Office at 397 Turner Blvd., in St. Peters. Below are the candidates running for Wentzville's Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

- **Mayor—Four-Year Term:**
Nickolas (Nick) Guccione
Chris Gard
- **Alderman Ward 1, Two-Year Term:**
Robert (Rob) Hussey
Ellanita Miller
- **Alderman Ward 2, Two-Year Term:**
Michael Rhoades
Larry W. Tucker
- **Alderman Ward 3, Two-Year Term:**
Linda L. Wright
J.C. Crane



ALSO ON THE BALLOT: In addition to voting for candidates, residents will be asked to vote to change the term for Aldermen from two years to four years. If approved, this would not take effect until April 2017. Residents have previously approved a four-year term for the Mayor's position.

Spring Citywide Yard Sale

Mark your calendar for Wentzville's Citywide Spring Yard Sale! Clear your home of unwanted items by selling them at Wentzville's annual Spring Yard Sale or enjoy a fun shopping expedition by hunting down the best bargains!

For \$6 you can list your sale. Each sale will receive an official City yard sale sign. Deadline to list your sale is April 25. Shoppers may purchase booklets beginning April 27 at City Hall, Progress Park Recreation Center or the Utility Service Center for \$2. Each booklet comes with a map to help you locate the bargains. Please call (636) 332-9236 for additional information!



Business Spotlight



Imagination Pottery Studio

1463 Wentzville Pkwy.

Business Owner: Megan Kumbera

What year did you open? 2007, I purchased the business in May 2015.

What influenced you to locate your business here? A personal connection to the business and the small-town feel of Wentzville.

What do you feel you bring to Wentzville by having your business here? We pride ourselves in providing a fun and relaxing environment. It is a place to create memories.

What products/services does your business offer? Ready-to-paint pottery, clay classes, paint classes, camps and parties.

What's your favorite thing about Wentzville? The support of small businesses and the arts.

What's next for your business? Expand the business with glass art and additional classes.

What do you hope Wentzville will be five years from now? I hope that Downtown Wentzville continues to thrive and that the small-town feel remains.



Right: Megan Kumbera, Owner



Make Plans Now to Join Us on Saturday, April 2!

MISSION: CLEAN STREAM



And GM EARTH DAY FESTIVAL at Rotary Park | 2577 W. Meyer Rd. | More details at www.wentzvillemo.org

Highlights:

- Kids Activities
- Live Music
- "Run for the Rivers" 5K & One-Mile Kids Fun Run
- Volunteer Stream Cleanup (ages 6+)
- And Electronics Recycling!

Green vendors welcome,
see website for details.



- **New! Electronics Recycling**
Bring your small electronics and old computers for recycling! All items are free to recycle unless it has a screen. The first 100 TVs/monitors are FREE! (One free item up to 27" per vehicle. Some restrictions apply.) Additional TVs/monitors accepted for a fee of \$20 or more depending upon size.
- **New! Run for the Rivers 5K:** Register online; \$25 fee includes shirts and prizes!
- **New! Mission: Clean Stream volunteers** can preregister by calling (636) 332-9236. Register by March 18 to guarantee your free T-shirt.
- **Hands-on Activities and Vendors:** Children's Hospital, native plant seeds, home goods and crafts, jewelry, bird houses, green cleaning products, pet supplies and more!

SPONSORS: GM, Greenway Network, City of Wentzville, Mrs. Pat Jones, Walmart (Wentzville)

Partners: Missouri Stream Team, St. Charles County Soil and Water Conservation District, St. Charles County, O'Fallon, Lake Saint Louis, Dardenne Prairie, Cottleville, St. Charles, Riverlands (USACE)

Schedule of Events

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| • 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | Festival, Kids Activities, Green Vendors |
| • 8:30 a.m. | Mission: Clean Stream Sign-In |
| • 9-11 a.m. | M:CS Cleanup |
| • 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Electronics Recycling |
| • 8 a.m. | Run for the Rivers 5K & Kids Fun Run |
| • 11 a.m.-1 p.m. | Seldom Fed Five Band |





Tax Rate Reduction for Second Year

Your Board is working hard to save you money. But, please keep in mind that the City of Wentzville only represents a small portion of your bill (9%). **The snapshot to the right is a Wentzville resident's vehicle personal property tax bill.**

Assessments	
Operation	Gross Tax
▼ Ambulance	\$14.69
▼ City-44: Wentzville	\$42.31
▼ College-St Charles	\$12.00
▼ County	\$21.03
▼ Fire-13: Wentzville	\$44.64
▼ Library	\$12.34
▼ Sch-R4: Wentzville	\$292.27
▼ State	\$1.68
	Sub Total \$440.96
	Total Tax \$440.96

Important Info



Irrigation System Spring Checkup



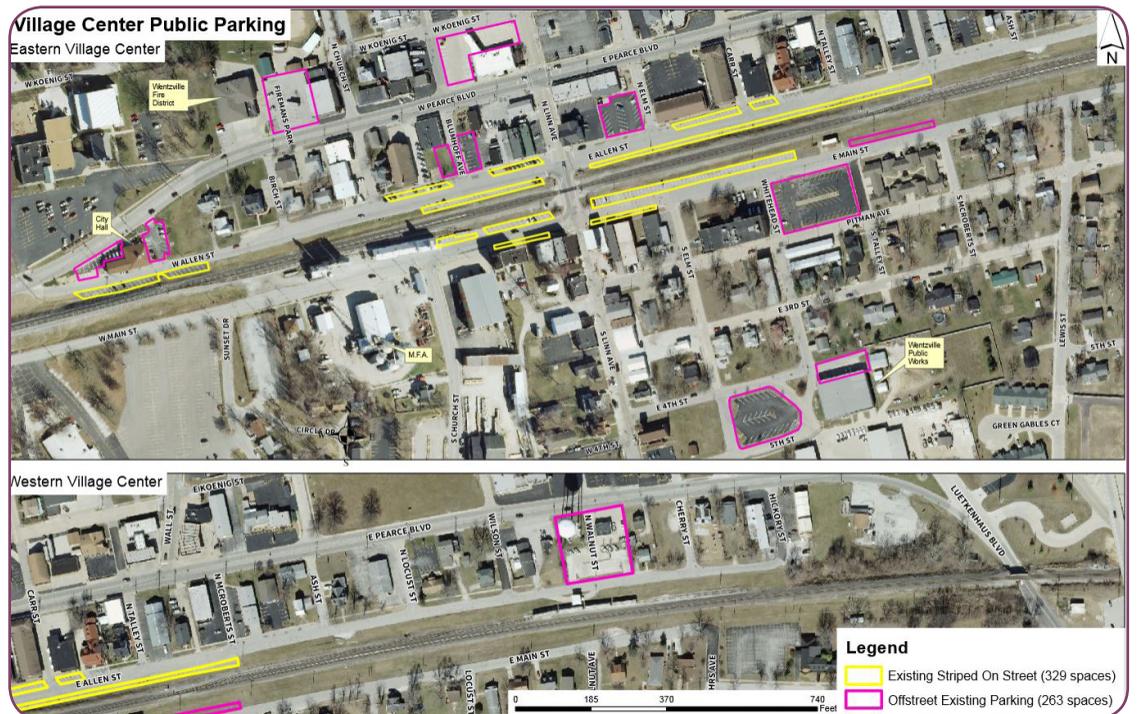
Irrigation systems are a great convenience, but they come with responsibility. First, residents who want to install an irrigation system must obtain a permit from the City prior to installation. Second, the state of Missouri requires everyone with an irrigation system to have the backflow devices checked each spring by a certified backflow tester to make sure the system's backflow device is working properly. This requirement even applies to systems that are not used. Debris buildup and damaged parts due to freezing can allow contamination to flow from the sprinklers back into public water lines.

Once the testing is complete, the homeowner is responsible for making sure the results are submitted to the City, whether the inspector sends in the results or the homeowner sends them. Test-result reports must be sent to Wentzville's Public Works Department no later than June 1 of each year. Reports received after June 1 will be assessed a \$30 per month fine and noncompliance after July 1 results in the property being scheduled for water disconnection.

If residents wish to completely discontinue use of their irrigation system, they must have a certified plumber remove the backflow device, and that same plumber must send the City a letter verifying that the device has been removed. The discontinued irrigation system may not be re-connected without re-installation of a backflow device. Questions? Please call the Water Department at (636) 327-5102.

Free Downtown Parking

Visiting Downtown Wentzville for an event, a bite to eat or some shopping? Plenty of free, public parking is available! This new parking map indicates both on-street and off-street parking. Come explore Downtown Wentzville! To view and print the map, please visit bit.ly/parkingdowntownwentzville.





March

- March 1** Planning and Zoning, 6 p.m.
- March 7** Parks and Recreation Board, 6:30 p.m.
- March 9** Board of Aldermen, 6 p.m.
- March 10** Board of Adjustment, 6 p.m.
- March 19** Bunny Run 5K/Fun Run; EGGstrava-ganza; and Bone Hunt at Rotary Park
- March 20** Mayor & Aldermen Coffee Talk, 12:30 p.m.
- March 22** Downtown Committee, 6 p.m.
- March 23** Board of Aldermen, 6 p.m.
- March 25** Good Friday, City Offices Closed

April

- April 2** Mission: Clean Stream & GM Earth Day Festival at Rotary Park
- April 2** Parks and Recreation Board, 6:30 p.m.
- April 5** Planning and Zoning, 6 p.m.
- April 13** Board of Aldermen, 6 p.m.
- April 14** Board of Adjustment, 6 p.m.
- April 17** Mayor & Aldermen Coffee Talk, 12:30 p.m.
- April 26** Downtown Committee, 6 p.m.
- April 27** Board of Aldermen, 6 p.m.
- April 28** Stormwater Committee, 6 p.m.
- April 30** Citywide Spring Yard Sale

Unless otherwise noted, the events above will be held at City Hall (310 W. Pearce Blvd.). All meetings are subject to change. Please check the "All Events" link at www.wentzvillemo.org for the most up-to-date information.

Property Maintenance Inspections Begin April 1

For most people, their homes are their single largest investment. To help protect Wentzville homeowners' investments and ensure property values remain stable, the City annually conducts property-maintenance inspections. All properties are inspected every two years, with one half of the City inspected one year and the other half inspected the following year. The City is vigilant with these inspections, because deteriorating exteriors of homes can lower the marketability and value of neighboring properties.

In 2016, all structures in the western half of Wentzville will be inspected, with inspections beginning April 1. The City conducts these exterior inspections based upon the 2006 International Property Maintenance Code.

When City inspectors find a property that needs attention, they leave a notice on the door of the property. This notice allows a reasonable time for completion. If residents have a concern about the exterior maintenance of properties in their neighborhood, they don't have to wait for the City's biannual inspection. Residents can call the Customer Service Center at (636) 639-2121 anytime to alert the City of a problem. By remaining attentive to ensure all Wentzville properties are suitably maintained, the City works to keep Wentzville a desirable place to live and work.



The following is a list of items inspected on each property.

- Address numbers
- Sidewalk/driveway deterioration
- Overgrown grass/weeds/dead trees
- Garbage, trash or rubbish in yard
- Derelict autos or parts in yard
- Porches deteriorated
- Fences deteriorated
- Masonry damaged or deteriorated
- Windows damaged or broken/screens missing or broken
- Garage or main doors deteriorated or broken
- Exterior wall surfaces deteriorated — needing paint
- Guttering damaged or missing
- Roof shingles damaged or missing
- Accessory structures



310 W. Pearce Blvd.
Wentzville, MO 63385

PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Wentzville, MO
Permit #14

Important Reminders:

Spring Chipper Program

The City's Chipper Program provides residents a free, convenient way to dispose of small tree limbs twice a year. The 2016 Spring Chipper Program will run the week of April 11-15 for residents living north of the railroad tracks; and April 18-22 for residents living south of the railroad tracks.

To take advantage of this free program, residents should have their tree limbs stacked at the curb by 6 a.m. on Monday of the week their area is scheduled for the Chipper Program. Tree limbs must be less than eight inches in diameter and should not be bundled or placed in bags. The 2016 Chipper Program collection does not include leaves, root balls, shrubs or hedge trimmings, decorative grasses, or grass.

Questions? Call Public Works, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at (636) 327-5102.

Holiday Hours

City offices will be closed for Good Friday on March 25 to allow City employees to spend the holiday with their families. The Parks and Recreation office at Progress Park will be open regular hours on Good Friday, but will be closed on Easter Sunday, March 27.

Please note that your solid waste and recycling collection schedule will not be affected by this holiday.

Free Large-Item Pickup is scheduled for May 2-6.

Follow us on Facebook for more information or visit bit.ly/large-itempickup for details.



*For upcoming spring events,
please visit www.wentzvillemo.org.*

