



**WARNERS' WARM-UP X**

Donate new or gently-used coats! We have Drop Boxes at the Police Department. Also, this year Make A Difference Day is continuing good works by collecting canned goods for local food pantries. Collection Boxes will be available for those donations.



The Board of Aldermen recently set the 2010 property tax rates for the City of Crestwood. As reported in the local papers, the 2010 rates were higher than those set in 2009, as shown on the table below:

	2009 tax rate	2010 tax rate	Difference
Residential	\$0.2230	\$0.2280	+\$0.0050
Residential Prop S	\$0.1980	\$0.2020	+\$0.0040
Commercial	\$0.3010	\$0.4060	+\$0.1050
Commercial Prop S	\$0.2000	\$0.2000	-
Personal Property	\$0.2790	\$0.2790	-
Personal Property Prop S	\$0.2000	\$0.2000	-

You may wonder how the City was able to increase its tax rate without a vote of the people. The City was able to set these rates because tax rates are based upon the assessed valuations of all property in the City of Crestwood. Assessed valuations are determined by the St. Louis County Assessor's Office and are used to calculate the tax rate ceiling. The tax rate ceiling is the maximum rate that taxing jurisdictions (in this case the City of Crestwood) are allowed to set. When assessed valuations increase, the City is forced to reduce, or "roll back" its tax rate. When assessed valuations decrease, the City is allowed to increase its tax rate. The intended result is that the City, if it assesses at the ceiling, brings in essentially the same property tax revenue from year-to-year.

Another important factor is that the portion of your tax bill paid to the City of Crestwood is only a small portion of your total tax bill. For a typical house in Crestwood, the portion of a tax bill paid to the City of Crestwood is less than ten percent of the total tax bill. For illustrative purposes, the 2010 tax rates shown above would result in the following increases:

For a \$175,000 house, the residential property tax paid to the City of Crestwood would increase from \$139.98 to \$142.98.

For a \$500,000 commercial building, the commercial property tax paid to the City of Crestwood would increase from \$475.95 to \$575.70.

The calculation of the property tax ceiling is a complicated formula and can result in a number of questions. If you have questions regarding the 2010 property tax rate, please contact the City Administrator at 729-4722.

**Crestwood Connections Electronic Newsletter**

The City of Crestwood is excited to offer a new way to keep up with City activities. An E-Newsletter has been created in order to bring news of events and meetings in Crestwood directly to residents in a timely manner. The E-newsletter will be sent twice per month by email on the Friday before Board of Aldermen meetings. If you are interested in receiving the E-newsletter please contact Nikki At 314-729-4718.



**VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY**  
**NOVEMBER 10**  
**2 PM**  
 Please Join Us to Honor Our Veteran's

**TRASH SCHEDULE**  
 Thanksgiving – Thursday  
 November 25, 2010  
**Monday** routes - not affected  
**Tuesday** routes - not affected  
**Wednesday** routes - not affected  
**Thursday** routes will be picked up  
**Friday**, November 26th  
**Friday** routes will be picked up  
**Saturday**, November 27th  
 Christmas Day – Saturday  
 December 25, 2010  
**Holiday is on the weekend**  
**No change in pick ups - all routes will run on their normal day**  
 New Year's Day – Saturday  
 January 1, 2011  
**Holiday is on the weekend**  
**No change in pick ups - all routes will run on their normal day**

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



The Holiday season is here again. Is it just me or has this past year flown by? I really love the fall because it usually has cooled off and the colors of the leaves are fantastic. I just hope the winter months are mild so we can save on our costs associated with snow and ice removal.

I am happy to announce that the City of Crestwood took back the golf trophy from the City of Sunset Hills in the annual "Challenge of the Mayors" golf tournament. The trophy will remain in the Mayor's office until we are challenged again next fall.

I was pleased to see a good turnout of our citizens at the city wide Neighborhood Night Out parties. I was able to visit 16 out of the 21 parties. I apologize if I missed your party.

On November 10, 2010, at 2 pm we will again have our Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Crestwood Government Center. I hope you will join us to honor our veterans. Also, on December 1, 2010, 5-8 pm we will hold our annual Holiday Open House for the Crestwood business community, volunteers, and board/commission members.

On behalf of the Board of Aldermen, the city employees and myself, I would like to wish each of you a happy and safe Holiday season. Please be safe and use wise judgment, including a designated driver, while enjoying holiday festivities.

Sincerely,



## A FEW WORDS FROM THE STAFF

*This Issue's Column by Fire Chief Karl Kestler*

Since I have been employed by the City of Crestwood for almost 36 years, I have seen many changes take place within the City. Most notable have been the changes in what was our primary revenue source now known as Crestwood Court. I have witnessed the change from a partial enclosed/open air mall to a completely enclosed mall to a mall poised for redevelopment. With those changes has come a rise and fall of revenue available to the City. This revenue decline has affected all departments in the City. I would like to explain how it has affected your Fire Department.

When I started in 1975, the Department staffed three pieces of equipment, two Engine Companies and one Rescue Vehicle. Today we staff two Paramedic Engine Companies. Since 1975, we have gone from 9 personnel per platoon to 7 personnel per platoon for a total reduction of 6 employees. With this configuration, we have continued to maintain a Class 4 fire insurance rating, however our current rating is at the lower end of the Class 4 range.

Your Fire Department is structured to provide Fire and EMS services for both residential and commercial properties within the City. If a property is vacant, we may experience fewer EMS calls at that location, but we still must maintain the Fire Fighting capability to protect that property. In Crestwood, we protect 5000 homes, a mall, three industrial areas, and a multitude of commercial properties.

The members of this Department continue to dedicate themselves to providing the services that residents expect. We still maintain a Smoke Detector Program for the elderly and disabled, free blood pressure readings, non-binding home inspections, CPR and First Aid, and the CERT program (in conjunction with the Police Department). Members of the Fire Department continue to repair equipment when possible to save outside labor costs. In the past several years, we have secured \$218,587 in Federal Grants to purchase needed equipment.

As I write this article, we are in the middle of Fire Prevention Week and have had many school children visiting the Fire Department. All our personnel have been stressing fire safety with the children and adults who have visited us. Now it is your turn. This year, we have experienced home fires that, quite frankly, could have been prevented. As we are nearing the time for fireplace use, do not place ashes in a cardboard box or plastic container; they will ignite. Do not leave cooking food or burning candles unattended; they can ignite nearby combustibles while you are away.

The members of the Fire Department wish everyone a happy, joyous, and safe upcoming holiday season. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 729-4740.

### Civilian Safety Awareness

**BE SMART – BE READY – BE SAFE!**

Join your family and neighbors at the Community Center from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday, November 13, to learn how to avoid dangerous encounters. Co-sponsored by the Crestwood Police department and the Parks and Recreation department, this class will teach safety awareness tips, how to carry and properly deploy pepper spray, verbal commands and presence, training drills with inert training sprays, post deployment advice, simple self defense techniques, and more. Longtime Crestwood Police Officer Sonja Duffield, CSAP certified, will teach the program. The cost of the class is \$40 with space limited to the first 12 to register.

## A Christmas Story Time

Visit the Sappington House Library for an “old fashioned” Christmas story on Saturday mornings in December. 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 314-822-8171.

## Gingerbread House Creations

Children age 3-10 are invited to bring a parent, two fun kinds of candy to share and their imagination to the Community Center from 9 – 11 am on Saturday, December 11. Instructor and Crayon Kid’s Day Camp director Ashlee Lukasek will teach them how to build a gingerbread house to take home for the holidays. Royal Icing, bases and other construction materials will be provided. The cost is \$8 for each Resident child and \$10 for each Non-Resident child. You can register at the Community Center or by calling 314-729-4860.

## Christmas Lights Tour

Kids (and grown-ups who are still kids at heart) will love this trip to see the holiday sights on Wednesday, December 15. Get your holidays off to a delightful start with a trip that starts at the Community Center at 5:30 pm. The first stop will be Our Lady of the Snows, where you will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner at the Shrine Restaurant and then ride through one of the most beautiful and uniquely designed light displays in the two-state area. The tour will then continue past Kiener Plaza and Macy’s window display then culminate with a drive through Tilles Park. Spaces fill quickly so register early. The \$55 fee for residents of Crestwood, Sunset Hills, Webster Groves and Rock Hill includes admission, meal, tips and transportation by motor coach. Registration ends December 1. Call the Community Center at 314-729-4860 for more information.

## Candle Light Tour



On December 8<sup>th</sup> from 6pm until 8pm 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, library, and restaurant will also be open. For any information call 822-8171 or 729-4837.

**FREE LARGE RECYCLING  
BINS STILL AVAILABLE  
CALL 729-4720**

# Holiday Season Safety

When Crestwood residents think of winter and the holiday season, we often think of parties, decorations, and glowing fireplaces. What we may not realize is that December, January, and February are the leading months for home fires. On average, more than one-third of U. S. home fires occur during these months claiming 700 to 1000 lives each year. The good news is that most of these fires are preventable. It’s simply a matter of being aware that certain hazards exist, and taking the few steps necessary to avoid them.

During the winter months heating equipment is the number one cause of home fires. The Crestwood Department of Fire Services recommends having all heating systems and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually at the start of each heating season. If you use space or portable heaters, keep anything that can burn at least three feet away. Do not leave the unit unattended when in operation.

With the holiday season approaching, the Department of Fire services would like to remind everyone to observe a few general safety tips so that your holidays are happy times for you and your families.

- Check all holiday lights for broken and cracked sockets. Look for frayed or bare wires, loose connections, or damaged plugs.
- Don’t overload electrical circuits. Use heavy-duty extension cords with molded plugs and sockets. Avoid running cords through door or window openings (where they can be damaged) and don’t place cords under rugs (where they can be walked on or where someone can trip over them).
- For outdoor lighting, use only lights approved for outdoors.
- Never leave home with the Christmas tree lights on.
- If you choose a real tree, make sure the tree is fresh and the branches are supple. The needles should bend, not break. If the tree becomes dry and brittle, take it down. Water the tree daily to keep it fresh.
- If you use candles for displays, **which we do not recommend**, keep them well away from any decorations which are easily ignitable, (paper, dried branches, etc.).
- CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR to ensure it is working properly.

The Department of Fire Services wishes all residents a safe and happy holiday season.

**City of Crestwood**  
**One Detjen Drive**  
**Crestwood, MO 63126-1997**  
 (314) 729-4700  
 www.ci.crestwood.mo.us

**Mayor Roy Robinson**  
 One Detjen Drive  
 Crestwood, MO 63126-1997  
 314-729-4710  
 mayor@ci.crestwood.mo.us

**City Administrator**  
 James A. Eckrich  
 314-729-4722

**City Clerk**  
 Tina Flowers  
 314-729-4773

**Department of Fire Services**  
 Chief Karl E. Kestler  
 314-729-4740

**Police Department**  
 Chief Mike Paillou  
 314-729-4840

**Department of Public Works**  
 Public Works Director  
 Dzenana Mruckovski  
 314-729-4720

**Whitecliff Park Community Center**  
 Parks & Recreation  
 314-729-4860

**Ward 1**  
**Alderman Darryl Wallach**  
 1004 Briarton Dr., 63126  
 314 - 968 - 1216

**Ward 2**  
**Alderman Chris Pickel**  
 1360 Raycrest Dr., 63126  
 314 - 966 - 4866

**Alderman Mimi Duncan**  
 9444 Arban Dr., 63126  
 314 - 849 - 0898

**Alderman Jeff Schlink**  
 1228 Capri Dr., 63126  
 314 - 984 - 9117

**Ward 3**  
**Alderman Paul Duchild**  
 9158 General Grant Ln., 63123  
 314 - 842 - 0939

**Ward 4**  
**Alderman Deborah "Beez" Beezley**  
 11730 Parkshire Dr., 63126  
 314 - 849 - 0148

**Alderman Jerry Miguel**  
 7942 Camelot Ln., 63123  
 314 - 849 - 0069

**Alderman John Foote**  
 8865 Glen Rose Dr., 63126  
 314 - 843 - 5426

### **Filing Period Approaches for Mayoral Election**

On Tuesday, April 5, 2011, an election will be held for the Mayor's Office for the City of Crestwood, Missouri.

Under the City's Charter, the term for the Office of Mayor is three years. The person elected in April 2011 will serve until April 2014.

Anyone desiring 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, **which will be made available starting December 1, 2010**, 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 14, 2010, and will end at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2011. Due to holidays, Government Center Offices will close at Noon on December 23 and 30, 2010, and will be closed all day on December 24 and December 31, 2010 and January 17, 2011.

### **Community Development Survey**

City staff has created a Community Development Survey that can be found at City Hall or online at [www.ci.crestwood.mo.us](http://www.ci.crestwood.mo.us) under the quicklink titled "Surveys". The goal of this survey is to gather citizen input and use those ideas to construct a vision for future community development.

Postmaster: Please Deliver by November 1, 2010  
 Time Sensitive Material

Presorted Standard  
 US Postage  
**PAID**  
 St. Louis, MO  
 Permit # 495



CRESTWOOD SUNSET-HILLS  
 AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
 The Chamber of Commerce asks  
 you to support the businesses  
 that support this community.  
 Please visit the Chamber website  
 at [www.ourchamber.com](http://www.ourchamber.com)

### **November**

- 3 Planning & Zoning, 7:00 pm
- 8 Police Board, 7:00 pm,  
(Admin Conf. Room)
- 9 Board of Aldermen, 7:00 pm
- 10 Sign Commission, 7:00 pm
- 11 VETERAN'S DAY ~ Offices Closed
- 15 Board of Adjustment, 7:00 pm
- 15 Park Board, 7:00 pm,  
(Community Center)
- 16 Economic Development, 7:00 pm
- 17 Public Works, 7:00 pm
- 18 Fire Board 7:00 pm,  
(Fire Dept. Training Room)
- 23 Board of Aldermen, 7:00 pm
- 25 THANKSGIVING DAY ~ Offices Closed
- 26 Offices Closed

### **December**

- 8 Sign Commission, 7:00 pm
- 9 Board of Adjustment, 7:00 pm
- 13 Police Board, 7:00 pm  
(Admin Conf. Room)
- 14 Board of Aldermen, 7:00 pm
- 23 Offices Close at NOON
- 24 Offices Closed
- 30 Offices Close at NOON
- 31 Offices Closed

### **January 1 Happy New Year**



**All Meetings will be held in the BOA Chambers unless noted**