

Crestwood ~ A Community for a Lifetime

MARCH/APRIL 2008

Crestwood Sales Tax Revenue has been in Decline as We Maintain One of the Lowest Property Tax Rates in Southwest County

As sales tax revenues have declined, the cost to provide municipal services has been increasing. Even with the passage of Proposition S in April of 2006, which resulted in (a \$0.20 per \$100) property tax to retire city debt), Crestwood's Real Property Tax continues to be low when compared to sister cities. When homes were reappraised in 2007, Crestwood held the line and reduced the Prop S tax from \$0.20 to \$0.17 and the City service tax of \$0.24 to \$0.20. Crestwood was one of two out of 15 taxing districts listed on your county Tax bill to hold the line.

A typical home \$200,000 located anywhere in St. Louis County would pay taxes to about 11 taxing districts (See your 2007 Tax bill). Whether this home is located in Crestwood, Webster or Kirkwood, each home would pay a tax to the MET ZOO MUS DIST (Metropolitan Zoo & Museum District) of \$88.33. Other taxes would be paid to MSD and to your School District.

The major differences between tax bills relate to the taxes for the City Services and Fire Protection. The costs for Police and Fire on this \$200,000 home in Crestwood would be \$142.12 which includes the Prop "S" tax. Note: you pay more to MET ZOO (Metropolitan Zoo); \$88.33 than you do for all our City Fire and Police services.

Typical Saint Louis County Home valued at \$200,000 would have similar costs listed below:

City	Tax Rate	Cost
Crestwood (Tax rate include Prop S)	0.374	\$142.12
Kirkwood	0.651	\$247.38
Rock Hill	0.550	\$209.00
Richmond Heights	0.696	\$250.56
Maplewood	0.838	\$318.44
Shrewsbury	1.000	\$380.00
Webster Grove	0.804	\$305.52
Sunset Hills Police	0.054	\$20.52
(Home in Fenton Fire District)	0.620	+\$233.60 Total: \$256.12
(Home in Mehlville Fire District)	0.5590	+232.94 Total: \$253.46

To help residents understand the cost of City services, the Board of Aldermen scheduled a series of Town Hall meetings. Information provided to residents at these Town Hall meetings can be obtained in the City Clerk's Office or on the City's website at www.ci.crestwood.mo.us. A Town Hall meeting covering Public Works Services will be held on Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Crestwood Government Center. Please take the time to evaluate the costs of services you receive in Crestwood. If you have been unable to attend one or more of these Town Hall meetings, but would like to provide input, please contact your Alderman.

TOWN HALL MEETING TUESDAY MARCH 18TH - GOVERNMENT CENTER 7:00 P.M.

ALL RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I am sure all of you are aware of the recent tragedy in our neighboring Kirkwood community. We in the City of Crestwood are deeply saddened by this senseless act. I have met most of those elected officials from time to time and recognize them as dedicated public servants to the Kirkwood community. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of those who lost their lives or were injured. We especially are hoping for the speedy recovery of Mayor Mike Swoboda.



I want to assure our citizens who attend our Board of Aldermen meetings and Municipal Court, we have taken additional precautions to make those meetings as safe as possible. I won't go into detail for security reasons, but we are much more aware of what is happening in those meetings. I don't want any of us being paranoid concerning our safety at the City's meetings, but feel as safe as one can be in today's society.

Those seniors who have been looking for a living facility in our community may be interested to know that the new Crestview Senior Living Facility should be completed in May or June 2008. We are happy to see a center open that may fit the needs of our citizens who are looking for a senior living option that allows them to stay in our community.

I know that everyone is anxiously awaiting a status report on the Mall, but as of the date this newsletter goes to press, we have not received any new or additional information. We are expecting news at any time.

Since, I am unopposed on the April 8, 2008 election, I will serve as your Mayor for 3 more years. I want each and every one of our residents to know that I am proud to serve our community and am very appreciative of all the support you have given me the past 3 years. I look forward to continuing to move our City forward while rebuilding our infrastructure and strengthening our business community. Don't forget to vote on April 8, 2008.

Sincerely,

Roy L. Robinson



The Crestwood Police and Department of Fire Services will conduct a 20-hour Community Emergency Response Team

(CERT) training course beginning Monday, April 14th from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm. The class will meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings through April 30th. The course will conclude on Sunday, May 4th with a mock disaster exercise.

This CERT course provides residents basic disaster response training. The all hazard approach covers how citizens can be prepared in the event of a large scale incident. Emergency response officials from the Crestwood Police and Crestwood Fire Department will offer training to help prepare the course participants for unexpected events.

CERT training consists of eight training modules including Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety, Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue, Team Organization, Disaster Psychology, and Terrorism and a final exercise where participants get to put their training to use and respond to a disaster scenario.

For further information or to register for the course contact Mark Menning at 729-4741 or by e-mail – mmenning@ci.crestwood.mo.us

Crestwood Citizens honored at the Crestwood-Sunset Hills Area Chamber of Commerce Awards

(pictured at right) Char Braun, Crestwood Citizen of the Year, Mike Paillou, Chief of Police, Connie Melching, Secretary to Police Department, Carol Wagner, Community Improvement Award winner.



Skywarn Severe Storms Spotter's Classes

On Saturday April 5, 2008 the Crestwood Police Department will be sponsoring the annual Skywarn Severe Storms Spotters Class. The classes are presented by the National Weather Service and St. Louis County Police Emergency Management. The beginner's class is from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. The advanced class is from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. These classes are open to all ages, but small children are not recommended.

To become a certified severe storm spotter you must have the beginner's class and recertify every two years.

To all police officers that wish to attend this class it is a POST certified class. You will receive two hours of technical training for the beginner's class.

If you have any questions please call Detective Len Appelbaum at (314) 729-4800 or E-mail at lappelbaum@ci.crestwood.mo.us. Or go to the Skywarn website at www.skywarnstlouis.com.

SPRING REGISTRATION for PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS

Registration will start at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates:

Spring Programs

Resident: Tuesday, March 11

Non-Resident: Tuesday, March 18

Camp Programs

Residents Saturday, March 8

Non-Residents Tuesday, March 18

A 50% deposit for each child's camp fee is due upon registration. The remaining balance is due by May 1. Failure to pay the balance of your fees on time will result in the loss of your deposit and your spot in the program. Please bring a birth certificate to verify proof of child's age when registering.

Aquatic Center Passes

Residents On Sale Now

Non-Residents Saturday, April 12

A limited number of passes and I.D. cards are available to sponsored non-residents. Crestwood residents may pick up vouchers for any non-resident family or individual they wish to sponsor at the community center beginning March 3, 2008.

Workout for the Cure

Join us on Saturday, March 29, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. to raise money for cancer research, 5 hours of exercise with 5 different instructors. Participants limited to the first 80 to register. Refreshments and swag for all participants. \$30 registration fee

Crestwood Flea Market

Grab all of your treasures and head over to Crestwood City Hall. On Saturday, April 26, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., the parking lot of City Hall will become a flea market. Vendor space is available for \$15/each parking space (9x14). Set-up will be one hour before the sale. To reserve your space contact Tricia at 729-4860.

Easter Eggs Scramble

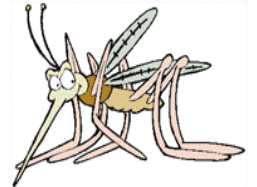
Hop your way to Whitecliff Park to join the Easter Bunny for his annual egg hunt on Saturday, March 15th at 10 a.m. Children ages 2 – 10 can visit with friends and enjoy a free picture from Wolf Camera. Please bring your own basket. Held rain, snow or shine. Tickets are \$3 and will be on sale February 5 – March 11. Limited to the first 200 to purchase tickets.

Kite Flight Event

Let's go fly a kite! Join us at the softball field in Whitecliff Park for this great spring event on Saturday, May 3 at 1:00 p.m. Bring your own kite. Prizes will be awarded to the highest flying kite and the coolest looking kite. Free of charge.

Crestwood-Kirkwood Youth Theatre Presents: "Willy Wonka Jr."

April 10 – 13, 2008 All shows performed at the Robert Reim Theatre in Kirkwood. Tickets go on sale March 17, 2008 and all seats are \$5. To purchase tickets call Kirkwood Community Center at (314) 822-5855.



"What's bug-gin' you?"

Learn to control insect pests from an expert.

Monday, March 31st from 7-8:30 at the Community Center in Whitecliff Park.

Crestwood Animal Control has announced a new informational program to help area residents deal with common insect pests.

Learn from guest speaker, Mark Casaleggi, of ABC Animal and Insect Innovations, which insects you can deal with yourself, when you need to call a professional and what measures you can take to avoid future problems with these pests.

This is a free program, but because space is limited, please call Animal Control at (314) 729-4868 to reserve a seat.



Crestwood Animal Control has scheduled a microchipping clinic for Saturday, April 5th, 1-3 p.m., at the Community Center in Whitecliff Park.

Area residents are encouraged to reserve one or more microchips for their dog and/or cat pets by calling Crestwood Animal Control at (314) 729-4868 or event co-sponsor, Yorkshire Animal Hospital at (314) 843-2394. Cost of each chip is \$30 and includes the registration fee on the 24-Hour national network.

Reminder: NEW FIREWOOD ORDINANCE All firewood that is not stacked five (5) inches or more off the ground at all times and/or is not located behind the front building line of the property is in violation. You have until May of 2008 to comply. Call Rosann at 729-4837 for more information.



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 to see a list of member businesses. Thank you!

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

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 861

City Administrator
Frank Myers
314-729-4780

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 Services
Public Works/Parks & Recreation
Jim Eckrich 314-729-4720

Whitecliff Park Community Center
Manager
Amy Meyer 314-729-4860

Ward 1
Alderman Rich Bland
9609 Cornish Dr., 63126
314-849-5742

Alderman Mac McGee
9210 Arban, 63126
314-849-2567

Ward 3
Alderman Gregg Roby
9126 Buxton Dr., 63126
314-842-4109

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

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

Alderman Steve Knarr
1028 Banyon Dr., 63126
314-965-4519

Ward 4
Alderman Steve Nieder
9131 Cherry Brook Lane, 63126
314-843-2362

Alderman John Foote
8865 Glenrose, 63126
314-843-5426

Crestwood Connections Mar/Apr 2008—press date February 22, 2008

Spring Plant Swaps Are Coming...

Share your extra perennials, bulbs and/or garden accessories at Crestwood Park on Saturday morning, May 3, 2008, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, and Sanders Park on Saturday morning, May 10, 2008, 9:00 am - 11:00 am.

Crestwood Welcome Wagon Update

Neighborhood Watch Chairpersons and Block Captains are now teaming up to deliver an array of special "business offerings and coupons" to new residents to promote our stores and businesses. Any Business that would like to donate their advertising materials can drop them off at City Hall, to Connie Melching. Be sure that coupons have a long expiration date. The Crestwood Welcome Wagon Team thanks you for your support. Debbie Beezley, Chairman.

HOUSE TOUR BEING PLANNED

Have you remodeled your home and want to show it off? Do you want to see the inside your neighbor's new addition? Here is your chance! Crestwood is planning a House Tour of remodeled homes! If you would like more information or would like to submit a house, yours or your neighbors, please contact Karen Rainey at 314-843-3231 or email klrainey@menkel.org. Thank you!

CALENDAR

March

- 10 Police Board, 7:00 p.m., *Fire Dept. Training Room
- 11 Board of Aldermen, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Board of Adjustment, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Town Hall Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 City Offices Close at Noon
- 25 Board of Aldermen, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium

All Meeting will be held in the Auditorium unless noted

- 2 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 ELECTION DAY
- 8 Board of Aldermen, Canceled
- 9 Sign Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Board of Adjustment, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Police Board, 7:00 p.m., *Fire Dept. Training Room
- 15 Economic Development Comm., 7:00 p.m., *Admin Office
- 22 Board of Aldermen, 7:00 p.m.

April

TOWN HALL MEETING

TUESDAY MARCH 18TH

GOVERNMENT CENTER

7:00 P.M.

ALL RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND