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## For Immediate Release

## Mayor Proclaims February 28 – March 1 Operation Clean Sweep Weekend Volunteer Initiative by 8<sup>th</sup> Graders at North Kirkwood Middle School

February 20, 2020

**Kirkwood, Missouri** – At the February 6<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting Mayor Tim Griffin presented a proclamation establishing the last weekend in February Operation Clean Sweep Weekend. Kirkwood's Operation Clean Sweep is a volunteer initiative started by a group of eighth grade students in Chis Hooker's Ecology class at North Kirkwood Middle School.

Yesterday afternoon Director of Kirkwood Electric and Police Chief Brian Murphy presented the Proclamation to the students and their teacher.

These students are competing in the Gateway Green Schools project. Each year the Missouri Gateway Chapter of the U.S. Green Buildings council challenges public and private schools in Missouri and Southern Illinois to devise and implement a creative, effective and low cost sustainable practice to improve the environment. These students have selected a volunteer citywide cleanup project as their entry in this year's contest. They're hoping that the event will be something that can take place for many years to come.

The students are asking the residents and businesses of Kirkwood to pitch in and pick up litter around their property. This time of year is a great time to kick off the spring cleaning efforts, gather up the trash and other litter that may have accumulated over the winter, and make way for the spring.

Community members that would like to participate are advised to form a group and register by contacting <a href="mailto:chris.hooker@kirkwoodschools.org">chris.hooker@kirkwoodschools.org</a> to be assigned an area to clean. Trash Bags, gloves and safety vests will be available on Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Kirkwood Train Station.

## Attachments:

Operation Clean Sweep Proclamation
City of Kirkwood Operation Clean Sweep Flyer
Photo: North Kirkwood Students and their teacher Chris Hooker, Director Kirkwood Electric
Mark Petty, and Police Chief Brian Murphy