

Coronavirus Preparedness and Changes to City Services

COVID-19 UPDATE

We are taking steps to protect the health and safety of our personnel and community amid the COVID-19 outbreak. In an effort to protect the public and City employees, City Hall is now accessible by appointment only during regular business hours.

Board & Commission Meetings and Municipal Court have been postponed until further notice. Kirkwood Electric & Kirkwood Water will not be doing shut-offs, and late fees for utility payments will be waived. The Community Center (including the ice rink) is closed until further notice. Playgrounds and restrooms in the Kirkwood park system have been closed. We are not closing the parks at this time, but encourage all users to follow good patterns of social distancing while in the parks.

At the Kirkwood Train Station, the departure time of the morning train heading westbound will change from 9:44 a.m. to 8:44 a.m., and the station will be closed to the public and passengers for all departures and arrivals until further notice.

Some City employees have been asked to work from home to reduce the number of personnel working in close contact, and several departments such as, Parks & Recreation, Sanitation, Water and Fleet Services, are working in shifts that do not overlap.

Residents can stay updated on changes to city services by department, facility closures, remote services and get the latest updates from the Centers for Disease Control on our website at kirkwoodmo.org

WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

All of us are feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in our everyday lives, but there are some people in our community who are more vulnerable and need extra support right now. Let's help those who need it most and the groups working to meet this moment head on by supporting local and regional organizations who will likely face an increasing demand for their services.

Kirk Care

Kirk Care is a volunteer-run organization that serves children and families in the Kirkwood R-7 School District including working adults, children, seniors, disabled veterans, underemployed, college students and others who struggle with hunger and poverty. Kirk Care relies on unexpired, non-perishable food donations, and those donations can be made through the use of the red boxes located outside the Kirkwood train station. Please contact Kirk Care to make pick-up arrangements at admin@kirkcare.org or 314-965-0406. Kirk Care also provides utility assistance. Monetary contributions can be made by checking the red box in the top left corner of your utility bill, by calling 314-822-5843 or by visiting www.kirkcare.org/monetary-donations. If you are in need of assistance or know someone in need of assistance, please email services@kirkcare.org or call 314 965-0406

Operation Food Search

Operation Food Search is a St. Louis-based non-profit organization dedicated to ending hunger in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area. They distribute more than 3 million dollars' worth of food and household essentials to 330 community partner agencies, which in turn feeds 200,000 people in need each month – nearly one-third of whom are children. In response to this crisis, Operation Food Search is providing immediate food assistance to those in need by

addressing the crucial need to feed children while schools are out by providing grab'n go meals for children 18 and younger at community locations. They are also working with restaurants and farmers to rescue food that would otherwise be wasted and getting that food to the people who need it. To support Operation Food Search through a monthly contribution, please contact Director of Development, Ellen Reed-Fox at Ellen.ReedFox@OperationFoodSearch.org or 314-451-1950. If you are in need of assistance or know someone who is in need of assistance, please use the Hunger Hotline at 314-726-5355 to find food near you. You may also text your zip code to (785) 503-3310.

United Way

Since 1922 the United Way has always had a role in mobilizing the community to help our neighbors in need. During times of crisis like this, their work partnering with nonprofits, businesses and government to quickly and efficiently provide vital services and support is very needed. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the United Way has established a COVID-19 Crisis Fund that is raising funds to address the lack of cleaning and sanitation supplies, food resources, personal care, baby supplies, hygiene items, and access to health resources and childcare services (including distribution of food, hot meals and household products). Provide basic needs support to prevent homelessness and aid in stabilization of community residents (including emergency utility, rent and mortgage assistance). Respond to calls for mental health and trauma counseling for children and adults. Provide employment support for those who become ill or displaced. Individuals interested in supporting this fund can give at www.helpingpeople.org. Individuals needing assistance can call 211 or contact 877-435-8411.

Beware of Scammers

As we all work to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, remember to be vigilant about detecting and reporting the spammers and scammers that are using the situation to take advantage of people, many of whom may be more vulnerable to their nefarious efforts than usual during these uncertain times. You cannot buy a COVID-19 cure. Some scammers are peddling fake remedies, but there is no known cure yet. Any company promoting a COVID 19 cure should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or the Missouri Attorney General's Office. Be sure to watch out for scam emails and texts, too. Phishing schemes, in which a scammer sends an email or text meant to trick you into handing over your personal info, have gotten pretty sophisticated in recent years, and can even include elements like official imagery or email addresses that look similar to email addresses used by official businesses. Likewise, phone calls and texts from scammers pretending to be official businesses may include information like your name or phone number to try to convince you that they're real.

To spot COVID-19 email and text scams, look for generic greetings (like "Hello, Sir/Madame"), requests for confirmation of personal information, or emails related to updating your billing details to judge whether or not an email from a company is legitimate. If a message's language seems urgent, as though it's attempting to pressure you into giving up your information to avert some sort of data disaster, it could very well be fake. If you receive a suspicious email from a particular company or even a friend or your employer, contact them separately via phone to verify the message before replying or otherwise acting on it.



APRIL 2020 MEETINGS

Board & Commission Meetings have been postponed until further notice.

Please check the City's website for timely information about City meetings and operations.

April 7, 2020 Municipal Election Moved to June 2

Governor Mike Parson announced the postponement of April 7th municipal elections in Missouri due to coronavirus concerns. The governor signed Executive Order 20-03 ordering all Missouri municipal elections previously scheduled for April 7, 2020, to be postponed to June 2, 2020.

- The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is now May 20.
- In-person absentee ballots can be cast until 5 p.m. on June 1.
- The deadline by which absentee ballots must be received by the election authority is 7 p.m. on June 2.
- Military and overseas voters must request a ballot from an election authority by 5 p.m. on May 29, and the deadline for local election authorities to make ballots available to such voters is April 18. Military and overseas ballots must be received by the election authority by June 5.

Absentee ballot requests must be returned to your local election authority by May 20, 2020.

For Kirkwood residents that information is as follows:

St. Louis County Board of Elections

725 Northwest Plaza Dr.

St. Ann, MO 63074

314-615-1800

Stlouisvotes@stlouisco.com

Time to Complete the 2020 Census

America's 1st digital Census is underway! As of March 12, 2020 many households have been receiving postcard invitations via mail to take the 2020 Census. All households should receive an invitation by April 1, 2020. Your invitation should include a 12-digit census ID. Your invitation will instruct you to go to my2020census.gov, and click "start questionnaire". Enter your census ID, and then answer all the questions about your name, address, who lives in your household, etc. And no, you will not be asked about your citizenship status. It only takes about 15 minutes, but you have to do it in one sitting. You can also respond to your census letter by mail or phone.

If you don't have a census ID because you either don't want to wait for it to come in the mail or it just never came at all, you can still fill out the online form. Just go to the website and navigate to the "if you do not have a Census ID, click here" button on the login page. You'll have to answer a few additional questions about your address, but you should be able to complete the census after that. If you are unsure or apprehensive about completing the census, you can preview the questionnaire from the home page spotlight at kirkwoodmo.org.

You should do all this by the April 1 deadline, or you'll get reminder letters until a census taker might ultimately show up at your door. It is important that you respond to the 2020 census questionnaire, but it is especially important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic because local governments, like Kirkwood, use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness operations. The state and Federal governments allocate resources with this information as well.

KIRKWOOD CALENDAR

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Since the Community Center and Ice Rink are closed, one day programs and rentals that cannot be rescheduled will be refunded. Rentals that can be rescheduled, will be, with no additional fees.

Classes that have several sessions are being evaluated on a class by class basis. Please contact the supervisor of your rental or program directly for more information.

Ice Arena Programs and Reservations:

Ken Davies davieskd@kirkwoodmo.org

Athletic Leagues and Programs:

Brenton Ward wardbm@kirkwoodmo.org

Meramec Swim and Dive Program:

Kyle Henke henkek@kirkwoodmo.org

General Programs and Special Events:

Laura Horton thallk@kirkwoodmo.org

Facility Reservations (Parks, Community Center):

Sherry St. Onge stongess@kirkwoodmo.org

More information is at www.KirkwoodParksandRec.org or you may reach the information desk by phone at 314-822-5855 during normal business hours.