Bone Hunt

Join us on Saturday, March 28, at 2 p.m. at Rotary Park for a special event for your four-legged friend. The cost is $8 for residents and $10 for nonresidents.

Bones will be hidden all around the park for your furry friend to find. Your dog will be allowed to locate as many goodies as possible. Dogs must remain on leashes at all times. Don’t forget to bring a basket to put your treats in! After the hunting ends, each dog will receive a “doggie bag” to take home. We will also draw for some door prizes.

Dogs and their owners may roam around the park after the event and take advantage of our trail, which is a little over one mile in length and loops around the lake.

Heartland Park to Feature Synthetic Turf Fields

We are excited about the completion and opening of Heartland Park this spring! Park construction was funded by the 1/2 cent sales tax, which was passed by voters in August 2010. When complete, Heartland Park will feature two synthetic turf fields for activities such as soccer, football and lacrosse. These fields will be some of the first of their kind created for municipal recreation in the state of Missouri. These two fields will allow for additional playtime as they can tolerate more rain than a natural turf field.

A synthetic turf field has several advantages: it has a clean professional look; requires less maintenance; and has the potential for 2,000 hours of use each year. While turf fields have the highest initial cost, their lower maintenance costs allow for savings over time. The synthetic turf allows for new Wentzville Parks and Recreation programs including soccer tournaments, flag football, lacrosse, youth cricket clinics and soccer fest events.

Heartland Park, which is located at 100 WM. Dierberg Dr. (in the Wentzville Crossings Shopping Center), will also be equipped with two grass fields, a walking trail, a boardwalk over portions of the lake and restrooms. Future park plans for Phase 2 include a concession stand, playground and an outdoor nature learning area.

Weather permitting, construction for the first phase of the Heartland Park project is scheduled to conclude by mid-February.

State of the City Video

Mayor Nick Guccione’s State of the City covers the highlights from 2014. Curious about what major projects the City has completed in 2014? Watch the video at www.wentzvillemo.org. It’s full of informative, important and positive news about our City.
Good to KNOW

2015 Budget Overview

The City of Wentzville operates on a Jan. 1-Dec. 31 budget year. In late November 2014, the Board of Aldermen gave final approval to the City’s 2015 budget of just over $81.72 million in total City expenditures.

• The combined tax rate for the General Fund and the Parks Fund is proposed to remain the same as it has for the last three years. The combined rate is $0.7902 per $100 of assessed value.
• Sales/use tax revenues are projected to grow 2%.
• Funds have been included to fully fund the Board-adopted Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This reflects our ongoing program to upgrade/replace equipment and furnishings.
• Funds are included in this budget to address all six of the Mayor and Aldermen strategic priorities. These priorities are to:
  1. Economic Development Initiatives
  2. Expanded Street and Sidewalk Repairs
  3. A New City Hall
  4. A Parks Master Plan
  5. Redevelopment in Downtown
  6. Investment in Infrastructure
• A key component to ensure the City meets the resident’s current and future needs is maintaining a professional and efficient staff. Funding to implement the recently completed Compensation and Classification Plan is included in the budget.
• The 2015 budget includes the following new personnel: 12 full time, 37 part time/seasonal and 81 part-time for pools. These increases in personnel citywide are to keep up with the growth being experienced in all City departments. These increases are necessary to maintain current service levels.
• Revenues were calculated based on careful consideration for our City’s economic conditions and the slowly recovering economic outlook that is impacting our entire nation. Locally, the continued slow but steady, residential and business growth rates provide us with a solid financial base. Wentzville is experiencing a higher increase in residential building than the surrounding cities in St. Charles County. With increased numbers of residential building permits issued in 2014, and the same number is anticipated in 2015.
• The City has the following ratings assigned by Moody’s Investor Service: Aa2 for our Certificates of Participation Series 2010A & 2010B; Aa3 for our Certificates of Participation 2011; Aa2 for our Lease Revenue Bonds Series 1999, 2006, 2008 and 2011.

In order to meet the standards set forth by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the various bond agencies that evaluate the City’s financial health and the City’s own policies, the City of Wentzville has established a process of conservative and responsible financial management. Keeping with this philosophy, the General Fund unreserved fund balance will be at approximately 40% after the one-time draw down of the reserve for preconstruction design services for the new City Hall.

This demonstrates prudent financial management by protecting the City against temporary revenue shortfalls, economic downturns, weather-related disasters or unanticipated major expenses. It also allows the City the financial freedom to capitalize on unanticipated opportunities that may surface in the coming years.

We remain committed to our mission to offer all of our residents the opportunities for continuously improving quality of life by providing effective leadership and service by encouraging responsible citizenship, stimulating economic growth, planning and fiscal responsibility.

Utility Tax Refunds

From April 1 through May 30, 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 2014. 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 2014 gross income of $37,600 for single-person households and $43,000 for married-couple households. This refund program is based on your total gross income for filing year 2014, 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.
I Want to Hear from You

It is with great honor that I serve the City of Wentzville in my role as Mayor. My door is open to the residents of our great City. Please feel free to share your thoughts, your goals and your concerns with me, your alderman and the City employees who serve our great and growing community! Together, we have accomplished great things and we will continue on this path of success. By honoring past traditions and creating new ones, we will highlight the best Wentzville has to offer. I’m so glad you are joining us on this journey.

How to reach out to me:

• You can schedule a time to meet with me at my office, or I’m happy to meet with you outside of City Hall. To schedule a meeting, please call (636) 327-5101.
• You can also email me at mayor1@wentzvillemo.org, call me on my cell phone at (636) 639-0354 or complete a form online that will come to me directly by visiting bit.ly/contactthemayor.
• Once a month, I’m also available for an informal get-together at City Hall. This event, called Coffee Talk with the Mayor, is held on the third Sunday of each month beginning at 12:30 p.m. at City Hall, which is located at 310 W. Pearce Blvd. I’d love to hear from you during this open community forum.

Did you know you can also enter concerns through the City’s mobile app? The app allows you to include a photo, track your concern and more! It’s available from Apple’s App Store and from the Google Play Store. Just search “Wentzville” or “Wentzville Concern Center.”

The bottom line is that we want to hear your concerns and have the opportunity to find solutions. Let’s work together to make Wentzville the best it can be!

Staff UPDATE

Board of Aldermen Appoints New Director of Economic Development

At Wentzville’s Jan. 14 Board of Aldermen meeting, board members approved the Mayor’s appointment of Dan Lang as the City’s new Director of Economic Development. Lang assumed his new position in February.

The search for the Director of Economic Development began in 2014. This position formulates economic development and redevelopment activities by designing and implementing economic development plans, strategies and programs that deal with planning, generating projects and related financial packaging for the City of Wentzville.

Lang, who grew up in Wentzville, has extensive experience in the municipal government sector, most recently serving as city administrator for the City of Bowling Green, Missouri, since 2012. Beginning in 2005, Lang provided community and economic development consultant services at his own firm for clients across the state of Missouri.

Prior to launching his own business, Lang was a senior planner at Horner & Shifrin for four years and worked with communities such as Kirkwood, Festus and Washington on projects involving comprehensive plans and code rewrites. Lang has also served as the Director of City Development for the City of St. Charles and the Director of Community Development and Special Projects Manager for the City of St. Peters. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Lang’s work has been included in numerous publications and he has received a number of awards.

The City of Wentzville is excited to welcome Lang to its team. City Administrator Robert Bartolotta said, “Wentzville is a fabulous place to live and work. Dan will bring a targeted approach to continuing the City’s efforts to boost the local economy.”

Join the Parks and Recreation Team!

bit.ly/WentzvilleHR.
### March

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<td>All-day fun at Rotary Park: Easter Eggstravaganza, Bunny Run 5K &amp; Fun Run, Bone Hunt &amp; more!</td>
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<td>Board of Adjustment, 6:30 p.m.*</td>
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<td>Mission: Clean Stream, 8:30 a.m. check in at Rotary Park</td>
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*These events will be held at City Hall (310 W. Pearce Blvd.). All meetings are subject to change. Please check the Calendar of Events at www.wentzvillemo.org for the most up-to-date information.
Recycling Means Jobs, Stable Costs and Opportunities

You might think it takes extra time or work to recycle at home. But in Wentzville, recycling is simple and has its perks. Since expanding to single-stream curbside recycling in 2010, our residents have helped recycle more than 22 million pounds of material! Not only does recycling create more than 15,000 jobs in the St. Louis region and help reduce the burden on regional landfills, it also helps keep our solid waste bills stable — amidst inflation and fluctuations with gas prices and the economy.

Material that goes to a landfill costs about $30 per ton; however, material that gets recycled generates an $11 rebate. This doesn’t amount to much individually, but if you take a moment to consider that each household generates 2,500 pounds of trash each year, on average, this could make a difference citywide if more residents started recycling.

As a community, we’re recycling 20 percent of the waste thrown away. This offers room for improvement and the potential to keep more dollars in our town. Wentzville strives to make this easy by offering single-stream recycling services at no additional cost to our residents. This means you get to mix it all together, with no need to sort.

Did you know that you don’t have to remove lids and labels or heavily clean out jars and cans 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 are recyclable “if it tears,” unless it has germs (i.e. paper plates/towels, napkins, tissues). Don’t worry about breaking down large 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 entire load (which means the whole load must be landfilled), please remember that no plastic bags/wraps or Styrofoam of any kind can go in the recycling cart.

RECYCLE MORE
Top Five Items that Aren’t Being Recycled (that should be!)

- Empty aerosol cans
- Pizza boxes (just knock off cheese residue)
- Milk and Juice Cartons (gable top)
- Glass/aluminum drink bottles
- Kitty litter containers (up to 5 gallons)

SAVE THE DATE

What: Public Meeting to discuss one-way streets in Wentzville
When: Thursday, March 19 at 6 p.m.
Where: TBD

Stay tuned for more details at www.wentzvillemo.org and on the City’s Facebook page.

NEW BUSINESSES

Master Y Kim’s World Class Tae Kwon Do
1923 Wentzville Pkwy.

BRS Custom Painting
14 East Main, Suite 109

Overstock Outlet
15378 Veterans Memorial Pkwy.

Siding Express
12618 Veterans Memorial Pkwy.
Experience Wentzville

Bunny Run 5K & Cottontail Fun Run

Gear up for egg hunting with The Bunny Run 5K and Cottontail One-Mile Fun Run! Put on your speed enhancing bunny ears and tie up your laces as you race around beautiful Rotary Park after the Easter Eggstravaganza! In addition to the Bunny Run 5K, we will have the Cottontail One Mile Fun Run/Walk. These fun family events feature a beautiful course that you are sure to enjoy, plus face painters for the kids, a visit from the Easter Bunny, post-race food and drinks, a chocolate bunny finishers prize for all participants, as well as overall and age-group awards. If you find an Easter egg along the way, be sure to pick it up for a possible surprise at the finish! Costume contest for team, best female, and best male (judging at 3:45 p.m. before race starts at 4 p.m.). *Registration starts at 3 p.m.; race starts at 4 p.m.

The winners of the 5K run in each of the following age groups will receive awards: 10 and under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 and older. The top three overall males and females will also receive awards, but they will not be awarded for winning their age group. Every participant in the 5K/One-Mile Fun Run will receive bunny ears and a chocolate bunny! The first 150 5K entrants will also receive a custom race shirt.

The 5K will be held on Saturday, March 28 at 3 p.m. at Rotary Park. Early registration is $35 or $45 on the event day; the one-mile fun run will be $20 for early registration or $25 on the event day.

To register or learn more about any of these events, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at (636) 332-9236.

Easter Eggstravaganza

The Easter Bunny has been busy filling thousands of eggs with candy and prizes for the annual Easter Eggstravaganza. Some eggs will contain a slip of paper for prizes. Don’t forget your basket to collect all your goodies. Children will be grouped according to age. Children may move up to older age groups, but not down to younger age groups. Come early and enjoy face painting and games. Registration in advance is $3/child. The day of the event it is $5. You must have your ticket on the day of the event to hunt. Don’t miss this Eggciting event, for ages 1-10, which will be held on Saturday, March 28. Gates open at 8:30 a.m. Please arrive early to allow time for parking.

- 9:30 a.m. Ages: 1-2, 7-8, 9-10
- 10 a.m. Ages: 3-4, 5-6

Egg Decorating

Keep the mess out of your kitchen and allow your kiddos to enjoy the fun of dying and decorating eggs with some new friends. During this 45-minute class, each child will decorate one dozen eggs to take home and will enjoy punch and cookies afterward. Due to limited space, parents are asked to wait outside the room. The program will be held on Thursday, April 2 in the Progress Park Community Room. Ages 2-6 will decorate at 6:30 p.m. and ages 7-10 will decorate at 7:30 p.m. The cost is $12 for residents and $15 for nonresidents. Registration is required.

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.

Reports should be sent to: Wentzville Public Works Department / Attention: Backflow Testing / 200 E. 4th St., Wentzville, MO 63385.

Or, email the results to: backflow.test@wentzvillemo.org.
Did You **KNOW**?

**Candidates for April 7 Election**

All eligible City residents are encouraged to vote and make their choices known in the April 7, 2015, election. Residents who have not yet registered to vote have until March 11 to register. Voter registration forms are available at all Missouri State offices that provide public assistance, 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 Municipal Judge and for Board of Aldermen.

- **Municipal Judge, Two-Year Term:**
  - Michael “Mike” E. Carter
  - Vincent Johnson
  - Dominic McDarby Pontello

- **Alderman Ward 1, Two-Year Term:**
  - Cheryl Kross

- **Alderman Ward 2, Two-Year Term:**
  - Larry Tucker
  - Sonya M. Shryock

- **Alderman Ward 3, Two-Year Term:**
  - Michael (Mike) Hays
  - Matt Swanson

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**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 2015, all structures in the eastern 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.

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**Mission: Clean Stream & GM Festival**

**Saturday, April 11 at Rotary Park:**
Check in at 8:30 a.m.; Festival 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Enjoy live music, kids’ activities, Stream Trash Art, nature walks and the Living History Company. Don’t forget to stop by the Wentzville Parks and Recreation Arbor Days booth, where there will be recycled art crafts for kids, activity sheets and free seedlings for resident card holders.

Help restore streams at the 12th annual cleanup. Register early by calling (636) 332-9236, space is limited. Volunteers need to provide transportation to their assigned site. Volunteers and families are invited back to the festival afterward for lunch. Know a spot that could use spring cleaning? Call Public Works at (636) 639-2055.


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**Volunteers Needed!**

**The Following Items Are 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
Spring Chipper Program

The City’s Chipper Program provides residents a free, convenient way to dispose of small tree limbs twice a year. The 2015 Spring Chipper Program will be the week of April 13-17 for residents living north of the railroad tracks; and April 20-24 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 2015 Chipper Program collection does not include leaves, root balls, shrub and hedge trimmings, decorative grasses, or grass.

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

Citywide Yard Sale

The Annual Spring Citywide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 2. For just $6 you can list your sale in our City yard-sale guide, or get together with three of your neighbors and list all of your sales for $15. Each listed sale will receive an official City Yard Sale sign. For only $2, shoppers may purchase booklets beginning April 29 at City Hall, Progress Park or the Utility Service Center.

Yard-Waste Pickup Resumes

Just a quick reminder that yard-waste pickup for the City of Wentzville will resume the first full week in March and continue through the last week of December 2015.

Residents who have not canceled the service and were receiving the service when it ended last year will automatically be put back on the list for 2015. Residents can cancel their yard waste for the 2015 season prior to March 1. Questions? Please call Public Works at (636) 639-2049 or visit bit.ly/wentzville_solidwaste.

Holiday Hours

City offices will be closed for Good Friday on April 3 so that City employees can spend the holiday with their families. The Parks and Recreation office at Progress Park will be open regular operation hours on Good Friday, but will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 5.

Please note that your Solid Waste & Recycling collection schedule will not be affected by this holiday.

Free Large-Item Pickup is scheduled for May 4-8. Follow us on Facebook for more information or visit http://bit.ly/LargeItemPickup for details.