

*City of Wentzville News, Information, Important Dates and More!*

## Recycle Your Real Christmas Tree

**CURBSIDE:** Curbside collection of real Christmas trees is available for Wentzville residents with solid-waste collection service. Trees, which must be cut into less than four-foot sections and free of decorations, lights, tinsel, garland, etc., may be placed at the curb on your regular collection day between Jan. 2-19. For questions, please call (636) 639-2049.

**DROP OFF:** Residents may also drop off natural trees at one of the three City parks below on the dates noted.

• **Dec. 26-Jan. 22**

- Progress Park (968 Meyer Rd.)
- Heartland Park (100 William Dierberg Dr.)

• **Jan. 15-22**

- Rotary Park (2577 W. Meyer Rd.)



## Community Development Block Grants

Maintaining our neighborhoods and assisting our residents are top priorities for the City of Wentzville. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are instrumental in helping the City achieve these goals. CDBG funding has a variety of housing assistance programs from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, through St. Charles Urban County, for the purpose of assisting local residents based on eligibility.

- **Home Improvement Loan Program:** This program provides up to \$10,000 at a 0% interest, five-year forgivable loan for home improvements, emergency repairs, and property maintenance concerns to eligible residents.
- **First-Time Homebuyer Program:** This program works with participants to gain firsthand knowledge about the essentials of getting mortgage-ready to buy your own home and how you may qualify for financial assistance of up to \$10,000 that can be used for a down payment and closing costs.
- **Transportation Program:** Transportation services are provided within St. Charles County for medical purposes, shopping, and other services. Medical services include medical/healthcare at a hospital, doctor's office, dental office and other medical facilities. Essential shopping includes grocery stores, Walgreens, CVS, Target and Walmart. Residents ages 62 and older, who have a disability and/or meet current low-moderate income qualifications are eligible.

Please visit the City's website at [www.wentzvillemo.gov/CDBG](http://www.wentzvillemo.gov/CDBG) to access an application, or complete the application online by visiting the St. Charles City portal at [www.wentzvillemo.gov/SCCPortal](http://www.wentzvillemo.gov/SCCPortal) — deadlines may apply. Eligibility requirements and restrictions may apply for each of these programs and may include income verification. Please direct any questions to Wentzville's Building Official, Jessica Isaak, at [Jessica.Isaak@wentzvillemo.gov](mailto:Jessica.Isaak@wentzvillemo.gov) or (636) 639-2046.

## Fee-Free Bank Draft for Utility Billing

The City offers a fee-free auto-draft option using your checking account and routing number. To sign up, please visit [www.wentzvillemo.gov/BankDraft](http://www.wentzvillemo.gov/BankDraft). Your account will be drafted on the City due date each month automatically. Questions? Please call Utility Billing at (636) 639-2155.



## Protect Your Sewer

'Tis the season for home-cooked meals! As you prepare delicious dishes this holiday season, keep in mind that fats, oils and grease don't just clog our arteries, they also clog our sewers. Keeping these substances out of the drain is one of the best ways to avoid a sewer backup in your home.

Fats, oils, and grease are found in many of the foods we eat every day — foods such as meat, butter, cooking oil, gravy, sauces, mayonnaise, salad dressing and cheese. These also happen to be some of the key ingredients to our favorite holiday dishes.

Help prevent drain and sewer clogs by keeping drains free of fat, oil and grease. Use these reminders from the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District to prevent grease buildup in your pipes:

- Wipe cooled pots and pans with a paper towel before washing.
- Remove fatty foods from plates and the kitchen sink and place them in the trash — not down the drain.
- Can it, cool it and trash it. Pour all cooled cooking fats that will harden into a container such as an empty vegetable, pet food or coffee can. Let the contents cool and throw the can in the trash.



## Package Safety Tips

Protect your packages from “porch pirates” this holiday season (and year-round) with these tips from the Wentzville Police Department (WPD).

- Schedule deliveries when you will be home, choose in-garage delivery, or have packages delivered to a trusted friend/family member or to a commercial locker.
- Request a signature to receive your package.
- Increase your home security with surveillance cameras.
- Remember to report any suspicious activity to WPD at (636) 327-5105.

If you have a surveillance system, WPD would love to partner with you! If you register your surveillance system and a crime occurs, WPD can quickly identify anyone with cameras nearby. This helps WPD to collect video evidence and follow up on leads to solve the crime. WPD is not asking for access to your system. This voluntary program simply provides a way to know where video surveillance systems are located throughout the community. To register your system, please visit [www.wentzvillemo.gov/WPDVideoRegistration](http://www.wentzvillemo.gov/WPDVideoRegistration). Questions? Please contact Detective Sergeant Wessel at (636) 639-2138.

## WPD Shopping Safety Tips



As the holiday season approaches, the City of Wentzville and the WPD are dedicated to ensuring that you and your loved ones have a safe and joyful celebration. In the spirit of our commitment to creating a safe and welcoming community, we'd like to share some valuable tips to help you reduce the risk of falling victim to criminal activities during your holiday shopping.

- **Be Aware of Your Surroundings:** Stay off your phone and pay close attention to what's around you.
- **Park Smart:** If your shopping ventures take you out after dark, consider parking in well-lit areas close to the entrance of the stores.
- **Shop in Pairs:** Shopping is always more enjoyable when you have a friend or family member by your side.
- **Be Prepared:** When returning to your car, keep your key fob in your hand.
- **Opt for Credit/Debit Cards:** Carrying large amounts of cash can be risky.
- **Hide Your Valuables:** Conceal items to reduce the temptation for opportunistic criminals. We recommend securing your purchases in the trunk or covering them with a blanket or jacket.

## Holiday Hours

City offices will be closed on the following days to observe these upcoming holidays:

- Christmas: Dec. 22 and Dec. 25
- New Year's Day: Jan. 1

The Progress Park Recreation Center and the WREC have adjusted schedules to observe these upcoming holidays:

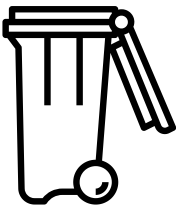
- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, closes at 3 p.m.
- Christmas Day, Dec. 25, closed
- New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, closes at 3 p.m.
- New Year's Day, Jan. 1, closed

The Wentzville Ice Arena also has an adjusted schedule to observe these upcoming holidays:

- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, closed
- Christmas Day, Dec. 25, closed
- New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, closes at 6 p.m.

## Quick Reminder

This year, the Christmas Day and New Year's Day holidays will affect the collection schedule; therefore, pickup days will occur one day after each holiday. For example, since Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Monday this year, solid waste, recycling and yard waste collection will move forward one day. To learn more, please visit [www.wentzvillemo.gov/CollectionHolidays](http://www.wentzvillemo.gov/CollectionHolidays).



## Wentzville Wonderland Holiday Decorating Contest

Decorating for the holidays? Enter your home in the City's Wentzville Wonderland Holiday Display Facebook Contest! Between Dec. 1 and Dec. 13, participants can submit a photo of their holiday display by posting it in the City's Wentzville Wonderland Facebook event. Displays will be voted on by the public via a polling system on the City's social media channels, starting Dec. 14.

Winners will receive a custom Winter Wonderland yard sign to display on their property! One display will be chosen in each of the following categories: Biggest and Brightest, Social Media Favorite and Mayor's Choice.

To review the guidelines and locate contest-submission details, please visit [www.wentzvillemo.gov/WinterWonderland](http://www.wentzvillemo.gov/WinterWonderland). Please note: Submissions are subject to City approval. Displays that violate Wentzville's City municipal code will not be accepted. 2022 winners are not eligible to participate again until 2024.

