

THE VISION



WENTZVILLE IS
LEADING THE WAY

PG. 7

Cyber Crimes

Protect your children online with a few reminders from Mayor Guccione.

Update Your Info

Keep your contact information up-to-date, so we can share important news with you!

Survey Says!

Community Survey results are in, see how Wentzville compares to other cities.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Simmons Bank

LOCATION: 985 WENTZVILLE PKWY.

Financial Center Manager: Laura Valendy

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WENTZVILLE?

That hometown community feel. The City of Wentzville is known as "The Crossroads of the Nation." We have beautiful outdoor spaces and a great social scene with shopping, dining and retail. Not to mention the quaint downtown historic district!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR BUSINESS AND YOUR HOPE FOR WENTZVILLE?

Simmons Bank will continue to support the communities we serve and support the financial needs of customers in every chapter of life. We hope that Wentzville will keep its hometown feel. Infrastructure will be vital to keeping up with growth, and we look forward to the expansion of I-70 and the ease it will bring to commuters and residents.

PLEASE SHARE ANY OTHER COMMENTS, ADVICE OR NEWS. As your local bank, we are honored to support our customers and be a trusted financial advisor and business partner! You can learn more about Simmons Bank by visiting www.simmonsbank.com or by calling the Wentzville branch at (636) 332-3640.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of Laura Valendy and are not endorsed by, and do not necessarily reflect the views of, Simmons Bank. Simmons Bank does not provide tax, accounting or legal advice.



OPEN

WHY DID YOU LOCATE YOUR BUSINESS IN WENTZVILLE, AND WHEN

DID YOU OPEN? Simmons Bank was founded in 1903 and is celebrating 120 years of service to our communities. Wentzville is one of the fastest-growing communities in Missouri. With a financial center in Wentzville, customers have greater access to the products and services to meet their financial needs.

WHAT DOES YOUR BUSINESS BRING TO WENTZVILLE AND WHAT SERVICES DO YOU OFFER?

We are a regional bank that provides comprehensive financial solutions delivered with a client-centric approach. For 120 years, we've worked hard to make our customers' financial goals become a reality, whether those goals are buying a home, starting a business, sending a child to college or simply having greater confidence in money management! Simmons Bank offers checking and savings accounts, credit cards, digital banking, home and personal loans, investment services, business banking and private wealth — plus great customer service!

Welcome New Businesses!

Blacked Out Customs
1234 Continental Dr.

Discount Tire
1560 Wentzville Pkwy.

CFH Procurement Inc.
111 W. Allen St., Ste. 201

Baumstark Roofing
119 W. Pearce Blvd.

Gander Lighthouse Real Estate Group
807 E. Pearce Blvd., Ste. A

Life's Balance
210 S. Linn Ave.

Note: These businesses have all received a business license, but may not be open to the public yet.

Citywide Yard Sale: Sept. 22-23



Facebook
Event Page

Are you planning to host a yard sale this fall? Maybe you're just looking for a deal on something new to you!

The Find-A-Sale sheet is designed to help yard-sale hosts and attendees! Complete the linked form below to submit your sale; the information will automatically populate the Find-A-Sale sheet with locations, days of participation and a brief description of each sale.

- You can submit your sale information at www.wentzvillemo.gov/SubmitSale.
- View the Find-A-Sale sheet at www.wentzvillemo.gov/FindASale.

Note: Yard sales held during the Fall Citywide Yard Sale event on Sept. 22 and 23 do not require a Yard Sale Sign Application to display signs within Wentzville city limits. However, signage must still comply with the guidelines listed at www.wentzvillemo.gov/YardSale, and display permit number 23-002

General Motors Celebrates 40 Years in Wentzville!

Wentzville takes pride in its history and is committed to fostering future growth. General Motors (GM) has played a pivotal role in the City's progress and prosperity over the past four decades. In 1983, GM recognized Wentzville's potential for growth, its skilled workforce and its business-friendly environment, leading the company to establish its assembly plant here. Since then, the plant has been a catalyst for job creation, tax revenue and business attraction.

Beyond business, GM has shown a genuine dedication to the community. They actively engage in local partnerships, support local nonprofits and encourage their employees to participate in civic activities. Their focus has been on creating a positive impact beyond the cars they make.

As we celebrate GM's 40th anniversary, Wentzville proudly acknowledges GM's significant contributions to the City's growth and improved quality of life. Congratulations to GM on their remarkable achievements over the past four decades, and here's to an even brighter future ahead!



Citizen of the Year *Nominate Someone Today!*

Do you know someone who makes a difference in Wentzville? Nominate them for Wentzville's Citizen of the Year Award! The Citizen Recognition Program acknowledges outstanding individuals and groups that make a significant contribution, a positive impact or an improvement to the quality of life for citizens in our community.

Nominations are open year-round, but time is running out to nominate someone for the 2023 award. Recognition categories include service, community spirit, volunteerism and more.

Nomination forms and eligibility requirements are available by visiting www.wentzvillemo.gov/COTY. The Board of Aldermen will present the 2023 Citizen of the Year Award during a Board meeting in early 2024.



Rod Run Recap

This summer's Rod Run events in Historic Downtown Wentzville were a success! Whether you participated or just enjoyed watching the car cruise — thank you for showing your support for this great community program!





Mayor Nick Guccione

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR:

Let's Work Together to Protect Our Children Online

It is our collective responsibility to protect our young ones from internet predators. Discover how dedicated organizations like the St. Charles County Cyber Crime Task Force and the Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force combat these hidden threats, empowering parents with vital knowledge to keep their children safe online.

In today's digital age, the internet is an integral part of our children's lives, offering opportunities and risks. Cybercriminals increasingly target children, exploiting their innocence and vulnerability for nefarious purposes. As responsible residents of Wentzville, it is crucial to be aware of these threats and take necessary steps to protect our youngest residents.

The St. Charles County Cyber Crime Task Force serves multiple municipalities, including Wentzville. Task force investigators and forensic examiners handle internet-related criminal activity cases. Law enforcement agencies may submit evidence for forensic examination, ensuring a thorough approach to investigating cyber crimes. Learn more at www.sccmo.org/433/Cyber-Crime-Division.

The Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children (MO ICAC) Task Force collaborates with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, playing a crucial role in identifying victims and investigating online child sexual exploitation. MO ICAC diligently tracks down individuals involved in illegal activities against children online. Their partnership with federal agencies, such as the U.S. Secret Service Gateway Electronic Crimes Task Force and the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force, strengthens efforts to combat cyber predators effectively. Learn more at www.moicac.org.

As members of the Wentzville community, safeguarding our children from cybercrime is our collective responsibility. The St. Charles County Cyber Crime Task Force, MO ICAC and other dedicated organizations work tirelessly to combat these threats and bring offenders to justice. Educating ourselves about online safety and utilizing available resources creates a safer online environment for our children, enabling them to explore the digital world with confidence and security. Together, let us stand united against cyber predators and protect the innocence of our youngest generation.

Internet Safety 101

What Does an Internet Predator Look Like?

- Typically clean-cut and law-abiding in appearance.
- Uses their position in society to throw off suspicion.
- Can hold jobs or engage in activities involving children.
- Appears trustworthy to both parents and the child.
- May pretend to be someone they are not.

Conversation Starters for Parents to Ask Their Kids:

- "Has anyone tried to befriend you online? If so, how do you know about this person?"
- "Has anyone talked to you about sex online?"
- "Has anyone asked you for personal information, such as your address or phone number?"
- "Has anyone asked you for pictures?"
- "Has anyone sent you pictures that made you feel uncomfortable?"
- "Has anyone offered to send you gifts or money?"

Other Important Rules for Internet Safety:

1. Be aware of your child's usernames and passwords for email and social media accounts. Check for hidden apps or accounts that might be used to hide online interactions.
2. Teach your child never to share personally identifiable information such as their date of birth, address, full name, school or any images that could be used to identify or track them down.
3. Be alert to warning signs that your child may be in contact with an online predator. These signs include secrecy or obsession with online activities, anger when unable to go online, receiving or making phone calls from unknown individuals, quickly changing screens or turning off the computer when adults enter the room, withdrawing from family and friends, etc.
4. Encourage your child to block strangers and utilize privacy settings on social networking platforms.

I encourage you to learn more at www.InternetSafety101.org.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

A few quick reminders about tree-limb pickup, holiday hours and more!

FALL TREE-LIMB PICKUP

Twice yearly, the City provides residents with a free, convenient way to dispose of small tree limbs. Again this year, the fall pickup will take place by ward. Please note that the dates occur slightly later this year. If you're unsure about which ward you live in, visit www.wentzvillemo.gov/WardMap.

The fall 2023 schedule is as follows:

- Ward 1: Week of Oct. 30
- Ward 2: Week of Nov. 6
- Ward 3: Week of Nov. 13

Tree limbs and branches for the Chipper Program must be stacked at the curb by 6 a.m. on Monday of your Ward's scheduled Chipper Program week. Tree branches and tree limbs should NOT be bundled or placed in bags. Bagged or tie-bundled materials will not be picked up. Tree limbs are defined by the largest cut end measuring up to six inches in diameter. This also includes small tree trunks measuring the same diameter above. Please leave tree limbs as long as possible and face the butt/cut end to the street. Do NOT block the sidewalk with tree limbs. Questions? Call Public Works at (636) 327-5101 or visit www.wentzvillemo.gov/TreeLimbPickup.

HOLIDAY HOURS AND COLLECTION CHANGES

City Hall will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 4. Trash, recycling and yard-waste collection for the week of Labor Day is as follows: Monday pickups will move to Tuesday; Tuesday pickups will move to Wednesday; and so forth, ending with Friday pickups taking place on Saturday, Sept. 9.

CRIME TIPS

Have a crime tip to share? To report a tip, please visit www.wentzvillemo.gov/CrimeTips or call (636) 639-2180. All calls are confidential. This option provides an additional way for you to be connected to our Police Department and help us solve crimes. Please don't hesitate to contact the emergency number 911 or the nonemergency number (636) 327-5105 to report a crime or suspicious activity. If you have questions or need more information about any of these programs, please call the Wentzville Police Department at (636) 639-2107 or visit the Department's webpage at www.wentzvillemo.gov/PD.



2023 Photo Contest

In early July, residents were invited to submit photographs capturing the beauty of Wentzville. Thank you to all of our participants, who submitted more than 40 photos that each captured the essence and the beautiful, unique qualities of Wentzville! If you didn't submit your photo in time, don't worry — we'll be back in 2024 with another photo contest! To view full-size versions of all the amazing entries this year, please visit www.wentzvillemo.gov/View.

Congrats!



Photo credit:
Melanie Evans



Photo credit:
Rebecca Hoffman



Photo credit:
Heather Schutter





Reminders

Update Your Contact Info

We want to stay in touch with you! To update your email address or change utility account-related information, visit www.wentzvillemo.gov/MyContactInfo. Thank you for helping us communicate more efficiently and effectively.

Check for Leaks



Does your water bill seem higher in usage? More often than not, a leaking toilet can be the cause of this increase. A quick in-home test can be done to see if this is indeed the problem. First, put a few drops of food coloring into your toilet tank. Then, wait 10 minutes without flushing and check to see if the color shows up in the toilet bowl. If so, you have a leak and a quick and easy seal replacement should stop your water loss. Be sure to run this test on all the toilets in your home and also check the handles to be sure they're not sticking, as this will also cause water loss by the toilet continuously running. For more information concerning water usage, visit www.wentzvillemo.gov/Water.

Questions?

If you have billing-related questions, you can contact a Customer Relations Rep Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Simply call (636) 639-2155, and select option 2.



Bill Payment Overview

With numerous options to choose from, you can select the utility bill payment option that works best for you!



PAYMENT OPTIONS

Bank Draft: Sign up to have your utility bill drafted automatically each month. 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. Your account will be drafted on the City due date each month automatically.

By Text or Phone 24/7/365: The City of Wentzville gives you access to your utility account 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Pay your bills on your own time — with no waiting. Access your account instantly through a secure, automated system to get real-time balances, payment amounts and due dates. To make your payment over the phone or set up Text-to-Pay, please call (833) 326-7020 and follow the prompts.

Online Payments in Real Time: You can make a one-time payment in real-time online when you register at www.wentzvillemo.gov/PayMyBill. From this website, you can view balances, access PDF copies of your bill, view your transaction history, as well as make payments or update your account.

Schedule Payments in Advance: You can schedule payments in advance and also schedule credit-card drafting with the date of your choice*. To learn more or set up one of these options, visit www.wentzvillemo.gov/PayMyBill.

Drop Box or In-Person: A drive-up drop box is located in front of City Hall for your convenience. In-person payments are also accepted inside City Hall between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Cash, check and money orders are accepted, plus MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover cards.**

Live Customer Relations Rep: We love to talk to you! Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., you can pay your bill over the phone with a live customer relations representative by calling City Hall at (636) 639-2155, option 2.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Text Reminders and Account Updates: Residents and business owners can opt in to receive utility bill reminders by text (instead of by phone call), when a shut-off is pending. To change your preferences, please call (636) 639-2155. Need to update your contact info? Check out the blue box on this page.

Sign Up to Give Back: Wentzville residents can register to round up their utility bills to the nearest dollar to benefit Wentzville seniors. Funds raised from the "Round-Up" program are donated to our local Meals on Wheels service. Register for the "Round-Up" at www.wentzvillemo.gov/GiveBack.



GO PAPERLESS!
Sign up to receive your utility bill via email at www.wentzvillemo.gov/EBill.

* Payments scheduled after the due date may be subject to late fees.

** Please note: A 2% surcharge will apply to all credit card payments made with these payment methods.





Meet the Board (left to right): Jordan Broviak (Ward 2), Robert Hussey (Ward 2), Michael Lovell (Ward 3), Mayor Nick Guccione, Manny Macias (Ward 1), Bryan Harr (Ward 1), Michael Hays (Ward 3). For contact information, visit www.wentzvillemo.gov/BOA.

Board Update: Community Survey Results

As part of Wentzville's ongoing effort to involve residents in its long-range planning process, the City retained ETC Institute of Olathe, Kansas, to administer a Community Satisfaction Survey and gather input from residents about the quality of City services. This is the third survey ETC Institute has administered for the City, with the first two being in 2010 and 2016. During January and February of 2023, the survey was administered, and the information gathered will be used to help the City improve existing programs and services and make informed decisions regarding future community priorities. A six-page survey was mailed to a random sample of households chosen by ETC. The goal was to obtain at least 400 completed surveys – this was surpassed with 437 surveys returned. The survey results have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/-4.7%. Overall, the City's 2023 Citizen Satisfaction Survey Executive Report is very positive.

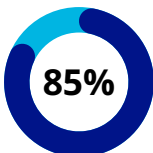
Eighty-five percent of the residents surveyed rated the overall quality of services provided by the City as "excellent" or "good." This is significantly higher than the regional average of 53% and the national average of 51%.

The major categories of City services that had the highest levels of satisfaction were: the overall quality of police services, the maintenance of City buildings and facilities and the quality of customer service received from City employees. The areas that residents would like the City to focus on for the future were: flow of traffic and congestion, maintenance of City streets, and enforcement of City codes and ordinances.

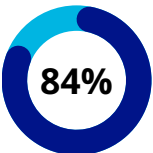
Of the residents surveyed, 84% also rated the overall quality of life in Wentzville as "excellent" or "good," which is also higher than the regional average of 68% and the national average of 66%. In addition, residents rate safety in Wentzville very highly. Overall 95% of residents feel "very safe" or "safe" walking alone in their neighborhoods during the day, and 88% feel safe walking alone in business areas during the day or in their neighborhoods in general. When asked about the most important reasons they chose to live in Wentzville, residents indicated these top-four choices: safety and security, quality of housing, quality of public schools and the cost of housing. To view the complete survey results, please visit www.wentzvillemo.gov/Survey.

OVERALL PERCEPTION OF THE CITY

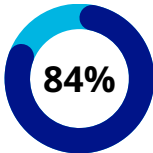
Percentage of respondents rating as "good" or "excellent"



Quality of City services



Feeling of safety in the City



Quality of life in the City of Wentzville

City Wins Leading the Way Award

The City is excited to announce its recognition as a National Top Performer by ETC Institute's Leading the Way Award. This prestigious accolade comes after the ETC Institute conducted a comprehensive survey in early 2023 (see the "Board Update" article). The City's exceptional performance has placed it among the top 10% of all cities nationwide. ETC Institute's Leading the Way Award honors local governments that demonstrate outstanding achievement in delivering services to their residents.

As a National Top Performer, the City of Wentzville has solidified its reputation as a front-runner in providing high-quality services and programs to its residents. The award's assessment is based on three key areas, each contributing to a composite performance score used to determine the winners:

- Satisfaction with the overall quality of services
- Satisfaction with customer service provided by employees
- Satisfaction with the value residents think they receive for local taxes and fees

The City of Wentzville received an impressive composite rating almost 50 points above the national average. This outstanding achievement not only reflects the City's dedication to excellence but also highlights its commitment to exceeding the high standards set by the ETC Institute's Leading the Way Award.

Mayor Nick Guccione shared this, "This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our City employees and leadership team. We are committed to providing the highest level of services to our residents, and this honor validates our efforts. The City of Wentzville is honored to be acknowledged as a National Top Performer by the ETC Institute's Leading the Way Award."



This FREE* drive-thru and drop-off event is open to families and individuals only (no businesses, please). Almost anything with a plug is accepted for Electronics Recycling. However, some items (such as TVs and items with Freon) will incur a fee. Learn more at www.wentzvillemo.gov/ElectronicsRecycling.



**Oct. 21
9-11:30 a.m.**

**North Point HS
2255 W. Meyer Rd.**

FREE Personal shredding is limited to six "Bankers Boxes" (or the same size) OR three 13-gallon (kitchen-sized) garbage bags, per vehicle. Participants should ONLY shred items with personally identifiable details. Items that DO NOT contain personally identifiable information should be recycled directly in your curbside recycling cart.



Sept. 15-16

**Main Street
Historic Downtown Wentzville**

Live Music, Art and Craft Vendors and More!

Learn more at www.wentzvillemo.gov/FallFestival.

Music Lineup

Friday, Sept. 15

6-8 p.m. — Nash Vegas

8:30-10:30 p.m. — Charles Glenn

Saturday, Sept. 16

3-5 p.m. — Dust Covers

5:30-7:30 p.m. — Borderline

8:30-10:30 p.m. — Vote for Pedro



Come listen to some amazing talent!