

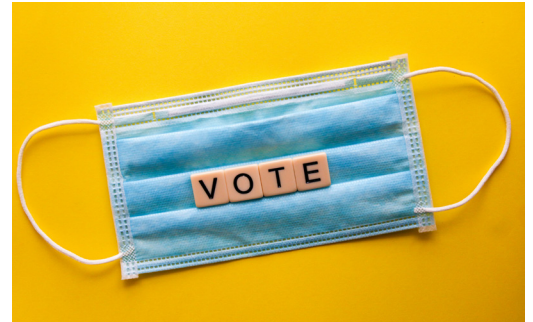
CHESTERFIELD

Citizen

CHESTERFIELD.MO.US | 636.537.4000 | SPRING 2021

Candidates for upcoming April 6 Municipal Election

It's time to vote again! To register to vote in St. Louis County, you must be: 18 years of age by Election Day, a U.S. Citizen, and a resident of St. Louis County. You can register to vote at City Hall, most libraries and schools, and at motor vehicle registration offices. The Missouri Voter Registration Application is also available online at <https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-government/board-of-elections/>. Additionally, registration forms can be mailed to you by calling City Hall at 636.537.4000. The deadline to register for this election is March 10. If you are not sure if you are registered or not sure where your polling location is, please visit <https://sl.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup/>.



MAYOR	WARD I	WARD II	WARD III	WARD IV
Bob Nation (incumbent)	Barbara McGuinness (incumbent)	Aaron Alan Wahl Edward J. Ernstrom	Mark Ivancic Steven Goldstein	Michelle Ohley (incumbent)
Mike Casey Ben Keathley	Gene Schenberg		Dan Hurt (incumbent)	Brendan Block Steven Tomaszewicz Gary Budoor

New location for the 4th of July

The Fourth of July Celebration you know and love is back with a brand new location - Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex!

Festivities start 6:30 p.m.
Groovethang performs 7:00 p.m.
Fireworks begin 9:00 p.m.

Visit chesterfield.mo.us/fourth-of-july.html for more information on the celebration!



Backstoppalooza gives despite COVID

The Chesterfield Police Department, along with their co-sponsors, are happy to announce that a total of \$22,663 was raised from the 2020 Ed Nestor Memorial Backstoppalooza Concert to benefit Backstoppers. Thank you to all the sponsors, and individuals who donated on our fundraising page, bought t-shirts and sent any support to this great cause.

Although there wasn't a physical concert this year, the sponsors and supporters still came through in a big way and the Police Department cannot thank them enough for this. Chesterfield PD is always proud to donate to Backstoppers and looks forward to seeing everyone at Backstoppalooza on August 21!

Captain Thompson (L) presents the Sound Room with a plaque for being the very first \$5,000 Platinum Record Level Sponsor.



Flip over
for the Spring Guide!

Mayor

Bob Nation

636.537.4711

bnation@chesterfield.mo.us

Term Expires: April 2021

Council Members

Ward I

Mary Monachella - 636.579.9030

mmonachella@chesterfield.mo.us

Term Expires: April 2022

Barbara McGuinness - 314.434.7326

bmcguinness@chesterfield.mo.us

Term Expires: April 2021

Ward II

Mary Ann Mastorakos - 314.532.3222

mmastorakos@chesterfield.mo.us

Term Expires: April 2022

Ben Keathley - 636.345.0629

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Term Expires: April 2021

Ward III

Michael Moore - 314.378.7142

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Term Expires: April 2022

Dan Hurt - 636.532.2035

dhurt@chesterfield.mo.us

Term Expires: April 2021

Ward IV

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Term Expires: April 2022

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Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

Heaven knows what a challenging, sad, and frightening year 2020 has been with the COVID pandemic. But good news is here! As more residents receive the vaccines, safety grows. I hope everyone continues to adhere to all the safety precautions and that soon the pandemic will be history.

Despite trying times, Chesterfield has much to be thankful for. Fiscal belt tightening included furloughing a significant number of employees on a temporary basis this past year. I am pleased to say that all who chose to return to their jobs have done so. Our robust reserve fund, a longstanding fiscal policy, has been crucial to our recovery. The receipt of \$3.265 million in Federal CARES Act funding was additional welcome aid. The bottom line is that we will not have to ask for any approval for property tax! This information contrasts with my previous newsletter, but the above information, coupled with anticipation that our legislature will likely pass a bill to allow internet sales to be taxed, is the reason for the change in thought. As I have said many times, a city should not collect more than what it needs to provide excellent services to its residents.

There really are so many good things going on in Chesterfield, it is hard to know where to begin. Most excitedly, we have purchased the large tract (8 acres) of land across from the amphitheater, offering plentiful green-space and a location for future functions. We are all watching the creation of Wildhorse Village, a first-rate undertaking that will offer residents some exciting options in the heart of our City. In addition, the redevelopment of the "District" (formerly Taubman Prestige Outlet), including a 3300-seat concert venue, and the much-anticipated redevelopment of Chesterfield Mall both will be impressive additions to Chesterfield.



In an effort to make exercising accessible and fun, we have more good news! Chesterfield has gained a new city park on Schoettler Road in collaboration with Logan University at a minimum cost. We are also diligently working to complete the northeast section of the levee trail to make it more useable for cyclists and walkers/joggers. Additionally, we have plans starting later this year to extend the Riparian Trail (Phase III) all the way to Wild Horse Creek Road and Old Chesterfield Road. Both of these improvements will offer residents longer, less interrupted trails. I encourage all of you to use them and stay healthy!

Yes, this past year has been difficult for all of us and we look forward to a "new normal" soon, where we can once again enjoy socialization with concerts, fireworks, outdoor movies, city pool, and other gatherings. We continue to plan for these events and hope that we can safely provide them. I do appreciate all of you who adhered to the safety measures put into place by the county, but as safety improves, I hope you will patronize our many businesses which have had to make major adjustments and have lost significant revenue.

As always, I am available for questions or concerns and hope to see you on the trails!
Sincerely,

Mayor, City of Chesterfield

Lock It or Lose It

The Chesterfield Police reminds you to always lock your vehicles, secure your valuables and take your keys with you.

In an effort to increase awareness and reduce vehicle break-ins, the Chesterfield Police Department offer informational signs to subdivision trustees.

These "Lock it or Lose it" signs are placed in participating subdivisions, as well as in the City's parks and retail sectors as a reminder to our residents and visitors.

If you see something suspicious, please contact us at 636.537.3000 or 911 in case of an emergency.



Help celebrate Missouri turning 200

August 10, 2021, will mark the two-hundredth anniversary of Missouri's entry as the 24th state to enter the United States. A state with many different regional cultures, geographies, and industries, each Missouri community, county, and region has a story to tell about its people, their history, their commerce, and their culture. By celebrating the accomplishments and diversity of all these regions, we help create a better understanding of our unified Missouri and the ties that bind us together.

A successful commemoration of Missouri's two-hundredth year will engage all 114 counties and the City of St. Louis in a meaningful look at the Show-Me State's past, present, and future. Missourians will reflect on the events that have shaped their communities, counties, regions, and the entire State, while starting a new chapter in its unique history.

While a time of celebration, it is also a time to reflect and to build a strong future for the State, setting the course for Missouri's next 200 years. Visit missouri2021.org for more information on upcoming celebration events, projects, and local festivities observing the bicentennial. Stay tuned to City of Chesterfield social media, website and future Citizen Newsletters for Chesterfield's celebrations.



Holiday trash pickup

MEMORIAL DAY: MONDAY, MAY 31

All routes will run on a 1 day delay.

New location for Heritage Museum

The Heritage Foundation of Chesterfield is moving its two-year-old history museum from the upper west wing of Chesterfield Mall to a larger location space very close to Macy's second floor. The museum will have more window and wall displays for our present popular Indian artifact collection, Don Wiegand's sculptures, and their veterans area.

New exhibits are planned of the original villages that now make up the Chesterfield area and steamboats that docked here over a hundred years ago. There also will be a gathering space for events or entertainment either for the Foundation or other outside parties.



The museum would like to increase the time that they are open but to do that will need to attract more volunteers for one or two hour shifts. They also want to increase the museum's collection of interesting momentos, family pictures, organization pictures, business pictures and sports pictures. Old letters, diaries, maps and all other memorabilia, as well as interesting pieces of furniture and objects used in everyday life in this area 50 or more years ago would be great donations. The Heritage Foundation is now a 501(c)(3) charitable group.

Please contact the Museum at 314.952.4725 or mail to Chesterfield History Museum, Chesterfield City Hall, 690 Chesterfield Parkway West, Chesterfield, MO. 63017.

2021 Concrete Slab Replacement Program

The City of Chesterfield will manage two concrete slab replacement projects in 2021. These projects will replace approximately 42,870 square yards of concrete slabs on eight different residential streets. Residents adjacent to the planned replacement areas, along with subdivision trustees, will receive project notification by mail. All or portions of the following streets are scheduled for concrete slab replacement in 2021:

- Claymont Estates Drive
- Clover Ridge Drive
- Denwoods Drive
- Isleview Drive
- Nardin Drive
- Redondo Drive
- Stonebriar Ridge Court
- Stonebriar Ridge Drive



How to prevent becoming victim to common scams

Phone and email scams are becoming more prevalent with the ease of use of the internet and cell phones. In 2020, Chesterfield residents reported over \$1,106,006 in losses related to phone and online scams. CPD urges all residents to be alert and aware of anyone requesting personal information via phone or internet without first confirming the identity of the person on the other line. If you are interested in a scam prevention presentation for your organization, contact Officer Meyer at 636.537.6769.

Follow these steps to help prevent yourself or your family members from becoming a victim of scammers:

- If something seems too good to be true, it most likely is:
 - Thoroughly research “work from home” and “secret shopper” type job offers to ensure the legitimacy of the company.
 - Never give money to strangers in order to secure the rights to a larger sum of money.
 - Be vigilant when selling or purchasing items online.
- Legitimate Police agencies or government entities will never ask you to purchase gift cards to pay a bond or fine.
- Never give personal information over the telephone, such as your social security number, date of birth, mother’s maiden name, credit card number or bank PIN code, unless you initiated the phone call.
- Order your credit report from the three credit bureaus once a year to check for fraudulent activity or other discrepancies.
- Report all lost or stolen credit cards immediately.
- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery.

If you believe you are a victim of a scam or identity theft:

- Contact all creditors (banks, credit card companies, etc.) by phone and in writing to inform them of the problem.
- File a police report with your local police department.
- Report the problem to the Federal Trade Commission Hotline: 1.877.FTC.HELP.
- Call each of the three credit bureaus’ fraud units to report an identity theft. Ask to have a “FRAUD ALERT/VICTIM IMPACT” statement placed in your credit file asking that creditors call you before opening any new accounts.



Registration opens soon for 2021 Safety Town

Online Registration for the Chesterfield Police Department's 2021 Safety Town Program will begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10 on the City of Chesterfield's website (chesterfield.mo.us/safety-town.html). Walk-in applications will also be accepted at the Chesterfield Police Department beginning at 8 a.m. on the same date. Preference will be given to applicants who have not previously attended Safety Town.

Safety Town is a nationally recognized preschool safety program which teaches 4 to 6 year-olds about a wide variety of safety issues, including 911/police, fire safety, animal safety, bicycle safety, water safety, school bus safety, playground safety, and stranger danger. The program includes classroom activities, as well as outside hands-on activities in the miniature Safety Town city. The program is hosted and staffed by the Chesterfield Police Department. The program consists of six, two-week sessions running from June 7 - July 23.



Safety Town is one of the Chesterfield Police Department's most popular programs. In addition to commissioned Police Officers, the Safety Town Staff includes teen counselors from area middle and high schools who volunteer and assist the Police Officers in leading the program. We are currently accepting Volunteer Applications via chesterfield.mo.us/safety-town-volunteers.html.

All of the Safety Town sessions for 2021 will be held at Chesterfield Community Church, located at 14647 Ladue Road in Chesterfield. All COVID-19 restrictions in place during Safety Town will be followed and all possible safety precautions will be taken.

The sessions will be held at the following times:

Session 1: June 7 - June 18, 10 a.m. - Noon

Session 3: June 21 - July 2, 10 a.m. - Noon

Session 5: July 12 - July 23, 10 a.m. - Noon

Session 2: June 7 - June 18, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Session 4: June 21 - July 2, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Session 6: July 12 - July 23, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Officer Chad Meyer at 636.537.6769 or at cmeyer@chesterfield.mo.us.

Trail connection project underway

In late 2017, the City of Chesterfield obtained a grant to construct an extension to the Riparian Trail. For anyone not familiar with the Riparian Trail, it is a wooded trail which runs along the south side of Lydia Hill Road from the parking lot at Central Park to its temporary terminus at August Hill Road. This project (Phase II and III) will extend the trail north through the western portion of Central Park, across Wild Horse Creek Road, ending at Old Chesterfield Road (see map). The project is estimated to cost \$1.5 million, which will be offset by a \$1 million grant secured via the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The remaining \$500,000 will be funded by the Chesterfield Valley Transportation Development District (TDD). The City's goal is to ultimately connect the Riparian Trail to the Levee Trail.

This project was originally planned for construction in 2020, but was postponed due to development in the area and the need to coordinate the pedestrian crossing at Wild Horse Creek Road with a new traffic signal being funded by the area developer. Construction of Phase II and Phase III of the Riparian Trail is now scheduled for the summer/fall of 2021.



SLCEBC student election judges program

The St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners (SLCBEC) is accepting applications for High School students who are interested in the Election Board's Student Election Judge Program. The Student Election Judge Program gives students an opportunity to work with veteran Election Judges providing hands-on experience in learning how elections are conducted.

Participating in the electoral process is an excellent way to promote the importance of civic engagement and instill a sense of public responsibility in our young people as they enter adulthood. This can also be a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours for graduation requirements, or earn a wage for working at a polling place on Election Day.

To qualify, students must be at least 15 but under 18 years of age, and be in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade. Interested students can apply by following this link: www.vote4stlco.com/pollaccess. Applications must be received in the Election Board's Office by March 12 for students to work in the April 6 General Municipal Election.

Contact Jim McHugh of the Board of Elections at 314.615.1858 or email him at highschoolprogram@stlouisco.com to learn more.

Central Park Expansion input - We need you!

The City of Chesterfield Department of Parks, Recreation and Arts and SWT Design would like your input on the expansion of Central Park. With the assistance of a Municipal Park Planning Grant, we are creating a master plan vision for an eight-acre expansion of the park east of Veterans Place Drive. On Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6 p.m., we will hold our first of two public input meetings for this master plan. At this meeting, we will share an overview of the expansion property, review preliminary design thoughts, and receive community input.



This meeting will be held on Zoom using the link below, and an online form will be made available for individuals to provide input following the meeting and for those unable to participate in the meeting on March 18.

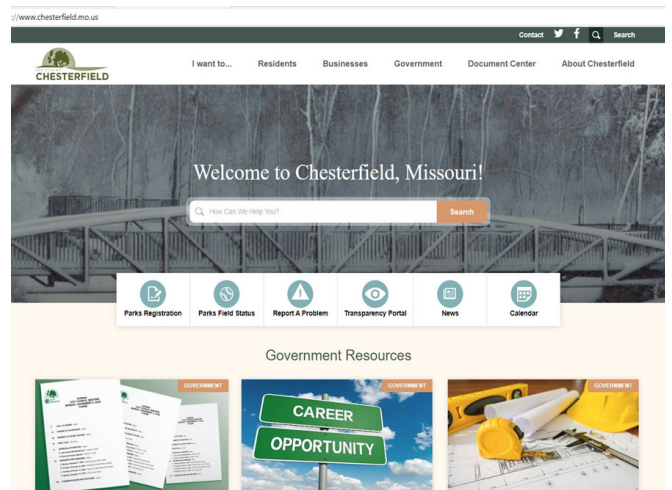
<https://zoom.us/j/97083680307> Meeting ID: 970 8368 0307 Call-in Number (if needed) +1.312.626.6799

We look forward to the participation of the Chesterfield community in creating the vision for the future of Central Park. If you have any questions about this meeting or the master planning process, please reach out to the Parks, Recreation and Arts Department at 636.812.9500.

Chesterfield has a new website

Technically, a redesign of our previous website, but the update was a long time in the making, mostly just skin-deep improvements where you can find most anything you're looking for. Explore either from the search bar located at the top of the main page, or hover your cursor across the top of the page where you get choices like "I want to..." which contains links to common questions that are frequently asked or links to "high traffic" pages. These items are the most requested areas of our site.

Other categories with lots to offer are "Residents", "Businesses", "Government", "Document Center" and "About Chesterfield". Residents of Chesterfield will want to check out the Document Center. The City's Document Center is a repository of our 'Forms & Permits', 'Various Departmental Reports', 'Misc. Maps', and 'Transparency Documents'. There are so many useful applications under this tab. Here you can register for a vacation check which is where you let the Chesterfield police know the dates you are going on vacation and they can do a drive by while you're away to make sure all is good. If you have time on your hands, you may want to volunteer for one of our committees such as the Historic & Landmark Preservation Committee or maybe the Chesterfield Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee or lastly the Parks, Recreation and Arts Advisory Committee. Check it out - chesterfield.mo.us!



Wildhorse Village Development is currently underway

What's going on by the YMCA?

If you've driven along Chesterfield Parkway, Burkhardt Place, and Wild Horse Creek Road recently, you may have noticed a significant amount of construction work occurring between the intersections of Chesterfield Parkway West with Wild Horse Creek Road, and Chesterfield Parkway West with Burkhardt Place. You are looking at the Wildhorse Village Development, which had an Infrastructure Only Concept Plan approved in October of 2020. This approved plan depicts the conceptual location of roadway infrastructure for the development, including the extension of Burkhardt Place, the internal roadway known as Lake Front Street, as well as connecting roadways to all exterior roads. The approved Infrastructure Concept Plan also allowed for grading to be reviewed and facilitated other infrastructure, such as stormwater sewers and sanitary sewers.



Wait a minute – what is Downtown Chesterfield?

Downtown Chesterfield is made up of a 99.6 acre tract of land that is comprised of three categories: Category A, Category B, and Category C. You may have already seen buildings being constructed for Category C, which consists of the Pearl mixed-use development and the AC Hotel.

When will buildings go up?

As of January 2021, the only approved plan is the Infrastructure Only Concept Plan. There is also an Amended Concept Plan under review by the City. This Amended Concept Plan shows the preliminary configuration of lots, potential roadways, building footprints, parking areas, and the common ground containing the required amenities per the governing ordinance. If the Amended Concept Plan is approved,

a Record Plat will need to be submitted. A Record Plat is the legal instrument necessary to create the individual lots. This Record Plat will be reviewed by City staff, the Planning Commission, and City Council. If the Record Plat is approved, individual Site Development Section Plans may be submitted to develop each lot. Each Site Development Section Plan will have more specific information on the building that is proposed to go on the individual lot.



What are the common ground amenities?

The proposed public amenities include the following:

- Lakefront park
- Stopped Amphitheater
- Floating Stage
- Floating Garden
- Performance Terrace
- Pocket Park
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Boathouse
- Boat Launch
- Picnic Lawn
- Trail Rest Station
- Overlook
- Viewing Ridge
- Lakefront walk
- Viewing Terraces
- Lunchbreak Courtyard

How can I get more information?

The City has created the "Active Developments" webpage which can be accessed from the front page of the City's website. The Active Developments page is regularly updated by City Staff with details, such as dates of submittals received by the City from an applicant, communications from staff to the applicant, currently or previously scheduled meetings, and plans and/or images of the building(s), as they become available. This interactive web page allows anyone to find projects by geographic location on a map or project name, and then pull all the relevant history and details of each project. Additionally, a person can easily see where in the development process a project is, such as pending review by the City, approved by the City, under construction, or completed.

If anyone should have additional questions about this project, or any other project at any stage, they are more than welcome to reach out to the Planner and/or Engineer whose contact information is provided under the project details. NOTE: The information contained within this article is accurate as of press time on January 22, 2021. Plans may have changed or been submitted since the date of this article. For more up to date information, please visit the Active Developments page on the City's website.

2021 Sidewalk projects

The City of Chesterfield will manage two sidewalk replacement projects in 2021. The first project (Project A) will address sidewalk deficiencies in the following subdivisions: Kehrs Mill Farm, Kehrs Mill Bend, Sycamore Place, Round Hill, and The Courts. The second project (Project B) will address isolated sidewalk deficiencies throughout the City including those reported through the City's work order system.

Accessible curb ramps

Each year the City of Chesterfield uses Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from St. Louis County to construct ADA compliant curb ramps. Over the last five years, the City has replaced 86 curb ramps through this program at no cost to City residents. This year, the City will use CDBG funds to replace curb ramps within the Wild Horse Springs and Woodcliffe Place Subdivisions.



Vector control

Soon it will be spring, and the wet and warmer weather will bring us many of the things we love. Unfortunately, it will also bring about the return of mosquitoes. If you are having problems with mosquitoes, or would like more information, please contact St. Louis County Vector Control at 314.615.0680.

Chesterfield PD push ahead with training amidst COVID-19

In the era of COVID-19, many aspects of our day to day lives have changed. However, within the Chesterfield Police Department, the role of Police Training Officer has not. Each year, the Missouri Police Officer Standards & Training Commission (POST) sets required continuing education standards for each full-time police officer.

In early 2020, the Commission confirmed that the required training standards for calendar year 2020 would remain in effect and would not be modified. With this information in mind, the training staff undertook a training schedule designed to accelerate quarterly trainings with social distancing in place to safely accomplish the required instruction. Many of these trainings may be accomplished through online lessons offered by "Police Legal Sciences." Officers may participate in these lessons at their leisure; all the while earning POST Commission credits.

There are, however, several training topics that officers must attend in person. These training topics include, Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC), day & night firearms qualification and certification in less lethal weapons and physical agility testing. These in-person trainings are being accomplished through incremental detachment of several officers from regular duties to allow for several hours of socially distant training.

Several of our previously scheduled classroom training days that instruct officers in the "Use of Force Policies and

Reporting Procedures" are proceeding as scheduled, albeit in much larger facilities which allow for significant social distancing.

Although COVID-19 continues to affect us in ways that we have not previously contemplated, the Chesterfield Police Department remains vigilant as we continue to hone our skills and consistently prepare our officers to provide the level of service that has come to be expected.



Officers in socially distant classroom training



Emergency Vehicle Operations course



Outdoor firearm qualifications

WE'RE HIRING!

We're hiring the following positions within the City: Planning Technician • Police Officer • Street Maintenance Worker • Building Attendant • Part-Time Custodian

To find out more information or to apply, please visit chesterfield.mo.us/careers.html. For Parks, Recreation and Arts positions, check out the Spring Guide!

Citizen Spotlight

By Kelli Unnerstall

The pandemic has brought a subdivision together to help those in need. Since COVID-19 hit in March, Kelli Unnerstall and her neighborhood, The Seasons at Schoettler, have held two food drives and adopted a family for the holidays. When COVID shut down many businesses, Unnerstall knew people were going to be struggling to make ends meet. Food insecurity was a pressing problem in areas of the community and they wanted to help. The two food drives they held supported St. Patrick Center and the Ascension Food Pantry. Neighbors donated more than a pickup truck filled with food for Ascension Food Pantry and a similar amount was given to St. Patrick Center.

After reading an article about the 100 Neediest Cases just before Thanksgiving, Unnerstall sent an email to her neighbors asking if anyone would be interested in adopting a family for the holidays. People were eager to participate. What happened next was absolutely magical! A family made up of a single mother with a severe disability raising four teenagers on a very limited income was selected.

"I am so proud of what our subdivision came together and did. Not only did we raise enough money to pay her rent for a year, but we also provided gifts for all of them including clothes, shoes, bedding, gift cards, dishes, towels, and a microwave. Someone even donated laptops to the school aged children," Unnerstall stated. "In addition to the money and gifts, we provided essential items like food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and personal care items. And we brought them a Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner from Heavenly Baked Ham. Neighbors literally thought of everything!"

2021 will hopefully be a much better year for the family they adopted and the gifts will let them know that there are people in the community that care about them.

"It has been so rewarding to use my role as a Trustee to bring together neighbors to help those in need. We are only roughly 70 houses, but I have been absolutely amazed at the generosity of my neighbors. I'm proud to live in Seasons at Schoettler and I'm proud to be a resident of Chesterfield. I hope other Trustees consider adopting a family next Christmas," Unnerstall said.



Kelli Unnerstall at the Seasons at Schoettler with donations.

CPD raises over \$7,500 for St. Jude

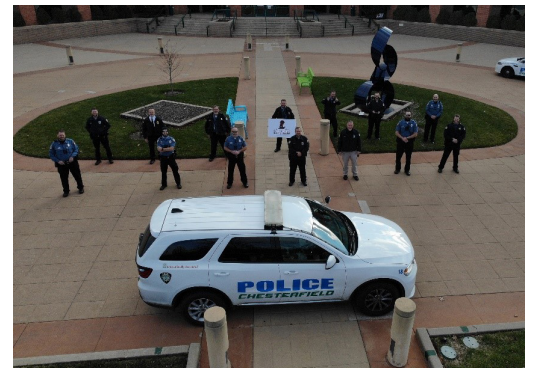
On January 19, the Chesterfield Police Department presented a check to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for \$7,580. This was the total combined amount of money raised during our "No-Shave November" event and matched by our good friends at Window World St. Louis.

While we enjoyed letting our whiskers grow out a little, the best part was raising money for such a wonderful cause.

Thank you to all participants and Window World!



Sergeant. Bodi, Officer Scoggins, Officer Clymer and Officer Hansen (l to r) show off their socially distanced beards.



Chesterfield Police Officers that participated in No-Shave November outside of City Hall.

Would you like to receive text updates on major road closures, emergency situations, missing persons and more? Sign up at nixle.com!



MO Statehood and the Chesterfield connection

By Ann Chrissos

Chesterfield Historic & Landmarks Preservation Committee

PART 1: Early Residents to Lewis and Clark

People have called Missouri home for nearly 12,000 years. The first residents of the area were hunters and gatherers. They followed the mastodon herds and occupied caves along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. By 2000 B.C., people settled in villages near creeks or rivers which provided water, food, flint and a means of transportation. As the Cahokian Empire grew between 900 and 1200 A.D., St. Louis and Chesterfield became important suburbs. They had mounds, temples, villages, cultivated fields and natural resources like wood and flint. For unknown reasons, the empire disappeared around 1350 A.D. leaving no evidence of human occupation in Missouri for the next 50 years. By the early 1400s, new tribes settled in Missouri, followed by Europeans, then Americans. As the American population grew, the demand for statehood followed.

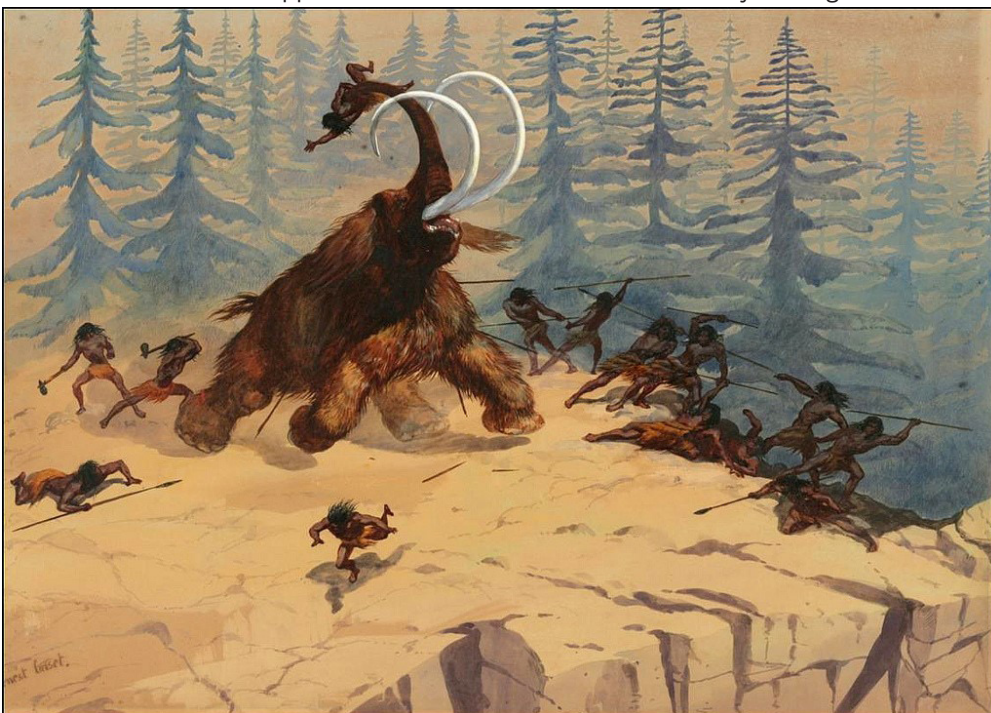
The Missouria tribe was one of the new groups to call the area home. Their name meant "people having dugout canoes." They came from the Great Lakes and settled at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers where

they cultivated beans, corn, squash and pumpkins. The women did the farming while the men served as hunters and warriors. Their name became associated with the territory. The Osage, meaning "children of the middle waters," lived along the Osage River. Their culture was similar to the Missouri tribe; however, they were considerably more warlike. After they acquired guns from the French, they became a real menace to their neighbors, the Oto, Iowa, Quapaw and Kansa tribes.

The French encountered these occupants of Missouri for the first time in 1673 when the exploration party of Louis Joliet and Jesuit missionary Jacques Marquette explored the Mississippi River. They entered the river near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, then traveled south to the Arkansas River which was named by Marquette. In 1682, another French expedition led by Rene-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle explored the Mississippi River from the mouth of the Illinois River to the Gulf of Mexico and claimed all the land on the west side for France. He named it Louisiana for King Louis XIV. French fur traders came from Canada to the Missouri territory looking for beavers.

Others crossed the river from Cahokia and Kaskaskia hoping to find precious metals and to establish trade with the Native Americans. By 1720, Philippe Francois Renault started a lead mine near the Meramec River which produced 1500 pounds of lead per day. Three years later, Etienne Veniard, Sieur de Bourgmont became the first European to explore the Missouri River. He founded Fort Orleans on the Missouri River near the mouth of the Grand River and present-day Brunswick, which served as a trading post between the French and the Indians. The fort was occupied from 1723 to 1726. Bourgmont wrote that Missouri was "the finest country and the most beautiful land in the world: the prairies are like the seas and filled with wild animals; especially oxen, cattle, hind and stag, in such quantities as to surpass the imagination." After these initial explorations, the French, then the Spanish, began building towns along the rivers.*

Ste. Genevieve became the first permanent French settlement in Missouri sometime between 1735 and 1750. Its location was chosen for its proximity to a salt spring and a lead supply. The settlers came from Canada and worked as fur traders, miners of salt and lead, farmers and hunters. St. Louis was the second town built by the French. In 1764, the site was chosen by Auguste Chouteau and his 14-year-old step-son Pierre de Laclède for its good docking area and its closeness to the Missouri River. Building began the next year and Laclède named the new town for King (Saint) Louis IX of France. The early settlers grew cash crops which included maize, wheat, tobacco, hemp, rye, oats and cotton. Florissant was also founded around 1765. The fourth town, St. Charles, was established by Louis Blanchette in 1769, as a trading post. Other early towns included Potosi, founded in 1773, followed by New Madrid in 1789 and Cape Girardeau in 1793. St. Andrew (Chesterfield) was the first village along the Missouri River and the first to be settled by Americans. It was founded by James MacKay in 1798. MacKay



Depiction of Native Americans hunting mastodon with stone spears and axes.

Historic Cemetery in Danger

By Ann Chrissos, CHLPC

The historic Bonhomme Presbyterian Cemetery, located at 14698 Conway Road, is in serious danger due to soil erosion from flooding on the Creve Coeur Creek. The Old Stone Church and its adjacent cemetery are the second and third oldest historic sites in Chesterfield. They were placed on the Register of National Historic Landmarks in 1973. The Bonhomme Presbyterian Church was founded in 1816, the stone church was built in 1841, and the first burial in the church cemetery was in 1843.

The cemetery is the final resting place of many early Chesterfield families. These include John Baxter for whom Baxter Road is named; Isaac Woods, who gave his name to Woods Mill Road; Elizabeth Gordon Smith, who was one of the charter members of the church, and the Yokel family, whose house still stands on Conway Road. The Church needs \$300,000 to save the cemetery.

If you have information concerning historic preservation grants, potential corporate support or you would like to make a donation, please contact John Green, Executive Director Operations at jgreen@bonpres.org or call 314.808.5101 or 636.778.5104.



Bonhomme's Old Stone Church, c. 1841. The cemetery is on the bottom right. Courtesy of Dan Rothwell, Oct. 1977.



Portrait of Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle holding a manuscript document claiming Louisiana Territory for France.

was born and educated in Scotland but emigrated to Canada in 1776 where he worked as a trader. He moved to Cahokia in 1791 and then to St. Louis two years later. He was a cartographer, a trader and was fluent in English, French and Spanish. For these reasons, he and John Evans were engaged by the Spanish governor of Louisiana in 1795 to explore and map the Missouri River. They returned in 1797 and MacKay was rewarded with 3,533 arpents of land (1 arpent = 0.84 acre) between Wild Horse Creek Road and the Missouri River. He served as Commandant of St. Andrew and married Isabella Long, daughter of John Long who settled on a Spanish land grant near MacKay's village.

Spain had acquired Louisiana from the French in 1762. In 1800, the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs claimed the territory cost more than it was worth, so Spain returned it to France. The French leader, Napoleon Bonaparte, needed money to fight a war with Great Britain and he feared the British would succeed in capturing the territory, so he sold it to the United States in 1803. President Thomas Jefferson paid France \$15 million for 827,987 square miles. This was less than three cents per acre. The territory was transferred on December 20, 1803. Jefferson organized an expedition to explore his new acquisition and he invited Joseph Conway to lead it. Conway, a Chesterfield resident and a former captain

in the American Revolution and the Indian Wars, declined because his family needed him. William Clark and Meriwether Lewis were then engaged to lead the expedition in 1804. The population of Missouri quickly grew during the territorial years and the residents began talking about statehood.

For more information about Chesterfield and statehood, see the display at the Chesterfield City Hall, <http://www.chesterfield.mo.us/historical-commission.html> or CHLPC publications available for purchase at Chesterfield City Hall or at the Chesterfield Heritage Museum at Chesterfield Mall.

*When the Seven Years War broke out in Europe in 1756, Spain allied with France against Great Britain. The British spent the next five years preying on Spanish treasure ships carrying silver from Peru. They would seize the treasure and sink the ships and crews. By 1761, Spain was nearly bankrupt. She pulled out of the war and declared neutrality. France, fearing that she would lose the war, ceded the Louisiana Territory to Spain to prevent Great Britain from getting it. At the Treaty of Paris in 1763, Great Britain, the victor, allowed Spain to keep the land west of the Mississippi River as a reward for her neutrality. However, Spain had to cede Florida to the British. Spaniards refused to settle in the wilds of Missouri, so the only Missouri town founded by the Spanish was New Madrid.



Depiction of historic Potosi. mininghistoryassociation.org

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