CITY OF MARYLAND HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

# February - March 2024

# **AN EGG HUNT**

Learn about the upcoming egg hunts for kids, adults, and dogs! Read more, Page 11



2024 BUDGET IN BRIEF
Check out an overview of this year's budget Included as an insert

## STAY SAFE DURING TAX SEASON

Learn more about the most common tax scams Read more, Page 7-8

MH SWAG SHOP IS NOW OPEN
Show off your Maryland Heights pride and shop a variety of products and designs

Read more, Page 13



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#### INSIDE: 2024 Budget in Brief



This publication is produced by the City of Maryland Heights Communications Department. Contact them by emailing mhlife@marylandheights.com.



Annual egg hunts are just around the corner, welcoming visitors all ages - even your furry friends!

yards.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As we eagerly await the arrival of warmer weather and the blossoms of spring, I am happy to share with you the latest things happening throughout our city.

In this edition of MH Life, we shine a spotlight on Parks and Recreation's annual series of egg hunts – the feature story on page 11. These community traditions invite residents, neighbors, and even our furry friends to join in the hoppin' good fun! We hope you can join us – as there is an egg hunt for everyone!

Before we look forward to many other exciting events this spring, let's take a moment to reflect on the special memories from this past winter. A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to the joy of our holiday festivities, making them truly special. We eagerly anticipate the return of these traditions next year. Check out some of our favorite photos on **page 13**.

In our commitment to serving you, the City staff is dedicated in providing essential information and resources for success in every season. Whether it's crucial election information (page 6), preparations for potential flooding (page 9), or assistance with waste removal (page 10), we're here to support you this spring.

Our Police Department has also shared valuable insights and tips to help you detect and defend against various forms of tax fraud – a must-read on **page 7**.

Looking to deepen your connection with the Maryland Heights community?

It takes all of us to build a stronger, more vibrant place to live, work, and play. Explore new and upcoming

opportunities to get involved. For those interested in giving back through service, the St. Louis County Election Board is seeking Election Judges for the April 2 Municipal General Election (page 6). Also, save the date for another

Volunteer Service Day on **Saturday, April 20** – more details will be available in the next newsletter and online at <a href="https://www.marylandheights.com/volunteer">www.marylandheights.com/volunteer</a>. Volunteers are always needed to help aid in the cleanup of several elderly and disabled residents

And if you're eager to show off your Maryland Heights pride, our staff has officially launched the online MH Swag Shop! Discover a variety of items, including t-shirts, tote bags, mugs, and more – see page 13 for details.

As we look ahead, mark your calendars for **April 28**, when Worldfest returns to the Saint Louis Music Park. And also, our MHPD will be hosting an open house on **May 4**, which is not to be missed, especially if you are a Star Wars fan!

Wishing you a relaxing and warm spring season ahead!

Mayor Mike Moeller (314) 878-6730

# COUNCIL MINUTES

The following is a summary of action taken at the November 2, November 16, December 7, and December 21 City Council meetings.

For complete meeting minutes, visit www.marylandheights.com/minutes.

#### **NOVEMBER 2**

- Approved 5% Beer and Wine by the Drink and Sunday by the Drink liquor license for Ethio Coffee LLC, d/b/a Ethio Coffee at 12670 Dorsett Road, Managing Officer, Atsede Menje.
- Approved Retail Liquor by the Drink and Sunday by the Drink liquor license for SWP, Inc., d/b/a 360 West at 111 Westport Plaza Drive Ste. 1200, Managing Officer, Francis Ikemeier.
- Approved an ordinance approving a
  petition to establish the Westport Plaza
  III Community Improvement District
  and authorizing and directing further
  actions in connection therewith.
- Approved an ordinance of the City of Maryland Heights, Missouri, approving a plan for an industrial development project; authorizing the City to issue its taxable industrial revenue bonds (Westport Plaza Project), Series 2023, in a principal amount not to exceed \$133,000,000, for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of acquiring, constructing, and improving facilities for an industrial development project in the City; and authorizing the City to enter into certain agreements and take certain other actions in connection with the issuance of the bonds.
- Approved an ordinance amending the Maryland Heights Personnel Manual as adopted in entirety by Ordinance 2022-4734, by amending Section 13.1 Hours of Work, to include the compressed work week policy
- Approved an ordinance repealing
   Ordinance 2023-4758, as amended,
   regarding the city pay and classification
   plan and enacting a new ordinance
   approving a pay and classification plan

and Exhibits A and B in lieu thereof.

#### **NOVEMBER 16**

- Approved the purchase of five (5) 2024
   Dodge Chargers, Silver AWD V-6, in the
   amount of \$188,775.00 from Lou Fusz
   Automotive in O'Fallon, Missouri under
   State of Missouri Procurement Contract
   #CC2374009.
- Approved a resolution amending the 2023 Budget by increasing the amount allocated in the Police Patrol Services Capital Outlay budget by \$188,775 for the purchase of (5) Dodge Chargers at the price of \$37,755 per vehicle.
- Approved a resolution amending the 2023 Budget by providing an advance of \$200,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Dorsett Road TIF Fund for the purchase of five parcels of land in the East Dorsett Redevelopment District to be reimbursed to the Reserve Fund after sale of the property.
- Approved a resolution of official intent toward the issuance of industrial revenue bonds to finance an industrial development project (Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.) and authorizing certain actions relating thereto.
- Approved an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a construction services contract with Raineri Construction, LLC for the Adie Road (Dorsett Road to Lindbergh Boulevard) Project.
- Approved an ordinance authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Tope, Inc. to provide services for the FY2024-2025 Sanitary Sewer Lateral Investigations and Repairs Program.

#### **DECEMBER 7**

- Approved an ordinance repealing
   Ordinances 97-1223 and 99-1593 and
   enacting a new "PDM" Planned District
   in lieu thereof to allow a public safety
   campus at 11021-11299 Schaefer Drive
   (Petition of St. Louis County and City of
   Maryland Heights).
- Approved an ordinance amending Chapter 24, Subdivision, of the Municipal Code regarding street

- standards (Petition of City of Maryland Heights).
- Approved an ordinance amending the Municipal Code by clarifying the regulations of Chapter 25, Zoning (Petition of City of Maryland Heights).
- Approved an ordinance amending Section 6-247, Fees, of the Municipal Code to establish fees for short-term rental (Petition of City of Maryland Heights).

#### **DECEMBER 21**

- Approved the purchase of Microsoft 365 licensing from SHI Incorporated in the amount of \$67,235.12 in annual fees for a term of three years.
- Approved a resolution amending the 2023 budget as a result of a comprehensive review of revenues and expenditures.
- Approved a resolution adopting a budget for the fiscal year 2024 which begins January 1, 2024.
- Approved an ordinance amending
   Ordinance 2022-4726, adding a new
   Subsection A of Section 1, authorizing
   the Mayor to execute Change Order
   No. 1 with Reitz & Jens, Inc. to provide
   professional services for the 12059
   Autumn Lakes Drive and 11465 Essex
   Avenue (north of street, east of property)
   Storm Water Projects.
- Approved an ordinance authorizing a city agreement and consent to assignment in connection with taxable industrial revenue bonds (The Flats at Dorsett Ridge LLC Project), Series 2020.



#### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARYLAND HEIGHTS?

# **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

View our entire calendar of events online by visiting <a href="www.marylandheights.com/calendar">www.marylandheights.com/calendar</a>.

#### **COLOR KEY**

- Adult & Senior Programs
- Administration/Finance
- City Events or Closures
- Community Development
- Council Meetings
- Economic Development
- Parks & Recreation
- Police
- Public Works

#### **LOCATION KEY**

- MHCC Community Center
- MHGOV Government Center
- CCIC Centene Community Ice Center

#### **FEBRUARY**

- First Monday Meet and Greet 10:30 a.m. MHCC
- 8 Family Bingo 5:30 p.m. MHCC
  Bring the whole family out for a night of fun as we play
  Valentine's-themed bingo! Prizes, dinner, and refreshments
  are included. Cost is \$10/person. Register online at
  <a href="https://www.marylandheights.com/webtrac">www.marylandheights.com/webtrac</a>.



- 9 Sweetheart Skate 7:00 p.m. CCIC
  Bundle up and grab your sweetheart for a night of ice
  skating! Cost for Maryland Heights residents is \$5. Skate
  rentals are \$5. No pre-registration required. Bring proof
  of residency to the Community Center to get your free
  resident card for the Ice Center.
- 10 Frozen Pickleball Tournament 9:00 a.m. MHCC Test your skills and compete against some serious players! \$40/person, per division. Register online at <a href="https://www.stlpickleball.com">www.stlpickleball.com</a>.
- 11 Frozen Pickleball Tournament 9:00 a.m. MHCC
- 13 Disability Commission Meeting 4:00 p.m. MHCC
- 13 Community Development and Neighborhood Preservation Meeting 5:30 p.m. MHGOV

- 13 Planning and Zoning Meeting 7:00 p.m. MHGOV
- 14 Public Improvements Meeting 6:00 p.m.• MHGOV
- 14 Beautification Meeting 6:00 p.m. MHCC
- Afternoon Flicks 1:00 p.m. MHCC Watch great films with friends. No RSVP needed. Adults only.
- 15 City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. MHGOV
- 19 City Offices Closed MHGOV
- 20 Grief and Loss Support Group 11:30 a.m.• MHCC
- 21 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting 6:30 p.m. MHCC
- 22 Afternoon Flicks 1:00 p.m. MHCC
  Watch great films with friends. No RSVP needed.
  Adults only.
- 23 Community Health Fair 10:00 a.m. MHCC Learn how to improve your quality of life with this fair, focused on health and wellness. More info on page 12.
- 24 Royal Winter Ball 10:00 a.m. MHCC
  Have your little prince or princess
  dress the part and participate in
  a sing-a-longs, meet-and-greets,
  photo ops, and more! More info
- on page 12.

  Monthly Luncheon and Bingo
  10:30 a.m. MHCC
  To purchase tickets, call
  (314) 738-2599.
- 27 Planning and Zoning Meeting7:00 p.m.MHGOV
- 29 Afternoon Flicks 1:00 p.m. MHCC
  Watch great films with friends. No RSVP needed.
  Adults only.

#### **MARCH**

- 1 Kids Night Out 6:30 p.m. MHCC Need a babysitter for a night out? We've got you covered. More info on page 11.
- 4 First Monday Meet and Greet 10:30 a.m. MHCC
- 7 City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. MHGOV
- 9 Lucky Leprechaun Hunt 11:00 a.m. MHCC The Maryland Heights Leprechauns need your help finding their lucky gold coins! More info on page 11.
- 10 St. Pat's Lunch 12:00 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. MHCC Don't miss this annual St. Patrick's Day tradition for



- residents ages 62 and older! Call the Community Center at (314) 738-2599 to make a reservation.
- 12 Community Development and Neighborhood Preservation Meeting • 5:30 p.m. • MHGOV
- 12 Planning and Zoning Meeting 7:00 p.m. MHGOV
- 13 Coffee Concert at the Sheldon Trip 8:00 a.m. MHCC

For more information about our Adult Day Trips, call the Community Center at (314) 738-2599.

- Public Improvements Meeting 6:00 p.m.MHGOV
- 13 Beautification Meeting 6:00 p.m. MHCC
- 18 Monthly Luncheon and Bingo 10:30 a.m. MHCC To purchase tickets, call (314) 738-2599.
- 19 Grief and Loss Support Group 11:30 a.m. MHCC
- 20 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting 6:30 p.m. MHCC
- 21 City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. MHGOV



- 22 Adult Egg Hunt 7:30 p.m. Vago Park
  Who said egg hunts are just for kids? Channel your inner
  child and hunt for eggs in the dark throughout Vago Park.
  More info on page 11.
- 23 Doggy Bone Hunt 11:00 a.m. Dogport The Easter Bunny is planning a special egg hunt at Dogport! More info on page 11.
- 26 Planning and Zoning Meeting 7:00 p.m. MHGOV
- 29 Underwater Egg hunt 5:30 p.m. MHCC Join us for a glow-in-the-dark egg hunt at the Indoor Aquatic Center! More info on page 11.
- Youth Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m. or 12:00 p.m.
  Vago Park
  Hop around the back of Vago Park and collect eggs at this annual tradition! More info on page 11.

#### **APRIL**

- First Monday Meet and Greet 10:30 a.m. MHCC
- 2 General Municipal Election 6:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Community Development and Neighborhood Preservation Meeting • 5:30 p.m. • MHGOV

- 9 Planning and Zoning Meeting 7:00 p.m. MHGOV
- 10 Public Improvements Meeting 6:00 p.m.• MHGOV
- 10 Beautification Meeting 6:00 p.m. MHCC
- 12 Bullets in the Bathtub Mystery Dinner •

6:30 p.m. • MHCC
Step into the 1920s for this
thrilling murder mystery dinner!
Cost is \$55/person. Register
in person at the Community
Center or online at
www.marylandheights.com/
webtrac.

13 Mom Prom • 7:00 p.m. • MHCC

Moms, dust off your old dresses and get ready to dance the night away with us! Cost is \$30/person. Tickets can be purchased online at <a href="https://www.marylandheights.com/tickets">www.marylandheights.com/tickets</a>.

- 15 Monthly Luncheon and Bingo 10:30 a.m. MHCC To purchase tickets, call (314) 738-2599.
- 16 Grief and Loss Support Group 11:30 a.m. MHCC
- 16 Economic Development Meeting 5:30 p.m. MHGOV
- 16 Reorg. Meeting 7:00 p.m. MHGOV
- 17 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting 6:30 p.m. MHCC
- 18 City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. MHGOV
- 20 Bulk Waste Day 8:00 a.m. Aquaport
  Got junk? Dumpsters will be available for residents to throw away oversized items. More info on page 10.

20 Volunteer Service Day • 8:30 a.m. • MHCC Make a difference for the elderly

and disabled residents in our community with yard work. Sign up at <a href="https://www.marylandheights.com/volunteer">www.marylandheights.com/volunteer</a>.

Planning and Zoning Meeting7:00 p.m.MHGOV

28 Worldfest • CCIC
Save the Date for Worldfest 2024,
our annual celebration of diversity
and global culture here in Maryland
Heights! More info on page 12.

#### **MAY**

4 MHPD Open House • 9:00 a.m.• MHGOV

Save the date for an out-of-thisgalaxy Open House.





Scan to view full calendar!

## **ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED FOR 2024**

In the upcoming April 2nd General Municipal Election in St. Louis County, voters will be choosing candidates and deciding on ballot issues for various public entities. Election Judges and Student Election Judges are needed to administer such elections in Missouri.

The St. Louis County Election Board is currently accepting applications for people who are interested in serving as Election Judges for the **April 2, 2024**, General Municipal Election. Additionally, the Election Board has an excellent High School Student program that gives students an opportunity to work with veteran Election Judges, providing hands on experience in learning how elections are conducted.

Election Judges play a pivotal role in making it possible for citizens to exercise their right to vote on Election Day at over 200 polling places across St. Louis County. Election Judges set up and operate the voting equipment, arrange the polling place, check in voters, and secure the ballots for collection at the Election Board.

Election Judges are awarded a financial stipend of at least \$250 for their service. Students may receive a stipend of \$170, or earn 16 community service hours. Serving as an Election Judge gives citizens a chance to perform an important civic duty and allows them to actively participate in their community.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an Election Judge, contact Jim McHugh at (314) 615-1858 or <a href="mailto:jmchugh@stlouiscountymo.gov">jmchugh@stlouiscountymo.gov</a>. To apply today, visit <a href="https://www.vote4stlco.com/pollaccess">www.vote4stlco.com/pollaccess</a>.



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTION

unicipal elections will take place on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The deadline to register to vote is March 6, 2024. Mailed applications must be postmarked by the deadline, but can be processed after the date has passed. To be eligible to vote, one must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the election, a legal U.S. citizen, and a resident of the state where you are registering to vote.

There are several options available to register. You can submit an application



online at s1.sos.mo.gov/elections/ voterregistration/, register in person at the St. Louis County Board of Elections (725 Northwest Plaza Dr. in St. Ann), or print and mail an application by mail (application available at sos.mo.gov/elections/govotemissouri/register). You can even request an application be mailed to you. Call 1-800-Now-Vote (669-8683) for more information.

When Maryland Heights' voters go to the polls on Tuesday, April 2, they will vote for one City Council member from their ward for a two year term.

In **Ward 1**, incumbent Willie James "James" Surgeon is on the ballot.

In **Ward 2**, incumbent Kimberly L. "Kim" Baker in on the ballot.

In **Ward 3**, incumbent Charles Gardner "Chuck" Caverly II is on the ballot.

In **Ward 4**, incumbent Steven "Steve" Borgmann and Cory Meyer are on the ballot.

Voters in St. Louis County may vote at any polling place in the County on Election Day. Polling places will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Can't make it to the polls on election day? In-person absentee voting opens at the Board of Elections offices at 725 Northwest Plaza Dr. on **March 19, 2024** and closes on **April 1, 2024**. During this time, anyone who lives in St. Louis County can vote early for their municipal election – no excuse needed.

As a reminder, a photo ID is required for all future elections in Missouri per House Bill 1878. Valid forms of photo ID include passports, driver's licenses, or government issued IDs.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Voters with limited mobility can vote "curbside" or outside the polling place.
Visit a polling place and ask someone to notify an Election Judge of your need to vote curbside. A bi-partisan team of Elections Judges will bring a vote recorder and ballot to your vehicle.

All polling places in St. Louis County has an ADA accessible voting system for individuals with disabilities, which includes audiovisual accessibility.

## **SAVE THE DATE FOR** THE NEXT PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

The next Paper Shredding event has been scheduled for Saturday, April 27. At this event, residents may bring the equivalent of five file-sized boxes or bankers boxes (12"W x 15"L x 10"H) of paper to be shredded. Paper shredding trucks, provided by The Shred Truck, will set up at the Government Center in the parking lot that faces Millwell. An employee of the City will be present to check you in.

This event is free and is for Maryland Heights residents only, no businesses. Registration is required to attend. If you do not register, you will be turned away. Register online at www.marylandheights.com/papershred or call (314) 738-2358. Registration will open on March 1 and close on April 19.

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT **SATURDAY, APRIL 27** 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. GOVERNMENT CENTER, 11911 DORSETT RD.

\*Must register to attend. Maryland Heights residents ONLY. Residents will choose one session at registration.



## **SAVE THE DATE:** MHPD OPEN HOUSE

The Maryland Heights Police Department is planning an lacksquare out-of-this-galaxy Open House this spring. Join us for a free pancake breakfast, K-9 demos, equipment and vehicle displays, and more fun activities!

MHPD OPEN HOUSE **SATURDAY, MAY 4** 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. GOVERNMENT CENTER, 11911 DORSETT RD.



# TAX SEASON SCAMS

Tt's that time of year again when we start Lthinking about gathering all of our documents together to file our tax returns. Did you know that this is the time of year that many identities get stolen and tax returns get fraudulently filed? It can happen to anyone, so you must remain diligent!

Criminals use emails and telephone scams to trick taxpayers into revealing their valuable information. They are working hard to get as much of our money as possible before we can. There are many ways to help prevent becoming a victim of this type of crime.

The IRS estimated that more than \$31 billion in tax fraud and financial crimes occurred in 2022. The first line of defense starts with you. In recent years many people have fallen victim to tax scams and bogus IRS communication through telephone calls, e-mails, and even regular mail.

The IRS **DOES NOT** initiate contact with a taxpayer by email or through

social media. It is important to know that they will NOT call you to do any of the following:

- Ask you to purchase gift cards, such as Google Play Cards/Apple Cards
- Demand immediate payment
- Ask for your credit/debit card number
- Ask you to verify your Social Security Number (SSN)
- Threaten taxpayers with a lawsuit or arrest due to nonpayment

The IRS WILL mail you a notice with an explanation of your outstanding balance.

#### TYPES OF TAX FRAUD

#### **Phishing**

Phishing occurs when fraudsters send taxpayers fake emails or website links to trick would-be victims into sharing personal data. The IRS states that they will not initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages, or social media channels to

request personal or financial information. This includes requests for PIN numbers, passwords, or similar access information for credit cards, banks, or other financial accounts.

Continued on page 8.



#### **Phone Fraud**

Cyberthieves often impersonate IRS agents via telephone to steal personal information. In recent years, the IRS has reported a rise in such cases. The agency says it will never call to demand immediate payment, nor will the IRS call about taxes you owe without first having mailed you a bill.

#### **Tax Preparer Fraud**

Tax preparer fraud occurs when tax clients receive emails that appear to be from their tax professional asking them to update their online accounts. These emails come from criminals, hoping to trick unsuspecting victims into providing such information as account passwords, Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, and credit card numbers, all of which can make the taxpayer a victim of identity theft.

#### **Phony IRS Visits**

A particularly onerous form of tax fraud occurs when an identity thief visits a home (sometimes targeting elderly residents) and claims to be an IRS agent. While IRS agents do visit homes and businesses, they will carry picture IDs and will try to contact you before visiting. Don't let anyone inside your home unless you're satisfied they are who they say they are. When in doubt, call the police.

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING SCAMMED

- NEVER give out any of your personal information over the telephone!
- HANG UP immediately!
- If you receive something in the mail, you want to verify that it is official visit www.IRS.gov, Understanding Your IRS Notice or Letter.
- If you determine that you received fraudulent correspondence, then you should report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at <a href="www.treasury.gov">www.treasury.gov</a> and email <a href="phishing@irs.gov">phishing@irs.gov</a>, and place "IRS Scam" in the subject line.
- You can also contact the IRS via telephone at 1-800-829-1040.

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU BECOME A VICTIM OF TAX FRAUD:

- Be sure to submit a paper return with any payments that you might have. Just because your e-filed return was rejected does not mean you do not have to file a tax return.
- Be sure to fill out and attach Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit with your paper return.
- File a police report with your local law enforcement agency.

- File a report with the Federal Trade Commission at <u>IdentityTheft.gov</u>.
- Request a copy of the fraudulent tax return, by using Form 4506-F with the IRS.
- Check your credit report and account statements. Make sure no one has charged anything to your credit card accounts or opened up new accounts. Consider changing passwords to online accounts and deleting your credit card information from online shopping sites.
- Place a credit freeze on your accounts.
   Call the three (3) major credit bureaus Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax, and ask that your credit be frozen. By doing so, you can prevent new credit from being created in your name.
- Request a PIN for tax filing. You can add an extra layer of protection to your tax filing if you use an IRS-provided personal identification number. You can request a six-digit IP PIN if the IRS has invited you via mail to opt-in.

Be Safe!

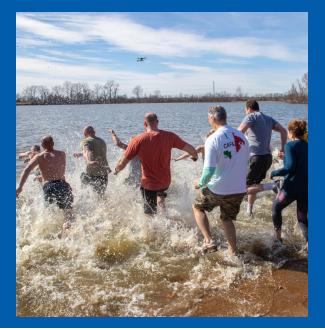
- Officer Terry McComas

# MARYLAND HEIGHTS **2024 POLAR PLUNGE**

Come join the squad! Our individual team members have combined digital forces to create this awesome fundraising team. Together, we will raise more money for **Special Olympics Missouri** than we ever could alone!

Want to help? Support us by visiting <u>support.somo.org/</u>
<u>team/542262</u> and choosing a plunger on our team to make a donation to. The process is fast, easy and secure... and you can be sure that it will benefit a great cause! Spectators are welcome on the day of the event!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
BEGINS AT 1:00 P.M.
CREVE COEUR LAKE
13725 MARINE AVE.



# PREPARE FOR FLOOD SEASON

Floods can happen anywhere and just one inch of floodwater can cause up to \$25,000 in damage. Did you know most homeowner insurance policies do not cover flood damage? Flood insurance is a separate policy that is designed to cover the building, the contents within the building, or both. If you live within a regulated flood hazard area, your mortgage company will require you to obtain flood insurance for your building. If a portion of your property but not the building falls within a floodplain, flood insurance would not be required. In this situation, the property owner would be required to submit documentation verifying that the building is out of the floodplain.

The City can assist you in determining if only the lot or the building and lot are located within a floodplain. Contact Director of Community Development, Michael Zeek, at <a href="marylandheights.com">marylandheights.com</a> or (314) 291-6550. Interactive maps are also available on the City's website at <a href="www.marylandheights.com/floodmaps">www.marylandheights.com/floodmaps</a>. These maps are based on FEMA's flood insurance rate maps which are available at <a href="marylandheights.com/portal/home">msc.fema.gov/portal/home</a>.

In an effort to assist our residents, the City of Maryland Heights participates in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS). Due to our participation, we are able to obtain a reduction in flood insurance premiums for property owners within Maryland Heights. As a commitment to our property owners, we continue to improve our management efforts to increase the rating of the City.



To purchase flood insurance, call your insurance company or insurance agent. This will be the same person who sells your home or auto insurance. If you need help finding a provider, visit <a href="https://www.floodsmart.gov">www.floodsmart.gov</a> or call the National Flood Insurance Program at (877) 336- 2627. There is typically a 30-day waiting period for policies to go into effect, so don't wait until flooding is imminent.

If your building is located in a floodplain, there are a number of measures which can be taken, besides obtaining flood insurance, to mitigate damage and protect your investment. Such measures includes incorporating flood-resistant materials, raising utilities to a higher elevation, and installing sewer back-flow valves. If you have any questions about floodplain requirements, flood insurance, to find out if you are within a floodplain, or to request a site visit, please contact Director of Community Development, Michael Zeek, at <a href="mailto:mzeek@marylandheights.com">mzeek@marylandheights.com</a> or (314) 291-6550.

## **HELPING THOSE WHO HOARD**

Is it hoarding, clutter, collecting, or squalor? And when does this become a problem?

Collecting or owning things does not make you a hoarder, and hoarding disorder does not make you lazy. **Hoarding** occurs when living spaces can no longer be used for everyday living and moving throughout the home becomes challenging. **Clutter** is the accumulation of possessions in living spaces. **Collecting** refers to well-organized possessions with each item differing from other pieces to form distinctive and often valuable groupings. **Squalor** refers to neglect of normal cleaning activities that result in unsanitary conditions in the home.

Hoarding can cause serious health and safety concerns. One of the goals of the City of Maryland Heights is to maintain a safe environment for residents, businesses, and visitors. Hoarding affects roughly 400

million people worldwide. There is no need to feel ashamed. The City has resources to assist.

Below is a self-assessment that can be completed in the comfort of your home.

The City encourages residents to reach out for help and to be proactive in preventing any potential hoarding issues. With the right resources and support, hoarding can be addressed in a safe and timely manner.

#### **SELF-ASSESSMENT**

- 1. Do you have difficulty getting rid of items?
- 2. Do you have a large amount of clutter in the office, home, car, or other spaces that makes it difficult to use furniture or appliances or move around easily?
- 3. Do you often lose important items like money or bills in the clutter?

- 4. Do you feel overwhelmed by the volume of possessions that have "taken over" the house or workplace?
- 5. Do you find it difficult to stop taking free items, such as advertising flyers or sugar packets from restaurants?
- 6. Do you buy things because they are a "bargain" or to "stock up"?
- 7. Do you avoid inviting family or friends into the home due to shame or embarrassment?
- 8. Do you refuse to let people into the home to make repairs?

If you have answered "yes" to at least one of these questions, speak to a healthcare provider or mental health professional about a full hoarding disorder screening.

Available resources are listed on the next page, **page 10**.

# HELPING THOSE WHO HOARD: RESOURCES

## Therapy and Mental Health Assessments:

St. Louis Behavioral Medicine Institute (314) 534-0200 • slbmi.com 1129 Macklind Ave,
St. Louis, MO 63110
\*SLBMI does not accept all types of insurance, and waitlists are often long.
However, they have therapists on staff who specialize in Hoarding Disorder

#### **Support Groups**

Online anonymous hoarding support groups are offered Sundays & Tuesdays on www.HoardingCleanup.com/chat\_room.

#### **Clean-Up Services:**

#### **BioOne Services**

(636) 279-9570 1939 Wentzville Pkwy., Suite 273, Wentzville, MO

#### Steri-Clean

(636) 328-6424 180 Hughes Lane, St. Charles, MO

#### Benecorp

1 (877) 305-1095 or (636) 305-1095 • 1197 South Old Hwy 141,

St. Louis, MO

#### **PureOne Services**

(314) 470-1426 • Available 24/7 10805 Sunset Office Dr., Suite 300, Sappington, MO 63127

#### **Emergency Services**

#### Servpro

(866) 927-0714 • Available 24/7 Various Locations

\*These services are only some of the options available to those in the greater Saint Louis area, and are not specific recommendations by the City of Maryland Heights,

For more information, contact the Maryland Heights Social Worker, Ericka Jones at (314) 738-2233 or at <a href="mailto:ejones@marylandheights.com">ejones@marylandheights.com</a>.

## YARD & BULK WASTE TIPS

When the ground thaws out, temperatures start to increase, and you spot the faintest sight of green, that means springtime is upon us and spring cleaning season begins.

#### YARD WASTE

Did you know that yard waste is regularly collected by Republic Services year-round, a service provided by the City of Maryland Heights? Here are some important tips to remember:

- Tree branches should be no longer than 4 feet and no wider than 6 inches.
- Multiple branches should be bundled them with twine and set on the curb.
   Bundled limbs should weigh no more than 35 pounds.
- All other yard waste should be collected in either bags (paper/biodegradable bags highly recommended) or plastic bins.
- Bags/bins should be left along the curb to be collected on your designated yard waste day.
  - Yard waste day varies by neighborhood. Not sure when your yard waste day is? Call Republic Services at 636-947-5959.

#### **BULK WASTE**

Do you have large items that you're looking to get rid of this spring? The City of Maryland Heights is hosting another bulk



waste collection on **Saturday**, **April 20**. Residents may stop by between 8:00 a.m. and noon to dispose items in dumpsters placed in the parking lot of Aquaport. Once dumpsters are full, no additional items will be accepted. No registration is required for this event.

BULK WASTE DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 20 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. AQUAPORT (PARKING LOT) 2344 MCKELVEY RD.

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

The following is a brief update of the current Capital Projects as of **January** 8, 2024:

#### Fee Fee Road (Westport Plaza Dr. to Schuetz Rd.)

Diamond grinding of the concrete pavement will be taking place as weather conditions allow. As of January 8, one lane has been completed.

# Adie Road (Dorsett Rd. to Lindbergh Blvd.)

Construction is slated to begin on March 1.

Get the latest updates at <a href="www.marylandheights.com/PublicWorks">www.marylandheights.com/PublicWorks</a> and click on "Project Updates." If you have any questions on the projects listed, contact staff at (314) 738-2250.

# AN EGG HUNT FOR EVERYONE

#### **LUCKY LEPRECHAUN HUNT**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9** BEGINS AT 11:00 A.M. **COMMUNITY CENTER** 2300 MCKELVEY RD.



(Ages 2-8) A rainbow appeared and

dropped gold coins everywhere! The Maryland Heights Leprechaun needs your help finding them all! Find special coins to win prizes. Register at the Community Center Welcome Desk or online at www.marylandheights.com/webtrac.

FEE: MEMBERS: \$9 • RESIDENTS: \$10 •

**NON-RESIDENTS: \$13** 

#### ADULT EGG HUNT

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 BEGINS AT 7:30 P.M. **VAGO PARK** 2700 FEE FEE RD.



(Ages 21+) Who said egg hunts are just for kids? Channel your inner child and hunt for eggs at Vago Park in the dark. The hunt will begin promptly at dusk and go until the last egg is found. Don't forget your flashlight and a container to collect your eggs. Outside food and drink are welcome, no glass containers, please. No walk-up tickets will be available. Register online at www.marylandheights.com/tickets.

FEE: EARLY BIRD: \$12 • AFTER MARCH 1: \$15

#### **DOGGY BONE HUNT**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23** BEGINS AT 11:00 A.M. **DOGPORT** 



hunt at Dogport! Dogs and their owners

will gather treats and eggs for the chance to win prizes! The hunt begins at 11:00 a.m. SHARP. Pre-registration is required. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos. Register in person at the Welcome Desk at the Community Center. Non-members must show proof of rabies and bordatella vaccines at registration.

FEE: DOGPORT MEMBERS: \$10 • NON-MEMBERS: \$15



#### **UNDERWATER EGG HUNT**

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 5:30-7:30 P.M. INDOOR AQUATIC CENTER 2300 MCKELVEY RD.

(Ages 6-12) Get ready for an 'eggs-



travagant' egg hunt! Join us at the Indoor Aquatic Center for our Underwater Egg Hunt! Check-in will begin at 5:15 p.m. After check-in, wait on the deck until it's time to bunny-hop your way into the pool to gather eggs. Kids will have the opportunity to win prizes such as swim passes, candy, MH swag, and more! Once all eggs have been found, have an 'egg-cellent' time swimming for the rest of the evening. Register in person at the Community Center, over the phone at (314) 738-2599, or online at

www.marylandheights.com/webtrac.

FEE: EARLY BIRD: \$10/PERSON • AFTER MARCH 8: \$13

#### **YOUTH EGG HUNT**

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 10:00 A.M. OR 12:00 P.M. **VAGO PARK** 2700 FEE FEE RD.

(Ages 10 and under) Hop around the back of Vago Park and

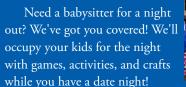


collect eggs at this annual tradition! Kids will be grouped by age and have the chance to win prizes. All participants must be checked in by 9:30 a.m. for the morning hunt or 11:30 a.m. for the afternoon hunt. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos so bring your camera! Tickets are limited and each child must have a ticket to participate. Tickets will not be available for purchase on the day of the event. Register online at www.marylandheights.com/tickets.

FEE: \$6/CHILD

## **KIDS NIGHT OUT**

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 6:30 - 10:00 P.M. **COMMUNITY CENTER** \$20 PER CHILD • AGES 6-10



Register in-person, by phone at (314) 738-2599, or online at www.marylandheights.com/webtrac.

# VISIT THE **COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR**

Learn how to improve your quality of life from local businesses and staff of the Maryland Heights Community Center during the Health Fair. This fair will be focusing on health and wellness, as well as disability services and mental health resources. Visit each vendor table to increase your chances of winning a door prize!

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DISABILITY FAIR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. COMMUNITY CENTER, 2300 MCKELVEY RD.

\*This event is <u>free</u> and open to the public.



### NEW FITNESS CLASSES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

# FUNDAMENTALS OF WEIGHTLIFTING TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS JAN 30 - MAR 7 • 5:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Learn the basics of weightlifting and how to properly perform exercises. This class is perfect for all fitness levels and ability.

## FULL BODY TABATA WEDNESDAYS • 8:00 - 8:45 A.M.

This high-intensity workout has timed intervals with short recovery times. You are in control of the intensity of the workout.

#### XTREME HIP HOP THURSDAYS • 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

A fun high-energy cardio workout suitable for all fitness levels that utilizes the step board to get you moving and grooving.

#### CARDIO SCULPT SATURDAYS • 9:00 A.M.

Combining cardio and weightlifting, this class will increase your heart rate, fatigue your muscles, and improve your core strength and flexibility.

#### MORNING MOBILITY FRIDAYS • 8:00 - 8:45 A.M.

This class focuses on stretching and getting the blood flowing to your joints.



# SAVE THE DATE: **WORLDFEST**

Celebrate diversity and discover the various cultures that make Maryland Heights a unique community through food, music, and performances at this free cultural event.

#### WORLDFEST 2024 SUNDAY, APRIL 28 12:00 - 5:00 P.M. ST. LOUIS MUSIC PARK 750 CASINO CENTER DR.

We can't wait to bring the world to your doorstep with this year's Worldfest! We are now accepting applications for vendors and performers! Apply at <a href="https://www.marylandheights.com/worldfest">www.marylandheights.com/worldfest</a>.



# EXPERIENCE THE ROYAL WINTER BALL

(Ages 2-10) Come one, come all to the Royal Winter Ball! Have your little prince or princess dress the part and participate

in sing-a-longs and more! There will be meet and greets with some very special princesses and princes with photo ops! An adult must accompany every child. Tickets are required to attend, and can be purchased at the Welcome Desk at the Community Center.

ROYAL WINTER BALL SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. COMMUNITY CENTER, 2300 MCKELVEY RD.

FEE: \$25/CHILD • \$10/ADULT



## MH SWAG SHOP IS **NOW OPEN ONLINE**

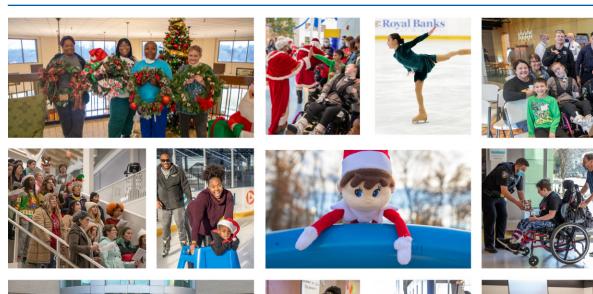
Chow off your Maryland Heights pride! As requested by you, our Ocommunity of residents and businesses, the online Maryland Heights Swag Shop is officially open. Visit www.marylandheights. com/swagshop or scan the QR code to choose from more than 15 designs, including resident entries and finalists from our 2023 T-Shirt Design Contest, and a broad range of product options. Maryland Heights is keeping prices at base product cost and is receiving no profit from the Swag Shop.

The MH Swag Shop is a canvas for the community to express its unique spirit and a cultivator of community pride. As we roll out new designs in the future, we plan to continue celebrating the diversity and dynamic nature of Maryland Heights. Stay tuned for more products and designs. Happy shopping!



Scan to shop!























## WINTER WONDERLAND PHOTO RECAP

aryland Heights has been busy this winter! Between visits from Santa, the Holiday tree lighting, ice skating, and more, you cannot deny that the spirit of the holidays was in the air this winter. Featured above is a recap of all the activities and events that took place throughout the City this winter. Featured events include: MHPD's visit to RankenJordan Pediatric Hospital, our annual Holiday Tree Lighting, Skate with Santa, the Candy Cane Lane Showcase, Santa at Westport, and Parks and Recreation's annual 12 Days of Elfmas. Thank you for making our holidays magical!



www.marylandheights.com

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** ST. LOUIS, MO PERMIT NO. 3252

#### **ECRWSS** Postal Customer

#### **MISSION**

W/e will provide superior municipal services in a safe and appealing setting in order to attract and retain residents committed to our city, thriving businesses and premier hospitality venues.

#### GOVERNMENT CENTER

11911 Dorsett Road

P: (314) 291-6550 • F: (314) 291-7457 City Administrator: Tracey Anderson

City Clerk: JoAnn Cova

Director of Finance: Danielle Oettle **Director of Community Development:** 

Michael Zeek

**Director of Economic Development:** 

James Carver

#### PARKS & RECREATION

2300 McKelvey Road (314) 738-2599

#### POLICE 11911 Dorsett Road

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: (314) 298-8700 Tips Hotline: (314) 209-8477 Chief of Police: Bill Carson

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

11911 Dorsett Road

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

(314) 738-2250

After Hours/Emergency: (314) 298-8700 Director of Public Works: Cliff Baber

#### MUNICIPAL COURT

11911 Dorsett Road

(314) 291-6036

Court Administrator: Gerald Durfee

## **CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Find out which ward you live in by visiting www.marylandheights.com/WardMap.

#### WARD 1



James Surgeon (314) 704-2957 isurgeon@ marylandheights.com marylandheights.com



**Susan Taylor** (314) 484-7627 staylor@



**Howard Abrams** Pres. Pro Tem (314) 432-0814 habrams@ marylandheights.com



Kim Baker 314-275-4954 kbaker@ marylandheights.com

#### WARD 3



**Chuck Caverly** (314) 566-0424 ccaverly@ marylandheights.com



**Nancy Medvick** (314) 703-8987 nmedvick@ marylandheights.com



**Steve Borgmann** (314) 393-9448 sborgmann@ marylandheights.com



**Norm Rhea** (314) 739-0096 nrhea@ marylandheights.com

#### RECEIVE AN EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Another great way to stay up-to-date on everything going on in Maryland Heights is to sign up to receive our emailed newsletter. Emailed newsletters include the monthly City E-News, City Planner's Report, monthly Parks & Recreation update and bimonthly Mature Matters. Learn more or sign up by visiting www.marylandheights.com/mhlife.



Scan to sign up!