



Welcome to the City of Webster Groves

As a new resident of Webster Groves, the following information may be helpful.

Webster Groves

EMERGENCY POLICE & FIRE	911
Non-Emergency police inquiries	645-3000
Webster Groves School District	961-1233
Special School District	989-8100
Webster Groves Library	961-3784
Chamber of Commerce	962-4142
Recreation Center Information	963-5600
Older Adult Activity Center	963-5656
Webster Groves City Hall	963-5300

How to Put Your Home in Service

Spire Customer Service fka Laclede Gas	314-621-6960
Ameren UE	342-1000
AT&T	800-464-7928
Missouri American Water Company	866-430-0820
Metropolitan Sewer District	768-6200
Waste Management	800-964-8988
US Post Office – 7212 Watson Rd (Mackenzie Point Plaza)	351-5281

St Louis County Government Center

General Information	615-5000
Board of Elections	615-1800
Personal Property Taxes, Dept of Revenue	615-5500
<small>(The City of Webster Groves does not mail Personal Property Tax bills. Please contact the St Louis County Government Center)</small>	

Missouri Motor Vehicle Bureau

State License Plates, Drivers License & Tests <small>(3234 Laclede Station Rd – Deer Creek Center)</small>	645-1044
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Bi-State Transit Information

Bus Service, Routing & Scheduling	231-2345
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Miscellaneous

Post-Dispatch New Move-In Program	340-8888
St Louis Convention & Visitor Center	421-1023

Ordinance Information

- Alarms** Electronic alarm systems for residential and commercial buildings must be issued a permit from the Webster Groves Police Department. A new application must be filed when installing a new alarm system or the ownership of an existing alarm system changes. Contact Capt. Stephen Spears at 963-5417 for further details.
- Animal Licenses** The City of Webster Groves does not require a license for dogs or cats. However, St. Louis County Animal Control Code requires all persons responsible for any puppy or kitten to have such animal vaccinated against rabies and registered on or before the animal reached four months of age, but not earlier than three months of age. IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A RESIDENT TO PERMIT HIS DOG TO RUN AT LARGE AT ANY TIME. St. Louis County will pick up animals running at large. All dogs impounded may be redeemed after payment of a release fee. Contact St. Louis County Animal Care and Control Services by calling 615-0650. To report animals at large call non-emergency police dispatch at 645-3000.
- Campers, Trailers** Must be parked behind front wall of main structure on a concrete or asphalt surface, or stored in a garage.
- Commercial Trucks** Commercial vehicles and trucks must be garaged or a special permit must be obtained from the City Manager for parking of said vehicles in a residential area.
- Debris** Constitutes a health hazard. Property should be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- Derelict Vehicle** Partially dismantled, non-operating, unlicensed, wrecked, junked, or discarded vehicles are not allowed to remain on the street or on any property within the City of Webster Groves.
- Fire Pits** Outdoor fire pits with a screened spark arrester, outdoor fireplaces, and barbecue pits are considered recreational fires and do not require a permit. Seasoned dry firewood is the only allowable fuel to be used in outdoor fireplaces and outdoor fire pits.
- Garage Sales** There is no permit required for a garage/estate/moving/yard sale. Sales may be held for no more than two consecutive days, no more than four times per calendar year at on the same premises.
- Permits** Contact Customer Service at 963-5300 for information on when permits are required. All construction permit applications are available at Customer Service in City Hall.

Ordinance Information

Signs Please be aware that the City of Webster Groves has an ordinance which prohibits the posting of signs on utility poles or affixed to or upon any public property, unless the sign is related to a bona fide civic activity and City approval has been granted.

Trees Please be aware that the City of Webster Groves has a Tree ordinance (#8719) which prohibits any person or contractor to: “Clear-cut” a site occupied or vacant, including the removal of any trees over 8” in diameter, except for trees damaged by act of God (i.e. wind or ice) or trees which are judged by the City to be diseased or hazardous.

Exceptions:

1. Residential property that has been continuously occupied by the owner for at least 12 months as a principal place of residence, or
2. Any property for which a Tree Preservation Plan has been approved for the property and a Tree Permit issued.

The complete Tree Ordinance document may be viewed on-line at www.webstergroves.org. You may also call the Webster Groves Parks Department at 314-963-5457 with any questions.

Weeds Any growth of weeds or grass in excess of ten inches in height is prohibited.

Wood Storage To be maintained upon premises so as to provide at least twelve inches of clear space between the wood and the ground or on a concrete or asphalt surface. This is required to eliminate the creation of a rat harborage.

General Information

Location and History

Webster Groves lies in an area of St. Louis originally known as Dry Ridge, part of a 6000-acre land grant given to Gregoire Sarpy by the Spanish in 1802. Settlement was sparse until the Missouri Pacific Railroad came through the area in 1853, but in 1854 the Reverend Bullard of St. Louis moved to an area of Dry Ridge to open a school know as the Webster College for Boys. The school was short-lived, but the railroad station in Dry Ridge took the name Webster because of its proximity to the school. In 1860, a man named John Marshall, who owned large tracts of land to the north of Lockwood Ave., subdivided a parcel of his land into 40-acre lots for sale to the public, and people began to move to the Webster area in significant numbers. Over the next twenty years, a city grew up around these houses and around the station, and in 1883 the San Francisco Railroad came through Webster, prompting the construction of a post office for the area in 1884. However, when the post office was complete, it was discovered that there was already a city in Missouri called Webster, and thus the new post office became known as the Webster Groves Post Office, in honor of the many trees in the area. Twelve years later, in 1896, Webster Groves incorporated as a city of 1,783 people, covering the area now known as Old Webster. Annexations over the years have increased the size of Webster Groves to its present area of 5.97 square miles, and the population likewise experienced growth, now standing at 23,230 people (2000).

Post Office

The Post Office, which serves Webster Groves, is located at 7217 Watson Rd in the Mackenzie Point Shopping Center (adjacent to Dierberg's Market), located at the intersection of Watson Rd. and Mackenzie Rd. The phone number is 1-800-ASK-USPS. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, closed on Sunday and on holidays. The ZIP code for most of the Webster Groves area is 63119.

Library

The Webster Groves Public Library began in 1893 with a small room in the back of a building, later moving to the basement of a church. Since then, the Library has expanded to hold more than 61,000 volumes, with subscriptions to 145 periodicals. Audio and video recordings are also available for checkout. Residents may use the Library, located at 301 East Lockwood, free of charge, and a reciprocity system with eight other community libraries allows residents to use the facilities of the Kirkwood, Maplewood, Brentwood, Ferguson, Richmond Heights, Rock Hill, Valley Park, and University City Libraries as well. The hours of operation for the Library are 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday through Saturday, and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 on Sunday. The Library is closed on holidays. Telephone 961-3784 for additional information.

Voting Information

In order to vote in any election; federal, state, or local, you must be a registered voter in the State of Missouri, St. Louis County, 21 days prior to the election. All registrants must be a citizen of the United States, must be eighteen years of age by the time of the election, and must be a resident of Missouri. Re-registration is necessary if the registrant has moved or has had a change in name. You may register or transfer your registration within St. Louis County at the City Hall or City Clerk's office, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also do this at the City Library, 301 E Lockwood, 961-3784, and at the Webster Groves High School, 100 Selma Ave., 961-1240.

City Hall

City Hall is located at #4 East Lockwood Ave. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. City Hall contains offices for the Departments of Finance, Planning and Development, Public Works, and the offices for the City Manager, the City Clerk, and the Mayor.

Government

The City of Webster Groves functions on a Council-Manager system of government, adopted in 1954 by special election.

Mayor and City Council

The City Council is made up of six council members and the mayor, all of whom are elected for four-year terms. The Council has the authority to pass ordinances, to levy and collect taxes, to provide police and fire protection, to adopt the budget, and to utilize whatever other powers are necessary to govern in the best interest of the citizens. The true authority of the Council, however, lies in its power to appoint and dismiss the City Manager, with whose exercise of authority over City employees, the Council is powerless to interfere. The inability to interfere is not destructive, however, as the Council retains the power to dismiss the Manager himself. The Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month. All Council meetings are open to the public.

City Manager

The City Manager is the executive of the City Government, with full authority over its departments and offices. He appoints the department heads, and authorizes all appointments within the government, fulfilling in this way the duties of the old Department of Personnel. He is also the head budget officer, in charge of preparing the annual budget for the City. He is also in charge of seeing that the laws and ordinances of the City are enforced and that the City contracts are fulfilled, and he has the power to appoint an Assistant City Manager to help in the execution of these duties.

City Clerk

The City Clerk is appointed by the City Council, and is responsible for keeping a journal of its proceedings. The Clerk maintains custody of all official records, and of the municipal seal. The Clerk is also responsible as the counter-signatory to all City checks and to most licenses issued by the City. In addition, the clerk serves as the Election Official of the City, handling all petitions and propositions for consideration on the ballot.

Department of Finance

The Department of Finance is overseen by the Director of Finance / Assistant City Manager. The department controls all City funds, and is responsible for making a monthly statement about the City's financial situation. All investments and purchases are controlled through this department, and the pension funds are also part of its responsibility. Additionally, the Finance Department issues licenses, collects taxes, and handles all manner of fines levied in Webster Groves.

**Municipal
Government
And Services**

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Development

This department is in charge of the maintenance of the 160 acres of city-owned property, including the 120 acres of parklands. Part of this responsibility includes the operation and upkeep of the City's 16 tennis courts, the swimming pool, and the skating rink. In its capacity as the Department of Community Development, the department is responsible for the utilization of federal funds provided for activities that are eligible under the Community Development Block Grant Program. The primary use of these funds is the rehabilitation of houses owned by low and moderate-income persons. An advisory committee of citizens assists the department in this capacity.

Department of Planning and Development

The Webster Groves Department of Planning and Development handles matters best described as dealing with housing, building, zoning, and city planning. These responsibilities include the inspection of buildings to enforce the Existing Structures Code (enacted in 1973 and amended in 1987), the review of plans for new buildings in Webster, and the issuance of permits for the construction of additions, fences, swimming pools, and other alterations to already existing buildings. The department maintains the Comprehensive Plan and enforces the Zoning Ordinance. It is also involved in the redevelopment projects in the City's commercial districts. The department also has the duty of enforcing City environmental codes relating to the general upkeep of property, and is additionally responsible for issuing occupancy permits to new residents. The department acts as staff liaison to the City Plan Commission, the Board of Adjustment, the Architectural Review Board, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Old Orchard Special Tax District.

Department of Public Works

The City's Department of Public Works is divided into two divisions: Engineering and Administration, and Street. The Engineering and Administration division, besides being responsible for general administration of the department, is in charge of the trash and cleaning services contracted by the City. It handles all City contracts pertaining to public work type projects. The Street division cleans and repairs the streets in the City that are not under county jurisdiction and also maintains all City buildings and vehicles. It is also responsible for snow removal during winter months.

Police Department

The Webster Groves Police Department is organized into three divisions: staff services, the administrative sections, and the enforcement section. Staff services consist of such activities as prisoner care, records processing, and department maintenance. The administrative section carries the responsibility for most of the major staff functions of the Department, which include such activities as budget preparation, recruit training, inventory control, community relations, and safety education. The enforcement section of the Department is one of the most readily visible to the community at large, being the section concerned with field operations. For administrative purposes, this section is further divided into three sub-sections: Patrol, Traffic, and Investigative.. The Patrol division concerns itself with the protection of the community, especially with the prevention and suppression of criminal activities and with the preservation of the peace. The Traffic division concentrates on traffic regulation, particularly the prevention of accidents, the ticketing of traffic law violators, and the supervision of school crossings. The Investigative division handles juvenile offenders among its other responsibilities, which include the recovery of lost property, intelligence gathering, and the suppression of narcotics-related activities.

In 2004, Department personnel consisted of 44 commissioned officers and 3 civilians. The uniformed personnel include patrolmen, detectives, and officers. The Department is also involved in several programs funded on grants. The Child Safety Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) is a program operated within the schools of Webster Groves for students in grade five. The program is designed to educate students about the hazards of drug use and to instruct them on how to deal with peer pressure to drugs and alcohol.

Fire Department

The Webster Groves Fire Department is organized into three fire/rescue companies housed at two different stations. The first station, located in the City Hall addition at 6 South Elm Ave, houses companies one and two, which consist of a Battalion Chief 2005, a Pumper 2010, a Ladder 2015, an ALS Vehicle 2017, and administrative offices. The other station located at 1302 South Elm Ave. houses company three, which consists of a Pumper 2030 and a Reserve Pumper 2031. The Department is equipped with two advanced life support pumpers and an advanced life support ambulance, which contains additional state of the art equipment. The Department has a total of 39 full-time personnel, of which 21 are fully trained paramedics as well. There are a minimum of 11 firefighters on duty at all times. The Department provides services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to an area of approximately six square miles with nearly 700 fire hydrants in the water distribution system. The fire and rescue equipment is staffed with highly trained personnel who are dedicated to saving lives and property. The Department is administered by a Chief, under whom are three Battalion Chiefs that assist with administrative duties. There is also an Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal in charge of the City's fire prevention and inspection programs.

The City has mutual aid agreements with all St. Louis County Departments and the City of St. Louis for cooperative effort on large fires within a greater area. The Department offers free installation of smoke detectors to low income residents, provides free blood pressure tests daily at the two stations, engine house tours with fire safety talks and fire prevention education/activities for the elderly and for children in grades K-3. In-house CPR classes are also provided to interested groups of ten or more. The Department conducts fire inspections of commercial buildings regularly and will perform home fire safety inspections at the request of the owner. The Department conducts over 900 inspections each year which are intended to bring all of Webster Groves' buildings up to the fire codes and increase safety for residents.

Webster Groves firefighters train with the Petrolite Corporation in dealing with hazardous wastes, and all 39 members of the department have been given the highest possible certification for dealing with such waste. These many programs have allowed Webster Groves to achieve an ISO fire insurance rating of 4, one of the higher ratings in the state.

For more information on any of these programs, call the Department at (314) 963-5344 or visit us on the Internet at www.webstergroves.org