



# BRIDGETON BANNER

## NEW RESIDENTS MOVE IN WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MANY

Kenneth and Bettie Calvert moved to Bridgeton recently to be closer to relatives. Kenneth, a Navy veteran of 20 years, and his wife Bettie, who uses a wheelchair, searched for several months to find a home suitable for an individual in a wheelchair to get around. While they looked at many homes offered in the city, it was hard to find a house easily accessible without making many costly modifications.

Then the couple heard about a program that assists veterans and their families in buying a house and making it a home. Paraquad, a local agency that helps individuals with all types of disabilities lead active and productive lives, teamed up with the Home Depot, a national home improvement store with a location in Bridgeton, to offer the Calverts a makeover of a home they could find in Bridgeton to make it accessible for Bettie.



Paraquad offered design assistance and Home Depot donated materials and labor to remodel Kenneth and Bettie's new home. Volunteers from local businesses such as AT & T and Worldwide Technologies provided some of the labor. The "Ramp Up for Accessibility Day" was held in late September and 20 volunteers, along with other home remodeling businesses got the bulk of the changes completed at the house in just days. The projects the volunteers completed would have normally taken a month or more.

We welcome Kenneth and Bettie to our town and are extremely proud of the volunteer spirit that shines in our community.



## PUBLIC WORKS USES SALT BRINE FOR SAFER ROADS IN WINTER STORMS

As the city is in the winter season's icy grip, Public Works is using more effective measures to prevent dangerous road conditions.

Rock salt has traditionally been applied to roadways, since it lowers the freezing point of any water it comes into contact with. The City of Bridgeton made a decision last year to add to its fleet of winter equipment a 2,000-gallon salt brine distribution tank. When using salt brine, it takes four times less rock salt to prevent ice accumulation than to remove ice after it has formed.

The appeal of using salt brine, unlike rock salt, is that it can be used to pre-treat roads before a storm's snow/ice can adhere to the surface, instead of just bouncing off the road as rock salt can. "We are trying to be proactive, we are trying to get out ahead of the storm," said Rob Willers, Assistant Street Superintendent. Salt brine can prevent snow/ice buildup for up to three days. Willers also said, "Using salt brine as a pre-treatment can cut the use of rock salt from 250 pounds per road mile to 125-150 pounds."

This winter, when you see the City's brine truck, please stay back at least 100 feet.



# Elected Officials

## Mayor:

Terry W. Briggs  
373-3811

## Municipal Judge:

Joseph Larrew

## Ward 1:

Scott Zimmer  
575-7474

Bob Saettele  
291-1131

## Ward 2:

Jerry Grimmer  
739-7491

Linda Eaker  
291-3880

## Ward 3:

Ferd Fetsch  
291-3021

Randy Hein  
298-1700

## Ward 4:

Barbara Abram  
739-1050

Joni Norris  
291-8041

City Hall  
739-7500

Recreation Center  
739-5599



## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR BRIGGS

## EPA ISSUES RECORD OF DECISION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued its long-awaited record of decision regarding how it intends to resolve the issue of radioactive material stored at the Westlake Landfill, adjacent to the Bridgeton Landfill in Bridgeton. EPA is recommending a partial removal as the long-term solution to the issue. They have estimated 70 percent would be removed under their remedy.

"This is just the first step in this process," cautioned Bridgeton Mayor Terry Briggs. "EPA now will have a comment period to allow residents and interested parties the opportunity to weigh-in on this recommendation." Briggs noted parties may also seek to resolve the issue in the courts, which could take years to complete.

Around 1973, the landfill owners allowed a contractor to dispose of an estimated 8,700 tons of contaminated soil with another 38,000 tons of soil used to cover trash and debris which had been stored at the site. The contaminated material was left over from Mallinckrodt Chemical Company's involvement in the Manhattan Project, the development of the first atomic bomb.

"Bridgeton residents have endured this issue long enough," said Briggs. "It is time to put the issue to rest, but in a manner protecting the health and welfare of all area residents, not just those in the city. The contractor who hauled the material to Westlake and the federal government are the parties who created this problem and they should be the ones to resolve it at their expense, no one else's."

At various times during the last 45 years, EPA and the landfill operators have recommended methods to assure the public that the material in the landfill was not

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harmful and could be stored safely. Late last year, EPA added the Westlake site to its list of 21 Superfund

locations across the Country. Such designation was designed to focus the federal agency's attention on the most serious sites and their clean up from radioactive and toxic materials.

"The sooner the Westlake Landfill contamination is resolved, the better it is for everyone," said Briggs.

## ISSUE ON APRIL BALLOT: ADJUST COMMERCIAL GROSS RECEIPTS TAX ON UTILITIES

The Bridgeton City Council, at the request of city administration, has placed a proposition on the April ballot this year to adjust the gross receipts tax charged on utilities used by commercial property owners. The proposal, if approved by voters, would increase the commercial gross receipts tax 2.5%, from 5% to 7.5%. The residential rate will remain at 5%. A simple majority vote is needed for passage.

"Proposition A would generate an estimated \$1 million per year in new revenues," said Mayor Terry Briggs. "These funds would be used to keep pace with increasing operating costs and to stabilize the city's general fund, which is used to pay for most city services. While the city administration has made great strides in keeping our services to the level residents expect, the city

needs to grow the level of reserves. The reserve fund is critical to the city's financial health."

Bridgeton residents, through the taxes they and shoppers in the city pay; get trash pick-up at no direct cost, unlike many other municipalities which bill residents monthly, extended services for senior citizens including free transportation to locations within the city and rebates on their utility taxes, a public works/street department that prides itself, among other things, on their quick response to removal of snow and ice on roadways, an extensive park and recreation system, including a state-of-the-art recreation center and a police department that is second to none.

The gross receipts tax revenues account for about four percent of the city's overall revenue. At 5%, Bridgeton's commercial gross receipts tax rate is below the average charged by most cities in St. Louis County. At 7.5%, the tax rate would be the average charged by St. Louis County municipalities.



## "WARNER'S WARM UP" COAT DRIVE A SUCCESS

The City of Bridgeton Police Department had our best year yet, collecting 13 large bags of coats. They were delivered on November 15th to Operation Food Search. Thanks to everyone who made a donation, and thank you to Officer Kevin Quinlisk for coordinating the drive.

## BRIDGETON OUTLINES PLAN FOR EXPENDITURES IN 2018

The city of Bridgeton began 2018 with a \$23.8 million plan for expenses. City Council members approved the plan which includes: a \$20-million operating budget; nearly \$2-million in debt payments (for such structures as the recreation center, government center and public works garage) and \$1-million for capital expenditures.

"The city is continuing to place significant focus on strengthening the city's reserves while continuing to have tight oversight of expenses," said Mayor Terry Briggs.

"While other cities have experienced some difficulties making ends meet without cutting services, Bridgeton continues to be prudent in how it spends money and conservative in terms of the estimates of revenue it will receive."

This budget includes a grant of \$353,000 for the second phase of work to be performed in Bridgeway Park. It also includes \$550,000 in revenue from Proposition P, which was approved by St. Louis County voters last year to be used for public safety.

Bridgeton's fiscal year 2018 budget includes; allocating

an additional \$125,000 in the city's reserve fund. The city will continue making it a priority to place more funds in reserve and making an additional appropriation of \$162,000 to the city employees' retirement plan. Fiscal year 2018 will mark the third year in a row the city has increased its payment into the fund, which currently has a balance of more than \$28-million, and also provides a two percent pay increase for city employees. The budget does include the addition of two full-time

employees-the prosecutor clerk position and an additional police dispatcher. Senate Bill 5 mandated the first position and the Proposition P revenue is what allowed for the addition of the much needed dispatcher position.

"Our expenditures are in line with what the city anticipates receiving in tax revenue," said Mayor Briggs. "No real estate tax increases are requested in the budget." Like most other municipalities, Bridgeton relies on the sales tax to generate the majority of its revenues. In 2018, the city anticipates \$6,550,000 in funds from this tax. Another \$2.8-million is estimated in gross receipt tax on utilities and \$2.9 million from licenses and permits. The remainder of revenues comes from program or usage fees at Bridgeton facilities and only 5% from real estate taxes.

"We once again have a number of new private developments planned in the city for 2018," said Mayor Briggs. "With these new retailers coming on line, we hope the revenues will exceed our expectations."

While there are no major capital expenditures planned in fiscal year 2018, the city does plan on continuing its program of concrete slab replacements of streets and sidewalks in the city. Additional capital

expenditures include the purchase of vehicles for the police department and equipment in the parks and public works departments.

"The expenses found in the budget are for services Bridgeton residents expect the city to deliver," said Mayor Briggs. "Such things as snow removal, trash and recycling collection at no direct cost to residents and senior citizen tax refunds are items other cities may not provide, but we do. The city council and I will continue to keep close watch over the funds entrusted to us to deliver quality services to the residents we serve."

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

### GOLF COURSE OPENING

Berry Hill Golf Course is scheduled to reopen on March 1<sup>ST</sup>.

### SHE AND ME AND A FURRY FRIEND TEA

Girls ages 3-8, and a special woman in their lives (mom, grandma, aunt, etc.) can spend an enchanted afternoon together on **Saturday, March 3 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** Girls should also bring their favorite furry friend (stuffed animal) or doll to this event. We will serve tea or punch and snacks to all participants. Girls and their "she" will work together on a craft to take home. Bring your camera and dress up for tea. Your furry friend will get to spend the night at the BRC and we'll send it home the next day with a photo album of all the fun your friend had! **Pre-register by February 26.** Residents/BRC Members rate is \$24/pair. Non-resident rate is \$29/pair. An additional person can be added for \$12.

### KIDS NIGHT OUT

Your kids can have a ball at the BRC while you get a little "me time." Kids ages 6-11 will enjoy swimming at the indoor pool, a pizza dinner, and games and crafts with our childcare staff on **March 9 from 6 to 9 p.m.** Parents do not need to remain in the building during this program! Residents/BRC Members rate is \$10. Non-resident rate is \$12. Pre-registration required; closes the Mon. prior to the program.

### SAVE THE DATE! WOMEN'S WELLNESS EVENT: FRIDAY APRIL 27TH 6-8:30 P.M.

Stroll, sip and socialize with your gal pals at our Ladies Night wellness and wellbeing event (ages 21+). This special evening includes a 1 mile walk through our tea-lit Hickory Woods Trail at Gentry Park or the BRC indoor track, followed by socialization, celebration, and wine tastings paired with cheeses and chocolates! Enter to win door prizes, obtain information to your health-related questions from DePaul Hospital representatives, learn new DIY tips from our local Home Depot experts, and check out trending fitness programs available at the BRC!

### JULY 4, 2018 CELEBRATION PARADE

The Bridgeton Special Events Commission is organizing Bridgeton's Annual July 4th parade and has decided on the theme Dreams Can Come True Under Red White & Blue. We are looking for you to capture dreams that have become reality, whether it be teaching, flying, becoming an Olympian, a fireman, a religious leader, news anchor, etc. You may also display the spirit of our patriotic Americas (i.e., military personnel, our national flag, patriotic colors, travel topics, national monuments, states, sports teams, American cuisines, American history, amusement parks, inventions, etc.). Now is the time to begin thinking about creative entries. As always, we are inviting citizens, businesses, churches and friends of Bridgeton to participate. **Entry forms will be available at the BRC in March.**



# BRIDGETON BANNER

CITY OF BRIDGETON

12355 Natural Bridge Rd.  
Bridgeton, MO 63044

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
St. Louis, MO  
Permit No. 1062

## PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018

Bridgeton youth and others can get a jump on applying for summer and other seasonal positions. The Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department are accepting applications for part-time and seasonal employment.

Available positions in the Parks and Recreation Department include: recreation aide, custodian, lifeguard, sports official, maintenance worker, day camp counselor, seasonal laborer and concession worker.

Available positions in the Street Department involve assisting in all types of street and storm water maintenance. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and be in possession of a valid Missouri driver's license.

For more information about each position, contact the Recreation Center or City Hall. Applications are available online at [www.bridgetonmo.com](http://www.bridgetonmo.com). The City of Bridgeton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## BRIDGETON WINTER LIGHTING CONTEST

The Bridgeton Beautification Commission conducted their annual Winter Lighting Contest Tour on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Ten winners were selected based on quality of display, attractiveness and overall appearance. Residents who received an award during the past three years were ineligible for consideration.

Each winner received an engraved commemorative Christmas ornament and a sign placed in their front yards to notify neighbors and passersby of this special recognition.

### The winners were:

- 11702 Avery
- 4147 Bridgeton Meadows Lane
- 3509 Falcon Ave.
- 4223 Tideland
- 4136 Bridgeton Meadows
- 3919 Taplin Ct.
- 3345 Bridgeton Trails Dr.
- 12015 Clichy
- 11496 Double T Lane

The Bridgeton business recognized for their lighting was Romantique Jewelers.



## FORMER BRIDGETON POLICE CAPTAIN APPOINTED CHIEF IN COTTLEVILLE

Former Bridgeton Police Captain Steven James was recently appointed Chief of Police for the City of Cottleville, Missouri. James retired from Bridgeton

after serving 34 years with our police department. Captain James began his career as a patrol officer in 1983. In addition to the Patrol Division, he worked in the Traffic Division, Detective Division and Administration. He was a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Quantico, VA. We wish him all the best in his new position.

## 2018 SPECIAL OLYMPICS MISSOURI POLAR PLUNGE FUNDRAISER

This "unbearable" event is a unique opportunity to show your bravery as you support local Special Olympics athletes by plunging into the frigid winter waters at Creve Coeur Lake in Maryland Heights. The event is scheduled for **February 24 beginning at 11 a.m.** Proceeds benefit Special Olympics Missouri. Bridgeton police officer Michael Johnson has organized a team for this year's event. Visit our website [www.bridgetonmo.com/polarplunge](http://www.bridgetonmo.com/polarplunge) to link to the Bridgeton Police Department's fundraising page for more info or to donate to our team!