

# NEWSLETTER

## S U M M E R 2 0 2 0

Dear Neighbors and Friends.

I would venture to say that 2020 has not turned out the way most would have imagined or perhaps, hoped.

The City of Ladue has not escaped the effect of Covid-19. I am proud to relay that we are approaching our “new normal” with the same customer service values that we continually work towards achieving.

The safety of our residents, and our employees is of the utmost importance along with the safety of people who are coming into town to shop and visit restaurants, now that some of the restrictions have been lifted.

At City Hall, our Administration and Building Departments are meeting social distancing guidelines with the implementation of remote workdays. In February, we completed our transition to our new accounting software system and that has allowed us to continue day-to-day financial operations while some of our staff work from home.

We always have two people in City Hall to assist you in person, if necessary. The Building Department is operating in the same manner with some staff working remotely and others in the office. Plan submittal and permit applications have not slowed down during this time.

All City meetings are currently being conducted via Zoom, and we encourage you to listen in to any committee meeting of interest to you. I will be the first to admit that these remote meetings have their challenges, and I thank our staff and our many resident volunteers for positive attitudes and for their continued commitment to upholding City operations.

Our first responders are dedicated to your safety and are often operating in stressful situations for which they are well trained. Ladue Fire/EMS crews are well prepared with proper PPE, and the leadership of Chief Lynn. Chief Lynn served in a greater capacity on the St. Louis County Unified Command as the Safety Officer, which was

extremely helpful to me and our department leaders when crafting our Covid-19 policies.

I would also like to take this time with you to address several marches crossing through Ladue as a result of recent civil events. Our Ladue Police Department has worked cooperatively with the march organizers to ensure a safe and positive experience for our residents and those who are in town to march. There is an incredible amount of planning that goes in to protecting public safety and it is often a group effort. I am proud of our police officers who represent the community-policing values of the Ladue Police Department.

In closing, as our businesses and restaurants continue opening as restrictions ease, please support them. I would ask everyone to respect individual requests to wear masks and continue to socially distance. Please be respectful of all.

Best,  
Nancy

*Mayor Nancy Spewak*



## Parks Department

Hello Residents,  
I am Larry  
Johnson,  
and this is  
my 40th year  
with the City's  
Public Works



Department! This year seems to be the most challenging that I have experienced in my 40 years with the City, but even with the Spring rains, COVID-19, and the Mother's Day Weekend Frost, we were able to plant all the pots along Clayton Road in the Business District and other planting beds throughout the City. The other Parks Division employees are Henry Wayne and Jeff Walton who divides his time between Parks and the Street Division. We want to thank you for your patience this year and encourage you to email us at [parks@cityofladue-mo.gov](mailto:parks@cityofladue-mo.gov) or stop to say "Hi" when you see our white truck with the big yellow tank as we water the pots this summer. Let's hope for a colorful summer and looking forward to Fall!

## Attention Trustees

Are you a Trustee for your neighborhood association? Does the City have your current contact information? Please contact Lori Wrobel at City Hall with updated information at 314-993-3439 or [lwrobel@cityofladue-mo.gov](mailto:lwrobel@cityofladue-mo.gov).

## Email Notification Service

We encourage you to subscribe to the City's "Email Notification" service. This service allows you to receive an email notification for the following categories:

City Council and Committee/Commission Meeting Agendas  
Crime Alerts

Ladue Current Events

Lane Trustee Notifications

The sign-up bar is located on the home page at the center left and lower right side at [www.cityofladue-mo.gov](http://www.cityofladue-mo.gov).

## Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries or significant property damage. Below is a list of safety tips that may save life and property.

### Safety Tips:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

### Charcoal Grills:

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

### Propane Grills:

- Be sure to check the gas tank hose connections prior to using it for the first time.
- Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. If the connection is leaking, small bubbles will be formed.
- If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the grill and gas source.
  - If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
  - If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
  - If it is determined that the flame has gone out, wait five minutes before trying to re-light it.

July is the peak month for outdoor grilling and grilling injuries or fires. It is the hope of the City of Ladue Fire Department that all families have a safe and wonderful summer by using the information provided above. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the fire department.



*Help with  
history ...*

Ladue City Hall circa 1970

## Archives

As the City of Ladue approaches its 85th year as a 4th class city, the City of Ladue Archives Committee is actively seeking donations of items related to the City of Ladue including:

- Newspaper articles and/or periodicals
- Maps
- Building Plans
- Vintage photographs
- Papers of former Ladue public officials and private citizens
- Plat cards
- Historical subdivision files, plans, documents and records
- Old letters
- Old City artifacts
- Works of art related to Ladue

If you, or anyone you know, has City of Ladue related memorabilia that you or they would be willing to donate to the City archives collection please contact:

Charlie Hiemenz – Chairman, Ladue Archives Committee

Phone: 314-991-9176

Email: [achiemenz@aol.com](mailto:achiemenz@aol.com)

**LADUE TRIVIA:** On December 1, 1936 the residents of the villages of Deer Creek, Ladue and McKnight voted to merge together to become a 4th class city ... and the City of Ladue was established, becoming the largest municipality in St. Louis County.

## Work on Ladue's Comprehensive Plan Continues

A comprehensive planning process determines community goals and aspirations - and develops strategies to achieve those goals - over a 15-20 year timeframe. The result will be a Comprehensive Plan to guide public policy in terms of transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing.

Public engagement activities have continued amidst the pandemic: the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee held a virtual meeting in May, a focus group with Ladue high school students was held in April, and many of you (469 to be exact) completed our community survey. Thanks to everyone who has participated so far!

The second of three public meetings for the plan was held on June 23rd via Zoom. Forty-five attendees joined city staff and the project team for a presentation and live question and answer session. Meeting materials were posted online for two weeks after the live meeting so others could review the information and offer input on critical issues such as housing options, enhancements to Ladue's commercial areas, and more.

Results of all public feedback, including the virtual meeting and the community survey, are available on the Get Involved page of the plan's website [www.laduecompplan.com](http://www.laduecompplan.com). A final public meeting is anticipated in September when a draft plan will be available for review. All are encouraged to attend!

# Tree Management Update

*By Sean Seed, City Arborist & Property Maintenance & Housing Inspector*

In 2019, the City of Ladue received a generous donation from the Ladue Garden Club for the Mary Stacey Tree Project, a tree inventory of City property. The Beautification, Open Space and Tree Advisory Board suggested that the City also have a management plan created for all trees identified in that inventory. Both the inventory and the tree management plan were performed by Davey Resource Group.

The inventory, which was conducted in November of 2019, found 1,457 trees and 44 stumps on City owned property and rights-of-way. The tree species represented most was the American sycamore which comprised 8% of the inventoried tree population. The overall condition of the inventoried tree population is rated as “good”. The inventoried tree population provides approximately \$87,799 in the following annual benefits:

- Aesthetic and other benefits (valued at \$57,567 per year)
- Air quality (1,500 pounds of pollutants removed valued at \$2,215 per year)
- Net total carbon sequestered and avoided (195 tons valued at \$1,137 per year)
- Energy (76,497 kilowatt-hours (kWh) and 1,757 therms valued at \$6,925 per year)
- Stormwater peak flow reductions (3,213,208 gallons valued at \$19,953 per year)

After the inventory was completed Davey Resource Group created a tree management plan. To implement the highest priority portions of the tree management plan, the City has applied for a cost-share TRIM Grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for \$10,000. This would allow us to have nine (9) trees in poor or dead condition removed, one hundred seventeen (117) moderate to low risk trees pruned, and 48 stumps removed which includes four stumps left behind from Ameren tree removals since the inventory was conducted. We will be notified if the City has been awarded the Grant in September 2020.

On April 16, 2020, informative letters were sent out to property owners along stretches of public roads with pedestrian sidewalks. Scot Bollinger, Superintendent of Public Works, identified these stretches as previ-

ously having vegetation growth into the travel area. The letters informed the property owners that there is the potential on the property for a violation of Section 102-2 of the City Code and that any growth from private property is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain in order to comply with 102-2(c). Eradicating the overgrowing honeysuckle from their properties along the public right-of-way or cutting it back significantly in order to comply with 102-2(c), would be beneficial both to the safety of the public and would lessen the maintenance requirements of the City. The property owners were also provided with the following websites to be used as resources regarding the benefits of removing invasive plants as well as guidance on appropriate non-invasive plants for honeysuckle replacement:

- <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/gardening-in-st.-louis/invasives/bush-honeysuckle/questionid/923/afmid/10176.aspx>
- <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/visual-guides/native-alternatives-for-bush-honeysuckle.aspx>



*BOSTA Committee Chairwoman Laure Hullverson (right) with Vice-Chairwoman Nancy Ylvisaker (left) in Rodes Park.*

The City of Ladue's BOSTA Committee members donated this bench to the City of Ladue in celebration of the newly obtained Tree City USA designation for the City. BOSTA is short for Beautification, Open Space, & Tree Advisory Committee. Other Committee members not pictured; Patricia Steiner, Thomas McCarthy, and Clint Williams.



# Ladue Stormwater Management Program Update

The Ladue Stormwater Management Program (SMP) has evolved into a robust and comprehensive program that includes an active small project grant program, stormwater site plan review, and stormwater problem complaint investigation in addition to its core tenants of maintaining a stormwater master plan and the design and construction of improvement projects Citywide.

The SMP is a complaint driven program. The program started with problem identification based on stormwater complaints collected city-wide. Public Works continues to maintain a stormwater complaint database. Recently collected data is added to the Geographic Information System (GIS) and is used to update the Citywide “Needs Assessment” at five-year minimum intervals. Needs Assessment changes can warrant additional projects being developed and added to the Master Plan.

Public Works staff responds to complaints received in a timely manner; ideally within one to two business days. The complaint is initially screened in a phone call and is generally followed up with a site visit by Public Works staff when warranted. The staff member evaluates the complaint and decides its jurisdiction; private or public. If the complaint is about a problem that is local to a single property and privately sourced, that is usually the responsibility of the property owner; jurisdiction is defined and communicated by the staff member and suggestions are offered.

In the Spring of 2017, Public Works staff began assisting Building Department staff with the review of site improvement plans for stormwater facilities. The goal is to mitigate the increase in runoff attributed to an increase in watershed imperviousness associated with “in-fill” construction and the re-development of the urbanized area in Ladue. Stormwater site plan review and enforcement of Ordinance requirements are a frontline defense for keeping the problem from continuing to grow and get worse.

Recently at their May meeting the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2250 “Sinkholes and Karst Features Regulations”. During development of the three-phased Stormwater program, areas of the City with sinkholes were identified for Stormwater projects due to a lack of infrastructure and concerns were brought forth regarding the lack of controls and regulations with respect to alteration of sinkholes. The purpose of establishing regulations for Sinkholes and Karst Features within the City of Ladue is to bolster the functionality of sinkholes while outlining preservation requirements. Keep those sinkholes free of debris. It's important!

## Small Project Storm Water Grant Program

The Small Project Storm Water Grant Program is authorized under City of Ladue Ordinance #2137 Section 2-329 to help property owners address **limited stormwater problems such as, but not limited to, yard flooding, flooding from an inadequate sinkhole, flooding from an inadequate conveyance, yard erosion, creek erosion, water entering a basement or structure, and/or structural erosion at their property from stormwater runoff.**

The owners of any property located within the City of Ladue may apply for a grant from the storm water account fund to cover up to 50% of the property owner's eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per project, to design, review, install, and inspect a City-approved storm water project. The minimum project cost is \$5000 with a City match of \$2500. Each fiscal year a maximum of up to \$100,000 may be allocated to the fund. Prior to project approval, the applicant shall submit a formal and complete engineering plan prepared by a licensed Missouri professional civil engineer or landscape architect with the necessary scope and design requirements for review. Upon approval of a formal application, eligible applicants shall obtain and submit a minimum of three comparable bids from contractors which are fully capable of completing the proposed work in compliance with the scope of work and applicable law and regulations. Reimbursement will be made by the City upon completion of the work and submittal of paid receipts or invoices, executed lien waivers, and written verification from the owner that the project was completed per the project plans and requirements. The contact person for this program is Mark Koester, Storm Water Project Engineer, [mkoester@cityofladue-mo.gov](mailto:mkoester@cityofladue-mo.gov), (314) 993-5665.

## Stormwater Implementation Plan - Project Update

### Deerfield-Wakefield Stormwater Infrastructure Project (1601.01).

The design team is zeroing in on a preferred alternate. Assuming stakeholder acceptance once a preferred alternate has been selected, preliminary design/construction plan prep for all phases will proceed, including submittals to regulatory agencies (ie, MSD) and utility service providers for their review. Easement acquisition then follows; given the number to be obtained, that is anticipated to take six to nine months to complete for the first Phase of the project. Estimated Construction Budget: **\$10 million**. The project is expected to be constructed in three or four phases over the next ten years. The goal is to take construction bids for the first phase in the **Summer of 2021**.

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# Ladue Stormwater Management Program Update

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## **Phase I: MSD/Lindworth Storm Sewer Separation Project (MSD #13510).**

This is a partnering project with MSD. The project provides the City with a discharge outlet to Deer Creek for the Lindworth Lane Stormwater Infrastructure Project, the Litzsinger Lane-Tilles Park Stormwater Infrastructure Project, and, if needed, the Deerfield-Wakefield Stormwater Infrastructure Project. For MSD, the project removes stormwater from private inflow sources from the sanitary sewer system. Detailed hydraulic modeling, and a refined preliminary horizontal and vertical alignment was provided to MSD in January by the City. Project design by MSD's consulting engineer is in the early stages. Construction is slated for **May 2021**.

## **Babler Lane Stormwater Infrastructure Project (1602).**

A preferred alternate has been identified. We are proceeding with finalizing several design elements and expect that easement acquisition can begin in late Summer/early Fall 2020. Estimated Construction Budget: **\$1.3 million**. The project will be constructed in one phase. The goal is to take construction bids in the **first quarter of 2021**.

## **South Tealbrook Drive Stormwater Infrastructure Project (1605).**

The City has successfully acquired the required four easements for the Project, obtained MSD final approval, and this project is currently out for bid. The project is anticipated to be awarded at the July 20th City Council meeting. Construction is scheduled for late summer – Fall 2020. Estimated Construction Budget: **\$220,000**.

## **Willow Hill – Reroute Along Road Infrastructure Project (1614A).**

Easement documents have been issued to stakeholders. As of the date of this report, **nine easements have been acquired out of 24 required**. Once all of the required easements are acquired, Stage B Final Design can begin that advances the project to construction bidding. If we are successful at easement acquisition by the end of August, the current estimated timeline puts the bid process in the **first quarter of 2021** with the start of construction shortly thereafter. Estimated Construction Budget: **\$1.9 million**. The project will be constructed in one phase. The goal is to take construction bids in the **Spring of 2021**.

## **Robin Hill Lane - McKnight Lane Bank Stabilization Project (1618).**

Easement documents have been issued to stakeholders. As of the date of this report, **nine easements have been acquired out of 10 required**. Once all of the required easements are acquired, Stage B Final Design can begin that advances the project to construction bidding. The current estimated timeline will be to bid the project in **Fall 2020** with construction to follow. Estimated Construction Budget: **\$1.6 million**. The project will be constructed in one phase.

## Police Department News

As we continue to navigate through the unprecedented times our nation faces, we want to take a moment to thank the residents of Ladue for the wonderful support they have provided our department. We believe strongly in the partnership between law enforcement and the communities we serve, and we are grateful to be working with you.

The dedicated men and women of the Ladue Police Department are committed to excellence in law enforcement and are dedicated to the people, and traditions of our City. Our daily actions demonstrate our dedication to making Ladue one of the most desirable residential communities in the country. We take great pride in delivering outstanding, respectful and compassionate police protection and public service.

The City of Ladue policing strategy is to protect and serve all people, including those who live in Ladue, visit or pass through the city. We have a serious commitment to community policing and treating everyone we encounter with respect and dignity. In 2010, our department signed a community outreach agreement with the Department of Justice to ensure we are aligned with the best practices in policing. Over the last few years, our department has undergone a rigorous evaluation of our policies and procedures through our civilian oversight board, which is the Fire and Police Board. This evaluation is part of the accreditation process through the Missouri Police Chief's Association. We will continue to review policies to ensure they remain aligned with best practices and the values of our community.

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## Public Works Department News

During the Spring of 2020, the Public Works Department completed two projects:

- Sidewalk replacement on Clayton Road between Warson Road & Eversdale. This project is part of the City's ADA Transition Plan.
- Asphalt pavement overlays and re-striping on Kortwright, Gilbert, Clayton Road Business District Alleys, and the shoulder of McKnight Road between Lindworth and Litzsinger.

Later this year, the City plans to Microsurface Clayton Road. Microsurfacing is a latex modified slurry seal and this year will be the fifth year that the City has been microsurfacing City streets. In order to prepare the pavement for the microsurfacing application, the Public Works Department have sealed the cracks in the pavement and will perform some additional asphalt patching.

The City applied for Federal Funds in February 2020 and was successful in obtaining future funding for intersection improvements to **Conway & Warson** to include **signalization** of the intersection and the addition of left turn lanes on both northbound and southbound Warson at the intersection.

The City has hired CMT, an engineering consulting firm, to begin the design of the **Dielman Road improvements** which will include sidewalk installation on the west side of the road, minor drainage improvements, and pavement rehabilitation. Surveying has begun, which is the first step of the design process. This project is also Federally Funded (80% of construction and right-of-way costs are reimbursed to the City).

In addition to these projects, the Stormwater Division of the Public Works Department has been busy working on several projects which are featured in another article in this publication. You'll also read about the City's Tree Management Plan for the City's Right-of-way from the City's Certified Arborist, Sean Seed.

For additional information about the City's Public Works Department, please visit the Public Works page of the website at: <http://www.cityofladue-mo.gov/> or call us at (314) 993-5665.

Anne Lamitola, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

## Police Department News

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Our policies explicitly prohibit excessive use, or misuse of force, including the use of "chokeholds" or other neck restraints. In making an arrest, officers shall use the minimum amount of force necessary for ensuring the delivery of the arrestee into safekeeping. Officers also have an unequivocal duty to intervene to prevent or stop the use of excessive force by another officer and shall use de-escalation techniques and other alternatives to higher levels of force consistent with their training. In the past several weeks, I have personally spoken to each officer and reinforced this duty to intervene and report if a department policy is violated.

In addition to a robust set of policies and procedures, each of our officers is certified through the Missouri Peace Officer Standards & Training Commission (POST). Our officers far exceed annual training requirements and complete extensive training each year on topics such as crisis intervention, de-escalation, racial profiling, and use of force.

We recognize that while law enforcement professionals are highly trained in tactics, we must also develop the interpersonal skills and understanding that enable fair and procedurally just policing in order to meet the wide variety of new challenges and expectations we face each day.

Our department's goal is to promote and provide public safety while respecting the dignity and rights of everyone. This is only accomplished by partnering with the community and earning the community's trust that their wellbeing is at the heart of all our law enforcement activities. Community Policing is a collaboration of efforts by all of us, and we encourage you to contact us with feedback and suggestions as we continue our mission to provide excellent police service to all who live, visit or work in the City of Ladue.

Sincerely,  
Ken Andreski, Jr.  
Chief of Police

**City of Ladue**  
9345 Clayton Road  
St. Louis County, MO 63124

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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ST. LOUIS, MO  
PERMIT #2710

## City Council Members

WARD 1 STACEY KAMPS AND JOHN HOWELL

WARD 2 JOHN FOX AND PATRICK HENSLEY

WARD 3 HAL BURROUGHS AND BILL BRENNAN

(CONTACT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE CITY  
WEBSITE, [www.cityofladue-mo.gov](http://www.cityofladue-mo.gov))



## City Directory

MAYOR	314-993-3439 ext. 245
ADMINISTRATION	314-993-3439
BUILDING	314-997-6308
MUNICIPAL COURT	314-993-3919
PUBLIC WORKS	314-993-5665
PUBLIC WORKS – FAX	314-994-3195
POLICE (non-emergency)	314-993-1214
FIRE (non-emergency)	314-993-0181
FIRE – FAX	314-993-0412
FAX (all other departments)	314-993-5652
Website	<a href="http://www.cityofladue-mo.gov">www.cityofladue-mo.gov</a>
E-MAIL	<a href="mailto:lrider@cityofladue-mo.gov">lrider@cityofladue-mo.gov</a> <a href="mailto:nspewak@cityofladue-mo.gov">nspewak@cityofladue-mo.gov</a>