CENSUS 2020

PLEASE BE COUNTED - CENSUS 2020
RESPOND ONLINE, BY MAIL, BY PHONE

The U.S. Census Bureau is on track, on budget, and on time in its planning for the 2020 Census. The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the correct location.

“Census Day” is April 1, 2020. For the first time, people will be able to respond anytime, anywhere- online from any device or by mail or phone. Being able to respond online will make the 2020 Census easy for most people. However, roughly 20% of people lack internet access. Should residents prefer to not complete questionnaires by phone or by mail; local libraries provide free internet access.

The 2020 Census is EXTREMELY important to our community. Responses are used to determine how more than $675 billion dollars in annual federal funds are spent across our country. These funds are used to support clinics, hospitals, schools, transportation projects, housing programs, and natural disasters (to name a few). A few of the funded programs that are dependent upon accurate population counts in our community are: early childhood programs, workforce training, food assistance for families, and grants for low income student loans. Results from the 2020 Census also determine Congressional representation for each state and used to determine legislative districts.

Individual responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and never shared with other governmental agencies. Information for the 2020 Census will be mailed to most residences beginning March, 2020. People can respond online, by mail, or by phone. If no response is received, a census taker will come to your home to follow up in person.

HELP US OUT DURING SNOW PLOWING SEASON

Every year the Street Department works very hard to try and get the snow and ice off City streets in a timely manner. And every year we find that cars left parked on the streets during and after a snow event can slow down that process. Our goal is to clean the streets from curb to curb and cars left on the street after a snow event can hinder that effort.

When snow is being forecasted for our area please make arrangements to park your car off the street. This is particularly critical on the narrow streets. If cars are parked on both sides of a narrow street it makes it very difficult for the snow plows to make their way down the street to clear it off. And when the snow is pushed up against the driver’s side of a parked car it will be harder for you to get your driver’s side door open. So help us out and make arrangements to park your car off the street when snow is in the forecast.

Also please understand that since the goal is to get the snow off of the street it will be pushed over the curb. We apologize in advance for pushing snow onto a driveway approach that has already been cleaned off. It can’t be helped and we are sorry for the additional work it may cause you. We appreciate your assistance and understanding as we work to make your streets safe and passable after a snow event.
FAT FREE SEWERS...

No one ever wants a sewer backup. But for sure you don’t want it when you have a house full of guests. So, with the holidays almost upon us, it’s time to remind everyone again about not putting FOGs down your drains.

Your garbage disposal may be strong enough to handle that turkey carcass but your drain may complain. Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) don’t just clog our arteries, they clog our sewers too. Keeping fat, grease, and oil out of the drain is one of the best ways to avoid a sewer backup in your home. Many backups result from accumulated grease buildup along the walls of your sewer line. Over time, grease buildup will block water flow in your pipes. Last year MSD estimates that about 8% of blockages in its public sewer system were caused by FOG.

Fats, oils, and grease are found in many of the foods we eat every day - foods such as meat, fish, butter, cooking oil, gravy, sauces, mayonnaise, salad dressing, and cheese. Keep these items out of the drain or garbage disposal.

Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District reminds you of these easy steps to prevent grease buildup in your pipes:

- Wipe cooled pots and pans with a paper towel before washing.
- Remove fatty foods from plates and the kitchen sink, and place them in the trash; not down the drain.
- Can it, cool it, and trash it. Pour all cooled cooking fats that will harden into a container such as an empty pet food, vegetable, or coffee can. Cool them and throw them in the trash.

MSD has provided the City with lids that will fit several types of vegetable and pet food cans. These can be used to cover cans containing FOG for disposal in trash cans. They are free at the St. John Municipal Center, City Hall side. Since 2004, MSD has nearly an 80% reduction in grease-related sewer overflows, due in part to the community’s help in preventing FOG from entering our sewer system. Help prevent drain and sewer clogs by keeping drains fat-free.

The 2020 Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. The following Council seats will be open:

1) Councilperson - Ward I – (Mark Stief - Incumbent)
2) Councilperson - Ward II – (Curt Pierce - Incumbent)

Filing for this election opens at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2020. Petitions are available at the St. John Municipal Center, City Hall, Suite 100, located on the first floor of the St. John Municipal Center, 8944 St. Charles Rock Road. In order to file for office, candidates must:

1) Be a current resident of St. John
2) Have legally resided in St. John for one year or more
3) Be 21 years of age or older
4) Currently be a registered voter in St. John
5) Be current with payment of all City, County, and State taxes

Candidates meeting the above requirements must file a petition (supplied by City Hall) with the City Clerk containing the signatures of ten (10) registered voters (in indelible ink). Petitions are now available at the City Hall. Candidates filing for Council must live in the Ward in which they are filing for and the signatures of their sponsors must be from that same Ward. Candidates filing for Mayor may live in either Ward of the City and sponsors’ signatures can be from either Ward as well. Nominees are not allowed to sign their own petition. The filing fee is $10 and must accompany the petition at the time of filing. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the City Hall at 427-8700, ext #3.
ADDITIONAL ITEMS YOU DO NOT RECYCLE........
- Shredded Paper And Other Small Items
- Liquids
- Hazardous Household Materials
- Flattened Bottles or Cans
- #7 plastics
- Glassware, Ceramics, Pyrex Baking Dishes, Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Lamps (bulbs), Window Glass or Mirrors
- Metal Lids On Bottles OR Jars (Remove and recycle loose in the bin)
- Rope-Like Items
- Bio-Hazardous Waste

For More Information You Can Also View St. Louis County’s Website At: http://www.recyclesaintlouis.com/
UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

LIMB CHIPPING  Nov 4, 2019 -  April 27-28, 2020
The fall limb chipping schedule began on November 4 and will run through April 27-28, 2020. This is a service the City provides to its residents who may need to trim tree limbs or large shrubs from their property. The Street Department runs the limb chipper through the City on the following schedule:

• East side of town (East side of Marshall to the eastern City limits)
  First and third Monday of each month

• West side of town (West side of Marshall to the western City limits)
  Second and third Monday of each month

Please remember that the limb chipper can only take limbs that are 3” in diameter or smaller. Place all limbs to be chipped at the curb with the fat ends out toward the street. We ask that you not block sidewalks with your limbs and don’t put them out in the street. Just lay the limbs out behind the sidewalk if you have one and we will pick them up. As a reminder, if you have a contractor trim your trees or cut one down, they need to get a permit from City Hall prior to starting the job.

St. John’s Annual Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, December 7, 2019
Cafeteria Level
10:00 am SHARP!
(Doors open at 9:30 am)

Tickets are limited and are only available for children and grandchildren of St. John residents, 9 years of age or younger. Tickets are available now. They are free and can be picked up at the St. John Municipal Center, 8944 St. Charles Rock Road, Suite 100, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Proof of residency is required. Tickets are available until 5 pm, Friday, December 7 OR until they run out.

Don’t Forget To Bring Your Cameras For A Photo With Santa!

SENIOR CITIZEN UTILITY TAX REBATE
Feb 1 - April 30, 2020
Utility tax rebates for the year 2019 will be issued February 1, 2020 – April 30, 2020. The rebate is $30.00 per household. In order to qualify for this rebate, residents must:

1) Have turned sixty-five (65) years of age or older at some point during the year 2019;

2) Currently reside in the City and have previously resided in the City for the entire calendar year of 2019;

3) Apply for rebate at City Hall.

Qualified residents need to provide the following documentation to the City Hall in order to collect the rebate:

1) Picture identification;
2) Identification showing current address and date of birth;
3) One utility bill for January 2019 and one for December 2019 reflecting the address which they reside at and are requesting the rebate for. They do not have to be from the same utility company.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at 427-8700, ext. #3.
A REMINDER ABOUT POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS

This type of sign does not require a permit but there are some rules regarding its size and placement.

1. Political campaign signs may announce the candidate for office or the issues on the ballot or other pertinent matters.

2. This type of sign may not exceed four (4) square feet in total area and may not be over five feet in height.

3. The total number of signs each residence or business may place cannot exceed sixteen (16) square feet. That means if you would set out a typical sized campaign sign (1 ½’ x 2’ or 3 square feet) you could set out five of them.

4. Political campaign signs may be placed on private property with the property owner’s permission only, and they must be placed at least ten (10) feet from the street. Remember, you cannot place signs in the public right-of-way or on utility posts or sign posts. Signs placed on the Rock Road, Woodson Road, in the public parks, etc. will be removed.

5. Finally, all political campaign signs must be removed within three (3) days after the election.

The challenge for City Staff is election day because that is when everyone wants to place their signs around the polling places (the Baptist Church, City Hall, and Marvin Elementary). We routinely patrol these polling places on election day to make sure that there are no campaign signs too close to the polling place or in the right-of-way.

FIDO’S MISSING - Here’s what to do...

We all know accidents happen. A gate gets blown open in a storm; our dog jumps the fence to chase a rabbit; or our cat slips out the door when we’re carrying groceries in. Whatever the reason may be, the reality is that sometimes our pets get away from us and go missing. Do you know who to contact if this ever happens to you?

If your dog, cat, or other pet goes missing the first step is to call City Hall to leave a message for our animal control officer. You’ll want to leave your name, address, phone number, and a description of the missing pet. This should include any collar, tags, or microchip information that the pet may have. Our animal control officer patrols our city regularly and will keep an eye out for missing pets.

The City of St. John has a Facebook page where unidentified pets are posted in an attempt to locate an owner. Any pets for which we are unable to locate an owner for are transferred to St. Louis County Animal Control. So getting your information to our animal control officer is crucial.

If your pet has a microchip you should contact the microchip company to report the pet missing. The microchip company will take a report and contact you if anyone calls them to trace your pet’s microchip number. It is a good idea to keep your pet’s microchip number handy in case you ever need to make such a report. Next you should contact the shelters in the area.

There are three main shelters in the area. They are St. Louis County Animal Control in Olivette, the Humane Society in Maryland Heights, and the APA in Brentwood. It is recommend that you visit these shelters in person to view the animals that they have and check to see if yours is there. These shelters take in a large number of animals daily. Some of these animals may look similar to yours, so giving a description over the phone may cause your pet to be overlooked even if he/she is there. These shelters also post the animals they take in on www.stllostpets.org. You can view the animals at the shelters and submit a missing pet report. This website is updated hourly so it is a good idea to check it regularly.

One last place to check is a Facebook page called St. Louis Missouri, Lost & Found Paws. People all across the area come together on this page to help lost pets and their owners be reunited. People can post dogs they have found or seen running loose, and owners can post pictures of their missing pets.

We hope these steps help reunite you with your pets should they ever go missing.
CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR THE FALL/WINTER MONTHS

Fall is upon us, thus, darkness is falling earlier. All those activities previously done in daylight will now occur in darkness: Going to your vehicle after work, picking up your children from afterschool, activities and sports.

Vehicle Security

Everyday law enforcement agencies in the St. Louis area take crime reports from victims of thefts of property from their vehicles as well as stolen vehicle reports. Though nothing can prevent you from ever being a victim of such a crime, there are things you can do to lessen the odds of you being victimized. Many thieves are opportunists and will look for the vehicle that is unlocked or the one that may be locked but has valuables left inside. Even if your vehicle is locked and alarmed, if there are valuables in sight (even covered up) a window may be smashed to gain entry. This all can occur in a matter of seconds. So don’t make it easy for them. By following the crime prevention tips listed below, you can help reduce your odds of becoming their next victim.

- Never leave the keys inside the vehicle.
- NEVER LEAVE A VEHICLE RUNNING WHILE UNATTENDED.
- Make sure that all windows are up all the way before locking your vehicle.
- Lock your vehicle even if you are only going to be away from it a short time.
- Lock your vehicle even if it is parked in your driveway, inside your garage or on the street in front of your residence.
- Make sure your vehicle alarm is activated whenever you exit/lock your vehicle.
- Do not leave valuables, (i.e. purses, wallets, cellular phones, cameras, laptop computers etc.) inside your vehicle, even if it is locked.
- Even if your vehicle is locked and alarmed, do not attempt to “hide” valuables under the seat or under an item of clothing in the vehicle.
- Please report any theft from your vehicle immediately to your local law enforcement agency. It is up to you whether or not you chose to report this to your insurance company.
- If you observe anyone acting suspiciously in the area of your vehicle, report it immediately to law enforcement by dialing 9-1-1 or 636-529-8210.
- Don’t hesitate to contact St. John Police to report suspicious activity or subjects
HOME SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY AIDS LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIONS...AND PROMOTES SAFER COMMUNITIES

With the constant rapid advancements in home surveillance technology, costs for in-home security camera systems have drastically declined. What was once only an option for growing, major businesses and government institutions, is now available at an average cost of approximately $200.00 for home owners to purchase. According to Freedonia, a Cleveland based industry research firm, home security systems are expected to hit $4.8 billion in sales by the year 2025. Due to this, it seems that more and more residents and businesses within the City of St. John are installing digital cameras for added safety benefits. And...they are right. Studies show that criminals are less likely to strike when and where they know cameras could capture their every move and possibly even their identity. There is no doubt that video surveillance systems are a deterrent to criminals.

The St. John Police Department, along with several other local Law Enforcement agencies, have recognized the home security camera system trend and have also discovered an untapped criminal investigation tool right in our own communities. In the recent past, St. John Police Officers have partnered with home owners and businesses who possess security cameras in areas where crimes have occurred so that video of the alleged suspects could be viewed. This video footage proved to be a valuable resource for the investigating officers. Not only did the video produce images of the alleged suspects, but it also gave a better timeline of the criminal events and the routes taken.

In an effort to resolve criminal activity quicker and strengthen community partnerships in our City, we are asking for residents and businesses that have security cameras to register them with the Police Department. The registration is completely voluntary and even after registration; the residents are not under any obligation to share their video footage with the police. This registration program is an excellent way for the community to get involved with Law Enforcement efforts to maintain a safe environment and peace of mind.