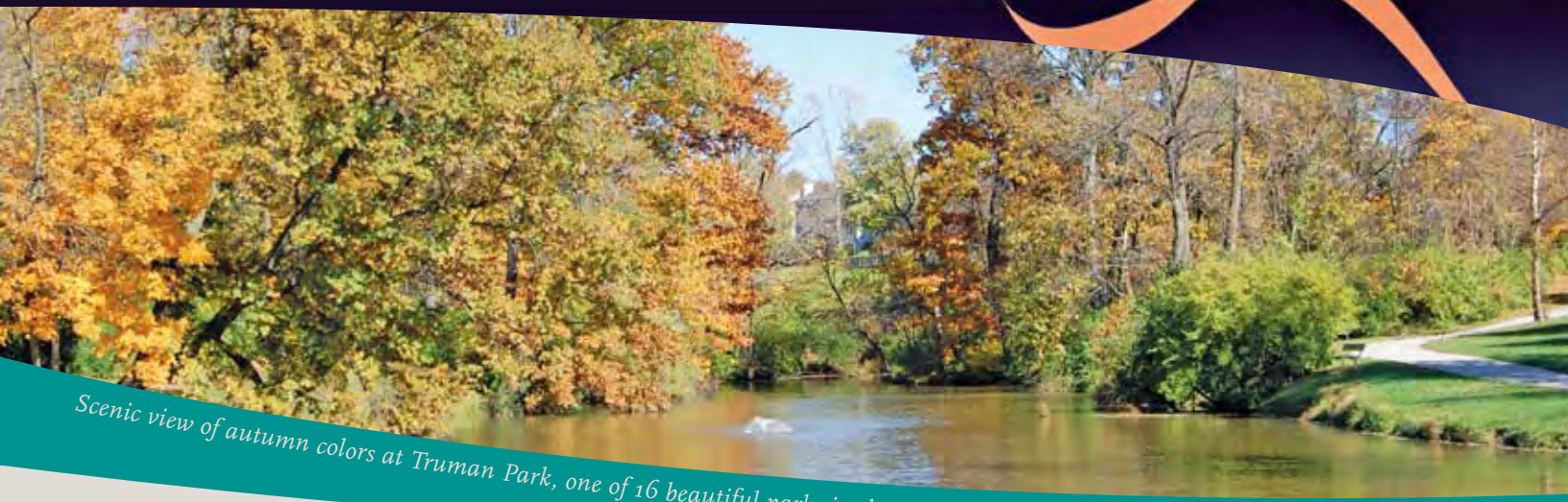




the City of Hazelwood, Missouri

much more.  
than you imagine

Winter 2010



Scenic view of autumn colors at Truman Park, one of 16 beautiful parks in the City of Hazelwood

## What's Inside

REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE  
**GO GREEN!**  
A SAINT LOUIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT INITIATIVE

### FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Hazelwood Finance Department Receives Award of Financial Reporting Achievement

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to City of Hazelwood by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment presents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An "Award of Financial Reporting Achievement" has been presented to the individual(s), department or agency designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This has been presented to:



**Donnie L. Burns,**  
Director of Finance  
City of Hazelwood, Missouri

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including a demonstration of a constructive "spirit of disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. Hazelwood's current CAFR is available for viewing on the City's website at [www.hazelwoodmo.org](http://www.hazelwoodmo.org) on the Finance Department's web page.

*continued on next page...*

McKelvey Homes recently opened a new display, The Carlyle, at Charbonier on the Park. It represents the company's new "Classic series" of homes from the \$240s.



## Hazelwood Finance Department Receives Award of Financial Reporting Achievement

*(continued from page 1)*

"Our financial advisors and the bond rating agencies have utilized our award-winning CAFR to analyze the City's financial condition for the issuance of general obligation street bonds, revenue bonds for Cabela's wildlife museum at St. Louis Mills, and certificates of participation for Hazelwood's \$5.7 million dollar White Birch Bay Aquatic Center," said Burns. "I appreciate working for a City that emphasizes excellence. Achieving this distinctive honor was a team effort. I've been impressed with the professionalism and quality of work produced by the Finance staff, and it's an honor to work with them for the City of Hazelwood."

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, Ill., and Washington, D.C.



## City of Hazelwood Hires Public Works Director

David C. Stewart, PE, CPM, of Newton, Ia., began his employment as Hazelwood's new director of public works on August 1. Stewart earned a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University and a Certified Public Manager certification from Drake University.

As the person in charge of public works, Stewart will be overseeing the Maintenance Division, Parks and Recreation, Code Enforcement and the City's trash collection. In his capacity as the City's engineer, he will be providing guidance to the City Council, Planning Commission and to other members of City management.

His previous experience includes serving six years as the public works director and city engineer for Newton, Ia., and another six years in the same capacity for the City of Algona, Ia. Significant projects he has overseen include the following: a \$10 million road and sewer project for the Iowa Speedway (I-80); a \$4 million dollar airport renovation including a new terminal building and T-hangers; a \$2.7 million aquatic center; and two Hike and Bike Trail projects.

In addition, Stewart has supervised a \$5 million demolition/construction project of a former Maytag factory, designed and constructed a streetscape beautification project, and developed a ½-mile sanitary sewer project for a new bio-diesel plant. His other accomplishments include reviewing several private developments for compliance with the Urban Design Standards and Standard Specifications with coordination between multiple engineering consultants.

Stewart and his wife, Amanda, now reside in the St. Louis area.

## MoDOT Breaks Ground on Route 67 (Lindbergh Blvd.) Project



MoDOT recently announced that the Route 67 (Lindbergh Blvd.) project is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Of the \$1.6 million dollars allocated for these infrastructure improvements, \$500,000 of this money

will be spent on work done in the City of Hazelwood.

The Route 67 project will provide upgrades to pedestrian facilities, bringing them in compliance with Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards. This includes improving and adding sidewalks and curb ramps, installing pedestrian signals/crossings, as well as upgrading access to bus stops along two sections of Lindbergh Blvd. One is from north of Dorsett Road to Route 180 (St. Charles Rock Road) and the other from south of McDonnell Boulevard to I-270 in Hazelwood.

XL Contracting, Inc., a minority contractor, was chosen as the prime contractor for this project. The Route 67 project is expected to be completed by May 2010.



**Regal Cinemas St. Louis Mills 18 is the second largest theatre complex in the St. Louis area next to Wehrenberg Ronnie's 20 Cinema**

## Fiserv Consolidates Business at New Hazelwood Facility

Based on the City Council's approval of an Economic Development and Employment Training Agreement between the City of Hazelwood and Fiserv, we now have a new business in town. The Fortune 500 company recently moved into a new 182,000 square-foot facility at the Lindbergh Distribution Center, located at the intersection of McDonnell and Lindbergh Boulevards.



As part of this deal, Hazelwood loaned \$770,000 to Fiserv for job training, equipment acquisition, site development and infrastructure construction. It also requires the company to create and maintain at least 200 jobs with an average wage of at least \$12.50 per hour during the length of the agreement.

Through the consolidation of its Olivette printing plant and administrative offices in Maryland Heights, Fiserv's new location in Hazelwood will house the plant operations, administrative staff and direct marketing services. This move involved about 260 employees with the prospects of adding up to 50 new jobs in the near future.

In February 2009, Personix formally changed its name to Fiserv, the world leader in information management and e-commerce systems for financial services. The company is known for offering business-critical communications, marketing services and card production services to the financial services, healthcare, telecommunications, investment services, retail, utilities, and travel/entertainment industries.

The change of name and brand unifies all Fiserv business units with a new, enhanced market approach and brand identity. Focusing on its technology expertise under one brand and one name, Fiserv is prepared to offer clients innovative products and technologies across a broad spectrum of online, mobile, front and back office, payments, and processing infrastructures that are critical to the success of banks and other financial institutions.

## Hazelwood Economic Developer Receives Award

Hazelwood economic developer David Cox was recently honored as one of North County Inc.'s 30 *Leaders in their Thirties* Leadership Award recipients. He was among a remarkable group of up-and-coming business professionals who were honored at a luncheon sponsored by the North County Journal and NEWS 20.



## Hazelwood Welcomes Entrepreneurs with New Business Guide Brochure

We're placing a "Welcome" mat outside the front doors of City Hall for entrepreneurs interested in starting a business. A "New Business Guide" is now available at the City's Finance Department to help make it easier for people to apply for a business license and commercial occupancy permit.

"This brochure makes it easier for people starting a business because we've taken the guesswork out of the process. It gives them a simple check list to follow, as well as contact information on how to obtain additional licenses, inspections and utility services," said Hazelwood economic developer David Cox. "We want to help our new business owners settle in as quickly as possible, so they can focus more attention on building their customer base and making a profit."

Copies of the "New Business Guide" are available at the City's Finance Department. The brochure can also be downloaded and printed off the City's website at [www.hazelwoodmo.org](http://www.hazelwoodmo.org). A link to it can be found on the Finance Department's web page or in the Businesses section. For more information, contact David Cox at (314) 513-5018.

St. Louis Rams RB Steven Jackson met over 300 middle school students at Hazelwood West High School for a “Play 60 Challenge” program.



## Local Residents Have Fun Time at Hazelwood Harvestfest



The City of Hazelwood threw a party for local residents and their guests at the 21st annual Hazelwood Harvestfest held at Howdershell Park a few weeks ago. This year’s theme was “Fairy Tales.”

At 9 a.m., hundreds of people lined the streets to watch the parade go by. In addition to a good mix of floats, automobiles and walking units, music was performed by the Hazelwood West High School Marching Wildcats and the John Ford Highland Band.

Five of the best decorated/themed parade units received cash prizes. Here are the winners: 1st Place – Hazelwood Tiny Tots; 2nd Place – Pat Jackson’s Meals on Wheels vehicle; 3rd Place – Prudential Realtors; 4th Place –

Hazelwood Baseball; and 5th Place – Florissant’s Valley of Flowers.

Hazelwood’s elected officials took part in the parade as well. Mayor Matthew Robinson, along with several other City Council members, greeted and waved to the crowd as well as tossed candy from vehicles.

Miss Hazelwood 2009 Tiffany Jarvis rode in a Corvette covered with pink and white decorations. She was followed by these candidates competing for Miss Hazelwood 2010: Rachel Robin; Kaitlin Bethel; Rianne Holzmeyer; Kelly Johnson; and Abby Feldmann. Rachel Robin later won the 2010 Miss Hazelwood Coronation and received a \$500 scholarship.



Festivities for this year’s Harvestfest began when the park opened at 10 a.m. The Children’s Activity Area featured a petting zoo, a Wizard Bounce House and a free craft area where dozens of kids made crowns and magic wands to go along with the event theme. Other popular spots for children included an Inflatable Dragon Castle Obstacle Course, a Giant Dual Slide and World Ways Children’s Museum H2O Orchestra. Free pony rides got the youngsters excited as well.

Musical entertainment for the day included a concert by the John Ford Highland Band. A comedian named Babaloo played songs for the kids as well. There were other entertainers such as a stilt walking juggler and magician. At 3 p.m., the Smash Band provided an electrifying 3-hour performance that highlighted popular hits from every music genre.



Some of the all day activities included a used book sale hosted by the Hazelwood Community Enrichment Commission. Several horseshoe tournaments and Bingo games hosted by Hazelnuts were held throughout the day. Those who wanted to retire their American flags could do so at the City Services tent. In addition, there were plenty of food, carnival game and information booths to handle the big crowds.

### Remember to Recycle for Holidays

Thanks to your efforts, the City of Hazelwood continues to be a leader in saving our planet through recycling. In October, the recycling tonnage collected in Hazelwood reached 96.75 which is the highest amount for 2009 so far. Since Veolia provides single stream recycling using 65-gallon carts, it’s much easier to “GO GREEN” with your recyclable materials. For guidelines, visit [www.hazelwoodmo.org](http://www.hazelwoodmo.org) and check out the story, “Veolia Solid Waste and Recycling Information,” in the What’s New Section.



12-year-old Gabbie Linehan trains with two coaches at St. Louis Mills' Ice Zone Arena and is a member of Missouri's first synchronized skating team that went to Nationals

## Knowing the Difference Between U.S. Census Worker and Con Artist

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) offers this advice: If a Census worker knocks on your door, they will have the following items: 1) a badge; 2) a hand held device; 3) a Census Bureau canvas bag; and 4) a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and badge before answering their questions.

However, you should NEVER invite anyone you don't know into your home.

Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. **DO NOT** give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will NOT ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home.

However, they will NOT contact you by email, so be on the lookout for email scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

### TO RECAP – HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF – FOLLOW THESE RULES:

1. Census workers will carry a badge, a hand held device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. **MAKE SURE TO ASK THEM FOR THEIR BADGE AND IDENTIFICATION BEFORE TALKING TO THEM!**
2. Census workers will NOT ask for Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, credit card numbers, or any specific account information.
3. Census workers will NOT solicit for donations – do not give them any money!
4. Census workers will NOT contact you by email. DO NOT respond to anyone claiming to be with the U.S. Census by email.
5. DO NOT invite them into your home!

## Protect Yourself from ID Theft

According to the Javelin Strategy and Research Center, identity theft is on the rise, affecting almost 10 million victims in 2008. ID theft can happen to anyone and occur in a variety of ways.

If you become a victim of identity theft, initiate the following four steps as soon as possible, and keep detailed records.

### 1. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review them.

Fraud alerts can help prevent an identity thief from opening any more accounts in your name. Contact any of the following consumer reporting companies. You only need to call one. The company you call is required to contact the other two.

Equifax: (800) 525-6285; [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

Experian (888) 397-3742; [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

TransUnion (800) 680-7289; [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

### 2. Close the accounts that you know, or believe, have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

Call and speak to someone in the security or fraud department of each company. If you open new accounts, use new Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) and passwords. If charges or debits have been made on your accounts, ask for the forms to dispute those transactions. Also, request letter stating that the accounts are closed and the fraudulent debts have been discharged.

### 3. Call the Hazelwood Police Department at (314) 838-5000 and file a report.

Request a copy of the police report or at the very least, the number of the report. It can help you deal with creditors who need proof of the crime.

### 4. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

By sharing your ID theft complaint with the FTC, you may be able to help law enforcement officials track down identity thieves and stop them. You can file a complaint online at [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft), or call (877) 438-4338.

Hazelwood resident Doug Bogaski held a “Safe City Celebration” party on Sept. 29. Pictured left to right: Carol Stroker; Doug Bogaski; Marge Buccat; Donna Cox; Sue Sands; and Orvil Cox.



## Hazelwood Police Receives Donation From Bommarito Automotive Group

The Hazelwood Police Department now has two brand new 2009 Volkswagen Beetles thanks to the generosity of Bommarito Automotive Group. A vehicle roll-out event was held at Bommarito Volkswagen of Hazelwood as part of the company’s “Fostering Peace and Prosperity” community campaign.

Hazelwood Police Chief Carl Wolf was the one who originally came up with the concept and collaborated with both Bommarito Volkswagen of Hazelwood and P.Q. Design of Maplewood in developing the artwork for the vehicle designs. Fast Signs, based in Breckenridge Hills, applied the graphics on each automobile. One will be used for the department’s

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program. The other is designated for use as a Citizen Observation Patrol vehicle to augment the department’s Volunteer Program.



## Safe City Celebration Brings Neighbors Together for Good Cause

Eighteen parties were held throughout the City of Hazelwood by residents, landlords and a church on September 29 for the community’s second annual Safe City Celebration. It was a great opportunity for residents to send a strong message to criminals that they want safe neighborhoods.

Hazelwood joined hundreds of communities across America in hosting crime prevention events, giving residents a chance to meet neighbors and get to know police officers who patrol their neighborhoods.

“The vitality of our community depends upon safe homes, neighborhoods, schools and places where we work,” said Chief Carl Wolf. “The Hazelwood Police Department is committed to reducing the number of people victimized by crime in order to make our community a great place to live, work and play.”

Chief Wolf also commended the active participation of local residents in Neighborhood Watch and Citizen Patrol programs. “We strongly believe that citizen involvement in crime prevention can play a vital role in keeping our neighborhoods safe,” added Wolf.

## Register for Free Nixle Service and Stay Connected

Interested in getting instant alerts about a traffic jam or severe weather on your cell phone? You can sign-up for a free service through Nixle to stay connected to what’s happening in your community. It’s easy to do online.

Visit [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and click on the button that reads, “Register now. It’s free and easy.” You can choose how you want to receive the information whether it’s by cell phone, text messaging, E-mail or over the web. More than one option can be chosen.

Nixle is designed to keep citizens safe and to provide critical information and instructions, often in situations where conventional media can’t move quickly enough. “The system will be particularly useful to us in responding quickly to Amber Alerts, violent crimes and missing person cases. We can also send out instant alerts about accidents causing traffic problems, road closures, utility outages, as well as extreme weather conditions,” said Chief Wolf.

For more information on Nixle, contact Sgt. Don Routh at (314) 513-5208. Or, visit [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).





McNair Elementary School students are touring the Hazelwood Fire Department's Safety Clubhouse during Fire Prevention Week.

## Hazelwood Fire Department Actively Promotes Fire Safety in October

The Hazelwood Fire Department took the "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned" message for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4-10, to several elementary schools and community events, and extended its efforts for a full month of activities.

More than 1,000 school-age children were provided fire safety education by the department through use of the Safety Clubhouse smoke trailer and the House of Hazards tabletop learning lab. Another 300 learned about fire prevention through videos, safety talks, displays and demonstrations conducted by department personnel.

Community safety education was also administered at forums such as local business safety days, community neighborhood safety events, individual family firehouse tours, church group lectures, etc. In addition, the fire department loaned its learning tools (i.e. Safety Clubhouse and House of Hazards) to other fire protection agencies to use in their communities.

Residents who would like to tour one of Hazelwood's fire stations with their family or group can do so by calling (314) 731-3424 during business hours to schedule an appointment.

## Hazelwood Fire Department Featured on NEWS 20

Fire Chief Jim Matthies and Battalion Chief Randy Getz were recently interviewed by NEWS 20 producer Randy Gardner for a 30-minute program about the Hazelwood Fire Department. The show aired on NEWS 20 as part of a new series on fire departments in the St. Louis area.

Viewers who watched the program learned that Hazelwood is serviced by three fire protection agencies, Hazelwood Fire Department, Robertson Fire Protection District and Florissant Valley Fire Department. The Hazelwood Fire Department covers the heart of the City while the other two service areas that have been annexed. It doesn't matter which one people call for emergencies, because all three are comparatively the same in terms of quick response time and state-of-the-art equipment.

Matthies and Getz also emphasized the department's proactive efforts to educate the community about fire safety. They urged residents to stop by and take a tour of their firehouses and meet the firefighter/paramedics.

Here are some other interesting facts that were discussed during the show:

- The Hazelwood Fire Department is the first in North County to install and bring online heart monitors and defibrillators capable of transmitting 12-lead EKG data to area hospitals via advanced Bluetooth technology. Doctors are then able to activate their cath labs ahead of time and operate on heart attack and stroke victims as soon as they arrive by ambulance.
- A city-wide campaign is underway, with assistance from Robertson and Florissant Valley, to go door-to-door and make sure every household has at least one working smoke detector. Phase one involving neighborhood canvassing of nearly 6,500 single-family homes is near completion. Phase two begins next spring on multi-family units and apartments. The goal is to reach more than 10,000 homes. If batteries are found to be dead, they are replaced. Also new smoke detectors are installed if existing ones don't work.



## Visit with Santa

Old St. Nick will soon be making his seasonal visit to the Hazelwood Community Center. He is inviting children of all ages to stop by for a visit. Bring your wish lists! Pictures with Santa are available for a nominal fee.



**DATE:** Saturday, December 12  
**TIME:** 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Hazelwood Community Center  
**PHOTO FEE:** \$2 Residents  
\$3 Non-Residents

## Use Candles Safely During Holidays

According to the latest statistics, an estimated 15,600 home structure fires started by candles were reported to local fire departments. These fires result in 150 civilian deaths, 1,270 civilian injuries and an estimated direct property loss of \$539 million. The Hazelwood Fire Department wants you to know that even though candles are pretty to look at, they do produce open flames that can easily ignite anything that can burn. Here are some safety tips to keep in mind:

Handle with care

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Avoid using candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.

If you do burn candles, make sure you...

- Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easily
- Light candles carefully. Keep hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down. Put it out before it gets near the holder.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never rely solely on candles.

## Save Paper!

Sign up for the online version of this newsletter!  
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