



September 4, 2020

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## The Friday Page

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### A Message from the Mayor

We are all aware of the struggles that this year has brought to our dramatically changing lives. Isolation, loss of income, juggling home schooling, illness, and more have faced us while dealing with the larger national issues of divisiveness and uncertainty. Everyday there is the dark shadow COVID-19, racial injustice, and economic issues.

This environment begs for our community to extend the kindness and caring that has always been the hallmark of Webster Groves. That call to a neighbor or church member who lives alone, an extra tip for a food worker, a donation drop for the Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, or a friendly wave to the trash collector or mail delivery person just might help someone get through a day.

Webster Groves has always been a community of thoughtfulness and generosity with respect for each other. In the midst of all of this turmoil, let's be grateful to be here amongst friends and neighbors who care.

### Best Wishes to Lee and Gwen Moss

Lee and Gwen Moss have been treasures in our community for many decades. Lee was known throughout the region for his professional skills as a barber and a successful business owner. Lee's shop was a focal point for positive and good in our town as families gathered there for over fifty years and met not only with each other but with many regional leaders and celebrity athletes who were also regular customers. Gwen not only worked at the City's Recreation Complex but was known as cake baker extraordinaire.

Lee and Gwen provided stable, consistent, and thoughtful leadership in the North Webster neighborhood where they were active with the North Webster Neighborhood Coalition always working to ensure that the roots of our historic Black community are respected and preserved.



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As the Mosses move closer to family, they go with well wishes from a community that will miss their involvement, leadership, and positive spirit that we have so appreciated for decades.

## Setting Next Year’s Property Tax Rate

At the end of each year, residents are faced with a property tax bill on their homes. It’s helpful to understand where that property tax goes and how that rate is determined. The following table breaks down the residential property tax into the percentage of the tax that goes to each entity.

### Example: 2019 Residential Property Tax Rates (as a Percentage from Total)

Taxing Jurisdiction	Tax Rate	Tax Amount	% of Tax Bill
School-Webster Groves	4.6848	\$2,225.28	59.7%
Special School District	1.1077	\$526.16	14.1%
City of Webster Groves	0.7170	\$340.58	9.1%
St. Louis County	0.3550	\$168.63	4.5%
Metropolitan Zoo Museum District	0.2549	\$121.08	3.3%
Webster Library	0.2240	\$106.40	2.9%
St. Louis Community College	0.1986	\$94.34	2.5%
Metropolitan Sewer District	0.1077	\$51.16	1.4%
Roads and Bridges	0.0880	\$41.80	1.1%
Productive Living Board	0.0750	\$35.63	1.0%
State of Missouri	0.0300	\$14.25	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.8427</b>	<b>\$3,725.28</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: This example is for a home with an appraised value of \$250,000 and an assessed value of \$47,500.

Notice that only 9.1% of the total tax goes to the City of Webster Groves. That amount is allocated to the street bond issue passed in 2011 and the fire house 2 bond issue passed in 2019, the street improvement fund, fire and police pensions, and general operations. The largest amount of a residential property tax bill goes to fund education – the Webster Groves School District, the Special School District, and the Community College.

The City introduced a bill at its last meeting that will set the City’s rate for the coming year. It has gradually decreased over the past ten years but will stay at approximately last year’s rate of \$0.7170 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

## The Unofficial End of Summer

City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 7, in honor of Labor Day. The Recreation Complex and Fitness Center will be open 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. and the Ice Arena will be closed. Trash, recycling, and yard waste will be collected on the holiday schedule (one day late) in all pickup areas.

## Apply for a Board or Commission

The City Council is currently seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Business Development Commission [Old Orchard representative desired]
- Green Space Advisory Commission
- Health & Environmental Services Advisory Board
- Old Orchard Special Business District Advisory Commission [must own property or operate a business within the District]
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Plan Commission [architectural or planning background/skills desired]
- Traffic Advisory Commission [traffic related background/skills desired]

Apply online at [webstergroves.org/boardapplication](http://webstergroves.org/boardapplication), or pick up an application on the City Hall bulletin board. Application deadline: September 21, 2020.

## Save the Date

SG Collaborative, the developer of the proposed project bounded by Kirkham, Gore, Rock Hill, and Pacific, is planning a virtual town hall meeting for Thursday, September 24, at 7 p.m.

Register in advance for the SG Collaborative 3rd Virtual Town Hall at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_b4KorUoZSyuZKEZ\\_hKd7iw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b4KorUoZSyuZKEZ_hKd7iw)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email.

## November 3, 2020 Election

### Important dates for Mail-In/Absentee Voting in the November 3 election:

- September 22 - Absentee voting begins
- October 7 - Voter registration/change of address deadline
- October 21 - Absentee/Mail-in application request deadline
- November 3 - Election day - absentee/mail-in ballots must be received by 7 p.m.

The City will again help organize notary ballot drive(s) to assist voters needing a notary for their mail-in ballots. Stay tuned for date announcements for the notary drives.

[Absentee Voting Information](#)



City of Webster Groves  
#4 E.Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119