



# TWIN OAKS TRIBUNE

## Mark Your Calendar

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS

Sunday, March 8

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Tuesday, March 17

### ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, April 7

### EASTER EGG HUNT IN THE PARK

Sat., April 11, 10:00 am

### ARBOR DAY IN THE PARK

Wed., April 22, 11:30 am

### PARK VOLUNTEER DAYS

Sat., April 25, 10:00 am

Sat., May 16, 10:00 am

### MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 25

Village Office Closed

### REFUSE HOLIDAY COLLECTION

Tuesday, May 26

## Other Meeting Dates

### Board of Trustees

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of month  
7:00 p.m.

### Park Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month  
7:00 pm

### Planning/Zoning

#### Commission

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of month  
6:00 pm (As needed)

### Board of Adjustment

(As needed)

## Chairman's Message



Dear Resident:

I don't know about you, but I am ready for Spring. This is an exciting time for our Village. The Board of Trustees and Village Staff have been working diligently on proposed grant funding, a partnership program with both cities of Fenton and Des Peres to allow residents to become members of their Community Facilities at Residential costs, reevaluating our Sewer Lateral Repair Program, reviewing our refuse contract, which expires May 31 and working with MSD to address stormwater within our community.

Our new Village Administrator has been working on several grants to allow otherwise expensive projects to become affordable to us. We have applied for a planning grant from the St. Louis County Municipal Parks Grant Commission to develop a master plan of enhancements to the Park to include a woodland garden, new playground equipment, storage area behind the bathrooms, a spray park and help with water control around the playground. We will find out by the end of March, if this grant has been approved. In the fall, there will be another grant process, to make these ideas become realities. Next, as part of President Obama's Stimulus Package, we have applied to finalize the streetscape along Big Bend from Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church to Meramec Station Road to include, more decorative lighting, ADA and safety measures, street trees and landscape. This grant application has been recommended for approval by East/West Gateway Council of Governments and has been added to the Provisional List of projects to be reviewed. Depending on other projects taking first priority, we should know within 90 days if this grant is approved. Lastly, we are involved in another grant application process whereas if approved, will continue our current streetscape plan on Meramec Station Road from Big Bend to Crescent to include a sidewalk and ADA provisions along the street and a beautification project over the bridge of Crescent Avenue. Should the Big Bend Beautification Project not

be granted, these items will be added to this application as well.

On the lighter side, our Park Committee has done another outstanding job of planning events in the Park and I look forward to seeing you and your family members enjoying these activities. I hope all of you have a wonderful spring season.

Sincerely,

Paul Brockmann  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

## Help Us Help You

In order to offer the best services possible to our residents, we are formulating an Emergency Contact List for use by the Police and Fire Departments if an emergency arises for you or at your home so that you or family members can be contacted in case of an emergency. This is a volunteer program, but we encourage all residents to take advantage of including themselves on this listing. **This information will not be given out to the public.** Please e-mail or mail the following information back to the Village Office at [kyahl@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us](mailto:kyahl@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us) or 1190 Meramec Station Road, Suite 204, Twin Oaks, MO 63021.

Names:

Address:

Home/Work/Cell Phone for All:

Names of children under 12:

Names of adults over 65:

Any Illnesses:

Any Allergies:

Names/Type of Pets:

Emergency Contact:

Name/Address/All Phone Numbers

## Keep Monies in Twin Oaks

When purchasing a new/used vehicle, please remember to tell the License Bureau that you are a Twin Oaks, Missouri resident (site code 1413). This will keep the taxes from going to the general zip code of 63021 (Ballwin) or 63088 (Valley Park).

## Directory

Paul Brockmann,  
Chairman  
636-225-8907  
1483 Autumn Leaf Drive  
[pbrockmann@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us](mailto:pbrockmann@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us)

Karen Dresner, Trustee  
636-825-9567  
80 Crescent Avenue  
[kdresner@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us](mailto:kdresner@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us)

Jim Owens, Trustee  
636-861-6800  
1540 Autumn Leaf Drive  
[jowens@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us](mailto:jowens@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us)

Ray Slama, Trustee  
636-225-6776  
1337 Woodland Oaks Drive  
[rslama@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us](mailto:rslama@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us)

Dennis Whitmore, Trustee  
636-225-6996  
1572 Autumn Leaf Drive  
[dwhitmore@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us](mailto:dwhitmore@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us)

Kathy Yahl  
Village Administrator/Clerk  
636-225-7873  
[kyahl@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us](mailto:kyahl@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us)

**Police Non-Emergency**  
636-256-2602

**Fire Non-Emergency**  
Valley Park (63088)  
636-225-4288

West County (63021)  
636-227-9350

**All Emergencies**  
**Please Dial 911**

## Memorial Day Refuse Schedule

Please note the next holiday acknowledged by our refuse contractor, Waste Management, is the week of May 25, Memorial Day. Refuse, yard waste and recycling will be picked up on **Tuesday, May 26** for that week only.

## Sewer Lateral Repair Program

The Board is re-evaluating our Village's Sewer Lateral Repair Program. As you know, residents are charged \$28.00 per year in order to help residents pay for repairs on sewer line breaks. Because the annual fees collected amount to less than \$4,900 and an average repair costs around \$3,000, it will be difficult to continue this program as it is set up. The Board has been asked to approve a newly proposed program which acts as a reimbursement program to residents in order to help defray the cost of repairing collapsed sewer laterals between the house and the main. This is how the proposed program will work: If you think you have a collapsed pipe, contact a plumber and have him cable the line at your expense. Once you have received the tape, contact Village Administrator Kathy Yahl at 636-225-7873. She will review the tape to verify eligibility. If eligible, the resident decides on his own contractor to do the repair and then pays for the repair in full. Copies of the actual bill and receipt of payment is then sent to the Village office for reimbursement. Reimbursement will be sent to you after the voucher is approved at the next Board of Trustees' meeting. The Board is being asked to approve a cap of reimbursement of \$2,000 effective April 1. The cap for reimbursement is set by the Board of Trustees and can be changed based on funds available. Legally, the Village has the right to go back to the voters and ask for approval of up to \$50.00 per household annually as many St. Louis County municipalities have done. In order to offer lower costs to our residents, this proposed plan is offered in hopes that the Village can repair laterals without the manpower hours used during the bidding process, awarding contracts and general paperwork. It will be an advantage to the residents as well as they will have more control of choosing their preferred contractors for repairs. We will keep you posted on the decision made by the Board regarding this program.

## Water Service Line Repair Program

St. Louis County offers residents a Water Service Line Repair Program, which pays for the repair of faulty and leaking residential water service lines located on the outside of the house. The quarterly program fee is included on your water bill. If a leak is suspected, contact the St. Louis County Water Service Line Repair Program office at 314-615-8420 for a program application and instructions regarding this program. The County will solicit bids from participating licensed plumbers and will pay the plumber directly for the repair.

## Always Ask for Identification

The Board approved a new solicitation ordinance within the Village. Now anyone involved in soliciting and or canvassing will be required to get a permit through the Village office. Approved solicitors are required to wear a name badge when going door to door, showing their name, company, approval and expiration date of permit. We want to remind our residents, for your own safety, to always ask for a picture ID before opening your door to a solicitor or any stranger and if you feel uncomfortable, don't answer the door at all.

## Good House Addressing

Contacting help in an emergency is easier since the implementation of 911, but the system's effectiveness can be dramatically decreased if houses or businesses aren't properly identified. Responders must pay attention to several other things while looking for an address so good visibility of your street number is critical. Some recommended guidelines are as follows:

1. Numbers should be no less than 4 inches tall.
2. Numbers should be in a contrasting color to the color scheme of the house or building.
3. Numbers should be visible at 150 feet from all angles, even at night.
4. Numbers should be free from obstruction due to plant vegetation or tree limbs.

## How to Dispose of Old Electronics

Did you know that just about any type of electronic product can be recycled at the "E-Cycle St. Louis" sites to include the following: TVs and VCRs Computers and all parts, Printers Cell Phones and Hand-held Devices. Most items are recycled at no charge, but some require fees to cover the cost of proper recycling. Examples include the dismantling of a copy machine or the handling of a cathode ray tube in a computer or television, which can contain up to 4 lbs. of lead. For a complete listing what is accepted, the fees involved and maps visit [www.ecyclestlouis.org](http://www.ecyclestlouis.org). The closest e-cycle location to us is DCAL Services, 292 E. Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119 (314-918-8833).

## Running Unopposed

Candidates that filed to serve a 2-yr term on the Village Board of Trustees for the April 7, 2009 election include Paul Brockmann, Karen Dresner & Dennis Whitmore. As there are 3 positions open, these candidates will fill the available positions. Thank you for serving our Village!

## New Website On the Way

We are in the process of redesigning our website to include more information and links for our residents to utilize. For information on our codes, policies, programs, permits and procedures, please check out our current website at [www.vil.twin-oaks.mo.us](http://www.vil.twin-oaks.mo.us).

## Chamber of Commerce News

To find out more about surrounding businesses to include the areas of Ballwin, Clarkson Valley, Ellisville, Manchester, Twin Oaks, Valley Park, Wildwood & Winchester, go to [www.westcountychamber.com](http://www.westcountychamber.com).

## St. Louis County Important Numbers

Assessor  
314-615-5124  
General Info  
314-615-5000  
Highways & Traffic  
314-615-8501  
Parks and Recreation  
314-615-7727  
Rabies Control  
314-726-6655  
Vector Control  
314-615-8935

## Volunteer Today!

Interested in volunteering to become a member of a Board or Commission to get acquainted with residents in the community and to help make a difference? Please contact Village Administrator Kathy Yahl at 636-225-7873 for more info on vacancies.

## Village Has "Tree City" Status

Twin Oaks is proud of its Tree City USA status. Like all Tree City USA cities, we have codified regulations that prohibit "topping" trees in street rights-of-way and in other city-owned spaces. Both the National Arbor Day Foundation and the MO. Dept. of Conservation recommend against the practice of "topping" trees. Please be aware of the following excerpts from the Arbor Day Foundation website:

1. Never cut main branches back to stubs. Many people mistakenly 'top' trees because they grow into utility wires, interfere with views or sunlight, or simply grow so large that they worry the landowner. The topping process is self-defeating. Ugly, bushy, weakly attached limbs usually grow back higher than the original branches.
2. Proper pruning can remove excessive growth without the problems topping creates. Many arborists say that topping is the worst thing you can do for the health of a tree. It starves the tree by drastically reducing its food-making ability, making it more susceptible to insects and disease.
3. To ensure humans aren't spreading Oak Wilt to your trees, ensure that your tree trimmer does NOT use shoe-spikes to climb your trees.

## Hazardous Waste Collections

As you get into spring cleaning projects, the St. Louis County Health Department reminds you that improper disposal of leftover household chemicals can be harmful to the environment and pose a risk to public health. The best way to properly manage leftover household chemicals is to use it up or recycle it. However, not all leftovers can be shared or recycled. As a safe alternative to disposal, bring your leftover chemicals to a Spring 2009 Household Chemical Collection Event, usually held in May. **(Event dates have not been posted yet)**. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or tax bill will be required as the events are only open to County residents.

Items that WILL NOT be accepted include explosives, ammunition, smoke detectors, medical waste, household trash, tires and other bulky items.

Items that WILL be accepted include paints, stains, varnishes, pesticides, herbicides, poisons, gasoline and other fuels, solvents and strippers, aerosols, motor oil and filters, gas cylinders

(BBQ pit size and smaller) fluorescent tubes, household batteries (rechargeable), anti-freeze, brake and transmission fluids, pool chemicals, and other acids and bases, car batteries, wood preservatives, drive sealant, and mercury-containing items (thermometers, thermostats, salts).

For more information, call the DOH Hotline at 314-286-9200 or see their new website at [www.recyclestlouis.com](http://www.recyclestlouis.com). Once dates are available, they will be posted on our website.

## Child Safety Seat Information

Types of Child Safety Seats:

**INFANT:** designed for children up to 20 lbs and place the infant facing rearward in a semi-inclined position.

**CONVERTIBLE:** designed for children up to 40 lbs. They recline, face rearward in infant position and convert to sit upright and face forward for toddler position.

**BOOSTER:** designed for children who have outgrown other safety seats and can be used with an adult lap or shoulder belt.

**LAP/SHOULDER BELTS:** designed for children age eight (8) or older or 80 lbs or more. Make sure the lap belt stays low and snug across the hips without riding up over the stomach, and the shoulder belt does not cross the face or front of the neck.

### *Child Restraints:*

**LESS THAN 4 YEARS OLD:** Missouri law requires children less than four (4) years old, regardless of weight, use an appropriate child passenger restraint system.

**LESS THAN 40 POUNDS:** Missouri law requires children weighing less than 40 lbs, regardless of age, to be secured in a child passenger restraint system appropriate for the child.

**LESS THAN 8 YEARS OLD-80 POUNDS OR UNDER 4' 9":** Children ages 4-7 who weigh at least 40 lbs, but less than 80 lbs, and are less than 4' 9" tall, must be secured in a child passenger restraint system or booster seat appropriate for that child.

**GREATER THAN 80 POUNDS OR TALLER THAN 4' 9":** Children who are at least 80 lbs or children taller than 4' 9" shall be secured by a vehicle safety belt or booster seat appropriate for that child.

**VILLAGE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 25-MEMORIAL DAY**



**1190 MERAMEC STATION ROAD  
SUITE 204  
TWIN OAKS, MO 63021**

### Village E-Mail List

In order to keep our residents as informed as possible, we are setting up a new residential e-mail listing. Those on the list will receive up to date notifications of upcoming events, public hearings, surveys, the newsletter (which will still be mailed) and any other important news. To be added to this listing, just send an e-mail request to us at [kyahl@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us](mailto:kyahl@vil.twin-oaks.mo.us). We will respond when you have been added to the listing. Thank you in advance for helping to make this project a success.

### Become a Member of

#### “The Lodge” or “Riverchase”

The Board of Trustees has made agreements with both “The Lodge” of Des Peres and “Riverchase” of Fenton that our residents can join their facilities at the residential rate and the Village will pay for the remainder of the non-resident fee. For more information on the hours and amenities for each facility, please go to each respective website or contact each City as follows:

*Des Peres-*  
[www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org)  
(314)835-6150

*Fenton-*  
[www.fentonmo.org](http://www.fentonmo.org)  
(636) 343-0067

Detailed information about summer programming, rates and amenities of these facilities will be in our next newsletter.

### Social Committee Now Forming

The Park Committee is looking for volunteers to form a Social Committee, which would help in the planning of our current events and recommend ideas for new events. If you'd like more information about this committee or are interested in planning fun events for our Village, please contact Kathy Yahl at 636-225-7873.

### Park Committee Keeps Busy

During these colder months, the Park Committee approved several purchases and maintenance projects to the park to include new basketball poles and backboards, new trash receptacles and lids, new mulch for the playground area, new woodchips for the wooded walking path and a park and plantings inspection done by our Forestry Consultant. We will work on establishing new plantings and trees in the upcoming months. Please remember our Volunteer Days are open to anyone who wants to take an hour or two to help us keep the park the beautiful place it is. We appreciate our volunteers!