



FESTUS FOCUS

City of Festus
(636) 937-4694

Festus Focus is also available at
www.CityofFestus.org

February 1, 2016



Community Notice Boards

The community notice board that was removed due to construction at the intersection of S Second and S Mill has been moved one block east to the intersection of S Second and Behring Streets. This and the other community notice board (located at the intersection of Cromwell, Hillsboro, Horine, and N Fifth Streets) are the places to hang yard sale, estate sale, and missing pet posters.



Quad City Senior Center

The Quad Cities (Festus, Crystal City, Herculaneum, and Pevely) Senior Center is open for anyone 60 and older Monday through Friday from 9am - 1pm. Residents can enjoy games, music, bingo, exercise, and more here! Meals are available daily for a donation of \$4 or whatever a person can afford. If someone is unable to come to the Center they should call to sign up for Meals on Wheels. Drivers for Meals on Wheels are needed for regular routes and as substitute drivers. A route typically takes an hour to complete. An OATS bus is available Monday through Thursday to take residents to and from the Center. The Quad City Senior Center is located on the ground level of the Masonic Lodge at 221 Bailey Road in Crystal City. Call (636)937-8333 for more information.

Fireplace Safety Tips - After the Fire

Safety tips from Chuck Boyer, Festus Fire Chief:

1. Fireplace coals can remain hot enough to start a fire up to three days so always wait at least that long before removing ashes. At that point, open the damper so that airborne ash will be drawn up the chimney instead of into the room. Be sure to wear a dust mask and to open a window in the same room as the fireplace to prevent negative air pressure. Use a shovel to scoop the ashes into a metal container. Store the container far from combustible materials, surfaces, and wood floors.
2. Glass doors may develop tough stains from flames and heat. To clean them, make sure the glass doors are cool, then scrape off any thick gunk deposits with a razor blade. Add a squirt of liquid dishwashing detergent to a bucket of warm water or add a cup of vinegar to a gallon of water. Spray or sponge the cleaner on and then wipe it away with newspaper (which is lint free). Another option is to buy glass cleaner at a fireplace store.
3. Clean the firebox (the area where the logs burn) at least once a week during the months you use it when ash builds up. Leave about an inch of ash because it acts as insulation, allowing the coals to heat faster and retain the heat easier. Keep the firebox completely clean during the months when the fireplace is not in use.



**All City Offices will be closed Monday, February 15
in honor of Presidents' Day.**

Library Happenings

Yard Sale

Join the Friends of the Festus Public Library for our yearly yard sale! You'll be sure to find a bargain – we'll have toys, knick-knacks, housewares, and more! Yard sale hours are Friday, Feb 26, 9a-5p & Saturday, Feb 27, 9a-12p.



Story Time

Join us every Thursday morning at 10:30 as we present stories, songs, and activities for children ages 2 and up.

Lap Time for Children Ages 0-24 Months

Sat, Feb 13 & 27 at 9:30 am

We are excited to present a new program designed for our very youngest readers! Join us for stories, songs and games promoting early literacy skills for babies and toddlers.



Register to Vote

Visit the library to register to vote or to change your address to be ready for the next election.

REGISTER TO
★ VOTE ★

HERE

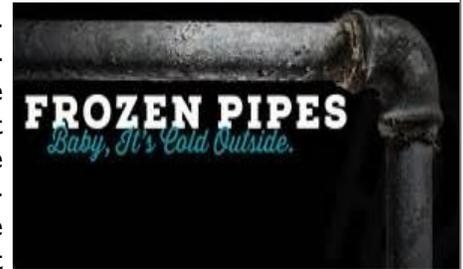


Apply for a Passport

If you have upcoming travel plans, call 636-937-2017 to inquire about what you need to bring with you to obtain a passport. Visit the Dept. of State website at www.travel.state.gov for more information.

Frozen Pipe Prevention and Care

Cold winter weather can cause plumbing pipes to freeze and possibly burst which can cause flooding and expensive water damage to your home, but



taking preventative measures before that happens can save you costly repairs and can eliminate the risks and inconvenience of waking up to frozen pipes. The pipes most at risk for freezing are exposed pipes in unheated areas of the home, pipes located in exterior walls, and, any plumbing on the exterior of the home. Garden hoses should be disconnected, drained, and stored before the first hard freeze. Foam pipe insulation or heat tape can help exposed interior plumbing. Extra insulation can be added to exterior walls.

If you travel during the winter months and leave your house vacant for extended periods of time there are additional preventative measures that should be taken to ensure that your home is adequately protected. Do not leave your furnace set any lower than 55 degrees. Also, shut off the main water supply and drain the system by opening all faucets and flushing the toilets.

If your pipes do freeze, the safest and least messy thawing methods involve a gentle heat dryer, heat lamp, or household iron. (DO NOT use a propane torch or other open flame as they will heat the pipe too quickly and



may cause it to explode!) Some people recommend wrapping rags over a frozen pipe and pouring boiling water over it. Obviously, this method is very messy! Never pour boiling water directly onto a frozen pipe.

- **Council Meetings** -- February 10 and 24 at 7pm
- **Park Board** -- February 25 at 6pm
- **P & Z Meeting** -- February 18 at 6:30 pm
- **Library Board** -- February 4 at 6pm
- **Court in Session** -- February 2 and 23 at 6pm
- **Board of Adjustment** — February 8 at 7pm