



# FESTUS FOCUS

City of Festus  
(636) 937-4694

Festus Focus is also available at  
[www.CityofFestus.org](http://www.CityofFestus.org)

December 1, 2015

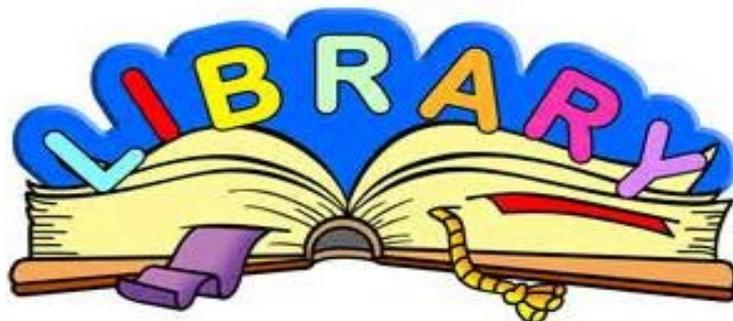
## Fireplace Safety

Safety tips from Chuck Boyer, Festus Fire Chief:

1. Fireplaces should not be used as furnaces. Use a fireplace for short duration fires—no longer than five hours.
2. Never leave a fire unattended when children are in the house. Adults, even if near, should not allow children to play near or with fire tools and equipment.
3. Use fireplace tools to handle burning logs. Never use your hands.
4. Never use a vacuum to clean up ashes, because live coals may remain in those ashes.
5. Have a certified chimney sweep inspect and clean the chimney when necessary. Have him show you how to check it yourself, too. The chimney should be checked at least once a year or after about 80 fires.
6. Keep a nonflammable rug (available at fireplace supply stores) in front of the fireplace so that sparks won't melt, burn, or otherwise damage your flooring.



7. Open a window when using the fireplace to prevent the room from becoming smoky. The air coming in will go up the chimney.



## A Visit with Santa Claus!

Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.

Santa is planning a special visit to the library! There will be songs, stories, and time for each child to talk to Santa. Parents, bring your cameras! This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Festus Public Library.

## Lap Time for Children Ages 0-24 Months

Thursday, December 3 and 17, 9:30 a.m.

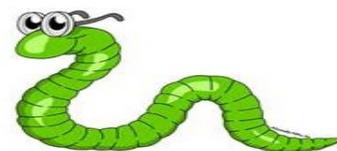
We are excited to present a new program designed for our very youngest readers! Join us for stories, songs and games promoting early literacy skills for babies and toddlers.

## Story Time

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

## Library Closing Early

The library will close at 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 31.



**Please Note:** When City Hall's supply of yard waste bags runs out they will not be restocked and will no longer be available for purchase. We invite you to shop out local stores that generally keep them in stock.



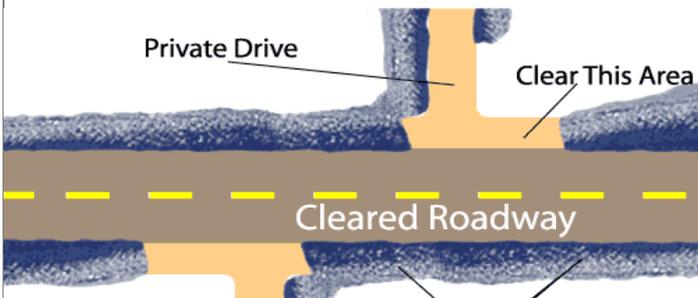
# Happy Holidays

As we head into the winter months the **Winter Road Care** Street Foreman wanted to remind everyone about the City's plowing policies. The City is divided into 4 sections (N, S, E, W) and in those groups are snow routes (for ex: W Main, N & S Mill, Pounds, Gamel Cemetery, etc) that are plowed until they are passable and then they will move on to the secondary streets (for ex: Valentine, Woodrow, Ridge, Moore, Delmar, Vine, subdivisions, etc). Due to the cost of equipment and materials, the City does not do any type of pre-treating. The plow truck drivers do request that if you have a driveway to please park in it when snow is predicted so that they can get the streets plowed in a more timely and safe manner. See the "Snow Shoveling Tips" below for a great hint on how to clear your drive in a way that the plows won't put more snow at the end of your driveway.

### Snow Shoveling Tips

Snow plowed from roads could end up blocking private driveways for some time. The City recognizes the inconvenience this causes, but because of limited time and resources, plows can only clear private driveways at the request of local emergency officials.

To reduce the amount of snow that might block your driveway, shovel an open area along the shoulder at the entrance (see illustration below). Plow blades will then push snow into the area just before your driveway, leaving a much smaller amount in front of it.



### Santa House Schedule

Tues (12/1) and Thurs (12/3)	6-8pm each night
Saturday (12/5)	12-5pm
Crystal City Choir performs at 12pm	
Tues (12/8) and Thurs (12/10)	6-8pm each night
Saturday (12/12)	12-5pm
Jefferson R-7 Choir performs at 1pm	
Tues (12/15) and Thurs (12/17)	6-8pm each night
Saturday (12/19)	12-5pm

**Don't forget your canned good items!**

**All city offices will be closed on  
Thursday, December 24 and  
Friday, December 25  
in observance of Christmas.**

### Total Solar Eclipse - Coming Aug 21, 2017

Parks Superintendent Larry Crites and Barb Lowry, who handles Sports/Event Marketing for the city, attended a workshop in October about this major astronomical event where they learned ideas about events that could be planned around and for this eclipse as well as ways to educate the public about eclipses. In the coming months there will be articles dealing with how to safely watch the eclipse, as well as information about all the local happenings surrounding the eclipse so that our residents are fully prepared to safely enjoy this once in a lifetime event. "A total solar eclipse is a rare event, but rarer still is one that's viewed by you. Unlike lunar eclipses, visible for hours by the entire night side of the world, a total solar eclipse can only be viewed along a narrow path on Earth's surface, where Moon's shadow happens to fall." ([www.StLouisEclipse2017.org](http://www.StLouisEclipse2017.org)) The most recent total solar eclipses in US history and where it could be viewed: 1991 - Hawaii; 1979 - NW United States; 1970 - Eastern United States; 1932 and 1963 - Maine; and 1925 in New York. History shows us that this is a very rare event. The path of the 2017 eclipse will cover the US from Oregon to South Carolina which means the majority of the US population will be within a day's drive of the path of the moon's shadow. Here in Festus, we can expect almost 2 minutes and 40 seconds of totality (complete darkness). During totality a corona or crown will appear around the sun, street lights will come on, birds might think it's nighttime and could roost, and temps could drop 10-15 degrees. A total solar eclipse is something that can be seen, but also felt. It will be a complete sensory experience.



- **Council Meetings** -- December 16 at 7pm
- **Park Board** -- December 17 at 6pm
- **P & Z Meeting** -- December 17 at 6:30 pm
- **Library Board** -- December 3 at 6pm
- **Court in Session** -- December 1, 8, and 15 at 6pm
- **Board of Adjustment** — December 14 at 7pm