

AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION MISSOURI CHAPTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY LUNCHEON 7/24/25 11:30 AM ORLANDO'S See Page 11 KEN STUMPF TOURN. 08/04/25 11:00 AM TANGLEWOOD See Page 12

PWX MISSOURI CHAPTER DINNER 08/19/25 6:05 PM WRIGLEY ROOFTOPS See Page 14

STL BRANCH OFFICERS

JON LOOS - CHAIR Horner & Shifrin

Goetz Group

DAVID STEWART - VICE CHAIR City of Hazelwood

THERESA GOETZ- SECRETARY

STEVE STUMPF - TREASURER Farnsworth Group

DEREK KOESTEL - PAST CHAIR EFK Moen

COMMITTEES

MATT MALICK & JIM KLEIN - KEN YOST GOLF TOURNAMENT HANNAH SULLENS - YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TRAVIS HELMKAMP - ADVOCACY RICK BROWN - EDUCATION & TRAINING JEFF BANDERET — SPECIAL EVENTS

CHAPTER OFFICERS

AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

KYLE BRUEMMER - PRESIDENT City of Jefferson

MICHAEL TEEL- VICE PRESIDENT Great River Engineering

PAULA HART - TREASURER Hart Engineering

CHRIS LINNEMAN - SECRETARY EFK Moen

CHRIS KRUEGER- PAST PRESIDENT City of Kirkwood

ERIC LANDWEHR - CHAPTER DELEGATE Cole County

TOD FAGAN - CHAPTER ALTERNATE DELEGATE Spire

JACQUE KNIGHT - DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS

STEVE MEYER - DIRECTOR, MEMBERSHIP

BRUCE MCGREGOR - DIRECTOR, EDUCATION/TRAINING City of Olivette

ALEX SAMMET - DIRECTOR, AWARDS & HISTORICAL Spire

COLTON HARRIS - DIRECTOR, ADVOCACY & OUTREACH City of Springfield

JONATHAN PEITZ - DIRECTOR, SPECIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

ERROL TATE - DIRECTOR, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION City of Manchester

Please click the below to submit your Newsletter content at least one week prior to the end of the month.

Thank you for helping us stay on schedule!



<u>KELLEY DAVIS</u> - NEWSLETTER EDITOR HDR

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APWA NEWS

LETTER TO MEMBERSHIP

Dear APWA Missouri Chapter Members,

This summer, we had the honor of celebrating excellence in our community at the June Branch Luncheon. It was a great event where we recognized our 2025 APWA Scholarship recipients. Their presence is a great reminder not only of the bright future ahead, but also of our own beginnings, and of how organizations like APWA can shape a career from the very first step. We also proudly acknowledged this year's Vince Tallo Service Award recipients, who have each dedicated over 30 years to public service. Their impact has been long-lasting and deeply appreciated.

2025 APWA Scholarship Recipients

- Liberty Stone Continuing Education Scholarship
- Connor Strickland Ken Yost Memorial Scholarship
- Joshua Giesmann Ken Yost Memorial Scholarship
- Lannah Montgomery Ken Yost Memorial Scholarship

2025 Vince Tallo Service Award Recipients

- Scott O. Kolkmeyer, PE BAX Engineering Company
- Ronnie Box City of Springfield, MO
- Sean Dronick City of Springfield, MO
- Joe Payne City of Springfield, MO
- Randy Reed City of Springfield, MO
- Richard Lancaster St. Louis County Dept. Of Transportation & Public Works
- Suzanne Mariam St. Louis County Dept. Of Transportation & Public Works
- Laurie Hogan St. Louis County Dept. Of Transportation & Public Works
- Allan Erdman Horner & Shifrin Consulting Engineers
- Rob Atkinson Spire Energy
- Rich Bradley, PE City of St. Louis Board of Public Service
- Jim Heines, PE City of Creve Coeur

We also want to spotlight our annual Awards Program, a cornerstone of how we honor exceptional individuals and projects that elevate our communities. Whether through leadership, engineering excellence, or project delivery, these awards showcase the best of what we do. The submission deadline this year is September 12th, so we encourage everyone to consider nominating a colleague, team, or project. Award categories range from Young Professional of the Year to Public Works Projects in three budget tiers. More information and applications are available on the Missouri Chapter website at missouri.apwa.net under the 'Chapter' tab.

Thank you for helping us recognize the outstanding work that drives our profession forward. We look forward to honoring even more of our peers at the Fall Conference.

Sincerely,

Alex Sammet, Director of Awards and Historical Missouri Chapter of APWA <u>Alex.Sammet@SpireEnergy.com</u>



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APWA NEWS

JUNE 2025 MEETING MINUTES

St. Louis Branch Meeting Minutes June 26, 2025

Chair Loos called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm and then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Loos welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He announced that the head table will go first and then everyone please follow.

Chair Announcements

Chair Loos thanked everyone that attended the May BBQ and thanked McCoy for feeding us.

Chair Loos announced the Branch Board met on Monday with the Committee Chairs. These items are the takeaways:

- 1. We are going to try something new next year for the lunches and offer an annual pass for 10 lunches (Orlando's + BBQ), more details to come.
- 2. We also voted unanimously to adopt a resolution calling attention to the regional population decline and the importance of addressing it with a group the representatives everyone in the St. Louis Metro, including public works. That resolution is by the nametags if you're interested in reading it.

Committee Reports

Chair Loos announced Continuing Education and Training opportunities:

- 1. Fall Superintendent Roundtable, in conjunction with Viking-Chives luncheon, is October 30.
- 2. Director roundtable will meet before October Luncheon.

Jeff Banderet announced Special Events and Activities:

- 1. Working on a pickleball event with Engineer's Club
- 2. Exploring a Happy Hour at Rosalita's in Des Peres

Chair Loos thanked Jeff for his hard work and stated that Jeff is looking for assistance if anyone is interested.

Under Advocacy and Outreach announcements, Chair Loos thanked everyone for their donations at the May BBQ and Golf Tournament, we have raised over \$1000 for charity to date.



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APWA NEWS

JUNE 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Loos thanks Jim Klein and Matt Malick for their hard work for Ken Yost Golf Tournament. Jim announced a survey will coming out to ask if everyone prefers June vs. September golf tournament in the future. September golf tournament will most likely be higher prices. Chair Loos said with the quick changes of time and location we had 100 Golfers which covered the scholarships.

Missouri Chapter Update

Chair Loos gave General Chapter Update:

- 1. Chapter Awards deadline this year is August 29
- 2. PWX Chapter Dinner is a Rooftop Game at Wrigley Field vs Brewers on Monday, August 18th at 6:05 with game starting at 7:05. This is a ticketed event so please register as early as possible.
- 3. To help with communication, emails are now duplicated on the front page of the website.

Scholarships Presentation

Chair Jon called up Jacob Berry to announce the Scholarship Winners, Paula Hart to take pictures with the recipients and Lee Cannon to take pictures.

Jacob announced that \$8K was distributed to the scholarship recipients. It was a hard decision even having to turn down someone with a perfect ACT score.

The recipients are:

- 1. Liberty Stone Continuing Education Scholarship (MO Chapter) was present.
- 2. Conner Strickland Ken Yost Memorial Scholarship (St. Louis Branch) was present.
- 3. Joshua Giesmann Ken Yost Memorial Scholarship (St. Louis Branch), was not present. He will possibly attend next month's luncheon.
- 4. Lannah Montgomery Ken Yost Memorial Scholarship (St. Louis Branch) was present.

Vince Tallo Awards

Chair Jon asked Vijay Bhasin to announce the Vince Tallo Award Winners. Vijay asked Tony Tallo, Vince Tallo's son to say a few words about his dad. Tony spoke heartfully about how important APWA was to his father.

The Vince Tallo Award recipients for 2025 were:

- 1. Scott Kolkmeyer BAX Engineering
- 2. Ronnie Box City of Springfield, MO
- 3. Sean Dronick City of Springfield, MO
- 4. Joe Payne City of Springfield, MO
- 5. Randy Reed City of Springfield, MO
- 6. Richard Lancaster St. Louis County Dept of Transportation and Parks



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APWA NEWS

JUNE 2025 MEETING MINUTES

- 7. Suzanne Mariam St. Louis County Dept of Transportation and Parks
- 8. Laurie Hogan St. Louis County Dept of Transportation and Parks
- 9. Allan Erdman Horner & Shifrin, Inc.
- 10. Rob Atkinson Spire
- 11. Rich Bradley City of St. Louis
- 12. Jim Heines City of Creve Coeur

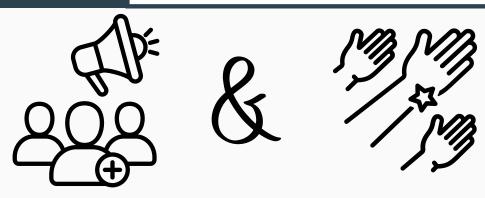
Chair Loos announced our next Branch meeting will be held here at Orlando's on July 24th and it will be the intern lunch. Please bring your summer interns to introduce them to APWA; there is no cost for them to attend. The speaker is Tom Evers, giving a MoDOT update.

Chair Loos adjourned the meeting.

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APWA NEWS

ADVOCACY & OUTREACH UPDATE



As we reach the midpoint of 2025, I'd like to share a few highlights and outline the path ahead for our advocacy and outreach efforts. This year, our focus remains on expanding APWA's presence in legislative spaces, boosting community engagement, and investing in the future of our profession.

Looking forward, several initiatives are taking shape:

- Public Works Week 2026 preparations will begin early next year. We're exploring ways to strengthen our relationship with the Governor's office, with hopes of securing a proclamation as a regular tradition.
- Student Chapter Development is a key goal for the next two years. We're laying the groundwork for chapters at Linn Tech, Missouri State University, and CVO, recognizing that engaging future professionals is vital to sustaining the public works workforce.
- Legislative Monitoring will continue throughout the year. I plan to provide summaries of bills relevant to public works and utilize resources from national partners like APWA National, NSPE, ASCE, and ACEC.
- Outreach Efforts including environmental and community initiatives are being evaluated for new opportunities. Whether through service projects or strategic collaborations, we aim to showcase public works as a cornerstone of resilient communities.

Thank you for your continued support. Please reach out if you have ideas, events, or partnerships worth exploring. Together, we'll keep advancing the mission of APWA in Missouri.

Colten Harris, PE charris@springfieldmo.gov (417) 874-1212



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APWA NEWS

MO CHAPTER APWA SPONSORSHIP

Dear Potential Sponsor,

The American Public Works Association (APWA) exists to develop and support the people, agencies, and organizations that plan, build, maintain, and improve our communities. Just as communities count on their public works professionals, APWA strives to be the organization those professionals know they can count on.

We invite you to become a 2025 sponsor of the APWA Missouri Chapter and partner with our organization to further our mutual goals. Please note that by Sponsoring the Chapter, you are also sponsoring the St. Louis Branch of APWA. There are many events that the Chapter pays the branch to support branch activities.

The APWA Missouri Chapter, established in 1958, engages in the same educational, networking and public service activities as our national parent organization, but we do so close to home where members can easily take advantage of our programs. The Missouri Chapter offers members various opportunities to attend educational programs, biannual conferences, and equipment shows as well as chances to network with their colleagues and peers in a professional setting. Missouri Chapter members represent every discipline in the public works field including public works directors and engineers, contractors, engineering consultants, material and equipment suppliers, public works street superintendents, project managers, stormwater professionals, and many others.

Missouri Chapter APWA is offering your organization an opportunity to share in our mission and success through sponsorship. Annual sponsorships for 2025 offer a wide range of opportunities to fit every company's marketing budget. Your sponsorship promotes and enables the educational mission and goals of the Missouri Chapter, and can also enable enhanced relationships with existing clients, facilitate new relationships with potential clients and strengthen your visibility in the statewide public works industry.

Please take a moment to review the following sponsorship information, including the benefits of sponsorship, and consider choosing a level that best fits your abilities and company's budget. The benefits will be applied for the entire calendar year of 2025.

Silver Level: \$150

- Special recognition at Chapter conferences in the spring and fall
- Sponsor's name printed on Chapter conference agendas in the spring and fall
- Special recognition on APWA Missouri Chapter website and monthly newsletters

Gold Level: \$500

- All benefits of Silver Level Sponsor, plus:
- Opportunity to write an article for the Chapter newsletter once per year

Platinum Level: \$1,000+

- All benefits of Gold Level Sponsor, plus:
- One conference registration and vendor booth for the 2025 spring or fall Chapter conference

To sponsor Missouri Chapter APWA for 2025, use the following link where payment method can be selected which includes check or credit card:(PAYMENT LINK). The APWA Missouri Chapter is a division of the APWA national organization, which is a not-for-profit, 510 (c) (3) organization. APWA's Federal Tax Identification Number 36-2202880

If you have any questions, please contact me at (660) 349-5757 or via e-mail at mteel@greatriv.com.

Thank you for considering a 2025 sponsorship of the APWA Missouri Chapter!

Kindest Regards,
APWA Missouri Vice President
Michael Teel
Great River Engineering
Tel: (660) 349-5757
Email: mteel@greatriv.com



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APWA NEWS

2025 MO CHAPTER APWA SPONSORS

/// PLATINUM SPONSORS

































CALENDAR

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
July 24, 2025	July Luncheon - Bring Your Intern!	Orlando's - Maryland Heights, MO
August 4, 2025	Ken Stumpf Memorial Golf Classic	Tanglewood Golf Course - Fulton, MO
August 28, 2025	August APA Joint Luncheon	Orlando's - Maryland Heights, MO
August 17-20, 2025	PWX 2025	McCormick Place - Chicago, IL
August 19, 2025	Missouri PWX Chapter Dinner	Wrigley Rooftops - Chicago, IL
September 18, 2025	September Luncheon	Orlando's - Maryland Heights, MO
October 23, 2025	October SITE Joint Luncheon	Orlando's - Maryland Heights, MO
December 11, 2025	December Holiday Party	TBD





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CALENDAR

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



MUTCD 11TH EDITION: KEY UPDATES ON PAVEMENT MARKINGS, SIGNAGE, AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Location: Virtual

This live virtual program serves as a continuation to the July 2024 Click, Listen, and Learn session, offering a deeper dive into the specific updates outlined in the 11th Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Designed specifically for public works professionals, this program will delve into critical updates and modifications, with a particular emphasis on pavement markings, their corresponding signs, and the broader implications for pedestrian safety. Participants will gain valuable insights into the practical applications of these changes to ensure compliance with federal regulations while enhancing transportation infrastructure in their communities. Program attendees will develop a deeper understanding of the 11th Edition MUTCD changes, equipping them to apply these standards effectively within their jurisdictions. This knowledge will enable them to enhance pedestrian safety, streamline traffic flow, and contribute to the overall improvement of their community's transportation systems.

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Analyze the updated MUTCD 11th Edition standards for pavement markings and related signage to ensure regulatory compliance.
- 2. Evaluate the impacts of pavement marking changes on pedestrian safety and access.
- 3. Apply best practices for integrating MUTCD updates into transportation planning and maintenance strategies.

Links/Handouts:

<u>Discussion Guide</u>

<u>Handout</u>

Speakers:

Carla Anderson

Technical Lead

Professional Engineering Consultant

Megan Patent-Nygren Training Program Coordinator Nebraska Local Technical Assistance Program

Moderator: Scott Komarek, PE, ENV SP Senior Project Manager Bartlett & West





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CALENDAR

APWA MISSOURI JULY LUNCHEON

St. Louis Branch APWA Luncheon Annual Bring Your Intern Lunch Thursday, June 24, 2025

Networking starting at 11:30 a.m.

Lunch at Noon

Cost is \$25/Person

\$0/Intern (Cost paid by Missouri APWA)

PLEASE BE SURE TO REGISTER EACH OF YOUR INTERNS

Location: Orlando's 2050 Dorsett Village Maryland Heights, Missouri

MoDOT Update - Tom Evers, Assistant District Engineer





Credit Card Payment in Advance is highly encouraged and will result in express check-in. Payment at the event will be accepted by cash or check. Credit Cards cannot be accepted at the event.



<u>https://missouri.apwa.org/event/july-luncheon-with-tom-evers-stl-branch/</u>

Please register by July 18, 2025, at 4 PM!

To register for an event:

Sign in to your APWA National account.

The Sign In tab is located in the upper right corner of the page. Click Sign In and enter your username and password.

Once you enter your username and password, click Register Now and you will be directed to the registration page for that event.

There is NO COST to create an account and you are NOT required to be a member of APWA.

CALENDAR

KEN STUMPF MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC

2025 Ken Stumpf Memorial APWA Mid-MO Golf Classic

Ken Stumpf was a lifetime member of APWA and was dedicated to the betterment of the association and education of its members. Ken was a special person that influenced many people during his lifetime. He passed away somewhat unexpectedly in 2015. Tournament proceeds will go towards organizations that Ken was involved with and important to him.



Monday, August 4, 2025 Registration - 11:00 am Shotgun Start - 12:00 pm

Tanglewood Golf Course, Fulton, MO

Greens Fees, Range Balls, Cart, Lunch, & Drinks are Included
Scramble Format ~ Two Putt Rule

\$400 per foursome team \$50 per team Mulligans \$200 Hole Sponsorships \$350 Drink Sponsorships \$350 Lunch Sponsorships \$350 Driving Range Sponsorships

All participants and sponsors MUST register online. Payment may be made online by credit card or by check mailed to Eric Landwehr, Cole County Public Works, 5055 Monticello Road, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

Registration Deadline is Friday, August 1, 2025

Please contact Eric Landwehr for registration and payment information:

<u>elandwehr@colecounty.org</u>

(573) 619-4551

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

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CALENDAR

PWX 2025 - CHICAGO



JOIN US AT PWX 2025!!

August 17-20, 2025

McCormick Place - Lakeside Center 2301 S. Lake Shore Dr. Chicago, IL 60616

Conference information & registration can be found here: https://www.apwa.org/events/pwx-conference/

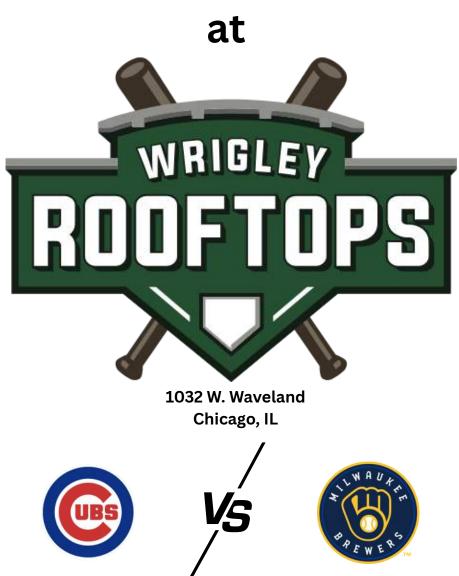
See Page 14 for Missouri Chapter Dinner Information



CALENDAR

PWX 2025 MISSOURI CHAPTER DINNER

Tuesday August 19th



\$40 for members - \$60 for spouses/guests

This is an all-inclusive event starting promptly at 6:05 PM so get there early! See Page 3 for additional information.

Register for the event here: https://my.apwa.org/s/community-event?
id=a1mJx000006Gv6vIAC

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CALENDAR

GSITE ANNUAL PARTNERS GOLF CLASSIC



FREE

All proceeds benefit our featured charities. Together, we've raised over \$331,500!!

Thursday, September 25, 2025

The Falls Golf Club 1170 Turtle Creek Drive, O'Fallon, MO Jeans and denim not allowed

NEW IN 2025!!

Golf ball launcher game with HDR On-course food by GBA's BBQ Team







SCHEDULE

Driving Range 10:30 AM Registration 11:00 AM Lunch

12:30 PM Afternoon Shotgun 5:30 PM Dinner, Raffle & Awards

REGISTRATION

Online (preferred) at birdease.com/partnersgolfclassic

OR

Return form with check payable to <u>GSITE</u>

Send to: **Kelly Schaefer** 399 S. Spring Ave, Suite 208B St. Louis MO 63110

Website QR Code:



PARTNERS GOLF CLASSIC is a collaboration between transportation industry partners of Eastern MO and Southern IL. Partners include local and state governments, design consultants, highway contractors, and suppliers.

REGISTRATION INCLUDES

Automatic Raffle Entry to Win: \$500 Visa Gift Card Two \$250 Visa Gift Cards (must be present to win)

- * Driving Range Balls *
- * Beverages on Course *
 - * 8 Contest Holes *
- * Team Putting Contest *

Lunch & Awards Dinner Flight Prizes Attendance Prizes

LOTS OF FUN!!

For more information, please contact: Kelly Schaefer @ 314-749-0573 KSchaefer@lochgroup.com



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CALENDAR

APWA MO FALL CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIPS

Missouri APWA Fall Conference 2025

Wed 10/1 - Fri 10/3 Margaritaville, Osage Beach



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

ELITE (\$3500)

Logo signage at Thursday evening activity, 1 Exhibit booth, 2 Registrations, Logo on all conference materials - SOLD OUT!



PREMIER (\$3000)

Logo signage at Get Acquainted Party, 1 Exhibit booth, 2 Registrations, Logo on all conference materials - SOLD OUT!



CHOICE (\$2500)

Logo on conference gift, Exhibit booth, 1 Registration, Logo on all conference materials - SOLD OUT!



STAR (\$1500)

Exhibit booth, 1 Registration, Logo on all conference materials, Opportunity to speak about your company during Thursday Breakfast

MEAL (\$500)

Logo signage at meal lines, Logo on all conference materials

SUPPORTING (\$300)

Logo on all conference materials

EXHIBIT (\$600)

1 Exhibit booth, 1 Registration, Logo on all conference materials Limited to 25 participants - Register ASAP before they are sold out!

Contact:



EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



JOB POSTING - CITY OF CREVE COEUR Director of Public Works

\$125,000+/-

The City of Creve Coeur seeks a strategic and experienced Director of Public Works / City Engineer to lead a high-performing department responsible for streets, stormwater, fleet, facilities, engineering, and sanitation services. This leadership opportunity comes as our long-serving director retires after 36 years of outstanding service. The Director oversees a \$5.3M department operating budget, a \$42.6M 5-year Capital Improvement Program (Capital, Parks & Stormwater), and manages a team of 20+ staff across four divisions. This position is part of the City's executive leadership team and reports directly to the City Administrator. Full job posting: Creve Coeur Director of Public Works Job Posting

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, Public Works, or related field; Master's preferred.
- Registered PE in Missouri.
- 10+ years of progressive experience in public works or engineering, including supervisory duties.
- Valid Missouri driver license; CDL preferred.
- Proficiency with engineering software, GIS, and municipal budgeting.
- Strong communication, leadership, and project management skills.

To Apply

Send cover letter, resume, salary history, and four professional references to hr@crevecoeurmo.gov/jobs. or submit online at www.crevecoeurmo.gov/jobs.

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



JOB POSTING - CITY OF SAINT CHARLES Director of Public Works

\$149,984.47- \$209,978.25

The Director of Public Works is a key member of the executive leadership team, responsible for the overall planning, direction, and management of public infrastructure and municipal services. This position plays a vital role in ensuring the efficient delivery of essential services such as transportation systems, storm water management, water treatment and distribution, transit services, snow removal, fleet maintenance, and facility operations.

Reporting directly to the Assistant City Administrator, the Director oversees a multidisciplinary team and a range of capital improvement projects that impact the community's daily life and long-term development. The Director of Public Works is expected to be a strategic thinker, a skilled communicator, and an experienced manager capable of leading a large department through complex infrastructure challenges, regulatory compliance, and fiscal responsibility.

The Director of Public Works prepares and manages the Department budget; develops budget requests for construction and maintenance, including materials, labor, and equipment needs for Public Works functions; approves expenditures; and prepares cost estimates, recommendations, and request for authorization and funding.

The ideal candidate is a forward-thinking leader with a strong background in public works, public administration, engineering or a related field, and a passion for serving the public through innovation, efficiency, and sustainability in infrastructure and municipal operations.

https://stcharlescitymo.applicantpro.com/jobs/



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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



JOB POSTING - CITY OF ELLISVILLE Maintenance I Worker

\$40,974 - \$60,936

The City of Ellisville Public Works Department is seeking a full-time maintenance worker to assist in general maintenance of parks, streets and public property. Must be able to operate/maintain light mechanical and commercial grounds keeping equipment. Requires H.S. diploma or equivalent and valid Class "E" Chauffeur's Driver's License or ability to obtain within 6 months. A Class "B" Commercial Driver's License is preferred. Certain physical requirements are necessary to perform job responsibilities. Salary range \$40,974 - \$60,936 plus great benefits. Applications available at City Hall, Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on our website at www.ellisville.mo.us. Position open until filled. EOE



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OTHER

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

The Importance of Disability Pride Month



Each July, Disability Pride Month serves as a powerful reminder of the strength, resilience, and diversity within the disability community. Rooted in the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) being signed into law on July 26, 1990, the month-long observance is not just about awareness, it's about celebration and visibility.

Disability Pride Month challenges the outdated narrative that disabilities should be hidden, pitied, or "overcome." Instead, it encourages people to embrace disabilities as a natural and valuable part of the human experience. It honors the contributions of individuals with disabilities across all aspects of society - from arts and advocacy to science, sports, and public service.

This observance also serves as a call to action. Despite the progress made since the ADA's passage, barriers to accessibility, employment, healthcare, and equitable opportunity still exist. Disability Pride Month invites everyone to reflect on how we can build more inclusive communities. Communities that recognize ability in all its forms and ensure that accessibility isn't an afterthought, but a foundation. In celebrating Disability Pride, we aren't just uplifting individuals. We're shaping a more inclusive, empathetic, and vibrant world for all.

Information and resources:

- PBS https://www.pbs.org/articles/disability-pride-month-and-the-disability-rights-movement
- AmeriDisability https://www.ameridisability.com/how-to-display-disability-pride/
- St. Louis Science Center https://www.slsc.org/stem-like-me-disability-pride-month-2025/
- Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council https://moddcouncil.org/disability-pride-month/