

8/20/21

West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs & Transportation Forum  
Lauren Edens was in attendance.

*Please note that I (Lauren Edens) was taking notes by hand as quickly as possible while individuals gave updates for their respective organizations. Therefore, the following updates are as accurate as possible, although deficiencies exist.*

The current Superintendent of **Parkway School District**, Keith Marty, gave the welcome address and spoke about labor shortages across the board, but especially effecting bus drivers, food service and janitors. Stressed that they employ large numbers of individuals and therefore have an economic regional effect, beyond just educating the next generation. Discussed safe school protocols; mentioned that they were excited to be back in person. They have a new food service contract.

The Interim Superintendent of **Rockwood School District**, Tim Ricker, echoed the labor shortages and asked attendees to spread the word that they are flexible about hours/positions to meet needs of applicants. Excited to start the school year.

**St. Louis Community College Wildwood** President Carol Lupardus was thrilled at the passing of Prop. R and at the benefits to the regional area, especially Wildwood. Excited to have students back in person; offering incentives for students to get vaccinated.

**Manchester Police Dept.** mentioned several car break-ins. The cars were locked, and windows were smashed; they will likely be starting a public information campaign reminding residents not to leave guns in their cars, as some were stolen in these break-ins. Several officers have/had COVID-19.

**City of Manchester** has a new City Administrator. Part of "Manchester Cares" is a Parkway Schools supply drive. They have a 9/11 memorial called Flags of Valor with around 7,700 flags that each have a picture of a fallen hero and respective dog tags. They still need volunteers to finish them. Their budget is in "good shape". They have two upcoming blood drives. They hope the BP station will be finished soon. A large Mideast market is opening; a gymnastics center will open.

**Ellisville Police Dept.** has been successful at getting DWI policing grants. They stressed the sharing of resources and regional cooperation. For example, there are plans in place to make sure residents still have service and safety if the whole department were quarantining due to COVID.

**City of Ellisville** is adding a 4-story 230 apartment unit across from City Hall. Chase Bank is moving to the old Mozingo Music. A collision repair shop will go in around the old Shop-N-Save. Freddy's will go in the old Arby's.

**Metro West Fire Dist.** Is conducting a "space study" on Station 3 with an architect to decide what improvements can be made. Due to COVID there was a 40% reduction in call volume,

largely due to less people on the roads and partaking in various activities. New emphasis on “non-emergent healthcare” and value-added services. They will increase services to include risk reduction and prevention by filling gaps in services/healthcare. They hope to administer resources. Still deciding what this could look like.

**City of Ballwin** has Ballwin Days ongoing. A new business called the Rose Barrel is going in; a new furniture store near Andy’s ice cream will open. Ferris Park has been renovated. There is construction on Holloway Rd.

Mark Harder from **St. Louis County Council** mentioned that he did not want to go into detail about recent news/drama. Discussed a historic school for black children from 1892 on Wildhorse Creek Rd. called the African School House was found “disguised as a garage”. It had been adapted to different uses/buildings over the years. The property owner gave it to the parks department who will be taking apart the cabin and reconstructing it in Faust Park. Discussed the school safety task force and the recommendations that came out of it: painting stripes/color coding school halls; putting outward facing numbers on all of the classroom windows and internal doors for improved emergency response. The Governor will be at Faust Park’s Bates Mansion September 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Missouri’s bicentennial. They are trying to redevelop the Chesterfield Mall short term into a business incubator to fill the time before it is completely redeveloped into a main street concept. Each old storefront will be available on a month-to-month lease. The food court will also be available for food prep businesses.

Lauren Edens gave the **Wildwood** update.