Brentwood Ranked A+ and #6 Best Place to Live in Missouri

Brentwood is “A+” and the “#6 Best Place to live in Missouri,” according to online resource Niche. Niche.com ranks thousands of places to live based on key statistics from the U.S. Census and expert insights.

Through rigorous analysis, Niche produces comprehensive rankings, report cards and profiles for every K-12 school, college and neighborhood in the U.S.

Testimonials accompany the ranking information, including these two comments from current Brentwood residents:


“I love the people around my neighborhood! It is perfect for my active lifestyle because of all of the sidewalks around. It is very safe for walking or running with my dog outside. The neighborhoods are clean with no visible trash. I love it!”

Teamwork Saves a Life
A Special Recognition for the Brentwood Fire Department

SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital recognized a group of lifesavers, including the Brentwood Fire Department, for working together to save a man’s life.

In July, the Fire Department responded to a call for assistance at the Panera Bread Company plant on Hanley Road. A Panera employee experienced a life-threatening medical event and was unconscious and unresponsive. The man’s coworkers immediately called 911 and used an onsite AED to revive him. A dispatcher from East Central Dispatch provided pre-arrival instructions to the Panera workers and talked them through the process of using the AED. This quick thinking provided their coworker with a second chance at life.

Brentwood paramedics arrived on the scene and were able to provide additional lifesaving care until arriving at St. Mary’s, where the patient underwent surgery to correct a serious medical problem.
Dear Residents,

The children are back in school, the days are getting shorter and the pool is closed; it must be Fall. This is my favorite time of the year. Brentwood residents are rewarded for enduring heat and humidity with cool clear days, BHS sports are back, and most importantly – Brentwood Days! As you know from last year, I am required to write this before our annual Brentwood Days celebration, but the weather forecast as I write this is excellent and my children are anxiously awaiting the “funnest days of the year.”

I am pleased to report that 2017 has been a good year so far for the City of Warmth. We have repaved more than 80% of the City’s streets, and if your street hasn’t been repaved, we will finish the rest next summer. Our financial position remains strong. Retail sales tax revenues continue to meet our expectations. As for the real estate market, if you go by St. Louis County Assessor’s assessed values, residential housing went up considerably (10.63%); very strong. In addition, the Brentwood School District welcomed Dr. Brian Lane as its new superintendent. Dr. Lane and the Board of Education are busy working on long-term plans for the future of one of Missouri’s top ranked school districts!

At City Hall we are also busy. City Administrator Akande and I are working with our Board of Aldermen on long-range plans for the City with Lisa Koerkenmeier, Planning and Development Director, and Chairman Mike Damming and the Planning and Zoning Commission to finalize our Comprehensive Plan. Another very important project we are working on is the identification and selection of a new Chief of Police.

As you know from my previous letters, I believe that public safety is perhaps the most important service municipal government provides. My reasoning is simple: a city can have the best schools, parks, walking and biking trails, etc., but without public safety, these are of little benefit to residents and their families. As the leader of the police department, the Chief of Police is one of the most important positions in our city government and has perhaps the greatest impact on the citizens’ everyday lives. Simply put, I think this is one of the most important appointments a Mayor can make and I want to do everything I can to get it right.

In the fall of 2016, the Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM), a nationally recognized and accredited partner of the International City/County Management Association, performed a review of our police department. CPSM reviewed 18 months of dispatch data, met with leaders of the Police Department, met with City Administrator Akande and conducted focus group meetings with Brentwood residents and businesses. Following the review, CPSM issued a report with over 60 recommendations to improve Brentwood’s police services and operations. The report is available on the City’s website (http://brentwoodmo.org/documentcenter/view/18618). When Chief Fitzgerald announced his retirement in May, City Administrator Akande and I asked the Board of Aldermen to approve a contract with CPSM to help the City develop a detailed job description and personality profile for the Chief of Police and work with our Human Resources Manager Jason Kotz to develop a process to identify well-qualified candidates for the position.

The consultants from CPSM, City Management and I agreed that it is absolutely necessary for Brentwood residents, businesses and other members of our community (i.e., members of the religious community) to play a central role in the identification of potential Chief candidates. To facilitate this involvement, I have appointed at least one representative from each Ward and representatives from our business and religious communities to a task force that will conduct the evaluation process under the guidance of CPSM and the City Administration. As you will see below, the task force will be actively involved in the selection process and we can always use additional help. Anyone wishing to serve on the task force should email me as soon as possible: chris@brentwoodmo.org.

The following is a description of the process we will be following over the next several months. Based on the findings of the CPSM review of the Police Department and surveys of City Management and the members of the task force, CPSM has developed a job description and personality profile we will use to advertise the Police Chief position in areas likely to attract interested candidates. Candidates will be advised to submit letters of interest and resumes in response to our advertisement. Members of the task force will screen the letters of interest and resumes using a standardized methodology developed by CPSM. Promising applicants will then be contacted to schedule telephone interviews. The telephone interviews will be conducted by members of the task force using standardized questions and scoring criteria developed by CPSM. Our hope is that the resume screening and the telephone interviews will produce a small group of candidates who will be invited to take part in a one-day, in-person interview process. The interviews will be conducted by panels of task force members using standardized questions and hypothetical real-world scenarios developed by CPSM designed to gauge a candidate’s qualifications in particular areas. The task force panels will then communicate their findings to City Administrator Akande and me, and we will interview promising candidates based on their recommendations. If all goes well, I intend to appoint a new Chief of Police in early 2018 and the Board of Aldermen will support my appointment.

I know this sounds like a lot of work, and it is! As I said before, this is one of the most important appointments a Mayor can make and I think it is worth the effort. Interim Chief McIntyre and I have discussed the selection process and he agrees it is worth the effort. He told me he intends to apply for the Chief of Police position. I was very happy to hear that he is applying and applaud his leadership of the department in the interim.

Wishing you and your families a safe and healthy autumn in Brentwood, Missouri.
On the Ballot: PROPOSITION 1 - Use Tax

The City of Brentwood has placed a Use Tax on the November 7 ballot for residents to decide.

A Use Tax is currently levied in many cities and by the State of Missouri on out-of-state business-to-business and internet sales. The ballot issue would authorize Brentwood to levy a 1.5% Use Tax on purchases from out-of-state vendors who are exempt from local sales tax. The Use Tax would also apply to internet purchases over $2,000 per year by individuals when self-reported on their state income tax returns. This Use Tax is estimated to generate approximately $28,000 for the City of Brentwood annually. The official ballot language is below:

“Shall the City of BRENTWOOD be authorized to impose a local use tax at the same rate as the local sales tax by a vote of the governing body, provided that if any local sales tax is repealed, reduced or raised by voter approval, the respective local use tax shall also be repealed, reduced or raised by the same action? A use tax return shall not be required to be filed by persons whose purchases from out-of-state vendors do not in total exceed two thousand dollars in any calendar year.”

Yes O No O

Use Tax Overview

What is a Use Tax?
A Use Tax is a sales tax imposed on the purchase of goods by Missouri residents from out-of-state vendors. The Use Tax is applied to the same type of products subject to traditional sales tax. The difference is where the goods are purchased and shipped.

How much is the proposed Use Tax?
The rate of the proposed Use Tax on the November 7 ballot is 1.5%, or one-and-a-half cents per dollar of purchases made from entities that do not have an office, store, warehouse, etc. in the State of Missouri.

I already pay sales tax. Is this the same thing?
No. The sales tax applies to retail purchases made within Missouri. The Use Tax applies to purchases made from out-of-state vendors. Purchases cannot fall into both groups, so a purchase would not be taxed twice.

Do other cities in Missouri and St. Louis County have a Use Tax?
Yes. Nearly half of all Missouri cities with populations of 2,000 or more already have a Use Tax in place. Brentwood does not. Some of the municipalities in St. Louis County that do have a Use Tax in place include Des Peres, Kirkwood, Maplewood, Olivette, Richmond Heights and University City. The State of Missouri has a Use Tax of 4.22%; Brentwood does not receive any of this revenue.

What is the expected revenue for the City of Brentwood from this tax, if passed?
The City of Brentwood could receive $28,000 or more annually if the tax passes.

Now that Amazon has announced it will collect Missouri tax, will our City revenue increase?
Only cities that have passed the local Use Tax can expect a revenue increase from Amazon sales.

Does the Use Tax apply to internet sales?
It may, depending on what is purchased. However, the first $2,000 worth of purchases made by an individual annually, which are subject to the tax, is exempt. The Use Tax does not apply to purchases made by Missouri residents from a Missouri retailer. The Use Tax applies to purchases from out-of-state vendors only. If a Missouri resident buys a product from a Missouri vendor over the internet, the sales tax based on the vendor’s location would apply to the purchase.

How is Use Tax paid?
The Use Tax on vehicles is paid when you register your vehicle at the license bureau. The State of Missouri relies on self-reporting on individual income tax returns for Use Tax compliance related to other types of purchases. Businesses generally file Use Tax Returns quarterly.

How is Use Tax reported?
Businesses report their sales and Use Tax quarterly to the State. For individuals, once the $2,000 annual exemption is reached, residents would self-report annually on their taxes due every April 15 for cumulative purchases above this amount.

Benefits from the Local Use Tax

What local services will the local Use Tax fund?
The Use Tax will go into Brentwood’s Capital Improvement and Stormwater and Park Improvements funds, providing funding resources for City services from street repair to park maintenance.

Why is this Use Tax important to Brentwood residents and businesses?
In addition to providing an important source of revenue for city services, the local Use Tax is an important tool in leveling the playing field for local businesses. With no local Use Tax in place, our residents have an incentive to cross state lines to buy instead of buying locally. This costs us local jobs and sends tens of thousands of dollars out of our local economy.
Fire Prevention Week: October 8-14

Fire burns faster and hotter than ever before with furniture and home goods made of petroleum-based synthetics. Fires also produce blinding and choking black smoke that can impair your senses. Studies regarding smoke and heat travel within the home suggest keeping all interior doors closed so that occupants, isolated from the fire and smoke, have more time to exit before being overcome by the heat and toxic gases. Far too often, fire death occurs in homes without working smoke or carbon monoxide detectors. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are required in homes and businesses; check local codes for requirements.

That’s why the 2017 Fire Prevention Week theme, “Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!” is so important. Everyone needs to have an escape plan. Here are two tips to help keep you and your family safe:

• Draw a map of your home with exits and practice how to get out in case of fire.

• Teach children how to escape a fire on their own and how to find you once outside.

Please contact the Brentwood Fire Department if you need help planning or securing your home and family from fire.

9/11 Memorial Stair Climb 2017

Six members of the Brentwood Fire Department participated in the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb to honor the 343 FDNY Firefighters who selflessly gave their lives during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Each participant paid tribute to a FDNY member by climbing 110 stories in full gear, while carrying a card representing a fallen firefighter. The event raised approximately $70,000 to benefit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, which provides assistance to the surviving families and coworkers of the 343 firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice that day.

CITY SERVICES

Brentwood TV
Are you watching Brentwood TV (Uverse Channel 99/Charter Channel 993)? We’d love to know what you think. Please send comments to Janet Levy, pr@brentwoodmo.org.

CodeRED Emergency Notification System
Sign up to receive notifications of impending emergencies or critical community alerts via phone, email or text. Click on the CodeRED logo on the home page of www.brentwoodmo.org. Or call 314.963.8691 for assistance in signing up.

Notary
Notary of the Public services are available 8 am-5 pm Monday through Friday (except holidays) at Brentwood City Hall.

Recycling
The City of Brentwood offers curbside single-stream recycling free of charge for all residents. Ten-gallon recycling bins are available on a first-come basis while supplies last by calling the Public Works Department, 314.963.8642.

Report a Concern
Citizens can make requests or submit concerns through the MyGov request-tracking system via the home page of www.brentwoodmo.org. Click on “Report a Concern,” choose from a variety of categories and submit your request. You’ll receive feedback when the request is received and also will receive updates as the request is investigated by City staff.

Fall Leaf Vacuum Service
The City of Brentwood will offer leaf-vacuuming service this fall in cooperation with Hendel Lawncare Inc. The cost includes three collections and is offered in two rates, depending on yard size. For properties less than one-half acre, the rate is $55. For properties one-half acre and larger, the rate is $95. Residents must order and pay for the service no later than October 25 to participate in all pickups. Payment is made directly to Hendel Lawncare Inc. Find the registration form at www.brentwoodmo.org or from Brentwood City Hall, 314.962.4800. To pay online, contact Hendel Lawncare, info@hendellawncare.com.

Leaves will be vacuumed November 2, November 16, November 30 and December 14. Leaves should be raked between the curb and sidewalk. Please do not rake leaves into the curb line or into the street. Please refrain from parking vehicles near the leaf piles to provide Hendel Lawncare access for its vacuum equipment.

Questions? Call Hendel Lawncare, 314.863.1420.
Residential and Commercial General Construction Regulations

For your safety, your neighbor’s safety, and to support the enjoyment of everyone’s property rights, please abide by the following construction regulations in accordance with the City of Brentwood Code of Ordinances:

- Construction hours are established as Monday through Friday, 7 am until 6 pm and on Saturday, 10 am until 4 pm.
- Streets around work areas must remain passable to all emergency vehicles, delivery and trash trucks.
- No construction materials or equipment may be stored on the sidewalks or any public right-of-way.
- All public sidewalks and streets adjacent to the job site must remain clear of mud or debris at the end of each workday.
- Any potential mud runoff or seepage onto adjacent properties or public right-of-ways must be prevented through the use of straw bales or other approved screening devices, which must be maintained within the subject property line.
- Property maintenance must continue throughout construction. Grass must be mowed and weeds kept under control. Grass and weeds may not exceed a height of seven inches. Debris (weed cuttings, cut and fallen trees, limbs and shrubs, trash, or any material that is unhealthy or unsafe) may not be stored openly on the premises and must be removed.
- Dumpsters must be emptied when any fill exceeds the inside of the Dumpster by more than 18 inches at any time.

The Brentwood Planning and Development Department appreciates your compliance with the City Codes as you complete your construction project. Please contact us with any questions or concerns, 314.962.4800.

2018 Annual Budget Planning Process

The 2018 Annual Budget process started on July 1.

Preliminary budget discussions with the Ways and Means Committee helped set parameters and goals that will guide the development of the budget. In August, a Citizen Budget Forum during the Ways and Means Committee meeting provided staff additional information to aid in developing the goals and priorities for the 2018 budget. In August and September, the department heads prepared their departmental and capital budget requests and submitted them to the City Administrator. Also in September, the Board of Aldermen held a public hearing and adopted by ordinance the 2017 property tax rates that must be submitted to St. Louis County by October 2.

In October, the City Administrator and Finance Director will meet with department heads to review budget requests and then put together the proposed budget document. This is then presented to the Ways and Means Committee at the November meeting.

The proposed budget will reflect a balanced budget for all funds and will provide city reserve levels based on policy requirements and 2017 year-end budget projections. The Ways and Means Committee may have multiple meetings to discuss the proposed budget and must ultimately forward a final recommended budget to the Board of Aldermen for adoption.

The Board of Aldermen must hold a public hearing and adopt the 2018 Annual Budget by ordinance on or before their first meeting in December.

Love Your Local Library

Brentwood Public Library

Did you know your library has more than just books?

If you have a Brentwood library card, you have access to Consumer Reports online, ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, streaming music and videos too.

Doing genealogy and don’t want to subscribe to Ancestry.com? You can use it at the library free of charge.

Don’t have a library card? All it takes is a photo ID and a piece of mail with your current address printed on it.

What are you waiting for? Come in today.

Upcoming holiday closings:

Closed Monday, Oct. 9, for staff meetings
Closed Thursday & Friday, Nov. 23 & 24
Closed Sunday & Monday, Dec. 24 & 25
Closed Sunday & Monday, Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

Check out our website calendar for events and information: www.brentwoodlibrarymo.org. Or call us at 314.963.8630.
Tri-City Garage Sale - October 7
The Tri-City Garage Sale has become the largest garage sale in the St. Louis area. With the communities of Richmond Heights, Maplewood and Brentwood participating, you are sure to find the item on your must-have list! To shop the sales, stop by the Brentwood Recreation Complex between 7-10 am on October 7 to pick up a site map, coffee and breakfast. Sales begin at 7 am. Ending times are determined by sale host. **FREE**

Painting on the Patio - October 10 and 24
Unleash your creative side! Follow along with our instructor and paint your very own masterpiece! We’ll supply the canvas and paint. You bring the beer or wine of your choice. This is a 21+ event. **Residents: $30; Non-Residents: $35**

Spooktacular - October 27
Come to Memorial Park for tons of Halloween fun! We will have hayrides, a pumpkin rescue, trail walk, costume parade, a bounce house and more! **Residents/YMCA members: $10/family (before 10/27); $15/family day-of**

City Holiday Party - December 11
Join City of Brentwood staff, elected officials, and neighbors for a light dinner with drinks and live music from 5-7 pm. The ice rink will be available for a free skating session. **FREE**

Visit from Santa - December 8, 9, 15, 16
Santa can visit your home one evening before Christmas! Visits are 15 minutes, and kids get a special treat at the end of each visit. Spots are limited and go fast, so reserve yours today. Brentwood residents only; limit eight children per household. **$15/household**

To register for any event or program, please call 314.963.8689 or visit the Brentwood Recreation Complex. Learn more at www.brentwoodmo.org/parks.

Fall 2017 Activity Guide
Pick up your copy at the Brentwood Recreation Complex, or view online at www.brentwoodmo.org/activities.

Meeting Space
Looking for a place to host a meeting or holiday party? The Recreation Complex has a space for you.

**MAGIC Bus: 314.581.4842**
This free service is designed to transport Brentwood residents age 60 and older or adults with disabilities. To learn more, contact the Parks Department, 314.963.8689.
**OCTOBER**
2 Board of Aldermen, 7 pm  
3 National Night Out, 5:30-8 pm  
3 Library Board, 6:30 pm  
5 Ways & Means Committee, 6 pm  
9 Municipal Court, 6 pm  
10 Ward 1 Meeting, 6:30 pm  
11 Public Works Committee, 4:30 pm  
11 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm  
16 Board of Aldermen, 7 pm  
19 Public Safety Committee, 5:30 pm  
19 Architecture Review Board, 7 pm  
23 Municipal Court, 6 pm  
24 Ward 4 Meeting, 6 pm  
24 Ward 3 Meeting, 7 pm  
25 Site Plan Review Subcommittee, 6 pm  
26 Coffee with the Mayor, 9 am  
26 Board of Adjustment, 7 pm

**NOVEMBER**
2 Ways & Means Committee, 6 pm  
4 Brentwood Community Shred Day, 9 am-noon  
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends – Fall back one hour  
6 Board of Aldermen, 7 pm  
7 Library Board, 6:30 pm  
8 Public Works Committee, 4:30 pm  
8 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm  
10 Veterans Day Holiday Observed –  
  City Offices Closed, Ice Rink Open, Regular Trash Schedule  
11 Veterans Day – City Offices Closed, Ice Rink Open  
13 Municipal Court, 6 pm  
14 Ward 1 Meeting, 6:30 pm  
16 Public Safety Committee, 5:30 pm  
16 Architecture Review Board, 7 pm  
20 Board of Aldermen, 7 pm  
23 Thanksgiving Holiday – City Offices Closed  
TBD Board of Adjustment, 7 pm  
24 Thanksgiving Holiday – City Offices Closed, Recreation  
  Complex and Ice Rink Open; Thursday trash service today  
27 Municipal Court, 6 pm  
28 Ward 4 Meeting, 6 pm  
28 Ward 3 Meeting, 7 pm  
29 Site Plan Review Subcommittee, 6 pm  
30 Coffee with the Mayor, 9 am

**DECEMBER**
4 Board of Aldermen, 7 pm  
7 Ways & Means Committee, 6 pm  
11 City Holiday Party/Open House, 5 pm  
11 Municipal Court, 6 pm  
12 Ward 1 Meeting, 6:30 pm  
13 Public Works Committee, 4:30 pm  
13 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm  
18 Board of Aldermen, 7 pm  
19 Ward 3 Meeting, 7 pm  
21 Public Safety Committee, 5:30 pm  
21 Architecture Review Board, 7 pm  
25 Christmas Holiday – City Offices Closed  
27 Site Plan Review Subcommittee, 6 pm  
28 Coffee with the Mayor, 9 am  
28 Board of Adjustment, 7 pm

**HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE**
- **Friday, 11/10 - Veterans Day** - Regular trash service  
- **Thursday, 11/23 - Thanksgiving Day** - No trash service; pickup resumes one day after regular schedule (Friday and Saturday)  
- **Monday, 12/25 - Christmas Day** - No trash service; pickup resumes one day after regular schedule (Tuesday-Saturday)  
- **Monday, 1/1/18 - New Year’s Day** - No trash service; pickup resumes one day after regular schedule (Tuesday-Saturday)

**COMMUNITY SHRED DAY - November 4**
The City of Brentwood will host its fourth Community Shred Day of 2017 for Brentwood residents on Saturday, Nov. 4, 9 am-noon at the Brentwood Recreation Complex. Dispose of personal/confidential paperwork. Questions about what to shred? Call Secure Document Destruction, 314.795.0004.

All meetings and events are subject to change or cancelation. Check www.brentwoodmo.org for updates.
Solar Eclipse Celebration 2017 in Brentwood

City of Brentwood Elected Officials

Mayor Chris Thornton / Chris@brentwoodmo.org 314.963.8601
Judge Patrick Dignam / muni@brentwoodmo.org 314.963.8622

Ward 1 David Dimmitt / ddimmitt@brentwoodmo.org 314.961.6489
Ward 1 David Plufka / dplufka@brentwoodmo.org 314.440.8394
Ward 2 Sunny Sims / esims@brentwoodmo.org 314.338.8305
Ward 2 Brandon Wegge / bwegge@brentwoodmo.org 314.283.9413
Ward 3 Andy Leahy / aleahy@brentwoodmo.org 314.962.2318
Ward 3 Steve Lochmoeller / slochmoeller@brentwoodmo.org 314.963.0565
Ward 4 Kathy O’Neill / koneill@brentwoodmo.org 314.961.2716
Ward 4 Tom Kramer / tkramer@brentwoodmo.org 314.968.2378