

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 30, 2017

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ST. CHARLES COUNTY TO CELEBRATE CANINES AT ANNUAL 'PAWS IN THE PARK' FESTIVAL
Enjoy contests, prizes, K-9 demonstrations and more with your furry friend!

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – Dog lovers from across the region will converge on Broemmelsiek Park in Defiance for the 14th annual Paws in the Park dog festival on Saturday, Sept. 16. The event, which supports local animal shelters, takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the park's Off-Leash Dog Area, 1795 Highway DD.



Voted best in the region by the Riverfront Times, Broemmelsiek Park's Off-Leash Dog Area is a popular place for dogs to play. The ***Paws in the Park*** is St. Charles County's largest program of its kind.

The public is invited to bring their "best friend" for a jam-packed festival of contests, prizes and sponsor giveaways, as well as K-9 obedience skills demonstrations. Admission is free, but those who bring a pet supply donation will receive a goodie bag of great giveaways while supplies last. Donations benefit the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center.

Food will be available for purchase for both owners and pets. Lady Bug Snow Cones and At Peace Pets will sell snow cones, brats, beef hotdogs, chips, drinks and dog snow cones.

The day's agenda is as follows:

10 a.m.: Agility Course Demonstration, Infinite Pawsibilities. After the demonstration, dogs and their owners get a chance to test their skills as they maneuver through a set of jumps, tunnels and other obstacles in the agility course.

10:30 a.m.: Dog Contests: Best Costume, Best Trick, Fastest Ball Retrieval from the Pond, Best Dog/Owner Look-Alike and Best Kisser, under the pavilion in the Off-Leash Dog Area. Winners receive a commemorative medal.

11 a.m.: St. Charles County Police K-9 Unit conducts a series of drug search demonstrations using a seized car, followed by obedience skills demonstrations. Officers will be available to answer questions and talk to guests, after the performance.

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12 p.m.: Canine Search and Rescue Association K-9 teams demonstrate how they find missing persons. Demonstrators will be available to answer questions and talk to guests, after the performance.

1 p.m.: A Gateway DockDogs team demonstrates the popular sport of dock diving from the pond in the Off-Leash Dog Area. After the demonstration, dogs and their owners get to test their diving and water skills.

Corporate sponsors are Yuppy Puppy Pet Spa in O'Fallon and Casey Ray STL Dog Trainers, St. Louis; representatives from each will judge the dog contests. Event sponsor is Sebastien's Pet Salon, Lake Saint Louis. These and other participating businesses will offer product samples and giveaways. Additionally, a limited number of pets will be available for adoption from the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center.

For more information about the ***Paws in the Park*** celebration, call the Parks Department at 636-949-7535 or visit www.stccparks.org.

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About St. Charles County Parks & Recreation

The St. Charles County Parks & Recreation Department offers unique parks, diverse facilities and a broad range of programs and special events for all ages. The County currently operates 12 parks, including a Youth Activity Park and the recently acquired Historic Daniel Boone Home at Lindenwood Park. Plans for a new park at Kisker Road and Highway 94 are underway.

For more information and specifics about each park, visit www.stccparks.org.

About St. Charles County

Founded in 1812, St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri, and the state's third largest county in both population and economic share. St. Charles County consistently ranks one of the healthiest places to live in Missouri in the County Health Rankings report published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. It is home to 12 scenic county parks encompassing more than 2,800 acres with additional land under development and more in reserve for future development.

With a population of 385,840, St Charles County is home to large employers including Citi, MasterCard Worldwide, Boeing and General Motors. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County employs nearly 1,100 in more than 30 departments and offices, who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop.

For more information, please visit www.sccmo.org.