



*Florissant Missouri*  
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**Florissant Invitation to Calverton Park to Discuss a Merger**

**Presented by Florissant Mayor Tom Schneider**

**At the Calverton Park City Council Meeting on March 27, 2017**

To the Honorable Mayor James Paunovich and Calverton Park Board of Aldermen,

On behalf of the Florissant City Council we thank you for your hospitality in allowing this presentation. The City of Florissant would welcome the opportunity to invite the residents of Calverton Park to consider being part of our beautiful, historic City, the largest in St. Louis County with a population of 52,158 people.

We would welcome a joint discussion of our two governing bodies about the many benefits and opportunities Florissant offers to our residents. We would be willing to co-host a meeting with your residents and/or jointly preparing an unbiased survey to weigh interest in this proposal.

Some of the advantages that Florissant has to offer are:

- 1) Our Internationally CALEA-Accredited Police Department has 89 commissioned police officers and 21 civilian employees, with an average response time of just 2 minutes for emergencies. Our Police Dept. maintains a very active Neighborhood Watch program throughout our community, conducts a Citizens Police Academy, and participates in many activities for good will with our stakeholders, including supporting our mascot, Eddie the lovable police dog.
- 2) The City of Florissant has been recognized as one of the safest cities west of the Mississippi for a city of our size. This year the National Council for Home Safety and Security again included Florissant in its list of "Safest Cities in Missouri." *CNN Money*, a service of CNN, *Fortune* and *Money* magazines, has listed Florissant as one of the "Top 100 Best Places to live." Recently we were listed as the best place for retirement by *MOVOTO*, a real estate publication.

3) The City of Florissant has a beautiful and large parks system that offers recreational opportunities for all ages to stay physically, mentally and emotionally fit. We have 20 parks comprising over 400 acres, along with two community centers, two outdoor pools, an indoor pool, an ice rink, a 600-seat theater, numerous classes for young and old, the only municipal, 18-hole championship golf course in St. Louis County, championship 18-hole disc golf course and more.

Our great variety of recreational opportunities also includes a wide variety of playgrounds and lighted ball fields, two fitness centers, numerous picnic pavilions to reserve, a new state-of-the-art lighted tennis complex, pickle ball, a horseshoe complex, an archery range, sand volleyball courts, an indoor racquetball court, a nature trail from the Missouri River to St. Ferdinand Shrine and a stocked fishing lake in St. Ferdinand Park, where our summer concerts are performed on Saturday nights in July and August.

One of our most popular programs is the "Summer Playground" for our resident children. Another of our residents' favorite amenities is our Nature Lodge in Sunset Park, which overlooks the Missouri River and is available for our residents to reserve for private events.

4) The City of Florissant provides street lighting for our residents as well as a sidewalk replacement program at no charge to our residents. Our Street Department is well funded and does an outstanding job to maintain our streets and roads. Our snow removal service is legendary.

5) The City of Florissant places a very high priority on code enforcement to protect our property values and has implemented Neighborhood Stabilization programs such as our "Property Acquisition Program," where we take distressed properties and offer them for sale to those willing to bring them up to code. We have also adopted our "Crime Free" program to help monitor rental property.

6) We are very proud of the many services we offer our seniors. Our Senior Department has many events and parties each year. Anyone age 60 or older is qualified to receive a "Golden Age Pass" that entitles one to discounts on programs and local merchants. Our FLERT bus allows seniors to schedule transportation within the city when needed and is also used for senior trips and activities. We even arrange to help seniors prepare their tax returns.

7) We are a family-friendly community which offers many events throughout the year. The Valley of Flowers Festival in May, our Wednesday Nights Out during the summer, a partnership with the Florissant Old Town Partners, Food Truck Knights with the Knights of Columbus, Music Under the Stars in the summer and the Fall Festival in October are just a few of our events.

8) We are a very patriotic community and host ceremonies for Memorial Day, Flag Day, a Fourth of July concert and fireworks display, a 9-11 remembrance and a Veterans Day parade. We are honored to have three sacred memorials: for Vietnam, Korea and "For all who served during war and peace."

9) We have many special events. We offer a popular electronic recycling event, with most items free for residents. We also have a "Document Shredding" day which is free for residents. We have a city-wide Garage Sale at the Ice Rink.

10) We benefit greatly from active citizen participation. More than 200 residents serve on our many Boards and Commissions to assist the Mayor and Council in adopting ideas to advance the progress of our city.

11) Florissant was founded in 1786. Only Ste. Genevieve, St. Louis and St. Charles are older within the entire Louisiana Purchase territory. With our rich history come centuries of culture and tradition rarely found in the Midwest.

St. Philippine Duchesne witnessed the ordination of legendary pioneer Jesuit Peter DeSmet (who was reverently called "The Black Robe" by Native Americans) and mentored him in our city. Both have Catholic High Schools named in their honor. St. Philippine told Fr. DeSmet she loved Florissant for its hospitality, which we try to emulate with the welcoming spirit of those who preceded us in our valley.

We would like the opportunity now to share that legendary hospitality with you. We would like to welcome the residents of Calverton Park to be a part of our rich heritage which began in 1786 when the Spanish Governor of the Louisiana Territory appointed a commandant as the civil leader of a new town christened St. Ferdinand De Fleurissant. We changed our name to Florissant in 1939 and we request a discussion with you to change our boundaries to include your city soon.

Thank you for allowing me to extend this invitation at your meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Florissant Mayor Tom Schneider