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**NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE**  
**From the Office of the Mayor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APRIL 23, 2018**

**MAYOR SCHNEIDER ATTENDS THE TRADITIONAL THAI  
NEW YEAR CELEBRATION – THE SONGKRAN FESTIVAL HELD IN FLORISSANT**



Pictured above is Mayor Thomas P. Schneider, next to Mayor Schneider is Mr. Saksee Phromyothi, Consul-General of Thailand in Chicago and in the front is Mr. Suchin Prapaisilp, President of Global Foods Market at the Thai New Year Festival at Wat Phrasriratanaram in Florissant.

On Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> Mayor Schneider was invited to attend the traditional Thai New Year Festival-the Songkran Festival that was held at Wat Phrasriratanaram, the Thai Buddhist Temple located at 890 Lindsay Lane. There was a large variety of Thai and Lao cuisine on hand to sample which is popular with visitors with that heritage and also with the many Florissant residents who attended. A Tai New Year on grounds parade was followed by entertainment and ceremonies inside.

According to Mayor Schneider “Florissant has a tradition of two centuries of hospitality and welcoming. We are proud to be the Midwestern headquarters for the Thailand Buddhist followers who celebrated the traditional Thai New Year. I had the honor to meet the Royal Thai Consul General Saksee Phromyothi, who informed me that since 1818 the Kingdom of Thailand and the United States have been close allies and diplomatic partners making Thailand the oldest ally of the United States and that Thailand was the only independent nation in Southeast Asia during European Colonialism.”

For thirty-years the Temple has been a part of the Florissant community. The Temple houses 4 - 5 Buddhist monks, ordained in Thailand according to the Thai Theravada tradition, and they have been in the monkhood for at least 10 - 15 years.

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