



## CPO recognizes 'shining stars' at annual NOVA banquet

By Jacque Harness, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, for SGFNN

A nova is a brightly shining star. Community Partnership of the Ozarks feels that organizations and individuals that tirelessly work at making our community a better place to live should be recognized as stars. The Diamond Gala, the 10th annual NOVA banquet, was held Nov. 29, 2016 at Central Assembly of God.

The annual NOVA banquet hosted by CPO allows us to reflect on the achievements and contributions made by dedicated people in our community. The NOVAs are a highlight of our year and we truly enjoy the opportunity to celebrate so many of you that go unnoticed for all you do for and in your neighborhoods.

The Neighborhood Advisory Council was awarded the Organizational Rising Star Award.

The NAC is an advisory board created to increase communication between organized neighborhood associations, City Council and City staff. The NAC also focuses on issues common to all neighborhoods in the City. The NAC has championed the cause of reducing chronic nuisances and crime, and increasing

neighborhood solidarity. The NAC is chaired by Pete Radecki and led by a subcommittee of neighborhood residents, dubbed the Positive Action Committee (PAC).

### Individual Rising Star Awards were awarded to:

- Bissett: Pastor Mario Gonzalez and his mother, Brenda Rickel
- Bradford Park: Jacque Ford
- Fulbright Springs: Pamela Jackson
- Grant Beach: Kathy Lutz
- Greater Parkcrest: Carl Redmon
- Heart of the Westside: Major Mike Mills
- Midtown: Marie Wood
- Oak Grove: Powell McHaney
- Robberson: Roy Stass
- Tom Watkins: Wanda Plumb
- Weller: Steve and Antoinette Young
- West Central: John Dukewits
- Westside: Bev Wilson
- Woodland Heights: Demita Gookin.

"Not only are you stars to us, but you each represent true gems within your neighborhoods. Because of the passion and hard work you bring, you not only inspire



your communities to greater heights, but you inspire us at Community Partnership as well. You shine brightly to all those around you and your neighborhoods are truly better through your presence," said CPO Executive Director Janet Dankert.

"Like diamonds, you all are refined by the difficulties and issues you face as a neighborhood, yet you continue to shine forth better than before. Our work would be in vain without each and every one of you, along with the countless others who could not attend," she added.

## Zone 1 Councilwoman: It's a Northside thing

By Phyllis Ferguson, for SGFNN



What is Northside Pride? You've probably seen or heard that phrase by now, maybe on a T-shirt or a car window or even in the newspaper. Why do people say that? What does it mean?

Northside Pride is the I.D. badge of who we are and where we live. It means we're proud to be called Northsiders. It's a validation

and recognition of north Springfield as a good place to live. Northside Pride is a positive message to our children that there's no shame in living on the Northside. Being ashamed is reserved for acting badly when you know better and people do that on all sides of town.

Northside Pride is our important place in Springfield's history and heritage. It is how strongly we feel about Commercial Street, Jefferson Avenue Footbridge, The Frisco, and Doling Park. It's being proud of the generations of families who have lived and worked in north Springfield and don't leave. Their stories provide us with rich histories of the life in our neighborhoods before we came.

Northside Pride is how we feel about our historic homes with beautiful architectural lines and provenance. It's appreciating and enjoying the summer shade and fall colors of grand old maple, oak, and catalpa trees that grow on our properties and line our streets. Northside Pride is the charm of quaint brick sidewalks, century-old

parks, and the little neighborhood groceries that dot our street corners. It's the satisfaction we feel in having found our perfect place.

Northside Pride is all about strong neighborhoods. It's sitting on your front porch and greeting your neighbors by name as they walk past your house on a summer night. It's when the neighbor across the street mows the yard because your husband is down and you didn't have to ask. Northside Pride is the relationships that are developed and fostered at backyard barbecues and block parties. It's caring about and looking out for folks who care about and look out for you.

Northside Pride is the stubborn streak that seems to run through all of us over here. We don't give up, we try harder. We do what it takes to get it done. Sure, we have struggles — too much of this and not enough of that. But, that doesn't stop us. Tomorrow will be a better day. We will make it a better day.

Finally, Northside Pride is our visions and our achievements; where we have come from, where we are today, and where we are headed. It's about our bright future and the strong foundation that we are laying to get there. Northside Pride is a mindset of steely determination essential to people who love this side of town and work for what we need.

Simply put, it's a Northside thing.

Won't you join us?



## Welcome to the first edition of SGF Neighborhood News!

Keep up with what's going on in Springfield neighborhoods and get to know your neighbors with this quarterly newspaper and Web site.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 How to make your neighborhood friendlier
- 3 What is a neighborhood association?
- 5 Community health advocates
- 6 Job Center North Springfield now open
- 7 Zoning in on neighborhood concerns
- 8 Planning a special event this year?
- 9 Bass Pro Neighborhood Challenge

### GET TO KNOW SGF NEIGHBORHOODS

- 10 DOLING
- 11 HEART OF THE WESTSIDE
- 12 WESTSIDE
- 13 WOODLAND HEIGHTS
- 14 Check out other neighborhoods
- 16 EVENTS & FREE SUBSCRIPTION

## DO YOU KNOW?



**Sandi Huston,**  
*Westside Neighborhood*

**How long have you lived in your neighborhood and why did you choose to live there?**

We moved into our

neighborhood in 1999. When we moved to Springfield we rented a house as we explored the city. We chose this neighborhood and this block because it allowed us to create a perfect retirement home. We have not been disappointed.

**What do you do for a living?**

I was a pharmacy tech for 17 years, but I am retired now.

**What's the best thing about your neighborhood?**

Wonderful longtime neighbors, solid older homes, beautiful large trees and large yards. It is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. It offers great affordable housing.

**What's something you'd like to change about your neighborhood?**

I would like to change the perception that the rest of the city seems to have about the west side. There are treasures here that are often overlooked because people have not even considered the benefits of living here.

**Please tell us about your family and what you like to do in your spare time.**

My husband and I fell in love with Springfield while visiting my brother. We planned to move here in retirement but decided to move that up when our daughter and family were transferred to Lebanon. We are now retired and enjoy our west side life. I am an avid gardener and love the half-acre lot with fruit trees, berries, grapes, multiple gardens and a small greenhouse. In the winter, I try to get caught up on my reading. I am also active in the neighborhood association and several other community services.

**Want to nominate one of your neighbors for the Do You Know? feature?**

Email Melissa Haase at  
[mhaase@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:mhaase@springfieldmo.gov) or  
call 417-864-1003 for more information.

## HOW TO

### *Make your neighborhood friendlier*

By Melissa Haase, SGFNN Managing Editor

When's the last time you asked to borrow a cup of sugar from your neighbor?

According to statistics from Nextdoor.com, only about 26 percent of people actually speak to their neighbors.

"People lead such busy lives these days that getting to know their neighbors just isn't something a lot of people make time for," says Alana Owen, senior planner for the City of Springfield. "Plus, newer housing developments often aren't built to promote interaction with neighbors. Newer homes are typically absent of the large front porches that older homes have and the focus of activity is in the back yard of the home rather than in the front."

If you want to be part of a friendlier neighborhood, Owen recommends the following:

#### GET INVOLVED

Join your neighborhood organization and attend the meetings and neighborhood events. Visit [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](http://SGFNeighborhoodNews.com) to view your neighborhood organization's meeting schedule. If your neighborhood is not listed on the site, ask around your neighborhood or check Nextdoor.com or Facebook to find out if your neighborhood has an organization. You may also contact Owen at 417-864-1831 or [aowen@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:aowen@springfieldmo.gov).

If your neighborhood has an annual clean-up event, take advantage of the opportunity to get rid of yard waste and trash – and to get to know your neighbors while everyone is out and about.

*"We find that inviting people to be involved in the neighborhood in small ways, like helping with a Saturday morning street clean-up or coming to one meeting so they can hear our PAR officer and firefighters speak, and share in the potluck, leads to greater participation,"* says Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association President Linda Passeri. "If we can call on a neighbor to help in a small way like making phone calls, for instance, it breaks a barrier."

Volunteer at or help organize neighborhood events, such as an ice cream social, annual neighborhood garage sale or Neighborhood Night Out.

If crime has become an issue in your area, consider forming a Block Watch, which is a smaller version of Neighborhood Watch. This initiative enables residents in a neighborhood that has not been able to attain the level of participation needed to implement a full Neighborhood Watch program to band together in

a smaller group (i.e., a block) to help prevent crime and keep each other safe. To form a Neighborhood Watch or a Block Watch, call the Springfield Police Department at 417-874-2113.

"Some neighborhood organizations actually got their start from forming a Neighborhood Watch," Owen said.

#### BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Help an elderly or ill neighbor by bringing in their trash barrels or offering to mow their lawn if you notice it getting tall. If your garden produces more than you can eat, offer the bounty to neighbors. Is there a family on your street with children younger than yours? Offer them your kids' outgrown clothing, books and toys if they're still in good condition.



**If you're online, join NEXTDOOR.COM and/or follow your neighborhood on FACEBOOK.**

"Overall, we think it's great when neighbors use Nextdoor and Facebook to stay in touch with each other and keep an eye out on their neighborhood," Owen said. "But a lot of people aren't online – either because they choose not to be or they don't have the resources – which is why one-on-one connections are so important."

Adjust your account settings on Nextdoor to ensure you're receiving the information you want and are not being overloaded with messages from nearby neighborhoods and/or public agencies.

#### REACH OUT

Making one-on-one connections with your neighbors is No. 1, Owen says.

"It can be as simple as asking a neighbor to check on your pet if you're going to be out of town or offering to pick up a neighbor's mail if you know they're going to be out of town," Owen says. "Make them feel needed, and make sure they know that you will return the favor."

Passeri agrees that good, old-fashioned face time with neighbors is the best way to get connected in your neighborhood.

*"The most effective way we've found to get involvement from our neighbors in Woodland Heights is still the door-to-door, one-on-one invitations from a member of the neighborhood association to participate in an activity or come to a meeting,"* Passeri says.



# Neighborhood Advisory Council works to facilitate communication

By Pete Radecki, NAC Chair, for SGFNN

## Who is the Neighborhood Advisory Council?

Each registered neighborhood association has a representative and an alternate on the NAC. It was established in 2013 to facilitate communications between Springfield's City Council, City staff, and its 15-plus registered neighborhood associations.

**What do the reps do?** They discuss issues pertinent to neighborhoods – crime, nuisance properties, health, parks, streets and sidewalks, neighbors in need, planning and development, community engagement, need for jobs and so on. As a group, they identify concerns that cut across multiple neighborhoods and seek solutions.

**How?** Through engagement with appropriate City staff and other stakeholders, NAC delves into the challenges faced in making improvements. For example, several years ago, the City's ordinances were written in such a manner that it was very difficult and time consuming for City inspectors to address properties that were overgrown with weeds, falling apart and dangerous – so-called nuisance properties. NAC encouraged City staff and City Council to address the issue and as a result, the City Code was revised and now the ability for City staff to address such properties has significantly improved. As there is still more to be done in this area, NAC continues to keep nuisance properties front of mind.

In some neighborhoods, a significant issue is infrastructure: lack of sidewalks, storm drainage problems, needed park improvements and so on. Recently, NAC representatives put forward specific recommendations to address these issues through the newly launched Neighborhood Works Program, and this year, we can expect a first set of projects valued at about \$400,000 to commence.

Health is a concern across all neighborhoods – particularly for those who are homebound and may lack health resources. Some neighborhoods have benefited

from the door-to-door services of community health advocates who perform blood pressure screenings and facilitate access to health services for some of our most vulnerable residents. NAC is advocating the expansion of this valuable program. It is right now making a difference in lives but the need is greater than the program's capacity.

As our City competes to attract businesses, a central factor is the quality of life, and this speaks to the sense of community and vibrancy of our neighborhoods. NAC desires strong integration of neighborhood planning with business and commercial planning. Based on a NAC recommendation from 2016, a neighborhood planner is soon to be added to the City Planning & Development staff. Collaboration between a professional planner and a neighborhood association results in a neighborhood plan or assessment that articulates purpose, direction and character of the neighborhood. Such plans provide a context for determining how new commercial development can be a positive enhancement to a neighborhood. We seek continuing emphasis in this critical effort of neighborhood planning and assessment in 2017.

We all know that many stressors in a community relate to jobs or the lack thereof. NAC is engaged with the Missouri Job Center to help get the word out on good job opportunities and training. Perhaps you know of someone looking and struggling to find suitable employment. Will you join us in the small and quiet ways we can to encourage them to seek employment?

Most have probably never heard of the NAC because its approach is not grandstanding. Instead of simply articulating problems and expecting them to be solved by somebody else, NAC engages with the City and other stakeholders at the detail process level because often this is where barriers and challenges are found and improvements can be creatively postulated, tested and



**Neighborhood  
Advisory  
Council**

## Back row left to right:

Jeff Barber, Rountree; Jacque Ford, Bradford Park; Harlan Bristol, Greater Parkcrest; Anita Kuhns, Grant Beach; Betty Green, Robberson; Eric Pauly, Phelps.

## Middle row left to right:

Tammy Haynes, Heart of the Westside; Becky Volz, Woodland Heights; Mark Maynard, Weller; Kathleen Cowens, West Central; Susie David, Doling; Pete Radecki, NAC Chair, Bissett.

## Front row left to right:

Patty Goss, Bissett; Linda Passeri, Woodland Heights; Dee Ogilvy, Midtown; Jan Preston, Oak Grove.

implemented. NAC provides a thoughtful and collective voice for neighborhoods as a valued contribution to the positive development of Springfield.

Perhaps you have concerns and a desire to be part of the solution to problems in your neighborhood. Perhaps you just want a place to make a meaningful difference to a neighbor one-on-one or on a larger scale. Perhaps you are struggling and could use a helping hand. If so, we encourage you to join your neighborhood association – or if your neighborhood doesn't have one, join one that has open borders, or even initiate the process to form one in your neighborhood. Might we each resolve in 2017 to take a step toward betterment of our neighborhoods?

# What is a neighborhood association and why do I need one?

By Mary Kay Glunt, for SGFNN

As secretary of Doling Neighborhood Association, I get this question quite often. Wikipedia says that a "neighborhood association (NA) is a group of residents or property owners who advocate for or organize activities within a neighborhood." That is it in a nutshell. Quite often, however, an NA is confused with an HOA (homeowner's association), which is generally mandatory and requires other homeowners to make certain changes and upkeep to the property. That's not our purpose.

In Springfield, we have 16 organized, active, registered neighborhood associations, following geographic designations. Some are smaller than others, and some are pretty big, but in every case, people who live, work, own property, rent, or just care about the area, join the neighborhood association to make a difference. Officers in the NA are volunteers, like everyone else, and it takes many different people, working together, to make a difference in the area and in the culture.

Depending on the NA, and its level of involvement, among other things, NAs in Springfield have

- sponsored events to provide fun and education in the community

- found help for families in crisis
- helped the City to identify areas that are hazardous to us and our neighbors, including dangerous walking or traffic conditions
- helped neighbors who couldn't maintain their property
- identified problems with public safety, criminal activity or abandoned properties
- worked with the City to make plans for improvements in our neighborhoods and parks
- supported our local schools and PTAs
- collected food and supplies for the less fortunate, and the list goes on and on.

People often ask, "What difference can I make? I'm only one person." While that is true, neighbors working together to make a difference can accomplish quite a bit. Every person has something to contribute, so don't be shy. You might be able to fold the newsletters, or talk to your neighbors about an event, bring goodies to the meeting, help raise money, lend a helping hand, or just bring ideas to the meeting with a new perspective. You might even want to be a leader at some point!

In most cases, you must be a paid member to vote at a neighborhood meeting, but anyone can attend and speak at

meetings. Annual dues differ according to group but are needed to help fund the operation of the NA. Businesses can be members, too, and are encouraged to be a part of the area where they do business.

Join in today in the movement of neighbors making a difference. Whatever your situation—rent or own, working or retired, single or married, whatever—we need you to be a part of helping our neighborhood truly be great.



Glunt, center, and Susie Hall-David promoting Doling's Concert at Cave on KY3.



## City studying the efficiency of trash and recycling services

By Kristen Milam, City of Springfield

The City of Springfield is studying the efficiency of trash and recycling collection services within the city limits.

Trash collection in Springfield is currently performed by 12-15 private trash-hauling companies under an open-market system. The City does not provide trash collection services.

Following interest from the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) as well as direction from City Council to investigate trash collection issues such as noise, safety, congestion and wear-and-tear on streets, City staff analyzed the current collection system and compared it to other programs in benchmark cities throughout the country and hired civil engineering firm Burns and McDonnell.

Burns and McDonnell is working as an extension of City staff to identify potential options for improving the efficiency and long-term viability of trash collection services within the City's Integrated Solid Waste Management System (SWMS).

Overall findings and recommendations from this study will be presented to City Council in 2017.

### Goals of the Study

- **More efficient trash and recycling collection** – Organize collection services to improve efficiencies to reduce vehicular traffic.

- **Enhanced community programs and services** – Support neighborhood clean-ups, improved recycling programs, enhanced education, and better access to services throughout community.
- **Consistent services and rates** – Provide uniform services and rates throughout the community. Expand services such as curbside recycling, bulky item pickup, and yard waste collection.
- **Community benefits** – Reduce noise, traffic flow and wear-and-tear on infrastructure. Create safer and cleaner streets and neighborhoods.
- **Environmental benefits** – Reduce fuel consumption and vehicle emissions. Lower demand for natural resources and landfill space through increased diversion rates.
- **Protect existing haulers** – Recognize the existing service providers operating in the City and seek their input and protect their interests where possible.
- **Ensure stability for current SWMS programming** – Provide consistent funding to continue existing services and programs that benefit the community.

The next step in the study is communication with City Council and various community stakeholder organizations throughout the study process. Final findings and recommendations will be presented upon completion of the study.



### About Springfield's Solid Waste Management System

In 1991, voters approved the current Integrated Solid Waste Management System, which requires all licensed trash haulers to offer the convenience of curbside recycling services to their customers.

The system also includes the heavily utilized City-operated recycling centers, Yard Waste Recycling Center, Household Chemical Collection Center (for household hazardous waste), Springfield Sanitary Landfill, a public education and information program, and a market development program. All services and programs combined are designed to properly manage the community's trash or solid waste.

For more information, visit [springfieldmo.gov/trashstudy](http://springfieldmo.gov/trashstudy).

## Planned Zone 1 infrastructure improvements to total \$8 million

By Kristen Milam, City of Springfield.

Springfield Public Works has committed to investing more than \$8 million over 18 months in infrastructure updates in the northwest quadrant of the city, including approximately 13,700 linear feet of new sidewalks in Bissett, Doling, Heart of the Westside, and Westside neighborhoods (\$500,000) and several stormwater improvement projects. Progress has also been made on several streetscape projects within Zone 1. Below is a summary of each project.

- **Doling:** The Talmage Dip stormwater and sidewalk project is under way, constructing a new box culvert over Pea Ridge Creek and improving safety for pedestrians with an added sidewalk along Talmage Street (\$100,000).
- **Grant Beach:** Drainage improvements along Lyon Avenue were completed in the summer (\$40,000). The Springfield-Greene County Park Board resurfaced the basketball court at Grant Beach Park.
- **Heart of the Westside:** The school sidewalk along Scott Avenue were completed in 2016, adding nearly 3,000 linear feet of sidewalks near York Elementary School (\$100,000). The Nichols Park entrance and parking lot has been resurfaced, thanks to a partnership between Public Works and the Park Board (\$38,000).

"The condition of the parking lots were a concern for the neighborhoods, and they were a concern for us, too," said Miles Park, assistant director of parks operations. "We don't have the equipment or personnel to perform that type of work, so we normally hire a contractor. Without Public Works' help, for which we are so grateful, these projects may have waited their turn for several years."

- **Midtown:** The Commercial Street streetscape was recently completed and includes a roundabout intersection at Commercial Street and Washington Avenue (\$1 million). Streetscape projects, in general, add decorative sidewalk, lighting, crosswalks and ADA improvements to a roadway. The Central and Pythian Corridor Improvement project was completed this summer (\$2.9 million).
- **Tom Watkins:** The Homeland Subdivision stormwater improvement project is estimated for completion in 2017 (\$500,000). The Tom Watkins Park entrance and parking lot has been resurfaced, thanks to the partnership between Public Works and the Park Board (\$33,000).

- **West Central:** The Phelps Street streetscape, between Campbell and Boonville avenues, was completed in 2016 (\$400,000). The College Street streetscape and Broadway intersection project is currently under way (\$1.2 million).
- **Westside:** The Mount Vernon road-widening project has been completed, widening the road from Orchard Crest Avenue to Suburban Avenue, improving stormwater infrastructure and adding sidewalks (\$1.6 million).
- **Woodland Heights:** The Turner Street drainage improvement project is set for completion in the spring of 2017 (\$500,000).



Talmage Dip construction in Doling Photo by Christina Dicken



# SGF NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

To empower, engage and uplift residents of Springfield neighborhoods by communicating news and information and connecting residents, neighborhoods, businesses, faith organizations and public and private service agencies.

Volume 1 • Issue 1 • Winter 2017  
SGFNeighborhoodNews.com

## PUBLISHER

Greg Burris  
Gburris@springfieldmo.gov

## EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Cora Scott  
Cscott@springfieldmo.gov

## MANAGING EDITOR

Melissa Haase  
Mhaase@springfieldmo.gov

## DESIGNER

Brittney Bywater  
Bbywater@springfieldmo.gov

## PHOTOGRAPHER/WEB DESIGNER

Christopher Akins  
Cakins@springfieldmo.gov

## CONTRIBUTORS

Melissa Adler	Steve Miller
Lisa Cox	Mark Montgomery
Christina Dicken	Kathleen O'Dell
Jenny Edwards	Alana Owen
Cara Erwin	Pete Radecki
Mary Kay Glunt	Joe Roberds
Juliana Goodwin	Megan Short
Jacque Harness	Sharon Spain
Tammy Haynes	Kathryn Wall
Kristen Milam	

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Brooke Ash	Anita Kuhns
Jeff Barber	Mark Maynard
Harlan Bristol	Carol McCarthy
Brittney Bywater	Marti Mowery
Kathleen Cowens	Dellene Nelson
Susie David	Dee Ogilvy
Patricia Deck	Alana Owen
Christina Dicken	Linda Passeri
Rhonda Ferguson	Jan Preston
Jacque Ford	Pete Radecki
Mary Kay Glunt	Joe Roberds
Betty Green	Cora Scott
Melissa Haase	Roxanne Bedell-Taylor
Tammy Haynes	Becky Volz
Andrew Herr	

## SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your submissions!  
Please send them to Melissa Haase,  
mhaase@springfieldmo.gov.  
Ph.: 417-864-1003.

## DISTRIBUTION

To receive SGF Neighborhood News FREE in your mailbox or to distribute copies at your place of business, church or community organization, please contact Melissa Haase or visit SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

Produced by the Department of Public Information,  
City of Springfield, MO.

## Community health advocates offer free blood pressure checks, advocacy

By Kathryn Wall, Springfield-Greene County Health Department

You may be getting—or may have already gotten—a knock at your door and an offer for a blood pressure reading. Here's why.

The community health advocate program was launched by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department in 2014 in the Weller neighborhood and has since expanded to include all of Zone 1 and one Zone 2 neighborhood.

The goal of the program is to help neighborhoods be healthier by truly acting as an advocate for clients' needs. Advocates can most often be seen going door-to-door offering blood pressure screenings, but the program is bigger than just that one indicator of a person's health.

Each neighborhood's advocate works to help individuals understand the health of themselves and their family, as well as getting people connected with health care needs and navigating existing programs and resources. Advocates also help at food distribution events in Zone 1 neighborhoods and at other neighborhood events.

Cassandra Siperko serves the Midtown, Robberson and Weller neighborhoods.

Lacey Nichols serves the Bissett, Grant Beach and Heart of the Westside neighborhoods.

Hugo Aparicio serves the Doling, Tom Watkins, West Central, Westside and Woodland Heights neighborhoods.

Hugo brings a unique skill to his advocacy work—he's bilingual. He can help bridge the gap when Spanish-speaking clients need help with issues that can sometimes get lost between languages.

Hugo's first experience with volunteering in the health field came during his high school years in his native



Top photo by Christina Dicken

El Salvador. He helped go door-to-door to spread the word about preventing dengue fever.

*"Through these encounters I had with different families, I learned to appreciate how important it is to help your neighbor and how strong the family bond is in difficult circumstances,"* he said.

"Among all of these experiences with the community, I discovered that compassion was one of my greatest strengths."

Hugo was born in El Salvador, but his family came to America in the 1990s to escape the ongoing civil war.

"I have lived in the Ozarks since 1995 and have witnessed the progress the City of Springfield has made with collaborative efforts," Hugo said. "I am very proud to be a part of that progress and know it will benefit generations to come."



Photo by Christina Dicken

## Community health advocates

live within the communities they serve. They build relationships with their neighbors to help them live healthier lives. Through blood pressure screenings, residents are connected with healthcare. While the program focuses on blood pressures, it also helps connect residents to other community resources such as community gardens. *Learn more at [springfieldmo.gov/health](http://springfieldmo.gov/health).*



# Job Center opens satellite office in north Springfield in December



By Megan Short, Missouri Job Center

The Missouri Job Center hosted a two-part dedication and ribbon cutting for its new north Springfield location, located in the CoxHealth North Medical Tower, 1443 N. Robberson, in December.

The idea for a north Springfield satellite office for the Missouri Job Center sprang from the Community Listen meetings held in May 2015, in which the City and community partners met with north Springfield residents about the quality of life issues they face in their day-to-day lives.

"Transportation is a barrier for many of our job seekers," said Mary Ann Rojas, the City's Department of Workforce Development (which operates the Job Center) Director. "While the Mobile Job Center bus helps us reach folks, we really felt we needed a permanent location in north Springfield. This partnership with CoxHealth was vital to being able to open one by the end of 2016."

Rojas added that while the new location is in Zone 1, it's just a short distance away from Zone 2 and will benefit the entire north side.

"The highest concentration of our clients who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds are

located in north Springfield," Rojas said.

The Job Center offers several ways to help job seekers decide on a career path and learn more about career areas that interest them, as well as labor market information on specific fields.

Once a job seeker is enrolled to receive services at the Job Center, they gain access to Missouri Connections, a Web-based resource to help Missouri citizens determine their career interests, explore

occupations, establish education plans, develop job search strategies, and create résumés. Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Economic Development, Missouri Connections is available to students, parents, guidance counselors, educators and job seekers at no charge.

The Job Center offers a variety of workshops that includes a career exploration workshop regularly. Visit [springfieldmo.gov/jobcenter](http://springfieldmo.gov/jobcenter) for specific dates. These workshops offer tools and resources to assess skills, personal interests and priorities on the journey to finding the right job and connecting the worker to that job.

The Job Center offers services for eligible youth ages 14-24 that include career counseling, GED preparation, internships, tuition assistance, pre-apprenticeship program, occupational and leadership skills, education and job readiness activities.

The Mobile Career Center, which is equipped with 12 computers, Internet access, an ADA-accessible workstation and helpful staff, allows customers to access online job search sites. Laid-off workers can complete their weekly unemployment reporting requirements.

In addition, the Mobile Career Center can be utilized for other job-related services such as online and classroom training, employee skills assessment tests, employer organization meetings, and rapid response services due to plant closings or mass layoffs. Visit [springfieldmo.gov/jobcenter](http://springfieldmo.gov/jobcenter) to view the Mobile Career Center's schedule.

In addition to helping the unemployed find jobs, the Job Center's staff assists employed workers as they transition to new jobs. Staff are responsible for ensuring that participants meet basic eligibility requirements, such as completing a two-week job readiness workshop. Workers seeking help from the Job Center are assigned a career counselor who monitors their progress and helps them work through barriers to complete their training.

The Job Center's services for businesses include helping them find skilled workers, hosting quarterly multi-industry hiring events, company-specific hiring events, seminars, lowering tax liability, insurance protection and labor compliance. The Job Center's new Incumbent Worker Training program will offer financial assistance to employers who would like to "skill up" their existing workforce.

In addition to job seeker and employer services, the Job Center hosts two special events each year – February's MoMentum State of the Workforce Luncheon, which reveals the results of the annual regional workforce survey, and October's EmployAbility Summit, which focuses on inclusive workforce solutions for those with disabilities. The Job Center also hosts quarterly industry-specific roundtable discussions that streamlines communication between employer's and educators.

"Our programs strive to empower Ozarks residents to secure and maintain gainful employment, benefiting not only themselves but our community as a whole," Rojas says.

All of Missouri Job Center's services are free.

"We are here for one reason: to connect people with jobs," Rojas says.

## Department of Labor awards \$3 million to Springfield for job training

By Melissa Haase, SGFNN Managing Editor

A \$3 million U.S. Department of Labor "America's Promise" grant to the City of Springfield's Department of Workforce Development in partnership with Ozarks Technical Community College will provide training opportunities for individuals seeking to enter the health care industry. Called "Ozarks' Promise" locally, the program will offer tuition-free training and certifications.

The coalition that applied for the grant seeks to support economic growth and strengthen the pipeline of skilled workers in the Ozark Region of southwest Missouri through the provision of tuition-free training opportunities in health care.

The focus is to provide unemployed, underemployed, incumbent workers and disadvantaged populations increased access to high-quality, tuition-free education and training opportunities.

"Several factors are creating a need for more health care services in our region, and at the core of providing those services is a growing supply of trained workers. The America's Promise grant is an important addition to the equation of keeping the supply equal to the growing

demand," according to Mike Peters, vice president for Mercy Government Relations-Missouri.

Many regional health care training programs are operating at full capacity. OTC turns away about 25 percent of qualified registered nursing applicants.

**"Education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty,"** said Dr. Steven Bishop, OTC provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. **"This grant removes financial barriers for deserving students and allows them to pursue rewarding careers that are in high demand."**

By increasing program resources and removing financial barriers, the grant will allow 372 individuals to enter or advance in the health care industry.

"We are so grateful to the Department of Labor for their support of our proposal and for the administration's commitment to growing our economy. This is a real shot in the arm for the Ozark Region," said Mary Ann



Rojas, director of the City of Springfield's Department of Workforce Development. I am especially grateful to our partners and shared true commitment to building a better workforce."

For more information about Ozarks' Promise, and how you can apply, follow [facebook.com/ozarkspromise](https://www.facebook.com/ozarkspromise) or email [ozarkspromise@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:ozarkspromise@springfieldmo.gov).



## Zoning in on neighborhood concerns

By Lisa Cox, SPD



The Springfield Police Department's Police Area Representative (PAR) officers are available to help solve neighborhood problems and provide referrals to community organizations that can assist neighborhoods in the City of Springfield.

When a citizen calls 911 about a concern, an officer may be dispatched to address that issue for the short term. However, many times community issues tend to be recurring due to deeper, underlying problems that may have been present for several years. This is often frustrating for the citizens who are directly impacted.

The City is divided into three patrol zones by SPD. As part of the department's community policing philosophy, there are six PAR officers – two assigned to each zone. They serve as liaisons, working with residents and business owners in their zone to proactively identify problems and come up with long-term solutions unique to the area.

"We have had PAR officers in place for years, but we have recently been able to fully staff this area of our department largely due to federal grants received," said Chief Paul Williams. "Having these officers focused on problem solving and community partnerships is paying off in dividends, and I think many of the neighborhoods and citizens they serve would agree."

When PAR officers get involved in a neighborhood issue, their job is not to find fault or place blame, but to coordinate and facilitate efforts in hope of solving the identified problem. PAR officers work with all involved parties, serve as the link to patrol officers and detectives needed to address the issues, and request assistance from other City departments when necessary. These officers have received extensive training in handling conflict and resolving long-standing problems.

"We often find that there are barriers in communication between police and citizens," said PAR Officer Michael Ramsey. "By allowing us to spend extra time in the neighborhoods, we get the opportunity to get to know these residents and break down those barriers that have, many times, been in place for decades. Building these relationships with our citizens is vital."

In an emergency or if immediate assistance is ever needed by an officer, call 911 rather than trying to reach a PAR officer at that time. Citizens experiencing a problem in their neighborhood who would like to discuss it with their PAR officer should first determine which zone they live in by checking the zone map at [springfieldmo.gov/SPD](http://springfieldmo.gov/SPD) or by calling 417-864-1810.

### Be a good witness!

If you see something, say something. Suspicious activity warrants a call to 911. Try to take note of a suspect's description, a suspect vehicle's color, make, model and license plate number and the suspect's direction of travel.

This information will assist the dispatched officer in locating the suspect to investigate further.



## Turning our vantage points into a partnership

By Lisa Cox, SPD

Are you currently using video surveillance at your business or home for the security and protection of your property, family, or even your employees and customers? If so, we'd like to hear from you. The Springfield community now has an additional opportunity to partner with the Springfield Police Department – technologically – to help fight crime.

Video surveillance is one of the best methods for identifying and apprehending criminals and convicting those who are caught in the act of committing a crime. Using [Springfieldmo.gov/SPD](http://Springfieldmo.gov/SPD), Springfield business owners or residents can register their video surveillance equipment with the police, and allow the SPD to access the footage if needed. SPD will maintain a database of partners' camera locations, vantage points and equipment information, along with details regarding the recording and storage of the data. Should the devices have the potential to be helpful in the investigation of a crime or even of "real time" use during criminal activity or a community emergency, the database will allow the police to quickly determine the availability of video surveillance. This does not mean that the SPD will be monitoring the cameras.

Recognizing that police rarely can solve public safety problems alone, our philosophy of community policing encourages interactive partnerships with the City's stakeholders. Utilizing this coactive approach (i.e. working together) through a new use of current technologies will enhance the effectiveness of your police department and create a safer environment for our community.

To become a part of this new program and register your video surveillance camera or system, simply fill out the online registration form at [springfieldmo.gov/SPD](http://springfieldmo.gov/SPD). At the home page, click the "Forms" button, then click "Register Video Surveillance Equipment."

Doing so will make you a partner in the latest crime prevention program launched by the SPD in our continuing efforts to fight crime by enhancing community engagement.



## When the weather cools down, the risk of fire goes up

By Cara Erwin, Fire Department

The Springfield Fire Department warns residents to follow some basic tips to prevent home fires.

Each year, nearly 500 people die in fires that involve heating equipment. In Springfield, home heating resulted in 31 house fires in 2015. That accounts for 15% of all residential fires, making it the third most common cause of home fires in Springfield. Fortunately, some simple steps can prevent more heating-related fires from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment, such as the furnace, fireplace, space heater or wood stove.
- Have a qualified professional inspect and clean your chimney and fireplace before using it for the first time each season.

- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed and never power a space heater with an extension cord.
- For alternative heaters, always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- Make sure your fireplace has a protective screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Burn only dry, seasoned wood and allow the ashes to completely cool before disposing of them in a metal container.
- Make sure all fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home. Test your smoke alarms regularly. If you live in the city of Springfield and are in need of free smoke alarms or batteries, contact the Springfield Fire Department at 874-2380.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the leading factors contributing to ignition in home heating equipment fires were failure to clean (27%), heat source too close to combustibles (14%), and unclassified mechanical failure or malfunction (12%). Heat source too close to combustibles was a factor in half (51%) of associated fire deaths.

For more tips, visit [springfieldmo.gov/Fire](http://springfieldmo.gov/Fire).





# PLANNING A SPECIAL EVENT IN 2017?

## Here's what you need to know

By Cora Scott, SGFNN Executive Editor

Springfield is a city that welcomes special events. From major conventions and sporting events to community-based festivals, parades and athletic activities, Springfield is proud to host hundreds of events each year.

Due to the growing number of special events in the city each year and a need to streamline the process, the city's Department of Public Information took over special event permitting in 2015. Special event permitting coordinator Sharon Spain serves as the City's central point of contact by guiding event planners through the process and maintaining a public calendar of events.

The Public Information department also coordinates with event planners to ensure the public receives notice of road closures and/or expected traffic delays prior to the event.

### WHEN IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?

If any of the below conditions exist, a special event permit is required.

#### The event includes outdoor live and/or amplified music:

- This applies to all zoning districts, except residential.

#### The event is on private property and includes:

- Outdoor carnival or circus
- Amplified sound in the downtown area
- Fireworks and attendance of 50-plus people
- Multiple liquor licenses, 50-plus people and charging entry fees.

#### The event is on public property and includes:

- Outdoor carnival or circus
- Erection of a tent with sides (larger than 400 square feet)
- Erection of a tent without sides (larger than 700 square feet)
- Street festival
- Amplified sound
- Parade, race or street closure
- Selling merchandise, food or drinks
- Installing a stage, band shell, trailer, van, grandstand, bleachers, or portable building
- Placement of portable toilets
- Fireworks and attendance of 50-plus people
- Multiple liquor licenses, 50-plus people and charge entry fees

- Blocking City-owned property
- Placement of pedestrian boundary markers blocking the sidewalk
- Inclusion of electrical or plumbing hookups to CU connections on the square or Jubilee Park.

### PLANNING AN EVENT

If a permit is required, please consider the questions below before applying:

- How many people do you expect to attend?
- Where will the event be located? If you're not sure where you would like to hold your event, we would be happy to help you determine a safe route or event venue.
- Do you need to rent City/Park Board property?
- Do any of the events involve the use of public streets/sidewalks/property?
- Will you be using tents or hanging signs/banners?
- Will food or alcohol be sold?
- Will you need to hire extra duty police officers?

### APPLYING FOR THE PERMIT

The special event permit application is online at [springfieldmo.gov/specialeventpermits](http://springfieldmo.gov/specialeventpermits). If you need additional assistance, contact special event permitting coordinator Spain at 417-864-1105 or [events@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:events@springfieldmo.gov) to make an appointment.

Once the application is submitted, the event organizer will receive confirmation of receipt of the application and supporting documentation required. This confirmation is not a guarantee of permit issuance, nor is it a guarantee of your desired date and/or location. This is simply a confirmation that the City has your materials on file and is actively processing the permit.

Next, the event organizer will be contacted within 10 business days regarding specific requirements needed for the event; about any known conflicts with the route, date, or location for the proposed event; and will be made aware of any additional permits or requirements. Spain will work with event organizers to create the best and safest event for all involved parties.



Some requirements can take four to six weeks to comply with, depending on the event's unique characteristics, so event organizers are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

What you have to keep in mind is that the Public Information department coordinates with many other City departments, such as Police, Fire, Health, Licensing, Traffic Management, Risk Management and others, to respond to your application. When applicable, the corresponding departments will contact you directly, following a review period of no more than 10 business days to discuss requirements for your specific event. These requirements, however, could take you weeks to meet, depending on your specific situation and event.

As of Jan. 1, the City requests that special event permit applications be submitted at least 60 days prior to the event date in order to secure the desired date and location for the event.

All completed paperwork is due 30 days prior to the event date. Those who fail to meet this deadline may be denied a permit.

### HELPFUL HINTS

Advance planning and knowledge of the intricacies of the City's special event permit process can increase your chances of obtaining a permit in a timely manner. Below are the more time-consuming – and most important – aspects of the process.

#### Rental of a Park or the Expo Lot

To rent a City-owned park or the vacant lot at 735 E. Trafficway (Expo Lot), it requires a rental contract, rental fee, deposit, and liability insurance. For more



information on the Expo Lot contact the special event permit coordinator Spain at 417-864-1105 or [events@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:events@springfieldmo.gov). For events taking place solely on Parks property, contact the Park Board at 417-864-1049.

#### Obtaining Insurance (up to six weeks)

Obtaining special event insurance could be time-consuming depending on your specific situation.

#### General Liability (\$1 million policy)

Events held on public property (streets, Park Central Square, Expo Lot and parks) require special paperwork, including proof of general liability insurance with the City included as an additional insured and the completion of an agreement that holds the City harmless for any actions arising out of your specific use of the property.

It's important to make sure that the legal entity (organization or an individual) signing the event permit application, matches with the entity listed on the certificate of insurance and the hold harmless agreement.

While the City cannot advocate for any one specific insurance product or company, it can assist event planners by offering a Tenant Users Liability Insurance Policy, or

TULIP. The program is an easy to use, fast method of insuring most types of events and activities taking place at various facilities and venues throughout the United States.

The TULIP program provides low cost general liability insurance to "third party" users of various venues and facilities for events. It protects both the user and the facility against claims by guests who may be injured as a result of attending an event.

#### Liquor Liability (\$1 million policy)

For events selling or serving alcohol, each liquor vendor is required to provide liquor liability insurance naming the City as an additional insured. A third-party agreement may be required with your liquor vendor.

#### Obtaining catering/picnic licenses to sell or serve alcohol (up to 10 business days)

Events selling or serving alcohol require catering or picnic licenses issued by the state of Missouri. The process to obtain a license could take five to 10 business days.

#### Meeting tent guidelines (up to 10 business days)

The best way to ensure that the proper safety measures are in place for your events that include tents, is to consult directly with the Springfield Fire Department. The tent permit process may include a tent inspection. Please allow five to 10 business days.

#### Ensuring public safety

Ensuring public safety is everyone's job, but the Springfield Police Department can be any event planner's best friend. Corporal Chris Welsh is your personal liaison to help design your event to be cost effective and safe.

When applicable, SPD determines the number of officers needed for your event. Events such as races, walks and parades and events with an attendance of more than 1,000 have considerably larger public safety needs than others. The cost for hiring extra-duty Springfield police officers is \$28/hour with a minimum four-hour shift. SPD charges a \$50-\$165 administrative fee for the scheduling software needed to accommodate the scheduling of extra-duty officers.

For events with more than 500 in attendance, City Manager Greg Burris determines whether or to what extent, additional police and fire marshals are necessary for crowd and traffic control.

No two community events are the same, so there is no simple process or explanation for how an individual event must be permitted. We are here to assist them through the process.

Timing is everything when organizing an event. Please involve the City in your event planning as soon as possible.

## Bass Pro Neighborhood Challenge

By Melissa Haase, SGFNN Managing Editor

As a way to show off its hometown spirit during the annual Bass Pro Marathon in November, Bass Pro committed \$10,000 to fund a contest for neighborhood cheering sections, and partnered with the City's Great Neighborhoods Program to issue a "neighborhood challenge" to registered neighborhoods across the City.

The winnings, which range from \$500 to a \$2,000 grand prize, must go toward neighborhood initiatives such as community gardens, additions to a park or other neighborhood improvements. This was the third year that Bass Pro and the City partnered for the challenge.

The winning neighborhoods will be announced in the April edition of SGFNN.

If you're interested in participating in the Bass Pro Marathon, watch for details at [fitness.basspro.com](http://fitness.basspro.com).

Great Neighborhoods is the City of Springfield's initiative to working with neighborhood residents and businesses to create and maintain great neighborhoods. The benefits of growing strong relationships in small urban areas is endless and it stands to reason during difficult times, that these neighborhoods will be more resilient and will be able to withstand turbulence, no matter how severe, by coming together.

The three qualities of Great Neighborhoods are that they are clean, safe and friendly. A clean neighborhood has an impact on residents' health and the attractiveness of the neighborhood to potential residents and investors. Welcoming neighborhoods also encourage new investment by existing and potential residents and businesses. Neighborhoods need to communicate issues and activities throughout the neighborhood and bring residents together in meaningful ways to address issues and create social connections.

To learn more about the Great Neighborhoods program visit [springfieldmo.gov/greatneighborhoods](http://springfieldmo.gov/greatneighborhoods).



Top row, L-R: Bradford Park, Doling. Middle row: Grant Beach, Greater Parkcrest. Bottom row: Robberson, Tom Watkins, West Central, Westside, Woodland Heights.



## DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD

### Urban homestead a labor of love for Doling family

By Juliana Goodwin, for SGFNN. Photos by Christina Dicken.



Never take what you don't earn and give what you can, said Josh Christian, standing in his garden in the Doling neighborhood.

That's the spirit behind the fruits of his labor- an impressive, hand-built sprawl which is practically an urban homestead. Christian is able to grow much of what his family eats and has enough to spare to parcel produce out to the neighbors and donate to the homeless. A lack of livestock prevents him from being a true urban homesteader, but he lives by the most important tenet of homesteading: sustainability.

*According to the National Gardening Association, 1 in 3 Americans grows a portion of their food.*

Urban homesteading has been a growing trend for years and many feel it's good for communities. In Kansas City, there's a Missouri Homesteading Authority that turns blighted properties into neighborhood assets by buying the properties and selling them at discounted prices to homeowners and investors who are committed to improving the community.

For Josh, it's a labor of love that connects him with his family and with neighbors. His wife Angel works alongside him and his three sons help harvest.

In a small yard – Josh lives in a rented home – he has managed to grow 18-20 varieties of plants from watermelons to blackberries and green beans.

He put in 125 tomato plants which yielded 400 to 500 pounds of fruit. Angel canned and made homemade pasta sauce, stewed tomatoes, and of course gave some away.

The garden itself is an example of pure ingenuity. Josh built the raised beds out of heat treated pallets which is an important distinction because chemically treated pallets can seep chemicals into the soil, he said.

Under his raised beds, he laid down contractor grade carpet with no sealants or stain prevention. You don't want Stainmaster, for example, because that type of carpet is heavily treated with chemicals which could leach into the soil and your food supply.

The bed of carpet helps keep out moles and weeds.

Then he makes what Josh calls a "hoop house." He uses PVC pipe to create the arches over the raised beds. Those are covered in chicken wire to act as a trellis for climbing vines like tomatoes and green beans.

Old tires serve as some plant beds. And a dilapidated piano that he got for free at a garage sale now doubles as his outdoor gardening tool bench.

His gardening is a mix of three cubic yards of Spahagnum peat moss to cotton burr compote and a-third mix of top soil.

There's a homemade compost machine made out of barrels, a post from a chain link fence and homemade handle to turn it. Josh built his for \$45 to \$50 in materials (compare to \$150-\$300 to buy one). His compost is highly efficient, too: most piles take six to nine months to compost, his is done in three because it concentrates the heat and stays moist. Josh turns it every other day.

The 32-year-old learned farming basics from his grandfather who had a cattle farm in northern Polk County, and maintained a large garden. The rest Josh picked up from reading urban homestead blogs from people in the United States and Africa which are focused on sustainable practices.

Even though it's not a community garden, the Christian family has certainly shared their excess with many in the community.

Of his bounty of lettuce this summer, he gave away three-fourths of his yield.

"I gave some to two homeless people and they took it and ate it like it was heaven," Josh said.

He has a soft spot for homeless people, particularly veterans, as Josh found himself practically homeless after a tour in Iraq. He signed up for the Army Reserves just before Sept. 11, 2001 and has served several tours overseas.

After Iraq, he was living in a trailer on family land with no electricity, unemployed and drinking, when he reached out to an old friend from Hillcrest High School via MySpace.

Angel was her name and in some ways she became his angel. He credits her, now his wife, with helping getting his life together. They married a month before he was shipped off to Afghanistan.

Josh now works for Burrell Behavioral Health and Angel is employed at Walmart. They have one son together, Micah, and Josh has two boys from a previous marriage.

The garden is organic because when the boys come outside or a neighbor comes over to help harvest, Josh wants them to be able to pluck a tomato off the vine and pop it in their mouth without worrying about washing it off.

Jean Ackley is a master gardener who has lived in the Doling neighborhood for 18 years. She has seen an increase in the popularity of organic gardening whether it is individual or a community-based garden.

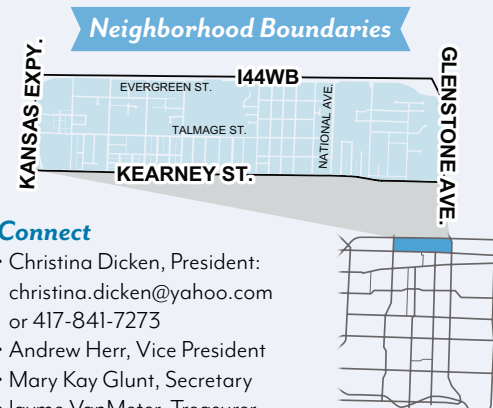
"For one thing they don't want chemicals on their food. If they grow it organically they know what they are eating is not causing cancer," Ackley said.

Ackley loves the feel of the neighborhood.

"I like that we have more of a country atmosphere. We don't have neighborhood associations that govern everything we do, but we still keep our yards nice, people are friendly, and we are close to being in the country without being there," she said.

Ackley has been gardening her entire life – a skill she learned from her grandmother and aunt. While she's grown flowers, fruits and vegetables for most her life, for the past five years, she has shifted to pollinator garden.

About six years ago she noticed there were no pollinators in her garden and that is because Roundup



#### Connect

- Christina Dicken, President:  
christina.dicken@yahoo.com  
or 417-841-7273
- Andrew Herr, Vice President
- Mary Kay Glunt, Secretary
- Jayme VanMeter, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

February 28 • March 28 • April 25  
7:30- 8:30 p.m. @ Doling Family Center  
Community Room (301 E. Talmage)



and other commonly used chemicals kill milkweed which attracts monarch butterflies and is a food source for them.

"I want to have butterflies and bees for my grandkids and great-grandkids, so I raise a lot of milkweed," Ackley said. "This year we ended up with 15 varieties of butterflies in our yard. I'm so excited all the work I've done is paying off."

And the Christian family's hard work has paid off, too.

On an early fall evening, his chicken wire trellises were covered in dangling green beans and tomatoes. Micah walked under a canopy of hanging green beans, picked some and handed them to his mom.

"I like helping" he said.

Josh says their dream is to one day own a farm.

#### Want to know more?

Josh Christian is happy to share what he knows about gardening with anyone who is interested. If you have a question or are starting your own garden, look him up on Facebook under Joshua Christian. He will be happy to answer questions and work together.

Jean Ackley, master gardener who lives in Doling neighborhood, also heads up the Delaware Community Garden where volunteers help work the garden in exchange for some produce. Springfield is home to many community gardens, including the Springfield Community Gardens organization. Since its inception in 2010, it has grown each year and is making a difference in the community. In 2015, working with Ozarks Food Harvest, they distributed more than 100,000 pounds of produce to families in need, and volunteers logged more than 6,500 hours in SCG gardens. If you're interested in starting a community garden in Doling visit [springfieldcommunitygardens.org](http://springfieldcommunitygardens.org).

#### Interested in Urban Homesteading?

There are many blogs out there, but this one is considered an authority and receives millions of visitors a month: [UrbanHomestead.org](http://UrbanHomestead.org)



# HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

## New year offers new programs for Heart of the Westside



By Tammy Haynes, for SGFNN

The new year is upon us and with it comes great news for our neighborhood. Heart of the Westside has partnered with The Fairbanks to bring the Circles program to our area! Circles is a program designed to lift people out of poverty and focuses on conquering what's known as the "cliff effect," also known as the "welfare trap." The cliff effect occurs when assistance programs like child care subsidies and programs like Medicaid and food stamps remove benefits faster than people can earn enough income to replace them. By not pro-rating the exit ramp to these programs, the government creates a financial crisis for people as they earn more income. We believe no one should live in poverty. Families and communities can take charge of their destinies. And if given the right tools and support, economic stability can be achieved.

***Circles creates an environment that educates, empowers and equips members to move up and out of poverty successfully.***

Circles recognizes that there are systemic barriers to escaping poverty, which is why they partner with and educate local and national policy makers. They help them understand the issues faced by families striving to move out of poverty. They advocate for changes in policy that eliminate the negative "cliff effects" in favor of the gradual reduction of the assistance programs, throughout the entire journey out of poverty and to an economically sustainable future. The Fairbanks discovered that in order to solve the issue of poverty, they had to approach things in a very different way. The solution doesn't have to be complicated, but it has to be personal. In order to make a real change, poverty has to be addressed using a multi-dimensional method.

### Here's how it works:

Community leaders and/or organizations work with Circles to establish a local chapter here in Heart of the Westside.

This begins with localized training. We take a collaborative approach during implementation by building on the strengths of existing community-based organizations.

Our model focuses on three stages: Crisis management and stabilization, education and job placement and job retention, advancement and economic stability.

Heart of the Westside sponsors groups of up to 25 participants who are known as Circles leaders. They are asked to:

- enroll in the Circles leadership training class to build financial, emotional and social resources as well as an economic stability plan.

- partner with trained middle- to high-income community volunteers, called allies, who support a Circles leader's efforts through networking, listening and guidance,
- attend weekly community meetings with peers, allies and other interested community members for planning, support and networking opportunities, and
- attend monthly "big view" meetings, which include community discussions around systemic barriers to escaping poverty and the strategies needed to remove them.

Anyone who would like more information, please email: [heartofthewestside@gmail.com](mailto:heartofthewestside@gmail.com). I personally have been through this class myself and found it very beneficial and highly recommend it to those who are tired of being poor and want a better quality of life.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP

The neighborhood clean up will be 8 a.m.-noon, March 7 at Nichols Park. Last year, we hauled off 15 tons of trash, serviced 65 households and provided 15 curbside pickups for the disabled and elderly.

I encourage everyone to make use of the clean-up for your spring cleaning! The clean-ups are free, but donations are greatly appreciated. Please sign in so we can show the need of the clean up program and verify how many we served. If you have items that are still good and usable and prefer to donate them rather than throw them away, we will come pick them up.

Heart of the Westside is now on Nextdoor. Nextdoor is a great form of communication and an easy way to find out what's going on in the neighborhood and surrounding areas. A wide variety of topics are discussed – from "I found a lost dog" to "did anybody else hear gun shots?" About 100 Heart of the Westside people have joined so far. Sign up today so you can stay in the know about your neighborhood.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH CPO

In addition to the Northwest Project and The Fairbanks, Heart of the Westside is partnering with other organizations to offer more resources to our neighborhood.

We are working on bringing in more alternatives for drug and alcohol recovery and treatment. Nobody likes to talk about that but it is all around us. I believe addiction is a disease, not a crime, and not enough is being done to help the people who want treatment. Substance abuse disorders affect nearly everyone in America, whether directly or indirectly. It's estimated that alcohol misuse costs the U.S. \$249 billion a year, with illicit drug use and abuse running another \$193 billion each year. Despite that toll, substance abuse disorders haven't been given the same weight as other widespread health issues.

***Addiction is not a moral failing, or evidence of a character flaw, but a chronic disease of the brain that deserves our compassion and care.***

This needs to be addressed with medicine and counseling, not with imprisonment.

Doctors, social workers, recovery specialists, nutritionists and a variety of others need to pull together and treat addiction the way they would any other disease just like cancer or diabetes. I am advocating for help



### Connect

- Tammy Haynes, President:  
[heartofthewestside@gmail.com](mailto:heartofthewestside@gmail.com)  
or 417-536-9045
- Lance Bussey, Vice President
- Jessica Henderson, Secretary/Treasurer

### Neighborhood Association Meetings

February 21 • March 21 • April 18  
6:30- 7:30 p.m. @ the Salvation Army  
(1707 W. Chestnut Expy.)



and welcome others to do the same. The task may seem daunting, as substance abuse and violence can negatively affect one's life in many ways, such as:

- reducing the chance for success in school
- delaying the development of the social and emotional skills needed for healthy relationships
- detrimental impact on both physical and mental health
- hindering one from being a productive member of society.

However, working together with hundreds of like-minded volunteers and organizations across a 21-county service area in southwest Missouri, Community Partnership of the Ozarks is not only helping communities take a stand against substance abuse and violence, but also helping them create an environment where youth and adults have greater opportunities to reach their full potential in life.

While CPO's substance abuse and violence prevention division has a rich history of implementing and collaborating on successful substance abuse and violence-prevention initiatives through various grants, contracts, and other projects, most of the division's current prevention efforts fall under the Regional Support Center and SPIRIT programs. The Ozarks Fighting Back Advisory Board (OFB) provides oversight and support to all SAVP programs.

The SAVP division helps communities stay focused and moving toward their prevention goals by investing time and effort into utilizing the strategic prevention framework (SPF). This framework utilizes a five-step process that helps communities move toward a vision of being free from the consequences of substance abuse and violence.

I hope to make use of these resources and many more to improve our neighborhood.

**Have a happy New Year.**

*Tammy Haynes is the president of the Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association. E-mail her at [heartofthewestside@gmail.com](mailto:heartofthewestside@gmail.com).*



# WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

## Joe Roberds shares memories and observations of a west-sider



By Joe Roberds, for SGFNN

People who live on the west side are a special kind of folks who show pride in their neighborhood. As a long time westsider, I see this in homes that are being maintained to show their former splendor and businesses that are revitalizing the historic buildings they operate in.

In my youth, during the 1960s, I lived much of my life at my grandparents' home on the corner of Lincoln and Hillcrest. From there I started many adventures that I now fondly recall. At that time, my bicycle was my mode of transportation into the neighborhood. I rode my bicycle to my first job at the cafe now called College Street Cafe. That summer, I washed dishes from 6 a.m. to noon at the café, which served locals and a few travelers who followed the soon-to-be decommissioned Route 66.

After work, I often traveled College Street home. On my way, I would often stop at Charles Standard Service to get some air for my tires and to say hi to the guys. Continuing on, I would pass by the homes, motor courts, and other businesses such as Dairy Queen, Grant's Hardware and Consumers Market. At that time, Dairy Queen was located closer to College and a laundromat was behind it. I never complained about helping to go to the laundromat because I knew while there I would get an ice cream cone.

Across the street was Grant's Hardware, which was owned by my cousin, Elmer Grant. My parents and I would often stop by to share family news and to check the newest items for sale. When I was very young, Consumers was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt,

but I attached the name "burnt store" to it, often asking if we were going to the "burnt store" for groceries.

I can't talk about Route 66 businesses without mentioning Red's. Red's Giant Hamburg was one of my favorite Route 66 businesses. Red's was so popular that a drive-through window was installed to accommodate the many customers. It has been said that this was the first business in the U.S. with a drive-through window.

On Scenic was Hall's Market, along with a bakery, barber shop and a dime store. The barber shop was frequently busy, but I did not mind the wait because he had a great selection of comic books. The five-and-dime had a great selection of merchandise and numerous model car kits that I liked to look over to see which one I would get next. The bakery had the best donuts. If you bought three donuts, you would get a free container of chocolate milk!

In the evenings, I would often go to Westport Park to watch ball games. I would stay outside the fence in hopes of catching a foul ball or a home run. When I got a ball, I would take it to the concession stand and turn it in for a free snow cone.

During that time, all goods, services and entertainment that a person needed could be found on the west side of town.

Fast forward to the present. The majority of those businesses are gone, but most of the buildings remain and are being repurposed to fulfill the needs and desires of the current times.

Within a three-block stretch of College Street there are three Route 66-era motor courts still standing. There are very few vacant business buildings on the west side. I see a revitalization of businesses investing in all areas of the west side, which leads to pride and hope that these businesses share an outlook of a bright future for the neighborhood.

With the business investments, I can also see investments in residential areas, with home improvement and clean-up projects. This trend can continue if we all support these businesses and individuals who have invested in west-Springfield neighborhoods.

*Joe Roberds is president of the Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association.*

*Joe enjoys coffee with friends at Tubby's Diner on Historic Route 66. Pictured to the left is a before and after of a house restoration in the neighborhood.*



### Connect

- Joe Roberds, President:  
joe65806@yahoo.com  
or 417-838-0041
- Tawnya Elliot, Co-Vice President
- Candy Smith, Co-Vice President
- Ken Sweetser, Secretary



### Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings

February 14 • March 14 • April 11  
6:30 p.m. @ Westport Park Apartments,  
Community Room (250 N. Hilton Ave.)



### Attend a meeting to learn how you can support the Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association

The Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association had a great year of projects in 2016 and is looking forward to more neighborhood improvement projects in 2017.

We plan to continue with projects that are the most requested by our neighbors, such as the neighborhood clean-up, where neighbors can dispose of unwanted items in the dumpsters provided, and the Neighborhood Night Out, where neighbors can get together for an evening of information, fun and food.

We also plan to continue our participation with projects for the Boys & Girls Club, street clean-up, where we pick up trash along the roadway, participation as cheer leaders for the Bass Pro Marathon and entering a float in the Midtown Fourth of July Parade.

The WNBA represents our neighborhood on the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) that presents neighborhood priorities to the City of Springfield for budget considerations.

The WNBA meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Westport Park Apartments Community Room, 250 N. Hilton. Neighbors who are interested in helping their neighborhood and participating in projects are encouraged to come to a meeting. We are also seeking a neighborhood church or business to participate in a joint project.

Come to a meeting and meet our neighborhood police officer and your neighbors as we plan projects for the year.



## WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

### Habitat for Humanity's 'Rock the Block' in Woodland Heights is neighborhood revitalization in action

By Melissa Adler, Habitat for Humanity, for SGFNN



On a warm day last fall, Jennifer woke up at 4 a.m., two hours before her alarm. Today was the day her century-old house was getting a fresh coat of paint, and she was too excited to sleep. When volunteers from Thrivent Financial arrived around 9 a.m., Jennifer was already dipping her brush.

The tidy little ranch with a Victorian flair is one of three homes on Jefferson Avenue that were spruced up as part of Rock the Block in Woodland Heights. Thrivent Financial sponsored the homes and paid for a fleet of lawn mowers and trimmers. More than 100 volunteers from CoxHealth swarmed like worker bees to mow yards, cut back landscaping and clear brush. In all, 17 projects were completed.

One home in particular was getting consumed by weeds. Volunteers pulled vines off the two-story house and cleared the ground. The homeowner, a soft-spoken elderly woman named Joann, was amazed by the buzz of activity. When the volunteers were told to stop (they did not want to quit), they took group pictures and lingered in the front yard. Joann was heard saying to the team leader, "I'll miss you."

Cleaning one street in one day improves the appearance of a specific area while building community. Residents on Jefferson Avenue were encouraged to

get involved to help their own neighborhood. This is neighborhood revitalization in action.

Neighborhood revitalization is a resident-driven effort to improve quality of life for everyone through goals, planning and partners. Habitat for Humanity of Springfield is a coalition member and is assisting Woodland Heights in creating a sustainable infrastructure for change. Change will happen through the hard work of engaged citizens, partnerships with civic and business groups and a renewed community spirit.

Habitat is known for building houses and it will continue to help low-income families realize the dream of owning a home. Habitat for Humanity of Springfield also repairs homes and is focused on improving housing in Woodland Heights. But neighborhood revitalization is so much more.

Neighborhood revitalization makes a greater impact on people's lives by creating partnerships that address many different quality of life issues. In Woodland Heights, the goal is to not only improve housing, but address crime and safety, work with landlords, encourage economic development, create healthier living environments and build a sense of community.

On the day of Rock the Block, there was a clear sense of community as volunteers worked alongside residents. For those residents who weren't able to pitch in, providing water bottles or a simple "thank you" was enough. Homeowners and renters on Jefferson Avenue got the message that people in Springfield want this neighborhood in Zone 1 to be a safe and vibrant place to live. Progress will come one day at a time and one block at a time.

#### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Linda Passeri, President:  
artistlinda75@yahoo.com  
or 417-880-1572
- Rhonda Ferguson,  
Vice President
- Sarah Gaddy, Secretary
- Becky Volz, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

February 16 • March 16 • April 20

6:30-8 p.m. @ Woodland Heights

Presbyterian Church (722 W. Atlantic St.)

[woodlandheightsneighborhood.org](http://woodlandheightsneighborhood.org)



Brush removal before and after.

For more information about neighborhood revitalization in Woodland Heights and how you can get involved, contact Melissa Adler at Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, 417-829-4001 ext. 116.

## You live in a house but belong to a neighborhood

By Steve Miller, for SGFNN



Lately I've been asked a very interesting question by several people, *"why do you live where you do, in Woodland Heights, and more importantly on the north side?"* I think it's a great question, and one that has caused me to stop and really consider. Here's what I've come up with: I'm an artist and a person that likes to repurpose; making old things new or transforming them into something new, different and unique. How's that answer their question you might ask? Well, let me elaborate.

I moved to Springfield in 2005, but honestly it was never my plan to stay permanently. However, through a series of events, I ended up becoming a resident of Woodland Heights eight years ago and now call

Springfield my home. Here's a sampling of why I live here and what's going on in my neighborhood. We're a family that potlucks together, cleans up the streets, alleys, and yards and has a great partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

We build award-winning parade floats, have an ice cream social, Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas caroling, and Dirt Day in Lafayette Park, thanks to sponsorship with the Park Board. There is a community garden that's ever expanding thanks to the support of The Rotary Club of Springfield North, a nighttime tennis program that has garnered national attention, and oh, there's the Moon City Creative District, Moon City Jam, and Springfield's largest public art display - the Moon City Paint a Pole stroll, thanks to our wonderful City Utilities.

Since I've lived here, I've learned that some of my neighbors are second- and third-generation residents, and every now and then someone who used to live here stops me in my yard and tells me their fondest memories about this neighborhood.

Bill Goodwin is one such character who comes to mind. His dad built the house two doors west of me. He hasn't lived here since after World War II, and, come to find out, he has extended family still living in that home.

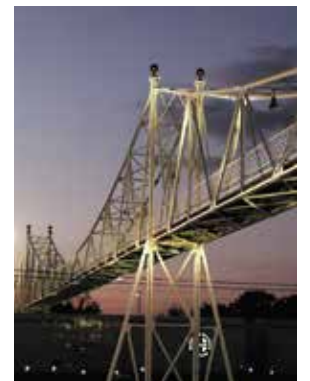
Or the young man who grew up in Woodland Heights and wanted to show his wife where he grew up. You

know what that tells me? It says that there was, is and always will be pride in this neighborhood.

*Did you know that the longest spanning footbridge over railroad tracks in America is right here in Springfield*

and joins Woodland Heights to Commercial Street, which has coffee, restaurants, bakeries, lodging, shopping, galleries, and night life? Yep, the bridge spans the BNSF rail yard, and for a kid who grew up with a granddad that spent his career in the business it's heaven to live here. Between the railway, bridge and C-Street, I cannot count the number of visitors and residents I've met – it's a destination itself.

I could go on forever, but I'm gonna go back outside and finish putting the last bit of paint on my historic Queen Anne style-home before the snow starts to fly and hope that someone stops me while I'm out there and asks, or tells me why this is a great place. You see over here at this end of our great city we say, you live in a house, but belong to a neighborhood. That's why I live where I do.





## BISSETT NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Pete Radecki, President:  
ppradecki@gmail.com or 417-988-1257
- Chandra Palmer, Vice President
- Catherine Manor, Secretary
- Sheila Radecki, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 14: 6:30-7:30 p.m./6 p.m. optional potluck @ Bissett Elementary. Hear about services offered from the Health Department.

March 14: 6:30-7:30 p.m./6 p.m. optional potluck @ Faith Baptist Church (1920 W. Nichols St.) Hear from Maria Johnston about the Park Board programs.



## BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Dellene Nelson, President:  
dellene007@aol.com or 417-882-2801
- Janet Wall, Vice President
- Jacque Ford, Secretary
- Ed Messerly, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 21 • March 21 • April 18  
6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Immaculate Conception Church (3555 S. Fremont Ave.)



## GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Anita Kuhns, President:  
anitakuhns@yahoo.com or 417-942-2456
- Cami Dillinger, Vice President
- Kathy Lutz, Secretary
- Pauletta Dunn, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

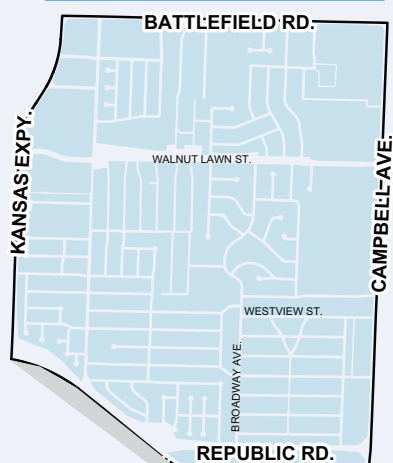
Feb. 20 • March 20 • April 17  
6:30-7:30 p.m. @ St. Joseph Catholic Church-Parish Hall (1115 N. Campbell Ave.)

[grantbeachneighborhood.org](http://grantbeachneighborhood.org)



## GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries

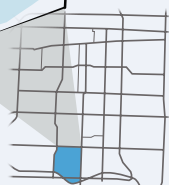


#### Connect

- Carol McCarthy, President:  
cmccarthy1957@live.com or 417-877-9446
- Judy Wyrick, Vice President
- Kate Detoy, Secretary
- Nancy Fazzino, Treasurer
- Harlan Bristol, Chair/Block Captains

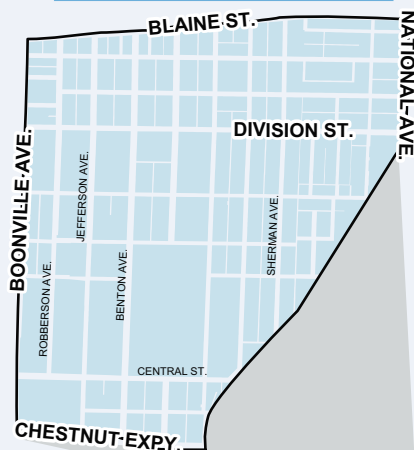
#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 21 • March 16: 6:30-8:30 p.m. @ Wesley United Methodist Church (922 W. Republic Rd.) Meetings will be canceled during inclement weather.



## MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



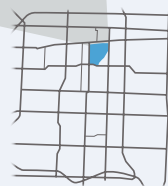
#### Connect

- Brian Shipman, President:  
brianshipman@drury.edu or 417-880-2855
- Brian King, Vice President
- Marie Wood, Secretary
- Mary Jo Greer, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

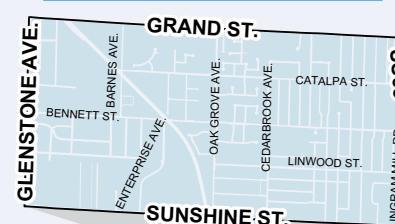
Feb. 14 • March 14 • April 11  
7:30-8:30 p.m. @ Urban Neighborhood Alliance on Cox North parking lot (1471 N. Benton Ave.)

[midtown-springfield-mo.com](http://midtown-springfield-mo.com)



## OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Jan Preston, President: jpreston@caroljones.com or 417-860-1995
- Wendell Royster, Vice President
- Mark McKnelly, Secretary
- Powell McHaney, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meeting

Jan. 31: 6 p.m. @ Oak Grove Community Center (1538 S. Oak Grove Ave.)

A great 2017 for the Oak Grove Neighborhood starts with a new president, new ideas and new friends. The January meeting will be led by new president Jan Preston and feature guest speakers Jesse Coulter, City Council candidate, and Dr. Michael Sokol, Drury University theater professor, followed by a business meeting.

[ogna.weebly.com](http://ogna.weebly.com)



**Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?**  
Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!



## PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Contact Eric Pauly, President:  
ptum10@gmail.com or  
417-736-9357
- Renee Tyson, Vice President
- Nancy Danielsen, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

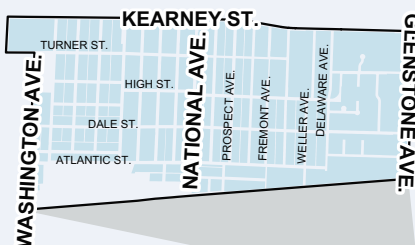
Phelps Neighborhood Association meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, primarily at Fire Station 1 community room, 720 E. Grand. Contact an association officer for meeting times.

[phelpsgrove.com](http://phelpsgrove.com)



## ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Roxanne Bedell-Taylor, Co-President:  
roxym.taylor@gmail.com or  
417-379-5244
- Mike Blacksher, Co-President:  
mike.blacksher@gmail.com or  
417-631-7595
- Betty Green, Vice President
- Phyllis Evans, Treasurer

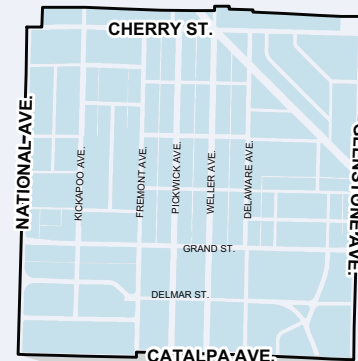
#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 26 • Feb. 23 • March 23 • April 27  
6:30- 7:30 p.m. @ Pathways United Methodist Church (1232 E. Dale St.)



## ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Nick Harper, President:  
sales@thepickwickcompany.com  
or 417-860-0862
- Sue Ekstam, Vice President
- Connie Schneider, Secretary
- Peggy Wise, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

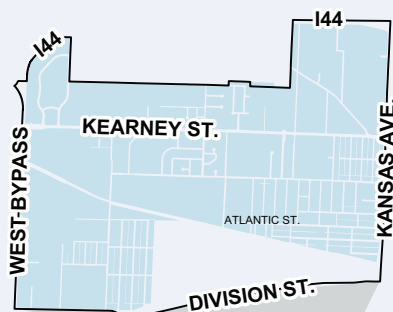
Feb. 21 • March 21 • April 18  
7- 8 p.m. @ University Heights Baptist Church  
(1010 S. National Ave.)

[routreenews.org/site](http://routreenews.org/site)



## TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Marti Mowery, President:  
marthamowery@sbcglobal.net  
or 417-616-4064
- Jennifer Sliger, Vice President
- Charles Sliger, Secretary
- Don Atwood, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 26 • Feb. 23 • March 30 • April 27  
6- 8:30 p.m. @ Tom Watkins Park Community Center (2100 W. High St.)



## WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Mark Maynard, President:  
doc@ceoradio.net or 918-231-4960
- Rosetta Clarida, Vice President
- Gina Rennison, Secretary
- Brenda Nuber, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 2 • March 2 • April 6  
6- 7 p.m. @ Turning Point Church  
(1722 N. National Ave.)



## WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Kathleen Cowens, President:  
kcowens@drury.edu or  
417-496-8699
- Rusty Worley, Vice President
- Caron Parnell, Secretary
- Shirley Robbins, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 28 • March 28 • April 25  
6:30- 7:30 p.m. @ McGregor Elementary  
(1221 W. Madison St.)



**Attend neighborhood  
association meetings to  
learn more about  
what's going on in your area,  
neighborhood projects,  
programs offered, and more!**



# Events • January - April 2017

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SPRINGFIELD MO  
PERMIT #801

## JANUARY

### Tai Chi with Dee Ogilvy:

FREE, donations are appreciated • Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. at Midtown Carnegie Branch Library • Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Library Station • Hosted by the Springfield-Greene County Library.

Learn Yang Style Tai Chi from Shifu, M. Dee Ogilvy, who began practicing Tai Chi 25 years ago at Duke University. Great for adults of any age and physical fitness level. Beginners are welcome! Requires no special equipment.

**National Skating Month Event:** FREE • Jan. 28, 1-2:30 p.m. at Mediacom Ice Park • Hosted by Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

Free skating with coaches on the ice to assist new and beginning skaters of all ages.

## FEBRUARY

**Triple P Parenting Seminar:** FREE • Feb. 15, 6-7:30 p.m. at Doling Family Center • Hosted by Missouri State University Center for Community Engagement

Positive Parenting Program gives you tools to help: raise happy, confident kids; manage misbehavior; set rules and routines that everyone respects and follows; take care of yourself as a parent. Activities available for kids during session. Limited daycare space available for infants/toddlers. Find out more at [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](http://SGFNeighborhoodNews.com).

**National Walk the Dog Day:** FREE • Feb. 22 • Ongoing walks from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Cruse Dog Park • Hosted by Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

Bring your dog and join this event by walking on the Jordan Creek Greenway. Light snacks will be provided for canine friends.

### The Ultimate Springfield Cave Tour:

\$15/Person • Feb. 25-26 • Sat., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. or 12-4 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. or 12-4 p.m. • Age: 6 yrs. and up (6-17 yrs. with an adult) • Register by Feb. 24 at 833-8647 • Hosted by Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

The tour includes a hiking tour that highlights the caves of Ritter Springs Park, a walking tour through Giboney Cave in Doling Park, and a boat tour through Sequiota Cave in Sequiota Park. Pack snacks and water. Transportation provided.

**Try Hockey for Free Day:** FREE • Feb. 25, 1 p.m. at Mediacom Ice Park • Hosted by Springfield-Greene County Park Board

Kids 10 yrs. and under interested in ice hockey? Give it a try at Mediacom Ice Park. Coaches and equipment provided. Skating experience not required, but please register at [TryHockeyForFree.com](http://TryHockeyForFree.com).

**Daddy Daughter Dance:** \$40/couple, \$15/each add'l girl • Feb. 25, 6-9 p.m. at Northview Center in Doling Park • Ages 3 yrs. and up • Register by Feb. 22 at 837-5900 • Hosted by Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

Enjoy a catered dinner, music, dancing, crafts, and a photograph with your special guest.

## MARCH

**Sequoiata Cave Boat Tours:** \$8/Adult; \$6/Youth 6-15 yrs. • March 4-5, 11-12 • Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Sequiota Park • Age: 6 yrs. & up (6-12 yrs. with an adult) • Hosted by Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

Slowly paddle through Sequiota Cave learning its myths, facts and history. Dates subject to weather and bat activity. Space is limited, on-site registration is required. Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. and typically fills up fast.

**Triple P Parenting Seminar:** FREE • March 15, 6-7:30 p.m. at Doling Family Center • Hosted by Missouri State University Center for Community Engagement

Positive Parenting Program gives you tools to help: raise happy, confident kids; manage misbehavior; set rules and routines that everyone respects and follows; take care of yourself as a parent. Activities available for kids during session. Limited daycare space available for infants/toddlers. Find out more at [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](http://SGFNeighborhoodNews.com).

**3-on-3 Basketball Tournament:** \$50/team of 3-4 • March 26, Check-in begins at noon at Parkview High School • Ages 3rd-8th Grade • Register by March 22 at 837-5737 • Hosted by Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

Get your team together and compete in SPARC's 4th Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Boys and girls divisions, co-ed teams compete with boys. A fundraiser for the Park Board Scholarship Fund.

## APRIL

**Cherry Blossom Kite and Piñata Festival:** Free, \$5/kite kits • April 22, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park • Hosted by Springfield-Greene County Park Board

Bring a kite to fly or build one with us on the Great Lawn. Try to whack a piñata nearby. Enjoy Japanese and Mexican children's crafts at the Botanical Center, and free admission to the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden. Festival is followed by a 3 p.m. dedication concert at the new Peace Through People Pavilion.

**Bark in the Park:** FREE • April 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park • Hosted by Springfield-Greene County Park Board

Join in the guided walk around Lake Drummond at 11 a.m., then check out demonstrations, doggy yoga and other activities at the Canine Vendor Village. All ages welcome! Vendors must register by April 22. Proceeds benefit Cruse Dog Park.

**Easter at the Farm:** FREE (some activities have small fee) • April 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park • Age: 3-9 yrs. • Hosted by Springfield-Greene County Park Board

Join us for a day of family-oriented activities, including arts and crafts, inflatables, pony rides, yard games and the Easter Bunny. We'll have more than 20,000 eggs filled with candy and prizes for controlled Easter egg hunts (children are limited to 10 eggs each, while supplies last.) Bring your basket and your camera for pictures with the Easter Bunny.



Want to receive a **FREE** edition of **SGF Neighborhood News** quarterly?  
Let us know, and we'll have it delivered to your mailbox or your inbox.

### WAYS TO SIGN UP

- Online at [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](http://SGFNeighborhoodNews.com)
- Email [mhaase@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:mhaase@springfieldmo.gov)
- Call 417-864-1003
- Mail in your information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:** Attn: Melissa Haase, City of Springfield, P.O. Box 8368, Springfield, MO 65801

