

## Spring Cleaning: Neighborhood cleanups under way in SGF

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

If the spring-cleaning bug has bitten you, consider participating in or lending a hand at an upcoming neighborhood cleanup.

If you're not sure what neighborhood you're in, see the maps on each neighborhood's page in this newspaper, or use the City's map at [maps.springfieldmo.gov/publicviewer](http://maps.springfieldmo.gov/publicviewer). *Note: this map will not display on mobile devices; you must be on a desktop computer.*

The City of Springfield contracts with Community Partnership of the Ozarks to coordinate free cleanups in registered neighborhoods. This year, the costs for the annual program, which includes fall cleanups and spring cleanups, is projected to be about \$35,000, with \$20,000 going toward the spring cleanups.

"Cleanups are a great example of collaboration in action. They are only possible because of the support and commitment of numerous organizations and volunteers from across our community. It's really rewarding to see not only

the behind the scenes work that goes into planning each event, but also neighborhoods that are more clean, safe, and friendly after a cleanup," says CPO Neighborhood and Housing Stabilization Specialist Amanda Stadler, who coordinates the cleanups each year.

The neighborhood cleanup program is part of the City's Great Neighborhoods initiative and is eligible for points in the Great Neighborhoods recognition program, which awards yearly grants to registered neighborhood organizations to fund neighborhood improvements. For more information about the program, visit [springfieldmo.gov/greatneighborhoods](http://springfieldmo.gov/greatneighborhoods).

▶ see Cleanups on page 2



Becky Cox and Cheyenne Ogden volunteer at the Heart of the Westside neighborhood cleanup March 4.

## Great to hear from you!

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your great response to the first edition of SGF Neighborhood News in January. For our first edition, we did a one-time mailing of just over 21,000 copies to 10 Springfield neighborhoods, and distributed another 10,000 by hand across the city via neighborhood representatives, Springfield Public Schools, Springfield-Greene County Parks facilities and libraries.

We heard from hundreds of you by phone, e-mail, through our Web site at [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](http://SGFNeighborhoodNews.com), and good old-fashioned postal mail that you'd like to receive this FREE newspaper in your mailbox and/or inbox each quarter.

If you haven't subscribed yet, see the subscription card on page 24, or visit us at [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](http://SGFNeighborhoodNews.com) to sign up. Our publishing dates are January, April, July and October.

Some of you have asked about advertising. We don't accept paid advertising, but your informational submissions are welcome. In addition to City departments and services, you may notice display ads from public-sector agencies and organizations with whom the City of Springfield has governmental agreements, such as Springfield Public Schools, Greene County and the CVB.

Please send your articles, photos and events to [mhaase@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:mhaase@springfieldmo.gov). The content deadline for each edition is one month before that edition comes out: Dec. 1, March 1, June 1 and Sept. 1.

SGF Neighborhood News is produced by the City of Springfield's Department of Public Information. Our purpose is to increase communication and interaction among registered Springfield neighborhoods, the City, community service agencies, nonprofits and the business and faith communities. If you're not sure what registered neighborhood you live in, see the map on page 19.



### Editor's Note

If your neighborhood has not registered with the City, but wishes to, please contact Alana Owen in the City's Planning and Development department at 417-864-1831 or [aowen@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:aowen@springfieldmo.gov).

Our editorial board consists of City, public service agencies (Police, Fire, Health Department and Parks) and Community Partnership of the Ozarks employees, and neighborhood officers and representatives.

We understand that it's often a challenge for neighborhoods to produce a regular newsletter, which is why we're offering our resources and expertise. Our intention is to supplement (not replace) existing neighborhood communication efforts, as well as shine a light on all of the great things going on in neighborhoods across SGF.

"SGF" stands for Springfield, and is the airport code for the Springfield-Branson National Airport. It serves as a unique identifier, designating OUR Springfield (the most populous Springfield in the U.S., according to Wikipedia) from the other 34 across the United States.

Thanks again for picking up this issue of SGF Neighborhood News. Have a great spring, and we'll pick back up with you in July!

- Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

## Welcome to the Spring 2017 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.

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Volunteers Travon Cooper and Thomas Hawkins unload brush from a pickup into a dumpster during a neighborhood cleanup event.

Each year, neighborhood cleanups serve approximately 900 households and remove more than 175 tons of bulk waste (furniture, mattresses, appliances and other large items), scrap metal and brush from Springfield neighborhoods. Items that cannot be accepted at the cleanups include tires, TVs, computer monitors, hazardous waste (paint, oil, varnish or fluorescent bulbs) or any other item that poses a threat to the public.

Volunteers are needed to transport and unload large items at the Dumpster sites.

Heart of the Westside Neighborhood's cleanup March 4 resulted in the disposal of several tons of trash, scrap metal and yardwaste.

"Our cleanup went well. We had help from Passion Assembly Church and Hands On for Seniors. We completed about 18 cleanup projects, and we had over 30 pickups," Heart of the Westside President Tammy Haynes said. "The properties that had been turned into the City for trash accumulation were our first priority, and we will continue to work with those families."

## ELEVATE

The Elevate program assisted Heart of the Westside with its spring cleanup and performed additional neighborhood improvement projects March 4. The program has committed to doing the same for Weller, Tom Watkins and Grant Beach at their upcoming cleanups in April, May and June.

Volunteers from local churches will work alongside neighbors to clear brush, haul trash and debris, mow lawns, perform minor repairs, paint and work in neighborhood community gardens.

Volunteers from Hands on for Seniors was also on-site to assist Heart of the Westside neighbors with exterior home maintenance tasks.

## ROCK THE BLOCK

Habitat for Humanity will again "Rock the Block" in Woodland Heights during its April 8 cleanup with 200 volunteers from various churches.

Last fall, Thrivent Financial and more than 100 volunteers from CoxHealth repaired and spruced up three homes and completed more than 17 projects in a one-day blitz to revitalize the neighborhood.

"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," said Habitat's Melissa Adler. "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," she added.

## WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

- **April 8: Robberson Neighborhood Cleanup**  
8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at Central Baptist Church, 2148 N. National. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

### Woodland Heights Neighborhood Cleanup

8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at Reed Academy, 2000 N. Lyon. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

- **April 22: Midtown Neighborhood Cleanup**  
8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at the Cox North parking lot, 1471 N. Benton. Items accepted are trash, brush, leaves and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

### Weller Neighborhood Cleanup

8 a.m.-noon, Weller Community Church, 1624 E. Blaine. Items accepted are trash, brush, metal. Curbside pickup is not available.

- **April 29: Bradford Park Neighborhood Cleanup**  
8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at 1370 E. Walnut Lawn. Items accepted are trash, brush, leaves and metal and TVs (fees may apply for TVs). Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

### Doling Neighborhood Cleanup

8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at Christ the King Church, 2537 N. Broadway. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

- **May 6: Tom Watkins Neighborhood Cleanup**  
8 a.m.-1 p.m. Dumpsters will be located at Williams Elementary, 2205 W. Kearney. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.
- **May 13: Westside Neighborhood Cleanup**  
8 a.m.-1 p.m. Dumpsters will be located at Study Alternative School, 2343 W. Olive.
- **May 20: Phelps Grove Neighborhood Cleanup**  
8 a.m.-1 p.m., MSU parking lot 18 at Dollison and Grand. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is not available.

### Rountree Neighborhood Cleanup

8 a.m.-noon, University Heights Church, 1010 S. National. Items accepted are trash, brush, leaves and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

- **June 3: Bissett Neighborhood Cleanup**  
8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at Bissett Elementary, 3014 W. Calhoun. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

### Grant Beach Neighborhood Cleanup

8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at the Assemblies of God parking lot, 1445 N. Boonville. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

## WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

If you'd like to volunteer, please sign up at [GivePulse.com](http://GivePulse.com).

## WHY ARE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS IMPORTANT?

Neighborhood cleanup events can benefit communities in many ways. The most obvious benefit is the ability to beautify your neighborhood by removing large quantities of garbage, brush, and more from the area. A secondary benefit is the ability to unite people in your neighborhood under a common purpose — an effort that provides you with the opportunity to have a positive impact on your neighborhood.

**Public health:** A clean neighborhood is a healthy neighborhood. We all know the hazards that outdoor clutter can create by attracting rodents, mosquitoes, feral cats and other pests. These health problems are easily prevented by keeping your neighborhood clean.

**Quality of life:** Studies show that our surroundings have a profound impact on our well-being. A clean neighborhood free of trash will contribute to an enhanced quality of life for residents. This can, in turn, have a positive impact on image, property values, and other social and economic aspects of your neighborhood.

**Neighborhood pride:** Creating pride is something so basic, yet so important. Neighborhoods can easily fall into disrepair and despair; however, when people care, we are able to maintain and improve the place that we call home.

**Bringing people together:** A neighborhood cleanup event brings residents together to achieve a common goal. The simple act of participation is the very foundation that strong neighborhoods are built on. Through your neighborhood cleanup, community relationships and connections will be formed that will lead to success in future endeavors and help your neighborhood to prosper.

If you are a resident of a registered neighborhood and need assistance participating in the cleanup, please contact your neighborhood association president.



Pastor Billy Cockrum of Passion Assembly grew up in Heart of the Westside and volunteered with his church to give back to the neighborhood.



## Spring cleanup reminder: open burning not allowed in city limits

By Cara Erwin, Fire Department, for SGFNN

For many of us, spring is a time for cleaning both the inside and outside of our homes. As you look for options to dispose of your yard waste, the Springfield Fire Department reminds you that open burning is not permitted within the city limits without a permit.

Burning debris, yard waste, copper wiring and other items is never permitted in Springfield. If you witness outdoor burning, call 911. If caught burning illegally, you could be written a citation.



To properly dispose of yard waste, consider taking advantage of the City of Springfield's Yardwaste Recycling Center. It's located near the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant at 3772 County Road 119 in

Brookline. Beginning the first Tuesday in April, the center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Through the third Sunday in May, the center is also open Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The services are available for residents of Springfield and Greene County.

While most outdoor burning is illegal within the city limits, certain recreational fires are allowed if they are no more than 5 by 5 by 5 feet in dimension, and they burn for no longer than four hours. Fuel for a recreational fire should consist only of seasoned dry firewood and should be ignited by a small piece of paper. The size and duration of the fire may be increased only upon approval of the Fire Prevention division of the Fire Department. Wind speeds for the duration of the fire may be no greater than 15 miles per hour.

Learn more about the Yardwaste Recycling Center at [springfieldmo.gov](http://springfieldmo.gov) or call 417-864-1904.

## HERO Program offers affordable option for making home efficiency improvements

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Springfieldians now have access to the Home Energy Renovation Opportunity (HERO) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program, which enables homeowners to make home efficiency improvements and to pay for them over time through their property tax bills.

HERO financing payments may have tax benefits, and many homeowners see immediate savings on energy bills by investing in efficiency or renewable energy upgrades.

HERO funds up to 100 percent of the home improvement, and HERO interest rates are fixed and competitive with other options. The term of the financing is based on the useful life of the product, up to 20 years, which spreads out the cost over time. Interest on HERO payments may be tax-deductible, and a recent study showed homes with PACE assessments recovered 100 percent or more of the investment at time of resale.



Homeowners interested in applying for HERO financing or who wish to learn more should visit [heroprogram.com](http://heroprogram.com). Contractors interested in offering HERO financing can register at [register.renovateamerica.com](http://register.renovateamerica.com).

For more information about HERO, visit [renovateamerica.com](http://renovateamerica.com).

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For info about HELP, the City's home improvement loan program, see page 17.



### LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE HOME?

The City of Springfield's Affordable Housing Program assists qualified applicants looking for housing. For more information, give us a call - 417-864-1039.

[springfieldmo.gov/2387/Affordable-Housing-Loan-Program](http://springfieldmo.gov/2387/Affordable-Housing-Loan-Program)



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## Public invited to share ideas for the future of Hazelwood Municipal Cemetery

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

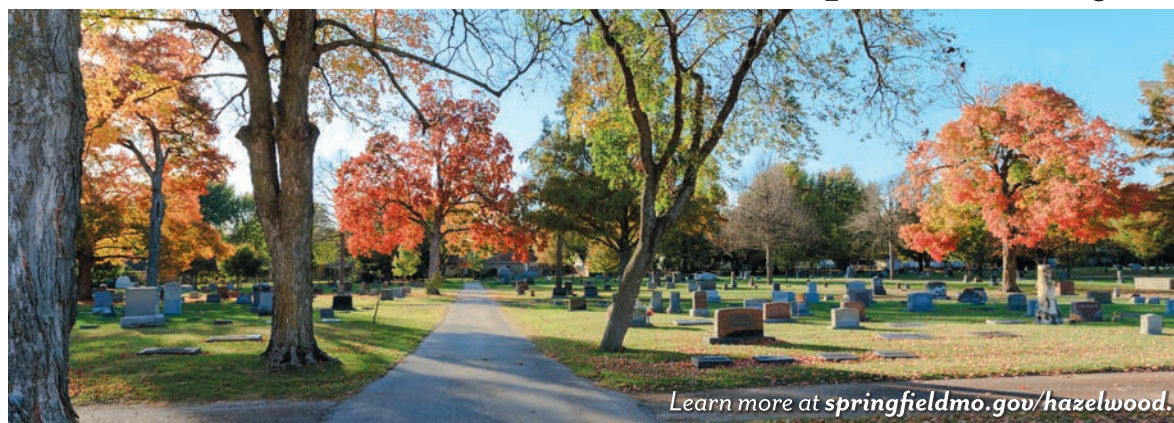
Neighbors, patrons, historians and interested citizens are invited to participate in a visioning process to develop a long-term plan for the future of Springfield's historic Hazelwood Municipal Cemetery.

With the help of Drury University's Hammons School of Architecture, this vision will be developed over a series of four public workshops, the first of which was Tuesday, Feb. 7 at the Schweitzer-Brentwood Branch Library Community Room (2214 S. Brentwood Blvd.). Drury students will research, explore, evaluate and prioritize a range of community values shared throughout the process and present recommendations for potential improvements to the cemetery at a final presentation planned for early May.

Proposed improvements could help Hazelwood keep up with changing industry trends, increase visibility and vehicle access, and improve Public Works facilities located on cemetery grounds.

### ABOUT HAZELWOOD

Hazelwood will mark its 150th anniversary in October. Located at 1642 E. Seminole in Springfield, it is maintained by Public Works' Public Grounds division. It is the largest municipal cemetery in the state with 60 acres and over 44,000 grave spaces. The



Learn more at [springfieldmo.gov/hazelwood](http://springfieldmo.gov/hazelwood).

cemetery is still actively selling grave spaces.

Hazelwood is the final resting place of many notable Springfieldians, including Springfield founder John Polk Campbell; Mayor, Congressman and Judge Sempronius (Pony) Boyd; and Route 66 visionary John T. Woodruff.

The cemetery was established in 1867. The 80 acres of land it sits on was, at that time, located 2.5 miles outside of the Springfield city limits. Graves were relocated from the old municipal cemetery (near Campbell Avenue and State Street) and the North Springfield Cemetery (near Campbell Avenue and Atlantic Street).

Ten acres at the northeast corner of Hazelwood were secured by the federal government for use as a national cemetery for Civil War soldiers.

### WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

All visioning meetings will take place at the Schweitzer-Brentwood Branch Library Community Room (2214 S. Brentwood Blvd.)

- 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 11
- 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9: Final Presentation of Recommendations



# TULIP provides special event insurance opportunity

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

The City of Springfield continues to refine the special event permitting process as more people and organizations take to the City streets and facilities for all types of festivities. Staging a special event can be a challenging, time-consuming and expensive process, so the Department of Public Information would like to help event planners make the experience as enjoyable as possible.

To assist with securing insurance needed to host a safe and successful event, the City has arranged access to a third-party Tenant Users Liability Insurance Policy, or TULIP. The TULIP 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 City does not require, or even encourage use of the TULIP for special event insurance coverage, but is providing access to it as a service to assist those who may be struggling to secure event insurance. The City does not benefit from the use of TULIP or receive any funds through this program.

## WHAT IS A TULIP PROGRAM?

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.

Events may range from seminars, receptions and weddings, to sporting events and concerts. Your premium quote is based upon the risk associated with the given event or activity, the number of days coverage is needed, the number of attendees and if there are any special requirements, such as alcohol liability, food service, etc.

## HOW DOES TULIP WORK?

When you are applying for a special event permit at [springfieldmo.gov](http://springfieldmo.gov), you can decide on a participating venue or facility for your event.

Any applicant interested in obtaining the City-required general liability insurance coverage for a special event can visit:

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

Then click on "Purchase or Quote." This is located about half-way down on the right-hand side.

- For applicants requesting to hold an event on City property, including a street, **but not involving any Parks property** – the applicant should enter this code: *City of Springfield: 4547-000*.

- For applicants requesting to hold an event on Parks property or an event on both City and Parks property, the applicant should enter this code: *Springfield-Greene County Park Board: 4547-001*.

Follow the online process to enter this ID code and answer a few basic questions about your event to receive an online quote.

If you decide to purchase coverage through the program, you can simply enter your credit card information and secure the coverage online.

Once you complete the purchase, a Certificate of Insurance will be immediately generated and forwarded to the appropriate City/Parks contact person to satisfy part of the City's special event permit insurance requirements. Please note that the TULIP will not provide any workers compensation coverage, which the City requires certain events to include.

If you have any questions about the coverage or the application, contact One Beacon directly at 1-800-507-8414. Unfortunately, not every event will be eligible for coverage under the TULIP. Below is a list of ineligible events.

**Animals:** Animal Acts and Shows; Exotic Animal Shows and Events; Saddle Animals

**Attractions:** Boat Shows; Bounce House; Carnivals; Circuses; DJ/Rave; Evangelistic Faith Healing

Meetings; Fireworks; Gun Shows; Hot Air Balloon Rides; Inflatables; Knife Shows; Pyrotechnics; War Games/Reenactments.

**Concerts:** DJ/Rave; Heavy Metal; Hip Hop; Metal Bands; Punk; Rap; Ska.

**Fairs:** Health Fairs; Renaissance Fairs/Festivals.

**Instructional Classes:** CPR; Drivers Education

**Mechanical Events:** Mechanical Amusement Devices; Mechanical Bulls; Motorized Sporting Events; Roller Coasters/Sky Coasters.

**Sales Events:** Flea Markets; Rummage Sales – Not for Charity; Sidewalk Sales; Swap Meets.

**Sports and Physical Activities:** Bicycle Rallies, Races or Events; Bungee Jumping; Hang Gliding; Laser Tag; Luge; Marathons – Attendance over 500; Motorized Sporting Events; Paint Ball; Parachuting; Parasailing; Professional Sports; Rodeo/Roping Events – Professional; Skate Boarding; Ski Events; Sky Diving; Slam Dancing; Swimming and Pool Facilities; Tobogganing; Trampolines; Wall Climbing; Water Events; Water Slides.

**Other:** Film Production; Bounce House; DJ/Rave; Hot Air Balloon Rides; Mosh Pits; Overnight Camping; Overnight Retreats; Gun Shows; Inflatables; Knife Shows; Photography; Tractor Pulls; War Games/Reenactments.



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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.

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**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	Ren Luebbering
Sheri Beatty	Kristen Milam
Christina Dicken	Mark Montgomery
Jenny Fillmer Edwards	Kathleen O'Dell
Cara Erwin	Alana Owen
Mary Kay Glunt	Pete Radecki
Jacque Harness	Joe Roberds
Tammy Haynes	Megan Short
Anita Kuhns	Sharon Spain

**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

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Betty Green	Cora Scott
Melissa Haase	Roxanne Bedell-Taylor
Tammy Haynes	Becky Volz
Andrew Herr	

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

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## Next Fix-It Fair June 3 at Midtown library

By Jacque Harness, CPO, for SGFNN

Throw it away? No way! Springfieldians brought their household appliances, computers, bicycles and clothes for a new lease on life at Springfield's first-ever Fix-it Fair Saturday, March 11, in the upstairs meeting room of the Midtown Carnegie Library, 390 E. Central.

The Springfield Tool Library, a project of Community Partnership of the Ozarks, in partnership with the Springfield-Greene County Library District and the Queen City Beard and Mustache Federation, sponsored the event.

Volunteer experts were on hand and eager to lend their fix-it expertise for free, resulting in rewired lamps, hemmed clothing and other great fixes. One fixer was even able to replace a broken switch plate using the library's Makerbot 3-D printer.

"The Fix-It Fair provided a great opportunity to share skills, build community, and promote sustainability," said Amanda Stadler, who coordinates the Springfield Tool Library. Organizers hope to offer the event on a quarterly basis. Mark your calendar for the next event on Saturday, June 3, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Midtown Carnegie Library.

For more information on the Springfield Tool

Library or to volunteer your time and talent for future events, please contact Amanda Stadler at [astadler@cpozarks.org](mailto:astadler@cpozarks.org) or 417-888-2020.



### Springfield TOOL LIBRARY

#### ABOUT THE SPRINGFIELD TOOL LIBRARY

The Springfield Tool Library offers drills, tillers, and more — for only \$20 per year! The program has an inventory of over 100 home repair, gardening, and DIY tools available for check-out. Annual memberships are only \$20 per household, and members can check out up to five items for a one-week period.

The Tool Library is located at 1471 N. Benton Ave. and is open 3-6 p.m. on Wednesdays. Additional openings are available by appointment only. Please call 888-2020 for more information.

Joining the Springfield Tool Library is simple, and your membership fee helps purchase new tools.



Are you planning to do-it-yourself for a long time, and save some money? If so, consider joining the Springfield Tool Library as a life-time member, for only \$200. Additionally, gift certificates to the Springfield Tool Library make a great gift!

There are several ways that you can help make the Springfield Tool Library a successful and sustainable program.

**Help spread the word.** Tell people about the Springfield Tool Library.

**Donate your time.** The Springfield Tool Library is always looking for creative ways to partner with area businesses and residents. If you are interested in sponsoring a class, please fill out the form at [commpartnership.org](http://commpartnership.org). If you are interested in volunteering with us, please fill out a volunteer application at [commpartnership.org/volunteer](http://commpartnership.org/volunteer).

**Donate your tools.** Cleaning out your garage or basement? Got some extra tools laying around? The Springfield Tool Library is a program of Community Partnership of the Ozarks, a registered 501(C)(3) non-profit. That means any donations to the Library, whether monetary or in the form of tools, are tax deductible! View our wish list: [commpartnership.org](http://commpartnership.org).

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of the Springfield Tool Library, or donating tools/funds to the library, please contact us. Sponsorship options include promotion through social media, logos placed on membership cards, Tool Library literature, or even the tools themselves!

The Tool Library is the only program of its kind in the state and is one of 75 lending programs throughout the country.

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) offers free, reliable tax prep

By Jacque Harness, CPO, for SGFNN

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is an important program in our community. VITA provides free tax preparation through IRS-certified volunteers. Last year 52 volunteers prepared over 2,000 tax returns and saved taxpayers \$500,000 in tax preparation fees. Nearly \$1 million in federal tax refunds were returned to our community.

Currently, the VITA program, in cooperation with Community Partnership of the Ozarks and the Across the Lifespan Coalition, is offering free assistance to taxpayers through April 13. IRS-certified volunteers are available by appointment to file federal 1040 returns, and find credits you may not know you're eligible to receive.

If you're interested in more information about this

program or in volunteering, please contact Hannah Sheehan at [hsheehan@cpozarks.org](mailto:hsheehan@cpozarks.org) or 417-888-2020.

Tax clinic locations are in Springfield and Battlefield on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday mornings. Clinics are by appointment only — call 417-720-2000 to reserve a spot.

In order to be eligible for assistance through the VITA program, households must have made \$55,000 or less in 2016. VITA clinics cannot file for foreign exchange students, taxpayers who own rental property, previous year or amended returns, or taxpayers who have filed for bankruptcy in the past year.

For taxpayers age 60 and over, free assistance is available by appointment from Tax Counseling for the Elderly at 417-862-0762.



# Don't zone out! What to do if a rezoning request comes to your neighborhood

By Alana Owen, Planning & Development, for SGFNN



Most citizens understandably “zone out” on the topic of zoning — and rezoning — until it comes to their backyard. In a nutshell, zoning controls the development of property by governing two aspects of land use. First, the uses permitted within a given zoning district are identified, and second, the amount of buildable area is regulated.

Every parcel in Springfield has a zoning classification. Zoning laws help preserve property values, protect neighborhoods, provide opportunities for economic growth and ensure that the City is well-planned. In general, zoning is divided into three major classifications: Residential, Commercial, and Industrial. The zoning district determines the building height, lot coverage, setbacks from right of way and adjacent properties. The zoning ordinance also specifies the amount of parking required for each use and the size and number of signs permitted, along with other development parameters.

P&Z Commission members are appointed by City Council and serve without compensation. The members hold office for four-year terms and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The City's Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan guide the decisions of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**The steps involved in the public hearing and rezoning process include:**

1. Application is submitted to the Planning and Development department and reviewed for accuracy and completeness.
2. A neighborhood meeting is held at least 21 days before a proposal goes before the Planning and Zoning Commission. All residents and organized neighborhood associations within 500 feet are notified by mail at least 10 days in advance. The attendance list, comments and questions from the neighborhood meeting are included with the documents that go to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council.
3. Public hearing date is set.
4. Signs are posted on the property. This may be the first information surrounding residents have regarding the pending change of zoning (at least 10 days prior to the public hearing).
5. Letters are mailed to property owners within 185 feet of the proposed rezoning area notifying them of the public hearing (at least 10 days prior to the public hearing). The proposal is also published in The Daily Events at least 15 days prior to the public hearing.
6. Public hearing is held. The P&Z Commission holds public hearings on more than one zoning request at a meeting.
7. The Commission takes the matter under advisement and recommends (or does not recommend) the proposal to City Council, which makes the final decision.

**Here's how you can stay on top of a rezoning request in your neighborhood:**

Be aware of when something is occurring in the neighborhood. Watch for the bright orange zoning signs placed on a piece of property. Also, be aware of receiving notification through the mail regarding a neighborhood meeting and public hearings before the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council about the project. Being active in your neighborhood association can also help to make you aware of when a proposal has been made in your neighborhood.

**Be informed.** Once you know there is a proposal, find out the details about what is being proposed. You can contact the development review division in the Planning department to get more information about the request and important dates related to the project.

**Attend the neighborhood meeting.** This is a great opportunity to find out more about the project, ask questions and voice support for or concerns about the request. Projects are sometimes changed based on feedback and communication received at the neighborhood meeting.

**Let your voice be heard.** Plan to attend the public hearings before the P&Z Commission and City Council. This is your opportunity to let the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council know your concerns regarding the proposal or support for the project. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you can also write a letter or send an e-mail prior to the public hearings, and that information will be forwarded for consideration at the hearing.

For more information about building and zoning, visit [springfieldmo.gov/zoning](http://springfieldmo.gov/zoning).

## A new life for Timmons Temple

By Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Park Board, for SGFNN

For more than 80 years, Timmons Temple Church of God in Christ served as a church home in Springfield's African-American community.

Today, volunteers are working hard to breathe new life into the historic building.

Friends of Timmons Temple are working hard to complete renovations inside and out, following the church's 2015 relocation to Silver Springs Park.

By then, the congregation had outgrown the rock masonry church on east Webster Street, bought a new building and moved out. The old building was sold and slated for demolition, to make way for new apartments.

That's where Friends of Timmons Temple stepped in, working with the developer to save the building, and raising donations to move it 600 feet, into the nearby park.

Paula Ringer, co-chair of Friends of Timmons Temple, said the church was preserved because of its historic significance as well as its unique stone exterior, including ornate rock sunburst patterns also found in retaining walls in Silver Springs Park.

“(Pastor) Timmons himself brought limestone from Jordan Creek to the construction site by mule and wagon,” said Ringer. “And most of the field rock on the back of the church, that was from the construction site. It was a labor of love that built this building, for everyone that was involved in it.”

Since its relocation, Friends of Timmons Temple has continued raising funds and working with



contractors to renovate the building. The building now has a new roof; connection to water, sanitary sewer and electric service; plumbing, framing and installation of new restrooms; new exterior concrete steps, ramp and sidewalks, and new wiring and lighting. Much of the work has been donated through the Building and Construction Trade Council of Springfield and Vicinity, which coordinated work through its apprenticeship program.

Still on the list: refinishing the building's pine floors, plaster repair, restoration of painted wainscoting, new heating and air conditioning, and restoration of the stone work on the front porch, and indoor and outdoor interpretive displays to help tell the story of Timmons Temple. Ringer said she hopes the project is complete by the end of 2017.



When finished, Timmons Temple will serve the community as an event center, operated by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

Ringer said one thing that helps inspire her to see the massive project through is the thought of music returning to the building.

“People would line up along the sidewalk in the summertime just to hear the music coming from the church,” she said. “Some people say it sounded like a jazz concert. The thought of having music, it just breathes life into the building. It'll bring back something that was always there.”

The Timmons Temple renovation is financed entirely by donations and in-kind labor, with the fund managed by Community Foundation of the Ozarks. Fundraising efforts continue at [friendsoftimmonstemple.org](http://friendsoftimmonstemple.org).



# Firm completes phase I of Kearney Street redevelopment study

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor



Springfield's proudest north sider is determined to see a retail renaissance of Kearney Street.

Since becoming the Zone 1 City Council representative in April 2015, Phyllis Ferguson has championed Springfield's north side. A

Woodland Heights resident, Ferguson has been deeply involved in City and community efforts to address the quality of life issues experienced by many in northwest Springfield.

"Economic development is probably the most powerful instrument we have for reducing poverty and improving quality of life in underserved areas," Ferguson says.

That's why she's looking forward to the full results of a market study that's being conducted on behalf of the City by planning firm PGAV to look at current business patterns and future opportunities for retail and commercial development along Kearney Street between Kansas Expressway and Glenstone Avenue. PGAV presented its preliminary findings from field work and a public input survey conducted in January and February to City Council Feb. 7.

"PGAV has great experience advising cities large and small about community redevelopment projects and we are confident they will provide us an excellent roadmap to help Kearney Street and the surrounding neighborhoods thrive," says interim Economic Development Director Sarah Kerner. "The key takeaway we hope to receive from the market study is identifying the best economic development tools to revitalize the Kearney Street corridor. We recognize that we may have to get creative and go beyond the types of incentives that we typically use."

The City held an open house in January at Library Station for citizens to share their ideas for Kearney Street and took comments through an online survey throughout the month of January.

Survey results indicated the majority of respondents most often visit Kearney Street eight or more times each month for shopping and dining on weekday afternoons and evenings. Respondents also indicated that they'd like to see improved sidewalks, landscaped areas in the median, street signs and banners and bicycle lanes. Preferred housing types for future development were mixed-use and single family homes.

Those who attended the open house indicated they'd like to see more full-service dining establishments on Kearney Street, including a microbrewery, a Route 66-themed restaurant, and a high-end grocery store such as Hy-Vee or Whole Foods. Other ideas included an ice cream store inside Hiland Dairy. On the wish list for shopping options on Kearney are a craft store, department stores such as Target, Kohl's, Bed Bath & Beyond and locally owned shops. Attendees also indicated they'd like to see family-friendly entertainment options available again on Kearney Street, such as a movie theatre, bowling alley, miniature golf course or skating rink.

"I've been shopping on Kearney Street since the 1970s," Ferguson says. "My mom's cousin managed the Dryer's Shoes in the Hillcrest Shopping Center, which was the anchor. It had a Consumers grocery store in it, as well as Holiday Lanes bowling alley and other businesses. It was a bustling part of town and drew shoppers not just from Springfield, but from the bedroom communities north, east and west."

"Cruising" Kearney Street was a rite of passage for many Ozarks teens well into the 1990s, until a city-wide cruising ordinance was adopted.

Due to the development of the Battlefield Mall and Springfield's expansion southward, Ferguson says little by little, retail shopping and full-service restaurants began to disappear from the street.

"We've seen the evolution of blight on Kearney Street. We have people who live on the north side of Springfield and want to make purchases, but have to go to the south side of town to find what they're looking for," Ferguson says.

She added that she thinks Kearney Street could also benefit from adding green space and becoming more pedestrian- and bicyclist-friendly.

"We have several tools in our economic development toolbox that we could utilize to draw businesses in, so I am very optimistic about the future of Kearney Street," Ferguson says.

PGAV has completed phase 1 of the study, which included an assessment of physical conditions within the corridor, such as age of buildings, vacancy rates, and sidewalk condition; a market analysis to determine opportunities in the retail, office and residential sectors; and a public workshop.

The study found that while office demand in Springfield is currently being met, there are opportunities for retail on Kearney that would serve the surrounding residents as well as shoppers in outlying communities. Specifically, the study identified grocery stores as the strongest retail opportunity in the corridor, followed by electronics and appliance stores, health and personal care stores, and clothing stores.

The public input survey and community meeting engaged an enthusiastic group of citizens who have a strong desire to see new grocery and restaurant options, additional retail shopping options, and family-friendly entertainment along Kearney Street. The largest number of participants in the online survey came from the area immediately surrounding and north of the corridor (ZIP code 65803), followed by areas immediately south of the corridor (ZIP codes 65802 and 65806).

Next up for the project is defining sites within the corridor to target for development, and recommendations regarding economic development incentives the City may need to approve in order to spur new investment in the target areas. PGAV expects to finish its work in April or May and will present a final report to City Council at that time.

Learn more at [springfieldmo.gov/kearneystreet](http://springfieldmo.gov/kearneystreet).



## Job Center now accepting applications for Ozarks' Promise health care training program

By Megan Short, Missouri Job Center, for SGFNN

The Ozark Region Workforce Development Board and Missouri Job Center are now accepting applications for the Ozarks' Promise health care training program.

Applications are being accepted online at **OzarksPromise.com** or at the main location, 2900 E Sunshine, Springfield. The program is funded through the \$3 million America's Promise Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and will provide 372 individuals the opportunity for tuition-free training and certifications to become Certified Nursing Assistants, Behavioral Health Specialists, and Registered Nurses. Follow Ozarks' Promise's Facebook page to keep up with the latest updates.

**Certified Nursing Assistant:** Classes are scheduled to begin mid-to-late May 2017 for the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program. The CNA program lasts eight weeks and will be offered exclusively at the Ozarks Technical Community College Table Rock campus.

**Behavioral Health Specialist:** The Behavioral Health Support (BHS) Associate Degree program will be offered exclusively at the OTC Springfield campus. Classes are scheduled to begin in the fall semester of 2017. The program can be completed in as little as 19 months. General education courses can be taken before or during the program.

**Registered Nurse:** Current Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) who are interested in becoming a Registered Nurse (RN), are encouraged to apply

for the Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) program which will also be offered exclusively at the

OTC Springfield campus. Classes are scheduled to begin in the fall semester of 2017, and can be completed in as little as nine months. Additional pre-requisite courses may be required prior to program acceptance.

Applicants must meet all pre-admission requirements determined by each program.





## Connect with the City via Citizen Resource Center

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Need to report a sewer backup? What about an abandoned vehicle, excessive noise, sidewalk or street problem? If you have a City-related request, problem or complaint, the Citizen Resource Center can help you resolve it.

The Citizen Resource Center, located on the first floor of the Busch Municipal Building, enables the City to work directly with citizens to solve issues affecting the entire community.

In addition to stopping by in person, citizens can reach the center by phone at 417-864-1010 or can report their concern on [springfieldmo.gov](http://springfieldmo.gov) or by using the City's mobile app, **GoSpringfieldMO**. The app even allows users to upload a photo.

The center's resource coordinators Claudia Crighton, Sherry Jacobson and Regina Crumrine direct citizen requests, questions and problems to the departments that can best implement change

or provide answers, and follow up to ensure needs are met. The three interact with hundreds of citizens each day in person, over the phone and online. Once a service request is made, they enter the information about the concern into a database that is shared across City departments. From there, the departments may send an inspector to evaluate the situation. Citizens can contact the CRC at any time for an update on the resolution process.

"Creating a one-stop resource center for citizens was something I had wanted to do for a long time," Crighton says. "We want to be as accessible and as visible as possible so we can serve our citizens the best we can."



## Public Can Access the Internet Anywhere with Library Wi-Fi Hot Spots

By Kathleen O'Dell, for SGFNN

Do you need the Internet at home to pay bills, complete an online job application or finish a school project? Is Internet access essential on your next road trip?

Not everyone with a computer has Internet service, but it's essential for accomplishing many everyday tasks. The Springfield-Greene County Library District hopes to help bridge that "digital divide" by providing Wi-Fi "hot spots" that library card holders can check out and connect to the Internet with their home computers, laptops and other Wi-Fi-enabled devices.

The new service, which launched Feb. 1, 2016, expands possibilities for students and adults without Internet access. They work in areas of the community served by Sprint.

Library card holders can request a hot spot:

- at the Library Station, the Ash Grove and Willard branch libraries;
- or by requesting one at [thelibrary.org/catalog](http://thelibrary.org/catalog), searching the subject "Hot Spots" and have it delivered to their nearest library branch;
- or by calling one of the 10 library branches.

A card holder of any age may check out one of the 38 pocket-size devices for three weeks at a time. Renewals are permitted if there's no waiting list. The device will be de-activated 24 hours after

the due date, and late fee is 10 cents per day, like other library materials. Hot spots can be returned at any library branch or book drop.

The devices come with a simple how-to card inside the sturdy carrying case, and hot spots can be used anywhere in the United States, but coverage may vary.

A 2015 Pew Research Center analysis of survey data showed that 15 percent of U.S. adults don't use the Internet, and 19 percent of those cited the expense of Internet service or owning a computer.

"One of the big advantages of us checking out hot spots is that many people live in rural areas of the county where Internet access is not available," said Library Associate Director Jim Schmidt.

"Technology and access is the centerpiece to that," Schmidt added. "You can't do anything if you can't connect. I think that's why it's really important. Rural Greene County, unless you're willing to pay a high price and have a big satellite dish on top of your house, is not going to have speedy Internet access. So I think this is going to help everyone."



## New City video series highlights life in north SGF

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor



With its unique heritage as a separate city from 1871 to 1887, north Springfield is rich with art and culture, established neighborhoods with reasonably priced homes,

friendly neighbors — and a fierce independence.

In a new video series produced by the City of Springfield — called Love Life, Live North — proud north siders talk about why they choose to live — and love — life on Springfield's north side.

Three videos have been completed thus far, featuring Woodland Heights' Steve Miller and Linda Passeri, and Westside's Sandi Huston, with more are on the way. If you haven't seen them yet, view them at [sgfneighborhoodnews.com](http://sgfneighborhoodnews.com).

Know a proud north sider with an interesting story? Contact Melissa Haase at 417-864-1003 or [mhaase@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:mhaase@springfieldmo.gov).

## The chemicals you keep in your home could harm you!



Safely dispose of unused or expired chemicals through Springfield's Household Chemical Collection Center.

**OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**  
**Call 417-864-2000 to schedule.**





## Park Board Scholarship Fund—what is it?

By Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Park Board, for SGFNN

Believe it or not, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board Scholarship Fund does not send kids to college. At least, not directly.

It's actually designed for younger kids, age 18 and under, who want to play soccer or take ballet lessons or go to summer camp.

The scholarship fund allows income-qualifying youth to participate in fee-based Park Board sports, before- and after-school programs, summer camps and other activities designed to build skills and confidence while maintaining healthy lifestyles.

Recipients must live in Greene County and qualify for free- or reduced-price school lunch qualifications (or meet similar income guidelines). Scholarships are awarded weekly, based on need and availability of funds. Annual limits have recently increased to \$170 per child — enough for kids to try several different activities or stick with one throughout the year.

Since 2008, the fund has awarded more than 6,800 scholarships — helping hundreds of kids develop

new skills, get exercise, boost self-confidence and have fun. Top requests include SPARC before- and after-school programs, summer day camps, pool passes, soccer, volleyball, basketball, tennis, t-ball and swimming lessons. A growing number of teens are using the scholarship fund to cover lifeguard training, giving them an employable skill and a way to make money over the summer!

Fundraisers like the Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk and the Price Cutter Charity Championship generate most of the scholarship funds. Private donations are also accepted — call 417-864-1049 or visit [ParkBoard.org/Donate](http://ParkBoard.org/Donate).

Studies show after-school programs and sports help boost kids' academic performance. So chances are, in the end, the Park Board Scholarship Fund really is helping to send kids to college!

Scholarship applications are available at [ParkBoard.org/Scholarships](http://ParkBoard.org/Scholarships) or at the Park Board's Administrative Offices at 1923 N. Weller Ave., Springfield.

**Check out other sports  
& enrichment activities  
that are low cost or have  
scholarships available:**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF SPRINGFIELD**

**Program Types:** Various sports and enrichment programs.

**Pricing & Scholarship Info:** \$10 registration fee; summer pricing is \$420 for entire summer. Limited scholarships are available until funds run out.

**Learn more:** [bgclubspringfield.org](http://bgclubspringfield.org)  
[facebook.com/bgclubspringfield.org](https://facebook.com/bgclubspringfield.org)

**Contact:** Chris Gray 417-869-4111  
[cgray@bgclubspringfield.org](mailto:cgray@bgclubspringfield.org)



**COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP**

*Working Together to Build Strong Communities*

**Program Type:** Enrichment programs.

**Pricing & Scholarship Info:** At this time all programs are free of charge!

**Learn more:** [cpozarks.org](http://cpozarks.org)  
[facebook.com/cpozarks](https://facebook.com/cpozarks)

**Contact:** Patricia Deck 417-888-2020  
[pdeck@cpozarks.org](mailto:pdeck@cpozarks.org)



**Program Types:** Various sports and enrichment programs.

**Pricing & Scholarship Info:** The Y offers scholarships for Summer Day Camp and all sports programs. Summer Day Camp also accepts State of Missouri daycare assistance. The Y's camps and sports programs are designed to have fun while building skills and self-confidence.

**Learn more:** [orymca.org](http://orymca.org)  
[facebook.com/patjonesymca](https://facebook.com/patjonesymca)

**Contact:** Sports: Colin Barnett 417-881-1599  
Camp: Courtney Simpkins 417-862-7465

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**SPARC DAY CAMPS  
BEFORE & AFTER EXPLORE**

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**Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park**

**Valley Water Mill Equestrian Camps**

**Zoo Camps at Dickerson Park Zoo**

**PARKBOARD.ORG/CAMPS**

**Free for All. Fun for All.**

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ENROLL NOW:  
[explore.spsk12.org](http://explore.spsk12.org)

**Make Your Mark!**

Explore is a free summer learning program for Springfield students, pre-k through high school.

**Free classes.  
Free field trips.  
Free breakfast.  
Free lunch.**



# As a community, we all win—or lose—together

By Pete Radecki, NAC Chair, for SGFNN

With all the controversy swirling around in Washington these days, and with our recent local election just completed, I got to thinking about what level of government has the most impact to our daily lives. Seems to me it is probably our local government — our City Council, county commissioners, and our school board. They set the rules for everything from what can and cannot be done on a given piece of property to setting speed limits on our streets, to providing a framework for commercial and residential development, to determining how our kids get educated. Importantly, more than at any other level, these elected officials live here. They are members of our community and live in our neighborhoods.

With each election cycle, such as the one just completed on April 4, our City Council has a fresh start regardless of whether it is comprised of many incumbents or new faces. The council members, and we as citizens, can commit to renewing relationships in a spirit of a fresh start, and look together to how best to advance Springfield. As with any election, that can be challenging given the stress and strain that elections impart. There will also no doubt be proclamations of various mandates presumed to be implicit in the voting outcomes. And from such perspectives can come all manner of responses: jubilation, fear and everything in between. We as a community develop best when we do not translate these emotions into counterproductive gamesmanship. In the end as a community we will all win or lose together.

As we move forward as a Neighborhood Advisory Council intent in our own way to help improve our neighborhoods via relationships with City Council, City staff and others, I think of comments made by Professors Jay Parini and Keegan Callanan in the wake of the shouting and rioting that made it impossible for an invited speaker to speak at their school, Middlebury College in Vermont:

"A good education produces modesty with respect to our intellectual powers and opinions as well as openness to considering contrary views. Only through the contest of clashing viewpoints do we have any hope of replacing mere opinion with knowledge. Genuine higher learning is possible only where free, reasoned, and civil speech and discussion are respected."

As members of our community, perhaps we too can be modest in admitting we don't know it all,



that we need to thoughtfully consider the views of others — whether well-spoken or not — as a basis for learning and working together.

As this new City Council cycle begins, NAC has offered a series of recommendations for consideration in the City's next budget cycle. Collectively they build from a philosophy that the health of our community is most directly and personally felt in our homes and neighborhoods. It extends out from there to the community as a whole including our business sector. Neighborhoods and commerce depend on each other and it is through our actions as members of our community, in our jobs and in relationships to our elected bodies that both sides of this dependency can be nurtured and advanced. After all, no company will want to relocate where there is unrelenting squalor and strife — regardless of the economic incentive packages offered. The key NAC recommendations offered are:

- **Continue efforts to restore a strong Neighborhood Planning Office** as a means to assure that need for both commercial and neighborhood development is maintained.
- **Build on successes achieved in community policing and crime reporting** by adding PAR officers and other activities that assure our police are seen by all as beneficial to our community.
- **Continue the Neighborhood Communications Initiative**, including this quarterly publication and its related Web site.

More details about these recommendations and many others can be found at [sgfneighborhoodnews.com/nac](http://sgfneighborhoodnews.com/nac).

Springtime in Springfield! What a great time for a renewed start!

—Peter Radecki, NAC Chair



“What are some of the first signs of spring in your neighborhood?”

“The crocuses in my front yard, flowering trees blooming, but most of all, the cardinals singing for a mate in the early morning before dawn.”

—Kathleen Cowens, West Central

“Dandelions in Washington Park.”

—Brian Shipman, Midtown

“Dozens of neighbors taking walks, riding bikes, playing outside with their children and/or dogs.”

—Dee Ogilvy, Midtown

“The daffodils.” —Christina Dicken, Doling

“In my neighborhood there are yellow daffodils and forsythia. There are also redbud trees (pink and white). Not sure if they are called serviceberry trees, and unfortunately the frost got the beautiful magnolia trees.”

—Carol McCarthy, Parkcrest

“Yellow daffodils by my back porch steps! I was shocked to see them full bloomed.”

—Becky Volz, Woodland Heights

“The first signs of spring in my neighborhood are, more neighbors walking, folks tidying up their yards and cleaning out their flower beds. We are delivering our first neighborhood newsletter of the year door-to-door, so we are finding neighbors happy to have an early spring.” —Dellene Nelson, Bradford Park

“Normally I would say when my spring flowers start to bloom, but this year they bloomed in February, so I'll have to go with when GBNA soccer season starts and there are over 100 kids in the park!” —Anita Kuhns, Grant Beach

“BLOOMing trees! We've got amazing blooming trees along Atlantic Street through Woodland Heights. They seem to have bloomed out overnight!” —Rhonda Ferguson, Woodland Heights

## TEAM GREENE NEEDS YOU!

**1**

The purpose of “Team Greene” is to develop a group of volunteers who will work in the information booths located in the Historic Courthouse and the Judicial Courts Building.

**2**

Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum daily shift of four and one-half hours per week. You must be 18 years of age or older to participate.

**3**

To VOLUNTEER: please contact Bob Cirtin, Greene County Presiding Commissioner, at 417-868-4112 or via email at [bcirtin@greencountymo.gov](mailto:bcirtin@greencountymo.gov).

GREENE COUNTY COMMISSION - 933 N. ROBERSON AVE., SPRINGFIELD MO 65802 - [WWW.GREENECOUNTYMO.ORG](http://WWW.GREENECOUNTYMO.ORG)



## DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD

# 'The Big Yellow House' at Grant and Talmage to become hub for Doling neighborhood

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Photos by Christina Dicken

Sometimes, great projects start with delightful coincidences.

Doling Neighborhood Association President Christina Dicken had her eye on the 1907 house at 2601 N. Grant for a while.

"I've always loved that house because it's so neat and historic," Dicken said. "It sat empty for a couple of years."

She said the Doling Neighborhood Association was looking into the possibility of partnering with another agency to purchase a property for community use, similar to Grant Beach Neighborhood Association's Hovey House.

"I thought this house would be the perfect choice," Dicken said.

Dicken said the property's location at the corner of Grant Avenue and Talmage Street, and proximity to both Watkins Elementary School and Doling Park is ideal.

When an auction sign went up at the house in October, Dicken made a mental note to attend. Then she got busy with activities in the neighborhood and her job as a real estate appraiser and didn't make it to the sale.

Meanwhile, Fran Young and her husband Paul, who co-owned Young Family Farm and several rental properties in Springfield, were driving by the auction that Saturday in October, and stopped by out of curiosity.

"There was nobody bidding, and my heart went out to this gorgeous property ... the auctioneer was saying it could be torn down. I just couldn't let that happen, so I bid on it," Young says. "It was just too good of a deal to pass up."

The Youngs, former international teachers who moved to Springfield in 2008 after years of living abroad, left the auction as the new owners of "The Big Yellow House," as she calls it.

Young, who dabbles in art and writing, envisioned turning the house into a studio and office space for herself and her artist friends to share.

"But as I thought about it over the next few weeks after I bought it, I realized the property could be much more than just studio space," Young said. "It has a barn with a stage. It has this huge, double-wide lot of a yard, which would make for fantastic community gardening space. The more we thought and talked about it, my family and I felt that this house was just begging to be used as a community resource," Young said.

Dicken, who said she was upset with herself for missing the auction, hoped that the new owner didn't plan to tear down the historic house. She did an online records search and found out that a limited liability company bought the house. Young was listed as the LLC's registered agent.

"I searched Fran on Facebook and found we had several friends in common," Dicken said. "So I messaged her to ask what she planned to do with the house."

The two chatted on Facebook about the house, and Dicken told Young that she thought the property would make an ideal neighborhood hub.

"Wow, talk about delightful coincidences ... "

Young messaged Dicken. "I bought it expressly because I want to develop it into a ... wait for it ... community center."

They exchanged phone numbers and made plans to meet in person.

"I knew right away that her intentions were pure and she wanted to do something to help the community," Dicken said. "We came up with tons of ideas for programming."

Young is now in the process of renovating and repairing the property, and is working with the City's Planning & Development department on rezoning.

Young said she plans to invite the neighborhood over to "The Big Yellow House" on Memorial Day to show off what she's done so far on the place, as well as demo another new Doling initiative — the Doling Block Party Tool Kit — which the neighborhood association purchased with grant money awarded through Community Foundation of the Ozarks and contains all the materials to plan and execute a block party and start a Neighborhood Block Watch through the Springfield Police Department.

Watch for a story on the Tool Kit in the July edition of SGF Neighborhood News.

Immediate plans for the property include a community garden with a mini-orchard, which Young and her family are already working on with the help of Doling resident and Master Gardener Jean Ackley; an after-school program and community arts events.

Additional ideas include family movie nights, porch concerts, a Little Free Library, tutoring, hobby clubs, special events, family game nights and barn dances.

The hub will also serve as a home base for the neighborhood association, Young said.

"We think this center will have a good mix of a lot of different things and will be a place to celebrate our neighborhood and our neighbors," Dicken said.



Paul and Fran Young at The Big Yellow House.

### Neighborhood Boundaries

**Connect**

- Christina Dicken, President:  
christina.dicken@yahoo.com
- Andrew Herr, Vice President
- Mary Kay Glunt, Secretary,  
417-844-0629
- Jayme VanMeter, Treasurer

**Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 25 • May 23 • June 27  
7:30-8:30 p.m. @ Doling Family Center  
Community Room (301 E. Talmage)

"We're all about getting to know the people in our neighborhood so we can build that sense of community."

Young said Dicken, Ackley and others in Doling, along with Zone 1 Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson, continue to inspire her.

"They've been instrumental in keeping the conversations going about all the possibilities," Young said. "Our shared vision for this property is that it will become a venue for enrichment, learning and where neighbors gather to socialize and help each other."





## GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

# Hovey House serves as anchor, home base for Grant Beach neighbors and programs

By Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Park Board, for SGFNN

Hovey House is the little house at 800 W. Hovey that brings the Grant Beach neighborhood together.

Saved from demolition several years ago, the house is now home to the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association, Springfield's first community garden, Grant Beach sports programs and a full schedule of neighborhood activities.

More than that, Hovey House is a place where neighbors gather to learn, organize, eat and get to know one another.

"We don't have to worry about where we're going to hold events," said Anita Kuhns, president of the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association. "It gives us a centrally located place to do all of our things. And it's really brought the community together."

Hovey House was a private residence before it and a row of houses on the edge of Grant Beach Park were purchased by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, as part of the School-Park program.

"Initially we were just going to demolish all the homes along Hovey, and abandon Hovey Street for one block to attach Grant Beach Park to Weaver Elementary," recalled Assistant Parks Director Miles Park, who oversaw the project. "But this one house was in good condition, so it made sense to preserve it."

Park said the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association approached the Park Board with a vision to utilize the house as a base for neighborhood programs. The Park Board agreed, and Hovey House opened as a community resource center in March 2010.

Plans to connect Weaver with the park changed, freeing up space for more options at Hovey House.

"So although the initial concept has changed, having Hovey House there near Weaver and Grant Beach, it really is an anchor for the Grant Beach neighborhood," he said.

Pauletta Dunn, who was president of the neighborhood association in 2010, said the group quickly found multiple uses for Hovey House.

"[The timing] just worked out great," said Dunn.

"We had started the Grant Beach sports program. So it became the home base for the community garden, the sports programs, some tutoring programs, and now every other neighborhood wants a Hovey House."

Youth sports programs are coordinated by the neighborhood association, with soccer in the spring and fall and baseball in the summer, for kids ages 3-12.

Non-profit group Springfield Community Gardens worked with the Park Board and the neighborhood association to build its first community garden adjacent to Hovey House — a project that served as a model for the additional gardens and continues to bring Grant Beach neighbors together.

Grant Beach Community Garden members pay a \$5 annual fee, and must volunteer at least two hours a month in the garden or at Hovey House. In exchange, members partake in weekly produce distributions, from both the garden and Ozarks Food Harvest. The program is open to anyone willing to volunteer. Kuhns said volunteers do more than just dig in the dirt.

"We realize we have a lot of people that can't get physically down into the garden, and in the winter there's not as much to do in the garden," she said. "So we've come up with other ideas, like labeling seed packages for the seed swap, filing in the Hovey House, cleaning, dusting, sweeping and labeling items for the sports program."



### 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

April 17 • May 15 • June 19

6:30-7:30 p.m. @ St. Joseph Catholic Church-  
Parish Hall (1115 N. Campbell Ave.)

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



Produce distributions vary based on household size, and they're a huge boost to anyone living on a budget, said Dunn.

"You don't really realize how much money you are saving until you look at the cost of buying the stuff you have," said Dunn. "Fresh fruit is not cheap. A lot of families get by without, but it's really nice to have."

The produce distributions have led to popular cooking demonstrations at Hovey House, first started by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department.

"Now people who have the garden memberships are starting to do cooking demonstrations," said Kuhns. "They're really good at swapping recipes and ideas. It's starting to turn into a family unit."

Hovey House is also home to a Little Free Library, Health Department blood pressure screenings, fiber arts classes, board game nights, a Spring Seed Swap and Neighborhood Night Out events, vegan potluck dinners and non-denominational devotional gatherings.

Spring youth soccer begins the second week in April, and baseball registration opens at the end of April. A bluegrass-and-barbecue fundraiser for the garden is planned for April 30, 4-6 p.m.

For more information on these programs, call Hovey House at 417-942-2456 or visit Grant Beach Neighborhood Association on Facebook at

[Facebook.com/GrantBeachNeighborhoodAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/GrantBeachNeighborhoodAssociation).







**How long have you lived in the Grant Beach neighborhood?** I have lived in Grant Beach since 1992.

**What sports do you follow?** I attend as many Springfield Rugby games as I can.

**What made you decide to get involved in the neighborhood association?** I got involved in the neighborhood association because my daughter went to Fairbanks and Weaver elementary schools. I met several parents in the PTA who were members of the neighborhood association and they suggested I join.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

In my spare time I like to take trips, go to the lake and go camping.

**Name an interesting fact about yourself.** I've never met a hot pepper that got the better of me.

**What's an easy way for neighbors to improve their neighborhood?** Donate. Just joining the neighborhood association keeps our garden watered and helps in a lot of other ways. If you don't have money, donate time. Some of our neighbors clean up trash on their block and we always need help in our garden.

Our garden has been a great addition. Ours was the first community garden in Springfield and it has grown into Springfield Community Gardens. It is also the reason we are able to have a weekly produce distribution. It's not a hand out, but an empowerment; people have to put in volunteer hours to participate. The success of our produce distribution has resulted in an expansion to a

few other gardens in the city. But there still aren't very many, so we have participants and volunteers from around the city. We have some great people who come every week. It is hard work unloading the truck and setting up and taking down, but they do it cheerfully and have a good time.

The Springfield Greene County Health Department is usually here during our produce distribution to offer free blood pressure checks.

I want to remind everyone that we'll be doing sign-ups for baseball in late April for our baseball season that starts in June. The cost is \$15 per child. Watch Facebook and NextDoor for signup dates. And volunteer coaches are always needed. Just come by 800 Hovey St. to fill out a form for a background check.

**What's another thing that the neighborhood association does to make life better in Grant Beach?**

We run a low-cost, recreational sports league for pre-k through grade school. There aren't many opportunities in Springfield for those age groups to participate in team sports. Sports have been shown to be so important in the development of self-esteem and confidence in children, as well as offering the benefits of exercise and fresh air. Through the league, we offer spring and fall soccer, and summer baseball, all in Grant Beach Park. For a low fee, they get a T-shirt, play for six weeks, and receive a participation medal at the end. It's the best sports deal in town!

All of our coaches and referees have to pass background checks through the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

If the name of our park isn't familiar, Grant Beach Park is the park with the train. Thanks to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, we now have a sign for our park on Grant Avenue at Lynn Street.

We also participate in the Adopt-a-Street Program, we have annual neighborhood cleanups (we add a second one if we have money), and we have a National Night Out event in the park every August that is one of the best attended in the city.

We hold monthly association meetings which are preceded by a potluck dinner. It's the third Monday of every month at St. Joseph's Catholic Church Parish Hall. Sometimes our local Fire Department crew attends, and our PAR officer tries to come as often as he can. Come and meet some of your neighbors. All are welcome.

Grant Beach Neighborhood Association has a Facebook page and we post on Nextdoor. If anyone needs information, they can call us at 417-942-2456.

**If you could wave a magic wand and change one thing about your neighborhood, what would it be?** Erase poverty.

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

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

## Grant Beach baseball program sign-up starts in April

By Anita Kuhns, for SGFNN

Summer baseball season will soon be here! Grant Beach Neighborhood Association offers summer baseball and T-ball for children ages 3 - 11 years. This six-week program starts in June and costs \$15, which includes a team shirt. Registration begins in April. If you would like to coach or sign up your child, please stop by the GBNA Hovey House located at 800 W. Hovey, in the northeast corner of Grant Beach Park. Note all coaches must pass a Springfield-Greene County Park Board background check.

## GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD

### Horace Mann Elementary benefits from Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association involvement

By Mike Schilling, Zone 3 Councilman, for SGFNN



The Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association, relatively new among the current collection of 16 organized associations in the city, has made a priority of helping out the neighborhood school, Horace Mann Elementary.

"We're very grateful," said Brittany

Payne, the new principal this year at Horace Mann.

Not only has the assistance helped the school materially, she said, it boosts the morale of students, faculty and staff.

"You can't count dollars on making someone smile," Payne said.

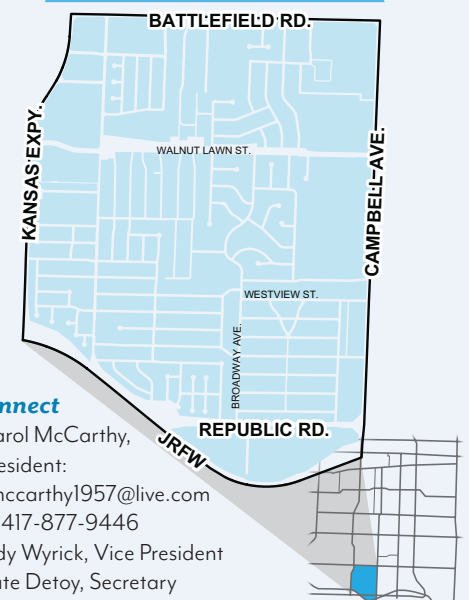
It's a natural move in this direction from association leadership strong on educational background. It includes Greater Parkcrest President Carol McCarthy, a retired teacher who is an active substitute; and retired teacher Judy Wyrick, association vice president.

Also active leaders on hand at a discussion with principal Payne one recent day were executive committee members Muriel Reed, who worked for the Parents as Teachers program, and Evelyn Hutsell, who has taught Sunday school at her church.

Horace Mann, which currently serves more than 400 students, has a teaching staff of 30 and 15 support employees. There is a lot of family mobility in the district, with students coming and

► see Horace Mann on page 14

### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Carol McCarthy, President:  
[cmccarthy1957@live.com](mailto: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

April 18: 6:30 p.m. @ Wesley United Methodist Church (922 W. Republic Rd.) • May 18: 6:30 p.m. @ The Way Church (903 W. Katella St.) • June 20: 6:30 p.m. @ Wesley United Methodist Church (922 W. Republic Rd.)



► *Horace Mann from page 13*

going, which produces additional challenges, said Payne, who also lives in the Parkcrest neighborhood.

The Parkcrest association formed in April 2015 and leaders approached Payne last year to see how they could help the school. They were well aware that schools have more needs than public budgets can provide.

And besides, Wyrick said, it is important because the school "has our future."

The association came up with some school supplies, and with student bicycling safety in mind, McCarthy was able to get 25 bicycle helmets through a Cox Health program. She is especially versed in the elementary school and its needs because her children went to

Horace Mann, and she taught 25 years in the Springfield school system.

With the help of the association, the school staged its first parade and fall festival last autumn, a highlight of the school year so far.

It also promotes the collection and use of the Boxtops program, and the school children are involved in deciding how the money raised from the competitive fund-raising will be spent.

Payne is good at fund-raising, Muriel Reed said. "We appreciate Brittany's enthusiasm for all this," McCarthy said.

Payne also credits the students for their part in the collaboration. "Kids are the favorite part of the job, and their attitude spills over onto the staff."



L-R, Front: GPNA board member Muriel Reed; Horace Mann principal Brittany Payne; GPNA Vice President Judy Wyrick. Back: GPNA board member Evelyn Hutsell; GPNA president Carol McCarthy.

## WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD

### City Council hears findings of Safe Housing Inspection Pilot Program

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Building Development Services Director Chris Straw in February presented to City Council the findings of the Safe Housing Inspection Pilot Program, a 90-day pilot project studying potential action for addressing the City's chronic nuisance properties to find better ways to ensure public safety against life-safety-housing issues, such as electrical, plumbing, and structural issues; roof and window problems and trash.

"The volume of service requests for dangerous and nuisance properties and the severity of the cases reported, have increased," Straw explained in October 2016.

Increased awareness about the issue, following a nine-neighborhood Community Listen tour in Springfield's Zone 1 neighborhoods in 2015, is one reason Straw cited for the increase in reporting.

Chronic nuisance properties are defined as those properties in which repeated complaint calls are received and responded to, including from the City's Building Development Services, Police and Fire departments, as well as other calls for service. Certain properties in Springfield have had upwards of 70 complaint calls in a single year.

The issue is such that "chronic nuisance properties" rose to the top of the list of concerns in seven of the nine listening sessions and remained a



clear "number one" priority throughout a follow-up process with residents participating in Zone Blitz brainstorming sessions.

Council approved the pilot project in October 2016. Voluntary inspections by BDS inspectors began the following month and concluded in January.

The project involved inspectors visiting homes in the West Central neighborhood — whose neighborhood association leadership vied for the opportunity to participate in the pilot project — to identify life-safety issues (mostly within the interior living space, but including some exterior life-safety issues). The study area's boundaries were Grand Street to the south and State Street to the north, Campbell Avenue to the east and Grant Avenue to the west.

### 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

April 25 • May 23: 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ McGregor Elementary (1221 W. Madison St.)  
June and July Summer Socials TBA.



Life-safety complaints to initiate the inspections could be made on rentals or owner-occupied dwellings. Allowing inspectors entry to homes was voluntary.

Nine inspections were performed from November 2016 through January. Three minor issues were identified and corrected in a matter of minutes. The only Tier 1 issue identified was a missing smoke detector.

"As a result of the information presented, numerous options were presented to City Council for further consideration," Straw said.



## Birthplace of Route 66 Festival partners announce 2017 event lineup

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Please mark your calendar to celebrate all things Route 66 Aug. 11-12 at the seventh annual Birthplace of Route 66 Festival in downtown Springfield. Registration for the 2017 car and motorcycle show is open at [route66festivalsgf.com](http://route66festivalsgf.com). Printed registration forms are available widely at participating organizations.

Events will include the annual Birthplace of Route 66 Parade with a pre-parade party at the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park, a two-day car and motorcycle show, a Gypsy Tour motorcycle poker run, the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival Signature Concert Series featuring country music superstars Big & Rich at the

outdoor Aaron Sachs Stage on Friday night and Three Dog Night at the Gillioz Theatre Saturday night, free live music at Park Central Square and Jordan Valley Park, an outdoor movie, vendor villages, a 6.6K/3.3K run/walk and the annual two-day convention of Route 66 authors, artists, collectors and associations at The Old Glass Place (501 E. St. Louis St.)

"Birthplace of Route 66 Festival event partners KY3, Aaron Sachs & Associates and the Gillioz Theatre have again teamed up with the City of Springfield to host the best festival celebrating Route 66 in the U.S.," says Cora Scott, director of Public Information and Civic Engagement for the City of Springfield. "We're very excited about the entertainment we're bringing in this year. With





L-R, West Central Neighborhood Alliance's David Eslick and Rusty Worley announce the 2017 Birthplace of Route 66 event lineup with the help of Cora Scott, City of Springfield.

the variety of activities and events, there really is something for everyone."

Scott credits a strong group of festival founders, including the West Central Neighborhood Alliance and the Route 66 Association of Missouri for recognizing the potential in creating a festival honoring Springfield's heritage as the birthplace of the Mother Road.

"Their foresight and continued hard work to keep this festival going has been an inspiration," she said.

#### NEW TO THE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR:

- Aaron Sachs & Associates is the official sponsor of the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival Car Show awards. All entries will have a chance of winning a Chevy crate motor, a new set of tires and wheels, Branson getaways and more.
- Aaron Sachs & Associates is bringing a special Route 66 exhibit to the Discovery Center. This hands-on learning exhibit will feature Route 66 past, present, and future information for kids and adults.
- A new motorcycle stunt show with extreme thrill rider Adam Holbrook.
- The Shrine Mosque will be hosting an indoor display of classic cars, featuring selections from the private collections of Warren Davis, Guy Mace and the Ozark Antique Auto Club.
- Finally, festival partners are very excited to announce the launch of the "Mother Roadster" car build, which will be unveiled at this year's Route 66 Festival. This one-of-a-kind project will bring together the high-profile automotive community in the Ozarks to custom build a '32 Ford Roadster, to be raffled off for charity and given to one lucky winner. Stay tuned for more details about this exciting development.

As in years past, vendors, food and live music will be available on and around Park Central Square Friday and Saturday. Vendors interested in participating in the festival are asked to contact Tom Mast at KY3 at [tmast@ky3.com](mailto:tmast@ky3.com).

To register for the car and motorcycle show, please visit [route66festivalsgf.com](http://route66festivalsgf.com) or pick up a registration form at one of the following locations:

- The Gillioz Theatre, 325 E. Park Central Square
- Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, 815 E. St. Louis
- Aaron Sachs & Associates offices, 3271 E. Battlefield Road, Suite 350
- Busch Municipal Building, 840 N. Boonville
- Chesterfield Family Center, 2511 W. Republic Rd.
- Doling Family Center, 301 E. Talmage
- Dan Kinney Family Center, 2701 S. Blackman Rd.
- Mediacom Ice Park, 635 E. Trafficway
- All Springfield-Greene County Library locations
- Route 66 Biker Gear, 2252 S. Campbell.

Completed registration forms must be received by the Gillioz Theatre by Aug. 1.

To purchase tickets for the Route 66 Signature Concert Series, please visit [gillioztheatre.com](http://gillioztheatre.com).

**Birthplace of Route 66 Festival**  
**Aug. 11-12, Downtown Springfield**  
*Learn more at [route66festivalsgf.com](http://route66festivalsgf.com)*

## WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

### College Street businesses stand as reminders of Mother Road's heyday

By Joe Roberds, for SGFNN

The Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association has many older buildings along the Route 66 corridor that have historical significance to the area and today are being repurposed. While the function of the buildings have changed to fulfill the current needs, the buildings remain as a reminder of the Route 66 era.

Springfield is considered "The Birthplace of Route 66" because the designation of Route 66 was made in Springfield on April 30, 1926. While the west Route 66 corridor is just a small stretch of the 2,448 total miles of Route 66, it is a jewel that is treasured and deserves to be preserved.

The building at 1634 W. College is situated along historic Route 66. The building was built in the 1950s and was once a 20,000-square-foot warehouse and offices for Paramount Liquor. In 1980, Guy Mace purchased the building from Paramount Liquor and converted the building to start the business Semblex. In 1987, Mr. Mace started the business Turblex in the building, which operated there until 2007 when the business was sold and moved to another location. Mr. Mace retained the building and started to store unique and classic vehicles as he acquired them.

As with any collector, Mr. Mace began his collection with one car in 1990 and his collection has grown annually to the 70 vehicles currently at the museum.

In 2016, the 90th anniversary of Route 66, Mr. Mace opened the Route 66 Car Museum to share his collection with the public. Mr. Mace estimates that 15 percent of the visitors to the museum are tourists from other countries who are traveling the path of Route 66.



Route 66 Car Museum owner Guy Mace, with his prized 1967 Austin Healey. Photo credit: Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau

The front wall of the museum has been changed to an eye-catching checkered flag design which has also been applied to the walls of the nearby College Street Cafe, sure to attract locals and tourists alike.

Another building along historic Route 66 is located at 2906 W. Chestnut Expressway. According to the current owner, Jeff Hammock, the building was built in the early era of Route 66 and was a longtime liquor retailer. Most recently the building was a Brown Derby store and at one time had a fishing supply section which was the beginnings of Bass Pro Shop.

Mr. Hammock had a State Farm Insurance office in Springfield, but saw the need and importance for a State Farm Insurance office on the west side. Mr. Hammock searched the area for a business location and one day in 2008 he attended an auction for this Route 66 location and purchased the building. After Mr. Hammock purchased the building he



#### Connect

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

#### Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings

April 11 • May 9 • June 13: 6:30 p.m. @ Westport Park Apartments, Community Room (250 N. Hilton Ave.)



initially planned to demolish it and build a modern structure for his office in its place. Mr. Hammock soon realized the unique design and character of the building needed to be preserved. He had the building interior renovated to meet the needs of his business and to accommodate his customers. The large walk-in coolers were retained as usable office space and add to the character of the building.

Mr. Hammock is happy with his move to the west side location and the ability to fulfill the need of a State Farm Insurance office location. Mr. Hammock speaks with pride about preserving this historic neighborhood building along the Route 66 corridor.

Mr. Mace and Mr. Hammock, along with many others have made the decision to invest in store fronts on the west side. This trend will continue and make the west side corridor a destination rather than a pass-through area, if we all support west side businesses.



## Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association plans several spring projects



By Joe Roberds, for SGFNN

The Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association has implemented some great projects this spring to help our neighbors.

A new project this year is the purchase of shirts for the Westport Elementary third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders who are participating in math competitions this year. The shirts help the students develop school pride and identify them as the Westport team during their competitions. We wish them success during their competitions and thank their math coach, Mrs. Dorsey, for preparing these students.

Another new project we are working on is the construction and placement of book boxes for our book

share program. As completed, the boxes will be placed in locations throughout our neighborhood. Locations of the book boxes will be announced on the WNBA Facebook page.

If you are looking for a fun and rewarding way to meet your neighbors, join us on April 22 while we pick up litter along Mount Vernon between Park and Kansas Expressway. We will meet at Zagonyi Park at 9 a.m. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves.

On May 13, we will have our Westside Neighborhood Cleanup. Dumpsters will be provided at the Study Alternative School parking lot for you to place your trash and brush. All of our Westside neighbors will receive a card in the mail outlining the hours and items that will be accepted for disposal. Bring your trash and stay awhile to help your neighbors unload their trash.

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 attend a meeting. We are also seeking a neighborhood church or business to participate in a joint project.

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

Check us out our Facebook page @WNBAofspringfield to keep up with what's going on in Westside.



**Get a cash reward of up to \$1,000 with Crime Stoppers!**

Call or send in your crime tips anonymously to assist law enforcement in the fight against crime by overcoming the two key elements that inhibit community involvement: **FEAR & APATHY**

**Learn how by visiting [springfieldcrimestoppers.com](http://springfieldcrimestoppers.com)**

## WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

### Reed Academy choir perform on national stage



By Ren Luebbering, Springfield Public Schools, for SGFNN

The Reed Academy Singers were selected for the statewide honor of performing at the 2017 American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Minneapolis. Elite choirs from around the world were selected for the honor and will perform at the national conference, including only three middle school choirs.

"It's a really big deal," says Daniel Gutierrez, choir director at Reed Academy.

"To put things in perspective, the other two middle school choirs that were selected included a choir from a gifted and talented magnet school in North Carolina and the other choir was from a highly competitive fine arts school in West Palm Beach, Florida," he says. "So these are really elite programs, and we're very honored to be included with them."

The Reed Academy Singers, a choir made up of seventh- and eighth-graders, performed at the conference on March 8. The Singers performed in a set alongside three other choirs, including the Eric Whitacre Singers, a Grammy award-winning

choir that record albums and are featured in major motion pictures.

"To put things in further perspective, some of the greatest choirs in the world were there," said Gutierrez. "Choirs like the Inner Mongolian Youth Choir from Mongolia, Kammerchor Stuggart from Germany, Orphei Dranger from Sweden and Voz en Punto from Mexico. Several choirs who performed have won the Choir of the World competition as well. So we were excited to be a part of it."

The Reed Academy Singers performed at the Missouri Music Educators Association's statewide conference on Jan. 27. The Singers received two standing ovations during their performance. But while the students were praised for their great performance by educators and musicians across the state, Gutierrez now has another lesson for students to learn: to keep striving for excellence.

"We need to sing about 80 percent better and we'll be good to go," he says. "I don't want them to settle because we had a great performance. I want them to keep improving because we want students to know that they can always do better. I worry about students knowing how to be disciplined and doing things well. So when we stand, we stand excellently and silently because everything we do is excellent. I focus on how to make better people, and the product of making better people and also making better learners is a really good choir."

Gutierrez credits a culture of excellence at Reed with much of his program's success and continued support from its school community. Nearly 50

#### 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

April 20 • May 18 • June 15  
6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Woodland Heights  
Presbyterian Church (722 W. Atlantic St.)

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



percent of students at Reed are involved in the vocal music program — and it just continues to grow, says Dr. Debbie Grega, principal at Reed Academy.

"For Reed, it's great for the kids to see that working hard on something does have its benefits and pays off in the long run," she said. "But I think it's extra satisfying that the students who work so hard on this music every day, that their work is being appreciated by people who do this as a living. But to go and sing very challenging music to people who would know if you mess up, it's an extra degree of both difficulty and accomplishment to being selected. It's such a big deal, and I'm so proud of them."



## DO YOU KNOW?

### Janetta Tracy, Woodland Heights



**How long have you lived in your neighborhood and why did you choose to live there?** My husband and I bought this house about 30 years ago. We lived in a new house in a new subdivision on the south side of town for awhile, but it just didn't appeal to us. One day, we

were driving around all over the city looking at houses and we found this house for sale. It was built sometime between 1915 and 1920. We walked through it once and made an offer. We loved the fact that Bowerman Elementary was right down the street and we could watch our kids walk to school. I've enjoyed seeing this neighborhood grow up, and its small-town feel. When we moved here, we were the youngest on the block and now I'm the "grandmother" on the street. Also, now that I'm 68 and a widow, it's nice to know that I'm part of a neighborhood and that I'm not alone.

**What do you do for a living?** I am retired now, but for over 30 years, I was a wallpaper installer and I loved it. Now I operate a small home-based business a few hours a day where I process tubes of cane to make finished reeds for oboes and English horns. I've also volunteered for Springfield Public Schools' PTA Clothing Bank, which is located at Study Alternative School, for about three years. I grew up very, very poor, but my clothing was always cleaned and starched — there just weren't a lot of them. We see kids come in who really don't have much of anything, and we love to help them out. We can help any SPS student who qualifies for free/reduced lunch with their clothing needs. Kids can come three times a year and get three bottoms (pants, skirts or shorts), five tops, a jacket, a coat and brand-new socks and underwear. We also have extras, such as donated hats, gloves, scarves, even pajamas. We treat all the kids and their families as if they're shopping at Macy's! The clothing bank is open 2:30-5 p.m. on Thursdays and some Saturday mornings. Visit the Facebook page at ThePTAClothingBank for more information.

**What's something you'd like to change about your neighborhood?** I really wish there were more regulations on maintenance of rental properties and landlords. There are some very nice families in my neighborhood that rent their homes. Some of the landlords really need to take better care of their properties for the families who live in them.

**Please tell us about your family.** I have three grown kids — a daughter and two sons — & three grandsons.

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

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

## City loan program solves years-long roof problem

By Maria Hoover, for SGFNN

In 2002, we bought our first home, a small structure built in 1897 in north Springfield's Woodland Heights neighborhood. We love our neighborhood, and our little home, but it didn't take long for us to realize that several previous updates on the home needed to be redone.

Specifically, we encountered several issues with the roof, resulting in significant leaks in the bathroom and laundry area — and then we learned that it can be difficult to borrow funds for a new roof on a very old home, particularly when estimates for repairs come in the \$15,000-to-\$18,000 mark. We tried many different avenues, but because of our income and our current debt load, we could not figure out a way to get our roof repaired. So, we lived with it.

Fast forward to 2015. By this time, the roof still leaked, much of our guttering, particularly over the porch, was mangled, and that made for wet, slippery steps anytime we got rain or snow. The front porch was bowing under the weight of months of water, and eventually, our mail carrier asked that we move the mailbox down from the porch because he didn't want to go up under the bowing roof. We moved it, and my husband put a wooden pole up under the porch to help hold it up as best as he could. And then, we got the letter. It was a letter from the City's Building Development Services department, noting that with our drooping porch, the house wasn't up to code, and we had a deadline to get it fixed.

Drew Gateley, a BDS inspector, came out to talk to my husband Byron about the needed repairs, and Byron explained that we had tried lots of different avenues for roof repairs. Gateley encouraged us to keep trying. He also asked a lot of questions about our situation, and upon learning that we both work but that Byron is only able to work part-time due to a physical disability, he said, "We have some programs — let me see if I can figure out a way to help."

We weren't very optimistic, and at one point, I even briefly thought about letting the house go to foreclosure. It didn't meet code and needed repairs and we couldn't find a lender to help us

get that done. But Gateley assured us that as long as we kept working on a solution and remained in communication with BDS, they would work with us and we wouldn't be fined or run into other hurdles with the City.

Gateley put us in touch with Cheri Hagler, a loan technician with the City's Planning & Development department, and she sent us a loan application for the City's Roof Replacement Program. The first time we filled it out, we were denied.

But she looked again at our info and said, "There has to be a way we can make this work." She helped us go through our financial papers again, making sure that we counted all of our medical debts and everything else, and she ran the application again. This time, we were approved. She called and told us it would be a long process, but if we were patient, we would get the needed repairs.

When we finally got called to go sign paperwork for our new roof, I admit I was still skeptical. An inspection had revealed that the entire roof needed to be completely stripped off and replaced, with new guttering and some repairs on the porch. We were approved for a zero-interest loan through a City program that covered the needed repairs, and while we have the option to make payments on it, we aren't required to do so, because it will be repaid at such time as we sell our home. On the day that we signed the paperwork, I think I asked three times, "What's the catch?" but there wasn't one.

We thanked Hagler for working with us to find a solution, and she said it was her pleasure, because although it is important for the City to enforce the codes that exist for safety, it doesn't do a lot of good to enforce them without helping people figure out how to get the repairs they needed.

In early 2016 we met with Nimmo Construction and chose some pretty red shingles for our new roof. They started working in early April, and in less than a week, we had a new roof.

I never thought that our prayers for a solution to our leaky roof would be answered by a code violation letter from the City of Springfield, but that is exactly what happened.

▶ see City loans on page 18







The Hoovers' roof before repairs.

*Editor's Note:* The Roof Replacement Program was a precursor to what is now the Homeowner Emergency Loan Program (HELP). HELP provides resources and financing for critical home repairs to owner-occupied residents. The program is centered around a partnership of non-profit housing agencies to leverage supporting programs and resources.

## ABOUT HELP

The Homeowner Emergency Loan Program (HELP) targets low to moderate income owner-occupied residential dwellings, located within the CDBG-eligible boundaries of the City of Springfield, with consultation and funding assistance toward making critical home repairs. Critical home repairs include those which pose an imminent threat to the home and inhabitants. These repairs are intended to stabilize, preserve and promote homeownership by reducing or preventing damage from weather or infestation, and where possible, increase energy efficiency.

Additionally, these repairs are intended to target and reduce individual property blight, improve the immediate neighborhood surrounding the home and increase the quality of the City's overall housing stock.

HELP may provide direct funding for improvements in the form of forgivable loans or referrals to partner agencies for alternative assistance opportunities. HELP is a partnership among the City of Springfield, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Council of Churches of the Ozarks Connections Handyman Service, Habitat

for Humanity and Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC). Funding is made possible by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

### Eligible repairs include:

- Roofs, roof decking, structural framing, soffit, fascia, siding and gutter repair/replacement
- Windows, doors, knobs/locks, porch handrails, steps, and decking repair/replacement.
- Water service lines and sewer lateral repair/replacement.
- Exterior lighting, tree removal and trimming.
- Improvements to increase energy efficiency and related general weatherization work.
- Installation of ramps and improvements to increase and improve accessibility and safety.
- Improvements necessary to increase the insurability of owner-occupied homes.

All proposed work and assistance is evaluated against the potential life of the home.

For more information about HELP, please contact the City of Springfield – Office of Neighborhoods and Planning, Affordable Housing Office at 417-864-1053 or 417-864-1031.

## Habitat for Humanity's Tools for Life classes offer path to financial stability

By Melissa Adler, for SGFNN

When Brad Hill recently asked a group of Woodland Heights residents for ideas for cutting household expenses, he offered his own. He and his family recently dropped cable TV from their monthly bills. He jokingly said his wife cried a little at the decision, but the family moved on – and he says they now have a lot more interaction with their daughter.

Stories like these were shared at a recent Tools For Life (TFL) class at Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church. Hill, who owns a State Farm Insurance agency, volunteers his time and expertise to teach budgeting. Students in his class are on a journey to homeownership or financial betterment.

Habitat for Humanity of Springfield offers free TFL classes most Monday evenings. Although they're provided as part of the partner homebuyers' sweat equity requirements, anyone in the community can attend. TFL classes are taught by professionals on finance, homeownership and healthy living. Topics are chosen to help people reach financial goals and prepare for long-term stability.

Some class topics such as budgeting, saving, retirement and conflict resolution make regular appearances due to their need and value. Morgan Ash, partner services associate at Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, schedules the classes.

"We work with spectacular partners in our community. It's nice to be able to invite members of the general public to attend because we have

access to a wonderful group of professionals who share valuable information. And we have fun," says Ash.

Lessons are taught in a relaxed, open environment. People feel comfortable asking questions that are relevant to their life situation without fear of being judged.

"This is when the real learning takes place," says Ash. Class participants provide support and reassurance to each other. "It's inspiring when you see people get to know each other because they realize they are not the only ones facing a challenge or learning something new," says Ash. "They have something in common."

As an instructor, Hill has an easy-going style that encourages conversation. He says he enjoys helping people manage their money because he started his career as a personal banker. He saw how many overdraft fees the bank generated and thought "good for the bank, bad for the community." Hill wants people to avoid fees by keeping a register.



State Farm Insurance agent Brad Hill teaches a Tools for Life budgeting class at Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church.

"Write everything down," says Hill. "When it gets down to zero stop writing." He laughs. It sounds funny but Hill says purposeful spending is the key to making money last.

If you are interested in the TFL classes, visit [habitatspringfieldmo.org](http://habitatspringfieldmo.org), or call 417-829-4001 ext. 114.



**JOB SEEKERS:** The Ozark Region Missouri Career Centers offer a wide range of **free** services to individuals looking for employment including career guidance, youth and veteran services, workshops, trainings and more.

**EMPLOYERS:** The Ozark Region staffs a qualified and professional Business Service Team who is willing and able to assist businesses in recruiting skilled workers, training, and obtaining information on the current labor market, tax incentives for hiring, and federal bonding.

**Springfield Location**  
2900 E. Sunshine  
Springfield, MO 65804  
417-887-4343  
Toll Free: 800-562-7284

Hours: Monday- Friday  
8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

**North Springfield Location**  
Cox Medical Tower  
1443 N. Robberson Ave.  
Suite 100, Springfield, MO  
65802

417-874-2730  
Hours: Monday- Friday  
8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

[SPRINGFIELDMO.GOV/JOBCENTER](http://SPRINGFIELDMO.GOV/JOBCENTER)



# Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods



Find your City Council member at  
[springfieldmo.gov/citycouncil](http://springfieldmo.gov/citycouncil)



## 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

April 11 • May 9: 6 p.m. optional potluck; 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
@ Bissett Elementary (3014 W. Calhoun St.)

June 13: 6:30-7:30 p.m./6 p.m. optional potluck  
@ Faith Baptist Church (334 E. Kearney St.)



## 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

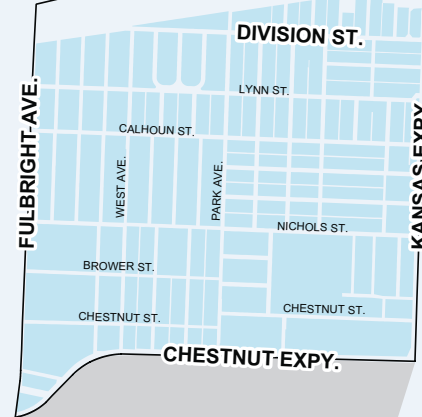
April 18: 5:30 p.m. @ Immaculate Conception  
(3555 S. Fremont Ave.)

June 20: 6 p.m. @ Immaculate Conception  
(3555 S. Fremont Ave.)



## HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



### Connect

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

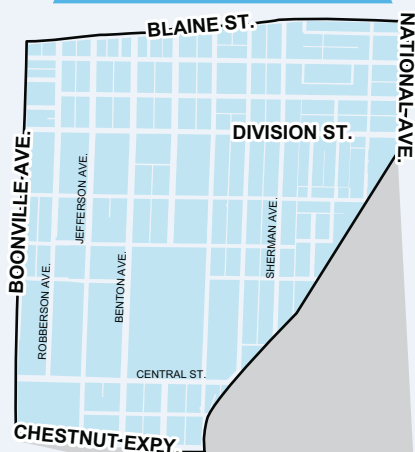
### Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 18 • May 16 • June 20: 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
@ the Salvation Army (1707 W. Chestnut Expy.)



## 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

April 11 • May 9 • June 13: 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

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



## PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Neighborhood Boundaries



### Connect

- 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)

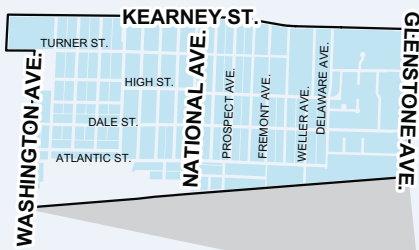


**Want to submit an article  
about your neighborhood?**  
Let your neighborhood president  
or other representative know!



## 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

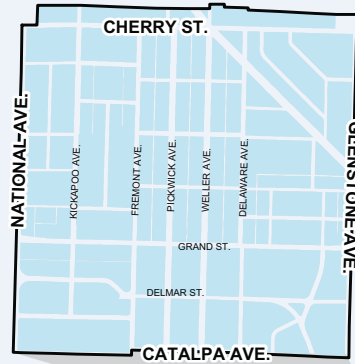
#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 27 • May 25 • June 22 : 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

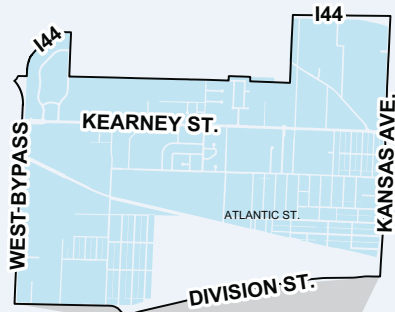
April 18 • May 16 • June 20: 7-8 p.m.  
@ University Heights Baptist Church  
(1010 S. National Ave.)

[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

April 27 • May 25 • June 29: potluck 6 p.m.,  
meeting 7-8:30 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

April 6 • May 4 • June 1 : 6-7 p.m. @ Turning  
Point Church (1722 N. National Ave.)



# World TAI CHI Day 2017

ONE WORLD,  
ONE BREATH

People in more than 80 countries  
will come together to breathe as  
one breath, to celebrate health  
and healing, providing a healing  
vision for our world.

**Saturday, April 29**  
**9:30-11 a.m.**

**FREE**

**Springfield Art Museum  
Outdoor Amphitheater**

111 E. Brookside Dr.

Explore the ancient art of  
Taijiquan (Taiji, Tai Chi)  
with a variety of  
demonstrations and  
interactive Tai Chi and  
meditation classes.

*Please bring your own blanket or yoga  
mat, water and (optional) chair.*

Rain or shine event. If it rains we will be inside  
the Springfield Art Museum Community Room.  
For more information email Dee Ogilvy at  
[white.metal.rabbit@gmail.com](mailto:white.metal.rabbit@gmail.com).



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



# Events

## April - June 2017

### EDUCATION

**Springfield-Greene County Library District Free Technology Classes:** You can choose what you want to learn and go at your own speed with our self-paced tutorials. We provide the computer and you select from a wide variety of lessons designed specifically for individual learning. Topics include basic skills, Windows 10, Microsoft. Visit thelibrary.org, a library branch, or call 417-837-5011 for the schedule. Please note these classes are for adults.

**Landlord Training:** April 9: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Christ Episcopal Church, 601 E. Walnut. Provided by the City of Springfield and Community Partnership of the Ozarks. This training is designed for landlords and property managers of single family homes, duplexes and triplexes in order to create safer neighborhoods, improve the working relationship with the Springfield Police Department, and facilitate better business success for landlords. \$40. Cash or checks only if paying at door. Register online at commpartnership.org.

**Fair Housing Presentation:** April 13: 9 a.m.-noon, Southwest Center for Independent Living, 1450 W Cambridge St. Join Community Partnership of the Ozarks and Southwest Center for Independent Living for a FREE presentation on fair housing as it relates to landlords, facilitated by the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. Topics include state and federal fair housing laws, guidance on resolving fair housing issues, and sensitivity training. Additionally, learn about theaffordablehousingcenter.org — a free resource for landlords to advertise their property! This training is open to landlords, property managers, advocates, and any interested party. RSVP to Amanda Stadler, 417-888-2020 or astadler@cpozarks.org.

**Triple P Parenting Seminar:** April 19: 6-7:30 p.m., Doling Family Center, 301 E. Talmage. Activities for kids while session is presented. Limited daycare space available for infants/toddlers. Children of parents attending the class will have a choice between a pool pass, open gym time or the opportunity to participate in the Fun & Fitness for Kids program (ages 7-12 only). If you choose a pool pass, appropriate swimwear and a towel are needed. Changing rooms are available. Presented by Community Partnership of the Ozarks and Missouri State University. RSVP dnetzer@cpozarks.org

**Fix-it Fair:** June 3: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central. Volunteer experts will be on hand to assist you with your repairs. No registration required, but feel free to contact Amanda Stadler, 417-888-2020 or astadler@cpozarks.org to find out if a specific fixer will be on hand. Presented in partnership with the Community Partnership of the Ozarks Tool Library.

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

**Tai Chi with Dee Ogilvy:** 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays, Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central; 8:30-9:30 a.m. Thursdays, The Library Station, 2535 N. Kansas Expy. FREE: 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, no special equipment needed, beginners welcome. Learn more at springfieldtaichi.wordpress.com.

**National Walking Day:** April 5. Need motivation to exercise or want to get to know your neighbors? Consider participating in a neighborhood walking group! Neighborhood groups kick-off on National Walking Day, April 5. Walking groups determine location and times. FREE pedometers will be given to all participants. Contact Julie Viele at 417-864-2077 or jviele@springfieldmo.gov.

**World Tai Chi Day:** April 29: 9:30-11 a.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Explore the ancient art of Tai Chi with a variety of FREE demonstrations and interactive meditation classes. For more information email Dee Ogilvy at white.metal.rabbit@gmail.com.

### ARTS, CULTURE & FUN

*Events are free unless otherwise noted.*

**First Friday Art Walk:** First Friday of each month, 6-10 p.m., downtown Springfield. Art lovers "Walk the Walk" throughout the Downtown Arts District, enjoying original art, music, demonstrations and performances in gallery venues. Visit ffaw.org.

**All-School Exhibition:** Through April 23, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Visit sgfmuseum.org for hours of operation.

**Slow Art Day at the Springfield Art Museum:** April 8: noon-2 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Slow Art Day is a global event with a simple mission: help more people discover for themselves the joy of looking at and loving art. One day each year people all over the world visit local museums and galleries to look at art slowly. Participants look at five works of art for 10 minutes each and then meet together to talk about their experience.

**American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists' Colony Exhibition:** April 8-July 2, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Visit sgfmuseum.org for hours of operation.

**Party for the Planet:** April 22: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Dickerson Park Zoo. Celebrate Earth Day with hands-on conservation learning stations and zookeeper chats. Activities are free with paid zoo admission.

**Cherry Blossom Kite & Piñata Festival:** April 22: 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic. Free, including admission to the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden. Bring a kite to fly or build one for \$5. Whack a piñata and try Japanese and Mexican crafts! Festival is followed by a 3 p.m. concert at the new Peace Through People Pavilion.

**Master Gardener and Plant Society Plant Sale:** April 29: 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic. Presented by the Master Gardeners of Greene County and other garden societies. Great prices on annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, bulbs, and more.

**Bark in the Park:** April 29: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic. A fun day with your beloved canine. Live music, guided walk around Lake Drummond, demonstrations, vendors and more. Free admission, \$10 T-shirts benefit Cruse Dog Park.

**Moon City Pole Painting:** April 29: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Moon City Creative District. No charge, but we appreciate a contribution at mooncitycreativedistrict.com/paint-a-pole-stroll. Must register online or on event day, at the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Center at Atlantic and Campbell.

**Blues, Blue Jeans & Barbecue:** April 30: 4-6:30 p.m., Hovey House, 800 W. Hovey. Annual Grant Beach Community Garden Fundraiser.

**Grant Beach Baseball Program Registration:** May 4, Hovey House, 800 W. Hovey. Open to ages 3-11. \$15. Forms are available at Hovey House, 800 W. Hovey St., and are distributed to some schools.

**Artsfest:** May 6-7 on Historic Walnut Street, \$5 admission, kids 5 and under free. Springfield's signature fine arts festival, featuring original art from 145 juried artists, live music, dance, theater, food vendors and hands-on art activities for all ages. Proceeds benefit Springfield Regional Arts Council.

**Queen City Voices Spring Concert:** May 7: 2-3:30 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr.

**Outdoor Pools Open:** May 27: 1-6:30 p.m. Fasnacht, Grant Beach, Meador, Silver Springs and Westport Pools open for the season Memorial Day weekend and follow a weekly schedule until school starts in August. Schedule at ParkBoard.org/Aquatics.

**Dirt Day:** June 3: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic. Woodland Heights invites all of Springfield to Lafayette Park in the historic Woodland Heights Neighborhood for fun with gardening info and activities as well as plant swap, Dinosaur Dig, Birdhouse painting and much more!

**36th Annual Kids Fishing Fun Day:** June 3: 8-11:45 a.m., Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146. Free admission for kids 3-15 yrs., preregistration required at ParkBoard.org. Kids may catch and keep up to three fish from the stocked pond. Kids weigh their fish and learn how to clean them from the Mo. Dept. of Conservation. Bring your own pole and bait.

**Watercolor USA:** June 3-Aug. 27, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Visit sgfmuseum.org for hours of operation.

**2nd Annual Tennis Under The Lights:** June 9: 8-10 p.m., Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic. Play tennis at night, on courts aglow with lights! Includes music, all equipment, and glow necklaces and bracelets. Free for all ages.

**Bradford Park Neighborhood Garage Sale:** June 9-10.

**Summer Solstice Art Fair:** June 17: 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Lafayette Park. Co-sponsored by Moon City Creative District and Springfield-Greene County Park Board. If you're an artist and want to apply to display your art, register at mooncitycreativedistrict.com/summer-solstice.

**Butterfly Festival with Young Sprouts in the Garden:** June 24: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic. Visit the Dr. Bill Roston Native Butterfly House and caterpillar petting zoo, "pollinate" flowers, see the Fishin' Magicians, enter the pollinator costume contest, observe ladybugs and more. Free for all ages.

**7th annual Birthplace of Route 66 Festival:** Aug. 11-12, downtown Springfield. Visit route66festivalsgf.com for the full event lineup.

### JOBS & CAREERS

The Missouri Job Center offers free one-on-one job counseling services, resume assistance and several workshops and training classes at their locations at 2900 E. Sunshine and 1443 N. Robberson, and via the mobile career center bus. Visit them in person or online at springfieldmo.gov/jobcenter to view the schedule or call 417-887-4343 for more information.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

**Neighborhood Watch Training:** April 8: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Springfield Reg. Police & Fire Training Center, 2620 W. Battlefield. Register at springfieldmo.gov/spd/neighborhoodwatch.





## BY NEIGHBORHOOD

### BISSETT

#### **Bissett Neighborhood Association Meeting:**

April 11, May 9, June 13: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Bissett Elementary School, 3014 W. Calhoun. Join in an optional pot luck dinner at 6 p.m., or just come for the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Learn about community services and community activities. At every meeting Police Officer Mike Ramsey keeps us up to speed on crime, and our Neighborhood Health Advocate is on hand. Come, meet some neighbors, enjoy some good food, learn a little and share your ideas.

**Bissett Neighborhood Cleanup:** June 3: 8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at Bissett Elementary, 3014 W. Calhoun. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

### BRADFORD PARK

#### **Back the Blue Rally and Bradford Park**

**Neighborhood Association Meeting:** April 18: 5:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 3555 S. Fremont. At 5:30, we will line up along Fremont at Primrose (IC) for the rally. Bring signs or anything blue and festive so we can show our support for our Springfield police officers. We will go inside IC for our monthly meeting at 6 p.m. and eat. At 6:30, a guest speaker from Dickerson Park Zoo will present.

**Bradford Park Neighborhood Cleanup:** April 29: 8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at 1370 E. Walnut Lawn. Items accepted are trash, brush, leaves and metal and TVs (fees may apply for TVs). Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

**Bradford Park Neighborhood Garage Sale:** June 9-10. Call Janet at 882-1241 if you have unwanted items you would like to donate to benefit the association.

**Bradford Park Neighborhood Association Meeting:** June 20: 6 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 3555 S. Fremont.

### DOLING

#### **Doling Neighborhood Association Meeting:**

April 25, May 23, June 27: 7:30-8:30 p.m., Doling Family Center Community Room.

**Doling Neighborhood Cleanup:** April 29: 8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at Christ the King Church, 2537 N. Broadway. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

**Doling Block Party Tool Kit Kickoff:** May 29: noon, The Big Yellow House, 2601 N. Grant (corner of Talmage and Grant). We'll have games, activities, live music, and hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill. We'll be taking reservations for anyone wanting to throw a block party for their neighbors.

### GRANT BEACH

#### **Grant Beach Produce Distribution:** 2:30 p.m.

Thursdays, Hovey House. Participants are required to join the Grant Beach Garden Committee for \$5 per year and do two hours of garden-related volunteer work for Springfield Community Gardens. Contact Shelley Vaugine at 417-942-2456.

**Grant Beach National Walking Day:** April 5: 5-6 p.m., Hovey House, 800 W. Hovey. Join us to celebrate National Walking Day. We'll meet at Hovey House and walk around Grant Beach Park.

**Grant Beach Adopt-a-Street:** April 6: 5 p.m.

Meet at Calhoun and Grant.

#### **Grant Beach Neighborhood Association Meeting:**

April 17, May 15, June 19: 6:30-7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1115 N. Campbell.

**Blues, Blue Jeans & Barbecue:** April 30: 4-6:30 p.m., Hovey House, 800 W. Hovey. Annual Grant Beach Community Garden Fundraiser.

**Grant Beach Baseball Program Registration:** May 4, Hovey House, 800 W. Hovey. Open to ages 3-11. \$15. Forms are available at Hovey House, 800 W. Hovey St., and are distributed to some schools.

**Grant Beach Neighborhood Cleanup:** June 3: 8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at the Assemblies of God parking lot, 1445 N. Boonville. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

**Grant Beach Baseball Program Begins:** June 15, Grant Beach Park. League runs six weeks (takes a break for July 4).

### GREATER PARKCREST

#### **Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association**

**Meeting:** April 18, May 18, June 20: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wesley United Methodist Church, 922 W. Republic Rd.

### HEART OF THE WESTSIDE

#### **Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association**

**Meeting:** April 18, May 16, June 20: 6:30-7:30 p.m., The Salvation Army, 1707 W. Chestnut Expy.

### MIDTOWN

#### **Midtown Neighborhood Association Meeting:**

April 11, May 9, June 13: 7:30-8:30 p.m. Urban Neighborhood Alliance building (small white building on the southwest corner of Benton and Division, at the edge of the Cox North Hospital parking lot.)

**Midtown Neighborhood Cleanup:** April 22: 8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at the Cox North parking lot, 1471 N. Benton. Items accepted are trash, brush, leaves and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

### PHELPS GROVE

#### **Phelps Grove Neighborhood Cleanup:** May 20:

8 a.m.-1 p.m., MSU parking lot 18 at Dollison and Grand. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is not available.

### ROBBERSON

#### **Robberson Neighborhood Cleanup:** April 8:

8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at Central Baptist Church, 2148 N. National. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

#### **Robberson Neighborhood Association Meeting:**

April 27, May 25, June 22: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Pathways United Methodist Church, 1232 E. Dale.

### ROUNTREE

#### **Rountree Neighborhood Association Meeting:** April

18, May 16, June 20: 7-8 p.m., University Heights Baptist Church, 1010 S. National.

**Rountree Neighborhood Cleanup:** May 20: 8 a.m.-noon, University Heights Church, 1010 S. National. Items accepted are trash, brush, leaves and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

### TOM WATKINS

**Egg Hunt:** April 8: 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Tom Watkins Park Disc Golf Course, 2100 W. High. Egg Hunt begins 11:30 a.m. Cookout provided by Freshwater Church. Giveaways for all ages.

#### **Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association Meeting:**

April 27, May 25, June 29: 6-8 p.m., Tom Watkins Park Community Center, 2100 W. High. Potluck at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m. Come for one or the other, but we would love to have you for both!

**Tom Watkins Neighborhood Cleanup:** May 6: 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Dumpsters will be located at Williams Elementary, 2205 W. Kearney. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

### WELLER

#### **Weller Neighborhood Association Meeting:** April 6,

May 4, June 1: 6-7 p.m., Turning Point Church, 1722 N. National.

#### **Weller Neighborhood Cleanup:** April 22:

8 a.m.-noon, Weller Community Church, 1624 E. Blaine. Items accepted are trash, brush, metal. Curbside pickup is not available.

### WEST CENTRAL

#### **West Central Neighborhood Alliance Meeting:**

May 23: 6:30-7:30 p.m., McGregor Elementary.

#### **West Central June and July Summer Socials:**

Date/time/location TBA. Stay tuned to Facebook and SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

### WESTSIDE

#### **Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association**

**Meeting:** April 11, May 9, June 13: 6:30 p.m., Westport Park Apartments Community Room, 250 N. Hilton.

#### **Westside Neighborhood Cleanup:** May 13:

8 a.m.-1 p.m. Dumpsters will be located at Study Alternative School, 2343 W. Olive.

### WOODLAND HEIGHTS

#### **Woodland Heights Neighborhood Cleanup:** April 8:

8 a.m.-noon. Dumpsters will be located at Reed Academy, 2000 N. Lyon. Items accepted are trash, brush and metal. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply.

#### **Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association**

**Meeting:** April 20, May 18, June 15: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church, 722 W. Atlantic.

**Dirt Day:** June 3: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic. We invite all of Springfield to Lafayette Park in the Historic Woodland Heights Neighborhood for fun with gardening info and activities as well as plant swap, Dinosaur Dig, Birdhouse painting and much more!

**Moon City Pole Painting:** April 29: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Moon City Creative District. No charge, but we appreciate a contribution at mooncitycreativedistrict.com/paint-a-pole-stroll. Must register online or on event day, at the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Center at Atlantic and Campbell.

**Summer Solstice Art Fair:** June 17: 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Lafayette Park. Co-sponsored by Moon City Creative District and Springfield-Greene County Park Board. If you'd like to apply to display your art, register at mooncitycreativedistrict.com/summer-solstice.



# Cherry Blossom Kite & Piñata Festival

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