



## Who has the most Springfield spirit?

Bass Pro offering Great Neighborhoods funds to registered neighborhoods for a fourth year

By Melissa Haase, SGFNN Managing Editor

Representatives from registered Springfield neighborhood organizations will be up bright and early for the Bass Pro Marathon Sunday, Nov. 5. But they won't be running. They'll be cheering.

As a way to show off its hometown's spirit, Bass Pro has again committed \$10,000 this year to fund a contest for neighborhood cheering sections, partnering with the City's Great Neighborhoods program to issue a "neighborhood challenge" to registered neighborhoods across the City. All 16 registered neighborhoods with the City of Springfield are eligible to participate.

Winnings must go toward neighborhood initiatives, such as community gardens, additions to a park or other neighborhood improvements, and will be awarded at the annual Community Partnership of the Ozarks Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Awards (NOVA) in December.

Neighborhoods are again encouraged to choose a theme for their section, and display plenty of signage to let runners know whose section they're running

through. Marathon organizers will begin communicating with the neighborhoods in August about theme selections so they can design course experiences around each neighborhood's theme. Efforts will be made to place returning neighborhoods in the same locations they've had previously.

"We are always excited about this opportunity to work with the neighborhoods along the marathon's route," says Bass Pro Outdoor Fitness Festival Director Melissa Bondy. "Many of our participants come in from out of town. We want them to leave knowing how much community pride is in Springfield."

This year, Bass Pro plans a more in-depth post-race survey to gain helpful feedback from the runners to determine the winners of the cheering sections, based on level of motivation and entertainment provided by each section.



Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association at the Bass Pro Marathon, 2016.

Bondy added that she hopes the neighborhoods will stop by the Marathon Weekend Expo 1-7 p.m. Nov. 3 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 4 at Bass Pro's White River Conference Center, 600 W. Sunshine St.

"We think they'll love the expo, with the free information, giveaways and energy of the runners. We hope they will come!"

## Aim of new SGF Yields program to help city become more pedestrian friendly

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

On average, 60 pedestrians are struck on Springfield streets per year.

Nationally, pedestrian-involved crashes have been on the rise since 2009. This number can be attributed to the growing use of smartphones, which can serve as a significant source of distraction to both drivers and pedestrians.

To combat this growing trend, the City is rolling out a new pedestrian safety campaign called SGF Yields, made possible by a \$5,000 Blueprint for Safer Roadways grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation.

The goal of the campaign is to initiate a cultural change in Springfield to become more pedestrian friendly. The aim is to foster an awareness in motorists to actively watch for pedestrians and to yield to them at crosswalks. Pedestrians are urged to travel responsibly — using crosswalks, obeying traffic signals and following other tips to stay safe.

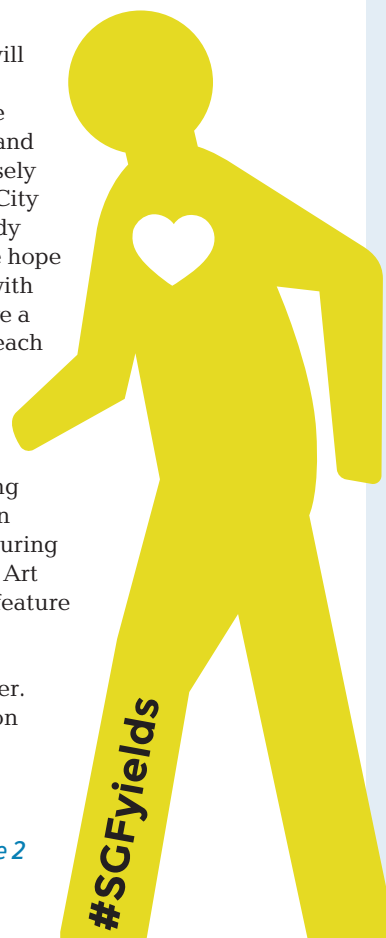
In an attempt to increase awareness of crosswalk locations and remind drivers to watch out, the campaign includes a unique element — sculptural installations of the campaign's "spokes-pedestrian" "Mr. Walker." These brightly colored, life-size metal cutouts will be installed near crosswalks at 10 locations around Springfield. They are intended to reinforce existing crosswalk signage and serve as a visible reminder to drivers and pedestrians.

"We hope our Mr. Walker installations will raise awareness and make people take care in crossing the street and that drivers watch closely for pedestrians" says City Traffic Engineer Mandy Buettgen-Quinn. "We hope citizens will identify with this character and have a little fun seeking out each Mr. Walker location."

Educational booths will be set up at art and safety events this summer, beginning with a kick-off event in Park Central Square during the July 7 First Friday Art Walk. The booth will feature pedestrian safety tips, giveaways and a selfie station with Mr. Walker.

For more information and safety tips, visit [springfieldmo.gov/sqfyields](http://springfieldmo.gov/sqfyields).

▶ see SGF YIELDS on page 2



### Welcome to the Summer 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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**SAFETY TIPS:**

**Drivers:**

- Actively watch crosswalks, especially when turning left or right at signals.
- Slow down and pay attention when approaching a crosswalk, even if you don't immediately see a walker.
- The walker in the crosswalk has the right of way. Let walkers go first!
- Be patient and kind. Give pedestrians plenty of time and space to safely cross.

**Walkers:**

- Remember to cross responsibly! Seek out crosswalks and always obey traffic signals.
- It is safest to walk on a sidewalk. If one is not available, walk on the shoulder and face traffic.
- Wear bright-colored or reflective clothing.
- Make eye contact with all drivers. Clearly demonstrate your intent to cross, and cross only when vehicles stop.
- Keep scanning for traffic as you cross, especially for turning vehicles.



Mock-up of Mr. Walker installation.

## Motorists: Slow down and watch for pedestrians as students head back to school Aug. 16

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

As Springfield Public Schools' students head back to school Wednesday, Aug. 16 and area universities start their fall sessions, Public Works Traffic Engineering reminds drivers to slow down and watch for pedestrians.

All school speed zones will be back in effect starting Aug. 16. The flashing beacons are programmed to flash for 50 minutes in the morning before the school day begins until five minutes after the start time, and then again in the afternoon starting five minutes before dismissal time until 30 minutes after school is out.

Locations with crossing guards will have guards present when the speed zones are in effect. Public Works is also re-striping school crosswalks that need it.

In order to assist the families of students who walk or ride their bike to school, the Traffic Engineering division has developed recommended school walking route maps for all SPS elementary schools, available at [springfieldmo.gov/schoolsafety](http://springfieldmo.gov/schoolsafety).

Each map features the location of the school, existing traffic controls, sidewalks, crossing guard locations, and arrow head markings that suggest the walking route for each child from his or her home to the school utilizing the recommended school crossing locations.

The maps are updated annually for each elementary school in the Springfield R-12 School District, with the following objectives and considerations:

- Routes combine as students approach the school to group the students as soon as possible for greater safety and to consolidate the number of street crossings to reduce total vehicle-pedestrian exposures.
- Routes should make the maximum use of existing traffic control (signals and stop signs).
- Adequate sight distance between the motorists and the pedestrian must be available at all crossings.

In addition to the maps, several schools have signalized school crosswalks. Signalized school crosswalks are equipped with "kid friendly" pedestrian push buttons and educational signage. The push buttons are activated by the touch of a finger and the button responds with a single "chirp" sound along with display of a continuous red LED light. Two separate education plaques are used at school crosswalks.

The City reminds drivers that the speed limit in Springfield neighborhoods is 25 mph.

For more information about the city's Drive 25 program, please visit [springfieldmo.gov/Drive25](http://springfieldmo.gov/Drive25).



## SGF celebrates World Tai Chi Day in April

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Led by Tai Chi instructor Shifu Dee Ogilvy, about 100 Springfield residents celebrated World Tai Chi Day April 29 with an open practice at the Springfield Art Museum's auditorium.

According to Ogilvy, Tai Chi is a remarkably potent workout for people of all ages and physical fitness levels.

"Tai Chi concentrates on strengthening the central nervous system, and on harmonizing muscles and blood flow to the heart, which in turn allows a greater amount of oxygen to be available for consumption. This circulation is beneficial to the heart as it prevents many diseases of the heart and the viscera and inflexibility of the cardiac muscle," she said.

Ogilvy teaches traditional 108 Yang Form Tai Chi, which centers on calmness, tranquility of mind and the improvement of health and persona.

"Yang style is characterized by a closely knit series of relaxed and composed flowing movements that combine strength with resilience and vigor with gentleness," Ogilvy said.

A highly trained instructor, Ogilvy will resume teaching free Tai Chi classes July 11 on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at the Midtown Carnegie Branch Library and Wednesdays at 5 p.m. at Mount Carmel Methodist Church, 1001 N. National, in addition to the private classes she offers through her business, White Metal Rabbit Taijiquan. She is taking the month of June off to spend with her granddaughter. She will add a third location, the Springfield Art Museum, 9-10 a.m. on Fridays, starting Sept. 8.

"I live in Zone 1; my grandparents and great-grandparents lived in the same neighborhood I now live in," Ogilvy, a Midtown resident, said. "When I was a child living in New York, I loved to come to Springfield to visit and knew this would be my home someday. When my husband retired, we moved to Springfield so I could teach Tai Chi. I soon realized that many people were missing out on the joy of Tai Chi simply because they could not afford to take a class. With the help of Maria Johnston from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, we came up with a plan to offer FREE quality Tai Chi to everyone. Please come visit a class anytime. Beginners are always welcome."

### ABOUT TAI CHI

"Tai Chi is about untangling life's problems," Ogilvy said. "Tai Chi lets you practice relaxing around the challenges you face, thus letting you work with and on your challenges."

According to Ogilvy, Tai Chi movements are circular and never forced, the muscles are relaxed rather than tensed, the joints are not fully extended or bent, and connective tissues are not stretched, unlike the other forms of exercise.

"Moreover, Tai Chi can be easily adapted for anyone regardless of his or her athletic aptitude, skill, fitness level and/or health needs. No equipment is needed for the exercise," Ogilvy said.

According to Ogilvy, studies at major medical centers show Tai Chi to be more effective than standard physical therapy at improving balance and muscular flexibility, improved lower body and leg strength reducing arthritis pain (especially in knees.)



Other benefits include reducing bone loss in women with osteoporosis; lowering blood pressure; promoting faster recovery from cancer, stroke and heart attack; slowing the progression of Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease; and reducing the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Tai Chi also increases communication and enables one to deal with others more effectively. Regular "players" of Tai Chi begin to develop an emotional, mental and spiritual clarity and confidence. Relaxation, calmness, stress reduction and a feeling of well-being are among the first noticeable differences in a Tai Chi student. Older adults who practice Tai Chi regain lost brain elasticity and improve cognitive skills, enhancing mental capacity and concentration.

For more information, contact Shifu Dee Ogilvy at [benz.zen@gmail.com](mailto:benz.zen@gmail.com) or visit [springfieldtaichi.wordpress.com](http://springfieldtaichi.wordpress.com).



# Community gardens taking root across the city

By Juliana Goodwin for SGFNN



## Springfield

♦ COMMUNITY GARDENS ♦

Kneeling down in the Springfield Community Gardens Market Garden, Denise Charlesworth picks up a clump of clover clippings being used as natural mulch.

"You can juice these or put them on your salads,"

said Charlesworth. "I love to learn and have learned so much from other people here."

Charlesworth is one of 1,000 volunteers who collectively donate 10,000 hours annually to keep Springfield Community Gardens (SCG) growing.

"I'm vegan and it's expensive to buy fresh produce, so this helps sustain me," Charlesworth said.

SCG began in 2010 with a small group of people who wanted to start a neighborhood garden in the Grant Beach Neighborhood.

Shelley Vaugine, garden leader at the Grant Beach Community Garden and one of the co-founders, said many families need fresh food but can't necessarily afford it, so it makes sense to grow more as a community. It took years, but their vision became a reality with the assistance of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and the City of Springfield's Neighborhoods and Planning Office in the Planning & Development department.

With a commitment from the City of Springfield and grants from different departments and businesses, the idea has taken root throughout the city.

There are now 22 sites, said Emilee Blansit, volunteer coordinator with AmeriCorps VISTA.

Every garden is unique but each builds a sense of community, said Maile Auterson, SCG interim director.

"At the SCG Market Garden, the sole purpose of it is to teach others to grow food for market. We grow food in the market for the daycare at the Fairbanks and we provide produce for their weekly community dinners," Auterson said.

Teaching someone how to earn a couple extra hundred dollars a month can be significant to a low-income family.

At the Meador Community Garden in Ray Kelly Park, they donate food to a senior center.

Three years ago, SCG teamed up with Ozarks Food Harvest to donate produce in two north side neighborhoods.



In order to receive the produce, people must volunteer in the garden for two hours a month.

"We hear all the time from people that they cannot afford to buy fresh produce," said Vaugine.

Aside from what is grown in the garden, Ozarks Food Harvest picks up excess produce from grocery stores and it is all distributed once a week. Sometimes neighbors will volunteer for a person who is physically unable to work in the garden, or garden leaders will find non-strenuous jobs like making phone calls so everyone can participate, said Auterson.

Although each garden is different, in general, volunteers reap some of the harvest.

Friends Jon Raley and Alicia Doran volunteer at the gardens through their church; once a month they forgo church service and dig in the dirt instead.

"We were looking for a meaningful way to give our time that mattered," said Raley.

It's been a fulfilling experience, they added.

"I absolutely love it," said Doran.

***"I have no experience gardening, but I'm interested in it so it's nice to have experts teach me."***

Jarek Srnka is studying horticulture at Missouri State University and volunteers eight hours a week to earn college credits, but he plans to stay on when his classes are over because it has been such a rewarding and educational experience.

Community gardens address everything from food deserts, to healthier living, to neighborhood beautification. They promote physical activity and build community relationships.



Volunteers Alexa Poindexter and Elizabeth Thorp working in the Fairbanks garden, 1126 N. Broadway.

Just ask Abdo Soliman, who has a long history of community gardens; he's been volunteering at them since he lived in St. Louis in 1995.

"You have a garden that doesn't tie you down and people can pitch in for each other," Soliman said. "It's a good platform for people to meet each other. I always end up with new friends."

### NUMBERS AT A GLANCE:

Springfield Community Gardens was established in 2010 and today has 22 sites around the city.

Roughly 1,000 volunteers tend to the gardens.

In 2016, working with Ozarks Food Harvest, 170,476 pounds of produce was donated to families in need, and volunteers logged more than 9,800 hours in SCG gardens.

### GET INVOLVED:

If you want to volunteer for Springfield Community Gardens, visit [springfieldcommunitygardens.org](http://springfieldcommunitygardens.org) and click on the volunteer tab to pull up a calendar of opportunities. You can use the website to find a garden near you.

### DISTRIBUTION CENTERS:

Two gardens serve as distribution centers: Grant Beach Community Garden, 800 W. Hovey (on Thursdays); and Weller Community Garden, 1624 E. Blaine St., (on Wednesdays). To receive produce, volunteers must work at least two hours a month in the garden. There are jobs, such as sorting, for people who are not physically able to work in the dirt, and one bed is wheelchair accessible. Garden leaders will find a way to work with people who need it.

For people who don't know how to prepare or preserve fresh produce, Vaugine offers free cooking classes the last Sunday of the month at the Hovey House.

*Learn what's happening in other neighborhood community gardens:*

**Grant Beach, page 13**

**Heart of the Westside, page 14**

**Woodland Heights, page 22**



Left to right: Emilee Blansit, Shelley Vaugine, Denise Charlesworth and volunteer Abdo Soliman.



# Capital improvement grants awarded to eight neighborhoods through Neighborhood Works Program

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Eight registered neighborhoods in Springfield will soon be seeing improvements to their parks thanks to a competitive grant made possible through the voter-approved 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax.

In April 2016, Springfield voters overwhelmingly approved the renewal of the City's 1/4-cent Capital Improvements Sales Tax. New to the tax this cycle is a set-aside of \$500,000 annually for a neighborhood initiative program, now known as the Neighborhood Works Program.

Neighborhood Works is intended to fund small-scale capital improvements within neighborhoods, giving residents the opportunity to identify the projects they believe would offer the greatest benefit to their neighborhoods.

Because funding is limited, a competitive application process was established using specific evaluation criteria. Individual projects were limited to a maximum cost of \$100,000, and only registered neighborhood associations could apply after attending a mandatory application workshop. All projects were also required to be located on City property or right-of-way.

Submitted applications were assessed by City staff for feasibility and cost, then passed to a special committee formed by the Neighborhood Advisory Council for scoring and award recommendations. City Manager Greg Burris approved the committee's final recommendations and announced the projects approved for funding at the May NAC meeting.

The following neighborhood projects were approved for funding in 2017:

- **Tom Watkins Park Improvements – Tom Watkins Neighborhood: \$77,930:** The project consists of improvements to increase functionality of the park, including the installation of four new lights placed in the central area of the park, the installation of new disc golf tee pads and disc golf course and tee signs and drainage improvements west of the Tom Watkins Community Center.
- **Lafayette Park Improvements – Woodland Heights Neighborhood: \$36,500:** Improvements include the addition of solar lighting for the tennis court and the installation of electrical outlets on

the east side of the Charlie Norr Community Center, the west side of the tennis court and near the pavilion.

- **L.A. Wise Park Improvements – Bissett Neighborhood: \$95,880:**

The project includes the installation of a 30' by 40' pavilion with picnic tables and the installation of lighting and electrical service at the pavilion.

- **Washington Park Improvements – Midtown Neighborhood: \$47,936:**

This project includes maintenance to the existing basketball and tennis courts. Improvements to the basketball court include the sealing of cracks, a new asphalt overlay, new striping and the installation of a new basketball goal and backboard. The tennis court will receive a new asphalt overlay with new surface and striping, and new posts and net will be installed. Permanent bench seating will also be installed on the sides of both courts.

- **Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park Enhancements – West Central Neighborhood: \$9,600:**

This project consists of the installation of picnic tables and park benches within the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park.

- **Grant Beach Park Improvements – Grant Beach Neighborhood: \$59,800:**

This project includes new electrical service and lighting installed at the park pavilion. In addition, new wood poles with sports lights will be installed and two existing sport light fixtures will be replaced on the sports field.

- **Phelps Grove Park Parking Lot Improvements – Phelps Grove Neighborhood: \$54,210:**

This project includes improvements to and expansion of parking on the east side of Phelps Grove Park to improve traffic flow for safety of drivers and



Left to right are Joe Roberds, Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association; Fred Ackley, Doling Neighborhood Association; Eric Pauly, Phelps Grove Neighborhood Association; Anita Kuhns, Grant Beach Neighborhood Association; Becky Volz, Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association; Marti Mowery, Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association; Alia Lee and Marie Wood, Midtown Neighborhood Association.

pedestrians. Cracks on the existing asphalt will be repaired and a new asphalt overlay will be provided. Improvements will include new striping and handicap parking symbols and signs. In addition, curb for two islands will be installed along Virginia Avenue.

- **Giboney Cave Electrical Upgrades – Doling Neighborhood: \$18,500:**

This project includes improvements within Doling Park with electrical upgrades at the entrance to Giboney Cave to accommodate a sound system and lighting for events such as Concert at the Cave.

Two additional projects were recommended if costs for the base projects are completed under budget.

- **West Avenue Sidewalk Addition – Westside Neighborhood:** Construction of a sidewalk on the south half of the 200 block of South West Avenue, between Walnut Street and the alley to the north.
- **Pavilion Upgrades at Doling Park – Doling Neighborhood:** Installation of electrical upgrades at the pavilion in Doling Park.

## SGF seeing variety of promising economic development in Zone 2

By Dr. Tom Prater, Zone 2 Councilman, for SGFNN



In his State of the City address in June, Mayor Ken McClure outlined City Council's priorities for the coming year. One of those is economic vitality.

"From Fortune 500 employers and global companies to countless local success stories of

small businesses that were born out of great ideas and willingness to take risks, Springfield provides exciting opportunities in nearly every industry," he said. "Springfield is also a great place for budding entrepreneurs to realize their dreams."

Over the past 18 months, Springfield businesses have announced nine new major projects, which created 707 new jobs with more than \$33 million

in new payroll and more than \$187 million in new capital investment.

I'm very happy to say that much of that activity is happening right now in Springfield's Zone 2. For those not familiar, Zone 2's boundaries are the Springfield city limits to the north, Sunshine Street to the south, National Avenue to the west and the city limits to the east.

3M, which is celebrating its 50th year in Springfield, also recently announced plans to significantly expand its Springfield facility on East Chestnut Expressway, resulting in the addition of 90 jobs.

Other expansions and new facilities in Zone 2 include a significant expansion announcement by Kraft Heinz, a headquarters expansion for O'Reilly Auto Parts and an expansion at SRC Logistics, resulting in another 50 new jobs.

Thanks in large part to the enthusiasm of my Zone 1 colleague, Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson, we're also hoping to spur a business renaissance on Kearney Street.

Hundreds turned out for the kickoff to welcome cruising back to Kearney Street this spring, with monthly cruise-ins happening on the second Friday of each month from April through October. Planning firm PGAV recently presented its findings in a corridor study for the portion of Kearney between Kansas Expressway and Glenstone Avenue. Among those was that the area has the potential to capture additional retail sales from the available \$95 million in unmet household demand in the trade area around Kearney Street.

I look forward to working with City staff on this project and can't wait to see what's next for this once- and hopefully soon-to-be-again thriving part of our city.

Other neighborhoods in Zone 2 are showing great signs of new economic development. Look for the Tie & Timber Beer Co., set to open in Rountree in early 2018.



# SGF NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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## Local Crime Stoppers program essential to law enforcement

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor



Whether you've witnessed a crime or have information that could help solve a crime, the Greater Springfield Area Crime Stoppers program encourages you to come forward and share it. Calls can remain

confidential if the caller desires.

"There's always been a segment of the population that is uncomfortable about contacting law enforcement, so Crime Stoppers is absolutely an essential component in solving crimes," said Springfield Police Chief Paul Williams. "Some people do it for the money, but what I've found in 30-plus years of law enforcement is that a lot of people provide these tips because they want to help solve a crime."

Since its inception, tips submitted to the Greater Springfield Area Crime Stoppers have led to 2,772 arrests, 611 fugitive arrests, 96 weapons recovered and 3,117 cases cleared.

The Crime Stoppers program relies on cooperation between the police, the media and citizens to provide anonymous information about crime and criminals in the Greene County area with a major focus on crime within the Springfield city limits.

Crime Stoppers is designed to develop information used to solve felony crimes. Cash rewards of up to \$1,000 are available for tips that directly lead to a felony arrest or felony drug seizure. Rewards are provided at the discretion of the civilian board of directors.

Crime Stoppers is a program of Community Partnership of the Ozarks (a non-profit) that obtains money through fundraising and donations and no tax dollars are used to pay rewards.

This includes advertising donations of television and radio air time to make Crime Stoppers an effective crime fighting tool within the community. The Crime Stoppers program does utilize local law enforcement for tip investigations but there is no contact information obtained for the tipster, no caller ID, and the conversation is not recorded.

All tip submissions are kept anonymous by using a tip hotline number (417-869-TIPS), or a secure online website (P3tips.com). There is also a discreet P3 app available for smartphones that can be downloaded via Google Play or the Apple App Store. The program asks tipsters not to submit tip information through the Crime Stoppers Facebook page as it is not secure or anonymous.

"Crime Stoppers provides a unique opportunity for citizens to take a more active role in keeping their community safe," says Springfield Police Officer Rachel Kleeman, who coordinates the local program.

*"We're more interested in the information you provide, and not who you are."*

If you have information relating to crimes, you can submit an anonymous tip to 417-869-TIPS or submit tips online at [P3tips.com](http://P3tips.com).

For more information, or to make a tax-deductible donation to the Greater Springfield Area Crime Stoppers program, please visit [springfieldcrimestoppers.com](http://springfieldcrimestoppers.com). Follow Crime Stoppers on Facebook at [facebook.com/GSACrimeStop](http://facebook.com/GSACrimeStop).

The Greater Springfield Area Crime Stoppers Program is a member of Crime Stoppers USA.

Interested in serving on the Crime Stoppers board? Please call 417-864-1810.

## Springfield Art Museum announces exhibition opportunity for local artists

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor



The Springfield Art Museum is seeking proposals for exhibition in a new flexible social gallery space that combines exhibitions, retail, and limited beverage service. The museum encourages submissions from Springfield-based artists working in all media, with particular preference given to two-dimensional work and low-relief sculpture.

Set to open in late October, the gallery portion of this new flex space within the museum will feature a rotating exhibit titled Art in Our City. Tentatively scheduled for six-month rotations, Art in Our City will highlight not only local artists, but also the character of Springfield's unique neighborhoods and will draw out their influence on the artists who inhabit them. Featured artists and neighborhoods will eventually be compiled into a publication, which will in turn be available for purchase in the new retail space.



Nick Nelson, Springfield Art Museum director

"Local art and art with local ties is an important part of our collection and exhibitions. This new opportunity creates another intentional layer to those areas, intended to connect people and places through art, and will hopefully serve as a bridge to neighborhoods not traditionally served by

the museum," says Museum Director Nick Nelson. "Recent attendance studies show that 25 percent of our annual visitors travel over 75 miles to attend the museum. Art in Our City is a great way to introduce these visitors to the bevy of talented and creative individuals in our own back yard."

Interested artists can view a detailed "Call For Artists" and apply for consideration of their work at the museum's website [sgfmuseum.org](http://sgfmuseum.org). There is no entry fee associated with this exhibition. The deadline for the October exhibition is Aug. 1.



# Build My Future Construction Showcase exposes students to crafts and trades

By Mary Ann Rojas, Missouri Job Center-Ozarks Region, for SGFNN



April 12 was filled with excitement and anticipation at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds E-Plex. We all arrived earlier than expected to ensure the lights were on, everyone was in appropriate uniform, the banners were hung, and everyone was at

their stations, ready for opening day. The Missouri Job Center-Ozarks Region's first-ever construction showcase was fittingly titled "Build My Future."

The buses began to arrive, and a sea of yellow shirts worn by young, enthusiastic high schoolers flowed continuously throughout the day. More than 900 students from 40 high schools in the Ozarks came to learn about the construction industry and career opportunities. The day met with opportunity and so much more than they expected.

Students were able to see, feel and touch the latest tools, technology and techniques of various occupations in the industry.

They completed tasks associated with the jobs, such as bricklaying, concrete finishing, and carpentry. Through advanced simulators they were able to test drive an 18-wheeler truck, and complete a weld. Students operated forklifts, backhoes and commercial-grade cement finishers. They drew schematics using AutoCAD software. And, they built and broke down a bridge and a shed! Students learned about mechanical, plumbing, environmental and electrical systems.

These students were engaged! They were interested, they were participating, and most interesting, they left their cell phones in their pockets the entire event.

Students also witnessed collaboration in action: Hundreds of volunteers and subject matter experts were willing to share their knowledge, experience, and time to connect young talent to viable opportunities in the industry.

But clearly the most important benefit of Build My Future was the exposure to wonderful opportunities in the crafts and trades. Career pathways provide opportunities for lifelong learning, and advancement is imminent should they choose this career path.

Developing a skilled workforce can be accomplished in a variety of ways, but the most important thing we can do as practitioners and employers is to provide real life, relevant experiences for the emerging workforce. A survey of the students showed over 70 percent of the students attending the expo had a very different view of the construction industry. While they came in with a negative perception, students left feeling positive and educated about the possibilities in an industry filled with well-paying, high-demand jobs.



This event is a strong example of diverse generations, organizations and government agencies coming together with a shared vision and purpose—to build the future of the industry by building the future of its emerging workforce.

Hats off to the team of dedicated volunteers, sponsors, school districts and students that made this day possible.

Mary Ann Rojas is the director of Workforce Development for the City of Springfield.



## City shares results of trash and recycling study

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City of Springfield has concluded the first phases of a Trash and Recycling Collection Efficiency Study that included an analysis of the current collection system, several methods of public outreach, and regional and benchmarking comparison research.

The in-depth study was commissioned after questions were brought up by the Neighborhood Advisory Council and City Council regarding potential impacts and inefficiencies of the current system. Springfield has a free market system for the curbside collection of the community's solid waste (trash and recycling materials).

Findings from the public outreach phase reflect a statistically valid representation of the city population and reveal that Springfieldians are open to change, but value these four factors: cost, quality and variety of services, environmental

stewardship and protecting the interests of small, local businesses.

Study results show that residential trash service is provided by more than 10 licensed haulers within city limits. More than 58 percent of citizens report paying more than \$12 per month for trash collection. Reported prices vary considerably from \$10 per month to more than \$16 per month for trash service only. Several other Missouri communities with citywide programs provide multiple curbside services (trash, recycling, bulky item and/or yard waste collection) with bundled pricing. Springfield residents appear to be paying similar per household rates without including the extra services.

In order to forecast costs of service for an optimized collection program in Springfield, a financial analysis was conducted using a series of industry benchmark inputs. Results indicate it could cost less than \$10 per month for trash collection and less than \$13 per month for combined trash and city-wide curbside recycling collection.

Seventy-three percent of citizens believe it is important for the City to practice environmentally responsible waste management such as recycling.

Council agreed to eliminate certain options from future consideration. Council members were provided with a full study report and will reconvene to discuss the study findings and deliberate options later this summer.

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



## Having a garage sale? Get your free permit online

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The City of Springfield passed an ordinance for garage and yard sales for the benefit of the citizens. The main concern is when neighborhood problems arise because of garage sales. Another concern is that of resale. The ordinance clearly states that a garage sale may not be used to sell items purchased for resale. You may have two garage sales within a 12-month period. Each sale should last no longer than three days.

You should contact the Finance Department's Licensing division at 417-864-1617 to register your garage sale or register online at [springfieldmo.gov/GarageSalePermits](http://springfieldmo.gov/GarageSalePermits). The permit is free, but must be obtained before your garage sale begins.

Garage sale signs may be placed in your yard or in your neighbor's yard (with his or her agreement), but they should never be placed in the city's right-of-way (on streets signs, utility poles, between the sidewalk and the curb, and so on). Also, no garage sale signs should look like traffic signs. Garage sale signs may be purchased at several locations throughout Springfield.

You may legally sell your own items at your own garage sale. You should sell only used, accumulated items, not items purchased for resale.

Charitable organizations that would like to have a garage sale must call the licensing division to receive an application. All of the same guidelines apply, except regarding what may be sold at the garage sale.



# History hidden in plain sight

By Kaitlyn McConnell, *OzarksAlive.com*, for SGFNN  
This article originally appeared on *OzarksAlive.com* and was reprinted with permission.

When Springfield's University Club set about commemorating noteworthy Greene County sites with markers in the 1920s, its aim was historic preservation. Now, however, the work itself has become a piece of Springfield's history — because nearly 100 years later, many of those markers still stand in plain sight.

Springfield's University Club helped coordinate the placement of more than 20 historic markers in Greene County, many of which date back to the 1920s. Today, most of the monuments still remain.

But to find them, one must know where to look: Even in 1964, the *Springfield Leader & Press* noted that "some have become about as obscure as parts of our pioneer history."

A few are embedded in buildings — such as at the corner of Boonville Avenue and Olive Street — while others stand alone several miles out of town. One, trapped behind a fence topped with barbed wire, proves times have changed. But that's an advantage for Marker 5, which got a new lease on life when Springfield's new bus transfer station opened in the spring of 2016.

Regardless of location, University Club member Bob Trewatha says the markers play a role in preserving Springfield's history. "(They're) significant because we can lose that history very easily unless it's maintained through markers or stories or books," he says.

## THE MEN BEHIND THE MARKERS

Although Trewatha doesn't quite know why the University Club formed in the first place, he does know "it wasn't because of (historical) markers," he says. "It was a social organization."

The group, which began in 1919, consisted of college-educated men who regularly gathered at Heer's Garden Room for smokes, drinks and programs, says Trewatha. Two years after it formed, however, the club decided to propel a new project.

"The University Club, in its efforts to ... celebrate Missouri's centennial year, has secured the erection of eight markers which will serve to commemorate and perpetuate the location of historic points in Springfield and Greene County," wrote Dr. Edward Shepard, the group's president and monument proponent, for the *Springfield Republican* on May 29, 1921.

Made of granite, the markers "often look like tombstones, for they were installed before the day of fancy metal concoctions," reported the *Springfield Leader & Press* in 1964. Shepard himself described them as "dolomitic limestone, the most durable of all rocks," in a newspaper article he wrote announcing their placement.

The most recent marker was installed in 1972 on Park Central Square. It was added after the area became a pedestrian plaza: The marker, in the shape of a book, listed significant Park Central Square-related dates. "I think that when they did that, they wanted to say 'Here's (our history),' " says Trewatha.

That monument ultimately sparked controversy because one historic date — Springfield's infamous lynching — wasn't included.

After much debate, that changed in 2002. "With a simple addition to a bronze, book-shaped marker

on the square's southeast corner, Springfield publicly acknowledged that 'On April 14, 1906, three black men, Horace B. Duncan, Fred Coker and Will Allen were lynched without a trial,'" recorded the *Springfield News-Leader* on April 4, 2002.

## FINDING THE MARKERS

Here are the sites the markers identify. To find their locations and more information, visit [thelibrary.org](http://thelibrary.org).

1. Greene County's first white settlement
2. Springfield's first settlement
3. Schoolcraft's Camp
4. Southwest Missouri's first mill
5. Springfield's first school.
6. The first school in Greene County
7. The first store in southwest Missouri
8. Southwest Missouri's first classical academy
9. Greene County's first church
10. The first church in Springfield
11. Kickapoo Indian Village
12. A monument to Greene County soldiers from World War I
13. Native American mounds
14. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield
15. First cabin in Springfield
16. Fort Ancient
17. Zagonyi's Charge
18. Butterfield Overland Stage
19. First post office in Springfield
20. First religious service in Greene County
21. Defining moments of Park Central Square

## MAINTAINING THE MARKERS

There was considerable controversy regarding the amendment of that monument — but even though the University Club originally placed the marker, it wasn't its debate to decide. After all, the club doesn't own any of the monuments; it simply coordinated their placement and worked with other local groups to provide funding. Club members don't own land where they're located, either.

"...We don't have any rights," says Trewatha. "We just said we'd maintain them."

The club does that by periodically checking each one to ensure all are in good repair. Thankfully, the stones have held up well over the years, and generally don't require much work, says Trewatha.

Although it'll soon be a century since the first set of markers was installed, they're still a central focus of the University Club. So much so that when asked about the club's purpose, Trewatha simply points to its



Marker 5, recognizing Springfield's first school, was incorporated in City Utilities' new Transit Center.

mission statement, printed on a paper in his hand, and begins to read.

"The mission of the club is the maintenance of historical markers with which the club was involved in their placement," he says. He does also note that the organization exists to for the development of higher ideals in the community, knowledge and scholarship, entertainment and good fellowship. But it's mostly about the markers.

One of the markers — No. 5, which recognizes the first school in Springfield — got a new chance to make history. For many years, it was located at the corner of Main Avenue and College Street, but was incorporated in Springfield's new bus transfer station, which opened in May 2016.

"(City Utilities) was really nice about working with us and keeping us informed," notes Trewatha.

After all, as is the case with many older professional organizations, the University Club could use some more members. "Now we have 42 members and half of those are inactive," says Trewatha. "If you'd like to join, we'd love to have you."

The club's members comprise a variety of educational and professional backgrounds, including medicine, religion, business, law, military, government and education. And these days, women are welcome to join, too.

"We fixed that," says Trewatha. "It's open to women. We changed our bylaws and said 'Let's get with the 21st century.'"

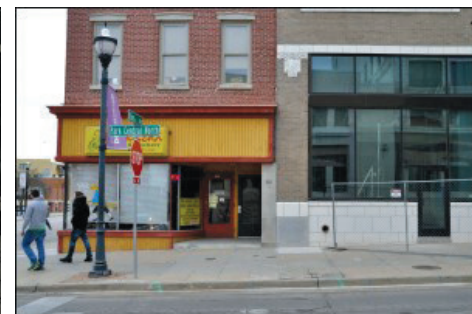
## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

The University Club meets the first and third Wednesday, September through May. The next meeting is at 11:30 a.m. at Jimmy's Egg, 3837 S. Campbell. Those interested can contact Trewatha at [RTrewatha@MissouriState.edu](mailto:RTrewatha@MissouriState.edu).

*All vintage photos are courtesy of the Springfield-Greene County Library District.*



Marker 18, a small plaque near the sidewalk, is located at the corner of Boonville Avenue and Olive Street. It recognizes the Butterfield Overland Stage.





# Too much stuff? Safe and Sanitary Homes Program can help

By Cara Erwin, Fire Department, for SGFNN



Lester Taylor's stuff was all-consuming. It all began following his daughter's divorce, when she moved next door to him in a house he owns.

"She had trouble getting rid of things," said Lester. "All her stuff filled up her home, and then my home and then the outside of both homes."

Springfield's Building Development Services, which enforces the City's nuisance ordinances, received a complaint about the property and Taylor became fearful that he could lose both homes.

Fortunately, six months later, he's living happily in his home, and the City has closed its case. All thanks, Taylor said, to the Safe and Sanitary Homes Program.

**"They saved my life."**

Safe and Sanitary Homes is a program to address hoarding and unsanitary living conditions in Springfield. It was started by individuals representing various community organizations and agencies in 2013, following a fatal fire in which firefighters couldn't immediately locate the victim due to the excessive clutter in the home. By the time they found him, he had succumbed to smoke inhalation.

In recent years, first responders, including police, firefighters and EMTs have seen a dramatic increase in cases of hoarding and severe squalor. While anecdotal, some of the Fire Department's more experienced captains estimate that as many as a third of the homes they are called to in Springfield show signs of hoarding and severe squalor. Trash blocking exits, newspapers stored in ovens, rooms unable to be used as intended — these are just a few of the things firefighters see on a regular basis.

Hoarding is a diagnosable mental illness in which parting with items causes significant distress to the owner. It becomes a safety concern when one or more rooms is inaccessible or unable to be used as intended or everyday living is compromised.

While not a mental illness, unsanitary living conditions are just as common and can be just as

dangerous as hoarding. These cases are situational — caused by a sudden crisis or loss of income — or behavioral, which occurs in families where at least two generations have lived in similar conditions. Whatever the reason, it's putting those families, firefighters and anyone else who might visit the home at risk.

In addition to creating unsanitary conditions for those in the home, hoarding and severe squalor also creates significant safety hazards—particularly fire hazards. Fires are more likely to occur in hoarded homes, and those fires burn hotter and faster than typical fires. Hoarded homes often present more challenges for first responders to get in and for victims to get out.

Springfield is taking steps to prevent injuries and deaths to not only those in the home, but to first responders as well. The Safe and Sanitary Homes Program raises awareness, education and ultimately assists to those suffering from hoarding disorder and those living in unsanitary living conditions.

Since it began, under the direction of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, the Safe and Sanitary Homes Program has received nearly 100 referrals. Twenty volunteers, including students with Missouri State University's Citizenship and Service Learning program, have donated more than 1,500 hours to help clean up 23 homes.

All clients have received referrals to counseling services and another dozen have been referred to other agencies, such as the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services.

Firefighters have installed 15 smoke alarms in homes identified as not having this basic protection and many others have been referred to other programs that could help, such as Habitat for Humanity. This is all in addition to the hundreds of residents who have been educated about this serious issue through free training provided by Burrell Behavioral Health, community events, speaking engagements at the local and state level and public service announcements.

While the program has proven successes, there are challenges ahead. So far, the program has survived on a generous \$2,000 donation from the Larry P. O'Reilly and Family Foundation and the generosity of local trash haulers willing to donate dumpsters to cleanup sites.

Unfortunately, these generous contributions do not address a significant need for additional funding, resources and manpower. Each cleanup can cost anywhere from a few hundred dollars for a dumpster to a few thousand dollars for extermination and structural repairs. Without a consistent revenue stream, it's unclear if the program can survive.

This possibility Lester Taylor certainly hopes doesn't become a reality. He describes a feeling to which many of those living in similar conditions can relate.

"It was overwhelming. I didn't know where to start," he said. "These volunteers came in to help. I don't know what else to say. It's the most wonderful thing that has ever happened to me."

If you or someone you know may benefit from the services of Safe and Sanitary Homes, visit [safeandsanitaryhomes.org](http://safeandsanitaryhomes.org) or call 417-874-2383.

To see the impact excessive clutter can have on fire growth, watch a demonstration conducted by the Springfield Fire Department at [springfieldmo.gov/Fire](http://springfieldmo.gov/Fire).



Volunteers Linda Stainback, Anthony Brown, Bobby Justice and Justin Valdez helped clean Lester's house.

## Free trees! City's NeighborWoods program accepting applications through Aug. 1

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

One of the City's goals is to develop and maintain our community forest. By partnering with the citizens of Springfield, we can rejuvenate, enhance and sustain this valuable community asset through the NeighborWoods program, which has 400 trees available to be planted on the City's rights-of-way.

Homeowners and non-profit organizations within the Springfield city limits including neighborhoods, multi-family residential units, churches, schools universities and other 501c3 organizations qualify for participation in the NeighborWoods program.

Participants work with the City to identify 20-50 planting sites. Once the trees are selected and planted, participants commit to establishing and



watering the trees for at least three years.

Contact City of Springfield NeighborWoods Coordinator Troy Powell at 417-874-2154 or [tlpowell@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:tlpowell@springfieldmo.gov) to learn more.

NeighborWoods is currently accepting applications for tree planting projects for the fall 2017/spring 2018 program cycle. Apply online at [springfieldmo.gov/NeighborWoods](http://springfieldmo.gov/NeighborWoods). The next deadline for proposals is Tuesday, Aug. 1.

**BASS PRO NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGE**  
**YOU COULD WIN MONEY FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!**

**BASS PRO FITNESS SERIES CONSERVATION MARATHON**  
Form your own neighborhood cheering section on race day, Saturday, Nov. 5, 2017. You could earn money for your neighborhood! Watch for details at [fitness.basspro.com](http://fitness.basspro.com)

City of Springfield  
**GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS**



# Neighborhood engagement a win for all

By Pete Radecki, NAC Chair, for SGFNN

As we roll into summer this year, I got to thinking about baseball. I'm not an avid fan, but like the game and think it affords some great analogies for things that make a difference. For example, take the base hit. No, it doesn't usually score runs, but it does open up the possibility of a win. On the first Saturday in June, Bissett conducted our annual neighborhood cleanup. Ballpark number of families that benefited directly: about 60. Now for each of them, getting rid of that old mattress, recliner, rusted-out barbecue grill, broken-down lawn mower or any number of other bulky items will not be a home run upgrade in their lives, but it does free up room and gets folks feeling better about their surroundings. I don't know about you, but for me, newfound space and feeling good are key ingredients to creating the possibility of an improved life — big or small.

Did I say 60 families benefited? Well, we also had about 30 volunteers come to help out. We talked, we laughed, we sweated together getting all that junk in the big roll-off dumpsters. We broke bread together (donuts and pizza) and talked with optimism.

Everyone there knew they had helped some folks. I think there is probably some deeply ingrained sense of value we feel when we give selflessly like that.

Something else I noticed during the cleanup: I didn't see any smartphones invading the space; no virtual reality. It was real hands putting real junk in real dumpsters with real teamwork. And I remember one man who probably brought four or five loads. Funny thing, it wasn't all his stuff. He just went to his neighbors and on his own picked up their junk and brought it. And you could see that with every new load, he became more outgoing — had us all laughing and sharing in his enjoyment of helping out his neighbors.

In preparation for the cleanup event, the Community Partnership of the Ozarks (actually Amanda Stadler who is the Wonder Woman

of Cleanups) sends out a postcard to all in the neighborhood to let everyone know about it. Included on that postcard for my neighborhood was my name and phone number to call if one had junk to get rid of but no way to get it there. In "cleanup-ese," we call that a need for a curbside pickup.

What I find quite enjoyable in getting those calls is hearing the stories. Some who need pickups are elderly or in ill health; they have neither the strength or the means to get rid of the stuff. Others just have a small car, a broken-down car or no car at all. They often tell me about themselves and how great it will be to see their junk go, and without exception, express their genuine thanks. Of course, we take down their addresses and give them to our volunteers, who go do those curbside pickups. No doubt, the volunteers (and neighbors) feel good about seeing the junk disappear, but the stories help us see that the impact is much more than that. It's real help for real people. One lady was so excited about finally getting rid of her junk that she brought us some apple fritters to enjoy!

There is also a group at the City that includes the mayor, City Council, City Manager Greg Burris and a tenacious group in the Neighborhoods & Planning Office that, year in and year out, manage to keep funds in the budget to pay for the dumpsters. Without these leaders, there would be no cleanups, so let's give each of them credit for a base hit. At our cleanup, I think we filled up seven or eight dumpsters, which was significantly more than last year. I suspect that increase was at least partially due to the free promotions provided by Alice 95.5 radio station and SGF Neighborhood News.

So taken together, all the families helped, the volunteers who themselves had rewarding experiences, and the CPO and City folks, I would say our little cleanup made more than a base hit's worth of difference. Overall, there were 13 neighborhood cleanups conducted this spring



around the city and I bet each one of them had a similar impact.

Certainly there are many other activities that neighborhood associations do (and most don't involve foul-smelling stuff!) What they do involve in large measure are people helping people in various ways, and while neighborhood associations mostly have some sort of social media presence, their core is always about real people interacting in real ways to make real differences with one another.

I don't know about you, but I like that kind of thing.

***Opportunities are there for anyone to participate in, develop and deepen our neighborhood associations – even for those who do not live within the borders of a neighborhood association.***

This summer, most associations will have meetings, outdoor concerts and other get-togethers, and then there's the big Fourth of July Parade in Midtown. As we get to August and September, many associations will hold Neighborhood Night Out events. If you haven't been to an NNO in the past, look up the date for one near you. The worst you will do is get a free meal for you and your family. And the best? Well, maybe a chance for a base hit. Maybe even a home run.

Hope to see you at the park this summer!

## Affordable housing in SGF just a click or a phone call away

By Jacque Harness, CPO, for SGFNN

Located at 300 E. Central in City Government Plaza, the Springfield Affordable Housing Center is a one-stop shop for affordable housing and homeless prevention services.

"The opening of the Springfield Affordable Housing Center in 2013 was the culmination of years of planning and visioning by the community. Together, we developed a centralized location where residents can access multiple agencies and organizations that offer safe, decent and affordable housing," said Deputy Director of Affordable Housing and Homeless Prevention Michelle Garand with Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

The center offers the community direct access to key housing service providers including Springfield Community Land Trust, One Door, the Housing

Authority, Veterans' Administration, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri and more. Each of these agencies provides important steps and services in the continuum of care for people seeking stability and affordable housing solutions.

"The City's support for the Springfield Affordable Housing Center is in keeping with our efforts to work with homeless service providers, One Door, the Springfield Community Land Trust, food pantries and others who assist those in need. Springfield is a giving community with a heart, and we want to do what we can to help those who need affordable housing, whether it's the homeless or those just needing a hand up," said Springfield City Manager Greg Burris.

In addition to the physical location on Central Street, CPO offers an affordable housing locator online at [theaffordablehousingcenter.org](http://theaffordablehousingcenter.org). This is a free service to help individuals and families find a home that fits their needs, and for property providers to list apartments or homes for rent or purchase any time, which means the list is always current.

In addition to CPO, the site is supported by the City of Springfield, Community Foundation of the Ozarks and United Way of the Ozarks.

[Theaffordablehousingcenter.org](http://Theaffordablehousingcenter.org) provides a listing of rental housing and affordable homes for

sale in Greene, Christian and Webster counties. The detailed listings can include pictures, maps, eligibility requirements (if applicable) and information about nearby amenities, such as hospitals and schools. The search service is simple and easy to use.

Those looking for housing can filter search criteria by rent, size, location, proximity to work and more. Benefits to property providers include a free way to market available properties to more people, receiving more qualified inquiries and the ability to update, add or remove property listings 24/7. The site also offers many helpful tools, including an affordability calculator, rental checklist and information on local resources.

Those who prefer to speak with someone may call **1-877-428-8844**, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday to receive assistance locating housing, listing or removing a property from the site. Assistance from the toll-free phone line is available in English and Spanish.

[Theaffordablehousingcenter.org](http://Theaffordablehousingcenter.org) is maintained by Social Serve, a nonprofit dedicated to helping people access affordable housing and supportive services by developing solutions that utilize leading-edge technology.





## BISSETT NEIGHBORHOOD

### Bubba's BBQ Joins Bissett Neighborhood Association

If you talk to Brandon Grame, owner of Bubba's BBQ on West Bypass a little north of Chestnut, you'll find out pretty fast that he knows a lot more than just how to serve up a great plate of barbecue.

Brandon will talk about how good local businesses can be valuable assets to a neighborhood and he's not just talking about sales. He's talking about how they can help make neighborhoods better. When asked about how to make Bissett better, one thing Brandon will mention he's interested in are ways to improve L.A. Wise Park.

Bubba's is BNA's newest business member and we look forward to their friendship and participation. Stay tuned to Bissett Neighborhood on NextDoor and Facebook page Bissett Neighborhood Community to find out when Brandon will be bringing some of his great food to a BNA meeting potluck.



## DO YOU KNOW?

### Catherine Manor, Secretary, Bissett Neighborhood Association



*There's a lot to like about Catherine.* She and her husband, Stephen, moved to Bissett about five years ago, and soon after they came, they tried to find ways to help make their neighborhood better. After some searching, she found her way to the Bissett Neighborhood Association where she

met other like-minded people interested in helping neighbors get information about all sorts of programs and participate in activities that help people.

*But there's more to Catherine's story.* First, like plenty of other residents, Catherine and Stephen moved here and rented their house. She says a lot of renters think there is no reason to be involved in the neighborhood association. She says she is living proof that the association is a great way for renters to meet others in the neighborhood, to get help in various ways, and to help others if they are so inclined. She'll tell you that just because you rent, doesn't make you any less a resident, and life is better when you're involved with your neighborhood. For Catherine and Stephen, they got to know others in the neighborhood, and that factored into their recent decision to purchase their home when their landlord decided to sell it.

*And the story of giving and sharing with Catherine doesn't stop there.* She knows about the road to recovery from drugs and alcohol and about getting a life back. She is a counselor at the Behavioral Health Group. In addition to other programs, BHG provides a methadone treatment option for those with heroin and opiate addictions. She works with many of their 450+ clients to help them gain the skills, structure and support in their lives to move beyond addiction. She loves her work because every day she has the opportunity to give people hope, respect and caring.

If you come to the monthly Bissett Neighborhood Association meetings, you can generally expect to see Catherine there. She is the secretary for the association, and she loves helping out with the various activities. But feel free to pull her aside if you know of someone struggling with addiction. She knows a lot about various ways in town to get help.

*We would love to hear your ideas about the neighborhood and this newsletter. Successful neighborhood associations emanate from participation by can-do people: people who care and think part of being a good neighbor is participating in the community's betterment. If you have ideas, want to learn more and/or join the Bissett Neighborhood Association, send us an e-mail at [BissettNA@yahoo.com](mailto:BissettNA@yahoo.com), come to an upcoming meeting, or call Pete Radecki at 417-988-1257. Be sure to leave a message if you don't get through right away and we'll call you back. We also have business memberships available.*

**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.

### Neighborhood Boundaries



### Connect

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



### Neighborhood Association Meetings



July 11 • Aug. 8: 6:30-7:30 p.m./6 p.m. optional potluck  
@ Faith Baptist Church (2920 W. Nichols)  
Sept. 12: 6:30-7:30 p.m./6 p.m. optional potluck  
@ Bissett Elementary School (3014 W. Calhoun)



### Bissett Neighborhood Association collecting sports equipment for elementary school

The kids at Bissett Elementary School are in need of basic sporting equipment for use during recess. So the Bissett Neighborhood Association is going to help out by getting them some basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, jump ropes and other stuff. Wanna help? If you join the neighborhood association, a portion of your dues will go to help with the costs, or feel free to make a donation. Just send an email to us at [BissettNA@yahoo.com](mailto:BissettNA@yahoo.com) and we'll link up with you.

Another way to help our schools is by participating in the PTA clothes drive. Starting in the fall, just bring clean, good condition clothes to the back side of Study Alternative School on Thursdays. They will take the clothes and give you a donation receipt.



## GOSPRINGFIELDMO

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keep up with City news.

You can download the free City of Springfield App on iTunes or Google Play.



## BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

### Meet Your Neighbors in Bradford Park

J. R. and Alice Brown and their dog, GiGi, have lived at 3317 S. Southlyn Place for 14 years. Alice came to Springfield in 1951 and was a hairdresser for 10 years but then became owner/broker of Mann Realtors for 30 years from which she retired. Alice and retired Air Force Colonel J. R. met and married in 2002. J. R. enlisted in 1943 attending gunnery and aircraft engine school, later attending flying school, received his wings, and graduated as 2nd Lieutenant. He went to combat in 1944 with the 394th Bomb Group flying missions in support of General Patton, later to Korea with the 18th Fighter

Bomb Wing and decades later in the 3rd Air Division on Guam in support of operations in Vietnam, finally serving as comptroller at the Pentagon. He retired from the military in 1975 after 33 years and after receiving numerous medals and awards for his service, including the Air Medal and Legion of Merit. J. R. then became professor of accounting at then SMSU and retired after 15 years of teaching. J. R. is proud of his own and his family's military service and speaks highly of his great-grandfather who was a colonel in the 1st Iowa Cavalry in the Civil War and also served as an Iowa senator.

### April 18 Bradford Park Meeting Photos

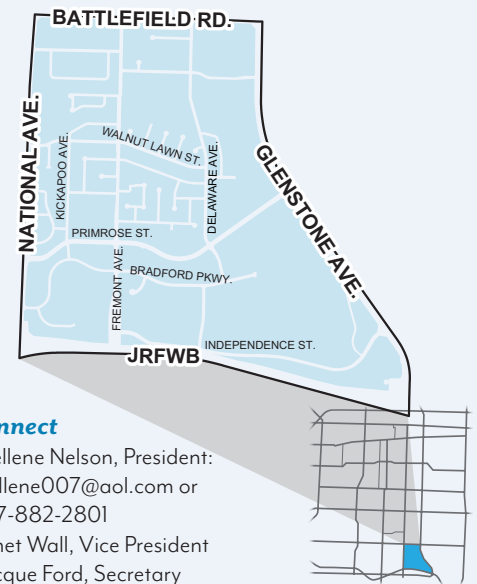


Left: Dickerson Park Zoo Director Mike Crocker brought two animals with him to the meeting. As he has a fondness for reptiles, he brought a blue-tongued skink and a large red and white snake to the meeting for us to pet.

Right: Bradford Park neighbors lined up at the intersection of Fremont Avenue and Primrose Street dressed in blue and carrying signs showing support for Springfield Police, Fire Department and military. Many cars honked their horns and gave us the "thumbs up" sign.



#### 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

July 18: 6:30 p.m. (3527 S. Weller)



### Bradford Park Great Neighbors

**Donna Redel Copeland, 1535 E. Hanover.**

Nominated by the Messerlys because she helped a neighbor by moving the trash cart from the curb to the house.

**Leon Earwood, 3315 S. Welwood.**

Nominated by the Messerlys. Leon watches over the neighborhood and others' vacant homes while the residents are away and he is a great communicator.

## DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD

### Cruise Kearney kicks off in May, firm presents final report in redevelopment study in June

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor



Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines!

The Cruise Kearney! initiative to welcome cruising back to Kearney

Street kicked off Friday, May 26. Cruise Kearney events are 6-10 p.m. on the second Friday of each month, April through October

The Cruise Kearney! initiative came about after City Council unanimously approved a resolution in April to support cruising on Kearney as a community tradition that brings neighborhoods together while promoting civic engagement and encouraging tourism.

Cruise Kearney! organizers emphasize that the events are family-friendly and that all makes and models of cars, trucks and motorcycles are welcome.

"I think cruising brings enormous opportunities to the businesses on Kearney and really all of north Springfield," said Zone 1 Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson.

For more information, please join the Cruising Kearney Street Facebook group.



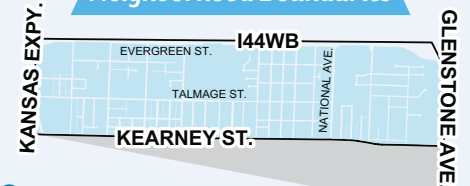
#### KEARNEY STREET REDEVELOPMENT STUDY

Planning firm PGAV completed a corridor study for the portion of Kearney Street between Kansas Expressway and Glenstone Avenue and presented its final report to City Council in June. Among the key findings was that the Kearney Street corridor has the potential to capture additional retail sales from the available \$95 million in unmet household demand in the trade area around Kearney Street.

PGAV recommended the development of a deep value clothing retailer such as T.J. Maxx or Ross because these discounted fashion chains have had growing sales and are opening hundreds of stores while they capture market share from flagging retailers such as Macy's.

Visit [sgfneighborhoodnews.com](http://sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for a link to the final report.

#### 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

July 25 • Aug. 22 • Sept. 26  
7:30-8:30 p.m. @ Doling Family Center  
Community Room (301 E. Talmage)





# Doling kicks off Block Party initiative, hosts open house at Big Yellow House on Memorial Day

By Christina Dicken, Doling Neighborhood Association President, for SGFNN

The Doling Block Party initiative is made possible by a grant through Community Foundation of the Ozarks and the Doling Neighborhood Association's partnership with the Springfield Police Department and Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

We have created the ultimate block party trailer full of everything needed to host an amazing party. All of our neighbors can use the trailer at no charge. The only requirements are that all neighbors are invited and they work with those neighbors and Officer Chris Laughlin to set up a block watch in their area. We are taking a proactive approach to fighting crime in our area by getting to know our neighbors and having fun!

Please contact me at [christina.dicken@yahoo.com](mailto:christina.dicken@yahoo.com) if you're interested in reserving the trailer and setting up a block watch.



Photos from Doling Neighborhood Association's Facebook page.

## GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

### Hopeless to hopeful: Community hubs offer tools to break out of poverty cycle

By Juliana Goodwin for SGFNN



Kathy and Bruce Lutz

The last year has been life changing for Kathy Lutz.

"I went from hopeless to beyond hopeful," said Lutz, who lives in the Grant Beach neighborhood.

Lutz and her husband Bruce found hope in The Northwest Project, which aims to give families on the northwest side of Springfield the tools they need to elevate themselves out of poverty.

The banking system is intimidating and an obstacle for many families, said Amy Blansit, project manager.

At the heart of The Northwest Project are families who participate in an intensive 16-week Circles® program, and work toward 10 goals, such as budgeting and reliable transportation. The concept was inspired by a program in Florida, which found that participants who achieved at least seven similar goals had significant success in emerging from poverty.

The weekly classes start out with a community dinner. Child care is provided and children learn age-appropriate versions of some of the same lessons as their parents, such as budgeting.

Following that initial 16-week period, participants are paired with a mentor for 18 months.

"We call it an ally. They create a purposeful relationship with a family and help them one step at a time," Blansit said.

Allies like Nancy Evans are community volunteers. Evans is the missions chair at Trinity Presbyterian Church and was originally scoping out the project for her church. After attending a few programs, she was inspired.

"It's quite humbling," Evans said. "The fact that the participants involved have a serious desire to set goals and obtain their goals. It's scary to step outside your boundaries ... it was really gratifying to see people choose the pain of stepping out of their boundaries to improve their lives."

The church has also paired with a family in the program.

The Northwest Project is based in the former Fairbanks Elementary School — now a community hub in the Grant Beach neighborhood — but also executed out of Robberson Community School in the Robberson neighborhood; The Springfield Dream Center in the former Hamlin Baptist Church in Woodland Heights; and is slated to expand into the Heart of the Westside neighborhood in the fall.

While the grant is the backbone of the program, the heartbeat is the community.

#### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Anita Kuhns, President:  
[anitakuhns@yahoo.com](mailto:anitakuhns@yahoo.com) or  
417-425-3898
- Cami Dillinger, Vice President
- Kathy Lutz, Secretary
- Pauletta Dunn, Treasurer



#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 17 • Aug. 21 • Sept. 18: 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
@ St. Joseph Catholic Church-Parish Hall  
(1115 N. Campbell Ave.)

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



The Northwest Project (NWP) is a five-year \$1.3 million grant funded by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks.



"I was a naysayer. I could not see what they could possibly do to help us. We had a car title loan and four payday loans," the 61-year-old said.

In 2014, Lutz endured open heart surgery and a month later was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. The mounting medical bills caused Kathy and her husband Bruce to take out a car title loan which carried a 155.13 percent interest rate. They borrowed \$900 and paid \$1,500 in interest.

Through The Northwest Project, they qualified for a debt-consolidation loan from CU Community Credit Union. Also, the Lutz family opened checking and saving accounts, and were later approved for a credit card.



Amy Blansit, manager of The Northwest Project

"As far as the city getting involved, the momentum is something I never imagined," Blansit said. "What we hear from people is they sit in a meeting and hear about poverty in Springfield, but this gives them a chance to be directly involved. To cultivate relationships, to see change."





Community dinner before the Circles® program class at the Fairbanks.

People and businesses have donated furniture, cooked for families, and professionals have offered their expertise and led programs at the center. Local universities, such as Drury and Missouri State, send their students to volunteer and earn college credits. Blansit teaches at Missouri State and her students pitch in at the center.

Taylor Endsley, a senior at MSU majoring in sociology, said it has given her "real life" experience that she could not gain in a classroom. Blansit and her late husband, Drew Lewis, purchased the former elementary school property and founded the Fairbanks as a

community resource center before his death from cancer in 2013.

***Their vision was to create a center to improve the quality of life in Grant Beach and surrounding neighborhoods.***

The Fairbanks has a trove of free resources such as a diaper bank; cooking demonstrations; classes and programming for adults; childcare while parents participate in Circles® and other programming.



▶ see **COMMUNITY HUBS** on page 21

## Weaver Elementary, Grant Beach Neighborhood Association collaborate for garden project

By Sheri Beatty, for SGFNN

This past February, Anita Kuhns, Grant Beach Neighborhood Association president, was contacted by Ms. England, third-grade teacher at Weaver Elementary.

Per Ms. England, "the third-grade classes at Weaver are participating in a project-based learning (PBL) activity where the driving question is "How can we help hungry people in our community?"

Through answering this question, the students will learn about the life cycle and needs of plants while trying their hand at growing them. Not only will they be learning about the science of plants, but they will be using some of the skills needed for a community garden by solving math problems, making observations, writing about the experience, and donating what they grow to Hovey House. The final piece of the project will be to create a presentation using what they have learned over the course of the project to answer the driving question.

The students had read articles in the newspaper about Springfield Community Gardens and realized that one of the gardens was just across the street and would be perfect for their project.

The teacher asked if Grant Beach Neighborhood Association would host a walking field trip to Hovey House. Because Hovey House isn't big enough for 50 students, Anita volunteered to visit Weaver and provide a short lecture on what GBNA is and what we do, and then host the students for a quick tour of Hovey House and the garden.

On Feb. 6 (a very nice day for the season), the classes of Ms. England and Mrs. Desa came over to Hovey House. The students were very interested in the garden and had lots of questions. They wanted to know why it wasn't completely plowed up since the growing season was long over.

Anita explained that asparagus is planted once and keeps growing year after year. We also have Jerusalem artichokes, which stay in the ground until you are ready to use them and regular artichokes, which are grown as perennials in our area.

The students decided to plant carrots as part of their project and bring the harvest over to



Hovey House to include in our weekly produce distribution. They will be using raised beds since it is better soil for growing straight carrots. The rocky soil of the Ozarks can produce some gnarly carrots!

***We can't wait to receive their harvest!***

*Special thanks to David Greer of Community Partnership of the Ozarks for connecting the classes with GBNA.*

## GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD

### Construction begins for phase 3 of Republic Road Widening Project

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Pre-stage construction for the Republic Road Widening Phase 3 project has begun and will widen Republic Road to five lanes from just west of Parkcrest Avenue to Fairview Avenue.

The project will include the addition of bike lanes, sidewalks, stormwater infrastructure, gas and water utility renewals, and a new traffic signal at Broadway Avenue and Republic Road. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2017. The estimated cost for construction is \$2.2 million. The project is funded through the voter-approved 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax.

Republic Road is a major east-west arterial providing access to various businesses and to James River Freeway. This segment of Republic from Parkcrest to Fairview carries approximately 20,000 vehicles per day. This project will widen Republic to five lanes from just west of Parkcrest Avenue to Fairview Avenue. The project will include the



A rendering illustrates how Republic Road will be widened to five lanes between Parkcrest and Fairview avenues.

addition of bike lanes, sidewalks, storm sewer, curb and gutter, gas and water utility renewals, and a new signal at Broadway and Republic.

Construction activities will have large impacts to traffic on Republic. The street will remain open during the day, but closure is allowed at night.

▶ see **REPUBLIC ROAD** on page 14

**Neighborhood Boundaries**

**Connect**

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

**Neighborhood Association Meetings**  
(No July meeting) Aug. 17: 6:30-8 p.m. @ The Way Church (903 W. Katella St.) Membership meeting & back to school event. • Sept. 19: 6:30-8 p.m. @ Wesley United Methodist Church (922 W. Republic Rd.)



► **REPUBLIC ROAD** from page 13

Closures to the side streets onto Republic will be allowed for short periods of time during the construction.

Access to all business properties will be maintained, but gravel driveways are expected during a large portion of the project. No gravel will be used in the travel lanes on Republic Road.

### CONSTRUCTION PHASES

• **Pre-Stage – Approximately 2-3 months**

During this stage, the contractor will be performing utility work, tree removal, grading for the temporary bypass road and constructing the temporary bypass road. The temporary bypass road will be built just north of the existing Republic Street pavement between Parkcrest Avenue and the Corporate Village property.

• **Stage 1 – Approximately 2-3 months**

This phase consists of constructing the south side

of the new Republic roadway. Fairview Avenue directly north of Republic Road will be closed for a portion of this phase. Access to businesses will be maintained, but will be impacted during this phase. Driveways for properties on the south side of Republic Road will be constructed.

• **Stage 2 – Approximately 2-3 months**

This phase consists of constructing the north side of the new Republic roadway. Broadway Avenue directly north of Republic will be closed for a portion of this phase. The remaining portions of the project will be constructed. The final portion of the project will include turning the signal on at Broadway Avenue and Republic, and obtaining grass growth throughout the project.

### PREVIOUS WORK ON REPUBLIC ROAD

Phase 1 of the Republic Road Widening Project began in April 2014 and included widening Republic Road to five lanes from Fremont Avenue

west across the bridge over James River Freeway. The intersection at Republic Road and National Avenue was rebuilt with dual left turn lanes in all four directions. This phase was completed in fall 2015 with a construction cost of \$7.5 million, funded by the 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax (45 percent) and 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax (55 percent).

Phase 2 began in June 2015 and continued the widening of Republic Road to five lanes from Kansas Avenue south to Parkcrest Avenue and included the addition of bike lanes and sidewalks. This phase also included the widening of the Republic Road bridge over James River Freeway at Lark Avenue. Phase 2 was completed in April 2016 with construction costs totaling \$4.1 million, funded by the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax and federal funds. The contractor for all three phases of the widening project is Hartman Construction.

## HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Heart of the Westside community garden groundbreaking June 17

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Springfield Community Gardens is excited to announce the newest addition to its network of community gardens at 907 N. Fulbright in the Heart of the Westside neighborhood.

This garden is made possible by the Springfield Community Land Trust under the direction of Director LeeAnn Camey and Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association President Tammy Haynes.

The new garden joins a network of community gardens dedicated to putting fresh produce back into the community, building relationships and generating social capital with each new garden.

"We connect neighborhood leaders with available land, acquired through public and private channels. SCG also offers guidance and financial support to create a city-wide infrastructure for the quickly growing garden movement," according to Springfield Community Gardens Event Coordinator Kaycie Surrell.

Working together, hand in soiled hand, Springfield residents of all cultural and

socioeconomic backgrounds can establish a more connected and aware community that empowers one another toward a common goal.

"Gardening is cheaper than therapy, plus you get tomatoes," says Tammy Haynes. "We do live in a designated food-desert area, and Heart of the Westside community will benefit from a new food source. This garden will also bring neighbors closer and add beauty to our neighborhoods."

For more information about Springfield Community Gardens, or to find one closest to you, visit [springfieldcommunitygardens.org](http://springfieldcommunitygardens.org).

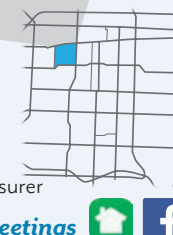


#### Connect

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

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 18 • Aug. 15 • Sept. 19: 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
@ the Salvation Army (1707 W. Chestnut Expy.)



## OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Oak Grove Park: anchoring the neighborhood for more than half a century

By Jenny Fillmer Edwards, for SGFNN

When Oak Grove Park was new, it was on the edge of Springfield, barely inside city limits, with new construction going up all around. Today it's a leafy oasis, anchoring an established neighborhood, and home to Springfield-Greene County Park Board programs for kids and adults.

Oak Grove Park was established in 1958, when the Springfield Park Board purchased three acres and a building that had been used as Schweitzer Memorial Methodist Church. (Both organizations' names have since changed.) Schweitzer's congregation built a new church on a piece of land on East Sunshine, the church's present location.

Oak Grove Park easily lives up to its name, with numerous mature oak trees. But it was probably

named after the roadway it adjoined, Oak Grove Lane (now Oak Grove Avenue). Just a couple of blocks north was Oak Grove School, now home to the Junior League of Springfield.

Park records show the church building was initially used as a community center, but later torn down.



#### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

- Wendell Royster, President:  
[jwrcameo5@att.net](mailto:jwrcameo5@att.net) or  
417-883-6541
- Mark McKnelly, Secretary
- Powell McHaney, Treasurer

#### Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 25: 6-7 p.m. @ Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
(2818 E. Bennett St.)  
[ogna.weebly.com](http://ogna.weebly.com)





Former Parks Director Dan Kinney said the Park Board passed a bond in the early 1960s, allowing purchase of another seven acres at Oak Grove, creating the current park boundaries, as well as construction of both the Oak Grove Community Center and the Tom Watkins Community Center, in northwest Springfield. Both buildings have been in continuous operation now for more than 50 years. Oak Grove includes a community room with tables, chairs and kitchenette; and a gymnasium with regulation and drop-down basketball goals, volleyball poles and nets, a climbing wall and ping-pong table.

Over the decades, Oak Grove Community Center has housed dances, sports leagues, exercise classes, day camps, after-school programs, holiday events and more.

The community center has also served the neighborhood since the beginning – with rentals once available for as low as \$7.

Oak Grove has served as an election precinct for decades, weathering a tough period in the late 1980s when popular Jazzercise classes in the gym left voters without a place to park.

Kinney recalled that in the early 1970s, the far end of the Oak Grove Park had been developed into a thriving, but unauthorized, strawberry patch.

"When I came here to work for (then-Parks Director) Jim Ewing, one of the first issues I had to settle was some neighbors had grown a strawberry patch on the park property, and I had to go clear that out," said Kinney. "I'd say it was 20' by 40' – it was a nice little patch."

Springfield's first nine-hole disc golf course was added to Oak Grove in the 1970s, due to rising popularity of the sport.

"Oak Grove was just the only place that seemed to be available, and the disc golf people had already picked it out, because they liked the obstacles of the trees," Kinney recalled. "We held disc golf tournaments there and people came from all around."

A second disc golf course was later added at Tom Watkins Park. Both continue to be very popular today.

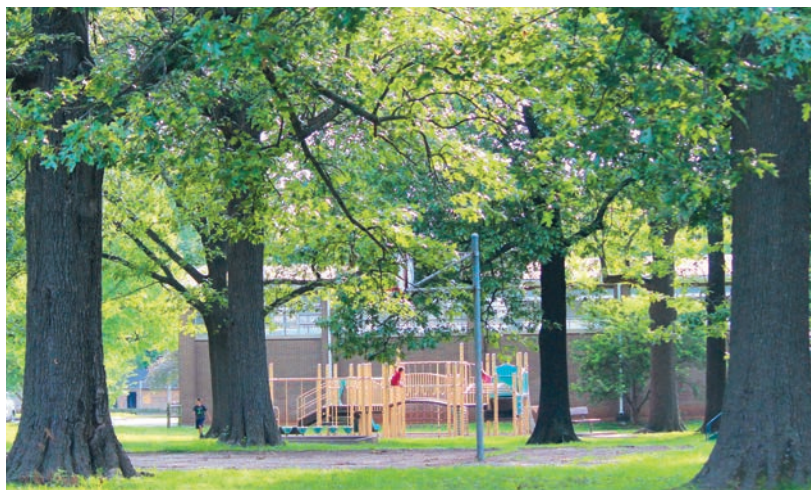
In decent weather, Oak Grove is busy with disc golfers any time of day.

The park also includes a playground, picnic tables, basketball court and outdoor lights.

Recently Oak Grove Community Center has become home to the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association, officially incorporated in 2005 to represent businesses and residents within the boundaries of Grand, Sunshine, Glenstone and Ingram Mill. The organization meets quarterly, publishes a newsletter and manages a Facebook account. Annual dues are \$10/household.

Oak Grove Park and Community Center are as busy as ever today, hosting classes ranging from archery to yoga, with dog obedience, dance classes and martial arts in between. Oak Grove is also a hub for SPARC, serving as a pick-up and drop-off spot for SPARC summer camps, and snow day and holiday break programs during the school year.

Want to know more about what's happening at Oak Grove? Visit [ParkBoard.org](http://ParkBoard.org), or contact the center at 417-891-1635.



## Railroad crossing project at Bennett and Enterprise to improve sight lines

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Construction continues on Bennett Street between Enterprise Avenue and Lone Pine Avenue, including improvements to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad crossing east of Enterprise Avenue.

The project involves the lowering of the train tracks by 12-18 inches and the raising of the approach on the east side of the tracks in an effort to improve sight distance issues causing safety concerns at the Enterprise Avenue intersection. New ADA-compliant sidewalks will be added as well as improvements to the storm sewer system.

This project has been accelerated through a cost share partnership between the City of Springfield and the BNSF Railway Company. The City's portion will total approximately \$100,000 and it will be funded from the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax.



## DO YOU KNOW?

*Jan Preston, Oak Grove*



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

I have lived in the Oak Grove neighborhood ever since I moved to Springfield in 1973. I liked the area and the proximity to shopping.

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

I sell real estate and have done so for 27 years.

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

I garden – flowers! Many, many flowers! I buy my fresh local produce at the farmer's market.

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

I would like to see more social activity. Anything to get the people out and visiting with their neighbors.

**Please tell us about your family.**

My "children" are grown and have children. I have three grandchildren, ranging in age from 15 to 21, who come over often and we play games, work on puzzles or talk – all of which is very enjoyable. We have dinner together and they think I am a great cook. Boy, am I lucky!

**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.

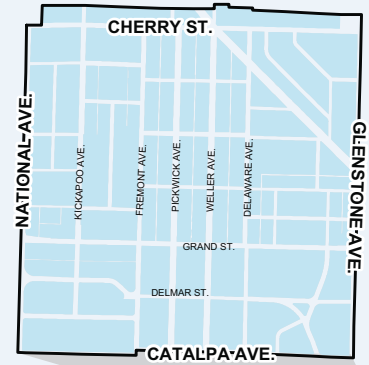


## ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD

### May 6 Neighborhood Cleanup



#### 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

July 18 • Aug. 15 • Sept. 19: 7-8 p.m. @ University Heights Baptist Church (1010 S. National Ave.)

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

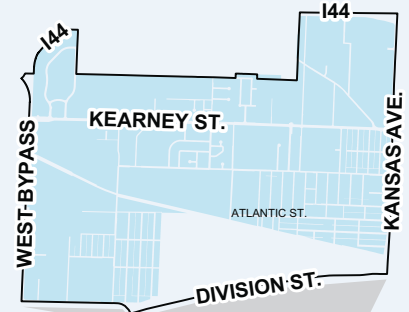


## TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD

### May 6 Neighborhood Cleanup



#### 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

July 27 • Aug. 31 • Sept. 28: potluck 6 p.m.,  
meeting 7-8:30 p.m. @ Tom Watkins Park  
Community Center (2100 W. High St.)



## RACQUET, WHITE AND BLUE

**TOM WATKINS PARK, July 7 / 6-8 p.m.**

Grab your family and friends and join in on the FREE celebration out on the court with music, snacks and having fun playing tennis.

All equipment is provided.

*Pick up FREE tickets to the July 27 Springfield Lasers Pro Tennis match.*



## LIGHT UP THE NIGHT WITH SPRINGFIELD LASERS PRO TENNIS



**COOPER TENNIS  
COMPLEX,  
July 27, 7-10 p.m.**

*Neighborhood  
Night*



## WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD

### Weller students pitch roller coasters to Silver Dollar City owner

By Ren Luebbing, Springfield Public Schools, for SGFNN

Designing their own roller coasters was a challenge presented to more than 40 Weller Elementary School fourth-graders this spring. Presenting their prototypes to Silver Dollar City owner Pete Herschend gave the exercise a real-world application.

"I really like the loop here," said Skylar Hixon.

"Yeah, you can go super fast," said Wyatt Beck, pointing to a loop in the Jungle Tour, the roller coaster model they built together. He points to a slide that goes down the green roller coaster made from recycled materials as Herschend examines the model carefully.

"There isn't a lot of friction there, so there's a lot of kinetic energy," said Beck. "So it'll go so super fast."

On April 20, Weller fourth-graders from two classes presented model roller coasters that they designed and developed. For more than three months, 45 students crafted their concepts, tweaking their designs as they learned more about force, motion and energy, explained lead teacher Michelle Barker.

"They're learning how to apply those research skills in a tangible way," said Barker. "They researched and researched, but this project has them using critical thinking skills to figure something out with a hands-on activity."

Barker developed the project-based learning unit along with Cari Morey, another Weller fourth-grade teacher. The pair encouraged their students to push the boundaries and to design with a real audience



in mind for a special showcase. And then Barker invited Herschend to evaluate and select the best roller coaster model.

"The rides the students came up with had some very creative ideas," said Herschend. "It's amazing to see. But what was very special to my heart was the wheelchair-accessible roller coaster seat the students also came up with. That matters."

Herschend selected two student teams as the winners of the competition: the Apple Tree and the Northern Lights roller coasters. But Herschend asked every student to stand and be recognized for their collaborative work on developing a wheelchair-accessible seat for roller coasters.

"They have learned how to fix things and work through adversity," said Morey. "Instead of shutting down and deciding they don't know what to do when things get hard, they go and ask each other and figure out solutions. They've really pushed themselves to do something that was challenging and not just do it, but do it well."

#### 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

July 6 • Aug. 3 • Sept. 7: 6-7 p.m. @ Turning Point Church (1722 N. National Ave.)



Even though they didn't win, fourth-graders Hixon and Beck are proud of what they created together with the Jungle Tour.

"I really like the sharp turns because it gets a lot of velocity," said Hixon. "I really liked building it and building new parts of it."

"I really liked the decoration part of it because I'm more a decoration person," said Beck, putting his hand on the model's green paint. "I like to see it come together and how it looks. I'm 100 percent proud of it."

## WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD

### Birthplace of Route 66 Festival founders hope to pass preservation on to future generations

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor



Now a nationally known festival celebrating Historic Route 66, Springfield's Birthplace of Route 66 Festival had a modest beginning in 2010 as a classic car show hosted

by the West Central Neighborhood Alliance to fund raise for improvements to the College Avenue portion of Springfield's stretch of Route 66.

By 2016, the festival had exploded into a two-day celebration with major musical acts, a parade, motorcycle show, vendor village, and several other events in addition to the car show, drawing 38,000 people to downtown Springfield. Mark your calendar for the 2017 festival Aug. 11-12.

"Birthplace of Route 66 Festival event partners KY3, Aaron Sachs & Associates and the Gillioz

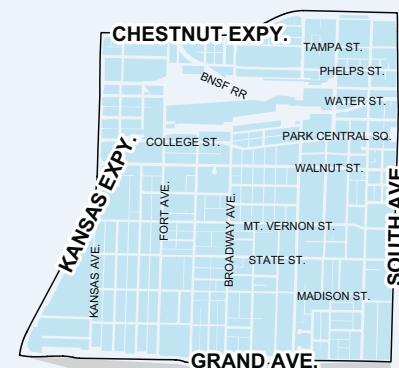
Theatre have again teamed up with the City of Springfield to host the best festival celebrating Route 66 in the U.S.," says Cora Scott, director of Public Information and Civic Engagement for the City of Springfield. "We're very excited about the entertainment we're bringing in this year. With the variety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

The West Central Neighborhood Alliance hosts a parade pre-party at the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park near College Street and Fort Avenue on the Friday of the festival. Join them for pizza and drinks starting at 5 p.m. on Aug. 11 and watch more than 400 classic cars line up along College Street before the parade kicks off at 6:30 p.m.

▶ see FESTIVAL on page 18

#### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

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

#### Neighborhood Alliance Meetings

Sept. 26: 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ McGregor Elementary (1221 W. Madison St.)  
June and July Summer Socials TBA.







Top: Tommy and Glenda Pike. Bottom: David Eslick.

The founders of the festival include the West Central Neighborhood Alliance, Tommy and Glenda Pike and David Eslick. They hope to pass on the tradition of preserving the history of the Mother Road on to younger generations.

Together, the Pikes are a walking, talking encyclopedia of Mother Road lore and history.

In 1989, while antiquing in Halltown, the Pikes came across a sign-up sheet to form a Missouri Route 66 association. They signed up and went to the Route 66 Association of Missouri's first meeting at STOS Truck Stop in Mount Vernon.

The pair have been active members of the association ever since. Tommy is the association's current president.

"We love the slower pace of the Mother Road, its icons — both new and old — and the friends we've made along the way," Glenda said.

Tommy has held positions on several Route 66 committees in connection with the National Park Service.

The Pikes and their daughter Tonya, who grew up with a love for Route 66 and is the current secretary of the Route 66 Association of Missouri, spend a lot of time trying to convince cities and towns along the route to invest in their pieces of Route 66. "It's an economic development tool," Tommy says. "If communities embrace their Route 66 history, the tourists will come."

Tonya is an advocate for teaching the importance of preservation to the younger generation.

"Before we know it, it'll be time for the younger

folks to inherit the Mother Road and they will have to become its caretakers," Glenda said.

Another lifelong Springfieldian, David Eslick is a Route 66 preservationist, photographer and Route 66 T-shirt designer who also serves on the Route 66 Association of Missouri's board of directors. Eslick presents the festival's John T. Woodruff Award each year.

The award, named for the Springfield businessman who is considered one of the fathers of Route 66 and was the first president of the U.S. Route 66 Association, recognizes supporters and promoters of Historic Route 66.

Recipients of the Woodruff Award have included author Susan Croce Kelly, the Pikes, Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven owner Gordon Elliott, St. Louis Street Steak 'n Shake owner Gary Leonard and West Central Neighborhood Alliance's Shirley Robbins.

Steak 'n Shake, which opened in 1962, was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2012. The restaurant is a frequent stop on trips down Historic Route 66.

"When my dad bought the St. Louis Street Steak 'n Shake store, I was 14 years old," Leonard says. "He put an apron on me, and I have been helping Route 66 visitors have a unique experience in an original 1960s café ever since."

Leonard is an active member of the Springfield business community and enjoys interacting with people from all over the world on their trips down the Mother Road.

Robbins, a former treasurer for the West Central Neighborhood Alliance, has registered more than 1,100 classic cars for the festival's car show participants since 2014.

"Shirley has done an outstanding job with a task that has grown larger each year," Eslick said. "The festival would not be as successful as it is today without Shirley's strong commitment."

#### WHY IS SPRINGFIELD THE BIRTHPLACE OF ROUTE 66?

Springfield is officially recognized as the birthplace of the Mother Road because it was on April 30, 1926 from the Colonial Hotel where Springfield businessman John T. Woodruff and

Missouri and Oklahoma highway officials sent a telegram to the Bureau of Public Roads in Washington, D.C. proposing U.S. 66 as the name for the new Chicago-to-Los-Angeles highway.

Remnants of the Mother Road are still visible in Springfield, including under the Glenstone Avenue viaduct between St. Louis Street and Trafficway.

Route 66 explorers can follow the path of Historic Route 66 through Springfield from East Kearney Street to Glenstone Avenue to St. Louis Street, through Park Central Square to Olive and College streets, then head west along what is now Chestnut Expressway. Popular stops along Route 66 included the Star Terminal Café, Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven and Red's Giant Hamburg.

#### RENEWING ROUTE 66

The City of Springfield's Planning & Development and Public Works departments are the driving forces behind the redevelopment of Springfield's stretch of Route 66.

In 2014, the City created the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park, located in West Central near the intersection of College Street and Fort Avenue, and plans to fill it with more replicas of local Route 66 landmarks and signs, sculptures and a history plaza. The first featured element of the park, a replica of the Red's Giant Hamburg sign, was dedicated at the park's grand opening.

Other redevelopment efforts include the Route 66 Streetscape Project, which involves extending the downtown streetscape look from Broadway Avenue west to the Route 66 Roadside Park with new sidewalks, landscaping, street lighting, utility improvements and on-street parking. Improvements also include decorative crosswalks and a pedestrian plaza at the intersection of College Street and Broadway Avenue. The cost for the project is approximately \$1,145,608 and it is funded by the 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax and federal Transportation Alternatives Program funds.

"I'd like to see Springfield become THE stop along Route 66," says City Manager Greg Burris. "Our Route 66 history is a source of community pride for us ... it's time to offer Route 66 tourists something more to do when they're visiting Springfield."



Left: Telegram sent from Springfield, Missouri. Right: City staff, the mayor and West Central Neighborhood residents ceremoniously break ground for the Route 66 streetscape project in 2016.

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# 7 billion lives to celebrate

By Juliana Goodwin, for SGFNN

On the 7 Billion Ones website, side by side in a quilt of faces, are photos of Springfield's elite, middle class — and homeless citizens.

Money doesn't matter, status doesn't matter, all that matters are stories. These people are part of a Randy Bacon project — a vision that celebrates the power and beauty of every single human being.

Click on a photo and you will find stories of hope, of suicide, of abuse, of eating disorders, of overcoming obstacles.

## 7 Billion ONES

Seven Billion Ones (7B1) launched in April 2015, but had been building for years. The name is derived from the world's population of 7 billion people.

Seven billion lives to celebrate.

"People don't grab on to the miracle they are," said Randy Bacon, award-winning photographer and film maker. "I witness that over and over.

*When I started to witness the power of an image coupled with people's stories, I realized it grabs people in a positive way.*

The response to this project has been overwhelming: he's received inquiries from people in Kansas City, Oklahoma, and as far away as Austria who want to get involved or duplicate it in their city.

The goal is to spread its wings internationally.

"If I leave this earth tomorrow, I want this to keep going. We need to share as many stories as possible," Bacon said.



Larissa Ruggeberg, 22, is movement coordinator for 7B1 and part of the "Billionaires Club," a group of advocates for the movement. The members help edit, assist on photo shoots, and share the images and mission via social media. When Ruggeberg first discovered it, she found herself "binge reading" the website.

"Sharing people's stories is world wrecking, especially at my age because we are still trying to figure out who we are, trying to make our way," Ruggeberg said. "It was an incredible opportunity for me to see the world in a different light. These are real people, real loss. We need people that are so wrecked and changed by what they read and see, that they want to change the world around them."

### THE ROAD I CALL HOME

Seven Billion Ones is the umbrella for another project, The Road I Call Home.

In October 2016, nearly 2,000 people showed up at Randy Bacon's gallery for an exhibition that through portraits, stories and videos, celebrated homeless people. At the time it was his biggest single project and included 35 large-scale portraits and 21 short films.

Today, he has produced 130 portraits for The Road I Call Home (400 for 7B1).

Randy Bacon is considered a homeless advocate but he walked down the unnerving road of self-reflection to get there.

Bacon's gallery is located downtown at 600 W. College St. in the West Central neighborhood, and when he first moved in he began to encounter a lot of homeless people. He avoided them. They made him uncomfortable.

And then one day, he decided to delve into conversation with a homeless man.

"I decided to stop judging a book by its cover ... and realized what a cool person he was," said Bacon.

So Bacon began to photograph homeless people and share the photos on social media.

That is how he met Jennifer Cannon, founder of Gathering Friends for the Homeless, which provides meals, comfort items and friendship to Springfield's homeless.

"I knew of Randy and his work and when one of our friends would die, we'd reach out to see if he had a photo of them. Sometimes a photo is all that's left of their life," Cannon said.



Eventually the idea for the project brewed. They initially set up a five-year plan for The Road I Call Home, but finished it in less than a year. They feel there is no limit to how far the project can reach and want to see it in national galleries and museums.

It has been a powerful project and helped change people's attitudes towards the homeless, said Jacque Harness, director of communications at Community Partnership of the Ozarks, which has an Affordable Housing and Homeless Prevention division.

"All these portraits bring humanity back to the forefront. These are real people, not stereotypes," said Harness.

The success of The Road I Call Home shows the potential for 7 Billion Ones.

"If we can change hearts and attitudes, we have a better chance of helping each other," said Cannon.

Bacon wants to venture on more international photo shoots. He's considering hiring other photographers with a similar style to help because one man behind the camera can only take so many photographs. In fact, Bacon has become so consumed with the project his regular business has dropped 50 percent.

He doesn't care.

"In so many respects, I am richer than I've ever been in my life," Bacon said.

### WHERE CAN YOU SEE IT?

The exhibit is housed in Randy Bacon Studio and Gallery, 600 W. College St. In September, it will be in the Drury University Pool Art Center Gallery, 940 N. Clay Ave. The Southwest Center for Independent Living will host an exhibit this fall, and shows are being added all the time. Learn more about 7 Billion Ones, see the portraits and read the stories at: [7billionones.org](http://7billionones.org)



## 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 at 417-864-1039.

[springfieldmo.gov/AffordableHousing](http://springfieldmo.gov/AffordableHousing)





# Springfield's fire death rate prompts department to launch Project RED Zone

By Cara Erwin, Fire Department, for SGFNN



Springfield's fire death rate is among the highest in the United States. In fact, it's nearly triple the

national average. In 2016, Springfield experienced five fire deaths. This is the equivalent of nearly 30 fire deaths per 1 million people. The national average is just over 10.

The Springfield Fire Department (SFD) hopes to reduce fires and fire deaths with the launch of a new campaign called Project RED Zone, which is part of SFD's Community Risk Reduction (CRR) program. Project RED Zone — a reference to the red areas on the Springfield Fire Department's map of fire incidents — stands for Reduce, Educate, Deliver.

New data shows 42 percent of all Springfield homes in which a fire occurred in 2016 had no working smoke alarms and two-thirds of all Springfield homes don't have enough smoke alarms to adequately protect the occupants. SFD

recommends smoke alarms be installed on every level of the home, outside each sleeping area and in every bedroom.

"Community Risk Reduction is about prioritizing our risks as a community and working together to invest the time and resources necessary to reduce them," said Interim Fire Chief David Pennington.

The multifaceted campaign, which is part of the Zone Blitz, began April 8 in West Central with a project to ensure every home in Zone 1 — the area of the City with the highest fire risk — has working smoke alarms.

"We are beginning this new campaign with the expansion of our free smoke alarm program because we have identified a lack of adequate warning in a fire as one of the biggest problems we face as a community," said Pennington.

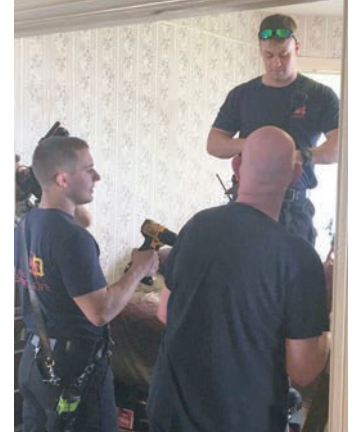
Every Saturday for as long as it takes to complete the project, fire crews will canvass Zone 1 knocking on doors, offering to test smoke alarms and installing new alarms or provide batteries if needed at no charge.

The department began its campaign in the West Central neighborhood, an area which has an

extremely high fire risk. In 2016, there were 55 fires in West Central — the highest of any neighborhood in Springfield.

The department expects the project to take around one year to complete and is funded with the help of grant dollars through FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Grant and general revenue SFD funds designated for public education. If successful and if funding is available for additional alarms and batteries, the department hopes to expand the program to other parts of the city.

As always, the Fire Department offers free smoke alarms and batteries to anyone in need. To obtain a free alarm, call 417-874-2300.



## WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Immunizations to move from Westside Public Health Center, new partnerships soon

By Kathryn Wall, Health Department, for SGFNN

As of May 30, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department will be moving immunization services from Westside Public Health Center in preparation for exciting new services to come.

Westside, located at 660 S. Scenic, has been the immunization center for the Health Department for 13 years. Back then, immunizations could be difficult to come by. Now, it is much more common for doctors' offices and even pharmacies or grocery stores to offer common immunizations.

It is this changing landscape that has led the Health Department to re-evaluate its current model and strategically redesign services with the goal of most effectively serving our community.

Immunizations will now be offered at the Harold K. Bengsch Building by appointment on Mondays and Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays 8 a.m. to noon, and Fridays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We also offer regular Thursday evening clinics by appointment as well. The Bengsch Building is located in the government plaza at 227 E. Chestnut Expressway. Appointments can be made by calling 417-864-1658.

This change will still provide immunizations for Health Department clients, with a renewed focus on travel immunizations. The Health Department offers travel immunizations, which can be difficult to find, in consultation with a nurse who works with clients to understand which vaccines are needed and in what timeframe.



The move from Westside will make room for a new focus on families at that location. The first phase of this rebirth at Westside begins with one of the Health Department's closest partners, Jordan Valley Community Health Center.

Westside will become home to Jordan Valley's West Springfield Clinic. Staffed by Cindy Tull, NP, the new West Springfield Clinic will see pediatric patients and their families for well or sick visits, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 417-851-1558.

WIC clinic days will continue as normal at Westside. In coming weeks, the Health Department will have formal announcements about exciting additional phases for the unique and innovative services that will be available at Westside



Springfield-Greene County Health Department

#### Neighborhood Boundaries



#### Connect

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

#### Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings

July 11 • Aug. 8 • Sept. 12: 6:30 p.m.

@ Westport Park Apartments, Community Room (250 N. Hilton Ave.)



### Westside Community Garden Opens May 6

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The Westside Community Garden behind Fire Station 8 at 1405 S. Scenic has the capability of growing thousands of pounds of produce each season, but is in need of volunteers to make that happen. Want to volunteer? Visit [springfieldcommunitygardens.org/volunteer](http://springfieldcommunitygardens.org/volunteer) to sign up. The grand opening for this garden was Saturday, May 6.





# Route 66 Barber Shop offers shave, haircut – and glimpse into the past



By Joe Roberds, WNBA president, for SGFNN

Driving east on College Street from West Street, I observed the Route 66 mural on the side of the Route 66 Barber Shop located at 2417 College Street. I had seen this little building many times, with the classic barber pole outside the

door, but considered it a monument to times past. I wanted to know more about this Route 66 business, so on a Friday afternoon, I dropped in for a visit.

I entered the barber shop and met the owner, Grant Kendall. Mr. Kendall had a customer in the chair and two were waiting for their turn. It is difficult to judge the number of customers in the business as parking is limited to a few curbside spaces in front of the door.

I sat down in an available chair and immediately felt I stepped back in time. The décor is that of a 1940s barber shop, with the barber chairs, cabinetry, fixtures, and in the corner a Warm Morning gas stove.

Even the view looking out the window is that of the Melinda Court, a historic Route 66 motor court. Photographs on the wall of the early days of the business confirm that the barber shop has changed very little from the 1940's.

When I entered the business, I felt that I had interrupted the conversation, but it was soon back with talk of sports and cars, showing that this is not just a barber shop, but a place for conversation. During my time there, a steady flow of customers came and went. All were regular customers which Mr. Kendall knew by name. One customer wanted a haircut and a shave for his special Friday night. The shave was an age-old process of foam, hot towels, and a straight-blade razor not seen in most modern barber shops.

Between customers, I talked with Mr. Kendall and inquired about the history of the Route 66 Barber Shop. He explained that the shop opened in 1948 by Milfred Mullins and has been in continuous operation ever since. Mr. Kendall does not know of another barber shop on Route 66 that has been open longer at the same location. Don Mullins, Milfred Mullins' son, joined his father as a barber in the business and took over after his father's retirement. In 2011, Don Mullins was considering his retirement and the future of the business. Mr. Kendall's father, a barber in Kimberling City, learned that the barber shop on Route 66 was available and told his son about the opportunity.

Mr. Kendall rented the barber shop sight unseen and moved from the St. Louis area, where he was already working as a barber. He continued to rent



the barber shop until 2014, when he purchased the shop and three houses behind the business. Mr. Kendall described his move to the Route 66 corridor as a leap of faith and is happy that he made the move. He spoke proudly of being a part of the preservation of the history of Route 66 and continuing the legacy of the barber shop started by Milfred Mullins in 1948.

It's great to see the support of this historical business by the people of the west side. This trend can continue for the west side if we all support this and other businesses.

## WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

### ► COMMUNITY HUBS from page 12

At 829 W. Atlantic St., another community center is taking root with a similar vision.

The Springfield Dream Center opened in March in the Woodland Heights Neighborhood and is funded by North Point Church.

Jody Glazner, executive director, said they want to offer resources where they are most needed in the heart of this Zone 1 neighborhood.

"When we started this, we asked 'What do we need to do to best serve this neighborhood?' We hear about drugs a lot but ultimately we think the issue is broken families – which can lead to drug use and drugs can lead to broken families," Glazner said.

***The Dream Center is focused on building stronger families, so all the programming is geared toward that goal.***

Glazner said transportation is a huge issue for the working poor. She added that those needing multiple services may have to spend five hours traveling by bus from one place to another requiring them to take a day off work.

The Dream Center offers multiple services in a centralized location: a food pantry, clothing bank, after-school and summer programming, adult education, community dinners, counseling, and addiction programs.

"How do I give you help today and feed into you the hope you need tomorrow?," said Glazner, explaining the center's goal.

Counseling is a significant need, and the wait can be weeks or months. The center has a student finishing her practicum who offers 10 hours of counseling a week.



Jody Glazner, Springfield Dream Center director

Some kids need a safe place to be after school, so the Dream Center provides after-school and summer programming. During the summer, the students must take academic classes as part of summer school to make sure they don't fall behind, and then there are a variety of fun classes – like yoga and photography – taught by community volunteers.

The Dream Center is set up with a give-and-take model: in order to qualify for the clothing bank, people must either volunteer at the center or take one of the classes to earn clothing bucks to shop.

Even though the center is young, they've had no trouble mustering support and volunteers.

"The temperature in Springfield is to collaborate, jump in and be helpful," Glazner said.

Through The Northwest Project, the Circles Program is offered on Wednesdays and starts with a meal which allows participants and volunteers

### 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

July 20 • Aug. 17 • Sept. 21: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

@ Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church  
(722 W. Atlantic St.)

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



to connect and build social capital. Blansit's team handles the programming; the meal is prepared by volunteers like Jennifer Kennedy, who heads up the prep cook team.

Kennedy is a member of North Point Church and brings two of her children to help with prep work on Tuesday. Kennedy feels like cooking is part of her family's ministry.

"Everyone needs to feel loved and everyone needs to eat, and cooking helps fulfill both those needs," Kennedy said. "Then there is fellowship as we sit





around the table, share a meal family-style and talk. This is a great opportunity to come together."

While it's too soon to judge long-term success for participants, most have reduced their household debt, increased their income, and are on track to achieve seven of the 10 goals by the end of 18 months, according to The Northwest Project's Year One Summary.

For the Lutz family, it has given them hope for the future.

"Amy and her crew are fabulous," said Lutz. "What they are doing is fabulous. They treat everyone the same and with respect. When you are poor, people don't always treat you with respect. I was dead wrong about them and I've never been happier to be wrong."

#### IN A NUTSHELL:

The Northwest Project is a five-year \$1.3 million grant funded by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, with additional support from the Stanley & Elaine Ball Foundation, managed by Central Trust, and the Musgrave Foundation.

It is a collaboration among Missouri State University, Drury University, and Drew Lewis Foundation; and synchronizes with the City of Springfield's focus on improving public safety, infrastructure and chronic nuisance properties.

#### WHY NORTHWEST SPRINGFIELD?

Northwest Springfield exceeds the city's overall 25.6 percent poverty rate.

#### SUCCESS SO FAR:

After a one-year review, the Community Foundation of the Ozarks found:

- All three cohorts of families are on track for increasing income by at least 15 percent through workforce training, new employment, and debt reduction, and attaining at least seven of the 10 sustainability assets by the end of 18 months.
- Cohorts have also made significant achievements in health and wellness, housing security, and social assets, improving their lives.
- Homes are being fixed.
- Roughly 60 community service groups have invested and partnered in Northwest Project activities.
- Approximately \$1.5 million has been sought in grant-match funding for the project as it continues to grow and expand.

#### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are a variety of ways you can get involved on a short or long-term basis using the gifts of time, talent or donations. Allies, which is an 18-month commitment, are needed to work with families. If you have a skill such as budgeting, cooking or gardening, you can help lead a class and share your knowledge. To learn more, visit one of the organizations' Facebook pages or websites:

- Springfield Dream Center: [springfielddreamcenter.com](http://springfielddreamcenter.com)
- The Fairbanks and Drew Lewis Foundation: [drewlewis.org](http://drewlewis.org)
- Read the Year One summary of The Northwest Project: [cfozarks.org](http://cfozarks.org)

## Big plans for Little Fruit Garden in Woodland Heights

By Melissa Adler, for SGFNN



Janet Little, left, with friend Demita Gookin, right.

It was a quiet, cool morning and Janet Little looked relaxed. Springfield Public Schools had just finished classes for the year. Little, who is the administrative assistant to the principal at Reed Academy, walked

across the street to chat with friend Demita Gookin.

They stood on a plot of land on West Atlantic Street owned by SPS. It was established as a fruit garden last year with five trees acquired through City Utilities. Little recently learned that the area will be named the Little Fruit Garden in honor of her 25 years of service at Reed.

"At first I thought it was a joke," said Little, "because a lot of people joke about my name."

Gookin, who is leading the effort to develop the fruit garden, caught Little in the hallway one day to tell her the news. Once Little realized it was real, she felt excited, honored and humbled.

"Well, you've been the glue for 25 years at this facility," said Gookin.

Gookin is a community volunteer who first met Little when her son attended Reed. She said Little was always there to help with whatever task was at hand, like setting up for PTA meetings. Since then they have become friends and even took diving lessons together at Table Rock Lake. Gookin is planning a formal dedication of the garden.

The new name is just the beginning of big plans for the Little Fruit Garden.

Gookin wants the garden to reflect the rich

history of Woodland Heights with Victorian-era landscaping and walking paths.

And since it lies within Moon City Creative District, Gookin also wants Reed students to contribute art, such as stepping stones. When they go to high school they can come back and say "I did that!"

Many of the projects will showcase the power of repurposing. Gookin saved headboards from the dumpster at a neighborhood clean-up. They will become benches. She wants to build a circular garden out of wine bottles that will resemble a conch shell. Gookin thinks this will be a good spot for watermelon and cantaloupe. Grapes will be added to the harvest when a pergola can be built.

The plants and trees in the garden can flourish in the rocky Missouri soil. Gookin likes to include unusual fruits in the mix like rhubarb. In addition to apple, cherry, plum and peach trees, the garden is currently growing blueberries, strawberries, rhubarb, raspberries and blackberries.

Unfortunately, the berries are attractive to thieves who have dug up 20 plants. Because it takes three years for plants to really start producing fruit, the theft has set the garden back at least a year. An ornamental fence will be installed to protect and beautify the garden.

Although it will be fenced, the garden will welcome all children who want to be able to identify plants, watch them grow and eat what's ripe. More



than just a place to learn about plants, Gookin wants the garden to provide an outdoor classroom where students can journal and read. "I think when kids sit in nature they get inspired," said Gookin. "There will be pretty things to look at."

The garden is a partnership between SPS, Springfield Community Gardens and Woodland Heights Neighborhood. In 2016, Rotary Club of Springfield North awarded a \$2,000 grant to the garden. Since then the club has donated many volunteer hours to build vegetable boxes, an arbor and a water line. They also trimmed overgrown brush and removed bushes to make way for blueberries.

It's a humble little garden right now, but it's ready for growth.

*Habitat for Humanity of Springfield is partnering with Woodland Heights to improve quality of life for residents. If you want to get involved with the garden or any of the neighborhood revitalization projects, contact Melissa Adler at 417-829-4001, ext. 116 or [melissa@habitatpringfieldmo.org](mailto:melissa@habitatpringfieldmo.org).*



## 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

July 11 • Aug. 8 • Sept. 12: 7:30-8:30 p.m. @ Urban Neighborhood Alliance, on the southwest corner of Benton and Division, at the edge of the Cox North Hospital parking lot (1471 N. Benton Ave.)  
midtown-springfield-mo.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.

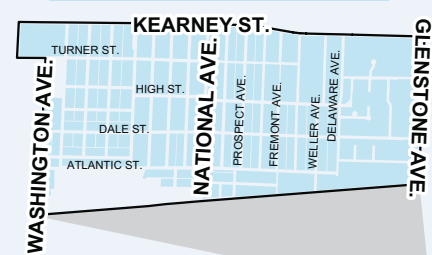
phelpsgrove.com



**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

July 27 • Aug. 24 • Sept. 28: 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
@ Pathways United Methodist Church (1232 E. Dale St.)



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

## MEET YOUR HEROES at National Night Out Springfield!



Join local law enforcement, health and safety organizations and neighborhood groups for a free night of safety education and fun activities for the whole family!

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AUG. 1**

**6 - 8 p.m. at  
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(1900 W. Nichols St.)**



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Movies under the stars in a modern version of a drive-in theater  
Movies begin at dusk (about 9 p.m.)  
Family Night Friday, Date Night Saturday  
No tickets required  
Bring your own lawnchairs and blankets  
Concessions for sale

# Movies AT FOUNDERS PARK

**FREE ADMISSION**

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS**

330 E. Water St., west of Jefferson, Downtown Springfield

### JULY

Fri., July 7: **Jumanji** PG  
Sat., July 8: **The Prestige** PG-13  
Fri., July 14: **Beauty and the Beast (1991)** G  
Sat., July 15: **La La Land** PG-13  
Fri., July 21: **Moana** PG  
Sat., July 22: **Dead Poet's Society** PG  
Fri., July 28: **The Goonies** PG  
Sat., July 29: **Ferris Bueller's Day Off** PG-13

### AUGUST

Fri., Aug. 4: **Kubo and the Two Strings** PG  
Sat., Aug. 5: **The Princess Bride** PG  
Fri., Aug. 11: **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs** PG  
Birthplace of Route 66 Festival outdoor movie shown at Jordan Valley Park  
Sat., Aug. 12: **Anchorman** PG-13  
Fri., Aug. 18: **The Jungle Book (2016)** PG  
Sat., Aug. 19: **North by Northwest** Not rated  
Fri., Aug. 25: **E.T.** PG  
Sat., Aug. 26: **Rogue One** PG-13

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# Events

## July - September 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.

**First Day of School (SPS):** August 16

**Fix It Fair:** Sept. 7: 4-7 p.m., Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central St. Community Partnership's Springfield Tool Library will be hosting the third Fix It Fair of the year. Volunteers from Queen City Beard and Mustache Federation will be on hand to give your household appliances, computers, bicycles or even clothes a new lease on life. This event is free and no registration required. Call 417-862-0135 after Aug. 24 to find out if a fixer will be there to help with your specific item. A Fix-it Fair is a great way to reduce waste while learning a valuable repair skill. If you have a skill you'd like to share by volunteering, please contact Amanda Stadler at 417-888-2020.

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

*Events are free unless otherwise noted.*

**Neighborhood Walking Groups:** Chesterfield Park: Wednesdays, 4-4:45 p.m., 2511 W. Republic Rd. Doling Park: Mondays, 10-11 a.m., 301 E. Talmage St. Jordan Valley Park: Mondays, 12-1 p.m., 635 E. Trafficway St. Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park: Mondays 10-11 a.m., 2400 S. Scenic Ave.

**Tai Chi with Dee Ogilvy:** 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays, Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central; 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Mount Carmel Methodist Church, 1001 N. National. Starting Sept. 15, 9-10 a.m. Fridays, Springfield Art Museum. FREE: learn Yang Style Tai Chi from Shifu M. Dee Ogilvy. Great for adults of any age and physical fitness level, no special equipment needed, beginners welcome. Learn more at [springfieldtaichi.wordpress.com](http://springfieldtaichi.wordpress.com).

**Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association**

**Tennis Club:** Mondays: 6-7 p.m., Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic. Free for all ages. Each week participants will be learning and playing the game of tennis. Bring your racquet (or use one of ours) and let's play!

**Racquet, White and Blue:** July 7: 6-8 p.m., Tom Watkins Park, 2100 W. High. Grab your family and friends for this free tennis event, including music and snacks. All equipment is provided or bring your own. Also receive free tickets to the July 27 Springfield Lasers Pro Tennis match. Co-sponsored by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and USTA Missouri District.

**2nd annual True You Yoga Festival:** July 22: 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Phelps Grove Park, 950 E. Bennett St. Celebrate mind, body and spirit with free yoga, as well as food, shopping, and prizes. You will find a yoga style and yoga teacher that is right for you. Sponsored by the Ravianayoga Teachers and Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

**National Night Out:** Aug. 1: 6-9 p.m., Nichols Park, 1900 W. Nichols St. Build your community, learn about public safety and play tennis and other games.

### 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](http://ffaw.org).

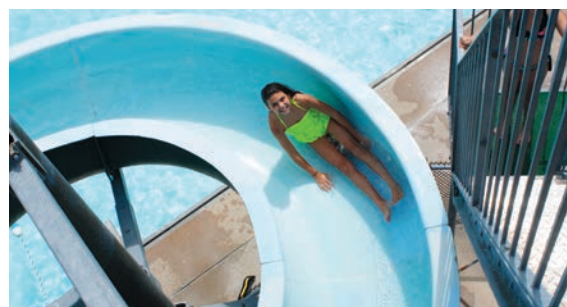
**C-Street City Market:** Every Saturday: 9 a.m.- 2 p.m., Jefferson Avenue Footbridge Plaza, 321 E. Commercial St. The C-Street City Market unites our urban communities with our local farmers and artists. The market combines wholesome foods and crafts from local farmers and artisans in a family-friendly environment. Activities include free yoga at the beginning, live bands at Lindbergh's, and more.



**Watercolor USA 2017:**

Exhibit open through Aug. 27, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive.

Features eighty-five works by eighty artists from across the country. The exhibition highlights contemporary work in watermedia from traditional transparent watercolor to mixed media collage and sculpture. Visit [sgfmuseum.org](http://sgfmuseum.org) for hours of operation. Artist Talk: Rachel Wood, July 29, 1 p.m. Free Family Day: Aug. 26, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.



**Outdoor Pools:** 1-6:30 p.m. Fasnicht, Grant Beach, Meador, Silver Springs and Westport Pools follow a weekly schedule until school starts in August. Fasnicht and Grant Beach reopen weekends only through Labor Day. Schedule at [ParkBoard.org/Aquatics](http://ParkBoard.org/Aquatics). Admission: Youth and Seniors ages 60 & older \$2.50; Adults \$3; Children ages 2 & under free with paid adult. Splash & Sizzle Discount Admission: \$1 or a canned food item donation from 5:30-6:30 p.m. daily; Fridays & Saturdays in July at Grant Beach, Westport and Silver Springs, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; and Saturdays in July at Meador, 5:30-8:30 p.m., and Fasnicht 5:30-10 p.m.; July 4: 12-5:30 p.m. at Fasnicht, Grant Beach, and Meador; Sept. 4: 1-6:30 p.m. at Fasnicht and Grant Beach.

**Movies at Founders Park:** Friday & Saturdays, July 7-Aug. 26: movies begin at dusk (about 9 p.m.), Founders Park, 330 E. Water. No tickets required. Enjoy new release and classic movies in an outdoor setting. Fridays are Family Night; Saturdays are Date Night. Special screening Fri., Aug. 11 during Birthplace of Route 66 Festival at Jordan Valley Park. Concessions available for purchase. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets. Movie titles and details at [ParkBoard.org/Movies](http://ParkBoard.org/Movies).

**National Teddy Bear Picnic:** July 10: 6-8 p.m., Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic. Bring your favorite stuffed toy, pack a picnic supper and blanket, and enjoy music, games and popsicles. We'll sing the Teddy Bears Picnic song at 7 p.m. Free, but registration is requested at [ParkBoard.org](http://ParkBoard.org).

**Summer Music Club by Heart Academy of Music:**

July 10-14: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Springfield Dream Center, 829 W. Atlantic. Free: build your music skills, includes lunch. Preregister kids grades K-6 by July 3 at [heartam.com](http://heartam.com). Co-sponsored with Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

**Cruise Kearney:** July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13: 6-10 p.m., Kearney from Kansas Expressway to Glenstone.



**Springfield Lasers**

**Pro Tennis:** July 16: 6 p.m.; July 20-21, 27-28: 7 p.m.; July 30: 6 p.m.; Aug. 2: 7 p.m. The Springfield Lasers professional tennis team brings rising international stars and familiar faces to Cooper Tennis Complex this summer for the 22nd

season of Mylan World TeamTennis. Tickets at [SpringfieldLasers.com](http://SpringfieldLasers.com) or 417-837-5800. Receive free tickets for the July 27 match at Racquet, White and Blue neighborhood tennis event July 7 at Tom Watkins Park.

**Summer Music Club by Heart Academy of Music:**

July 17-21: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Tom Watkins Center, 2100 W. High. Free: build your music skills, includes lunch. Preregister kids grades K-6 by July 12 at [heartam.com](http://heartam.com). Co-sponsored with Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

**Veterans' Views:** July 22-Nov. 26. Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. A juried exhibition highlighting photographs taken by members of our nation's armed services and relating to their military experience. Visit [sgfmuseum.org](http://sgfmuseum.org) for hours of operation.

**National Night Out:** Aug. 1: 6-9 p.m., Nichols Park, 1900 W. Nichols St. Build your community, learn about public safety and play tennis and other games.



**7th annual Birthplace of Route 66 Festival:**

Aug. 11-12: Downtown Springfield. Celebrate Springfield's role in the founding of the Mother Road. Events downtown include a car and motorcycle show, parade, vendor expo, 6.6K & 3.3K runs, outdoor movie at Jordan Valley Park, live music and more. Friday night concert with Big & Rich and Saturday night concert with Three Dog Night; tickets at [gillioztheatre.com](http://gillioztheatre.com). Presented by Aaron Sachs & Associates, KY3, Ozarks on Two Wheels, Gillioz Theatre, and City of Springfield. Details at [Route66FestivalSGF.com](http://Route66FestivalSGF.com).

**Dog Swim XIV:** Sept. 5: 4-7 p.m., Fasnicht Pool, 1301 S. Campbell. Dogs get to swim in a human sized pool. Fee: \$8 for 1 dog & 1 human, limit 1 dog per human; \$3 each additional human. All proceeds benefit Cruse Dog Park. Registration and proof of vaccination required. For more information visit [ParkBoard.org](http://ParkBoard.org).





**22nd annual Japanese Fall Festival:** Fri., Sept. 8, 5-10 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 9, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 10, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic. Three days of Japanese culture, celebrating Springfield's sister city, Isesaki, Japan. Includes Taiko drumming, top spinning, martial arts, folk dancing, origami, tea ceremonies, authentic Japanese foods, candlelight walk and more. Presented by Springfield Sister Cities Association, [peacethroughpeople.org](http://peacethroughpeople.org). Fee: Fri. & Sun., \$7/adult, \$3/12 yrs. and under; Sat. featuring Shoji Tabuchi: \$15/adult, \$3/12 yrs. and under.

**Wonder Rooms: Ozark Collections:** Sept. 16-Feb. 25, 2018. Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. A show of local collector's art work. Visit [sgfmuseum.org](http://sgfmuseum.org) for hours of operation.

**15th Annual DogFest:** Sept. 23: 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Chesterfield Park, 2511 W. Republic. Everyone, including the family dog, is invited for free fun and activities. DogFest features canine-related vendors and non-profits. All proceeds benefit Cruse Dog Park.

**2nd annual Concert at the Cave:** Sept. 24: 12-6 p.m., Doling Park, 301 E. Talmage. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy live music. Concessions available for purchase from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. Guided tours of Giboney Cave available for \$4 a person or \$12 for a family of four.



**8th annual Springfield Jazz Festival:** Sept. 30. Enjoy free Jazz performances in downtown Springfield. TBA Grammy Award-winning ticketed concert in the Gillioz Theatre that night. Stay tuned to [springfieldmo.gov/2470/Jazz-Festival](http://springfieldmo.gov/2470/Jazz-Festival) for schedule updates.

## 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](http://springfieldmo.gov/jobcenter) to view the schedule or call 417-887-4343 for more information.

**Missouri Job Center Jobs Club:** Mondays: 10-11 a.m., Missouri Job Center, 2900 E. Sunshine. Free application process tips, methods and techniques to improve your chances for success, weekly guest speakers, network with employers regarding local job opportunities.

## BY NEIGHBORHOOD

### BISSETT

**Bissett Neighborhood Association Meetings:** July 11, Aug. 8: 6:30-7:30 p.m., optional pot luck 6 p.m. Faith Baptist Church, 2920 W. Nichols. Sept. 12: 6:30-7:30 p.m., optional pot luck 6 p.m. Bissett Elementary School, 3014 W. Calhoun.

**Bissett Neighborhood Night Out:** Aug. 31: time TBD, Bissett Elementary School, 3014 W. Calhoun. Held jointly this year with Bissett Elementary's Open House, come enjoy free food, win prizes in children's games, learn about many service programs in the city, and talk to police officers and firemen as we all seek to strengthen crime prevention, community-policing and home safety. Whether you have kids in Bissett Elementary or not, this event is for the whole neighborhood! Contact Pete Radecki at 417-988-1257 for more information.

### BRADFORD PARK

**Bradford Park Neighborhood Association Meeting:** July 18: 6:30 p.m., 3527 S. Weller.

### DOLING

**Doling Neighborhood Walking Group:** Mondays, 10-11 a.m., Doling Park, 301 E. Talmage St. Group will meet at the large park pavilion. In inclement weather, the group will meet inside the family center and will walk on the indoor track.

**Doling Neighborhood Association Meetings:** July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 26: 7:30-8:30 p.m., Doling Family Center Community Room.

**Doling Neighborhood Night Out:** Aug. 26: time TBD, Doling Park, 301 E. Talmage St.

**2nd annual Concert at the Cave:** Sept. 24: 12-6 p.m., Doling Park, 301 E. Talmage. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy live music. Concessions available for purchase from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. Guided tours of Giboney Cave available for \$4 a person or \$12 for a family of four.

### 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 Dinner and Circles® program:** Thursdays: 5:15-7:30 p.m., The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. Childcare provided. Circles® is a nationwide movement of communities in the United States and Canada focused on ending poverty by breaking down systematic barriers and creating community.

**Grant Beach Outdoor Pool Splash & Sizzle Discount Admission:** Friday & Saturday nights, July 1-29: 5:30-8 p.m. Independence day, July 4: 12-5:30 p.m. Labor Day, Sept. 4: 1-6:30 p.m. 1300 N. Grant. \$1 admission or a canned food item donation. Free admission with military ID or VFW card July 4 only.

**Grant Beach Neighborhood Association Meetings:** July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18: 6:30-7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1115 N. Campbell.

**Grant Beach Neighborhood Night Out:** Sept. TBD: 6 p.m., Grant Beach Park, 1300 N. Grant St.

### GREATER PARKCREST

**Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association Meeting:** Aug. 17: 6:30-8 p.m., The Way Church, 903 W. Katella St. Sept. 19: 6:30-8 p.m. Wesley United Methodist Church, 922 W. Republic Rd.

## HEART OF THE WESTSIDE

**Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association Meetings:** July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19: 6:30-7:30 p.m., The Salvation Army, 1707 W. Chestnut Expy.

**National Night Out:** Aug. 1: 6-9 p.m., Nichols Park, 1900 W. Nichols St. Build your community, learn about public safety and play tennis and other games

**Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Night Out:** TBD, Nichols Park, 1900 W. Nichols St. Contact Tammy Haynes at 417-536-9045 for more information.



## MIDTOWN

**C-Street City Market:** Every Saturday: 9 a.m.- 2 p.m., Jefferson Avenue Footbridge Plaza, 321 E. Commercial St. The C-Street City Market unites our urban communities with our local farmers and artists. The market combines wholesome foods and crafts from local farmers and artisans in a family-friendly environment. Activities include free yoga at the beginning, live bands at Lindbergh's, and more.

We are participating in a program called Double Up Food Bucks. This allows you to use your SNAP card at Market and DOUBLE your money! Items include lettuce, tomato, garlic, kale, eggs, honey, baked goods, plants and more!

**Midtown Neighborhood Association 27th annual 4th of July Parade & Celebration:** July 4: 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. Parade theme is "Hats off to America." Children are invited to march or ride their bicycles in the parade! After the parade join us at historic Washington Park for live music, games & prizes, a pie baking contest, ice cream from Hiland Dairy, food trucks, and parade awards ceremony. For event updates visit [facebook.com/midtownspringfield](http://facebook.com/midtownspringfield).

**Midtown Neighborhood Association Meetings:** July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12: 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 Night Out:** Aug. 25: 6-8 p.m., Washington Park, 1600 N. Summit Ave.

## OAK GROVE

**Oak Grove Neighborhood Garage Sale:** July 13-15. Call Janet at 882-1241 if you have unwanted items you would like to donate to benefit the association.

**Oak Grove Neighborhood Adopt-a-Street Cleanup:** July 22: Bennett St.

**Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Meeting:** July 25: 6-7 p.m., Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 2818 E. Bennett St.

**Oak Grove Neighborhood Block Party:** Sept. 16: 11 a.m.- 2p.m., Oak Grove Community Center, 1538 S. Oak Grove Ave.

## PHELPS GROVE

**Phelps Grove 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.



**2nd annual True You Yoga Festival:** July 22: 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Phelps Grove Park, 950 E. Bennett St. Free yoga, as well as food, shopping, and prizes. Sponsored by the Ravianayoga Teachers and Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

## ROBBERSON

**Robberson Community Dinner and Circles® program:** Tuesdays: 5:15-7:30 p.m., Robberson Community School, 1100 E. Kearney St. Childcare provided. Circles® is a nationwide movement of communities in the United States and Canada focused on ending poverty by breaking down systematic barriers and creating community.

**Crosslines Food Distribution for Robberson Neighborhood:** July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1: 9:30- 11 a.m., Robberson Community School parking lot, 1100 E. Kearney St.

**Robberson Neighborhood Association Meetings:** July 27, Aug. 24, Sept. 28: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Pathways United Methodist Church, 1232 E. Dale.

**Robberson Community School Meet the Teacher:** Aug. 15: 1-2 p.m., Robberson Community School, 1100 E. Kearney St. Come and meet your child's teacher for the 2017-2018 school year!

**Robberson Neighborhood Night Out:** Aug. 26: 4-7 p.m., Robberson Community School, 1100 E. Kearney St.

## ROUNTREE

**Rountree Neighborhood Association Meetings:** July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19: 7-8 p.m., University Heights Baptist Church, 1010 S. National.

## TOM WATKINS

**Racquet, White and Blue:** July 7: 6-8 p.m., Tom Watkins Park, 2100 W. High. Free tennis event, including music and snacks. All equipment is provided or bring your own. No tennis experience necessary! Also receive free tickets to the July 27 Springfield Lasers Pro Tennis match. Co-sponsored by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and USTA Missouri District.

**Tom Watkins Cooking Club:** Mondays, July 10-31: 3-5 p.m., Tom Watkins Center, 2100 W. High. Learn the basics of cooking. Free, but only 20 spots are available.

## Summer Music Club by Heart Academy of Music:

July 17-21: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Tom Watkins Center, 2100 W. High. Free: build your music skills, includes lunch. Preregister kids grades K-6 by July 12 at heartam.com. Co-sponsored with Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

## Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association Meetings:

July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28: 6-8 p.m., Tom Watkins 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 Night Out:** Sept. TBD, Tom Watkins Park, 2100 W. High. Contact Marti Mowery at 417-616-4064 for more information.

## WELLER

**Silver Springs Outdoor Pool Splash and Sizzle Discount Admission:** Friday & Saturday nights, July 1-29: 5:30-8 p.m. 1100 N. Hampton. \$1 admission or a canned food item donation.

**Weller Neighborhood Association Meetings:** July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7: 6-7 p.m., Turning Point Church, 1722 N. National.

**Park Day Reunion:** Aug. 4-6, Silver Springs Park, 1100 N. Hampton. Annual event includes socials, golf and bowling competitions, parade, cook-out, music in the park, beauty contest and much more, at Silver Springs and other locations. For event day activities, search Springfield Reunion Club on Facebook.

**Weller Neighborhood Night Out:** Aug. 25: 6-8 p.m., Smith Park, 1500 E Division St.

## WEST CENTRAL

**West Central Croquet & Craft Beer Club:** Thursdays, July 6-Aug. 31: 6-8 p.m., Mother's Brewing Co., 215 S. Grant Ave. Free.

**West Central Community Garden Flyer Canvassing Day:** July 9: 2-4 p.m. Meet in the garden located between the sidewalk on West Walnut and the wall to Mother's beer garden, 215 S. Grant Ave. Volunteers will bring flyers door to door in the area and ask local merchants for permission to display our flyer. Work at your own pace and earn volunteer credit hours while helping out! To learn more about Springfield Community Gardens visit [springfieldcommunitygardens.org](http://springfieldcommunitygardens.org).

## West Central Ice Cream Social:

July 25: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park, 1200 W. College St.

## 7th annual Birthplace of Route 66 Festival:

Aug. 11-12: Downtown Springfield. Events downtown include a car and motorcycle show, parade, vendor expo, outdoor movie at Jordan Valley Park, live music and more. Friday night concert with Big & Rich and Saturday night concert with Three Dog Night; tickets at gillioztheatre.com. Presented by Aaron Sachs & Associates, KY3, Ozarks on Two Wheels, Gillioz Theatre, and City of Springfield. Details at [Route66FestivalSGF.com](http://Route66FestivalSGF.com).

## West Central Neighborhood Night Out:

Sept. 8: time TBD, McGregor School-Park, 1200 W. State St. Contact Kathleen Cowens at 417-496-8699 for more information.

## West Central Neighborhood Alliance Meeting:

Sept. 26: 6:30-7:30 p.m., McGregor Elementary, 1221 W. Madison St.

## WESTSIDE



## Westport Outdoor Pool Splash & Sizzle Discount Admission:

Friday & Saturday nights, July 1-29: 5:30-8 p.m. 3100 W. Mount Vernon. \$1 admission or a canned food item donation.

## Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings:

July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12: 6:30 p.m., Westport Park Apartments Community Room, 250 N. Hilton.

**Westside Neighborhood Night Out:** Sept. 16: 2-4 p.m., Westport Park, 3100 W. Mt. Vernon.

## WOODLAND HEIGHTS

## Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association Tennis Club:

Mondays: 6-7 p.m., Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic. Free for all ages. Bring the whole family and something to drink. Each week participants will be learning and playing the game of tennis. Bring your racquet (or use one of ours) and let's play!

## Woodland Heights Community Dinner and Circles® program:

Wednesdays: 5:15-7:30 p.m., Springfield Dream Center, 829 W. Atlantic St. Childcare provided. Circles® is a nationwide movement of communities in the United States and Canada focused on ending poverty by breaking down systematic barriers and creating community.

## Summer Music Club by Heart Academy of Music:

July 10-14: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Springfield Dream Center, 829 W. Atlantic. Free: build your music skills, includes lunch. Preregister kids grades K-6 by July 3 at heartam.com. Co-sponsored with Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

## Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association Meetings:

July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church, 722 W. Atlantic.



## Woodland Heights Neighborhood Night Out:

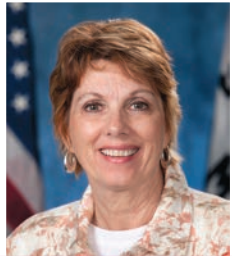
Aug. 19: 2-6 p.m., Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic St.





# Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods

Meet your City Council members



**ZONE 1**

Phyllis Ferguson



**ZONE 2**

Dr. Thomas Prater



**ZONE 3**

Mike Schilling



**ZONE 4**

Craig Fishel

Ken McClure  
Mayor



Jan Fisk  
General Seat A



Craig Hosmer  
General Seat B



Kristi Fulnecky  
General Seat C



Richard Ollis  
General Seat D



Watch City Council meetings  
on Facebook Live:  
Mondays 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays 12 p.m.

 @CityofSGF

[springfieldmo.gov/CityCouncil](http://springfieldmo.gov/CityCouncil)  
[Council@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:Council@springfieldmo.gov)



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- Citizen Resource Center at the Busch Municipal Building
- Jordan Valley Community Health Center
- Missouri Job Center Springfield locations
- Springfield Art Museum
- Springfield Fire Department Stations 1, 5, 8 and 12
- Springfield-Greene County Park Board facilities
- City Utilities
- Commercial Street merchants
- Community Partnership of the Ozarks
- The Fairbanks
- Hovey House
- Legal Services of Southwest Missouri
- Registered neighborhood organization meetings
- The Springfield Dream Center
- Springfield-Greene County Libraries



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