



New Art Museum exhibition highlights local artists, neighborhoods

By Joshua Best, Springfield Art Museum, for SGFNN



Neighborhoods are the backbone of any city. Beyond geographic boundaries, neighborhoods define who we are by way of our ordinary, daily interactions with our environment and most importantly, our neighbors. Springfield is home to 34 neighborhood service areas, which include 17 registered neighborhood organizations.

Whether addressing zoning issues, participating in neighborhood clean-ups or simply checking in on the person next door, the countless interactions among neighbors make Springfield neighborhoods vital and vibrant places rather than simply points on a map.

In addition to its great neighborhoods, Springfield is also home to a vibrant artistic community, says Springfield Art Museum Director Nick Nelson, which inspired him to dedicate the museum's new flex space to local artists for the next two years.

"The 'Art In Our City' exhibition highlights and celebrates the creativity of the Springfield community, focusing on artists living and working in the neighborhoods that make up our city. This exhibition not only concentrates on the artists on display, but the neighborhoods they live in and what it means to live and work creatively here," Nelson says.

The exhibit, which opened in October 2017, will rotate every six months; the first exhibition features work by eight artists from five neighborhoods located in Zone 1:

- Christiano Bellotti: Westside
- Annie Campbell: Woodland Heights
- James Dale: Young-Lilley (unregistered area

west of Westside; boundaries are Chestnut Expressway to the north, Grand Street to the south, West Bypass to the east and I-44 to the west.)

- Sarah Jones: Midtown
- Johnny Kriebel: Midtown
- Christine Schilling: Midtown
- Kori Smalley: Downtown
- Jennifer Rose Wolken: Woodland Heights.

These artists all live or create in the downtown, Midtown, C-Street, Westside, Woodland Heights and Young-Lilley areas, Nelson says.

He added that the museum received more than 50 entries for the "Art In Our City" exhibition during the summer of 2017. Thirty-five artists were selected to display their work over the next two years.

For information on how to submit your work for this exhibit, please visit sgfmuseum.org.

Former shop transitions to Avant Art flex space

In April 2017, the museum shop, which was run by volunteers from the Southwest Missouri Museum Associates, the museum's longest-serving support group, officially closed its doors. Soon after, the museum announced its intention to transform the former shop space into a new flexible social gallery that combines exhibitions, retail and limited beverage and snack service.

Avant Art was chosen as the name for the new space – the French word "avant" meaning "before."

"Exploring this space is literally the thing you do before you enter the museum's galleries, due to Avant Art's prominent location near the museum's renovated lobby that now includes the stunning 'Autumn and Persian Feather,' chandelier by renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly," Nelson says.

Kori Smalley with her "Art in Our City" piece.



See more from the artists in the neighborhood sections.

Welcome to the Winter 2018 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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11th annual Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Awards recognizes those who 'light the way'

By Jacque Harness, CPO, for SGFNN

Fourteen volunteers, the Doling Neighborhood Association and the City of Springfield's Department of Public Information took home Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Awards at the 11th annual NOVA's banquet Monday, Dec. 4, 2017 at Relics Event Center, 2015 W. Battlefield. The theme for the evening was "Lighting the Way."

"A nova is a brightly shining star," said Brooke Ash, Caring Communities program director at Community Partnership. "We feel organizations and individuals who tirelessly work at making our community a better place to live should be recognized as stars. The annual NOVA banquet allows us to reflect on the achievements and contributions made by dedicated



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BDS Director Chris Straw reflects on nearly 20-year career with the City

By Juliana Goodwin, for SGFNN

Chris Straw chuckles at the thought of a typical day. As Springfield's director of Building Development Services (BDS), he arrives at the office at 7 a.m., facing 15 to 20 emails and another 10 calls to return.

Safety is always at the forefront of his duties.

A licensed architect, Straw's department ensures the community's buildings are safe by issuing permits for all phases of construction, and by testing and awarding skill-based certificates to electricians, plumbers, gas fitters and mechanical craftsmen so they can operate in Springfield.

After nearly 20 years with the City, he will retire in January.

"It's time to cut back, do some work around the house, spend more time with family. I am a workaholic."

What Straw will miss most is interacting with the community.

Since becoming BDS director in 2010, he has focused on improving education, customer service and relationships with citizens.

Evidence of this success comes from the increasing number of citizen service calls to his department addressing a variety of nuisance

complaints. Last fiscal year, they received 10,000; and he predicts it will eclipse 12,000 in 2017.

While many people would not see complaint calls as a good thing, Straw embraces them because it means he's doing his job.

He credits this increase to the 2015 Community Listen tour in Springfield's Zone 1 neighborhoods.

"When the Zone Blitz was conducted, chronic nuisance properties were the number one concern. Since that time there has been improved citizen involvement. It's an education process. Complaints can range from weeds and trash, to abandoned or dangerous properties," Straw said.

If there is a complaint, a compliance letter is first sent out to notify the property owner that they are in violation and need to correct it.

The compliance rate is 65-70 percent.

But there are some chronic nuisance properties which are defined as those properties in which



repeated complaint calls are received and responded to, including from the BDS department, police and fire departments, as well as other calls for service. His concern is safety which is where the Safe Housing Inspection Program comes in and he is excited about its possibilities to help ensure all rental homes are safe.

Straw drafted a proposal for City Council approval to improve the City's ability to address chronic nuisance properties and buildings/houses that are deemed to be dangerous structures.

"What we are seeing are homes in bad shape that people are renting. Some are pristine. Some have minor problems, but we focus on life safety issues. A home may lack functional plumbing, or no heat or the heat is hazardous. An example would be a gas furnace and the flue is gone or rusted. There are electrical hazards. Our goal is to educate people. We work with landlords and point out the issue and they often take care of it," he said.

During his time with the City, he has worked on some significant projects such as the Springfield Expo Center and new Springfield-Branson National Airport terminal. As he prepares for retirement and reflects on his career, what Straw considers highlights of his career with the City include:

- Straw pushed for the code review cycle to be extended from three years to six years which has reduced costs to the city and impact to its employees.
- In 2012, the Property Maintenance Code was accomplished. At that time Chapter 74 had housing code divided into residential and commercial but most of the language was duplicated. He wanted to eliminate the duplication, simplify the language, and ensure its organization was parallel to building codes.
- He adopted the standards of the International Property Maintenance Code in 2017.
- Streamlined the administrative hearing process for those contesting compliance enforcement attempts in March 2017.
- Increased citizen involvement.
- His work with the Dangerous Building Program





which deals with properties that are vacant for whatever reason, including a fire. It takes nine to 12 months to work through the legal system to get approval for a demolition. They demolish 30-35 buildings per year.

- Drafting the Safe Housing Inspection Program.

Early in his career, Straw served in the Army from 1972 until 1975, and was a trumpet player.

He attended what is now Missouri State University, majoring in drafting and design, with minors in music and industrial management. After graduation, Straw spent the next eight years working for architecture firms before becoming a licensed architect in 1989. He worked in the private sector in building design and development before joining the City in 1999 as a plan review specialist.

After retirement, he plans to continue working, but as a consultant.

Straw doesn't have any hobbies, doesn't like to travel, but his "honey do" list is growing by the day thanks to his wife of 45 years, Dorothy. She is eager for him to take some time off, and he looks forward to spending more time with family, including his three grandsons, who Straw affectionately refers to as "The Three Amigos."

But he will miss the people he works with.

"I have an outstanding staff," Straw said. "You can have a leader but if you don't have great staff, then it doesn't matter. They are outstanding."

By the Numbers

- Call 417-864-1010 to initiate a service request from the City. The Building Development Services Department received 10,000 service calls last year, although it is on track to hit 12,000 in 2017.
- Six inspectors are assigned to investigate the complaints. After a complaint, the property owner is sent a letter notifying them they are not in compliance and have 15 business days to fix it.
- The compliance rate after the letter is 65-70 percent.
- It takes nine to 12 months to go through the legal system to demolish a nuisance property.
- An average of 30-35 nuisance properties are torn down each year.
- The BDS department has 35 employees.

► NOVAS from page 1

people in our community. The NOVA banquet is a highlight of our year and we truly enjoy the opportunity to celebrate so many who go unnoticed for all they do in and for our neighborhoods."



State Rep. Crystal Quade, who represents part of the 132nd District, was the keynote speaker. Quade spoke about the strength of Springfield's neighborhoods, how Springfieldians are known for getting things done through collaboration and how that makes Springfield a special place.

The 2017 Neighborhood Innovation Award went to the Doling Neighborhood Association for its Block Party Trailer.



"When you look up the word innovation in the dictionary, you find synonyms including original, new, novel, fresh, unusual, unprecedented,

creative, and inventive. The first award that we are presenting tonight is a new award, appropriately named the Innovation Award. In reflecting on all the great things happening in neighborhood associations across the city, we decided it was time to start annually recognizing a neighborhood that has done something innovative. The first recipient of the Innovation Award is the Doling Neighborhood Association for their Block Party Trailer. Doling has worked to revitalize their neighborhood association over the last year, and in doing so, were able to secure a grant from CFO in order to make their Block Party Trailer a reality. They put a lot of time and energy into researching, planning and writing for the grant. Their hard work paid off as they were awarded the grant to pursue their innovative, impactful project. And since getting their Block Party Trailer up and going, they've been able to bring neighbors together across the city."

Christina Dicken, president, accepted the award on behalf of Doling.

The 2017 Reaching for the Stars Award went to the City of Springfield Department of Public Information (PIO) for SGF Neighborhood News.

"Reaching for the Stars is an annual award given to a person, organization, or partner that has had a particularly large and profound impact on the neighborhoods throughout the past year. Over the last year, the staff in the Public Information Office have worked hard to help improve neighborhood



communication across the city. If you ask neighborhoods what one of their most pressing issues is, many will say being able to effectively share information with their neighbors. Springfield Neighborhood News was born as a response to this need. The website and printed paper serve as a platform for sharing creative, relevant, heart-warming and need-to-know information with neighbors all over the city. PIO took a great idea, with input and feedback from neighborhoods, and created SGF Neighborhood News, a quality publication that has helped bring neighbors from all over the city valuable information."

Director Cora Scott and Assistant Director Melissa Haase accepted the award on behalf of the department.

Individual NOVAS were awarded to:

- Bissett: Chandra Palmer
- Bradford Park: Ed Messerly
- Delaware: Kevin Evans
- Doling: Jean Ackley
- Grant Beach: Pauletta Dunn
- Greater Parkcrest: Carol McCarthy
- Midtown: John Nolie & Sons
- Phelps Grove: Renee Tyson
- Robberson: Phyllis Evans
- Tom Watkins: Elizabeth Atwood
- Weller: Chris Coker
- West Central: Caron Parnell
- Westside Betterment: Joe Roberds
- Woodland Heights: Rhonda Ferguson.



Concluding the event were the Great Neighborhoods grants.

Alana Owen and Brendan Griesemer from the City's Planning & Development Department awarded 11 \$750 Great Neighborhoods checks to each neighborhood association. Neighborhoods that received checks were Bissett, Bradford Park, Greater Parkcrest, Phelps, Robberson, Tom Watkins, Weller, West Central, Westside, Woodland Heights and Grant Beach.

Congratulations to all, and a big thanks to first-ever NOVAS sponsor Air Services Heating & Cooling for making the evening possible.



City takes additional steps to ensure clean and safe neighborhoods



Certain properties in Springfield have had upwards of 70 complaint calls in a single year.

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

A clean neighborhood has an impact on the health of its residents, as well as the attractiveness of the neighborhood to current and potential residents and investors. Creating a clean neighborhood is primarily the responsibility of neighborhood residents, but the City can assist through proactive programs such as neighborhood clean ups and through the enforcement of ordinances and administration of programs to remove the chronic nuisances and blight.

It's an issue that requires cooperation of many parties: residents, property owners, Police, Fire, Health and Building Development Services, neighborhood associations and ultimately City Council. Reaching a common ground and working together can be challenging, but the end goal of ensuring clean, safe neighborhoods has risen to a place of top priority for Springfield's citizens.

Zone 1 residents made it clear that their number one concern is the consequences of vacant or poorly maintained properties.

At a series of nine Community Listen meetings in Springfield's northwest quadrant in May 2015, Zone 1 residents made it clear that their number one concern is the consequences of vacant or poorly maintained properties with conditions such as overgrown yards, piles of litter and trash and abandoned cars. "Chronic nuisance properties" are defined as those properties about which repeated complaint calls are received and responded to, including from the City's Building Development Services, Police and Fire Departments, as well as other calls for service. Certain properties in Springfield have had upwards of 70 complaint calls in a single year. Addressing these chronic nuisance properties rose to the top of the list of concerns in neighborhoods and remained a clear number one priority throughout a follow-up process with residents participating in Zone Blitz brainstorming sessions.

The Chronic Nuisance Properties Zone Blitz team leaned heavily on Building Services Director Chris Straw, who worked with other City departments to make improvements to the City's nuisance and housing code.

Property owners and residents violate the law when they allow nuisance conditions to exist, such as litter, tall weeds, inoperable vehicles and other materials or conditions that endanger public health and safety. The Springfield Municipal Code Chapter 74 (Nuisance and Housing Code) defines these materials and conditions and sets out procedures for declaring a nuisance, and determines the remedies for fixing the property. Currently, 51 percent of the City's housing code violators are owner-occupied.

The remaining 49 percent are rental properties. "This is a challenge that is equally balanced and so solutions must address both," Straw said.

Allowing chronic nuisance conditions to exist is not only a detriment to the neighborhood, it is also a financial burden to the City by the repeated calls for service to the properties because of the nuisance activities that repeatedly occur or exist on such properties.

At its May 26, 2015 meeting, City Council unanimously passed an ordinance to create a series of penalties for property owners that continue to fail to maintain their property, made clarifying changes concerning special tax bills and additions to real-estate-tax bills, and codified due-process-of-law provisions for enforcement actions.

Council Bill 2015-177, specifically replaced sections of the existing Chapter 74 with code/language that is clearer, better aligns with state law, and allows for better and more timely enforcement and abatement.

As a result, property owners are now notified (by mail or in person and by a notice posted on the property) of the identified conditions that constitute being a nuisance. The property owner has 15 business days to respond to the notice or improve the condition of the property. After 15 business days, if the property owner has not responded to the nuisance notice, the City can then abate the nuisance at the owner's expense. Costs of abatement are recovered through assessments, real estate taxes and property liens. The code removed the requirement to hold a hearing, unless requested by the owner, each time a nuisance property needs to be abated, i.e., mowing tall grass or removing trash or abandoned vehicles from a property.

An additional tool to help the City work with home and property owners is the proactive step of residential rental registration. City Council voted to require free, online registration of properties, beginning in January. Rental registration allows for enhanced communication between the City and property owners, proactively establishing lines of communication before legal channels

must be explored. "When the City can quickly identify and contact a property owner when a potential code violation has occurred, the majority of the time the issue is fixed before the City has to pursue any other legal steps," Straw explains.

Rental registration saves both time and money.

"At the bare minimum, it saves the cost that is incurred to the City/taxpayer, as well as the property owner, when we do the title search. Our real goal, however, is to be able to contact home or property owners as soon as we know there's a problem, so they can fix it before things get worse."

Property owners can register for free at springfieldmo.gov/rentalregistration. A year's grace period will be given.

What about the Safe Housing Inspection Pilot Program?

In October 2016, City Council approved a 90-day pilot project studying the viability of a proactive life safety inspection program for both owner occupied and rental properties.

West Central neighborhood leaders vied for the opportunity for BDS inspectors to be called in proactively to properties that were both referred through complaints and self referred. Results from the pilot project, however, showed that none of the violations found at the relatively small number of inspections requested were of significant nature. The pilot program, however, also gave the BDS department an idea of the amount of time needed to perform life safety inspections, which proved to be unsustainable citywide due to staffing and funding issues. The education component of the project will continue citywide, as BDS and other in-home partners more tightly align. For example, Police, Fire, in-home medical services, Parents as Teachers and other organizations will meet annually to ensure the education continues and referral process is communicated. Further, the Safe Housing Initiative will connect property owners to other resources to help residents address the life safety issues found inside their homes.



Currently, 51% of the City's housing code violators are owner-occupied.

The remaining 49% are rental properties.

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

Volume 2 • Issue 1 • Winter 2018
SGFNeighborhoodNews.com

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

Community leaders launch mental health needs assessment

By Kathryn Wall, Health Department, for SGFNN

Community leaders from across many sectors in Springfield came together in November to begin the process of a mental health needs assessment for our community.

The assessment will focus on the goals of improving the system of mental health and substance abuse delivery, reducing stigma and developing collaborative paths forward for a better future.

"Every community has those watershed moments," Matt Morrow, president of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, said at the press conference announcing the effort. "Those tipping points that they can collectively point back to and say, this was a time when we took a significant step forward. I believe what we are here to learn more about today is the start of such a moment — that's because this assessment will serve as the foundation for making impactful and data-driven decisions that are customized to truly benefit our citizens."

"There is a behavioral health crisis in our city, state and nation. To solve it, we must come together as partners ..."

Crescendo Consulting Group will shepherd our community through the process, expected to last 12 – 18 months or longer, of a comprehensive study to align partners on a resulting action plan.

The press conference began with impassioned, emotional and poignant stories from two local mothers who have lost their children to mental health and substance abuse struggles.

Sam Holmes was a college athlete with a great sense of humor. He took his life in March after years battling depression and anxiety. His mother, Mary Jane Holmes, urged an end to the stigma of mental health, especially for men.

Samantha Huntley had been a cheerleader at Kickapoo High School before a car accident left her in pain and vulnerable.

She fell into the trap of addiction and, after years of trying treatment after treatment, overdosed in September. Her mother, Julie Oziah-Gideon, called for an end to the stereotype of addiction.

The full video of each mother's powerful story is available at facebook.com/SGCHD.

Front and center for the announcement were four organizations leading the way in this effort: Burrell Behavioral Health, CoxHealth, Jordan Valley Community Health Center and Mercy Springfield.

"There is a behavioral health crisis in our city, state and nation. To solve it, we must come together as partners to design and coordinate a worthy response," says Steve Edwards, president and CEO of CoxHealth. "This study will better identify problems, and bring us together to help solve them."

"Jordan Valley Community Health Center has been committed to behavioral health for many years," said Dr. Matt Stinson, vice president of medical and behavioral health services for

Jordan Valley. "Our dedication to continually developing behavioral health services to meet the needs of the communities and families we serve is an important component of our integrated health care delivery model. We recognize the great need for multiple organizations to be a part of this effort and are thankful for a community that supports actions such as this."

"Our region is experiencing the dual crises of people suffering from addiction and mental health issues," said Jon Swope, interim president of Mercy Springfield Communities. "At Mercy Hospital Springfield, we are seeing an average of nearly six more patients each day in our emergency room who are there for mental health reasons than we did in 2009. It's a total of nearly 20 people per day and 600 per month. They need our help and we need to respond with compassionate care."

BACKGROUND

Springfield's Community Health Needs Assessment, published in 2016 and available at OzarksHealthCommission.org, identified mental health and substance abuse as significant issues in our community, but also emphasized how a lack of data and a comprehensive understanding of Springfield's needs hindered efforts to improve these issues.

In recent months, there has been a growing call to action surrounding mental health and substance abuse challenges in Springfield and the region. This assessment will help our community get a clear picture of the needs and opportunities we have in addressing the impact of mental health issues and substance abuse locally.

A significant grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health has made possible this first-of-its-kind effort for Springfield. The \$252,500 grant will fund an assessment with the goal of measuring the effects of stigma on mental health and substance abuse, the impact of these issues on other health-related outcomes and other emerging needs or concerns. Ultimately, this assessment is designed to lead to a conversation about how Springfield can best leverage its resources to better serve our community needs.

The Healthy Living Alliance, a local organization aimed at making healthier living a priority in Springfield by bringing together representatives from local business, government and nonprofit and health care industries, has taken on an action plan resulting from the Springfield Community Health Assessment.



Samantha Huntley's mother, Julie Oziah-Gideon, called for an end to the stereotype of addiction.

Mayor's Commission for Children urges community awareness of need for quality early childhood programs

By Tina Haberberger, Mayor's Commission for Children, for SGFNN



Brigitte Marrs, executive director, Mayor's Commission for Children

When Sen. Bob Dixon addressed the Mayor's Commission for Children at its Nov. 14, 2017 meeting, he spoke of his initiatives within the state Senate to pass enabling legislation to allow the Springfield municipality to pass funding for early childhood programs. Sen. Dixon and Rep.

Crystal Quade will once again introduce legislation in the 2018 Missouri legislative session to give Springfield that opportunity, though in previous attempts, it has been filibustered in the Senate by the opposition.

Though Sen. Dixon has the deepest respect for his colleagues, he can't help but feel frustrated by the lack of support for early childhood education, when, to him, funding the education of our youngest citizens seems like a no-brainer.

It does to us, too, says Brigitte Marrs, executive director of the Mayor's Commission for children.

Though there are a few reasons his fellow senators offer to oppose this initiative — such as an outright refusal to tax for anything (though this bill is not a proposition to tax, but a proposition for our community to have the right to create tax legislation), or simply the disbelief that investing in early childhood education reaps long-term benefits — Commission members are confident we have a rebuttal.

It is much more expensive to care for and rehabilitate members of our society later through welfare programs, treatment, or in some cases, incarceration, rather than providing them with resources like education and access to health care early in life, which would decrease exponentially their chances of needing such interventions later.

For every dollar spent on early childhood education, the community can expect a \$10 return on its investment, because education is shown time and time again to be the most effective way to prevent crime and increase mobility in society.

If a child is properly educated starting in the beginning of life, he or she has less of a chance of falling behind and/or dropping out. Fewer years repeated and fewer dropouts result not only in more motivated and successful students but also in allowing those students to continue attaining higher education. More education means better job opportunities, and therefore higher income. Higher income results in more contributions back in income taxes and more spending in the open economy at local businesses and entertainment venues (which also means more contributions through sales taxes).

This is especially important when we consider our low-income and minority population because they are most affected by lack of access to quality education, health care, child care and other resources vital to success and achievement. For example, in our 2016 Kindergarten Readiness Study, we found that on average, students who qualify for free and reduced lunch in Springfield Public Schools were evaluated as not ready for kindergarten almost two times as often as other students.

"... education is shown time and time again to be the most effective way to prevent crime and increase mobility in society."

Unfortunately, students eligible for free and reduced lunch account for 61 percent of elementary students attending Springfield Public Schools, meaning many of our students in this community are starting school unprepared and are without sufficient resources to ensure success.

The good news is we have the power to change this. By using our voices in the community, we can vote in favor of early childhood education and

choose to put our money not only where it matters, but where it is economically wise to do so. Though the bill Sen. Dixon has championed is not one that will pass a tax, it will give us the ability to determine our own destiny by allowing us to decide to pass a tax.

Contact Sen. Dixon and Rep. Quade and tell them you are not ready to give up on this legislation. Contact your other local legislators and tell them you favor this bill and you support focusing on early childhood to curb systemic problems, boost our economy, and reduce poverty. Then, hold them accountable.

Let's do ourselves and all of our children in our community a favor by giving them every possible opportunity to be successful, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Tina Haberberger is a Drury University student interning with the Mayor's Commission for Children. Contact the commission's executive director, Brigitte Marrs, at bmarrs@springfieldmo.gov or 417-864-1656.

The Mayor's Commission for Children



From left: Kimberly Shinn-Brown, Alexis Brown, Dr. Jennifer Baker, Dr. Kayce Morton, Dr. Laurie Edmondson, Bria Coale, Susan Henderson, Linda Ramey Greiwe. Second row: Christen Davis, Gerry Lee, Jan Fisk, Dr. Elizabeth Andrews, Shara Cash, Dr. Doug McNeal, Paul Satterwhite.



Change One Thousand to address skills gap in SGF workforce



By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

A good job is a great start.

That's the tagline of Change One Thousand Skills Academy, a new job-training program created by the City of Springfield Department of Workforce Development in partnership with the Ozark Region Workforce Development Board.

Director Mary Ann Rojas said the program, set to begin in February, will create pre-employment training opportunities for 1,000 individuals over the course of the next three years in the manufacturing, construction, transportation/logistics, IT and health care industries.

Training will be held at Missouri Job Center locations, partner organizations sites and The Fairbanks. Through existing partnerships and designated case managers, Change One Thousand will be distinctly qualified to address the most common barriers to employment such as childcare, transportation, mental health, substance abuse, disabilities, and criminal background.

Change One Thousand will begin with a pilot project highlighting opportunities in the Partnership Industrial Center East (PIC East) corridor. Training segments will be led by Bryan University and industry experts representing the PIC East employer consortium.

Rojas said the academy is designed to close the

skills gap and create career pathways for individuals who meet the characteristics of being skills-deficient as a result of being unemployed or under-employed, living in poverty, or lacking access to resources and good jobs. Priority will be placed on recruiting residents of Springfield's Zone 1, which has the highest unemployment rate and lowest per capita income of Springfield's four zones.

"The desired result is a qualified workforce which supports an improved competitive edge for the industry," Rojas said.

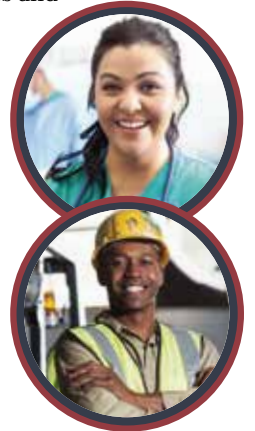
Those interested in the program can apply online at ChangeOneThousand.org or in person at Missouri Job Center locations and public libraries. The duration of the academy will be five weeks, with approximately eight hours of class time each week. Class sizes will be kept small — no more than 30 students will be admitted to each of the academy's tracks at a time. Academy graduates will be matched with jobs paying \$10-17 per hour offered through the same employer partners who helped design the program curriculum.

Rojas said the academy will be funded with an \$150,000 initial investment by the local Workforce Investment Board. The fund will be maintained through public-sector, private-sector and general public donations, Rojas said, and disbursed by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

Employers that participate in the academy through financial or in-kind contributions will receive the designation of a Change One Thousand Employer Champion, which adds an additional level of recognition and interest from potential employees. Change One Thousand employers will be recognized as champions of industry who invest in personal, professional, and community development and value training, diversity, equal opportunity, and a progressive economic environment. Employer partners will also serve on the academy's curriculum committee, Rojas added.

Other significant components of the project include the measure of success and the assurance of quality. Performance metrics will measure the following:

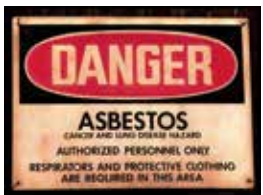
- Number of certifications awarded
- Number of participating employers
- Average entry level wages
- Job Placement rate
- Average wages paid
- Occupational breakdown
- Economic impact
- Job retention.



Green for Greene job training program starts up again in February

GREEN for GREENE

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor



The Missouri Job Center's Green for Greene program — an Environmental Protection Agency grant-funded "green" job training program designed to train and secure well-paying

environmental jobs for residents of Zone 1 — will start again in February.

The specific, free training courses include certifications in OSHA Hazwoper; OSHA 10; Environmental Sampling and Monitoring; Trench and Excavation; Confined Space; Lead Renovation Repair and Painting (RRP); Lead Abatement Worker; Asbestos Worker/Handler; Stormwater Management; Forklift Driver; First Aid/CPR; and Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

"These training classes are the keys to full-time, green jobs that pay well because they are in demand," EPA Regional Administrator Mark Hague said. "For communities like Springfield, this helps build a workforce that can reclaim and revitalize environmentally challenged properties to benefit the community."

While Zone 1 residents are given priority admission to the program, it's not a requirement to live in Zone 1 to participate in the program. Those interested in the training should attend one of two Green for Greene informational sessions still available at the Missouri Job Center's North

Springfield location inside the CoxHealth North Tower at 1443 N. Robberson on Jan. 16 and Jan. 18. Both sessions are 1-2 p.m. Those unable to attend may contact Isaac Weber at 417-841-3361 or iweber@springfieldmo.gov to apply.

The Green for Greene program was created with a \$200,000 grant from the EPA's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) program in 2017. The grant was one of only 18 made available nationwide, as part of a \$3.5 million grant package.

Since the EPA launched the EWDJT grant program in 1998, more than 256 grants have been awarded, exceeding a total of \$54 million. Approximately 14,700 individuals have completed training, and of those, more than 10,600 individuals have been placed in full-time employment with an average starting hourly wage of \$14.34. This equates to a cumulative job placement rate of nearly 72 percent of graduates.

Locally, 23 trainees completed the program in 2017. Nineteen of those gained employment in the environmental field with an average hourly wage of \$14.18 per hour. Two trainees chose to continue their education. Program coordinator Isaac Weber, a senior workforce development specialist with the Missouri Job Center, says he hopes to enroll 32 trainees in the 2018 program.

"We were pleased to receive this award last year and think it will help our Zone Blitz efforts to secure jobs for residents in our under-resourced areas of the community," said City Manager Greg Burris.

The City's Workforce Development and Planning

& Development departments worked together to secure the grant. The City has a history of positive partnerships with the EPA, including cooperation on a program that works to assess, clean up and facilitate the development of potentially contaminated properties known as "brownfields" within the city of Springfield.

According to Mary Ann Rojas, City of Springfield Workforce Development director, partners in the Missouri Job Center's implementation of the grant include the Ozark Region Workforce Development Board, Environmental Works, Gerken Environmental, Southwest Missouri Safety Company LLC, C1 Truck Driver Training, Bryan University, and Greenfield Environmental Trust Group Inc.

Additional support was provided by Zone 1 City Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson, City of Springfield Department of Environmental Services, the Neighborhood Advisory Council, The Drew Lewis Foundation, Sunbelt Environmental Services Inc., Keystone Building and Design, Euticals Vocational Rehabilitation, Kansas State University's Technical Assistance to Brownfields program, OACAC Head Start, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Preferred Family Healthcare.

Operated by the City of Springfield's Department of Workforce Development, the Missouri Job Center is located at 2900 E. Sunshine and serves Greene, Christian, Dallas, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties.

Springfield named 25th in the country by Gallup in community ranking for exercise

By Kathryn Wall, Health Department, for SGFNN

The Gallup organization has ranked Springfield 25th on its list of Communities with the Highest Rates of Regular Exercise.

The report examines exercise in Americans across the U.S. and ranks the cities based on response and percentage of those who have exercised for 30 minutes or more a day, three or more days a week.

"Innovative communities around the country are beginning to take an environmental approach to ensure their residents have safe and easy places to exercise," the Gallup report noted. "These communities are creating vibrant, livable, walkable, and bikeable public spaces and are investing in infrastructure that provides safe places to exercise and move naturally."

These rates vary by community but the top exercise communities show more than 65 percent of their population exercises daily. Springfield reported 57.7 percent of the population exercised 30 minutes or more, three times a week.

"The Ozarks is truly a beautiful place to live

with lots of opportunity to be active outside," said Director of Health Clay Goddard.

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board, accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies, offers many opportunities for residents to enjoy physical activity both indoors and out. The Park Board has 104 different sites including; neighborhood playgrounds, four golf courses, sports complexes, family centers, botanical gardens, two aquatic centers, six outdoor swimming pools, a farm park, multiple school-park sites and a zoo.

Ozark Greenways also plays a significant role in Springfield's vitality. Ozark Greenways has built 72 miles of greenway trails in Greene and Polk counties for both recreation and transportation purposes. Ozark Greenways also partnered with the City of Springfield to designate 81 miles of on-street bike routes, including The Link, a seven-mile bike and pedestrian corridor spanning the city from north to south.



Birthplace of Route 66 Festival 6.6K Run

The Health Department, along with the Healthy Living Alliance advisory council, have made active living and healthy eating a key part of the Springfield Community Health Improvement Plan. More information on the improvement plan and activities surrounding those efforts can be found at OzarksHealthCommission.org.

For more information about the survey, visit well-beingindex.com.

For more information about outdoor exercise opportunities visit parkboard.org and ozarkgreenways.org.

City develops new neighborhood planning program

By Alana Owen, Planning & Development, for SGFNN



In response to the Neighborhood Advisory Council's desire to increase planning opportunities for registered neighborhood organizations in the city and the need to update four existing neighborhood plans, the City's Planning and Development department has developed a new neighborhood planning program.

The Blueprint for Neighborhood Betterment (BNB) program is a structured planning process intended to facilitate updates to several neighborhood plans and develop new plans for those neighborhoods that are without plans. The program will also serve to facilitate input for the Land Use Plan and Capital Improvement Program.

The BNB Program was created to be an efficient and streamlined neighborhood planning process to focus on Land Use Planning with a format and structure intended to collect input on the built environment. The objective is to gain information that is connected directly to quality of life and improvement of the physical environment of each neighborhood.

The process aims to identify points of stress and friction for neighborhoods and residents on the fringe. The process should also help to identify opportunities for new development (what types and where), identify qualities residents celebrate about their neighborhood and things they might like to do differently.

The BNB and any other neighborhood plan is an extension of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Plans are not a regulatory, binding document. The Comprehensive Plan and these neighborhood plans are intended to provide guidance and support for policy decisions and future land use development. The plans are intended to track common themes where demographic data and resident input intersect and recommend new strategies for solutions and opportunities to improve the physical development of the neighborhood.

The expedited, interactive, efficient and focused process is expected to take place over the course of two meetings in three months and is designed to be easily replicated from neighborhood to neighborhood. The proposed process provides three options for participation by residents — an online option where residents

can respond to all questions and study the maps of their neighborhood, a paper copy option of all the meeting materials and the attendance at the meetings.

At the first meeting, attendees will be broken down into "table teams" for small group discussion. Each group will be encouraged to draw on a provided map, record their thoughts and discuss the pre-determined topics with the help of a trained facilitator. At the second meeting, City staff will report back with the results as well as share a demographic analysis, trends in community input and vision with the participants.

The goal at the end of the process is to have a plan for the neighborhood that is a resident inspired, living document reflective of the neighborhood's vision for improvement.



Rental Registration

As of January, residential rental registration is required in the city limits of Springfield.

Rental registration allows for enhanced communication between the City and property owners.

The City's goal is to be able to contact owners of rental properties as soon as we know there's a problem so you can address it before things get worse. Property owners have a one-year grace period to get their properties registered.

Property owners can register for free at springfieldmo.gov/rentalregistration



Springfield Community Gardens awarded \$375K grant from USDA

Springfield Community Gardens (SCG) has been awarded \$375,000 in funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program.

The funding is authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill to develop local and self-reliant food systems, such as farm to table enterprises that bring nutritious food to low-income communities. The funding will expand SCG's ongoing efforts to improve access to fresh, local food in Springfield City Council Zone 1.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project aims to create a local food hub that empowers low-income individuals to reduce food insecurity while also enabling them with education and skills to generate their own means for financial security.

Collaborative community organizations include the Drew Lewis Foundation, Missouri State University, Ozarks Food Harvest, Springfield Victory Mission and the University of Missouri Extension. They have committed to supporting this "farm to table" system that develops the capacity needed to grow, process and distribute locally grown food and products.

"The Ozarks has a long history of self-reliance and building community by growing and preserving our own food," SCG's Co-founder and Executive Director Maile Auterson said. "This generous grant will assist our community in its efforts to revitalize those systems, especially in Zone 1."

The effort to submit this grant was made possible in part by support from Missouri Foundation for Health.

Since 1996, NIFA's Community Food Projects have awarded approximately \$101 million to organizations nationwide.

"These NIFA investments help communities develop field to fork food systems that provide long-term community solutions," NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy said.

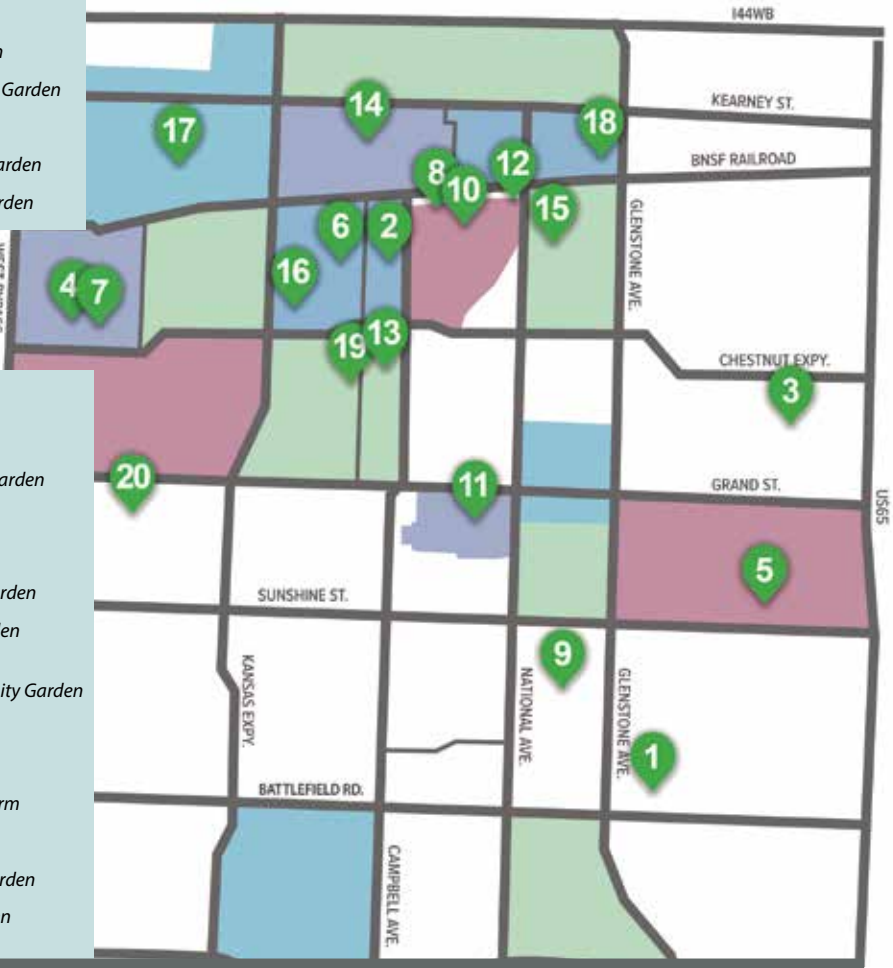


Map of Springfield's Community Gardens

- Brentwood Christian Church Community Garden
- Central Assembly Garden & Calhoun Community Garden
- Convoy of Hope Community Garden
- The Drury Greenhouse
- East Stanford Community Garden
- Grant Beach Community Garden



- Heart Community Garden
- The Kitchen Garden
- Ray Kelly Park Community Garden
- Midtown Campus Garden
- MSU Campus Garden
- Pacific Street Community Garden
- Rare Breed Community Garden
- Reed Academy/Woodland Heights Community Garden
- Rogers Community Garden
- SCG Market Garden
- Tom Watkins Community Farm
- Weller Community Garden
- West Central Community Garden
- West Side Community Garden



Meet Ashley Schnake

Urban Wildlife Biologist with the Missouri Dept. of Conservation



Hello, Springfield registered neighborhoods! I'm Ashley Schnake, urban wildlife biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, and I'm here to help you understand your "wild" neighbors. No, not the Smiths next door, but the furry, feathered, and scaly neighbors that are sharing your outside space.

As urban areas continue to expand several wildlife species have successfully adapted to life within the city. My goal as your Urban Wildlife Biologist is to assist your neighborhood to understand the wildlife that is living in your backyards and outdoor green spaces.

Learning the general biology of your "wild" neighbors is vital to living harmoniously with the wildlife in your neighborhood. Also, it is vital to understand that certain human activities can be:

- Detrimental to the health of the animal
- Can change the behavior of the animal ultimately leading to a human/wildlife conflict.

I am always happy to present at any neighborhood association meeting and am available to assist with any wildlife issue that the neighborhood may currently be experiencing.

Does your neighborhood have parks and/or greenspace? Those are great locations to develop for wildlife viewing. Pollinators and song birds seek these areas within the city. As your urban wildlife biologist I could assist in making those spaces more usable for pollinators, song birds, and other "wild" neighbors. This assistance could come via plant species suggestions to possible planning of the whole project to possible funding assistance through Community Conservation Grant funds (available for those registered neighborhoods that have a non-profit status 501(c)3).

I look forward to hearing from you to discuss your "wild" neighbors and to work with your neighborhood to develop wildlife viewing areas. I can be reached at 417-895-6881, ext. 1637 or at Ashley.Schnake@mdc.mo.gov.

2017 Neighborhood Works projects wrapping up; City preps for combined 2018-2019 program cycle



Timeline

- **JANUARY**
Applications emailed and mailed to neighborhood associations by the City’s Planning and Development department.
- **FEBRUARY**
Two mandatory workshops (dates to be determined).
- **APRIL 1**
Applications due.
- **JUNE 1**
City cost estimates due.
- **JUNE/JULY**
Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) Committee meets and scores applications.
- **AUGUST**
NAC recommendations due to City Managers’ Office.
- **SEPTEMBER**
Award letters sent.

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

As work wraps up on improvements at several neighborhood parks thanks to the 2017 Neighborhood Works program cycle, the City is finalizing the timeline for a combined 2018-2019 cycle, in which neighborhoods will compete for a total of \$800,000 in combined funding with \$200,000 set aside as a contingency.

The program is funded by a \$500,000 annual allocation for neighborhood initiatives from the voter-approved 1/4-cent Capital Improvements Sales Tax. The tax sunsets every three years and will be up for renewal in 2019.

“Due to time constraints, the next two years of funding have been combined into one cycle,” explains Dawne Gardner, City transportation planner and Neighborhood Works program administrator. “All projects must be under construction before the tax sunsets in spring 2019. This was a promise made to the voters when they renewed the tax in 2016.”

“All projects must be under construction before the tax sunsets in spring 2019. This was a promise made to the voters when they renewed the tax in 2016.”

The Neighborhood Works program is intended to fund small-scale capital improvements within registered neighborhoods, giving residents the opportunity to identify projects they believe will offer the greatest benefit to their area. Projects are limited to \$100,000 or less and must take place on city-owned property or right-of-way.

“Neighborhood associations should make sure their application is complete and the project listed includes details for the scoring committee to understand the extent of the project,” Gardner says. “Please include any helpful photos or explanations.”

2017 PROJECT UPDATES



TOM WATKINS PARK IMPROVMENTS
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 a new disc golf course, including new tee pads and tee signs, and drainage improvements west of the Tom Watkins Community Center.

Construction is nearing completion for the new 18-hole disc golf course. Electrical work in the park is linked to a separate grant-funded project to install restrooms at the park’s shelter. Construction on this is expected over the winter.



LAFAYETTE PARK IMPROVEMENTS
Woodland Heights Neighborhood: \$36,500

Work is complete on improvements, including the addition of lighting for the tennis court and the installation of electrical outlets on the east side of the Charlie Norr Community Center, adjacent to the promenade, and additional electrical service for the pavilion.



L.A. WISE PARK IMPROVEMENTS
Bissett Neighborhood: \$95,880

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

Preliminary plans are complete and the project is currently in the bidding stage.



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.

Because asphalt work cannot be done in cold temperatures, work at Washington Park is expected to begin in the spring and be complete in summer 2018.

COMPLETED

BIRTHPLACE OF ROUTE 66 ROADSIDE PARK ENHANCEMENTS

West Central Neighborhood: \$9,600

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

NEARING COMPLETION

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.

This project is packaged with lighting and electrical work at Lafayette Park and Doling Park's Giboney Cave. Materials have been ordered, and the permitting process is underway. Work is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

WORK TO BEGIN IN SPRING

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 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, an island will be installed to separate the parking lot from Virginia Avenue.

Preliminary design work is now complete. The Park Board is collaborating with Public Works on specifications for bids. Because asphalt work cannot take place during cold temperatures, completion is expected in spring 2018.

COMPLETED

GIBONEY CAVE ELECTRICAL UPGRADES

Doling Neighborhood: \$18,500

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

Two additional projects were recommended as alternates to be funded if costs for the base projects are completed under budget, including the West Avenue Sidewalk Addition — Westside Neighborhood, and Pavilion Upgrades at Doling Park — Doling Neighborhood. Available funding will be determined in the spring as all base projects near completion.

City conducting sidewalk assessment and inventory through March 2018

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

If you see what looks like a four-wheeler driving down a sidewalk, it's there for good reason. The City of Springfield is conducting a city-wide sidewalk assessment and inventory through March.

The assessment, conducted by Tempe, Arizona-based firm IMS Infrastructure Management Services LLC is using a specialized sidewalk surface tester — which looks similar to an all-terrain vehicle — to collect a detailed inventory and condition rating of all sidewalks within the City's right-of-way.

The tester is being operated by an IMS field technician and is traveling at low speeds along the sidewalk. It may occasionally stop to take photographs or record additional data. The testers are clearly marked "Sidewalk Survey" and will collect data during normal business hours, Monday through Friday. The assessment is scheduled to be complete in March.

The City of Springfield manages approximately 700 miles of sidewalk and 10,000 curb ramps. All must be ADA-compliant per the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991, which requires the City to retain an updated Public Rights of Way ADA Transition Plan. Data from this sidewalk assessment will be used to update Springfield's Transition Plan with priorities, costs and timelines to address non-compliant infrastructure.

The cost of the assessment is approximately \$139,000 and will be funded through the 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax and the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax.

Share Your **Light** to Help Your Elderly Neighbors

You can warm your neighbors from the outside in with a donation to **Project SHARE**. **Project SHARE** allows you to make a monthly donation, round up to the next dollar, or make a one-time donation to help seniors in need.

PROJECT SHARE
THE POWER OF GIVING

To learn more about **Project SHARE**, visit cityutilities.net.

Meet your neighborhood's PAR (Police Area Representative) officer

By Lisa Cox, Police Department, for SGFNN

The Springfield Police Department's Police Area Representative (PAR) Officers are available to help solve long-term neighborhood problems and provide referrals to community organizations that can assist neighborhoods in the City of Springfield. Each officer's area can be viewed on the map on the next page. As always, in the event of an emergency, call 911.

NORTHWEST:

Tom Watkins, Heart of the Westside, Fairfield Acres/Bissett, Westside, Young-Lilley



Officer
Zach Pugh

zpugh@
springfieldmo.gov



When did you join the SPD?

2013.

Did you always want to be a police officer? What made you decide on this career?

I did not always want to become an officer. I had other career paths in mind once I started college. I did start to gravitate toward a career in law enforcement once I was in college. I chose this as a career because you see something new every day. It is not just sitting in an office every day for eight hours. Also, helping people is an aspect of the job that caused me to choose this career path.

What motivated you to become a PAR officer?

I was motivated to become a PAR officer because of the community interaction. In Springfield, we have great support from the community. Being a PAR officer, we get to interact with the citizens and help them out with their respected issues. What motivated me the most was that I could help with keeping the good relationship with our citizens intact.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of work?

I have many hobbies outside of work. The biggest one is that I'm an avid sports fan. I spend a majority of my off time either watching sports or catching up on scores from the previous night.

Describe your family.

I am from the St. Louis area, so the majority of my side of the family still lives in that area. My wife, Ashley, is from the Springfield area, and the majority of her family lives in the southwest Missouri area.

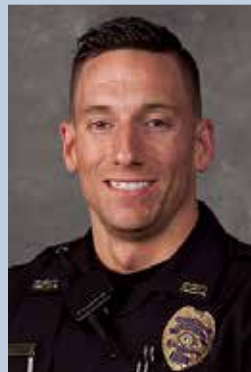
NORTHEAST:

Doling, Woodland Heights, Robberson, Weller, Parkwood, Cooper Park



Officer
Zach Schlup

zschlup@
springfieldmo.gov



When did you join the SPD?

2010.

Did you always want to be a police officer? What made you decide on this career?

I have several family members involved in law enforcement who encouraged me to join the field.

What motivated you to become a PAR officer?

After working patrol for several years and in the downtown area, I believed I could better serve the community and the police department by solving long term issues with my proactive approach.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of work?

Health and fitness.

Describe your family.

I am married and have two dogs.

CENTER NORTH:

Grant Beach, Midtown



Officer
Kevin Grundy

kgrundy@
springfieldmo.gov



When did you join the SPD?

2010.

Did you always want to be a police officer? What made you decide on this career?

When I was younger, I played cops and robbers like all the other boys did. My father was an Oklahoma Highway Patrol Officer when I was growing up and was killed in the line of duty. Through the process of his death, I was able to see various aspects of law enforcement and see the impact one officer can have on a community. I followed in his footsteps for part of my education, then stepped back and took another direction.

Years later, I was speaking with a current SPD officer who told me the City needed good officers and kept encouraging me to apply. After some time I realized my passion was to help, serve and protect other people. I revisited my early dreams of chasing down bad guys and keeping people safe. The only regret I have now is not joining the Springfield Police Department earlier in my life.

What motivated you to become a PAR officer?

When it comes to my job, I always tried to give people a better experience with the Police Department than they had the last time. Sometimes that was easier said than done, but while on patrol, I felt like I could never make a long-lasting impression.

Being a PAR officer was a great way for me to get to know a specific region of the city, being able to call people by name and build a better relationship with the community. I noticed immediately when I had an established relationship with someone, there was a higher level of cooperation and better results. I love the interaction I get to have with the businesses on Commercial Street and participating in area events. It lets the community know that police officers are not just robots, but we have personalities. We laugh and have fun, but most importantly, we can be trusted.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of work?

I love good ole redneckery! I love being outside, whether it's hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, shooting, etc.. I love playing bass guitar for a local church worship team, and I participate in mission work when I can. I own a woodworking business and even though I don't run a full-time shop anymore, I do enjoy working on special projects as I get time. I continue to mentor young men in the community, which is a big passion I have as well. Like most anyone else, I love music, movies and reading various books.

Describe your family.

I've been married for 13 years and have four children; two boys and two girls. It's the main reason I have started to get gray hair, not because I'm getting older.

SOUTHWEST:

Ewing, Fassnight, Sherwood, Mark Twain, Parkcrest



Officer
Chris Laughlin

claughlin@
springfieldmo.gov



When did you join the SPD?

2008.

Did you always want to be a police officer? What made you decide on this career?

I grew up in a military household with a 30-year military veteran. My father always encouraged my sister and I to become a public servants in some

fashion and serve the community. Therefore, police work is something that has always interested me from a very early age. I have been blessed with finding my calling in life from a very early age and was able to fulfill that dream.

What motivated you to become a PAR officer?

As police officers, we always strive to find a solution for whatever is needed at the time of our interaction or contact. The Community Services section, specifically the PAR officers, are usually able to allocate more time to figure out those long-term solutions between neighbors or occupants within the community they serve.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of work?

The majority of time is centered around my family. Any spare time is spent playing sports.

Describe your family.

Most of my family is scattered around the United States and overseas in Europe.

SOUTHEAST:

Phelps Grove/University Heights, Seminole/Holland, Kickapoo, Rountree/Walnut, Delaware, Meador Park, Bradford Park, Southside, Bingham, Oak Grove, Brentwood, Southern Hills, Primrose, Sequiota, Lake Springfield



Officer
Jacob
Boomgaarden

jboomgaarden@
springfieldmo.gov



When did you join the SPD?

2012.

Did you always want to be a police officer? What made you decide on this career?

Yes. From an early age, I wanted to be a police officer but chose to follow other talents. I was a radio announcer and producer for six years prior to becoming a police officer. I decided to go after a career in law enforcement when I realized that I was tired of sitting behind a desk. I made a major life change and applied.

What motivated you to become a PAR officer?

I've always enjoyed community oriented policing. Sometimes finding the answer that's best for the community may not always be the obvious answer. I enjoy having a new challenge each day and no two days are ever the same. I've also focused heavily in my career on mental health and homelessness issues. This is a large part of the daily complaints I handle.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of work?

Spending time with family, grilling, wood working, fishing and firearms instruction/shooting.

Describe your family.

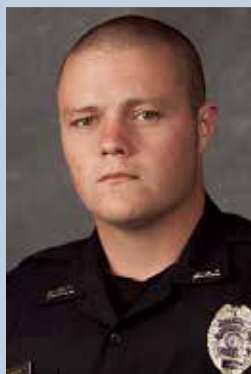
I come from a large family (literally and figuratively). I have five brothers scattered across the Midwest. I am the second youngest. I grew up on a farm in a small town in Nebraska.

CENTER SOUTH: West Central



Officer
Keith Wright

kwright@
springfieldmo.gov



When did you join the SPD?

2014.

Did you always want to be a police officer? What made you decide on this career?

Once I hit my college years, I knew I wanted to work in some aspect of law enforcement. Being a former college athlete, I wanted to pursue a career that was built around teamwork. I had initially started pursuing a career in conservation, but

quickly changed to law enforcement due to the influences of a professor who happens to be a retired SPD officer.

What motivated you to become a PAR officer?

The same desires that drove me to be a police officer drove me to become a PAR officer. I enjoy working with the business owners and residents in my assigned area to help solve police-related issues. I also enjoy being able to work closely with the members of this community and to help them understand how we work as a department. I enjoy finding new and innovative ways to resolve community issues.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of work?

My interests and hobbies outside of work include most anything outdoors. I'm an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing. I also enjoy numerous camping trips and weekends spent on the lake with my wife and kids.

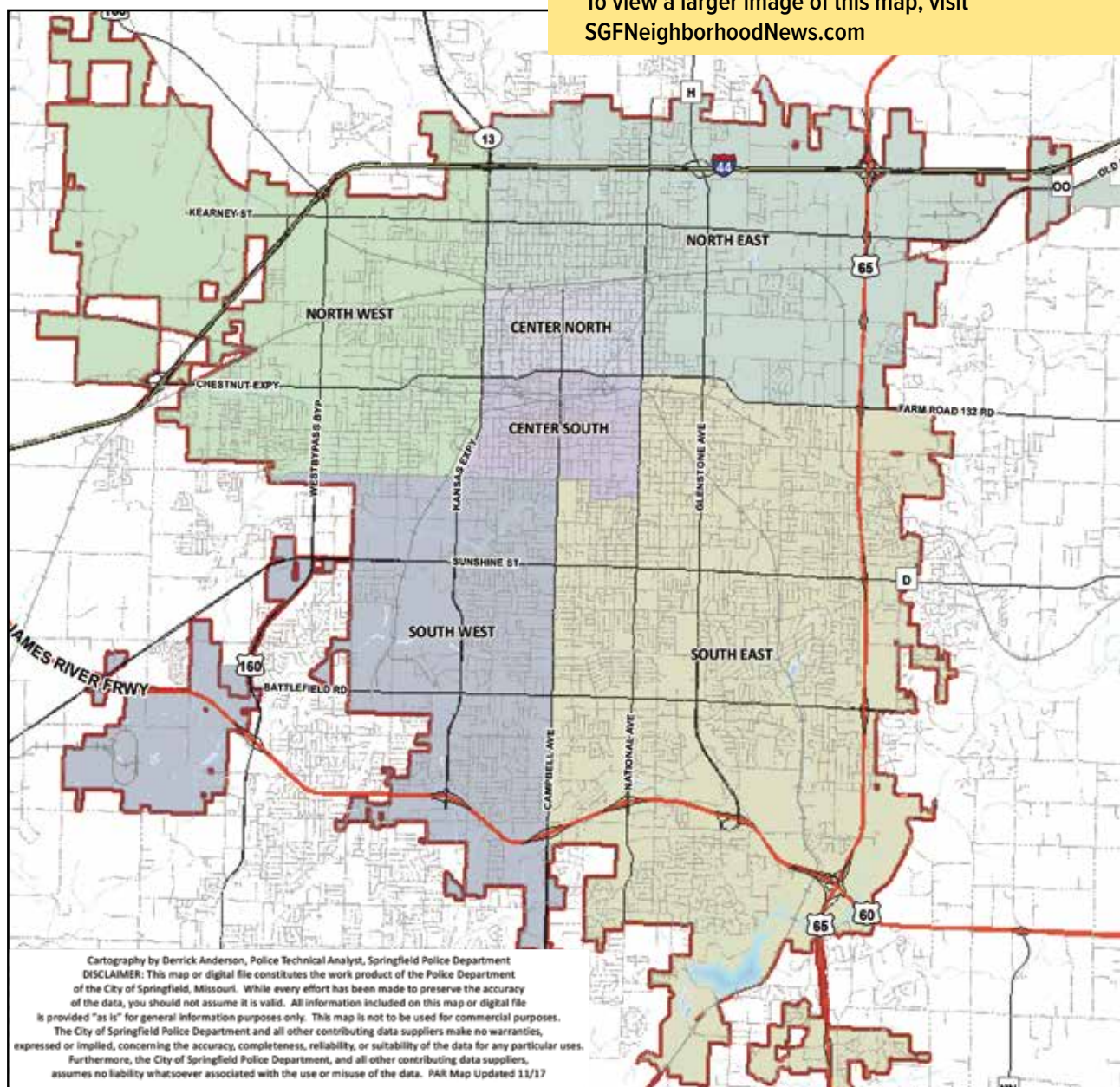
Describe your family.

Happily married and a proud father of two.

You can contact your PAR Officer
by email or by calling 864-1810.

PAR Zone Map

To view a larger image of this map, visit
SGFNeighborhoodNews.com



New year offers chance to take stock of 'But fors'

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

When a property is granted tax abatement for a developer, a key criterion is what many refer to as the "But for ..." clause, as in, "The economics were such that the project would not have gone forward, but for the tax abatement."

As we enter 2018, I think we as neighborhoods might take stock of some "But fors" related to neighborhood betterment.

We should celebrate the fact that from many sectors, our community is a "Do Something" bunch of caring folks, and for a lot of us, participation starts with our neighborhoods.

But for the foresight of Public Works Director Dan Smith and his staff in creating the Neighborhood Works program, and its facilitation via the passage of the 1/4-and 1/8-cent sales tax renewals in 2016, many needed improvements to parks and other public infrastructure in neighborhoods would not be happening.

But for the many years of effort by retiring director of building development services Chris Straw and his staff to recast many property ordinances, we would not have near the level of protections for neighborhoods that we do related to nuisance properties and dangerous and unhealthy buildings.

But for the access afforded to NAC by retiring deputy city manager Tim Smith and his thoughtful consideration of various concerns and willingness to convene discussions about them, many advances made in support of neighborhoods likely would not have occurred.

But for the leadership in launching and advocating the Zone Blitz by outgoing City Manager Greg Burris, City Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson, Public Information and Civic Engagement Director Cora Scott and many others,

we would likely not have the many public infrastructure improvements that have recently been made nor the launch of several major programs addressing the plight of those in poverty in our city.

But for all those responsible for launching and running The Northwest Project, we would not be seeing the movement out of poverty of the at-risk families they are serving.

But for the continuing support of Police Chief Paul Williams, we would not have the stability of PAR officers who assure a strong and personal connection between neighborhoods and the police that we have today.

But for the years of effort put forth by Mary Ann Rojas, Isaac Weber and the Missouri Job Center staff, we would not have a Job Center outpost on the north side nor would we have the many success stories of training leading to jobs such as the Green for Greene training program and many others.

But for the many planning and development staff over decades of effort, we would not have seen the passage of a rental registration program and the accountability it will advance for owners of unhealthy and unsafe houses and rental units.

But for the efforts of so many volunteers, donors, and business and community leaders, most of the accomplishments above and many others would not have occurred.

But for a mayor and City Council willing to take on tough and contentious issues, we would not be on a path to neighborhood improvement as we are on now.

But for the growing involvement of many thoughtful neighborhood representatives in their efforts within their neighborhoods and collectively via NAC, our community would be far diminished from where it is today.



Pete Radecki is the current chair of Springfield's Neighborhood Advisory Council

Sure, one could sharp shoot virtually every one of the accomplishments above. Maybe say it didn't do all that it might, or that a given new initiative might result in unintended consequences, but such criticisms are somewhat beside the point. Few actions are perfect and almost none make everyone happy.

The point is that as we enter 2018, we should celebrate the fact that from many sectors, our community is a "Do Something" bunch of caring folks, and for a lot of us, participation starts with our neighborhoods.

For those who maybe haven't been involved in the past, but might have interest, come to a neighborhood association meeting and see what that's all about. Heck, a lot of these meetings offer free food, so there's little to lose. Maybe down the road you'll be able to look back and realize that you played a part in some future "But for."

Help out the Mann Market

Horace Mann Elementary School Store

Kids earn "Mann Money" by being on time and staying all day,
and by making good decisions throughout the day.
We want to provide items that kids will be proud to buy!



You can:

- Volunteer your time
- Donate items
- Make financial donations

For more information on volunteering, donating items and making financial donations
contact store manager Natalie Strebe at copmannmarket@gmail.com

Common needed items:

- New or Next to New Clothing & Shoes
- Girl's Accessories
- Toys, Games, & Sports gear (no wooden or metal bats)
- Gifts/Housewares
- Health, Hygiene, Beauty items (new & in package)
- School Supplies

Financial Donations:

Community Foundation of the Ozarks
Cents of Pride Fund
P.O. Box 8960
Springfield, MO 65801



JAMES DALE, "Frankenstein"

"I built this piece for a couple reasons. First of all I wanted to tell a story that everyone could relate to. I think we all feel like an outcast at some point in time, and I wanted to relay that feeling through the countenance on his face. Secondly, it was important to me to give the piece humanity without looking like a mechanical representation. It's very hard to make a human form from metal and have it not look like a robot. I am excited about it being showcased at the museum – it is quite an honor! I've exhibited in galleries here and Kansas City as well as festivals and shows, but this is the first time I've been juried to exhibit in a museum. I am encouraged that it gives validity to my work as a professional metal artist, and I look forward to a continuing relationship with the creative community in the Springfield area."

According to Dale, "Frankenstein" is made from hammer-formed and welded 18-gauge sheet metal.

James lives in
Young-Lilley
(unregistered area west of Westside)



BISSETT NEIGHBORHOOD

Bissett IT professional offers tips for keeping home computers safe

By Rob Sorbo, for SGFNN



Keeping your home computer protected from all those bad guys that want to do you harm doesn't need to be particularly complicated nor

costly. While no safety measure can guarantee you will never get a virus, by applying the four steps below, you can make your computer a lot harder to break into than a whole lot of others.

First, here's some terms to know

- **Malware:** Malicious software, usually accessed online. This includes viruses, bots, trojans, etc.
- **Operating System (OS):** This is the computer program that helps run your computer. Most common are Windows and Mac.
- **Software:** Programs on your computer.

KEEP YOUR COMPUTER AND SOFTWARE UP TO DATE

Most malware is designed to exploit weaknesses in your OS or software. Manufacturers create updates to help fix these weaknesses. By default, most OS's and software receive these updates automatically (you will occasionally see a message that says something like "Restart your Computer to complete updates")

One common scam is a popup telling you to install an update specific to a certain program. Usually these popups look very genuine and it is difficult for even an experienced user to know if it is legitimate or not. In these cases, it is best to close the popup, go directly to that program, and try to find the updates there.

USE A FREE ANTIVIRUS

Antivirus programs scan your computer to prevent malware from coming onto your computer.

Windows 10 comes with Windows Defender for free. Past versions of Windows can download Microsoft Security Essentials free from Microsoft.com. Other popular free antivirus programs are: Avira, Avast, Sophos, and BitDefender. These companies also offer free products for Apple computers.

Companies that charge for antivirus software generally provide very little that is not available for free and so there may be little advantage to paying for them. Too many bells and whistles in antivirus software slows your computer down.

If you suspect that you have been exposed to malware, MalwareBytes is a great program. It is available for free at Malwarebytes.com

WATCH OUT FOR HOAXES

If you receive an email that asks you to click a link, proceed with caution. Fake links also exist on some websites. Be cautious about clicking on news headlines that seem too bizarre to be true. If it is an email from a business you have done business with, go directly to their website, log in, and try to find the relevant information there. If it is from a person or business you do not recognize, delete the email. Receiving the email is not a danger, unless you click the link that takes you somewhere you do not know.

Also, some people receive phone calls from scammers who try to tell you that your computer is at risk, and needs their tech support (for a fee, of course!). Don't take the bait!

PASSWORDS

You're not up against someone manually trying one password at a time, but computers making

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Pete Radecki, President:
pradecki@gmail.com or
417-988-1257
- Chandra Palmer, Vice President
- Rob Sorbo, Secretary
- Sheila Radecki, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 13: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m./6 p.m. optional potluck
@ Bissett Elementary School (3014 W. Calhoun)
March 13: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m./6 p.m. optional potluck
@ Faith Assembly of God Church (3001 W. Division)



thousands of attempts per second. Your password needs to be something easy for you to remember, but hard for a computer to guess.

AVOID DICTIONARY WORDS (easy for computers to guess)

Difficult passwords may be hard for you to remember, and not necessarily any more challenging for a computer to guess, unless they are long, avoid very common phrases, and include characters and symbols that are easy for you to remember, but appear random to anyone else.

BNA board member Rob Sorbo is an IT professional who has worked for Walmart and the Assemblies of God.

DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD

DO YOU KNOW?

Elaina Whitson, learning coach, Delaware Elementary School

By Springfield Public Schools staff, for SGFNN

Elaina Whitson talks fast, but she moves faster.

As a learning coach at Delaware Elementary School, she's making moves across the school to support learners and help amplify their learning.

"I work with learners across the building to support their learning goals," she says. "And learner means both teachers and students. I work alongside teachers to identify opportunities for growth in their classroom, and together, we'll come up with solutions to help support student success. Then together, we will measure how effective that solution is."

As a learning coach, Whitson works with teachers during their planning time, collaborating with educators, helping them determine a plan and path to specific learning goals. And when teachers implement a new strategy developed with Whitson, she's there, co-teaching, planning lessons or brainstorming new teaching methods to support students, she says.

"I'm in their classrooms all the time, working with teachers for students," she says. "I do my best to develop relationships with these teachers that if they need more support, they feel comfortable



coming to me. The kids know me, and the teachers know me, because I'm here, in the building, every day."

Whitson is one of 12 learning coaches in 11 elementary schools districtwide. The position was created last school year as a pilot program to provide individualized, site based professional development and learning support for both teachers and principals. Whitson thinks of herself as a connector and bridge between best practices, districtwide professional development and educational resources to classrooms at Delaware.

"There's great value in having a learning coach because you can make an impact on a whole building," she says. "Having a learning coach readily available is having someone to work with and collaborate with any time, and that's really beneficial and something teachers value. It's truly personalized, professional support, to help teachers tackle things they want to do."

Whitson provided support for a Delaware teacher who wanted to do a lesson using a new technology tool, LEGO WeDo, but was apprehensive about how to use it. Together, Whitson and the teacher developed a unit that would support learning goals while effectively using the technology.

"The teacher tackled the tool confidently and the students worked well in teams with LEGO WeDo as a result of the planning and co-teaching she and I did," said Whitson. "She felt comfortable using that learning tool because I was able to help her

Neighborhood Boundaries



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- Kevin Evans, President:
kevinevans@missouristate.edu
or 417-888-0288
- Warren Campbell, Vice President
- Sue Marshall, Secretary
- Cynthia Yarbrough, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 6 • March 6 • April 3: 7-8 p.m. @ Westminster Presbyterian Church (1551 E. Portland)



with both the technology and how to implement it well in her classroom. And watching her students be engaged because of the work we did together, it was the best."

Whitson is a graduate of Parkview High School, and went on to receive her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Drury University. She later earned her master's degree in educational administration from Missouri State University.

Prior to becoming a learning coach in 2016, she worked as a first and second-grade teacher at Delaware for nine years. She is married to David Whitson, who also works at SPS in special services, and together, they have two children: Aubrey and Nolan.

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

E-mail Melissa Haase at mhaase@springfieldmo.gov or call 417-864-1003 for more information.

GOSPRINGFIELDMO

Report concerns, search City job openings, keep up with City news.



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

Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Section



GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

Grant Beach kicks off 2018 with new executive committee

By Darlene Steele for SGFNN

Grant Beach Neighborhood is very excited to welcome in 2018 with a new Executive Committee on which there are many new faces. We are looking forward to returning to our roots as a neighborhood with events and activities intended to include all of our neighbors and provide support in meaningful ways.

One change that happened prior to the Nov. 20, 2017 election concerns the Thursday produce distribution – a partnership between Springfield Community Gardens and Ozarks Food Harvest.

When this program began over three and a half years ago, through the efforts of Richard Napieralski, the Hovey House was a convenient location. However, it has not been a workable space during inclement weather and the arrangement of the space has proven to be less than ideal. Thankfully, The Fairbanks has graciously come to the rescue and will now host the weekly produce drop inside, out of the weather, with room to grow.

We are ever so grateful and happy that this move will not only benefit our neighbors who will now not have to sit outside in the cold, but it will make Hovey House available for events and activities on Thursdays once again. This change is welcome!

As a matter of fact, it is the goal of GBNA to have Hovey House open every weekday beginning in



Front Row, From Left: Kristina Wilmoth, secretary; Kathy Lutz, president; Pauletta Dunn, vice president; Lori Ross, treasurer.
Back Row: Darlene Steele, newsletter editor; Doris Hunter, Michael King, Yolanda Taylor, at-large members; Peggy Wissmueller, St. Joseph Catholic Church liaison.

January. We have people already eager to volunteer one or more shifts. If you would be willing to help with that please give us a call! Orientation will be provided and shifts can be morning, afternoon or evening.

Even though it is just beginning to get cold, Grant Beach is also looking towards springtime and the next session of Grant Beach Sports with soccer. We have many great volunteers who coach, run concessions and help in other ways but we are always looking for more.

If you have an interest in volunteering to coach soccer or baseball please contact Yolanda Taylor at 417-952-5735. She is very approachable and will be happy to explain the process if you are new to coaching. Soccer signups for participants will begin the end of January. Visit the Grant Beach Sports Facebook page for updates and registration events and deadlines.

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Kathy Lutz, President:
kathylutz1000@gmail.com or
417-306-8421
- Pauletta Dunn, Vice President
- Kristina Wilmoth, Secretary
- Lori Ross, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 15 • Feb. 19 • March 19 • April 16: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
@ St. Joseph Catholic Church-Parish Hall
(1115 N. Campbell Ave.)

grantbeachneighborhood.org



Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Section



DO YOU KNOW?

Sheri Beatty, Grant Beach

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor



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

I have lived in Grant Beach since 2010, but I have been visiting my mother in Grant Beach since 1983. We have owned my home for over 30 years. I love older homes and the fact that there is no other house like mine. I hate suburbia. My yard has mature

trees that make it look like a forest, but I am close to downtown. I have a bus line close by if I need it. The area is very walkable. It just feels like home.

What do you do for a living?

I currently work for a cleaning company. It's hard work, but it's satisfying.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

My home is older and I spend time DIYing some of the repairs. I love to read, craft and scrapbook."

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

I would love to see more owner-occupied homes, so they would take better care of the properties.

Please tell us about your family.

I live with a cat, Desi, and a red Pomeranian named Lucy.

"Sheri has been a huge asset to Hovey House for the last four years. She not only did our newsletter, but she also kept our Facebook page up to date, posted to Nextdoor, helped with the community garden and wrote articles for SGF Neighborhood News, among many other things. She is a total gem."
– Anita Kuhns, former president, Grant Beach Neighborhood Association.

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

E-mail Melissa Haase at mhaase@springfieldmo.gov or call 417-864-1003 for more information.

Meet Kathy Lutz, Grant Beach Neighborhood Association President

By Darlene Steele for SGFNN



Kathy Lutz was elected in a nearly unanimous vote as Grant Beach Neighborhood Association President for good reason. She has been a fixture in the neighborhood for years.

She and her husband Bruce have been married for 42 years. They have three children and two grandchildren. Kathy and Bruce have lived in the

Grant Beach Neighborhood for 26 years total. Kathy and her family have been volunteers with the neighborhood for more than 20 years. During that time Kathy served as newsletter editor for eight years. She most recently held the office of GBNA secretary for two years. She served as participant registrar for the first three years of the produce distribution that was formerly held at Hovey House. She was awarded the NOVA (Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Award) in 2016. She also was involved in the neighborhood school as Weaver PTA secretary for three years.

Kathy has extensive experience working with non-profit organizations. She has served several years as the elected secretary for the Board of Directors of Families4Families Southwest

Region. This organization is now part of Missouri Families4Families. She served on the executive committee for the Show-Me Kids Federal Grant at Burrell Behavioral Health for four years. She is still very active and is a team member for the new Families2Families Support Network.

Kathy is now retired and free to focus her energies where they might be needed in the Grant Beach Neighborhood. She enjoys keeping in touch with her grandchildren, spending time with her family and friends. She attends Life 360 at The Fairbanks and is involved in many aspects of the church. She has a dog named Murphy that you might see her walking in the neighborhood. If you do, feel free to stop and say hello.

HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

Springfield Fire Department's Project RED Zone moves to Heart of the Westside neighborhood

By Cara Erwin, Fire Department, for SGFNN



Since April, Springfield firefighters have installed more than 1,000 smoke alarms in area neighborhoods as a part of Project RED Zone.

They've visited nearly 7,000 homes in West Central, Grant Beach and Robberson neighborhoods in an effort to ensure that every Springfield family has adequate warning in case of a fire. In addition to the 1,000 installed alarms, firefighters have tested an additional 2,000 alarms and installed 300 batteries in existing alarms as a part of Project RED Zone. This brings the total number of alarms installed in our community during canvasses and other requests to over 3,000 in the last 12 months — far surpassing totals in recent years. Firefighters are now visiting residents in Heart of the Westside — another neighborhood with a high fire risk. In 2016, there were 18 fires in Heart of the Westside — among the highest of Springfield's neighborhoods.

Project RED Zone — a reference to the red areas on the Springfield Fire Department's map of fire incidents — stands for Reduce, Educate, Deliver. It is part of SFD's Community Risk Reduction (CRR) program. The multifaceted campaign, which is part of the Zone Blitz, aims to ensure all homes in areas of the City with the highest fire risk have working smoke alarms.

Nearly every Saturday since the project began in April, fire crews have canvassed RED Zone neighborhoods — including West Central, Grant Beach, Robberson and most recently Heart of the Westside — knocking on doors, offering to test smoke alarms and installing new alarms or provide batteries if needed at no charge.

The program is already a proven success, with

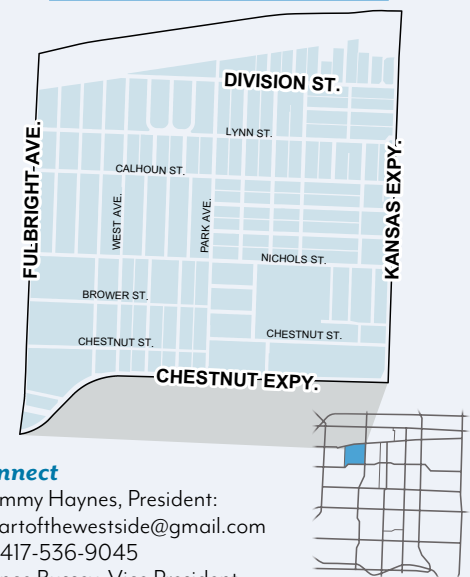
at least two lives saved as a result of smoke alarms installed during Project RED Zone. In September, the occupant of a West Central apartment home was notified to a fire in a neighboring apartment by her smoke alarm that had been installed 2 months prior by Springfield fire crews. And again in November, the occupant of another West Central apartment home was notified to a fire in a unit below her when her smoke alarm sounded. That alarm had also been installed by Springfield fire crews in January.

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 one million people. The national average is just over 10. Working smoke alarms double your chances of surviving a fire, yet data shows most Springfield homes are not adequately protected by smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home, in each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.

Project RED Zone is funded with the help of donations from the American Red Cross of Southern Missouri, Safe Kids Springfield 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 continue 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 874-2300.



Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 16 • Feb. 20 • March 20 • April 17:
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. @ the Salvation Army
(1707 W. Chestnut Expy.)



By the Numbers

Project Red Zone (last 12 months):

- Homes visited: **7,000**
- Smoke alarms installed: **1,000**
- Smoke alarms tested: **2,000**
- New batteries installed: **300**
- Lives saved: at least **2** so far

There were 18 fires in Heart of the Westside in 2016 — among the highest of Springfield's neighborhoods.

Working smoke alarms double your chances of surviving a fire.

MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

Drury University unveils campus master plan as a bold vision for future growth



By Mike Brothers, for SGFNN

After months of work with renowned architecture and urban design firm Cooper Robertson, Drury University has completed a new campus master plan that will guide the school's physical evolution for decades to come, and build on the success of recent growth in enrollment, academic programming, and alumni engagement.

The small, private liberal arts school based in Springfield is making strategic moves to address the needs of today's students in a rapidly changing world, and set itself apart in the competitive landscape of American higher education. The strategies are being laid out by second-year president Dr. Tim Cloyd, who spearheaded gains in national visibility, enrollment, and fundraising in 13 years as president of Hendrix College in Arkansas, which is now a top national liberal arts school.

Drury's master plan was crafted with extensive input from the Drury and Springfield communities, starting with a week-long charrette in April and continuing throughout 2017. The master planning process has taken place in parallel with a wide-ranging study of Drury's academic offerings as well as plans for a comprehensive capital campaign. These strategic priorities will inform each other in the coming years as Drury moves to raise its regional and national profile.

"Drury's new master plan provides an essential, visionary framework to anticipate and accommodate our campus needs over the next 25 to 30 years," says Cloyd. It is inspired by Drury's rich legacy, but designed to carry our mission forward deep into the 21st century."

Drury chose New York-based Cooper Robertson to develop its master plan because of the firm's extensive experience working with higher education institutions including Ohio State, the University of North Carolina, Yale, Georgetown and Duke University. The firm's most recent project in the Midwest is a redesign of the Gateway Arch Museum and Visitor Center in St. Louis.

"A good master plan envisions a fabric of buildings, open space and landscape that are knitted together in a cohesive, legible, attractive — and memorable — way," says John Kirk, partner and principal architect with Cooper Robertson. "Drury's master plan is ambitious but fully achievable, and I have great confidence in the ability of the leadership and community to make it happen."

Some of the guiding principles of the plan include:

- Establish a hierarchy of open spaces ranging from the iconic to the intimate.
- Create two new precincts that anchor the north and south ends of campus: a residential precinct to the north, and a design and innovation precinct to the south, connected by Drury Lane.
- Make great streets, and articulate each major intersection as a "node" with hardscape, landscape, wayfinding, and architecture.
- Strengthen Drury's borders with distinctive thresholds and entrances, yet maintain an open nature toward the surrounding Midtown neighborhood.
- Imbue Drury with distinctive character through architectural interventions including a hierarchy of gateways, bridges and towers.

Some of the specific proposals to achieve these goals include:

- Transform Drury Lane into the iconic heart of campus by closing it to traffic north of Central Street and remaking it as a pedestrian mall.
 - Build a new, state-of-the-art student center that would connect to Olin Library via a gothic, archway-lined bridge spanning across Drury Lane.
 - Create a new residential quad in the north end of campus, bordered in part by several new small-scale residence halls resembling large houses with common spaces to congregate, study and work.
 - Build new classroom buildings in several currently open spaces south of Central Street, creating a design and innovation precinct that strengthens and promotes Drury's interdisciplinary academic nature and liberal arts mission.
 - Narrow Central Street from Benton to Summit, thereby making it far more pedestrian- and bike-friendly, and re-imagining it as a linear park that tells the history of Drury and Springfield.
 - Consolidate athletics and school spirit on the main campus and its immediate periphery.
- "Drury is dreaming big with this master plan," says David Hinson, executive vice president, COO and CIO. "We engaged a best-in-class design firm in Cooper Robertson to guide us... and they delivered in spades. The engagement that our Drury community exhibited in this process, shines through in the final product. This is a vision that truly reflects this institution."

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 12 • March 12 • April 9: 6–7 p.m. @ Urban Neighborhood Alliance, on Cox North Hospital parking lot (918 E. Calhoun St.)

midtown-springfield-mo.com

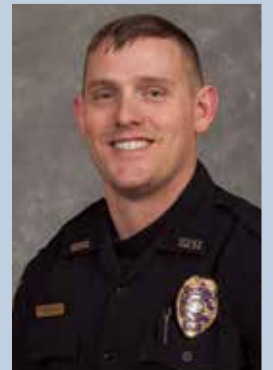


NEIGHBORHOOD PAR OFFICER



Officer
Kevin Grundy

kgrundy@springfieldmo.gov



See page 12 for a profile of Officer Grundy

GREEN for GREENE

Information Sessions:

Jan. 16 & Jan. 18: 1–2 p.m.

Missouri Job Center – North Location
1443 N Roberson, Ste. 100
(CoxHealth North Tower)

Training Begins in February

CONTACT: Isaac Weber

417-841-3361 or iweber@springfieldmo.gov



KORI SMALLEY, "Effluence"

"It's important to me that each person be able to draw their own unique perspectives on my art, so I try not to give too much of my personal thought process away. When I was creating this piece, I was inspired to represent a certain time of day that felt like relief to me, and I relied on my use of color to get there," she said. "It is so incredibly meaningful to have a piece of my work hanging in the museum, as I'm sure it would be for any emerging artist! It's such a cool opportunity, and I would have never thought I'd see this dream realized in my lifetime. I am grateful for it and humbled by it, and so motivated to keep creating and pushing myself as an artist."

Kori lives in
Downtown Springfield



"Effluence" is an
acrylic painting
on canvas.



PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

Phelps Grove couple, neighborhood come together to help nurture park's saplings after 2007 ice storm

By Steve Hargis, for SGFNN

*"Like a tree firmly planted by streams
of living water ... its leaf does not wither."
(Ps. 1:3)*

Although Fasnicht Creek borders the southern edge of Phelps Grove Park, its waters would rarely nourish the trees within, and sometimes Ozarks rains just fall too infrequently. Today, the park of trees thrives in large part due to the vision of some of its neighbors, and the selfless acts of those who support this magnificent central-city beauty.

This is also the story of a little red wagon. Yes, the same kind that many of us had growing up, and how that ubiquitous toy of our youth has been used to keep trees alive in one of Springfield's largest city parks.

Meet Jim and Fran Giglio and their little red wagon, and learn of a love they have for the tree-lined park they live near. It all started in 2007 after Springfield's infamous three-day ice storm. The persistent, slow-motion onslaught of frozen weight wreaked havoc upon many of the park's oldest residents, causing the loss of entire trees and permanent damage to scores of others. The park that Jim and Fran loved literally lay in many feet of broken and shattered branches. It would take years to recover.

Not long after the ice storm, the Giglios started planting trees. To date, and with the Park Board's permission, they have planted more than 125 new trees. It's here where that little red wagon made its debut.



Young trees cannot survive long without water, and a typical summer's evening found the Giglios hauling wagon load after wagon load of water to these thirsty plantings, often making three and four trips each evening. The couple has done this now for more than a decade. They even interrupted a family vacation to return to the park to water during an especially dry period.

In late 2016, some folks took notice of the Giglios' labors and asked how could the community come together to support their efforts? After several conversations with Park Board officials, it was determined that a dedicated rig that could haul water, while also helping with other chores around the park like trash and brush hauling, was just what was needed.

The Phelps Neighborhood Association revised an annual Art-in-the-Garden event and implemented T-shirt sales that helped raise about half of the \$6,100 necessary to purchase the proper equipment. Then, perhaps to no one's surprise, Jim and Fran Giglio graciously donated the remaining \$3,000 to fund the project.

The result is the purchase of a brand new John Deere Gator this past September. This rugged unit features a dump bed and removable 25-gallon water tank, and represents a substantial upgrade to that little red wagon towed faithfully to and from the park by the Giglios for more than 10 years. The vehicle is also available to maintenance staff at the Springfield Art Museum, adjacent to the park. The Gator replaces a much older utility vehicle, which was moved to another park for use.

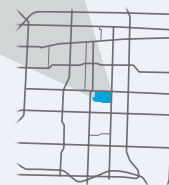
It's often said that in today's world there isn't

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 second Tuesday of the month at Fire Station 1 community room, 720 E. Grand. Contact an association officer for meeting times.

phelpsgrove.com



NEIGHBORHOOD PAR OFFICER



Officer
Jacob
Boomgaarden

jboomgaarden@springfieldmo.gov



See page 13 for a profile of Officer
Boomgaarden

enough sunshine, but one only has to look as close as the neighbors around Phelps Grove neighborhood to see there is hope in every drop of water that nourishes the trees that shade Phelps Grove Park. And everyone knows that sunshine mixed with water and a little love results in deep, strong roots of community and a crown that soars high above the troubles that sometimes divide us.



ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD

Robberson students experience Route 66

By Laura Schulteis, Robberson Community School, for SGFNN

**"If you ever plan to motor west,
Travel my way, take the highway that is best.
Get your kicks on Route sixty-six ..."**
– Route 66, composed by Bobby Troup, 1946

Seventy-one years after this famous tune was penned, Robberson Community School students got their kicks on Route 66 motoring west from Springfield to Carthage.

I-spy checklists in hand, the kids identified remnants of the past as they eagerly peered outside bus windows. Eventually ending at Red Oak II –



Robberson teacher Debe Gearhart with students at Red Oak II.

the 100-year-old recreated town, brainchild of Missouri artist Lowell Davis – the kids got to experience what life was like at a simpler time in American history. This was just one of several learning encounters devoted to the Mother Road during two weeks of intensive unit study during a unique purpose-



Kindergarten teacher Cassie Downs with Robberson Community School students at the Discovery Center of Springfield's Route 66 exhibit.

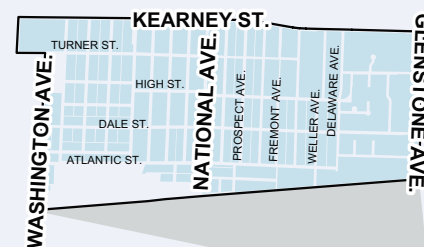
driven learning time called IExperience.

Formerly referred to as intersession, these two-week blocks of time that occur three times a year, have independent themes that allow a change in tempo and focus from the normal classroom schedule.

"It was a natural fit," Dr. Kevin Huffman, Robberson's principal said of the October IExperience learning theme, "Our school sits right on Route 66, Springfield is its birthplace, and it offered many directions for our teachers to go with designing their lesson plans."

Students gained an appreciation and understanding of Route 66 and the era of its heyday with multi-sensory activities both inside and outside of the classroom, including STEAM projects like designing period cars from makerspace materials

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Michael Blackshear, President:
mike.blacksher@gmail.com or
417-631-7595
- Betty Green, Vice President
- Phyllis Evans, Treasurer
- Roxanne Bedell-Taylor, Special Events
and Fundraising Chairman

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 25 • Feb. 22 • March 22 • April 26: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
@ Pathways United Methodist Church
(1232 E. Dale St.)



propelled by inflated balloons and drafting maps of Route 66 with landmarks that were studied during class time.

In addition to the Red Oak II field trip, students also traveled to Springfield Skateland and the Discovery Center where *America's Road: The Journey of Route 66* was on exhibit.

The Springfield School District provided café style lunches served in baskets with checkered paper. Aaron Sachs & Associates, along with the Springfield Cardinals, provided T-shirts.

**Thanks to Evangel students
for Robberson trash pick-up
on Make a Difference Day**



Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Section



NEIGHBORHOOD PAR OFFICER



**Officer
Zach Schlup**

zschlup@
springfieldmo.gov



See page 12 for a profile of Officer Schlup

Tax-a-Palooza
Feb. 17

Walk-in space is limited!
Reserve your appointment by calling ...
(417) 720-2000
... after January 22

Bring your tax documents to the Springfield Dream Center at 829 W. Atlantic

IRS-certified volunteers will e-file your tax-return. Get all of your eligible credits,
and save money by filing with VITA and TCE. **Community financial resources will be on-site!**

Who is eligible? Taxpayers, married and single, who:

- earned less than \$55,000 in 2017 OR are over age 60
- did not declare bankruptcy in 2017
- do not own rental property

Other restrictions may apply call (417) 720-2000 for details



Free tax filing, All day long



ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD



Update of Rountree Neighborhood Plan under way

By Alana Owen, Planning & Development, for SGFNN

City planners and the Rountree Neighborhood Association are working on an update of the Rountree Neighborhood Plan.

At a kick-off meeting held in May 2017, several topics were identified for additional discussion including traffic and safety along the roadways in the neighborhood, stormwater, lighting, tree preservation and design guidelines for new construction within the neighborhood. Following the meeting, a steering committee was formed comprised of 12 neighborhood residents to continue meeting with staff to develop the plan and recommendations for changes to the Rountree Urban Conservation District.

As of December 2017, the steering committee had met nine times so far and will continue to meet throughout the rest of the planning process.

Over the course of several meetings, the steering committee focused on the Cherry Street corridor because of its uniqueness and development pressures along the roadway. City staff presented an update of the plan at the Sept. 26, 2017 City

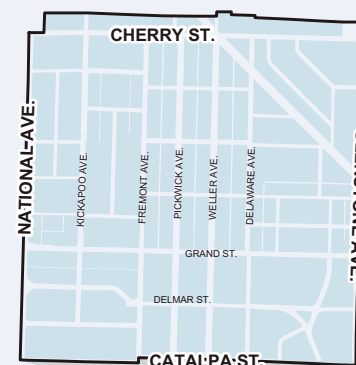
Council Lunch and shared the steering committee's preferred development standards for Cherry Street, which includes recommendations for development of a mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented corridor with design emphasis on compatibility with the rest of the neighborhood.

Staff is now scheduling focus area meetings within the neighborhood to share information and get input from property owners and residents in specific areas around the neighborhood. The first focus area meeting was held in December 2017 with property owners and residents along Cherry Street from National to Weller and within the Cherry/Pickwick commercial area. Meetings to discuss other areas around the neighborhood will follow.

In addition to the focus area meetings, staff will send out a survey to all property owners and residents within the neighborhood to get feedback on a variety of topics.

City staff, along with the steering committee, will be working through the spring of 2018 to complete the update to the Rountree Neighborhood Plan to

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Laurel Bryant, President:
laurelrbryant@gmail.com
or 417-619-4663
- Sue Ekstam, Vice President
- Connie Schneider, Secretary
- Peggy Wise, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 20 • March 20 • April 17: 7–8 p.m.

@ University Heights Baptist Church
(1010 S. National Ave.)

routreenews.org/site



present to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council for acceptance.

Following acceptance of the plan, staff will process any recommended changes to the Rountree Urban Conservation District through the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council.

CU project replacing water, gas lines in Rountree

By Mike Brothers, for SGFNN



Rountree residents are dealing with disruption of utility service and traffic, as well as the loss of some mature trees, as part of a major upgrade to gas and water lines in the area.

City Utilities is updating natural gas and water lines that are up to a century old in some places as part of a major, \$2 million project to upgrade a total of about two miles of pipes.

The project started in December 2017 and will take about six months to complete by a contractor. The project will be done in five phases, with only two phases active at any one time. Much of the work will take place along Delaware from Cherry to Grand, and along Madison from Kentwood to Fremont, however, these are not the only areas that will be affected.

PHASE 1:

Work will be done on Madison (on the south side) from Kentwood to Fremont; and on Fremont, from Madison to Monroe. Details about trees along the south side of Madison:

- **Delaware, west to alley** — No tree removal. Will most likely be cut back, however.
- **Alley to SE corner of Madison and Weller** — All trees removed.
- **Weller, west to alley** — All trees removed.
- **Alley to Pickwick** — All trees removed.
- **Pickwick, west to alley** — Landscaping remains. Second tree west of Pickwick remains, all others removed.
- **Alley to Fremont** — All trees removed.
- **Also, on the east side of Fremont from Madison north to Monroe** — All trees removed.

PHASE 2:

Madison to Cherry on Delaware, with Monroe and Monroe Terrace.

PHASE 3:

Madison to Grand, on Delaware.

PHASE 4:

Grand to Catalpa on Delaware as well as Catalpa, Weller to Kentwood.

PHASE 5:

Madison to Grand on Fremont.

CU requires contractors to notify residents 24 hours in advance of any work that will take home utilities out of commission. Most services will be out for about a few hours, at most. If they are replacing a driveway approach, there is a 48-hour required notice. They will be replacing all gas lines up to the meter. The water lines will be replaced up to the connecting line to the house.

When it comes to replacing pipes in older neighborhoods, there's not a lot of space to place the new pipes, CU says. Ideally, they are placed under greenspace. CU generally avoids the roadway due to the added cost and disruption of traffic. The next best option is generally the sidewalk. (Wherever a four-foot wide sidewalk is torn up, a five-foot sidewalk will be put in; and ramps will be made ADA compliant.) If open greenspace and sidewalks aren't an option, then at times trees have to be taken out. Sometimes pipes can be bored under the tree, but this is not ideal because of roots and because the lines are difficult to reach for servicing in the future. A few trees will be bored under during this project. But several mature trees will be taken out where 16-inch lines are going in along Madison, mostly between Weller and Pickwick on the south side. All trees are in the public right-of-way and are city owned, not privately owned. But CU will make an effort to contact nearby homeowners. Notices about this could start to go out any time.

In addition to cost and traffic flow, CU says there is another reason why lines cannot be laid under the roadway on Madison: there is a sewer line right down the middle of Madison, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources requires water lines to be a minimum of 10 feet away from sewer lines.

It's tough to lose trees, but there's a chance for new plantings coming up next year. At RNA's September meeting, we heard from Troy Powell, who runs the City's Neighborwoods Program. This program plants trees in the right-of-way at no cost to homeowners. Each tree must be permitted by the homeowner, however, who then signs a contract committing to watering the tree for three years.

Rountree participated in this program in the past and planted about 90 trees in the neighborhood. Now the City wants to engage Rountree once again.

Planting would happen starting in the fall, from October through April, 2019. Neighborwoods will be looking for homeowners who want to participate, and ideally the contracts would be firmed up by about June 1.

RNA volunteer Nancy Evans offered to be a liaison for Neighborwoods, and to work with CU on communicating its plans to the neighborhood. Nancy will be playing a crucial role, as these two issues have an obvious and critical intersection.

Nancy and the RNA board are committed to helping communicate what, when, and where the work will occur on the CU project in coming months. Neighbors can contact Nancy Evans with questions via email at: n.c.evans2014@gmail.com. You can also download a CU brochure about the process which includes FAQs.

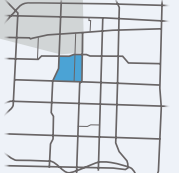


WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD

Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Section



Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

Neighborhood Alliance Meetings

Jan. 23 • Feb. 27 • March 27 • April 24 : 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
@ McGregor Elementary (1221 W. Madison St.)

westcentralspringfield.org



PTA Clothing Bank – Volunteers Needed!

We provide clothing, shoes and coats free to Springfield Public School students in grades K–12 who receive free or reduced lunches or are referred by a nurse or principal.

VOLUNTEER DAYS:

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL AREA SCHOOLS:	GLENDALE AREA SCHOOLS:
Jan. 25 • Feb. 15 • April 19	Jan. 18 • March 22 • April 12
PARKVIEW AREA SCHOOLS:	KICKAPOO AREA SCHOOLS:
Feb. 22 • March 29 • April 26	Feb. 1 • March 1
HILLCREST AREA SCHOOLS:	
Feb. 8 • April 5	

Located within the Study Alternative Center, 2343 W. Olive St., Northeast entrance
Visit facebook.com/ThePTAClothingBank for more information.

NEIGHBORHOOD PAR OFFICER

Officer Keith Wright
kwright@springfieldmo.gov

See page 13 for a profile of Officer Wright

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

Westport Backpack Program provides weekend meals for elementary students

By Joe Roberds, for SGFNN

As we start 2018, the Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association is reviewing the past events and projects that have been completed to determine continuation or expansion of these endeavors. New ideas to help our Westside neighbors are also being sought. One of the WNBA projects I had not experienced and wanted to know more about is the Westport School Backpack Program.

At one of our WNBA meetings, I talked to Steve Sischo, who is the WNBA representative for the Backpack Program at Westport School and he also serves as the treasurer for the WNBA. In an effort to learn more about this great project, I asked Steve if I could tag along with him while he served this function at Westport and see firsthand what the Backpack Program is and how it helps our neighborhood youth.

One Friday morning I met Steve at Westport School to begin my morning of education to learn how the WNBA participation in the Backpack Program helps our neighbors. Steve had already arrived and was busy moving boxes of food supplies to the preparation area to begin sorting food items into individual lots for distribution. Steve explained that the boxes containing the food had been obtained from the Ozarks Food Harvest, which donates the food for the Backpack Program.

Steve paused from his work to explain what the Backpack Program is about. Steve related that the staff at Westport School talks with and observes the behavior of students to make a determination if a food need exists.

Another factor is the students qualifying for free lunches. Those students who are determined to be living in a food insecure environment are recommended for the Backpack Program. Steve explained that these students in need receive nourishing meals at school during week days, but these meals are not available for them on weekends when school is not in session.

Due to the absence of these meals, the Friday Backpack Program helps to reduce the possibility that the student will experience hunger while

away from school. Steve acknowledged that the food shared in the Backpack Program will not suffice for a nourishing meal, but it helps to supplement the at home food supply.

Steve said his day starts



with a list of the number of food lots to be prepared. The note shows the name of the teacher and the number of students in that classroom to receive food in the Backpack Program that Friday. The names of the students participating in the Backpack Program are known only to the school staff. Steve explained that the number of students receiving the food packs varies from Friday to Friday due to students changing schools or being absent that Friday. On this Friday the number of individual food packs to be prepared was 58 for the elementary school and 16 for the middle school.

Steve started the process by opening boxes containing food items. The items were removed from the boxes and sorted into individual lots. Once the lots had the complete number of items, they were placed into bags. This process was repeated until the number of food packs was completed. While loading the bags, Steve shared stories that students had expressed to him. Steve does not know the names of students in the Backpack Program, but they see him deliver the food to the class rooms and know he puts together the food packs. In their conversations with Steve they express their appreciation for the food and the ability to share with their families.

When completed, the individual bags were loaded on a cart and the delivery started. We walked down the hallways to the classrooms. At each classroom Steve checks the list for the number of Backpack Program students. The number of bags containing the food are removed from the cart and delivered to each classroom teacher for distribution to the students in need. This process is repeated until the number of recipients on the list is filled.

After all the food packs are delivered to the teachers, Steve returns to the preparation area to break down the empty boxes and prepare for the next Friday delivery.

One might look at the quantity of the food provided in the Backpack Program and say that the food given is not very much, but to the food insecure student receiving the supplement it means the difference between eating or going hungry.

The WNBA is proud of Steve's effort to volunteer for this program and commends him on this commitment to be at the school every Friday morning to fulfill this need. Steve said that his commitment to the Backpack Program is derived from helping the youngest of our neighbors who benefit from this program.

Do you have the desire to make a difference in our Westside neighborhood? Come to a WNBA monthly meeting and learn how you can help your neighbors and your neighborhood. The WNBA meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Westport Park Apartments Community Room, 250 N. Hilton.

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

Feb. 13 • March 13 • April 10: 6:30 p.m.,

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

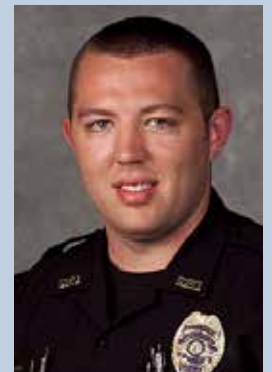


NEIGHBORHOOD PAR OFFICER



Officer
Zach Pugh

zpugh@
springfieldmo.gov



See page 12 for a profile of Officer Pugh

Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Section



WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

Mural painted during Moon City Art Takeover turns eyesore into gathering place in Woodland Heights

By Melissa Adler, for SGFNN

They were all artists that day.

More than 40 people picked up brushes to paint a 774 square foot mural at the intersection of Lyon Avenue and Chase Street in Woodland Heights. Volunteers didn't need talent or experience, just a desire to be a part of something unique. In four hours, they transformed remnants of a warehouse into sky, land and water.

Victory Mission owns the property where the warehouse once stood. Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, Missouri (HFHS) and two volunteer groups from Jack Henry & Associates trimmed weeds and swept debris until the lot was clean. The front of the warehouse foundation was power washed and primed. Outlines of bees, flowers and fish appeared days before the event, called Moon City Art Takeover.

"I like taking something that is not natural, like concrete, and turning it into something that adds beauty to our neighborhood through images of nature," said Linda Passeri, project manager. And while the concrete foundation is not a perfect canvas, "We work with what we have."

Marian Chamberlain and Jennifer Wolken are the two other artists from Moon City Creative District who designed sections of the wall.

A few weeks after the mural was completed, an individual not associated with Woodland Heights vandalized the wall.

People who live and work in the neighborhood rallied around their mural. With the help of concerned citizens and PAR Officer Jim Cooney, the individual was identified and the matter was resolved. Artists from Moon City Creative District are restoring the mural to its original beauty.

Woodland Heights is eager to embrace an identity of a neighborhood with creative spaces. The bright



From left: Marian Chamberlain, Karen Schaefer, Mary Passeri, Linda Passeri, Melissa Adler, Becky Volz and Irene Schaefer.

colors on the "Woodland Wall" make the space look completely different. It's no longer an abandoned eyesore but a gathering place that addresses one of the goals of the neighborhood: beautification.

The mural is a partnership between Moon City Creative District, the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association, Springfield Victory Mission and HFHS, all working together to revitalize Woodland Heights. Neighborhood Revitalization works to improve the quality of life in a neighborhood by listening to residents, setting goals, making plans and bringing in partners. Moon City Creative District is a live/work area for artists north of Commercial Street. The vision is to establish a vibrant and unique area that provides a wide range of artistic, cultural, employment and living opportunities.

The public art on Chase Street is a result of a conversation between HFHS and residents of Woodland Heights who were asked to choose short-term projects to improve their neighborhood. A grant that HFHS received from Fund for Shared Insight made it possible. The collaboration between businesses, artists and people in the community made it a reality.

Woodland Heights pole painting goes international

By Melissa Adler, for SGFNN

Guests from one of Springfield's two Sister Cities, Isesaki, Japan, wrote messages of love on a utility pole on Broadway Avenue just south of Atlantic Street during their visit in October 2017. The pole, painted by ESC, Inc., has the state of Missouri at the bottom and the flag of Isesaki, Japan at the top. Phyllis Ferguson, City Council member for Zone 1, asked Moon City Creative District if the international visitors could paint.

"They stopped after lunch on C-Street and added some sentiments in Japanese," said Linda Passeri, artist with Moon City. "I can't translate, but it looks like they had a good time, and we are proud to have them contribute to our outdoor gallery."

Volunteers can paint utility poles in Moon City Creative District twice a year. There are currently 130 poles covered in original art.

For more information about pole painting, visit mooncitycreativedistrict.com and click on "Pole Painting."



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

Jan. 18 • Feb. 15 • March 15 • April 19: 7–8 p.m.
@ Springfield Dream Center (829 W. Atlantic St.)

woodlandheightsneighborhood.org



Habitat Home Run, Pricecutter Charity Championship net more than \$17K for neighborhood revitalization in Woodland Heights

By Melissa Adler, for SGFNN

Woodland Heights hosted the 9th annual Habitat Home Run, a 5k, 10k, and one-mile fun run that took place on Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017. It was the most successful year with a record number of runners.

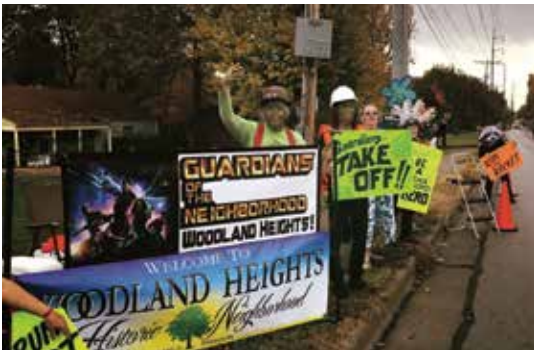
The Habitat Home Run plus additional Price Cutter Charity Championship revenue netted \$17,692 for Neighborhood Revitalization projects in Woodland Heights.

Residents, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, Missouri, will decide how to spend the money.



From left: Woodland Heights residents Linda Passeri, Becky Volz, Rhonda Ferguson, Demita Gookin, Sarah Gaddy, Matt Roberts and baby Violet, and Karen Schaefer and Melissa Adler of Habitat for Humanity of Springfield.

Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Section



JENNIFER WOLKEN, "Leaning Oak and Grain Elevators"

"The inspiration for this piece was the place I live. I love that there are so many beautiful mature trees in the community I live in, Woodland Heights. It really adds to the quality of life. I can see these grain elevators from my home, and I drive past this view of them every day. I find them very stately; they mark home from afar. The railroad has been such an important part of my family for generations, and it shaped Springfield. These markers of its past importance in our economy are part of our daily lives all over north Springfield. I am so honored to have this piece in the Springfield Art Museum. The renewed commitment of the museum to really reach into the local community and engage people with the arts in new ways is transformative for southwest Missouri."

"Leaning Oak and Grain Elevators" is a drypoint copperplate etching.

Jennifer lives in
Woodland Heights



March 24

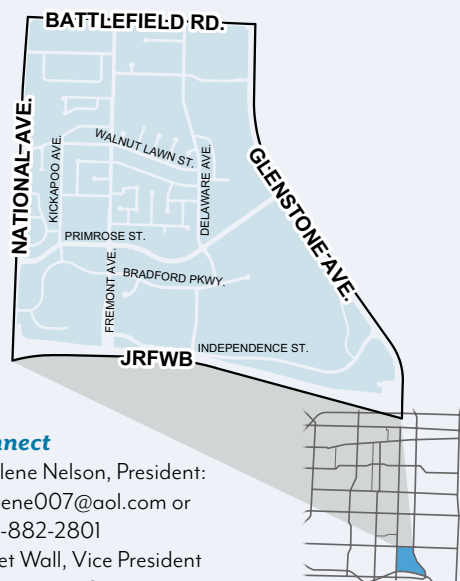
**Second six-month rotation
begins featuring artists from
Springfield City Council Zone 2**

Springfield Art Museum • 1111 E. Brookside Dr.
sgfmuseum.org



BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

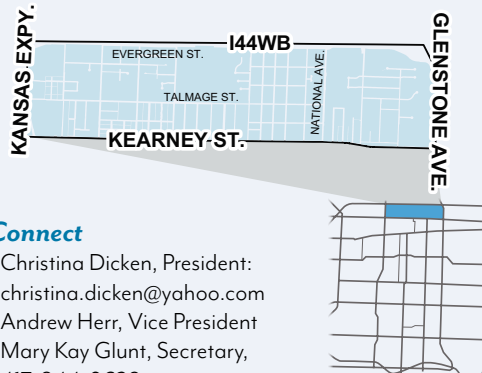
Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 16 • Feb. 20 • March 20 • April 17: 6:30 p.m.
@ Immaculate Conception
(3555 S. Fremont Ave.)



DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

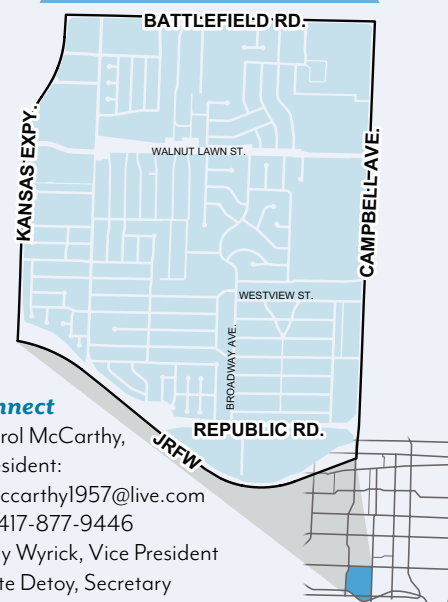
Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 13 • March 13 • April 10: 6 – 8 p.m.
@ Hillcrest Presbyterian Church
(818 E. Norton Road)



GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

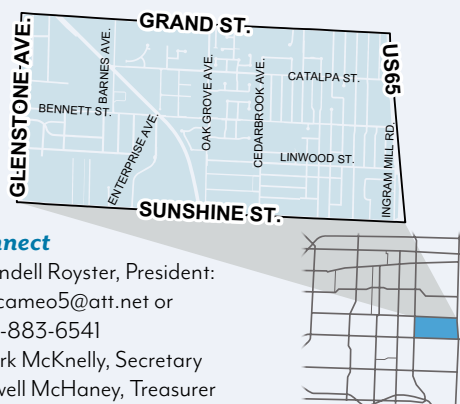
Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 18 • March 15 or 22 (TBA): 6:30–7:45 p.m.
@ The Way Church (903 W. Katella St.)
Easter Egg Hunt (TBA)



OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Wendell Royster, President:
jwcameo5@att.net or
417-883-6541
- Mark McKnelly, Secretary
- Powell McHaney, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings

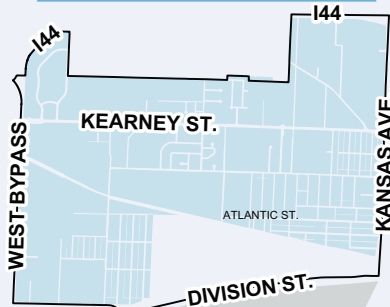
Meetings are held on an as-needed basis at 6:30 p.m.
Contact a neighborhood officer to find out the next
scheduled meeting.

ogna.weebly.com



TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 25 • Feb 22 • March 29 • April 26: potluck 6 p.m.,
meeting 7–8:30 p.m. @ Tom Watkins
Park Community Center (2100 W. High St.)



WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 1 • March 1 • April 5: 6 – 7 p.m. @ Turning
Point Church (1722 N. National Ave.)



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

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

Events

January – April 2018

EDUCATION

Tax-a-Palooza: Feb. 17: All Day. Springfield Dream Center, 829 W Atlantic. Walk-in space is limited! Reserve your appointment by calling 417-720-2000 after Jan. 22. Bring your tax documents and IRS-certified volunteers will e-file your tax return. Community financial resources will be on-site!

Legal Literacy Workshop – Tenants Rights:

Feb. 27: 6 – 8:30 p.m., The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. Dinner and childcare will be provided. A free workshop for residents of Springfield's Zone 1. If you are renting your home or apartment



and want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a tenant, sign up for this free workshop. Learn how to avoid eviction, get repairs made, get your deposits back. Participants will also have the opportunity to consult individually with volunteer attorneys following the presentation. Registration is limited to the first 50 to sign up, so don't wait! Contact the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association at (417)-831-2783.

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.

Learn It! Self-Paced Free Computer Tutorials:



Ongoing, Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central St. 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 Office, Quickbooks, Gmail, Photoshop and more. Both interactive and video tutorials are available to fit your learning style. We also offer computer-instructed keyboarding lessons to help you learn to type or improve your typing skills. Prerequisites: Some experience using a keyboard and mouse. For adults.

Fix-it Fair: March 10: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central St., (downstairs meeting room.) Throw it away? No way! Attend Springfield's next Fix-it Fair and learn to repair your broken common household items from volunteer repair experts. Event is free to attend. We've fixed vacuums, lamps, fans, blenders, bikes, and more! To volunteer, please contact Amanda Stadler at 888-2020. The Fix-it Fair is sponsored by Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, and Queen City Beard and Mustache Federation.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

PTA Clothing Bank: Please call, email or see your school nurse in person at school to request a referral to the Clothing Bank before visiting. Any student who is signed up for free or reduced lunch can shop at the PTA Clothing Bank. Students can visit three times per school year (Aug. 2017 – May 2018) for clothes (five shirts & three shorts/pants). Once a school year, the student can also get one pair of new tennis shoes and a package of new socks and underwear. If a student is interested in the new shoes, the student has to be at the Clothing Bank to be measured for the shoes. For clothes, the student does not have to come with parents, but please bring student's ID number (number they use at lunch) and student name. Please arrive at least 30 minutes (or more) before close in order to have time to shop. Open most Thursdays and some Saturdays from 9 – 11 a.m. and 2:30 – 5 p.m., Located in the Study Alternative Center, 2343 W. Olive St.

Cloth Diapers: It's Easy!: Jan. 23: 5 – 6:15 p.m. Participants will learn how to use and care for loaner cloth diapers and, if interested, participants will complete a "Cover Your Bum" application and receive cloth diapers at the end of the class. Please call Cheryl Blevins at 417-874-1249 before attending this class.

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: Fridays, 12 – 1 p.m., 635 E. Trafficway St.



Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park: Mondays 10 – 11 a.m., 2400 S. Scenic Ave.

Dan Kinney: Wednesdays 10 – 11 a.m., Dan Kinney Park/Family Center, 2701 S Blackman Rd.

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 • 9 – 10 a.m., Fridays, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. 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.

Baby ABCs: 3:30 p.m. Thursdays, The NEST Partnership, Westside Public Health Center, 660 S. Scenic (between Grand and Chestnut Expressway). Learn basic infant-care skills in a no-stress group setting. Bring you friends. To sign up call 417-874-1249 or email cblevins@springfieldmo.gov and leave a message with your name and contact number

ARTS, CULTURE & FUN

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

Eagle Days: Sat. Jan. 20: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sun.



Jan. 21: 12:30 – 4:30 p.m., Lake Springfield Park and Boathouse, 5324 S. Kissick Ave. Learn about eagles and other migratory birds visiting Lake Springfield this winter. Bring binoculars, telephoto cameras or small telescopes or use equipment provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Indoor eagle programs, crafts and activities also offered by MDC staff and Dickerson Park Zoo.

Shakespeare at the Columns: Actors Theatre of Missouri, in association with Rice Theatricals and The Dangerous Playground, presents *Titus Andronicus*: Jan. 19, 20, 26, 27: 7:30 p.m. curtain and Jan. 21, 28: 2 p.m. curtain, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Enjoy Shakespeare's classic tragedy directed by David Rice in the warmth of the Auditorium.

Winter Art Classes: Jan. 23 – March 17, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Art classes in various media for adults, teens, and kids begin on Tuesday, Jan. 23. Sessions run for 8 weeks. For more information, to register, or to pay for courses please visit the LEARN section of www.sgfmuseum.org or call (417)-837-5700.

National Skating Month Event: Jan. 27: 1 – 2:30 p.m. Mediacom Ice Park, 635 E. Trafficway. Free skating with coaches on the ice to assist new and beginning skaters of all ages.

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.

Indoor Bowl Jam: Feb. 9: 8 – 10 p.m., Springfield Skate Park, 945 W. Meadowmere St., What better place to skate during the cold weather than the Springfield Skate Park? Show us your best tricks during our Indoor Bowl Jam. Skaters will be grouped by division and compete in a four-minute jam session. Each skater will be judged on difficulty, trick selection and style. Register for Intermediate (Division 1) or Advanced (Division 2). Winners will be named to each division, and prizes awarded. Limited skateboard rentals available. *Free with purchase of session.*



African American Read-In: Feb. 22: 7 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. The 9th annual African American Read-In is a collaborative evening of performances organized by Missouri State University Libraries, Springfield Public Schools, the Springfield-Greene County Library District, Drury University, the Ozark Literacy Council, and the Springfield chapter of the NAACP.



Daddy Daughter Dance:

Feb. 24: 6 – 9 p.m., Northview Center, 201 E. Talmage St., Girls, bring your dad, step-dad, grandpa, uncle, or special guy out for a night you'll always remember. This year's theme is "Girls Just Want to Have Fun." Enjoy a catered

dinner, music, dancing, and a photograph with your special guest. Event held in the Northview Center Ballroom. Tickets go on sale Jan. 17. Register by Feb. 21. Space is limited.

Fee: \$40/couple, \$15/each additional girl

Wonder Rooms
OZARK COLLECTIONS

Wonder Rooms: Ozark Collections: Through Feb. 11. Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. The exhibit presents representative works from ten local collections, and features a wide range of media arranged in cabinets or 'rooms,' including ceramics,

photography, outsider art, local art, furniture, prints and drawings. Visit sgfmuseum.org for hours of operation.

Curator's Talk: Jan. 25: 5:30 – 7 p.m. Join Sarah Buhr, Curator of Art at the Springfield Art Museum, as she discusses the process of curating "Wonder Rooms: Ozark Collections."

Family Day: Jan. 27: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Family Days are drop-in events designed to help kids and grown-ups explore the Museum's exhibits together through hands-on gallery and art-making activities. No registration required.

Try Hockey for Free Day: March 3: 1 p.m., at Mediacom Ice Park, 635 E. Trafficway. Kids interested in ice hockey? Give it a try. We provide coaches and equipment. Skating experience not required, but registration is. To register call 866-7444. Age 10 yrs. and under.

All School Exhibition: March 3 – April 29, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. This annual show features work by student artists from across our community, in Kindergarten through 12th grades. The exhibit celebrates Youth Art Month and has been a staple of our exhibition schedule for decades.

All School Exhibition Opening Receptions:

- Middle/High School: March 2: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Elementary School: March 4: 2 – 4 p.m.

FREE Family Day: April 7: 10 a.m. – Noon



Art in Our City: Through March 18, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Springfield, Missouri is home to a vibrant artistic community. This exhibition highlights and celebrates the creativity of our community focusing on artists living and working in the many neighborhoods that make up our city. The exhibition not only concentrates on the artists on display but also their neighborhoods and what it means to live and work creatively in Springfield. The exhibit will rotate every six months; the first exhibition features work by eight artists from five neighborhoods located in City Council Zone 1.

- March 24: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. 2nd six-month rotation begins featuring artists from City Council Zone 2.

Orchid Show and Sale: March 17 – 18: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Springfield-Greene Co. Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave., The Springfield Orchid Society brings a juried display of beautiful, rare and exotic orchids. Orchids will be available for purchase.



Easter at the Farm: March 24: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146. Join the Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park for a day of family-oriented activities celebrating spring, including arts and crafts, inflatables, pony rides, yard games and the Easter Bunny. We'll have more than 20,000 eggs filled with candy and prizes for

controlled Easter Egg Hunts (children are limited to 15 eggs each, while supplies last.) Bring your basket and your camera for pictures with the Easter Bunny. *Some activities may have a small fee.*

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament: March 25: check-in begins at noon at Parkview High School. Get your team together and compete in SPARC's 5th Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Boys and girls divisions, co-ed teams compete with boys. Register by March 21. Benefits the Park Board Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund. Ages 3rd – 8th grade. **Fee:** \$50/team of 3–4. **SPARC Office:** 837-5737.



The Structured Landscape: Through March 25, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Buildings of all shapes, sizes, and styles are ever-present in our environment.

A simple landscape becomes more interesting when dwellings or other architectural structures are included as part of the scene. This exhibition is the sixth in a series, focusing on various artists, styles and trends, pulled exclusively from the Museum's outstanding collection of contemporary American aquamedia.

Richard Tuttle: Lines and Edges: Through March 25. Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Richard Tuttle has spent the majority of his career working within a very limited set of formal constraints — line, color, and form — to explore deeper issues of abstraction. His practice has encompassed a wide variety of materials including from etchings, aquatints, and woodcuts to more ordinary materials such as cardboard, Styrofoam, wire, wood, cloth and rope. Visit sgfmuseum.org for hours of operation.

Grant Wood:

Lithographs: Through March 25. Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Wood produced 19 lithographs in his lifetime. All nineteen are featured in the exhibition. This exhibit examines Wood's thematic concerns and role in the growth and popularity of printmaking in America. Visit sgfmuseum.org for hours of operation.



StoryWalk@: March 30: 10 a.m., at the Springfield-Greene Co. Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Join us for a special Racing to Read Storytime, launching a new StoryWalk@ featuring "Have You Heard the Nesting Bird?" by Rita Ray and Kenard Pak. StoryWalk@ combines three important elements that promote learning: reading, moving and enjoying the outdoors. After reading, we will create bird journals, and take a walk through the gardens. The story will remain through the month of April. Co-sponsored by the Springfield-Greene Co. Library District. Ages: Infants – 2nd grade.

Golf Customer Appreciation and Masters Kick-Off Party: April 4: 4 – 6:30 p.m., Horton Smith Golf Course, 2409 S. Scenic Ave. Join the Park Board and kick off the 2018 Masters Tournament at Horton Smith Golf Course with themed appetizers, demos, contests and other surprises.



Cherry Blossom Kite and Piñata Festival:

April 7: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave., Celebrate Springfield with the Springfield Sister Cities Association. Bring a kite to fly or build one with us on the Great Lawn. Whack a piñata nearby. Enjoy Japanese and Mexican children's crafts at the Botanical Center, and free admission to the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Gardens as it reopens for the season.

Fee: Free admission, \$5/kite kits

National Zoo Lovers Days & Enrichment

EGGstravaganza:

April 8: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Dickerson Park Zoo, 1401 W. Norton Rd. Celebrate zoos, and watch the zoo's animals "hunt" when zookeepers hide papier-mâché eggs filled with treats or use other egg-themed enrichment items.

Fee: \$12/adults and teens, \$8 children ages 3 – 12 and seniors, Free/children two and under, and FOZ members.



Frolic of the Mind: The Illustrious Life of Rose

O'Neill: April 14 – Aug. 5, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. This exhibition traces the prolific career of artist, illustrator, author, poet, and inventor Rose O'Neill. This exhibit will feature 150 works from a number of public and private collections including the Springfield Art Museum, the Huntington Library and Art Museum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Bonniebrook Home and Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, among others. The exhibit will include illustrations, rarely seen paintings, drawings, archival documents, personal effects, and smaller sculpture. A fully illustrated catalogue will bring new research to the topic, featuring several guest essays.

Opening Reception: April 13, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Saving Rose O'Neill: April 13 and 14, 7:30 pm curtain; April 15, 2 p.m. curtain. Written by and starring Marcia Haseltine, this one-woman show details the final years of the artist's life.

Directed by Robert Bradley and produced by the Springfield Contemporary Theatre.

JOBS & CAREERS

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

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.

Green for Greene: Information Sessions Jan. 16 and 18: 1–2 p.m., Missouri Job Center – North Location, 1443 N Robberon, Ste 100. Training begins in February. Green for Greene provides certifications that are needed for high paying, local “green” jobs that will assist local neighborhoods, attract new and expanding business, and create more jobs and services in the area. Certifications available are: OSHA Hazwoper; OSHA 10; Environmental Sampling and Monitoring; Trenching and Excavation; Confined Space; Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP); Lead Abatement Worker; Asbestos Worker/Handler; Stormwater Management; Forklift Driver; First Aid/CPR; and Commercial Driver’s License (CDL). For more information on how to apply contact Isaac Weber at 417-841-3361 or iweber@springfieldmo.gov. See the full article about this program on page 7.

BY NEIGHBORHOOD

BISSETT

Bissett Neighborhood Association Meetings: Feb 13: 6:30–7:30 p.m., optional pot luck at 6 p.m. Bissett Elementary School, 3014 W. Calhoun. March 13: 6:30-7:30 p.m., optional pot luck 6 p.m. Faith Assembly of God Church, 3001 W. Division St.

PTA Clothing Bank: Please call, email or see your school nurse in person to request a referral to the Clothing Bank before visiting. Any student who is signed up for free or reduced lunch can shop at The PTA Clothing Bank. Please arrive at least 30 minutes (or more) before close in order to have time to shop. Volunteers from Central High School area schools are welcome Jan. 25, Feb. 15, and April 19. Located in the Study Alternative Center, 2343 W. Olive St.



BRADFORD PARK

Bradford Park Neighborhood Association Meeting: Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 20, April 17: 6:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception, 3555 S. Fremont Ave.

DELAWARE

Delaware Neighborhood Association Meeting: Feb. 6, March 6, April 3: 7–8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1551 E. Portland.

DOLING

Doling Neighborhood Association Meetings: Feb. 13, March 13, April 10: 6–8 p.m., @ Hillcrest Presbyterian Church, 818 E. Norton Rd.

GRANT BEACH



Grant Beach Produce Distribution: 2:30 p.m. Thursdays, The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. Free produce delivered by Ozarks Food Harvest and distributed at The Fairbanks

every Thursday. 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. Membership forms are available at Hovey House and the Produce Distribution. 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.



of Springfield's Zone 1. If you are renting your home or apartment and want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a tenant, sign up for this free workshop. Registration is limited to the first 50 to sign up, so don't wait! Contact the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association at (417)-831-2783.

Grant Beach Neighborhood Association Meetings: Jan. 15, Feb. 19, March 19, April 16: 6:30–7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1115 N. Campbell.

GREATER PARKCREST

Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association Meeting: Jan. 18, March 15 or 22 (TBA): 6:30–7:45 p.m., The Way Church, 903 W. Katella Street. Easter Egg Hunt, TBA.

HEART OF THE WESTSIDE

Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association Meetings: Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 20, April 17: 6:30–7:30 p.m., The Salvation Army, 1707 W. Chestnut Expy.

MIDTOWN

Tai Chi with Dee Ogilvy: Tuesdays: 6–7 p.m., Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central St. Learn Yang Style Tai Chi from Shifu, M. Dee Ogilvy, who began practicing Tai Chi 25 years ago at Duke University. Beginners are welcome.

Midtown Neighborhood Association Meetings: Feb. 12, March 12, April 9: 6–7 p.m., Urban Neighborhood Alliance building, on Cox North Hospital parking lot, 918 E. Calhoun St.

OAK GROVE

Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Meeting: Meetings are held on an as-needed basis. Contact a neighborhood officer to find out the next schedule meeting.

PHELPS GROVE

Tai Chi with Dee Ogilvy: Fridays: 9–10 a.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Learn Yang Style Tai Chi from Shifu, M. Dee Ogilvy, who began practicing Tai Chi 25 years ago at Duke University. Beginners are welcome.

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

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.

Robberson Neighborhood Association Meetings: Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 22, April 26: 6:30–7:30 p.m., Pathways United Methodist Church, 1232 E. Dale

ROUNTREE

Rountree Neighborhood Association Meetings: Feb. 20, March 20, April 17: 7–8 p.m., University Heights Baptist Church, 1010 S. National.

TOM WATKINS

Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association Meetings: Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 29, April 26: 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!

WELLER

Weller Neighborhood Association Meetings: Feb. 1, March 1, April 5: 6–7 p.m., Turning Point Church, 1722 N. National.

Tai Chi with Dee Ogilvy: Wednesdays: 5–6 p.m., Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, 1001 N. National Ave. Learn Yang Style Tai Chi from Shifu, M. Dee Ogilvy, who began practicing Tai Chi 25 years ago at Duke University. Beginners are welcome.

WEST CENTRAL

West Central Neighborhood Alliance Meeting: Jan. 23, Feb. 27, March 27, April 24: 6:30–7:30 p.m., McGregor Elementary, 1221 W. Madison St.

WESTSIDE

Cloth Diapers: It's Easy! Jan. 23: 5–6:15 p.m. Participants will learn how to use and care for loaner cloth diapers and, if interested, participants will complete a “Cover Your Bum” application and receive cloth diapers at the end of the class. Please call Cheryl Blevins at 417-874-1249 before attending this class.

Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings: Feb. 13, March 13, April 10: 6:30 p.m., Westport Park Apartments Community Room, 250 N. Hilton.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS

Tax-a-Palooza: Feb. 17, All Day. Springfield Dream Center, 829 W Atlantic. Walk-in space is limited! Reserve your appointment by calling 417-720-2000 after January 22nd. Bring your tax documents and IRS-certified volunteers will e-file your tax return. Community financial resources will be on-site!

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.

Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association Meetings: Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 15, April 19: 7–8 p.m. Springfield Dream Center, 829 W. Atlantic.



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



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on Facebook Live:
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Tuesdays 12 p.m.

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