



Local MLK 50 Commemorations to honor legacy of nation's greatest peacemaker

By Dr. Sabrina A. Brinson, for SGFNN

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right."

—The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On April 4, all eyes will turn to Memphis, Tennessee to remember the tragic event that occurred 50 years ago and the legacy left by our nation's greatest peacemaker.

Alongside the National Civil Rights Museum and NAACP chapters across the U.S., Springfield NAACP (Cheryl Clay, president) is facilitating a series of local events in 2018 to both commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s untimely passing, and determine where we go from here.

The yearlong commemorations — made possible through partnerships with Drury University,

Faith Voices of Southwest Missouri, Great Southern Bank, Missouri State University, Ozarks Technical Community College, Penmac Staffing Services Incorporated, Peoples Meet and Greet, the Southwest Missouri chapter of the National Organization for Women, the Springfield Art Museum, and the Springfield-Greene County Library District — kicked off on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Jan. 15 with the annual march in downtown Springfield.

A program following the march at the Gillioz Theatre featured performances by the Evangel University Gospel Choir singing Dr. King's favorite hymn, "Take My Hand Precious Lord," and an original spoken word piece by Toni Robinson. The event also included a presentation illuminating Dr. King's entry into the civil rights movement, narrated by Pastor T. J. Appleby, and a soul-stirring rendition of Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech orated by Missouri State University's Dr. Richard Todd Payne.

► See **MLK COMMEMORATIONS** on page 3



Original sketch of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by Mark Montgomery

Welcome to the Spring 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 website.

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Spring cleanups begin in SGF neighborhoods

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Spring cleanups in 11 registered neighborhoods will start on April 7 with Midtown and Woodland Heights and will conclude with Bissett on June 2.

Community Partnership of the Ozarks coordinates with the City of Springfield's Neighborhoods and Planning Office to coordinate and administer cleanup activities in registered neighborhoods in Springfield. These cleanups give Springfield residents the opportunity to dispose of bulky items such as mattresses, furniture, and appliances as well as brush and leaves (depending on the neighborhood) free of cost. Each year, neighborhood cleanups serve approximately 900 households and remove over 175 tons of bulk waste and brush from Springfield neighborhoods.

Curbside pickup is available for 10 of the 11 cleanups. Westside is the only neighborhood that will not be doing curbside pickup this spring. Curbside pickups will be done by neighborhood association volunteers, and fees may apply for the service. Contact your neighborhood coordinator to arrange curbside pickup.

► See **WHY ARE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS IMPORTANT** on page 2



Spring cleanup dates:

- **April 7:** Midtown
- **April 7:** Woodland Heights
- **April 14:** Tom Watkins
- **April 21:** Robberson
- **April 21:** Weller
- **April 28:** Bradford Park
- **May 5:** Rountree
- **May 12:** Doling
- **May 12:** Westside
- **May 19:** Phelps Grove
- **June 2:** Bissett

See the neighborhood sections for more details about the cleanup events.

Why are neighborhood cleanups important?

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

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

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

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

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

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



Spring cleanup reminders:

Open burning not allowed in city limits

By Cara Erwin, Fire Department, for SGFNN

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

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

To properly dispose of yard waste, consider taking advantage of the City of Springfield's Yardwaste Recycling Center. It's located near the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant at 3772 County Road 119 in Brookline. Beginning the first Tuesday in April, the center is open Tuesday through Saturday

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

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

Learn more about the Yardwaste Recycling Center at springfieldmo.gov or call 417-864-1904.

Don't waste those leaves – recycle them!

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

City ordinance prohibits placing yard waste in streets, storm drains, ditches, waterways or other drainage areas. Placing yard waste in streets or drainage areas can cause flooding and water pollution.

The best recycling process for grass and leaves is to mulch the yard waste while mowing your yard. When grass and leaves are left on the yard after mowing, important nutrients are put back into the soil. This is also more convenient because it eliminates needless bagging of grass and leaves, along with transporting and hauling costs.

A second option is to compost grass and leaves in a small compost bin on your property. This also provides residents with a convenient and economical option for reusing grass and leaves without having to haul these materials. The composted materials can then be used to enhance the soil in gardens.

If you need to transport your yard waste, the City offers the Yardwaste Recycling Center, located near the Southwest Treatment Plant. This recycling center accepts materials from residents of Springfield and Greene County and processes the grass clippings and leaves into compost for reuse as a soil amendment and grinds woody materials for landscaping mulch. These products are available for sale at the center.

The City also accepts small quantities of yard waste at the Franklin Recycling Center, 731 N. Franklin, and at the Lone Pine Recycling Center, 3020 S. Lone Pine. Loads above the limits will be referred to the Yardwaste Recycling Center. Visit springfieldmo.gov/recycling for information regarding hours of operation, locations and materials accepted or call the Recycling Hotline at 417-864-1904.

See page 19 for officers, contact information and meeting times.

The City welcomes MEADOR PARK as 18th registered neighborhood

If you're interested in joining or becoming a registered neighborhood, visit springfieldmo.gov/neighborhoods

World TAI CHI Day

Sat., April 28, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Springfield Art Museum Outdoor Amphitheater
1111 E. Brookside Dr.

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

Please bring your own yoga mat/blanket/chair and water.

white.metal.rabbit@gmail.com

29th Annual BARK in the PARK

Saturday, April 28
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

new location
Phelps Grove Park
950 E. Bennett St.

Enjoy an exciting day with your family and beloved canine!

Guided Dog Walk
Canine Vendor Village
Art • Doggy Yoga
Proceeds benefit Cruse Dog Park.

FREE

UPCOMING EVENTS

(all free and open to the public)

The Golden Gathering

6 p.m., Wednesday, April 4
Springfield Art Museum (1111 E. Brookside Dr.)

The Golden Gathering will bring together social justice leaders, activists, practitioners and community members for an intimate look at the civil rights movement from past foundations to current mobility and grassroots organizing; explore how past activism laid the groundwork for current action; and how new civil rights movements are working through justice and peace to achieve positive social change. The Golden Gathering will include moderated discourse and storytelling; performance arts of original spoken word, music, plays, and liturgical dance; and, a visual art exhibit of creative pieces from community artists of all ages.

Let Freedom Ring Community Bell-ringing

6:01 p.m., Wednesday, April 4

To commemorate the five decades since Dr. King's passing, the community is invited to ring bells five times with one second between each at Dr. King's time of death, 6:01 p.m.

Youth Empowerment Day

Youth Empowerment Day will be held this summer, date TBA. Youth and adolescents will demonstrate leadership in the trilogy of service, education, and celebrations. Foremost, in honor of Dr. King, youth leaders will plant pecan trees (pecan pie was one of Dr. King's favorite foods) in a community park; community-based teams will engage youth in education activities such as a timeline of Dr. King's endeavors, debates about civil and social issues, conflict resolution; and the Desserts Fit for a King Bakeoff of all things pecan.

Been to the Mountaintop Interfaith Service

Fall, date TBA. Seven keynote speakers will frame the service through their reflections and current day interpretations of Dr. King's last speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," that was delivered on April 3, 1968, at the Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee. The cross-cultural interactions and interfaith messages are designed to increase communication and cooperation in unified efforts to end biases that marginalize individuals in our community to secondary positions. The interfaith service will be followed by a fellowship dinner featuring Dr. King's favorite foods.

► MLK COMMEMORATIONS from page 1

"Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?," Dr. King's fourth and final book, published in 1967, provided a framework for the local MLK 50 Commemoration, which focuses on the issues that Dr. King was most concerned about during the last years of his life: poverty, fair wages, affordable and safe housing, quality education and justice and peace as the method to achieve positive social change. Fifty years later it is essential to note Dr. King's identified issues are equally pressing. In his foretelling words, "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there 'is' such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."

After MLK 50: Where do we go from here?

By vigorously responding to Dr. King's prophetic question with unified strength and proactive practices, we will continue to raise our voices against injustices like institutional racism and unfair wages. We will continue to speak truth to power to eradicate abject poverty and eliminate education disparities. We will continue to create welcoming, inclusive environments until we reach the pinnacle of society by manifesting freedom, equity and justice for all.

We can continue to make progress on pressing issues like poverty, the need for safe and affordable housing and quality education through ongoing efforts and awareness in our respective organizations and by getting involved with groups like the Be a Jewel Campaign (a corporate fundraising opportunity designed to assist the underserved in the Ozarks, with an emphasis on grandparents raising their grandchildren); Safe to Sleep (an emergency overnight women's shelter that provides women of all ages a safe and compassionate place to sleep); Habitat for Humanity of Springfield (works with families to help them realize the dream of home ownership); and Ujima, a literacy program for elementary-aged children created by MSU communication science and disorders professor Dr. Shurita Thomas-Tate.

"Ujima" is a Swahili word that means collective work and responsibility. The program is supported by SPS, MSU, Springfield NAACP, Springfield-Greene County Library District, Parents as Teachers and the Bartley-Decatur Neighborhood Center, among others.

The formation of community book clubs is encouraged to increase reading opportunities, interest and advancement among people of all ages.

Notable aspects to enrich reading experiences include cultural considerations (e.g., main characters from diverse populations featured in meaningful stories with high factors of relatability for diverse populations) as well as social, emotional and moral aspects for overall healthy development (e.g., sound self-worth, emotional well-being, a strong moral compass).

An interactive, thought-provoking community film series is in the works to showcase informative documentaries, interactive short films and educational movies that are developmentally appropriate for respective audiences of youth, adolescents, and adults. The film series is designed to increase comprehension about civil and social issues; provide insight into proactive, nonviolent resistance to discrimination and exclusionary practices; heighten awareness about the importance of individuals across all cultural and ethnic groups being actively engaged in the process for equity and inclusion; profile the positive difference one person can make in ameliorating civil and social issues; and, engage filmgoers in interactive discussions and experiential activities that can ignite action steps based on lessons learned.

With great resolve, we respond with proactive practices designed to manifest freedom, equity and justice for all.

Dr. Sabrina A. Brinson is the chair of the local MLK 50 Commemorations Committee, an executive board member of the Springfield NAACP, a diversity consultant, founder and national director of Boys Booked on Barbershops and Girls Booked on Beautyshops, a higher education policy analyst and a childhood education and family studies professor at Missouri State University. She can be reached at sbrinson@missouristate.edu.



Dr. Sabrina Brinson,
(photo provided by MSU)

ZONE 1 Town Hall with Phyllis Ferguson

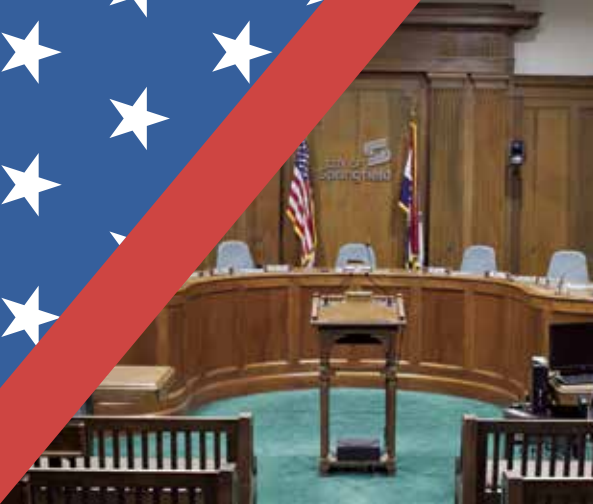
Meet with Springfield Public Schools to share ideas and consider plans for our kids and our schools.



Free childcare will be provided.

6 p.m. Tuesday, April 10
York Elementary School (2100 W. Nichols)





Matthew Simpson selected to fill Zone 4 City Council seat

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor



City Council selected Matthew Simpson as the new Zone 4 council representative at a special City Council meeting March 6. Simpson will serve until the next council election, which will be April 2, 2019.

Simpson is employed by Ozarks Technical Community College as its director of research, strategic planning and grant development. He has lived in Zone 4 for seven years.

Simpson received his undergraduate degree in political science with a minor in economics from Missouri State University and his master of arts degree in political science from Vanderbilt University. He attended the Association of Institutional Research Data & Decisions Academy in 2012.

Simpson is the board president for the Foundation for Springfield Public Schools, serves on the Springfield-Greene County Library board of trustees, is a graduate of Leadership Springfield (class 33), and is a member of the Downtown Springfield Association, Friends of the Zoo and The Network.

In his application for the Zone 4 seat, Simpson stated that he has a "strong background in research that I could bring to Council work, and I have worked on public policy as the Missouri Community College Association Research Council legislative chair."

Matthew Simpson being sworn in during his first City Council meeting on March 12.



Join Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations for coffee April 11

By Heather Hardinger, Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations, for SGFNN

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations works to promote and foster mutual understanding and respect among all racial, religious and ethnic groups of the City. The commission investigates housing discrimination complaints based on a person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, sex, or familial status, which is forbidden by law.

The commission also investigates discrimination complaints based on a person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age (40-69 years) or disability in employment or public accommodation, which is also forbidden by law.

The commission meets at 5:30 p.m. every third Wednesday of each month at the Busch Municipal Building, unless otherwise specified. The public is welcome to attend and may submit public comments or request to have an item on the commission's agenda through the City Clerk's office, if submitted within 24 hours of an upcoming meeting.

The commission investigates alleged violations of City ordinances and tries to mediate settlements between affected parties and make referrals to appropriate agencies. The commission acts as a clearinghouse for information regarding human rights and offers its services to help educate interested citizens and community groups.

Members of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations are appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council and serve without compensation. The commission is currently comprised of eight individuals from the following Springfield zones:

- **Heather Hardinger** – Vice Chairperson, Zone 2
- **Pamela Hernandez**, Zone 3
- **Steve Largent**, Zone 1
- **Brittany O'Brien**, Zone 1



Back Row, left to right: Heather Hardinger, Todd Thomas, Steve Largent and Bob Roberts. **Front Row:** Brittany O'Brien, Pamela Hernandez; Carlye Wannenmacher and Francie Wolff

- **Bob Roberts**, Zone 4
- **Todd Thomas** – Chairperson, Zone 1
- **Carlye Wannenmacher** – Secretary, Zone 4
- **Francie Wolff**, Zone 2.

Members of the commission must have resided within the Springfield city limits for at least two years. Information on how to apply for volunteer positions on the commission, or for information on how to submit a complaint, can be found at springfieldmo.gov.

In 2018, the commissioners plan to attend several community events to increase awareness of the Commission and help the public understand what the commission does, how it serves the community, and how individuals can make a complaint or ask questions. Information about upcoming events can be found on its Facebook page at facebook.com/SGFMCHRCR.

Commissioners will host a Coffee with the Commissioners event 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, April 11 at Big Momma's Coffee & Espresso Bar, 217 E. Commercial St. Members of the public are welcome to attend this meet-and-greet event to ask questions, provide feedback and learn more about the commission's goals and objectives.

ZONE 4

Town Hall

with Matthew Simpson

Meet Springfield City Council's newest member, Zone 4 Councilman Matthew Simpson.



Watch and ask questions live on Facebook @CityofSGF

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18
Kickapoo High School Theater (3710 S. Jefferson)



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

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We welcome your submissions!
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Prosper Springfield unites local resources to improve lives

By Sharon Ellard, for SGFNN

Prosperity. What is it? If you don't have it, how can you get it? If you have it, how can you help others prosper?

Questions about prosperity and how to achieve it aren't new. For a number of years, finding the answers has been the focus of the City of Springfield, the Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO), the United Way, and literally hundreds of other local businesses, nonprofits, charities, and faith-based organizations.

In 2015, these partners united to create a community call to action. The action plan focuses on five areas that contribute to prosperity: safe housing; financial and job security; education that develops life skills; good health and fitness; and reliable transportation.

Prosper Springfield, an initiative that began in March 2017, is focused on aligning work in these five areas, reducing duplication and identifying gaps – all to improve pathways to prosperity. Prosper Springfield collaborates with community partners to show how resources could be aligned to make the road to prosperity easier to navigate.

Francine Pratt, the director of Prosper Springfield, understands that many community organizations have already been actively working to help the under-resourced of Springfield. She believes that strengthening lines of communication and collaboration between these organizations will multiply their impact on increasing prosperity.

In her role as director, Pratt works with organizations such as the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association, which hosts a series of workshops

to educate the community on different legal aspects they may encounter, such as tenants' rights and home ownership.

Another resource Pratt wants the community to be aware of is Change One Thousand, which has partnered with local employers and the Missouri Job Center to train 1,000 workers for jobs with starting pay that ranges from \$10 to \$17 an hour. Those who are looking for better-paying jobs should take advantage of this opportunity and learn about ways to increase skills that will match their potential. Employers who need more skilled workers will benefit from these types of programs for increasing hiring pools with skilled workers.

According to Pratt, "If we can help more families find safe housing, better jobs, continuing education, improving health, and reliable transportation, we can help more families prosper."

If you would like to help or want to know more, contact Francine Pratt at 417-888-2020 or email fpratt@cpozarks.org.

Sharon Ellard, a Give 5 program graduate, volunteers for Prosper Springfield.



Francine Pratt, director,
Prosper Springfield

Inaugural Change One Thousand cohort kicks off Feb. 8

More than 125 apply for skills academy

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

As the economy has progressively improved in recent years, the need for qualified workers has greatly increased. With unemployment rates less than 3 percent, employees can be difficult to find. However, data has also shown the greatest concentration of unemployed individuals – 32 percent in some neighborhoods – live in the Zone 1 area of Springfield. They also have a lower household income compared to the rest of the city as a whole, are less likely to have health insurance, have lower educational attainment rates, and are most likely to use public transportation.

As a natural progression resulting from the Zone Blitz action plan and the Impacting Poverty Commission's action plan comes the Change One Thousand Skills Academy, a tangible solution to provide 1,000 individuals with the basic skills they need to become formidable applicants for good-paying jobs. From the time we decided to create Change One Thousand, we focused on creating market-driven workforce solutions.

The program is a customer-centered approach to creating a workforce system that builds the foundational skills required for one to succeed in today's economy. The strength of our economy which requires a well-trained workforce to support our local industries' competitiveness and standing in a global marketplace.

Central to the initial success of Change One Thousand was the involvement of the local Job Center staff who completed the enrollment of the applicants into the inaugural Change One Thousand class held Feb. 8 at the Fusion Center in north Springfield. Over 125 individuals applied for the inaugural eight-week academy and the first cohort of 30 were admitted. The first class graduated March 15, and the next class is due to begin April 4. "The experience of Change One Thousand is powerful; resulting in profound changes in attitude, performance and fulfillment," said Tricia Clark, a Change One Thousand instructor. We think this program is a "game changer" for our community.

We recognize our work is far reaching and rooted in the basic principles of economic development. Change One Thousand is one of the many contributions the Workforce Development Board has made to support the regional efforts aimed at making the Ozarks a collaborative model for all communities.

After all, if we want to grow our economy, providing good jobs for our citizens is a great start.

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



Do you know your numbers?

New guidelines issued for high blood pressure: 130 is the new high

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor



According to new guidelines released by the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology in November 2017, nearly half of all adults in the U.S. (46 percent) now fit the definition of having hypertension, or high blood pressure. The organizations now recommend lifestyle changes and in some patients, medication, for anyone with a blood pressure of 130/80 mm Hg. The previous guidelines, released in 2003, recommended treatment at 140/90.

Blood pressure categories in the new guidelines are:

- **Normal:** Less than 120/80 mm Hg;
- **Elevated:** Top number (systolic) between 120-129 and bottom number (diastolic) less than 80;
- **Stage 1:** Systolic between 130-139 or diastolic between 80-89;
- **Stage 2:** Systolic at least 140 or diastolic at least 90 mm Hg;
- **Hypertensive crisis:** Top number over 180 and/or bottom number over 120, with patients needing prompt changes in medication if there are no other indications of problems, or immediate hospitalization if there are signs of organ damage.

The new guidelines eliminate the category of prehypertension, which was used for blood pressures with a top number (systolic) between 120-139 mm Hg or a bottom number (diastolic) between 80-89 mm Hg. People with those readings now will be categorized as having either elevated (120-129 and less than 80) or stage I hypertension (130-139 or 80-89).

“The impact of the new guidelines is expected to be greatest among younger people. The prevalence of high blood pressure is expected to triple among men under age 45, and double among women under 45, according to the AHA.”

Previous guidelines classified 140/90 mm Hg as stage 1 hypertension. This level is classified as stage 2 hypertension under the new guidelines.

“High blood pressure is known as the silent killer, often because there are no symptoms. Our goal is to help people understand what their blood pressure numbers mean, while facilitating access to care through a referral process when needed. By properly managing high blood pressure with a care team, heart disease or a stroke may be prevented down the road,” says Heather Parker, who coordinates the Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Community Health Advocate Program.



Lacey Nichols

Community Health Advocate Lacey Nichols goes door to door in north Springfield neighborhoods to offer blood pressure screenings. She also visits libraries, transit centers, grocery stores, churches, food banks and other gathering places and connects with neighbors through meetings and events.

Nichols grew up in Grant Beach and graduated from Drury University with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice and previously worked at the YMCA. She has helped with the supplemental produce distributions and is a member of the Grant Beach Community Garden. She says she enjoys being more involved with her community while helping people live a better life.

A new function of the Community Health Advocate Program is to assist those battling opioid addiction in Springfield. After patients have undergone medically assisted addiction treatment at Jordan Valley Community Health Center, Community Health Advocate Bob Monier connects them with resources in the community to help them maintain sobriety and address any mental health issues.

Monier, a former firefighter, has lived most of his life in the Springfield area except for several tours in the military. He currently splits time between the Health Department and Jordan Valley Community Health Center. He says he feels good about helping the Springfield community turn the tide against the opioid crisis.

“Within both arms of the advocate program, the Health Department utilizes frontline public health workers who serve as trusted members of their community to bridge gaps and reduce barriers to better health,” Parker says. “The advocates build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through outreach, education, social support and advocacy.”

If you would like more information about how to connect with a community health advocate, please visit health.springfieldmo.gov/advocate, or contact Heather Parker at 417-864-1432 or hparker@springfieldmo.gov.



Bob Monier

Don't be a dummy!

Fire Department launches new educational campaign

By Cara Erwin, Fire Department, for SGFNN



The Springfield Fire Department is proud to announce the launch of its second program of Project RED Zone, Springfield's community risk reduction program.

The “Don't Be a Dummy” campaign includes a series of public service announcements promoting fire safety in the home. The campaign features a straight-talking Springfield firefighter who has a habit of catching residents engaging in unsafe behaviors such as overloading electrical outlets, careless cooking and removing smoke alarms. The firefighter is always reminding us that most fires in Springfield are caused by “smart people making dumb decisions,” highlighting the fact that almost all home fires are preventable. The PSAs will be released to local media and promoted online and on social media.

Project RED Zone — which stands for Reduce, Educate, Deliver — is a part of the Springfield Fire Department's community risk reduction campaign to reduce home fires, fire-related injuries and fatalities. The program was launched in April of 2017 with a commitment to ensure every home in Springfield has working smoke alarms. Each Saturday afternoon (as long as the weather cooperates), fire crews go door-to-door in Springfield neighborhoods, offering to test smoke alarms and install new ones if needed. In 2017, firefighters installed more than 1,000 smoke alarms during Project RED Zone canvasses.

Text 9-1-1 now available in Springfield-Greene County



By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Department has formally implemented text-to-9-1-1 capabilities for rare cases when people are unable to communicate audibly via telephone.

“When a response is needed from police, fire, or emergency medical ambulance personnel, you can now text 911 and your message will be delivered into our phone system. We will be able to text a response and determine what assistance you need,” said Zim Schwartze, director.

However, Schwartze says that voice 9-1-1 calls are still the preferred method of receiving emergency calls so the telecommunicator can talk with the person. The slogan “call if you can, text if you can't” is exactly what Schwartze wants the community to remember. Other tips include knowing your location, being brief, using plain language, and avoid abbreviations so the telecommunicator clearly understands what is occurring.

Springtime opens the door to theft

By Lisa Cox, Springfield Police Department, for SGFNN

One common form of burglary that occurs during the spring and summer months is entering open garage doors, and the Springfield Police Department expects the usual increase in this type of criminal behavior this season.

"Sometimes, people forget to close their garage doors overnight or choose to leave them open while being inside or in their back yards," said Lt. Jason Laub of the SPD's Property Crimes section. "Many assume that their belongings are safe since they are at home, but it only takes a few seconds for a criminal to steal items from an open garage and take off without being seen."

These actions are offering thieves easy access inside garages where valuables, home or car keys or even garage door openers may be attainable. The SPD advises people to keep their garages closed, even if they are only away for a few minutes and believe their neighborhood is safe.

"Sometimes, people forget to close their garage doors overnight or choose to leave them open while being inside or in their back yards."

More tips from the SPD for preventing garage burglaries:

- Keep the garage door closed when it is not in use. Make sure the door leading from the garage into your home also has a locking mechanism, and use it.
- Cover any garage windows. You are doing



thieves a favor by allowing them to see when your vehicle is gone.

- Consider purchasing a "garage door open indicator." This will alert you when the garage door has been left open. Also, some garage door manufacturers have an automatic system that recognizes when a garage door has been left open and it will close after a specified amount of time.
- Record serial numbers and take pictures of items of value kept in your garage, so if they are stolen, they will be easier for police to identify.
- Be on the lookout for suspicious behavior in your neighborhood, and notify neighbors if you think they have accidentally left their garage open. Start a Neighborhood Watch in your community.

For more information about crime prevention, visit springfieldmo.gov/spd.

SPD adds 'flavor' to its fleet

By Lisa Cox, Springfield Police Department, for SGFNN



The Springfield Police Department has a new vehicle in its fleet — not a cruiser, not a motorcycle — an ice cream truck. The mission of SPD's "Cold Patrol"? To protect and serve frozen treats.

Modeled after similar projects launched by police departments in St. Louis and Boston, SPD officers will use the Cold Patrol to connect and engage with citizens, especially children, as part of the department's community policing philosophy.

The Springfield Police Foundation awarded a truck to the department which, fully outfitted, is valued at \$16,500. The Walmart Foundation donated \$10,000 directly toward the purchase of

the truck which was purchased locally at Wheeler Auto. Wheeler Auto outfitted the box truck with the equipment needed to convert it to a working ice cream truck as an in-kind donation to the foundation and the SPD. Hiland Dairy has committed to providing up to \$2,000 worth of ice cream for the officers to "serve" annually.

"We are grateful to the Springfield Police Foundation and the generous donors who are making this all possible," said Police Chief Paul Williams. "This fun and unique tool has given our

officers the opportunity to interact with people, especially kids, without the chaos of a crisis that usually draws a police presence."

This spring, the Cold Patrol will begin visiting neighborhoods unannounced like the successful foot patrol program that the department began in northwest Springfield in 2016.

"We want families to see their local police officers as approachable people who are here to help whenever needed," said Williams. "We look at this as one more way to help us bridge any gaps that may exist between officers and the citizens we serve and protect every day."



Nick Bay at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park in 2017

Park Board now hiring for 400 summer seasonal jobs

By Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Park Board, for SGFNN

Looking for a summer job? The Springfield-Greene County Park Board is now hiring for more than 40 different summer temporary and seasonal jobs — nearly 400 positions in all.

Summer jobs range from entry-level cashiers to skilled drivers and maintenance workers. Hours vary, ranging from a few hours to 40 hours a week. Seasonal employees typically work April to September, and schedules can be flexible around school — perfect for students who have the summer off.

The Park Board is one of few employers that will hire workers as young as age 14.

"The Park Board offers great opportunities for a first job, as well as great hands-on experience for anyone interested in a career in sports and recreation," said Anne-Mary McGrath, superintendent of recreation. "Many of our full-time staff started out as summer seasonal employees. But it's not just for first-time job seekers — we have opportunities for all ages, anyone who has availability during the summer."

Seasonal openings include lifeguards at indoor and outdoor pools; counselors for summer day camps and before- and after-school (SPARC) programs; concessions staff at pools, sports complexes and special events; maintenance workers at golf courses, ball fields, and pools; front desk, fitness and childcare staff at family centers; front desk and Springfield Lasers staff at Cooper Tennis Complex; and cashiers, scorekeepers and umpires at sports complexes.

Most positions are entry-level, but some require training or certification, including lifeguards, who may be as young as 15. Lifeguard training is offered through late April at Chesterfield Family Center. Details and dates are at ParkBoard.org or call 417-891-1616.

For a complete list of summer seasonal jobs available, or to apply, visit ParkBoard.org/Jobs.



Bring Mr. Walker to your neighborhood

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Maybe you've seen him around. He's about 6 feet tall, made of aluminum, has a passion for keeping pedestrians safe and may be on his way to your neighborhood.

His name is Mr. Walker and he's the "spokes-pedestrian" for SGF Yields, a pedestrian safety campaign launched by the City of Springfield last summer.

As the number of pedestrian-involved crashes on Springfield streets hovers above national averages, the goal of SGF Yields is to initiate a cultural change in Springfield to be more pedestrian friendly. The aim is to foster an awareness in motorists to actively watch for pedestrians and to yield to them at crosswalks.

Mr. Walker has played a significant role in boosting that awareness. Seven life-size Mr. Walker statues have been installed so far at various crosswalk locations throughout Springfield – downtown, on Commercial Street, near busy intersections and greenway trails. The presence of these brightly colored statues is intended to reinforce existing crosswalk signage and serve as a visible reminder to drivers and pedestrians.

This spring, registered neighborhood associations have the opportunity to partner with their local elementary schools to vie for their own Mr. Walker statue to be located in City right-of-way in their neighborhood.

"Since the kick-off of SGF Yields, we have received questions from schools and neighborhoods wondering how they can get their own Walker statues," explains Traffic Safety Professional Mandy Buettgen-Quinn.

"Unfortunately, we don't have the funds to provide everyone a statue, but we thought a contest would be a fun way to get neighborhoods and schools to work together to find ways to promote pedestrian safety."

To be considered in the Mr. Walker Neighborhood Contest, neighborhood associations must partner with their elementary schools to submit an application in conjunction with the City's Neighborhood Works grant. Walker applications must include the following:

- 1. Outline of Pedestrian Safety Efforts:** The Mr. Walker statue will be awarded to an elementary school that puts an emphasis on pedestrian safety. The City of Springfield's Public Works Department will review and grade each school's pedestrian safety education efforts including

work sheets, roleplays, walking school bus program participation, and parental education. Activities for submission may be school-wide or may involve one specific grade.

- 2. Proposed Artwork:** Applicant and/or participating teacher should contact Public Works traffic safety professional Mandy Buettgen-Quinn, to arrange for a life-sized Mr. Walker cutout to be delivered to their school. This cutout will then be used to create and submit a proposed design using bright colored paints. Public Works will work with the winning school to develop the final design of the sculpture.

- 3. Video Clip:** The application must also include a 20 to 60 second video clip promoting crosswalk safety featuring one or more elementary students that attend the school. Submissions could include an original poem, a report about crossing safely or a short documentary on driver compliance.

- 4. Proposed Locations:** Three proposed statue locations for the statue must be submitted either by photo, Google map, etc. Mr. Walker sculptures must be installed in public right-of-way and not on private property. Public Works will work with the winning school to finalize the location and work through the logistics of installing the statue.

For more information on the application process or overall City pedestrian safety efforts, contact Public Works traffic safety professional Buettgen-Quinn at mbuettgen@springfieldmo.gov or 864-1801.

There is still time to submit final Mr. Walker contest applications by April 2 in conjunction with the City's Neighborhood Works grant application. The \$600 cost of the sculpture must be included in the neighborhood's Neighborhood Works application (\$100,000 maximum), but the Mr. Walker statue will not be counted against the two-project submittal limit.

Submit both applications to:

Alana Owen, Senior Planner
City of Springfield
840 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

For more information on the SGF Yields pedestrian safety campaign, visit springfieldmo.gov/sgfyields.



Park Central Square



C-Street



National Ave. & St. Louis



Jefferson Ave.



Grand Ave. (MSU)



Grant Ave. & Sunset

Volunteers Needed!
Thursdays 1 – 4 p.m.
If interested contact:
Demita Gookin at 417-693-5339 or dmormo@hotmail.com
or Donna McCullough at donnamo@mchsi.com
Any help is appreciated!

THE HORNET LOFT
ROOM 145

Hillcrest High School
Free Clothing Bank

Located in Room 145 at Hillcrest High School

Serves Hillcrest and Hillcrest Feeder Schools

SAVE THE DATE!
6 p.m. Thursday, June 14
Tom Watkins Park (2100 W. High St.)

Join Zone 1 Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson to discuss crime, safety and nuisance properties in Zone 1.

IN CASE OF RAIN:
Northview Senior Center (301 E. Talmage St.)

Potluck dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

ZONE 1
Town Hall
with Phyllis Ferguson

Works by Zone 2 artists go on display at Springfield Art Museum

Cathy Long with her watercolor study in two colors



By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The second six-month rotation of the Springfield Art Museum's Art In Our City exhibition went on display March 24 and features nine artists from five neighborhoods located in City Council Zone 2.

THE FEATURED ARTISTS ARE:

- Vivian Boswell, Rountree
- Nancy Dornan, Rountree
- Nadine Ellman, Kingsbury Forest
- Liz Ford-Coates, Bingham
- Cathy Long, Delaware
- Josh Mitchell, Rountree
- Rae Ann Rockwell, Bingham
- Kim Salsman, Rountree
- and Evan Wright, Oak Grove.



Evan Wright with "Shatter #2"

painting, to low-relief mixed media sculpture, to textiles. Their work will show through Oct. 14, when the exhibit will rotate to feature seven new artists from four neighborhoods located in City Council Zone 3, the southwest quadrant of the city. Zone 3 is represented by Councilman Mike Schilling.

Zone 2 is located in the northeast quadrant of the city and is represented by Councilman Dr. Tom Prater.

Selections were made by Springfield Art Museum Director Nick Nelson, from an open call for artists in the summer of 2017. The artists' works range from

The museum has long collected works by local artists including Julie Blackmon, Bill Armstrong, Bill Wright, Jacob Burmood, Robert E. Smith, Beverly Hopkins, Dwaine Crigger, Rodney Frew, Sarah Perkins, Roberta Stoneman Baker, Louis Freund and Elsie Bates Freund, among others.

Representative works by these artists are frequently on view in the museum's semi-permanent rotating exhibition of the museum's permanent collection, Creating An American Identity, placed within the larger context of the contemporary American art world.

"Art In Our City is unique in that it places the emphasis solely on living local artists who are currently working," says Joshua Best, development and marketing coordinator. "The exhibit's location in Avant Art places it at the forefront of the museum, making these works some of the first that patrons encounter upon entering the museum."

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Art In Our City is a special exhibition that highlights local artists and the character of Springfield's unique neighborhoods. Art In Our City debuted in October 2017, featuring artwork from eight artists living in five neighborhoods located in Zone 1. More than 14,000 patrons have visited the museum since this new exhibition opened.

In addition to its great neighborhoods, Springfield is home to a vibrant artistic community, Nelson said, 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," he added.

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

ABOUT THE PIECES

"Shatter #2" by Evan Wright

"My piece is called 'Shatter #2' and it is an acrylic and spray-paint mixed-media piece on canvas.

"I was inspired to make this painting after getting a mural commissioned in a business downtown. It got me wanting to create more fine art and create my own style and aesthetic from my graffiti background. It's funny that this painting was chosen, as it isn't exactly my favorite piece and was only the second one I created after starting to paint in this style. I've evolved quite a bit from when I started this piece.

"It means a lot to me to have a painting up in the art museum, as this would only be the third place I've had my work hanging up in public. So, it's boosting my confidence as an artist by legitimizing what I'm doing. I haven't actually sold a single piece, so hopefully by having it hanging up in the museum, that might change," Wright said.

"Monarch on Sunflower" by Liz Ford-Coates

"What inspired 'Monarch on Sunflower' was a convergence of several ideas. I'm endlessly inspired by the flora and fauna of the natural world. From this reverence, I think about larger environmental



Liz Ford-Coates with "Monarch on Sunflower"

stewardship issues and what I can do as an individual. As a multimedia artist I find myself drawn to new ideas and techniques, and lately have been experimenting with contemporary art quilting," Ford-Coates said.

"Historically, hand sewing and traditional quilting was a necessity and utility; often re-using fabric and textiles due to material scarcity. The end result is most often a work of beauty that becomes an heirloom. In that spirit, I chose to utilize as many recycled textiles in this piece as I could manage. The issue that we face today isn't textile scarcity, it's textile pollution. With that in mind, recycling old textiles into new art would, in a small way, address environmental issues at large and especially within the modern textiles industry. It challenged me as an artist to be resourceful and inventive, perhaps in ways much earlier generations of quilters could recognize in this contemporary form.

"After planting milkweed, I now have monarchs that visit my garden every season. I find their beauty captivating and their plight especially compelling. Choosing an endangered species as the subject matter for work in reclaimed textile materials seemed like an intuitive and purposeful exercise. I hope people that come to visit the Springfield Art Museum to see this work will appreciate the story and construction of this piece. I wanted to share something beautiful and thought-provoking with our community. Having this opportunity is part of my effort to encourage environmental awareness, an appreciation and advocacy for wildlife, their habitats and ultimately the ecosystems in which we are all connected," she added.

"Professor Louie" by Nadine Ellman

"My piece, 'Professor Louie' is a portrait of my standard poodle. This work is watercolor on paper. I captured his personality in the layers of colors which added an element of whimsy. I have been painting using watercolor for approximately four years. I enjoy the freedom it allows in color and flow," Ellman said.



See more from Rountree artists

**Vivian Boswell, Nancy Dornan,
Josh Mitchell & Kim Salsman**
in the Rountree section on pages 22 -23.



Little Free Libraries, pantry spread literacy, hope and goodwill

By Juliana Goodwin, for SGFNN



619 E. Lynn St.,
Midtown Neighborhood

Little Free Libraries are popping up all over Springfield.

I became familiar with the movement in 2015, when I went for a stroll in my neighborhood and walked past Kara Daniel's house, 834 S. Mission Circle.

At first, it looked like there was a giant birdhouse

outside her home, but I noticed books inside so I went over to investigate. The sign said Little Free Library, and offered for me to take a book, or leave a book. I was delighted. How neighborly. I borrowed Dora the Explorer for my 2-year-old, and went home and googled Little Free Library (LFL).

LFL started in 2009 in Wisconsin when Todd Bol built a one-room schoolhouse in his yard in honor of his mother, a teacher, and stocked it with books. The neighbors loved it, and soon he teamed up with someone from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and they decided to form a nonprofit and spread a network of free libraries around the world.

There are 26 registered LFL in Springfield.

"I would venture to guess there are more libraries in the community that are not registered because of the cost," says Daniel.

People who start these libraries do so at their own expense. There's the cost of building the structure, and then another \$40 to register it with the LFL network to secure a spot on the global map and receive a charter sign.

For most people who erect these libraries, the goal is to share or foster a love of reading, but it also builds a sense of community. Neighbors often rally around the library and donate books.

Daniel has come home to find boxes of books on her doorstep. When she receives a large donation, Daniel "spreads the love" with other library owners. A Facebook group connects this network of LFL owners, who post when they need books or have a plethora.

Springfield's first LFL was registered in November 2012, at 1616 S. Fremont, thanks to Holly Graves. Graves read an article about LFL on the internet and shared it with her husband, who didn't seem interested. A few weeks later, he went to the basement and built one for his wife as a surprise.

In autumn 2016, Amanda Stadler started one at 1886 N. Robberson, in the Woodland Heights neighborhood.

"They are so cool. I love reading and have a



First registered LFL in Springfield, Delaware Neighborhood

whole lot of books I loved and wanted to pass on to good homes. I like the idea of engaging with my neighborhood more. Since we are by the park, people who don't live in the neighborhood use it," she says.

Stadler can count on a steady supply of donations to stock her library from people who use it or see it.

When Daniel outgrew her first library, her dad built another — double the size.

"We donated our library to the Child Development Center so they can get a library going there. They haven't got it set up but it's in the works," Daniel says.

Her daughter Natalee stamps the books with a stamp that reads: "Natalee's Little Free Library, Always a Gift — Never for Sale." This also prevents people from taking the books and reselling them.

Natalee's Girl Scout Troop is trying to establish four more libraries in the community.

"Two won't be registered. One at the Girl Scout Council office, another they are looking at a nursing home; they hope to do one in Hickory Hills district, and Hickory Hills school," Daniel says.

You can learn more about the Little Free Library at littlefreelibrary.org.

Daniel is willing to speak to organizations who want to learn more or may be interested in starting their own. If you are interested, email her at karadaniel@yahoo.com.



Recently, something else wonderful has bubbled up from this movement: a Little Free Pantry, which applies the LFL concept as a way to address food insecurity.

Read more about the Little Free Pantry in the Oak Grove section on page 21.

Kindergarten registration WHY YOU SHOULDN'T WAIT

By Laura Schulteis,
Robberson Community School, for SGFNN

There are many reasons parents often wait to register their children for kindergarten and one big reason why they shouldn't. Below are some reasons parents might wait to get it done and answers to help them get going.

I'M NOT SURE MY CHILD WILL BE OLD ENOUGH.

Children must be 5 years old before Aug. 1 to be eligible to enroll for kindergarten.

I DIDN'T KNOW I NEEDED TO REGISTER.

Every child who is not enrolled in an SPS preschool program such as Wonder Years, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), ECSE Integrated Classroom, and the Missouri Preschool Program (MPP) needs to enroll. If your child was in one of these programs, your home school may still require additional paperwork.

I'M NOT SURE WHICH SCHOOL IS OURS?

Call the SPS Records office at 417-523-0007 or Transportation at 417-523-0500. You can also view the attendance boundaries online — www.spsmo.org. Click on the Academics tab > Families > Maps & Boundaries.

I'M WAITING. WE MIGHT MOVE.

Don't wait. Go ahead and enroll your child in your neighborhood school. If you do move, your child's records will be transferred to their new school.

I'M NOT GOOD WITH COMPUTERS.

You don't need to be. Your school's secretary has paper copies of the enrollment application. She will be happy to help you out. If you do have access to a computer, information can be found on the spsmo.org home page. Look for "Kindergarten Registration."

I'M INTIMIDATED BY THE PROCESS.

While the process has several steps, it's easy to do.

- **Schedule immunizations.** Check with your doctor or call the Springfield-Greene County Health Dept. at 417-874-1220. Immunizations don't need to be completed before registering your child, but they do need to be completed before the first day of school; Aug. 15.
- **Schedule your child's kindergarten screening** by calling the Office of School Readiness at 417-523-1333. Like immunizations, the screening doesn't have to be done before registration.
- **Gather supporting documents.** You will need proof of residence (such as a utility bill or lease agreement), your child's official birth certificate, a copy of your child's social security card, and your child's immunization record.

Take the above supporting documents to your child's school to register.

WAIT! I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS!

SPS staff is happy to help you. Call your school secretary or the Office of School Readiness at 417-523-1333.

WHAT'S THE ONE BIG REASON WHY I SHOULD DO IT NOW INSTEAD OF IN JUNE OR JULY?

The one big reason is your child. Schools need to know how many students they are going to have in order to plan for the amount of teachers they need. Waiting could result in larger class sizes. Registering now benefits everyone, but especially your child.

Let each speak the truth with his neighbor

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

The Neighborhood Advisory Council's charge is to provide advice to City Council and key City staff about issues of concern to them and that impact neighborhoods. In providing such guidance, NAC has frequently asked for input from the City's 18 registered neighborhoods through their various association representatives.

This input is typically combined with independent study of a given topic, which together become the basis for recommendations. I guess in some small way, we've tried to have our process seek truth. Perhaps St. Paul summed it up pretty well when he said, "Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another."

We as neighbors in our various neighborhoods really are members of one another, and in that sense, we impact each other and we need one another.

Over the time that I have been NAC chair, there have been a variety of questions that NAC has tackled in the way I have described, and so I thought I would outline some of the insights gained and project the same approach of truth-seeking to some other issues present to us today. Maybe as we think about them, we can better formulate ways to improve our neighborhoods and our membership one to another.

Online sales provide each of us access to a great many products and services with an ease that was unimaginable just a few years ago. It is also causing many local jobs and businesses to be lost, and our city to lose millions in sales tax revenue that we each rely on for police, fire protection and a myriad of other services. We each bear a part in those negative impacts when we make purchases that do not collect sales tax.

Here in Springfield, it is my understanding that there is a trash hauler that charged one client \$68 per quarter, and an elderly widow three blocks away \$112 for essentially the same weekly trash pickup. Elsewhere in town, that same company **charged one customer \$36 and another \$66. Around the country, most major cities have consolidated systems** and the rates paid are typically lower than any of these

figures. That same hauler sent a postcard to its customer base recommending each contact their City Council representatives to stop studying trash consolidation. Many did. City staff was prepared to provide education about the local waste removal business to the public as a means to engender informed opinions. City Council voted 5 to 4 to shut this down and consider the matter no further. That measure to shut down was publicly posted late on a Friday and the vote was taken the following Monday.

Time and again, when asked, residents list **crime and nuisance properties as the top concerns** in their neighborhoods. City staff and City Council have ushered in ordinance changes and reorganized staffs to help address these matters. Ordinance changes do not improve the conditions in neighborhoods, but enforcement of them does. The new director of Building Development Services (the department responsible for much of that enforcement) says he needs many more inspectors in order to keep up with the mountain of violations that are out there. It remains to be seen if the City Council will adopt a budget that provides for the additional enforcement officers.

As of late February, there are well over 100 **short-term stay rental houses** operating in violation of zoning ordinances in Springfield. Most advertise under Airbnb and similar websites. At a recent City Council public hearing on the topic, over 20 individuals rose to express opinions. All of those who lived near existing short-term stay rentals told stories of noise, congested parking and fear of strangers coming and going in their neighborhoods. Many who operated these rentals lauded them.

One neighborhood association representative requested that there be an ordinance passed allowing a neighborhood to vote to allow or not allow them in their neighborhood. Another recommended the proposed ordinances be less restrictive. There is evidence elsewhere in the country that living next door to an STSR can erode property value. In contrast, STSR owners have also been credited with improving neighborhoods by cleaning up what were otherwise derelict properties.

Like a lot of issues that come before City Council, they must weigh the potential for negative impacts to a neighborhood, the fair and reasonable expectations of residents who rely on the protections of zoning ordinances, and the economic value of STSRs. No doubt, a difficult challenge.

Last year, Springfield Public Schools tried and failed to get a bond issue passed. NAC's study of the issue found that many whose neighborhoods would have been slated for a school closure or consolidation did not feel the proposed benefits of the changes would offset the impact to their neighborhoods, primarily because the proposed changes were not designed to improve learning outcomes in any demonstrable way.

In their follow-up report, school system officials have indicated that



many voters felt the bond issue was "too big." In their study, did they ask too big for what? Had they asked that question, would the answer have been different? For example, was the request too big if the proposed investments had been designed to improve learning outcomes by proven means? Would my kid have gotten a better education if the investments had been made? Was that case made? So today, we see the school system again studying neighborhood school consolidations with the closed school buildings proposed to be used for regional preschool operations and other purposes. So it follows that under the proposal, more young kids would go to school outside their neighborhoods and start doing so at earlier ages. Will this improve learning outcomes, and how will it impact the neighborhoods? How will parents of meager means be impacted?

Recently, we saw student protests calling for gun legislation. Guns are tools. They were necessary tools in creating our country, preserving our freedom, protecting us from crime, assuring our farms are not decimated by deer, and yes, are used by criminals and the deranged. They also play central roles in the products of the entertainment industry. It is easy to recommend for "reasonable" gun legislation, but not so easy to figure out exactly what that would be.

By analogy, consider the smartphone. Today, a vast number of us place them in the hands of children. They provide a vehicle for learning and communication, as well as a tool that incites bullying, reduces acquisition of social skills, exposes millions of youngsters to pornography, acts on our brains like addictive drugs, and in some cases are the catalysts for distraught students to find a gun and start shooting. Are we ready to speak truth about these issues, and engage in the hard work of figuring out what can work, or are we OK with some quick attention-grabbing sound bites and finger-pointing in a society that spurns personal responsibility?

There are certainly other issues that tear at the fabric of our neighborhoods. My home was recently burglarized. Springfield Police Officer Nicolas York came by and did a great job investigating. The total number of property crimes in Springfield (stolen vehicles, burglary, theft/larceny) rose by 5 percent in 2017. Property crime is a significant issue that affects every Springfield neighborhood.

The prevalence of domestic violence also continues to impact us in a great many ways. Obesity, health issues, isolation are but several of the other issues that impact us.

I haven't tried to recommend future actions above, but rather to request that we each take to heart St Paul's recommendation to put away falsehood, speak truth one neighbor to another, and from that, formulate actions that go to the heart of our challenges. Perhaps we can also encourage our City staff and City Council to always have the courage to make good decisions in light of truth.

2018 Neighborhood Advisory Council



Back row, left to right: Betty Green, Robberson; Pete Radecki, NAC chair; Christina Dicken, Doling; Jeff Barber, Rountree; Eric Pauly, Phelps Grove; Kevin Evans, Delaware. Middle row: Chandra Palmer, Bissett; Dellene Nelson, Bradford Park; Carol McCarthy, Greater Parkcrest; Linda Passeri, Woodland Heights; Kathleen Cowens, West Central; Scott Michaels. Tom Watkins. Front row: Pauletta Dunn, Heart of the Westside; Wendell Royster, Oak Grove; Kathy Lutz, Grant Beach; Dee Ogilvy, Midtown; Candy Smith, Westside; and Mark Maynard, Weller.

BISSETT NEIGHBORHOOD

Bissett's needs: Less crime, more help for those in poverty and violent homes

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN



The Bissett Neighborhood Association is conducting a survey of neighborhood needs, and while we are still open to receiving more responses, we've compiled some of the early findings. In the past, top needs focused on chronic nuisance

properties, but this issue has moved down the list.

Today, the top need is to reduce property crimes such as vandalism and burglary. Next are needs to help those in poverty and a desire to have a closer engagement between the neighborhood and Bissett Elementary School. Fourth is dealing with nuisance properties and rounding out the top five is a need to reduce family violence.

While none of these issues are new in and of themselves, they do show a shift. The fact that nuisance property issues have dropped suggests that the work done in recent years by the City to streamline nuisance property-related ordinances and step up enforcement is working. As an example, the improvements along Nichols Street are quite significant.

Burglary and vandalism have also been on the list in the past, but are now center stage. We certainly appreciate having our PAR officer come to our monthly meetings to hear our concerns. Beyond this, we are looking into speakers who might come

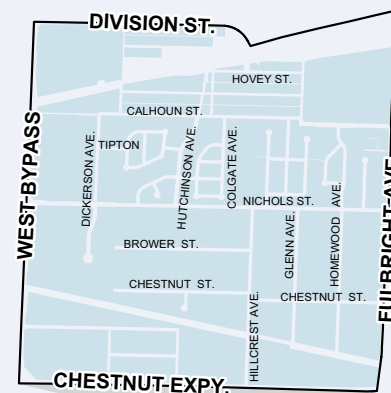
and talk about steps we can take to address the issue. For example, what we can learn about home security options. Some new inexpensive systems are available that can provide alerts on smartphones, and of course there are various contracted services. We might also look to see if there is more interest in neighborhood or block watch programs. We've never had much interest in the past to really launch such efforts. We also want to learn if there are challenges that the police face in trying to do their jobs.

Last year, BNA conducted its annual Neighborhood Night Out in conjunction with Bissett Elementary's Open House, and it was a great success with about 400 attending. BNA has also raised money and provided donations to the school and supports the PTA activities. We expect there will be opportunities to advance this relationship further as the pavilion gets built this year in L.A. Wise Park, which is right next door to the school.

When we think about helping those in poverty and reducing family violence, the plight of individuals and their loved ones is central. They are often persons trapped in difficult situations. As a neighborhood association, we'll be looking to explore ways that people may find escape or at least temporary respite. We'll also want to learn more about the key stressors that result in poverty and violent behavior, and what can be done to help mitigate them.

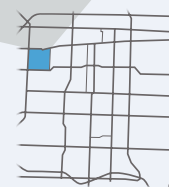
We encourage those in our neighborhood or who are interested to come to one of our monthly meetings. The potluck dinners before the meetings make for a nice night out and an opportunity to talk about some of these issues. Maybe we can work together to help those in need. After all, our motto is "Neighbors helping Neighbors."

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 10: Regular monthly meeting will be suspended so all can attend the Zone 1 Town Hall meeting with Phyllis Ferguson at 6 p.m. at York Elementary, 2100 W. Nichols.

May 8: 6:30–7:30 p.m./6 p.m. optional potluck
@ Bissett Elementary School (3014 W. Calhoun)

June 12: 6:30–7:30 p.m./6 p.m. optional potluck
@ Faith Assembly of God Church (3001 W. Division)



Bubba's BBQ renews Bissett Neighborhood Association membership

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

Last year, Brandon Grame, owner of Bubba's BBQ on West Bypass just north of Chestnut became our first business member, and we're excited that he decided to renew this year. Brandon showed his support by providing some of his excellent barbecue at one of our monthly meetings last year and he plans to do the same again this year. We're proud to have a good local business supporting us.

Last year Brandon expressed interest in finding ways to improve L.A. Wise Park, and so we're doubly excited about the pavilion slated to be built in the park this year thanks to the Neighborhood Works Program. BNA expects to start holding some events there as time goes on. We think it will become a great venue for family gatherings, birthday celebrations, respite for those using the park on hot summer days, and a nice spot to brown bag a lunch — maybe even some of that Bubba's BBQ!



Bissett Neighborhood Cleanup June 2 8 a.m. – Noon

Dumpsters will be located at
Bissett Elementary
3014 W. Calhoun

Accepted Items:
Trash, Brush, & Metal

Curbside pickup is available,
but fees may apply

To schedule a curbside pickup
contact Pete Radecki at
417-988-1257

For more information contact:

Amanda Stadler
417-888-2020

BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

Bradford Park celebrates 10 years as registered neighborhood

By Dellene Nelson, for SGFNN

Thanks to the City's assessment program 10 years ago, the Bradford Park neighborhood will celebrate its 10th successful year as a registered neighborhood. We accomplished a lot in 10 years with the support of our city, board members and neighbors, who have been generous with their time and memberships.

Some highlights of the past 10 years in Bradford Park include:

- neighborhood cleanups
- establishing a neighborhood watch
- meetings and fun events such as the Back the Blue rally and Bradford Park street festival
- support of Cowden Elementary

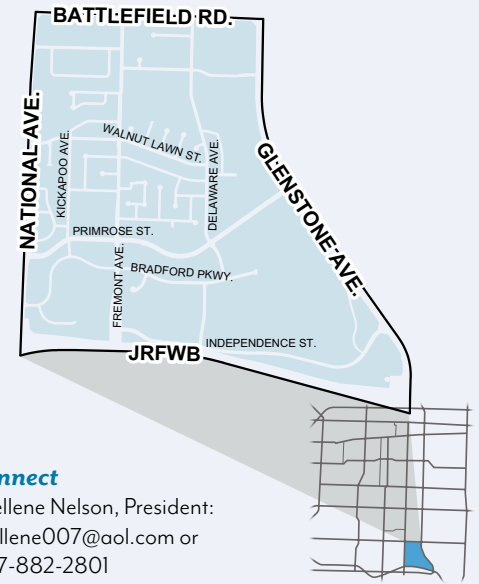
- newsletters, directories and welcome packets.

Bradford Park's board of directors comprises Dellene Nelson, president; Janet Wall, vice president; Ed Messerly, treasurer; Jacque Ford, secretary; at-large members Bobby Hamilton, Larry Forza, Rex Johnson, Terry Wright, Marlene Friedrich, Dennis and Marilyn Kemper.

We love our neighborhood location! it is so convenient to shopping, the medical mile and some of the best neighbors in the city.



Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 17 • May 15 • June 19: 6:30 p.m.
@ Immaculate Conception Church
(3555 S. Fremont Ave.)



Bradford Park resident celebrates 104th birthday

By Dellene Nelson, for SGFNN

Velma Shoemaker turned 104 on Jan. 26. Velma has lived in Bradford Park for 23 years, near her daughter-in law Phyllis Shoemaker, who has called the neighborhood home for more than 40 years.

When asked, do you remember the first President you voted for, Velma replied, "I did not have time for politics. I was busy working on the farm."

Bradford Park Neighborhood Cleanup

April 28
8 a.m. – Noon

Dumpsters will be located at
the end of Walnut Lawn
1320 E. Walnut Lawn St.

Accepted Items:

Trash, Brush, Metal, Leaves,
Tires, TVs (fees may apply for TVs)

Curbside pickup is available,
but fees may apply.

To schedule a curbside pickup
contact Dellene Nelson at
417-882-2801

BACK THE BLUE RALLY

April 17

5:30 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Church
3555 S. Fremont Ave.

Bring signs or anything blue and
festive to show support for our
Springfield Police officers.



SUMMER FUN WITH PARKS!



SPARC DAY CAMPS

at Ritter Springs Park and
other School-Park sites!

ZOO CAMPS

at Dickerson Park Zoo!



FARM CAMPS

at Rutledge-Wilson
Farm Park!

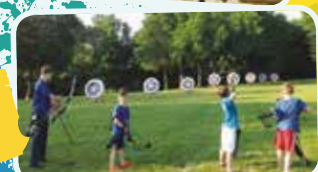
HORSE CAMPS

at Valley Water Mill
Equestrian Center!



JUNIOR GOLF

at Park Board
golf courses!



AND
MORE!

ARCHERY CAMPS

at Springfield Archery Complex!

PARKBOARD.ORG/CAMPS

DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD

New book details Doling Park's colorful history

By Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Park Board, for SGFNN

Did you know Doling Park once was home to Springfield's most popular roller skating rink? That it was developed as private amusement park? And that the reason it's a park at all is because of Giboney Cave?

These and other surprises are revealed in a new book detailing Doling Park's history, compiled by museum volunteer Gail Mitchell. Museum curator Peggy Mahan and volunteer Betty Maples helped compile the research. All three have ties to Doling Park spanning decades. The book is available for sale, but Mitchell says she's not finished yet: she's still looking for memories and other details local residents can add to Doling's story.

What's now a park was homesteaded by the Giboney family in the 1850s. The Giboney family lived there for three decades before Springfield businessman James Marshall Doling purchased the property in 1883. Legend has it that Mr. Doling's milk cow wandered off from his north Springfield home, and he discovered Giboney Cave and its scenic surroundings while searching for her.

Mr. Doling created the lake and developed Giboney Cave as a tourist attraction. He and other investors later added a roller skating rink, dance hall, bandstand, ball fields, penny arcade, boat rentals and Shoot-the-Chutes — a multi-story outdoor slide on which people rode flat-bottomed boats into Doling Lake.

The Park Board purchased Doling Park in 1929, and several attractions lasted into the 1950's and 1960s. Generations of Springfieldians fondly recall



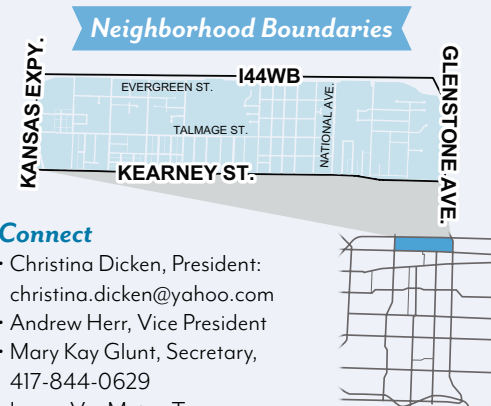
This undated photo from the Doling Roller Skating Rink shows area youth dressed for a Christmas program, featuring the Seven Dwarfs.

Credit: The History Museum on the Square.

bumper cars, Skee-Ball, the Wild Mouse, the Whip and Giggling Gertie. The roller rink, a central attraction at the park, operated until 1976.

Today, the 56-acre Doling Park is home to Doling Family Center, Northview Center and the Doling History Museum, dedicated to the park's colorful past. The museum, built in the footprint of the roller rink, is full of photos, artifacts, skating costumes and even pieces of the old amusement park. It's open April to October: Tuesdays 1-5 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m.-3 p.m., and Sundays 1-4 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

Mitchell, who volunteers at the Doling History Museum, spent the last two years compiling "The History of Doling Park (1850-2013)." Copies are \$25 and may be viewed and ordered at the Northview



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 17 • May 8 • June 12: 6:45 p.m. – 8 p.m.
6 p.m. optional potluck
@ Hillcrest Presbyterian Church
(818 E. Norton Road)



Center, 417-837-5808.

Mitchell is always seeking new stories and photos to add to the collection. Do you or your family have fond memories of Doling Park? Share them with Doling Museum! Get in touch with museum staff through Northview Center at 417-837-5808, or email NVC@springfieldmo.gov.



Plan an awesome block party with help of Doling tool kit

By Linda Leicht, for SGFNN

As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, it's time to think about organizing a block party.

Doling neighbors have the unique opportunity to have an amazing party for the residents of their block, thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks that paid for the Doling Neighborhood Association Block Party Toolkit, complete with tables, chairs, a grill, a snow cone maker, tons of games and even a bounce house.

And it is all free to the folks in the Doling neighborhood.

"It's a great way to get to know your neighbors," said PAR Officer Chris Laughlin, Doling's community cop. Laughlin will stop by your block party and help give an informative presentation about Block Watch, a way to keep everyone safe by looking out for our neighbors.

Linda Clark was one of the first Doling residents to take advantage of the tool kit and organize a block party for her neighbors around West Kerr Street. With at least 60 people attending, nearly every house in the neighborhood was represented.

"I knew the neighbors would come," said Clark. "I wanted to get to know my neighbors." One big surprise was to discover connections between neighbors that sometimes go back generations. It is an old neighborhood, with folks who have lived



there their whole lives.

Diana Flannigan met a neighbor who is in the same fishing club as her son, Scott. Since the block party, neighbors know each other by face, by name and even by special interests, she said.

But the most important thing that came out of the party is that "we look out for each other," said Clark. "We have a phone connection going. We are more alert."

So, when Alan and Dawn Edes purchased land along Kerr last fall and started building a home, the neighbors were quick to introduce themselves and welcome the Edes family to the neighborhood, and when two suspicious fires claimed their storage building and travel trailer, the neighbors stepped up.

Neighbors bought food, set up a fund raiser, and have kept a close eye on the property to make sure

it doesn't happen again. "It was the first time total strangers showed such love," said Edes.

That is the power of a block party.

But it's full of fun, too!

The \$22,500 grant allowed the neighborhood association to purchase a self-contained, enclosed trailer to hold everything needed to host a successful and fun block party.

All you have to do is go to doling.setmore.com. There, you will be able to schedule a date for your party. Once the reservation is confirmed, you will receive an information packet along with invitations to deliver to all your neighbors. The neighborhood association can help you get a special event permit to block off your street, if you choose to do that.

On the day of the party, your Block Party Tool Kit will be delivered. The trailer will include tables, chairs, tents, a snow cone machine and supplies, a grill and all its equipment, drink dispensers, extension cords, a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, coolers and more. You can even request a popcorn popper with supplies and a movie projector and screen.

There are enough games included to make anyone happy and keep everyone busy, and the kids will love the Ninja Jump Bounce House.

While neighbors are encouraged to bring dishes to share with each other, the kit includes 40 hotdogs

and buns, 40 burgers and buns, cheese slices, condiments and even paper plates, napkins and plastic silverware.

It can't get any easier to throw a successful block party. But you might want to add some of your own excitement, too.

That's what Clark did when she invited some friends who have a band to perform for the event. She is going to host another block party this year. "The band wants to do another one, too," she said.

If watching the crocus bloom and the redbuds popping out has you thinking about spring and summer, it's time for you to start planning your block party.

Just gather a few of your neighbors to help with the planning, pick a date and a location, and the Block Party Tool Kit will provide everything you need to have the best party ever.

Doling Neighborhood Cleanup

May 12
8 a.m. – Noon

Dumpsters will be located at
Christ the King Church
2537 N. Broadway Ave.

Accepted Items:

Trash, Brush, Metal, Tires, TVs
(fees may apply for TVs)

*Curbside pickup is available.
but fees may apply.*

To schedule a curbside pickup
contact Mary Kay Glunt at
417-844-0629

For more information contact:
Amanda Stadler, 417-888-2020

GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD

KOLR 10 awards Grant Beach's Pauletta Dunn a Jefferson Award

By Lauren Barnas, KOLR 10, for SGFNN

*Reprinted with permission from OzarksFirst.com/
Nexstar Broadcasting. Visit OzarksFirst.com to view
the original story.*

Pauletta Dunn is KOLR10's next Jefferson Award recipient, nominated for nearly 40 years of service in the Grant Beach neighborhood.

She's a woman as colorful as her community, and as strong as the pillars on which Grant Beach was built. With style as eclectic as a Christmas tree in February, Dunn was hard to miss when she laid roots in 1980.

"When I moved into this neighborhood 38 years ago it was on the decline, big time," Dunn said.

But they say the best investments to make are in children. If that's true, Grant Beach can thank Dunn for her hefty contribution.

"When you get nine kids through the school, they remember who you are, for no other reason than you had nine kids," Dunn said. "They range from 24, to my oldest would've turned 42 this year."

Those were just her biological kids. Dunn also ran an in-home daycare for several years, and raised other children through kinship care. After all, she says the neighborhood needed a little youth.

"If you're familiar with neighborhood associations, if you ever walk into a meeting, it's like the old people class in church," Dunn said.

Like any mother, when something needed fixing, Dunn fixed it. She started up a sports league right there in the neighborhood. To keep it self-sustaining, there is a small price for concessions. Even that won't break the bank.

"People come up and they'll say 'I need popcorn' and they'll say 'a quarter?' We're either really stupid or really nice, but we did the math and we're still making money," Dunn said.

And when the neighborhood needed cleaning, Dunn got it done.

"We did those before there was ever City money for that," she said. "I remember when the City called me and says, 'Pauletta, cleanups are in the City budget. You are now a line item in the City budget.'"

Now, she maintains Hovey House, a public space for after-school tutoring and \$1 piano lessons. While names aren't mentioned, Dunn admits she's had her favorites.

"There's this group of kids. They're always the ones in trouble, but they're not really 'in trouble in trouble.' To me, those are my favorite kids because they have personality," Dunn said.

Ultimately, that's what she found to be the cure for an exhausted neighborhood, but nothing big hoops and bigger ambition couldn't fix.

To learn more about the Jefferson Awards visit jeffersonawards.org.

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Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Kathy Lutz, President:
kathylutz1000@gmail.com or
417-501-8878
- Pauletta Dunn, Vice President
- Kristina Wilmoth, Secretary
- Lori Ross, Treasurer
- Hovey House: 417-942-2456 or
gbna.email@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 16 • May 21 • June 18: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m./
6 p.m. optional potluck @ St. Joseph Catholic Church-
Parish Hall (1115 N. Campbell Ave.)

grantbeachneighborhood.org



The *Springfield Community Land Trust* (SCLT) is a local nonprofit that creates an opportunity for working, low to moderate income families to become homeowners. SCLT homes are extensively remodeled or new construction and are equipped with energy efficient features designed to reduce the cost of home ownership. More information about income qualifications and an online application is available at the SCLT website, springfieldclt.org or contact LeeAnn Camey, SCLT Director at 417-631-4482

DO YOU KNOW?

Kristina Wilmoth, Grant Beach *By Kevin L. Carter, for SGFNN*

I have lived in Grant Beach for two and a half years. My husband and I have six kids. As soon as I am done working for the day, I go home, put on my fuzzy slippers, keep my coffee cup full, and read.

Each weekend, my family goes to The Library Station to exchange books, play with toys, and relax before going back home for movie night with popcorn, candy and lots of blankets. We eat dinner at The Fairbanks with our neighbors three nights a week.

I am employed by Missouri State University as The Northwest Project program manager. My passions have led me to utilize my talents and time to help in my neighborhood and community. I serve as secretary of GBNA, PR chair for Missouri PTA, and I belong to many local PTA units. I love seeing tangible work accomplished right here in our neighborhood through collaboration and local grassroots efforts.

I love that my job, volunteer work, church and kids' schools are all in the neighborhood. I walk to work, dropping my sons off at daycare on my way. I see my neighbors, wave at kids walking to school, and usually stop to chat with the mailman (who keeps up with all my kids and asks about them). It's the life I dreamt of having.

I'm brand new to the Grant Beach executive committee this year. I have worked at The Fairbanks for over four years and in my current position with Missouri State University for one year.

I got involved with GBNA when I attended GBNA general assembly meetings as the community engagement coordinator for The Drew Lewis Foundation starting three years ago.

My favorite part of Grant Beach Neighborhood Association? Attending meetings and spending time at Hovey House. It's like relaxing and catching up with my family. My daily life is very busy, performance-driven and full of pressure. When I

arrive at Hovey House for a meeting, I know the house will be warm, fresh coffee will be ready or brewing, and there will be many neighbors ready to welcome me and ask about my day. They are truly invested in me and my family. They remember my kids' birthdays, follow my family on social media, and notice when I don't feel well. I need that in my life!

The one program that benefits me and my family is the sports programs. This is the only way my family can afford to be a part of a group sport. We are very busy and have six kids, so affording sports means budgeting our money and time wisely. GBNA sports at our Grant Beach Park overcomes all the barriers my family struggles with.

I believe everyone has gifts, talents and ways to give back to their community. They should look different for each individual because we all bring something unique to the table. I love to give my organizational skills (I'm detail-oriented), my social media and marketing experience, and my ability to prevent folks from reinventing the wheel to instead collaborate to make a greater impact.

My family and I have been a part of Grant Beach for a short time, but I've never seen a neighborhood more passionate about their community. I've seen that passion grow and I hear from many neighbors that the collective desire of GBNA leaders is to grow our neighborhood association by engaging more young families and business partners. I feel that's exactly what we should be focused on.

In the near future I want to see more young professionals and families engaged in the association, in the activities at Hovey House and in sports at Grant Beach Park. I envision Saturday mornings at the park, watching the kids play soccer, adults gathering to cheer and share life together. I look forward to this neighborhood growing in those experiences, attracting families to invest in our neighborhood and stay here.



Kristina's motto:

"We all have 24 hours in each day to make a difference, touch another life, and make the next 24 hours even brighter. What are you doing with your 24 hours?"

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.

Hot dogs, apple pie – and Grant Beach Sports League Baseball

By Darlene Steele, for SGFNN

Nothing is more American than kids on a baseball field!

It's hard to believe that summer is coming, but it really is. With that brings Grant Beach Sports summer baseball. Grant Beach Park has been home to Grant Beach Sports for about a decade. Three individuals began the program but then the Park Board insisted that Grant Beach Neighborhood pick it up for it to continue. So Pauletta Dunn stepped up and with a team of volunteers has run the program successfully ever since.

While the program recently suffered a downturn in participation, we are happy to announce that with a new season comes good changes. Yolanda Taylor is once again in charge of coaches and rosters. Yolanda was a 2017 recipient of the Gift of Time Award, and for good reason. Yolanda is truly a team player and is always available for communication from coaches and parents. She has years of experience with her own kids as well as

coaching teams. She will bring back much-needed knowledge, skills and organization to the program.

We are also excited to announce a return to our original mission with a lowered price of \$10. Grant Beach Sports was never about making money. It has always been intended as a self-sustaining program to benefit the community by offering low-cost, non-competitive team sports so that all children can have the opportunity to participate. For \$10, participants receive a T-shirt and six weeks of play. You won't find a better deal anywhere in town or a better group of people to support your little sports star!

Early bird registration is happening now through May 5 for \$10. After that, the price goes up to \$20. Registration forms will come home through the schools, be available during soccer games on Saturday mornings or you can stop by Hovey House at 800 W. Hovey to register. Forms are on the door along with background checks for coaches. We ALWAYS need more coaches!



Games will begin June 7 and continue through July on Thursday or Friday evenings or Saturday mornings, depending on the age and number of teams. Concessions are available at the games. Don't forget to grab your 25-cent bag of popcorn to support the program!

For questions or more information, contact Yolanda Taylor at 417-952-5735 or Hovey House at 417-942-2456. Play ball!

Grant Beach Community Garden returns to independent operation

By Darlene Steele, for SGFNN

“Gardeners instinctively know that flowers and plants are a continuum and that the wheel of garden history will always be coming full circle.”

– Francis Cabot Lowell

Every gardener knows that gardens are ever evolving, living experiments at the mercy of Mother Nature, human labor and even politics. The Grant Beach Community Garden is no exception.

Founded in 2010 through the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association, the Grant Beach Community Garden at 800 W. Hovey was a flagship community garden in Springfield. Out of the Grant Beach Community Garden sprang Springfield Community Gardens, an organization whose mission is to encourage community gardening.

The Grant Beach garden is entering a new phase that will hopefully be its best yet. Garden guru Richard Napieralski has resumed his role at the garden and has great expectations for the growing season to come. Grant Beach Community Garden is once again an independent neighborhood garden by a vote of the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association.

Springfield Community Gardens was generous

enough to host a seed swap March 10 at the Drew Lewis Foundation at The Fairbanks to benefit Grant Beach Community Garden at Hovey House. We expect seeds to be planted and growing to happen!

While we are happy to see grant money flow into Springfield Community Gardens which rents office space and land for The Market Garden from The Fairbanks in the Grant Beach neighborhood, we know from experience that gardening at its most basic level is about building community and growing food.



Kiosk

There is no greater visual evidence of this than at the Grant Beach Community Garden kiosk. Grant Beach Community Garden was founded with the sole purpose of distributing fresh produce to those in the neighborhood who need it. Anyone can access the kiosk.

There are no applications, lotteries, dues or rigorous vetting of recipients. While it is hoped and appreciated that those who receive produce will spend some time volunteering in the garden, it is never a requirement to receive food. No one has



ever been refused for any reason. Take what you need. Leave something for someone else.

Grant Beach Community Garden has grown up and realized that its roots are in the community. A plant is only as good as the soil it is grown in and for us that soil was made at 800 W. Hovey. Grant Beach Community Garden will harvest the benefits of community and be better for it. We wish Springfield Community Gardens well.

If you want to get your hands dirty in the Grant Beach Community Garden stop by 800 W. Hovey, contact Richard Napieralski, come to a GBNA general meeting on the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at St. Joseph's Parish Hall or attend the monthly Grant Beach Community Garden Committee meetings held at Hovey House.

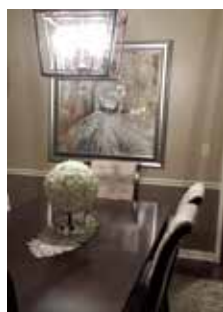


Richard Napieralski

GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD

Attention to function, ambiance and personality guarantees decorating success

By Nicholas Falls, for SGFNN



Your home should be your well-decorated sanctuary. However, a beautifully decorated space should also be functional, create ambiance, and articulate the personality of those that live there. Attention to these three details will guarantee decorating success.

Before changing wall colors and moving furniture, spend time thinking about how you live. Get inspiration from magazines and tear out ideas and rooms that speak to you for later reference.

Gather things from around the house that have significance, value or make you feel good. By examining these items you should be able to easily choose your new color palette and decide on the mood you're looking for. This is the beginning of a well-planned household.

Function

Interior design is more than just visual appeal – it's making a space work with how you live.

Focal points: Some rooms have obvious focal points (fireplaces, bookcases, architectural elements). For rooms that don't you must create one using an oversized piece of art, a colorful area rug or exaggerated draperies.

Furniture: Decide which pieces are either too large or too small for the room and get rid of them or trade them out for something appropriate.

Lighting is everything

Proper lighting should be selected that fulfills the functional needs for the area but also entices visual appeal. Try not to use overhead lighting except for in the kitchen. Shy away from CFL and incandescent bulbs. Using non-daylight LEDs or halogens is best.

Ambiance

The feeling a space gives you is created by your choice of colors, furniture style and accessories.

Begin with one single piece that inspires you and let that set the tone for how things should feel or flow.

Keep the wall colors rich yet neutral. Bring in pops of color using the pieces previously mentioned. Doing this will allow you to easily create different looks later without starting over or breaking the bank.

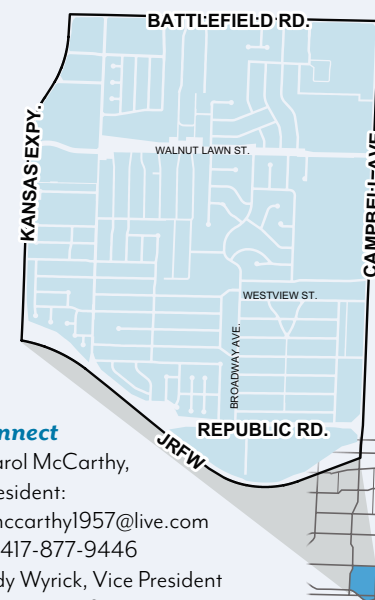
Personality

Accessorizing: Art, greenery, vases, area rugs, pillows, sculptures, books and candles should all be part of the design plan. Stay away from obvious themes. If possible, electronic devices should be out of sight when not in use.

These days there really is no absolute design rule book. The best advice is not to overthink things.

If it excites you a lot and scares you a little, it

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

April 19: 6 – 7 p.m. @ The Way Church (903 W. Katella St.)



probably means you should do it!

Imagine what could be ...

Nicholas Falls is a design integration specialist for Interior Innovations & Design. He lives in the Greater Parkcrest neighborhood.

Heart of the Westside mourns Tammy Haynes

By Kevin L. Carter, for SGFNN



Tammy Lou Haynes, longtime president of Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association, passed away Jan. 17, after battling cancer. She was 51.

Haynes was involved in The Northwest Project and was a volunteer at The Fairbanks.

Springfield Zone 1 City Councilwoman

Phyllis Ferguson said Haynes was very engaged in as president of the neighborhood association.

"She was more than a person who would call the

meeting to order and run it," said Ferguson. "She was a real neighborhood grassroots person."

Ferguson said Haynes was also personally involved in her neighbors' lives.

"If they needed a ride to the grocery, she'd load them into her van and haul them over there. She'd make food and take food to people. She just did what was needed to help people get by."

Haynes is survived by four children, seven grandchildren and a large extended family. She was buried in January in her hometown of Houston, Texas.

A tree will be planted in her memory later this spring at Nichols Park.

Additional information for this article was provided by Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

Nichols Park to become 'destination' playground

New playgrounds planned for Nichols, Cooper, Meador and Tom Watkins parks

By Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Park Board, for SGFNN

The biggest playground in town is coming to Nichols Park.

The 17-acre park, established in 1952 at 1900 W. Nichols Ave., will have a colorful new interactive playground in place this spring.

"This will be the largest single playground unit that we'll have on any of our properties," said Springfield-Greene County Park Board Assistant Director Miles Park. "The closest comparison we have is the playground at Dan Kinney Park. It'll be a destination playground."

The new Nichols Park playground includes a main structure with five slides, multiple climbing structures, two towers, sound effects, a telescope and rotating ShadowPlay features. Nearby there are four kinds of swings, a seated Merry-Go-All and plenty of shaded benches. The playground incorporates Universal design, which is accessible to kids of all abilities, including complete ramp access, ADA-accessible swings, three slides with ADA transfer platforms and a rubberized tile surface throughout.

Park said he's looking forward to seeing kids discover the interactive ShadowPlay features.

"It resembles an oversized flower with multicolored petals," he said. "It all rotates with a hand crank, and the sunlight shines through the petals to make patterns on the ground, similar to a kaleidoscope."

The Nichols Park playground is funded through a federal Community Development Block Grant, coming to the City of Springfield through the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program. The same grant is funding new playground equipment at Cooper Park, Meador Park, and Tom Watkins Park, all planned to be installed this spring.

The HUD grant also funds new walking trails at Meador, Nichols and Tom Watkins parks, as well as a new section of Jordan Creek Greenway, along Bennett Street, between Cruse Dog Park and Ewing Park.

HUD funding is also in place for restrooms and a support structure at Tom Watkins Park, soccer goals at Nichols Park, and new picnic tables, park benches, signage at several locations. Plans and specifications are well underway for these projects.

The Park Board plans multiple ribbon cuttings for new playgrounds and other improvements in late spring or early summer.



Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Cody Parsons, President:
codycodemanparsens@gmail.com
or 573-480-5393
- Billy Cockrum, Vice President
- Jaydean Miller, Secretary

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 12 • May 10 • June 14: 6 – 7 p.m.

@ Passion Assembly of God (806 N. Forest)



Heart of the Westside elects new leadership

By Darlene Steele, for SGFNN

Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association began in 1993. While smaller than other surrounding neighborhoods, when you see Nichols Park and York Elementary School, you will know you are in Heart.

Heart suffered a loss at the beginning of this year. Longtime resident, advocate and Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association President Tammy Haynes passed away in January. Not willing to see the work Tammy had done fade away, friends stepped up to help reorganize the leadership and carry on what Tammy loved.

Thirty neighborhood residents and supporters met at Passion Assembly of God on Feb. 8. Out of that meeting three leaders stepped forward for Heart. Cody Parsons was elected president. Billy Cockrum was elected vice president. Jaydean Miller was elected secretary.



MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Meador Park becomes Springfield's 18th registered neighborhood

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

In February, the Meador Park Neighborhood Association was recognized by the City of Springfield as a registered neighborhood association.

This designation means that a neighborhood association has provided the City with proof that the organization is active; and that it has made efforts to involve residents and property owners from throughout the neighborhood in activities.

Registered neighborhoods receive the following from the City's Planning & Neighborhoods Office:

- Mailing labels with a master copy of all local addresses (and property owners addresses) that fall within the boundaries of the neighborhood.
- Service request data: a report is issued monthly

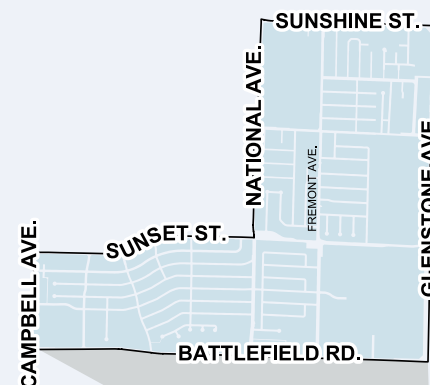
and contains all citizens' code complaints targeting areas within the neighborhood boundaries.

- Area zoning notices. Registered neighborhoods are notified of any zoning requests and updates within the area. This information is provided by the Development Review Office of the City's Planning Department.
- Neighborhood programs information: notices of neighborhood programs that the City or participating organizations offer.

Neighborhoods Office staff can provide residents with many resources to make neighborhood associations successful. Please feel free to contact Senior Planner Alana Owen with any questions at 417-864-1831.



Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Bobbi Ream, President: MPNAMO@yahoo.com or 417-883-3438
- Deb Oman, Vice President
- Sara Stubbins, Secretary
- Donna Clarkson, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings

- April 4 • May 2: 6 – 7 p.m.
@ Cowden Elementary School
(2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.)
- June 6: 6 – 7 p.m.
Location to be determined



MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

Springfield Community Gardens expands to Cox North kitchen

By Kaitlyn McConnell, CoxHealth, for SGFNN

Springfield Community Gardens (SGC) is growing – but this time, it's not food. It's space. The food-sharing garden group has moved into the Cox North kitchen, where a portion of the facility allows for the expansion of services, as well as education.

"We already had a garden adjacent to the Cox North property, so it made sense for us to rent space from the hospital," says Maile Auterson, director and co-founder of Springfield Community Gardens. "We're glad to partner with CoxHealth in this endeavor, since it will ultimately be a huge health benefit to the community by allowing us to teach people how to better utilize fresh produce."

It's something that CoxHealth leaders are excited about as well.

"Since CoxHealth's Springfield food operations have largely moved to Cox South, we had space that was perfect for this partnership," says Jason Bauer, system director for Food and Nutrition Services at CoxHealth. "CoxHealth has made improving the health of the community a priority, so the gardens' efforts are ones we really support."

The space was procured by SGC through a grant from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. Through it, SCG now has a location to wash, chop and prepare produce for the nearby C-Street Market, as well as make value-added products that



have a stable shelf life, such as pasta and dehydrated vegetables.

Additionally, it's a place that's perfect for community education sessions. Leaders will host small classes for garden leaders on preparing healthy produce, which ultimately will feed children at the Boys and Girls Club, men at the Victory Mission, the Life 360 daycare, and C-Street Market.

The space also allows the group to host chronic disease prevention classes, and educate the public on licensing requirements and everything needed to start a cottage industry food business, including creating a business plan.

Since SCG began in 2010, the group has grown to 21 gardens and distributed more than 375,000 pounds of food through Ozarks Food Harvest.

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

- April 9 • May 14 • June 11: 6 – 7 p.m.
@ Urban Neighborhood Alliance, on Cox North Hospital parking lot (918 E. Calhoun St.)

midtown-springfield-mo.com





C-Street designated 2018 Great Street in Missouri by American Planning Association

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

While Springfield already knew that Historic C-Street is a great place, the Missouri Chapter of the American Planning Association has made it official. APA has announced the designation of four Great Places in Missouri in 2018, and Commercial Street is the Great Street on the list.

"On behalf of the Commercial Street CID board, I want to try to express just how grateful and excited we are to be named a Great Place. Truth be told, we already knew we were great, but it is nice to have it made official," said CID board chair Gregg Johnson. "So many people have worked, sacrificed, and taken chances in order to make the C-Street area THE destination to eat, shop, drink, and see your friends. If you haven't been to C-Street lately, come on over and see what all the hubbub is about."

"What a great honor it is to receive this award," said Leslie-Ann Padilla, manager, Chabom Teas + Spices. "Our mighty little historic district, and the businesses within it have been working hard to bring this part of Springfield back to life. This award helps remind all of Springfield, the surrounding areas, and beyond, that there's more to Springfield shopping and dining than downtown and the south side."

"This is a great honor for Commercial Street and our community, signaling the emergence of Historic C-Street as one of Springfield's favorite tourist destinations," said Commercial Club President Mary Collette.

APA Missouri recognized the 2018 Great Places in Missouri designees at a ceremony Jan. 31 in the State Capitol Rotunda in Jefferson City.

The Great Places in Missouri program was started in 2014 to recognize neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces throughout Missouri that demonstrate exceptional character, quality and planning-attributes that enrich communities, facilitate economic growth, and inspire residents and visitors alike. The Great Places in Missouri program was modeled after APA's Great Places in America

program that has recognized 275 neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces around the country since 2007.

"The 2018 Great Places in Missouri awardees reveal the critical role of planning in our communities," said Hilary Perkins, AICP, president of APA Missouri. "These are vibrant places that carry rich stories and lessons on ways to bring people together, build a sense of community, and form strong relationships between citizens and their city, while driving economic growth and support for local business. We see these places as great examples of what good planning can create. We congratulate the awardees on the fine distinction of being a Great Street in Missouri."

According to its nomination, which was submitted by City of Springfield Public Works Transportation Planner Dawne Gardner, "the six-block local and National Register Historic District corridor is located in the oldest part of Springfield. It has always enjoyed the grassroots support of local businesses and property owners advocating for its preservation and pursuing resources and incentives for continued investment."

The Commercial Club was established in the early 1900s and is comprised of merchants, residents and property owners. The club actively promotes and advocates for the district through activities like purchasing and displaying public art throughout the district, some underfoot in the form of beautiful mosaics. The street boasts storefronts offering a diverse range of international and regional dining, antique and flea market shopping, creative and maker spaces, exciting event spaces, hair salons, tattoo storefronts and yoga studios, offices, a boutique hotel and lofts, (some of which are available for short-term rental) pubs and great entertainment spots, a bakery, chocolate factory and a microbrewery.

An iconic site on C-Street is the Historic Jefferson Avenue Footbridge, constructed in 1902, which spans 13 tracks of the BNSF railyard. A



Accepting the Great Street Award are, left to right: Connie Rhoades Hinds (Pets and Pumpkins organizer); Olivia Hough, City of Springfield; Sen. Bob Dixon; Dawne Gardner, City of Springfield; Eric Clausen, City of Springfield; Jay Wynn, CJW Transportation Consultants; Paula Brookshire, City of Springfield; Dane Seiler, CJW Transportation Consultants; Gregg Johnson, CID board chair.

Saturday open-air market from April through October provides access to healthy foods and local wares, while a variety of annual street festivals throughout the year such as Pets and Pumpkins, Heroes and Holidays and Summer Solstice Art Fair bring residents of all ages together. In 2009, the Commercial Street Community Improvement District was established and assists in maintenance and development of the corridor while residents and businesses have incorporated sustainable design and green development.

C-Street is a target area for the City's Brownfields Program, helping to characterize and assess over 20 redevelopment properties. Historic C-Street truly epitomizes a great street as it brings people together to both preserve important historic assets but also plan for the future."

C-Street is also home to Springfield's St. Patrick's Day Parade, Thriller on Commercial Street and White River Brewing Company's Street Fest. Learn more about C-Street at historiccstreet.com.



Midtown Neighborhood Cleanup

April 7
8 a.m. – Noon

Dumpsters will be located at
the Cox North Parking Lot
1471 N. Benton Ave.

Accepted Items:
Trash, Brush,
Metal, and Leaves

Curbside pickup is available,
but fees may apply.

To schedule a curbside pickup
contact Brian Shipman at
417-880-2855

For more information contact:
Amanda Stadler at
417-888-2020

Central High School celebrates 125th anniversary

By Springfield Public Schools staff, for SGFNN

Last May, Central High School principal Dr. Lisa Anderson stood at a podium at commencement, like she does each spring. But as she welcomed the 124th graduating class at Central, it dawned on her.

"I think we all realized that it was the 125th anniversary this year, which is the quasiquicentennial," she said. "So we began working to get the teacher perspective and the student perspective of how we could go about celebrating this milestone."

Dr. Anderson worked with Central assistant principal JoAnn Hite, who coordinated with the school's heritage committee. Together, they decided to host a schoolwide birthday party for Central on the original 125th day of school.

"Our goal for Feb. 28 was really more of a focus on the students to make that personal connection to the history of Central," said Meredith Wisniewski, resource teacher for the Springfield Scholars Program, located in Central. "We have a lot of artifacts from our heritage room in our library, and students are able to see those historic items in a Timeline Walk."

Students were able to view historic newspaper articles, yearbooks and school memorabilia, like a

historic Central Kilties uniform. And in their classes, students had lessons infused with Central's history. Art students examined the work of Central alumnus Gary Bedell, and Sara Lampe, the founder of gifted education in Springfield, presented the history of the Scholars Program.

But in addition to getting a closer look at Central's history, the schoolwide celebration also honored the school's rich present. The school's annual diversity assembly was held on the same day as its birthday celebration. And two weeks before, Jennifer Melton's fashion construction class spent a day designing T-shirts to submit to the school's commemorative T-shirt design contest.

"The students came up with a design idea that would represent Central and create a memorable T-shirt of the anniversary that was taking place," said Melton. "We talked about how Central has changed, and they loved designing the T-shirts. We're in the older part of the building, so they could look outside the window and see the new building while designing their T-shirt."

On Feb. 28, commemorative Chromebook stickers were distributed to every student. But for this milestone, the celebrations are just beginning. The



Central High School Heritage Walk is planned for Saturday, April 7, and will feature a 1.25-mile walk around and nearby Central's historic campus.

"For me, I think celebrating the lineage that we have in this community for educating children is so important," said Hite. "But that tradition continues, and the importance of growing our community through learning is why we continue to celebrate the importance of our past and how that impacts our present and future."

OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

Springfield's first Little Free Pantry opens in Oak Grove Neighborhood

By Juliana Goodwin, for SGFNN



Nikolai Montoya

Nikolai Montoya launched Springfield's first Little Free Pantry in January, at 2921 E. Bennett St. Initially she was on Pinterest looking at Little Free Libraries and then Little Free Pantries appeared.

Montoya lives across from Pittman Elementary, which is where her 8-year-old son goes to school.

"Last year I volunteered a whole bunch at the school and found out about the backpack program. There are quite a few families that use it, and my son has a few friends that utilize the program as well. It was heavily laid on my heart to do this specifically for the school. It's open to anyone and everyone, but my main target is the families at Pittman," Montoya says.

She contacted Robert Whittaker, who has a LFL on Cherry Street, to inquire what it would

take to build one, and he immediately launched a Go Fund Me page to raise money for the supplies to construct the pantry for Montoya.

KY3 aired a story and donations came pouring in (although Montoya refers to them as "blessings to the pantry," not donations.)

A dental office brought an entire box of toothbrushes; a couple drove to Strafford to bring items in; some people made gloves and hats for the box.

"Tons of people have given food, canned items, bread, boxed goods, cereal, hygiene products, baby wipes, shampoo. There have been quite a few people who have brought over snacks in individual bags," she says.

And it goes fast, especially hygiene items and breakfast foods. Montoya restocks twice a day.

The pantry is strategically placed in front of a big tree in her yard so people can use it discreetly.

"I wanted it to be a private thing. I wanted to minimize embarrassment for dignity purposes. I have used food pantries myself in the past and it's not a comfortable feeling to admit you don't have what you need for yourself or your kids," she says.

What has surprised her is people aren't just dropping off their old food, they are going shopping for her pantry.

"It has been really, really touching to see



Continued from
"Little Free
Libraries"
on page 10.

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Wendell Royster, President:
jwrcameo5@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



Springfield come together as a community and want to help. That has been the coolest thing. It has been a huge, huge blessing. My bigger vision is to see them all over Springfield, like we do the Little Free Libraries," Montoya says.

Given the success of Little Free Libraries, and the giving spirit of this community, Montoya's vision will likely come to fruition.

To learn more about the Little Free Pantry visit littlefreepantry.org.

If you would like to help stock the Little Free Pantry, Montoya said they are always in need of hygiene items; canned meats; and breakfast foods such as oatmeal, cereal bars, and granola – portable and easy for children to grab on their way to school. Drop items at 2921 E. Bennett St.

PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

Phelps Grove Neighborhood Cleanup

May 19
8 a.m. – Noon

*Dumpsters will be located at
MSU Parking Lot #18
at Grand and Kings Ave.*

Accepted Items:
Trash, Brush, Metal, Leaves

*Curbside pickup is available.
but fees may apply.*

To schedule a curbside pickup
contact Eric Pauly at
417-736-9357

For more information contact:
Amanda Stadler, 417-888-2020



Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Eric Pauly, President:
ptum10@gmail.com or
417-736-9357
- Renee Tyson, Vice President/
Secretary: 417-863-0246
- 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



ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD

Robberson Neighborhood Cleanup

April 21
8 a.m. – Noon

*Dumpsters will be located at
Central Baptist Church
2148 N. National*

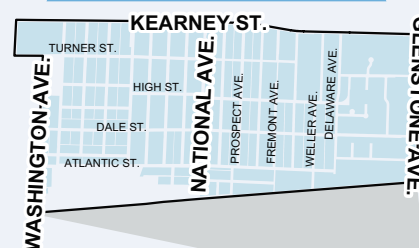
Accepted Items:
Trash, Brush, and Metal

*Curbside pickup is available.
but fees may apply.*

To schedule a curbside pickup
contact Phillis Evans at
417-866-1087

For more information contact:
Amanda Stadler, 417-888-2020

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

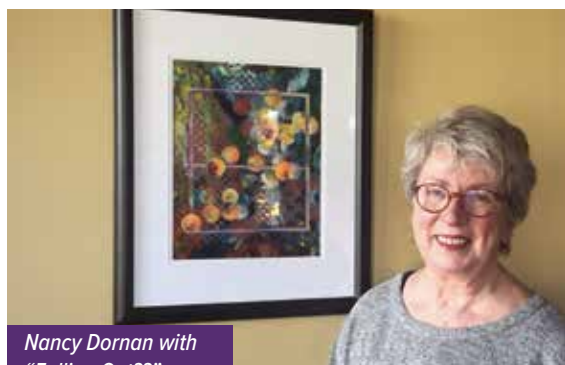
Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 26 • May 24 • June 28: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
@ Pathways United Methodist Church
(1232 E. Dale St.)



ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD

Rountree artists featured in Art in Our City Zone 2



Nancy Dornan with
“Falling Out??”

“Falling Out??” by Nancy Dornan

“‘Falling Out??’ is acrylic on 300# watercolor
paper. Constant interrelated energy was my
inspiration. Our neighborhood, symbolized by
the frame, is filled with walkers, bikers, students,
professors, young families and retired people.

The relationships that are forged within the
neighborhood have a constant ebb and flow of
different interests and insights, each adding their
own perspective. The question is whether the
people, represented by the orbs within the frame,
are moving in or moving out. Whichever your
perspective is, there is always motion.

“‘It is an tremendous honor to be included in the
Art in Our City. I began painting eight years ago
and am constantly amazed at the wealth of talented
visual artists in Springfield. To be included in this
exhibit, as a new artist, is indeed significant. I thank
the Springfield Art Museum for recognizing the
talents of local artists and of their neighborhoods,”
Dornan said.

“Rhythm and Hues” by Josh Mitchell

“‘Rhythm and Hues’ is a 38 by 38-inch pigment
photograph on canvas. Six foot by six foot scraps of
photo test prints, were woven on wire. The surface

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

April 17 • May 15 • June 19: 7 – 8 p.m.
@ University Heights Baptist Church
(1010 S. National Ave.)

routreenews.org/site





Josh Mitchell with "Rhythm and Hues"

undulates or waves. It is backlit and front lit ... welcome to a world of weaving extravaganza and a very dedicated team. Josh's wild idea delights all ages that view this serious, yet whimsical abstract color weaving.

"Making a pro-high resolution art copy of R&H



Kim Salsman with "Harold"

"Harold" by Kim Salsman

"The name of the piece is Harold, and it is mixed media on Masonite. I got the idea for it from watching the hordes of trick-or-treaters going through the neighborhood every Halloween. Having my art displayed at the museum is kinda like

was necessary to document and to make beautiful, limited editions to share the visual music. Each pigment edition is done by Mitchell's extreme custom printing experience," according to information provided by the Josh Mitchell Gallery

Mitchell's gallery is located at 1427 E. Cherry St. in the Rountree neighborhood.

getting to be in the all-school art show even though I'm an adult," Salsman said.

"The Footbridge" by Vivian Boswell

"This landscape tells the story of a place of refuge and prospect. The lush forest offers an animal spots to hide or rest in safety, and opportunities to find a meal. Perhaps this fox has just spotted an unaware crawdad at the edge of the shallows," Boswell said.

"My work doesn't depend on what I think of as inspiration, but in this case I kept thinking about a TEDtalk that stuck in my mind. I heard it on NPR two or three years ago. The talk was about beauty in various forms and why we are so attracted to certain kinds of landscapes.

"I show my work all around the country, but live and work almost as a secret to Springfield residents.

So, this is a happy opportunity for me to share with my home town."

Read the full article on page 9.

Community compost bin now available in Rountree



By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Finley Farms has installed a community compost bin at Ott's Pasta on Cherry Street, convenient to the Rountree and Delaware neighborhoods. There is a composting guide available at the bin, which will be emptied weekly.

Rountree Neighborhood Cleanup

May 5
8 a.m. – Noon

Dumpsters will be located at
University Heights Church
1010 S. National Ave.

Accepted Items:
Trash, Brush, Metal, Leaves

Curbside pickup is available.
but fees may apply.

To schedule a curbside pickup
contact Peggy Wise at
417-860-8990

For more information contact:
Amanda Stadler, 417-888-2020

TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD

Tom Watkins Neighborhood Cleanup

April 14
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Dumpsters will be located at
Williams Elementary
2205 W. Kearney St.

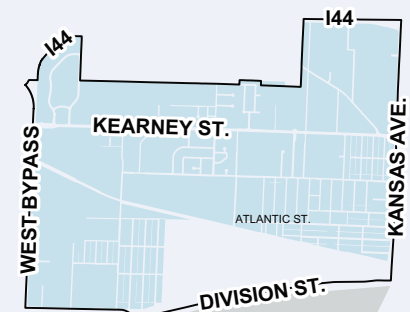
Accepted Items:
Trash, Brush, and Metal

Curbside pickup is available.
but fees may apply.

To schedule a curbside pickup
contact Marti Mowery at
417-864-7239

For more information contact:
Amanda Stadler, 417-888-2020

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Marti Mowery, President:
marthamowery@sbcglobal.net
or 417-616-4064
or 417-864-7239
- Jennifer Sliger, Vice President
- Charles Sliger, Secretary
- Don Atwood, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 26 • May 31 • June 28: potluck 6 p.m., meeting
7–8:30 p.m. @ Tom Watkins Park
Community Center (2100 W. High St.)



Photo credit: Springfield-Greene County Park Board

New walking trails under construction at Tom Watkins Park

By Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Park Board, for SGFNN

Contractors are installing new paved walking tracks this spring at several parks, including Tom Watkins Park, picture to the left in early March.

HUD funding was secured for new playground equipment, walking trails, restrooms and a new support structure at Tom Watkins Park. Plans and specifications are well underway for these projects.

See the "Nichols Park" story on page 18 for more details about current and upcoming park projects around the city.

WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD

Weller Neighborhood Cleanup April 21 8 a.m. – Noon

Dumpsters will be located at
Turning Point Church
1722 N. National Ave.

Accepted Items:
Trash, Brush, and Metal

*Curbside pickup is available,
but on a limited basis,
and fees may apply.*

To schedule a curbside pickup
contact Steve Young at
417-864-6442

For more information contact:
Amanda Stadler, 417-888-2020

Photo credit: Weller Neighborhood Association, Facebook



Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 5 • May 3 • June 7: 6 – 7 p.m. @ Turning
Point Church (1722 N. National Ave.)



WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD

Springfield Public Schools provides update on facility master plan

By Teresa Bledsoe, Springfield Public Schools, for SGFNN

Springfield Public Schools has updated its facility master plan to reflect the public feedback shared after the April 2017 bond election.

One of the immediate recommendations calls for repurposing Campbell Elementary School as an early childhood education center and sending current Campbell students to McGregor Elementary School.

The update also outlined a long-term list of projects to be studied by a group of architects, which will present outlines to the board at a future date to identify renovation and reconstruction costs for consideration as part of a future bond proposal.

"This is an exciting time for our district," said Dr. John Jungmann, superintendent. "The community has provided valuable feedback to SPS regarding what they want for their schools. They have asked us to address the most significant needs first by starting with the sites that scored lowest on condition, to consider renovating buildings whenever possible, to be specific with our recommendations and to engage in ongoing communication through the process. We are committed to that and we look forward to continued dialogue."

During a board retreat last fall, the district was asked to move forward with recommendations to address any sites with low and declining enrollment. As a result, the district is recommending the consolidation of Campbell Elementary with McGregor Elementary, effective at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. That consolidation would stabilize declining enrollment in both sites and allow the district to repurpose the Campbell facility in order to expand early childhood education.

By repurposing Campbell Elementary, the district is able to create an interim learning center and

Parents as Teachers hub in center city for up to 200 children.

This expansion would include a pilot transportation program for the neighborhood, to be studied for potential future expansion districtwide. The district does not anticipate these steps to negatively impact the employment status of any current SPS employee.

"We are very proud of our staff and students at both Campbell and McGregor elementaries," said Dr. Jason Anderson, executive director of elementary learning. "We value their commitment to education and learning and are confident that both communities will navigate this transition smoothly, for the best interest of all involved. This is the right time to take this necessary step forward."

Benefits of the district's recommendation to consolidate and repurpose include the following:

Improved learning environments

Campbell Elementary currently has one class per grade level, limiting opportunities to move students to classrooms that better address their needs. McGregor will have multiple classrooms per grade level to provide more options.

Expanded student support services

A current grant proposal from an SPS community partner would open the door to before-school services at McGregor, providing those same benefits to current Campbell students, as early as next year.

Efficiency for specialty teachers

A split-location arrangement currently exists for specialty teachers (including music, physical education and art). Consolidation will allow those



Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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

Neighborhood Alliance Meetings

April 24 • May 22 • June 26 : 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
@ McGregor Elementary (1221 W. Madison St.)

westcentralspringfield.org



educators to spend more time in one location, improving consistency of instruction for students.

Improved facility for Campbell students

The Campbell facility scores a 64 and McGregor scores a 77 on the districtwide facility assessment report. McGregor was renovated in 2002, is organized on one level and achieves ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility for both students and staff.

Opportunity for professional collaboration

Teachers at Campbell do not currently have an opportunity to collaborate with peers teaching at the same grade level. Consolidation creates a better opportunity for professional growth, which positively impacts learning.

Campbell Elementary By the Numbers

• ENROLLMENT

133 students, with an enrollment decline of 29 percent over 10 years, while elementary enrollment districtwide has increased 9 percent.

• CONTINUED PROJECTED DECLINE

The district projects a continued annual enrollment decline of over 5 percent.

• FACILITY

Multi-story building, built in 1930; no elevator; 33,168 square feet, 11 classrooms, scored a 64 on site condition assessment.

• EFFICIENCY

Highest square footage (249.38) per learner among comparably sized elementary schools.

• LEARNING STRUCTURE

One classroom per grade-level, specialty teachers are shared across sites.

• NEXT STEPS

This summer the architects will provide the results of their cost analysis for each site on the list of long-term projects. The Board of Education will then consider options for renovation or reconstruction and seek public feedback before moving forward.

2018 Birthplace of Route 66 Festival entertainment announced

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

More than 50,000 Route 66 revelers came to downtown Springfield last year for the seventh annual festival celebrating Springfield, Missouri as the Birthplace of Route 66.

Festival organizers Aaron Sachs & Associates, Ozarks on Two Wheels, KY3/KSPR and the City of Springfield hope to top that number Aug. 10-11 with an all-free musical act lineup that includes favorite Branson acts on the KY3/KSPR stage in Park Central Square and regional favorites Lyal Strickland, Mark Chapman, Blue Plate Special, Makenna & Brock, Laura Ashley, the Mixtapes, Machine Gun Symphony, Dirty Saints and Dr. Zhivegas, Justice Adams, Papa Green Shoes and The Hurricanes on the Aaron Sachs Stage in Motorcycle Village.

New to the festival this year is the Mother Roadster raffle of a 1932 Ford Roadster benefiting Shriners Hospitals for Children, and an improved registration process through Eventbrite.

"We have some surprises planned for this year's festival that we're pretty excited about," Sachs said. "There's such a rich heritage and tradition with Springfield being the Birthplace of Route 66. I can see a day where this festival will draw more than 100,000 people."



Dirty Saints performing at the 2017 Birthplace of Route 66 Festival

Returning to the festival this year is the Open Road Girl Rally, the Authors, Artists, Collectors & Associations expo at The Old Glass Place, Vendor Village, the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival Parade and the 6.6K Run/3.3K Walk. Motorcycle Village on the east side of the festival footprint will again be in full swing with live music, the Harley-Davidson Demo Truck, live stunt shows, the Gypsy Tour Poker Run and other motorcycle-gear-ed entertainment and vendors.

"We have come a long way with this festival since it began in 2011," said festival founder David Eslick. "With last year's 450 cars, 2,900 motorcycles and 53,000 spectators, as well as the Friday night parade that drew 400 plus cars, it has become the largest event in downtown Springfield."

Streetscape improvements continue along the College Street corridor

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN



Portions of Historic Route 66 through SGF are getting a facelift just in time for the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival Aug. 10-11.

Construction wrapped up in mid-March on streetscape improvements on College Street between Grant Avenue and Market Avenue. The project included new federal Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant sidewalks, stormwater and roadway improvements, tree wells, lighting enhancements and utility upgrades.

The project was funded primarily by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that came available last year.

"This streetscape project was a bit of a challenge due to the timeline requirements on the CDBG funding," explains Public Works project manager Jonathan Peitz, P.E. "But the funding provided

the opportunity to improve another section of our downtown streets to be much more attractive and accessible for all. The opportunity was well worth the time crunch."

Farther west, the Grant Avenue and Route 66 Streetscape Project began March 5. This project — which focuses on improving Grant Avenue from Olive Street to Walnut Street — includes roadway and stormwater improvements, new ADA-compliant sidewalks, utility upgrades and signal improvements at the intersections of College Street and Grant Avenue and Walnut Street and Grant Avenue. The project is funded through a federal Transportation Alternatives Program Grant and the 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax.

The City reminds motorists and pedestrians to use caution and obey any posted signage while traveling through work zones. Various lane shifts and overnight road closures can be expected throughout construction.



15TH ANNUAL LANDLORD TRAINING

FAIR HOUSING

April 12
9 a.m. – Noon

LANDLORD RIGHTS *and* RESPONSIBILITIES

June 21
6 – 7 p.m.

Registration is required!

To register visit
cpozarks.org/event/landlord
or call 888-2020

 **COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP**
Working Together to Build Strong Communities

 **CITY OF
Springfield**

 **SAHA**

Greater
Springfield Apartment &
Housing Association

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association seeks improvements to Zagonyi Park

By Candy Smith, for SGFNN

Whether you have been a lifelong Westside resident or a newcomer, you probably have heard of the Civil War battle of Wilson's Creek west of Springfield. But, did you know there was a Civil War battle within our WNBA neighborhood?

Where did this battle take place? Chances are you drive by the battle site every day. If your daily commute takes you to the Mt. Vernon St. and Park Avenue area, then you have passed it. Zagonyi's Charge, as the battle is known, took place in the area starting at Park Avenue continuing east to Jordan Creek, which is right before Kansas Expressway.

On Oct. 25, 1861, Major Charles Zagonyi, along with 300 men, led one of the "most daring and brilliant Union cavalry charges of the Civil War." The Confederate troops consisted of around 1,000 men. Many of these "men" were young boys in their teens who were soldiers in training. They were armed with old farm shotguns and muzzle-loading rifles. Zagonyi and his 300 men were armed with "a brace of revolvers and a new Colt six-shooter with a range of up to a mile." In addition, Zagonyi's men rode "the finest bay horses they could steal from Kentucky." Needless to say, Zagonyi's troops won the battle.

This battle was well publicized in eastern newspapers and became quite well known. Due to the losses the Union had previously experienced, the fact that 300 Union soldiers overcame 1,000 Confederate soldiers helped to raise sagging Union confidence in the Civil War.

Today, Zagonyi's Charge is remembered with a park bearing Zagonyi's name on Mt. Vernon Street and Park Avenue. At Zagonyi Park, you will find, by the pavilion, an informational marker giving details of the battle and reference points of both troops' locations. In addition, at 1724 W. Mt. Vernon, a monument detailing the charge was erected on May 6, 1931 by the University Club. As a side note, with the cleanup of the burned factory at this location, you may have noticed there is a little-known walking trail there along Jordan Creek.

In 1973, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board acquired Zagonyi Park. It is a 10-acre neighborhood park with a small pavilion, a well-used basketball court, a tennis court, several picnic tables, two sets of swings, a set of monkey bars and a multipurpose play structure. Basically, it is a typical park with the exception of water fountains.

Zagonyi Park is a diamond in the rough. It has so much potential and it needs a little polishing to become a jewel in our neighborhood. Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association (WNBA)

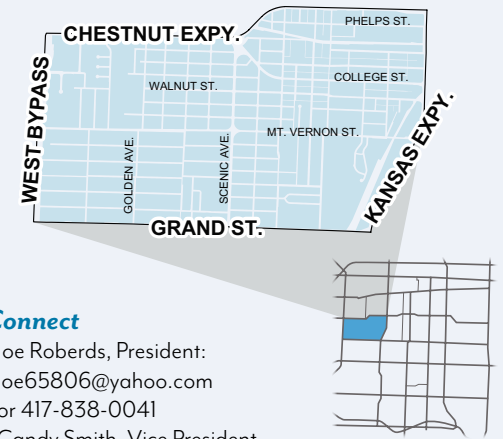


is ready to start the ball rolling in regards to the polishing. The WNBA is submitting an application for the Neighborhood Project Initiative sponsored by the City's Public Works department. WNBA wants to see Zagonyi Park upgraded.

This is where we need you, our neighbors, to let us know what you want to see added or upgraded at the park. Some examples of possible upgrades are: walking trail/track, working water fountains, restrooms, shade shelters over the picnic tables, flower beds, more playground equipment and more informational markers featuring Zagonyi's Charge. Also, there are two ideas concerning the monument marker at 1724 W. Mt. Vernon. The first is to create a small park area where the marker is currently standing. If that is not possible, we'd like to move the marker to Zagonyi Park.

The WNBA looks forward to hearing your wonderful ideas. Together, we can create and do many things to better our neighborhood. Please send your ideas via email to joe65806@yahoo.com; hustonsandi@sbcglobal.net or bsmith9722@sbcglobal.net.

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Joe Roberds, President:
joe65806@yahoo.com
or 417-838-0041
- Candy Smith, Vice President
- Steve Sischo, Treasurer
- Ken Sweetser, Secretary

Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings

April 10 • May 8 • June 12: 6:30 p.m.,
@ Westport Park Apartments,
Community Room (250 N. Hilton Ave.)



Westside Neighborhood Cleanup

May 12
8 a.m. – Noon

Dumpsters will be located at
Study Alternative Center
2343 W. Olive

Accepted Items:
Trash, Brush, & Metal

Curbside pickup is
NOT available.

For more information contact
Joe Roberds at 417-838-0041 or
Amanda Stadler at 417-888-2020



WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

Woodland Heights Neighborhood Cleanup April 7 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Dumpsters will be located at
Reed Academy
2000 N. Lyon



Accepted Items:
Trash, Brush, and Metal

Curbside pickup is available,
but fees may apply.

To schedule a curbside pickup
contact Rhonda Ferguson at
417-844-4377

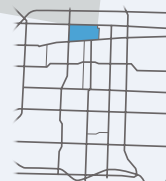
For more information contact:
Amanda Stadler
417-888-2020

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

- Linda Passeri, President:
artistlinda75@yahoo.com
or 417-880-1572
- Michelle Stevens, Vice President:
michellestevens417@yahoo.com
or 417-824-1645
- Sarah Gaddy, Secretary
- Becky Volz, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 16 • May 21 • June 18: 6–7 p.m.
@ Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church
(722 W. Atlantic St.)

woodlandheightsneighborhood.org



Congratulations to Reed Academy's 7th grade boys' basketball team for winning the 2018 Springfield Middle School City Championship.



Photo credit: Reed Academy, Facebook

DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighborhood Boundaries



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 3 • May 1 • June 5 • July 3: 7–8 p.m.
@ Westminster Presbyterian Church
(1551 E. Portland)



Scholarships may be available to Springfield and Greene County residents 18 and under who qualify for free or reduced lunch. Annual limits apply. Donations to this fund are always welcome.

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board offers scholarships for youth to participate in:
sports,
summer camp
and **other programs**
designed to **build skills**
and **confidence**
while maintaining
a **healthy lifestyle.**

To donate or apply call 417-864-1049 or visit ParkBoard.org/Scholarships

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

Events

April–June 2018

EDUCATION & RESOURCES

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.

Tool Library Open House: April 5: 4-7 p.m., Springfield Tool Library, 1471 N. Benton Ave. Join us for dinner at the Tool Library and bring a side to share.

Zone 1 Town Hall with Phyllis Ferguson: April 10: 6-7 p.m., York Elementary School, 2100 W. Nichols. Meet with Springfield Public Schools to share ideas and consider plans for our kids and our schools. Free childcare will be provided.

Coffee with the Commissioners: April 11: 8-9 a.m., Big Momma's Coffee & Espresso Bar, 217 E. Commercial St. Join the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations for coffee and conversation.

Landlord Training: Fair Housing: April 12: 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Southwest Center for Independent Living Community Room B, 1450 W. Cambridge St. Representatives from the Missouri Commission on Human Rights will discuss fair housing as it relates to landlords, including legal issues. Registration is required. Visit cpozarks.org/event/landlord or call 888-2020 for more information.

Zone 4 Town Hall with Matthew Simpson: April 18: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Kickapoo High School Theater, 3710 S. Jefferson Ave. Meet new Zone 4 Councilman Matthew Simpson. This will be a combination live audience and Facebook Live event where Councilman Simpson will take questions from both the live and virtual audiences.

Convoy of Hope Springfield Community Event: June 2: 10 a.m., Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, 3001 N. Grant Ave. We serve guests of honor by providing them with free groceries, health and dental screenings, haircuts, family portraits, meals and much more at our community events. Rain or Shine. All are welcome while supplies last. No I.D. required. Guest and volunteer parking will be located on the fairgrounds. Call 833-359-9333 or convoyofhopespringfield@gmail.com

Zone 1 Town Hall with Phyllis Ferguson: June 14: 6-7:30 p.m., Tom Watkins Park, 2100 W. High St. Join Zone 1 Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson to discuss crime, safety, and nuisance/dangerous properties in Zone 1. Potluck dinner at 6 p.m., meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. In case of rain we will move to the Northview Senior Center, 301 E. Talmage St.

Landlord Training: Landlord Rights & Responsibilities: June 21: 6-7 p.m., Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central St., Attorney Michael Miller will provide information to assist landlords in understanding their rights from the beginning of the landlord-tenant relationship to the end. Registration is required. Visit cpozarks.org/event/landlord or call 888-2020 for more information.

Fix-it Fair: June 30: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central St., (downstairs meeting room.) 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. 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.

Fulbright Spring Greenway Dedication & Move Your Shoes Kick-off: April 4: 10 a.m., David C. Murray Trailhead, 4769 N. Farm Rd. 141. Please join us as we celebrate the opening of the Fulbright Spring Greenway Phase 3 and kick off the Move your Shoes Walking Challenge!

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 your friends. To sign up call 417-874-1249 or email cblevins@springfieldmo.gov and leave a message with your name and contact number.

World Tai Chi Day: April 28: 9:30-11:30 a.m., Springfield Art Museum Amphitheater, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. People in more than 80 countries come together to breathe as one breath, to celebrate health and healing, providing a healing vision for our world. Explore the ancient art of Taijiquan (Taiji, Tai Chi) with a variety of demonstrations and interactive Tai Chi and meditation classes. Please bring a chair. Sponsored by White Metal Rabbit Taijiquan and Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

ARTS, CULTURE & FUN

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

MLK 50th Commemorations: The Golden Gathering: April 4: 6 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. This event will bring together social justice leaders, activists, practitioners and community members for an intimate look at the civil rights movement from past foundations to current mobility and grassroots organizing. The Golden Gathering will include moderated discourse and storytelling; performance arts of original spoken word, music, plays, and liturgical dance; and, a visual art exhibit of creative pieces from community artists of all ages.

MLK 50th Commemorations: Let Freedom Ring Community Bell-ringing: April 4: 6:01 p.m. To commemorate the five decades since Dr. King's passing, the community is invited to ring bells five

times with one second between each at Dr. King's time of death, 6:01 p.m.

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

All School Exhibition: Closes 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.

FREE Family Day at the Springfield Art Museum: April 7: 10 a.m.-Noon, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Family Days are drop-in events designed to help kids and grown-ups explore the museum's exhibits together. No registration required.

Art in Our City Zone 2: Through Oct. 14, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Springfield. See page 9 for more information.

Cherry Blossom Kite and Piñata Festival: April 7: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic Ave., Celebrate spring 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. *Activities free with paid zoo admission.*

Potting Shed University: Plants for a Japanese Garden in the Ozarks: April 9: 6-7 p.m., Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Presented by Katie Keith, Botanical Center Coordinator. We will discuss the design concepts of the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden; plants for structure in all seasons and extending the bloom season. Park and meet at the Japanese Stroll Garden. *Fee \$5.*

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.

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.

Curator's Talk with Sarah Buhr: May 10, 5:30 p.m.

Potting Shed University: Indoor Gardening: Our Favorite Houseplants and More:

April 16: 6-7 p.m., Botanical Center 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Presented by Kelly McGowan, MU Extension

Horticultural Specialist, Greene County. Everyone loves houseplants and many people began their love of gardening through caring for them. Learn about houseplant history, common insect pests, tough and durable varieties and all aspects of care and propagation. *Fee \$5.*

Party for the Planet: April 22: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Dickerson Park Zoo, 1401 W. Norton Rd. Celebrate Earth Day at Dickerson Park Zoo with hands-on conservation learning stations and zookeeper chats. *Activities free with paid zoo admission.*

Queen City Voices: Rockin' the 50s & 60s: April 22, 2 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Queen City Voices' spring concert features oldies but goodies. Free and open to the public.

Art in Bloom: Free Public Hours: April 28: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and April 29: 1-5 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. The museum and Art Mosaic One invite you to our newest signature event celebrating fine art and fantastic floral displays. This three-day festival invites floral designers from throughout the region to imaginatively interpret works of art on view in the museum's galleries and presents them alongside those works for your enjoyment.

Master Gardener and Garden Society Plant Sale: April 28: 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Presented by the Master Gardeners of Greene County and other garden societies. Sale includes annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, bulbs, grasses, vines, ground covers, shrubs and trees. Master Gardeners accept credit cards. Other societies accept cash or check only. Free admission, prices vary per plant.

Community-wide Play Day: April 28: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Fassnight Park, 1301 S. Campbell Ave. Fun-filled day with FREE activities for families with children 12 and under. Rain or shine. Free book for every child. Food trucks will be on-site. Sponsored by Community Partnership of the Ozarks and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

Watercolor USA 2018: June 2-Aug. 26, Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. This annual summer favorite returns with over \$20,000 in cash prizes and possible Museum purchase awards available. This will be the 57th showing of the very best in contemporary American watermedia, judged by Kelly Kane, former Editor-in-Chief of *Watercolor Artist* magazine.

37th Annual Kids Fishing Fun Day: June 2 (Rain date: June 9), 8, 9:15, 10:30 or 11:45 a.m., Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Rd. 146. A morning of learning and fishing for bluegill and catfish from the stocked pond. Participants must provide their own bait and pole. Kids may catch and keep up to three fish. After the catch, kids weigh their fish and learn how to clean them from the Missouri Department of Conservation. Space is limited. Preregister for one of four sessions by May 31 at ParkBoard.org. No event day registration. *Ages: 3-15 yrs.*

Run for Fun Club: Saturdays, June 2-July 28: 10-10:45 a.m. Westport School-Park Track. 3100 W. Mt. Vernon St. Hop into summer with free kid-friendly exercise activities, promoting healthy lifestyles! The club is lead by Steve Pokin and is held at Westport School Park every Saturday in June and July. The Run for Fun Club will get children out and running in creative ways. Water and snacks will

be provided. Sign up by June 1 at ParkBoard.org/RunForFun. *Ages: 2nd-6th grades*

3rd Annual Tennis Under the Lights: June 9: 8-10 p.m., Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic St. Come play tennis at night at Lafayette Park! Tennis courts will be all aglow with lights everywhere. Participants will also shine with glow necklaces and bracelets! Grab your family and friends and get on the court with music, snacks and fun. All equipment is provided. Sponsored by USTA.

Summer SnowFest: June 23: Noon-4 p.m., Jordan Valley Park, 635 E. Trafficway. Who says summer can't have snow? SnowFest features a mountain of snow from Mediacom Ice Park, as well as entertainment, interactive games, snowman building contests and bounce house. The Springfield Regional Arts Council partners to present Free Art Day, with interactive art projects. Bring the whole family and your mittens and play in the snow.

Butterfly Festival with Young Sprouts in the Garden: June 28: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Celebrate gardening, nature and butterflies. Visit the Dr. Bill Roston Native Butterfly House and caterpillar petting zoo, observe ladybugs and more. Free admission, including to the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden.

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.

BY NEIGHBORHOOD

BISSETT

Bissett Neighborhood Cleanup: June 2: 8 a.m.-Noon. Dumpsters will be located at Bissett Elementary, 3014 W. Calhoun. Trash, brush, and metal will be accepted. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. To schedule a curbside pickup contact Pete Radecki at 417-988-1257

Bissett Neighborhood Association Meetings: May 8: 6:30-7:30 p.m., optional potluck at 6 p.m., Bissett Elementary School, 3014 W. Calhoun. June 12: 6:30-7:30 p.m., optional potluck at 6 p.m., Faith Assembly of God Church, 3001 W. Division St.

BRADFORD PARK

Bradford Park Neighborhood Association

Meeting: April 17, May 15, June 19: 6:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 3555 S. Fremont Ave.

Back the Blue Rally:

April 17: 5:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 3555 S. Fremont Ave. At 6:30 p.m. we will line up along Fremont at Primrose (Immaculate Conception) for the rally. Bring signs or anything blue and festive so we can show our support for our Springfield police officers.

Bradford Park Neighborhood Cleanup:

April 28: 8 a.m.-Noon. Dumpsters will be located

at the end of Walnut Lawn, 1370 E Walnut Lawn. Trash, brush, metal, leaves, tires, and TVs will be accepted, however, there maybe a fee for TVs. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. To schedule a curbside pickup contact Dellene Nelson at 417-882-2801.

DELAWARE

Delaware Neighborhood Association

Meeting: April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3: 7-8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1551 E. Portland.

DOLING

Doling Neighborhood Association Meetings:

April 17, May 8, June 12: 6:45-8 p.m., optional potluck starts at 6 p.m., Hillcrest Presbyterian Church, 818 E. Norton Rd.

Doling Neighborhood Garage Sale: April 28: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Maps of participating homes will be available the morning of the sale. If you would like to host a garage sale, please contact the Doling Neighborhood Association at dolingna@gmail.com and we will include your location on our map. You will be responsible for your own garage sale permit.

Doling Neighborhood Cleanup: May 12: 8 a.m.-Noon. Dumpsters will be located at Christ the King Church, 2537 N. Broadway Ave. Trash, brush, metal, tires, and TVs will be accepted, however, there maybe a fee for TVs. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. To schedule a curbside pickup contact Mary Kay Glunt at 417-844-0629.

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. Membership forms are available at the distribution. Contact Shelley Vaugine at 617-877-7836.

Grant Beach Community Dinners: Mondays-Fridays: 5-6 p.m., The Drew Lewis Foundation at The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. Parents eat for free with your kids every weekday night. The Dinners and Circles® program is included on Thursday evenings.

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.

Free Cancer Screenings at The Fairbanks: April 7: 8 a.m.-Noon, The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. There will be free mammograms, head and neck cancer screenings, skin cancer screenings, blood pressure readings, smoking cessation programs and education on healthy eating. To register for mammograms, please call 417-820-2770. To register for other screenings please call 417-820-2588 or email Melissa.schroeder@mercy.net

Grant Beach Neighborhood Association Meetings: April 16, May 21, June 18: 6:30-7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1115 N. Campbell.

Reptile Day at The Fairbanks: April 21: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. This is a fun, FREE educational event featuring live reptiles and amphibians! Local herpetology enthusiasts will be on hand to answer questions about these fascinating, often misunderstood

creatures. A display featuring native amphibians and reptiles will be on site as well!

GREATER PARKCREST

Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association Meeting: April 19: 6-7 p.m., The Way Church, 903 W. Katella St.

Greater Parkcrest Spring Carnival: April 27: 5-7 p.m., Horace Mann Elementary, 3745 S. Broadway Ave. There will be games for kids and families, and check out our neighborhood police and fire safety resources.

HEART OF THE WESTSIDE

Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association Meetings: April 12, May 10, June 14: 6-7 p.m., Passion Assembly of God Church, 806 N. Forest.

Heart of the Westside Dinner and Circles® program: Mondays: 5:15-7:30 p.m., York Elementary, 2100 W. Nichols 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.

MEADOR PARK

Meador Park Neighborhood Association Meetings: April 4, May 2: 6-7 p.m., Cowden Elementary, 2927 S. Kimbrough Ave. June 6: 6-7 p.m. Location TBD.

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.

Central High School Heritage Walk: April 7: all day, Central High School, 423 E. Central St. Features a 1.25 mile walk around and nearby Central's historic campus to celebrate the school's 125th anniversary.

Midtown Neighborhood Association Meetings: April 9, May 14, June 11: 6-7 p.m., Urban Neighborhood Alliance building, on Cox North Hospital parking lot, 918 E. Calhoun St.

Midtown Neighborhood Cleanup: April 7: 8 a.m.-Noon. Dumpsters will be located in the Cox North Parking Lot, 1471 N. Benton Ave. Trash, brush, metal and leaves will be accepted. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. Contact Brian Shipman at 417-880-2855 to arrange a curbside pickup.

OAK GROVE

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

Bark in the Park: April 28: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Phelps Grove Park, 950 E. Bennett St., A fun and exciting day in Phelps Grove Park with your family and beloved canine. The day kicks off with demonstrations and other activities at the canine

Vendor Village. There will also be a Guided Dog Walk, Paw Print Art and Doggy Yoga. All ages welcome! Vendors must register by April 20. Proceeds benefit Cruse Dog Park.

Phelps Grove Neighborhood Cleanup: May 19: 8 a.m.-Noon. Dumpsters will be located at MSU Parking Lot #18 at Grand and Kings Ave. Trash, brush, metal and leaves will be accepted. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. Contact Eric Pauly at 417-736-9357 to schedule a curbside pickup.

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: April 26, May 24, June 28: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Pathways United Methodist Church, 1232 E. Dale.

Robberson Neighborhood Cleanup: April 21: 8 a.m.-Noon. Dumpsters will be located at Central Baptist Church, 2148 N. National Ave. Trash, brush and metal will be accept. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. Contact Phyllis Evans at 417-866-1087 to schedule a curbside pickup.

Science and Safety Event: May 12: all day. Contact Betty Green at 417-719-3741 for time and location.

ROUNTREE

Rountree Neighborhood Association Meetings: April 17, May 15, June 19: 7-8 p.m., University Heights Baptist Church, 1010 S. National.

Rountree Neighborhood Cleanup: May 5: 8 a.m.-Noon. Dumpsters will be located University Heights Church, 1010 S. National. Trash, brush, metal, and leaves will be accepted. Curbside pickup is available but fees may apply. Contact Peggy Wise at 417-860-8990 to schedule a curbside pickup.

TOM WATKINS

Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association Meetings: April 26, May 31, June 28: 6-8 p.m., Tom Watkins Community Center, 2100 W. High. Potluck at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m. Come for one or the other, but we would love to have you for both!

Tom Watkins Neighborhood Cleanup:

April 14: 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Dumpsters will be located at Williams Elementary, 2205 W. Kearney St. Trash, brush and metal will be accepted. Curbside pickup is available, but fees may apply. Contact Marti Mowery at 417-864-7239 to schedule a curbside pickup.

WELLER

Weller Neighborhood Association Meetings: April 5, May 3, June 7: 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.

Weller Neighborhood Cleanup: April 21: 8 a.m.-Noon. Dumpsters will be located at Turning Point Church, 1722 S. National Ave. Trash, brush and metal will be accepted. Curbside pickup is available on a limited basis. Contact Steve Young at 417-864-6442 for more information.

WEST CENTRAL

West Central Neighborhood Alliance Meeting: April 24, May 22, June 26: 6:30-7:30 p.m., McGregor Elementary, 1221 W. Madison St.

WESTSIDE

Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings: April 10, May 8, June 12: 6:30 p.m., Westport Park Apartments Community Room, 250 N. Hilton.

Westport Rock the Block: April 13: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Westport Elementary School, 415 S. Golden Ave. This event is open to the Westside neighborhood even if you don't have students in Westport Schools. There will be free food, inflatables, games, and information of summer programming.

Westside Neighborhood Cleanup: May 12: 8 a.m.-Noon. Dumpsters will be located at Study Alternative Center, 2343 W. Olive. Trash, brush and metal will be accepted. Curbside pickup will NOT be available.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS

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: April 16, May 21, June 18: 6-7 p.m., Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church, 722 W. Atlantic St.

Woodland Heights Rock the Block:

April 7: 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Together we will Rock the Block completing home repair projects ranging from yard cleanups, to painting and minor exterior repairs. Hosted by Habitat for Humanity of Springfield.

Woodland Heights Neighborhood Cleanup:

April 7: 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Dumpsters will be located at Reed Academy, 2000 N. Lyon Ave. Trash, brush and metal will be accepted. Curbside pickup is available, however, fees may apply. Contact Rhonda Ferguson at 417-844-4377 to schedule a curbside pickup.

Moon City Pole Painting: April 28: 10 a.m., Charlie Norr Community Center, 316 W. Atlantic St. Join us for the 4th Annual springtime Paint-a-Pole in Moon City. Open to all artists, no charge. Please check-in at the Charlie Norr Community Building.

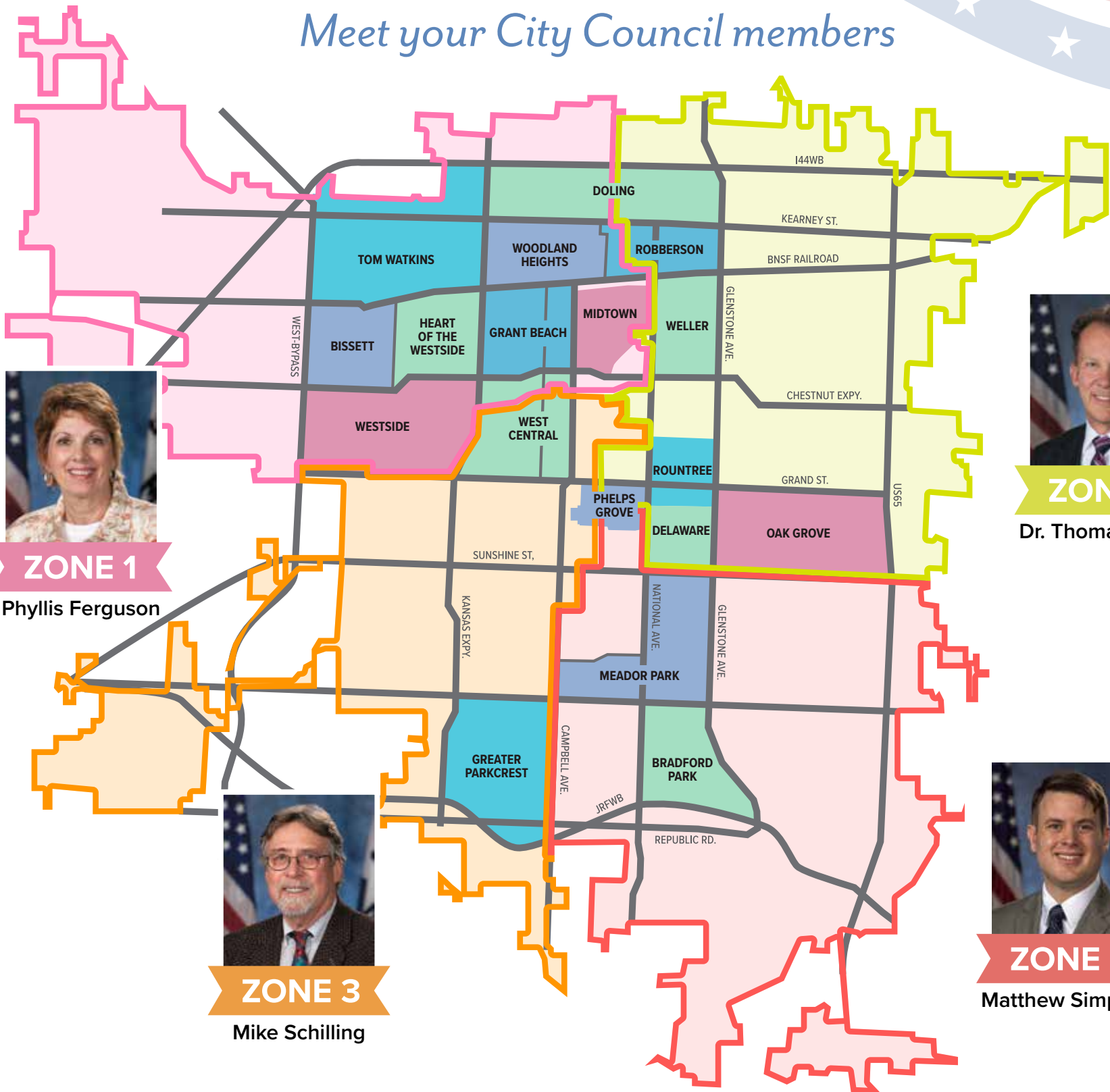
Dirt Day at Lafayette Park:

June 2: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic St. Get your hands dirty at the 4th annual Dirt Day in historic Lafayette Park. The Woodland Heights Neighborhood presents this garden-themed event with activities and demonstrations from garden professionals and clubs, plant exchange, green living, interactive garden art, kids' dinosaur dig and birdhouse painting.

Summer Solstice Art Fair: June 16: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic St. The Moon City Creative District is pleased to announce the second annual Summer Solstice Art Fair in Lafayette Park. Presented in partnership with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board this white tent, juried show, features 20 regional fine artists including jewelers, potters, wood turners, printmakers, painters, fiber artists and more. Food vendors and live music! More information at mooncitycreativedistrict.com

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

Matthew Simpson

Ken McClure
Mayor



Jan Fisk
General Seat A



Craig Hosmer
General Seat B



Kristi Fulnecky
General Seat C



Richard Ollis
General Seat D

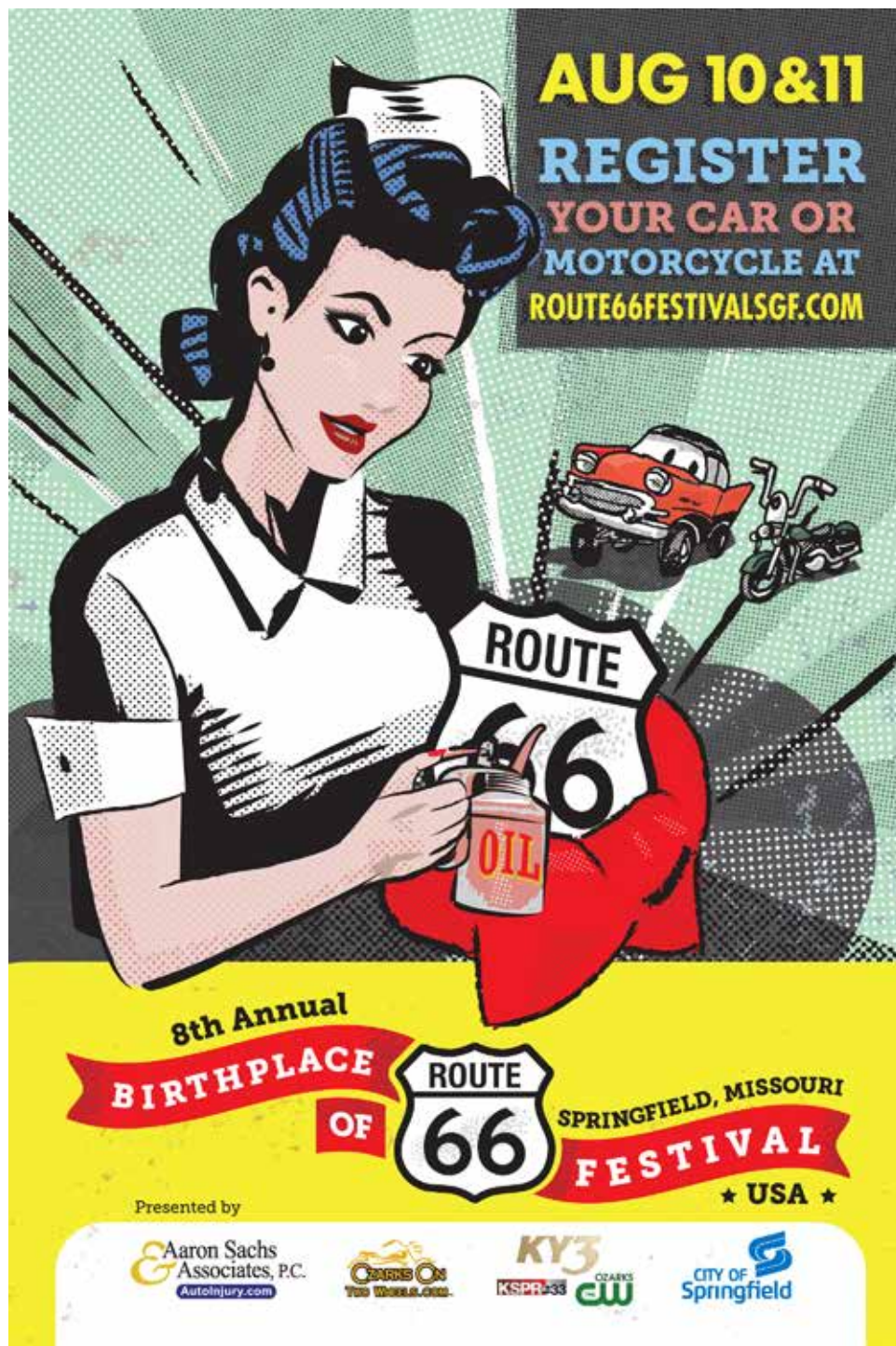


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