



Welcome to the Fall 2020 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.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Restore SGF initiative to encourage home ownership in heritage neighborhoods

GET TO KNOW SGF NEIGHBORHOODS

- 8 BISSETT
- 9 BRADFORD PARK
- 14 BRENTWOOD
- 10 DELAWARE
- 11 DOLING
- 12 GALLOWAY VILLAGE
- 13 GRANT BEACH
- 14 GREATER PARKCREST
- 14 HEART OF THE WESTSIDE
- 15 MARK TWAIN
- 16 MEADOR PARK
- 17 MIDTOWN
- 18 OAK GROVE
- 18 PHELPS GROVE
- 19 ROBBERSON
- 20 ROUNTREE
- 21 TOM WATKINS
- 18 UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
- 23 WELLER
- 24 WEST CENTRAL
- 25 WESTSIDE
- 26 WOODLAND HEIGHTS

Masking requirement extended through January in SGF city limits

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

After hearing from hundreds of speakers and reading tens of thousands of written and transcribed comments since first passing an ordinance in July requiring face coverings in public spaces, Springfield City Council at its Oct. 5 meeting passed a new ordinance to extend the requirement through Jan. 9, 2021.

The new ordinance also raises the capacity of special events on public property from 25% to 50% of the occupancy limitation of the space, based on square footage of the area. All providers of special events must comply with the face covering requirements of the ordinance, which comprises Phase 3B of the City's Road to Recovery Plan.

At press time, Springfield-Greene County has had more than 8,000 cases of the disease and 112 deaths.

"At the recommendation of the Springfield-

Greene County Health Department and with the full support of our health care partners in the region, City Council voted to extend the face covering requirement in the city limits of Springfield for another 90 days," said Mayor Ken McClure. "We must continue to do everything we can to protect ourselves and each other from this disease. We hope that the new year will bring us good news in terms of a vaccine rollout and the return of life as we knew it before COVID-19."

Prevention includes not only wearing a face covering while in public spaces, but maintaining a 6-foot distance from others and frequent hand washing.

Under the ordinance, everyone over the age of 11 is required to wear a face covering when in public spaces in the city limits of Springfield.

► See MASKING REQUIREMENT EXTENDED on page 2

Neighbors share input for future Grant Avenue Parkway project in virtual engagement sessions

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

In September, the community at large and residents of the West Central Neighborhood Alliance, Fassnacht neighborhood and downtown Springfield shared their vision for the future of the Grant Avenue Parkway project in four virtual public engagement sessions and a community input survey.

Input from the visioning phase will be used to develop a series of preliminary concepts for the project. It is anticipated that these concepts will be presented to the public in November, with another round of engagement to gather public feedback and direction.

"The West Central Neighborhood Alliance couldn't be more excited about the Grant Avenue Parkway Project." – Caron Parnell

"Grant Avenue Parkway is more than just a street project," said Tim Rosenbury, director of quality of place initiatives for the City of Springfield. "Along with transportation improvements and economic development strategies, quality of life efforts and community revitalization initiatives will also be carefully coordinated alongside the creation of this infrastructure project."

Funded primarily by a \$21 million federal Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant, the Grant Avenue Parkway will provide major opportunities for improvement in transportation, economic development, quality of life and community revitalization.

The parkway will create an off-street pedestrian and bicycle pathway along Grant Avenue between Sunshine Street and downtown Springfield. The 3-mile stretch starting at Sunshine Street and ending in a loop downtown via College Street, Boonville Avenue, Mill Street and Main Street, will connect downtown businesses and neighborhoods with the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium (WOW) – linking Springfield cultural experiences for both residents and visitors.

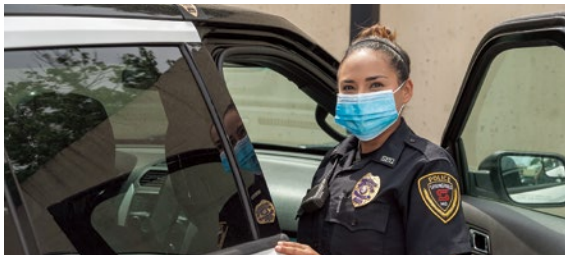
"The West Central Neighborhood Alliance couldn't be more excited about the Grant Avenue Parkway Project," said West Central Neighborhood Alliance President Caron Parnell.

The parkway is envisioned to include bike and pedestrian-friendly facilities, traffic-calming improvements, bridge enhancements, utility upgrades, fiber connectivity and intersection improvements, further connecting parks and recreation amenities, neighborhoods and schools, and filling a gap in the Ozark Greenways network.

Every effort is being made to include the entire community in the parkway's visioning process.

► See GRANT AVENUE PARKWAY on page 5





Exemptions are made for those with health or breathing conditions that prohibits wearing a face covering, who are hearing impaired and people communicating with individuals who are hearing impaired.

Other exemptions include:

- While consuming food and drink
- While at a swimming pool
- While obtaining a service involving the face or nose for which the temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service
- While playing a sport, exercising or using exercising equipment while exerting themselves
- While working in settings which might increase the risk of heat-related illnesses
- While outdoors and maintaining a 6-foot distance from others or while outdoors and are closer than 6 feet to solely members of their own household
- While speaking, addressing an audience or performing and are able to maintain a 6-foot distance from others
- While serving as a member of a wedding party during the wedding ceremony and/or taking wedding photos.

"The Springfield-Greene County Health Department takes an evidence-based approach to protect and promote the health of our community. Evidence continues to underline the effectiveness

of wearing face coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and as such, is the recommendation of this department," said Clay Goddard, Director of Springfield-Greene County Health Department.

Employers can order face masks through any supplier. One option is the Missouri PPE market place located on the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services website.

"We must continue to do everything we can to protect ourselves and each other from this disease. We hope that the new year will bring us good news in terms of a vaccine rollout and the return of life as we knew it before COVID-19." – Mayor Ken McClure

ENFORCEMENT

It is recommended that businesses place signs on their entrances to notify customers/visitors of the mask requirement. Springfield-Greene County Health Department has created signs that all businesses can print and place on their doors, or businesses can create their own signage. A business toolkit is available at health.springfieldmo.gov/business.

Education is the first step in enforcement. The Springfield Police Department and Health Department work to educate any violators of the

ordinance before citations are issued. To date, no citations have been issued.

Failure to comply with the ordinance can result in a \$100 fine for individuals, businesses, governments or non-profit entities. Each individual within or working for the entity is considered a separate violation. Violations can be reported by calling 9-1-1.

WHO IS MOST AT RISK

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified certain populations at greater risk for severe health outcomes from COVID-19: older adults and individuals with conditions that affect the heart, lungs, kidneys or immune system, including but not limited to cancer, chronic kidney disease, lung disease, obesity, serious heart conditions and diabetes.

Other populations that may be at higher risk for severe symptoms include people who smoke, have asthma, are pregnant or have high blood pressure.

"COVID-19 is taking from us loved ones who had years ahead of them. Having an underlying health condition should not be interpreted as an individual being sick, feeble or infirm," said Director of Health Clay Goddard. "Many of us live robust lives every day with the underlying health conditions that can make us more at risk to severe complications from this disease. We owe it to each other to faithfully practice watching our distance, wearing our masks and washing our hands."

For questions about the ordinance, please call 417-874-1211 option 3 or visit springfieldmo.gov/coronavirusresponse.

#STAYSTRONGSGF

Contact tracing: an important tool in limiting disease spread

By Kathryn Wall, Health Department, for SGFNN

Although it's a decades-old public health practice, contact tracing and its role in reducing the spread of disease has become a hot topic while our community, our state and the nation battle COVID-19.

The term "contact tracing" has been used during this pandemic as a catch-all for the disease investigation process, but traditionally, contact tracing is one part of a bigger picture.

For the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, this all starts with our Division of Epidemiology and Community Health.

Put simply, epidemiology is the science of disease. Our epidemiologists identify the source of disease and transmission; monitor and track diseases; study and update our knowledge of emerging disease; and develop guidance to slow the spread of disease.

Contact tracing is the process of identifying the people our positive cases have come into contact with and initiating quarantine and symptom monitoring to slow the spread of disease. This tool limits the opportunity for disease to spread by limiting person-to-person transmission.

The disease investigation process starts when we are notified of a positive test result. Our main

focus has been COVID-19 this year, but this is how we've approached the nearly 160 diseases that are reported to us such as influenza, hepatitis A and food-borne illness. Our epidemiologists contact the person who tested positive, and work with them to determine where the person might have been infected, what they have done during their infectious period, and who would be considered a close contact.

Then, those close contacts — family members, coworkers and others — are contacted and instructed to quarantine. This is the contact tracing part.

One important thing to know: we will never tell anyone else if you have tested positive for COVID-19. Even if we call your close contacts, we just let them know they've been exposed to COVID-19 — not by whom.

Those under quarantine are instructed on symptoms to watch for and are contacted regularly to ensure symptoms haven't developed. If they have, those individuals are referred to testing.

This practice is designed to break the chain of transmission. If we can keep sick people from those who are well, COVID-19 doesn't have

a chance to spread. The time frame of quarantine for COVID-19 is 14 days, as this is the incubation period. The incubation period refers to the range of time from when a person is exposed to the virus until that person can become infected. Waiting 14 days before leaving quarantine ensures that a person isn't sick before they return to normal life.

It's up to each and every one of us to do what we can to prevent COVID-19. We hope we never have to call you to say you have tested positive or need to quarantine, but if we do, we ask that you cooperate with us so we can work together to keep your friends, family, co-workers and community healthy.



Restore SGF initiative aims to encourage home ownership, reinvestment in heritage neighborhoods

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Springfield City Councilman Richard Ollis grew up within blocks of his family's 130-year-old business, now called Ollis Akers Arney Insurance & Business Advisors, which operated on Commercial Street for more than 90 years. The business, founded as Ollis & Company in 1885 by Ollis's great-grandfather, began as a real estate, home loans and insurance company.

"We're an old north side family. Four generations of our family grew up within blocks of Commercial Street," Ollis said.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Ollis watched Springfield's growth and development toward the south.

"We know and believe the north side and Springfield's older neighborhoods are worth investing in because we have successfully seen a drastic change in our block in the last seven months that our neighbors haven't seen in the last 30 years." – Adrianna Bertoldie

"Unfortunately during this same timeframe, many of our heritage neighborhoods deteriorated. Much of our older housing stock has fallen into disrepair with many homes converted into rentals. Nuisance properties and dangerous buildings have been a constant issue, gaining much-needed attention with new enforcement actions," Ollis said. "If we want to continue to grow and prosper as a community, we must do more than enforce codes. We must reinvest."

According to Ollis, community leaders have begun an effort to focus on the need to reinvest in Springfield's heritage neighborhoods.

"Springfield Public Schools and our community passed the Proposition S bond, providing \$170 million to improve the quality, safety



Woodland Heights resident Steve Miller puts a fresh coat of paint on his Victorian "painted lady."

and accessibility of our schools, many in older neighborhoods. Last fall, City Utilities began an ambitious project, dedicating \$120 million to connect homes and businesses to high speed fiber, again, much of this in our older neighborhoods," Ollis said.

With this momentum, Ollis teamed with Community Foundation of the Ozarks President and CEO Brian Fogle, retired banker Bill Owen and Downtown Springfield Association Executive Director Rusty Worley to form "Restore SGF," a collaborative effort to enhance, restore and rehabilitate homes in Springfield's heritage neighborhoods.

Worley, who co-chairs the Neighborhood Advisory Council and lives in the West Central neighborhood in a renovated 1896 Victorian, says he is excited to see the initiative come to life.

"While there have been two decades of growth in Springfield's bedroom communities and in mixed-use areas of Springfield, such as loft housing and in the Galloway area, our single-family housing stock has continued to decline. We have not had a new housing development within the city limits of Springfield since 2012," Worley said.

The primary goals of Restore SGF are to encourage home ownership and enhance housing stock. Worley says the West Central neighborhood, where he lives, has the lowest rate of home ownership of the 22 registered neighborhoods in Springfield.

"Only about 30% of the homes in West Central are owner-occupied," Worley says. "We know that low rates of home ownership contribute to property decline and then neighborhood decline."

He said the group's strategies for Restore SGF include providing a central resource for all residential incentive and loan programs, many of which already exist through the City's Neighborhoods & Planning Office, the Affordable Housing Center and local lenders. Other strategies include more effectively marketing the programs through partnerships with real estate and banking institutions, stimulating the creation of more rehabilitation and financing options for home buyers and providing more resources to reduce barriers to home ownership and reinvestment in heritage neighborhoods.

Woodland Heights resident Adrianna Bertoldie and her husband Scott purchased and



Encouraging reinvestment in Springfield's heritage neighborhoods.

renovated a former nuisance property in her neighborhood – 1896 N. Douglas – and shared her experience with the group. As of Oct. 6, the property has a pending offer.

"We took the most problematic house on the block and turned it into a gainfully beautiful home." – Adrianna Bertoldie

"We took the most problematic house on the block and turned it into a gainfully beautiful home," Bertoldie said. "Successful economic development is not just about building projects. It's about building people and forming mutually beneficial partnerships to transform the places in which we live for the betterment of all."



1896 N. Douglas BEFORE



1896 N. Douglas AFTER

"Our vision is to bring young families back into neighborhoods on the north side into remodeled homes like ours. We are committed long term to continue to restore and raise the standard we know these homes in our heritage neighborhoods have. We know and believe the north side and Springfield's older neighborhoods are worth investing in because we have successfully seen a drastic change in our block in the last seven months that our neighbors haven't seen in the last 30 years."

Restore SGF's pilot neighborhoods are Midtown, West Central, Woodland Heights and Grant Beach. Ollis and Worley presented the program to the Neighborhood Advisory Council at its Aug. 12 meeting.



Woodland Heights residents Scott and Adrianna Bertoldie

GOOD NEIGHBORTip



Be a Responsible Pet Owner



Being a responsible pet owner is tantamount to being a good neighbor. Animals are covered in Section 18 of the City Code, which you can view on the City's website at springfieldmo.gov/code.

- Make sure your pets are properly vaccinated and tagged.
- Don't let dogs run at large or bark incessantly. Tethering dogs for more than 30 minutes at a time is against the City Code.
- Make sure outside animals have plenty of food, clean water and shade.
- Carry supplies with you on walks to clean up pet waste. Pick up waste from your own yard regularly to control odors.



Yard Ethic program offers ideas on how to be better environmental stewards

By Todd Wilkinson, James River Basin Partnership, for SGFNN

Many people consider Aldo Leopold's Sand County Almanac to be one of the most venerated books in the modern ecological movement, along with Thoreau's Walden and Rachel Carson's Silent Spring. First published in 1949, a year after Leopold's death, it contains a series of essays which express his idea of a "Land Ethic," which ... simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively the land. Leopold maintained that humans should strive to see themselves as a good neighbor of nature, rather than a conqueror of it.

Leopold attempted to practice what he preached at his famed "shack" in rural Sauk County, Wisconsin, like Thoreau's cabin on Walden Pond. Today the Shack is part of the Aldo Leopold Foundation's educational facility and a pilgrimage of sorts for all sorts of people wishing to emulate Leopold's conservation efforts.

But not everyone has to be a Leopold and live in a shack in the woods; citizens of Springfield can make their own "shack" of sorts by participating in the Yard Ethic Program, which is co-sponsored by the City of Springfield's Department of Environmental Services and the James River Basin Partnership (JRBP). In fact, the Yard Ethic program was inspired by Leopold's ideas on how humans can be a part of a larger, healthy community of people, plants and wildlife. "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community, stated Leopold. "It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Leopold's land ethic was not a "litany of rights and wrong," as a 2015 blog from the Aldo Leopold Foundation states, but rather a way for humans to develop direct contact with the natural world and create environmental values from experience.

Yard Ethic uses two checklists for silver and gold certifications to "implement practices that save money, beautify your yard, conserve water, reduce stormwater pollution and create habitat," according to its web site. When a homeowner completes the checklist for either the silver or gold certifications,

they are awarded an official sign to display on their property, as well as make their neighbors and others aware of the program.

Both certifications involve two of JRBP's programs: the Lawn Steward soil testing program, and the Right as Rain Rain Barrel Rebate program. With the silver certification, homeowners must have a soil test and implement one of the three-year voluntary nutrient management plans; with gold certification, the plan must be organic in nature.

With rainwater harvesting systems, a silver certification requires the installation of a rain barrel with a minimum of 50 gallons; a gold certification requires the installation of a system with a minimum of 100 gallons.

Participants with both certifications also are required to establish a rain garden or bioswale to help with collecting nutrient runoff, especially from impervious surfaces, such as driveways, and to establish native plant populations as part of an effort to slow runoff, spread nutrients around to allow them to soak into a natural filter. Native species also provide benefit to pollinators such as monarch butterflies and bees which are so critical to our ecosystems.

Finally, tree canopy requirements — 15% of their lot for the silver and 25% for the gold encourage the idea of "right tree, right place" ideas, as well as the establishment of compost piles or bins for organic material (including food waste) round out the Yard Ethic requirements at both levels. In addition, participants at the Gold Level must share their story and actively recruit a friend or neighbor to participate in the program.

"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us," Leopold stated. "When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." No doubt Leopold would have heartily approved of the City of Springfield's efforts to encourage residents to create their own "yard ethic" and establish our own neighborhood of this larger sustainable community.

For more information on how you can participate in the Yard Ethic Program, please visit: yardethic.com. And if you're already a Yard Ethic participant, please share your story (and photos) with us — we'd love to see your "shack."



Congratulations to Bob and Barb Kipfer who live in the Ravenwood subdivision for becoming the newest Yard Ethic Gold Certified Yard! Read more about them and their yard at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

SGF NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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▶ GRANT AVENUE PARKWAY from page 1

"We are using a variety of methods to ensure those who may be impacted by the project, as well as the community at large, are informed about the project and know how to be involved," said Director of Public Information & Civic Engagement Cora Scott. "The project website at grantavenueparkway.com is a hub for information and engagement throughout this process. We are also utilizing signage, door hangers and print postcards, and surveys to engage those who may not have digital access."

CORRIDOR PLAN

The City is also in the process of developing a Grant Avenue Corridor Plan to guide development decisions in the neighborhoods and public spaces adjacent to the Grant Avenue Parkway.

As an integral part in the development of the City's next Comprehensive Plan update, City staff are working closely with Forward SGF planning consultants Houseal Lavigne to develop a targeted plan for the Grant Avenue corridor.

A corridor study will focus on the areas adjacent to Grant Avenue that are generally within 500 feet of the Grant Avenue right of way, as well as Grand Street. The plan will include recommendations and strategies for changes in future land use, redevelopment, neighborhood stabilization, incentives and transportation improvements. Throughout this planning process, regulatory framework strategies will be introduced to help guide the creation of future development and zoning code amendments.

To learn more about planning for the Grant Avenue Corridor, and the relationship to the Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan, visit ForwardSGF.com.

PROJECT TEAM

Engineering firm CMT and a consultant group comprised of representatives from local and national civil engineering, architecture and planning firms (Burns & McDonnell, CJW, HG

Consult, ARC, Houseal Lavigne, OR Colan and Pratt Consulting) have joined forces with the City's internal team of staff from Public Works, Public Information & Civic Engagement, Planning and Quality of Place Initiatives for the development of the Grant Avenue Parkway project.

The consultant group is tasked with helping the City navigate complicated federal approval processes involved with the grant, completing a corridor analysis, environmental review and risk assessment during the early development stages of the project. CMT will further aid in the development of a request for qualifications for project delivery firms, the facilitation of any right-of-way acquisitions needed for the project and will provide assistance throughout the construction phase.



Intersection of Grant Avenue and Madison Street

ADVISORY TEAMS

Two Grant Avenue Parkway advisory teams have also been assembled, representing a wide variety of organizations, demographics and interests. The Community Advisory Team will focus on the potential positive and negative impacts of the project on the community and provide guidance on how it can serve as a community asset and catalyst.

The Technical Advisory Team will provide input on specific technical and engineering aspects of the concept development phase and will assist in identifying community needs, priorities and impacts along the corridor. Both groups held introductory meetings in early September and are expected to meet three more times to provide guidance throughout the initial concept development phase of the project.

Garden's AGLOW

Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden
Nov. 27-Jan. 3
Fri.-Sun. nights, 5-8:30 p.m.
Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Enjoy an evening stroll through the garden glowing with festive lights and music! Campfires and hot drinks available. Advanced tickets through FriendsOftheGarden.org

ADMISSION: \$5/Adult
\$2/Children 3-12 years

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OF THE GARDEN

SPRINGFIELD
SISTER CITIES
ASSOCIATION

Enroll now for paid training and tuition through Missouri Job Center

By Francine Pratt, Missouri College Action Network, for SGFNN

The Missouri Job Center – Ozark Region in Springfield reopened to the public while also finding ways to respect local recovery orders through new innovative solutions that put Springfieldians back to work! If you are out of work and would like to work but need some training, they may be able to help you.

You may qualify for up to \$4,000 in paid tuition to help train for jobs in manufacturing, information technology, health care, construction or transportation and logistics.

The job center can enroll 114 individuals by Oct. 31. Funding for this program is through the CARES Act and is only available through the end of October. For more information on this program and other short-term training programs, call 417-887-4343. They have training programs online and in person.

Other resources are available through the Missouri Department of Higher Education, and Workforce Development (DHEWD) has several

certificate programs that provide online, in classroom or a combination of learning styles through Columbia College (Springfield Campus), Drury University, Evangel University, Missouri State University (MSU), MSU-West Plains, Ozarks Technical Community College and Southwest Baptist University. More information is available on the DHEWD website: dhewd.mo.gov. On this website you will find additional resources for the "Return Strong" program to help Missourians return to work or train for a different type of work.

ABOUT MOCAN

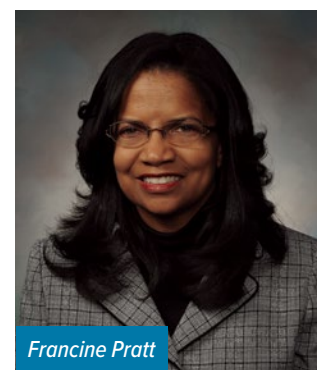
The mission of the Missouri College Access Network (MOCAN) is to increase career and college awareness, preparation, access, and completion in Missouri, particularly for the underrepresented and underserved. We do this by:

- Advocating for public and institutional policies that promote postsecondary access and success.



- Coordinating statewide career preparation and college access and success activities for service providers.
- Leveraging and connecting providers, professionals, and other stakeholders to strengthen and grow programs, and to eliminate service and equity gaps.
- Centralizing knowledge-sharing and technical training for career and college program providers.
- Identifying, summarizing, and actively sharing standardized data collection measures and relevant research regarding career preparation and college access and success.
- Fostering a collective voice to communicate postsecondary educational and training opportunities to all people in Missouri.

For more information, visit mocollegeaccess.com.



***Are you seeking
a better career
opportunity?***



If you are out of work for any reason or if you are working but would like to go back to school and train for a new career, we may be able to help.

You could be eligible for up to \$4,000 in paid tuition to help you train for a career in manufacturing, IT, health care, construction or transportation and logistics.

The Missouri Job Center is currently seeking to enroll 114 individuals by Oct. 31, 2020.

Funding for this program is made possible through the CARES Act and will only be available through October.

To find out more or to enroll, contact the Missouri Job Center at 417-887-4343. Training courses are offered both in person and virtually to fit your schedule.

Call or stop by today!

East Side Springfield Location: 2900 E. Sunshine | 417-887-4343 | Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

North Side Springfield Location: The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway | 417-834-6660 | Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Branson Location: 2720 Shepherd of the Hills Expway. | 417-334-4156 | Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Missouri Job Center is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services available to individuals with disabilities. MO TTY users can call 800-735-2966 or contact MO Relay 711.

Sow seeds this fall to make a difference in 2021 and beyond

By Rusty Worley, for SGFNN

Fall in the Ozarks is typically an exceptional time of the year. We enjoy our favorite iconic community events like the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival, football games, Cider Days and Harvest Fest at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park.

We are disappointed to not have those fall favorites in 2020 due to COVID-19, but there are four significant things we can safely venture out to do:

WALK AND WATCH

Take advantage of the milder weather to walk. Explore new areas of your neighborhood by deviating from your routines. Find homes with interesting histories and green spaces with unknown beauty.

While you are getting some fresh air and exercise, make a point to keep an eye out. The Neighborhood Watch mantra is "See something, say something." Community policing is much more effective when residents take the time to know their neighbors and report criminal or suspicious activity. Many areas have Neighborhood Watch groups and each neighborhood has a Police Area Representative (PAR) officer to assist in proactively addressing criminal activity. PAR officers are listed on each registered neighborhood's page of this publication.

Make a goal to rack up additional steps each week and be more active in your Neighborhood Watch.

PITCH IN BY PICKING UP

Everyone doing a little makes a big difference. As you are out walking in your neighborhood, occasionally bring along a sack and pick up the trash you see along the sidewalks and curbs. It will make a material difference on your street and can be contagious to get others to follow your example.

Many neighborhoods will offer cleanups this fall. It is a good opportunity to clear out the clutter that may have accumulated with the extra time at home

the past few months. Check with your neighborhood to learn when your cleanup will be held this fall and spring.

FACE FORWARD

The City of Springfield is resuming community engagement for the Forward SGF comprehensive planning process for the community. A variety of virtual, digital surveys and in-person sessions with appropriate social distancing will be offered to get your feedback in this inspiring process. This is your chance to voice your opinions on what you want to see in your neighborhood and community.

Too often, neighborhoods feel that they are in the position of having to play defense with planning and zoning issues. More input now, without a pressing redevelopment case, will more objectively guide future investment. The City and your neighborhood want to hear your ideas on what you want to materialize over the next 20 years. Organic plans based on the engagement of many residents bring credibility to the process.

VOTE WITH VIGOR

Voting is vital to our democracy. Having strong turnouts across all our neighborhoods allows residents to be counted and is an important measure of civic engagement. Encourage your friends and neighbors to exercise their civic duty by learning about the candidates and the issues and letting their voices be heard.

The year 2020 is mercifully winding down. Rather than dwelling on what we won't be able to do in this unprecedented fall season, the Neighborhood Advisory Council encourages you to walk and watch, pitch in by picking up, face forward and vote with vigor in order to sow the seeds that will make a difference in 2021 and beyond.



NAC Chair Rusty Worley

SPD continues work to build relationships and bridge gaps through pandemic

By Jasmine Bailey, Springfield Police Department, for SGFNN

As we continue to navigate a unique and historic time in our community, building relationships with our citizens is more important to SPD than ever. With masking and social distancing, we have found a number of ways to stay connected to the Springfield community.

At the end of August, Chief Paul Williams held an in-person Coffee with the Chief event at Neighbor's Mill Bakery & Café. The event was modified to comply with COVID-19 restrictions and about a dozen citizens were able to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to encourage an open discussion between the public and the Chief and give citizens the opportunity to voice concerns or share ideas. Coffee with the Chief is a monthly event. If you would like to attend Coffee with the Chief, dates can be found at springfieldmo.gov/SPD.

We are also excited to participate in a brand-new outreach program co-sponsored by the Missouri State University men's basketball team called Bears, Badges and Kids. Through the program, MSU basketball players and SPD officers hold monthly basketball camps around the city and work directly with local youth. The goal of the program is to humanize police officers and bridge the gap between local youth and law enforcement. The events are free for children in grades K-6 and lunch is provided. The next date is Saturday, April 24, 2021 at Pipkin Middle School (1215 N. Boonville Ave.)



Bears, Badges and Kids event

Another way we've worked to continue outreach to local kids is through our Cold Patrol ice cream truck. To ensure the health and safety of our officers and the community, we have taken extra precautions by wearing masks and gloves while handing out single-serve ice cream packages. SPD officers continued bringing the Cold Patrol to area neighborhoods until the weather cooled in October.

Finally, Neighborhood Watch is a great way for citizens to build a relationship with our Crime Prevention Officers and get more involved in crime fighting efforts. The training focuses on crime prevention, observation and reporting skills, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). This program is helpful in giving citizens the tools needed to fight crime in their neighborhoods and keep their homes secure. With 23 official watch groups now formed, the program continues to grow within the City of Springfield. If you're interested in participating in the training, visit springfieldmo.gov/SPD.

CPO realigns Caring Communities programming to better fit community's needs

By Brooke Ash, CPO, for SGFNN

Community Partnership of the Ozarks' Caring Communities team has been hard at work realigning our programming to better address the changing needs of our community.

We are restructuring our program to provide more direct support to the community in the areas of mentoring/youth development, college/career readiness, community-based social work services and community development.

"I am very excited to work collaboratively with neighborhood associations, organizations, and other community groups..." – Rachel Tripp

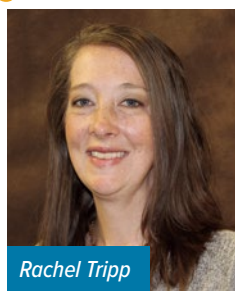
As a result, we have two neighborhood support staff members to work with associations across the city.

Rachel Tripp, our new community development specialist, isn't new to CPO – in fact, she has been

with the organization since 2016 and has served as the community-based social worker for the last four years.

She holds a degree in social work and has worked with the community and Springfield Public Schools to help families in crisis with needed resources and support. In her community development role, she will be working to provide a macro level of technical support to all 22 neighborhoods across the city.

This support will include providing oversight of educational and networking opportunities, which will be made available on a quarterly basis (i.e. NOVA banquet, Leadership Summit), as well as liability questions/concerns, individual neighborhood inquiries, and support for newly forming/reforming associations. In addition, she will be getting involved with affordable housing and chronic nuisance property initiatives.



Rachel Tripp

► See **CARING COMMUNITIES** on page 19

The pavilion in L.A. Wise Park, pictured below, was constructed in 2018 using grants awarded through the Neighborhood Works program.



More improvements coming to L.A. Wise Park this fall

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

Construction for several new amenities to L.A. Wise Park are slated to begin this fall. This is made possible by the City's Neighborhood Works initiative. Begun in 2016 and funded via City sales tax, Neighborhood Works is a unique program through which neighborhood associations compete for funding to improve public assets in their neighborhoods.

The Bissett Neighborhood Association was successful in obtaining two grants through the program. The first resulted in the 2018 construction of the pavilion in L.A. Wise Park. The second grant for \$63,778 was awarded in 2018 and its site work is due to commence this fall.

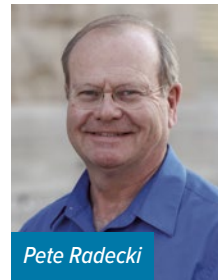
The winning grant proposal outlines a variety of desired amenities to the park and surrounds. They include a multi-purpose hard-surface sports court, improvements to the soccer field, cooking grills near the pavilion, and sitting benches adjacent to the soccer field and future court. Since the grant amount was based on conceptual cost estimates developed in late 2017, the original list of proposed amenities may or may not be possible to build without going over the grant amount. That said, we can expect to soon be enjoying substantial improvements to the park even if every item does not get built. Plans for a walkway connecting the park to Bissett Elementary are still under development for a later date.



WORK BEGINS THIS FALL ON THESE PROJECTS:

Amenity 1: Install permanent outdoor cooking grills adjacent to the new pavilion. Adding grills would make the park much more useful for family picnics and similar activities. This will result in a greater number and diversity of park users including many who may not have the physical ability to jog the track or play soccer.

Amenity 2: Install park benches under the trees near the pavilion and close to the soccer field and proposed multi-use court. Currently there are four benches in L.A. Wise Park, none of which are in the shade, and there are no benches for spectators and players while playing soccer or using the proposed sports court. By adding seating, the sporting activities can be better enjoyed by players, those waiting to play and importantly, those who lack the physical ability to play but enjoy the fellowship of spectating.



Pete Radecki

Amenity 3: Soccer field improvements to enhance field playability. Proposed improvements include rehabilitating the turf in and near the soccer goals, leveling and reseeding/sodding the field, and installing permanent corner markers for the field. Soccer is by far the most frequently played team sport at L.A. Wise Park, but the field is in poor condition.

Amenity 4: Install a multi-purpose court

While the existing soccer field gets a considerable amount of usage, there are no facilities for those desiring to play such games as basketball, futsal, Pickleball, shuffleboard, badminton and other court games. A concrete or asphalt surface court is proposed to be constructed with markings for a variety of court games, basketball goals and poles from which various court nets can be attached. Futsal is played on a court about the size of a basketball court, with rules similar to soccer, but with a smaller ball. It can be played by a great many individuals who may lack the stamina for soccer. If the court is built to support futsal, it may be the only outdoor futsal court in town — Lake Country Soccer has an indoor court. This may help to attract more to play it both from our neighborhood and elsewhere.

We believe this expanded range of park amenities will facilitate fit and healthy lifestyles, and should significantly increase park usage.

We are pleased the improvements will soon become a reality, and while funding may be insufficient to cover all the proposed amenities, we look forward to these big improvements to our neighborhood.



Connect

- Russell Moore, President
- Vickie Grinde, Secretary
- Sheila Radecki, Treasurer
- BissettNA@yahoo.com



Neighborhood Association Meetings


Nov. 10 • Dec. 8 • Jan. 12: 6:30–7:30 p.m., 6 p.m. optional potluck @ Bissett Elementary (3014 W. Calhoun St.) • Nov. 10 meeting agenda to include 2021 officer elections.

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Zach Pugh: 417-874-2536
zpugh@springfieldmo.gov



 **Bissett Elementary School**
3014 W. Calhoun St.

Follow Bissett on  

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

June 5, 2021: 8 a.m.-Noon

Bissett Elementary

(3014 W. Calhoun St.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Metal



Bissett held their rescheduled Spring Neighborhood Cleanup on Sept. 12.



CoxHealth, Springfield Community Gardens start farm to feed community

By Kaitlyn McConnell, CoxHealth, for SGFNN

Acreage that was once farmland will soon return to its roots, as CoxHealth adds a farm to help feed its patients and employees.

The farm, created in partnership with Springfield Community Gardens (SCG), will be located across Primrose Street from Cox South. It will grow a variety of seasonal produce that will benefit patients with dietary needs, as well as be available to employees to purchase through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

“SCG is committed to creating pathways, such as the hospital farm with our partner CoxHealth, to reach not only neighborhoods with community gardens, but institutions who purchase and serve healthy food to their patients and employees and the farmers who grow it.” – Maile Auterson

“Plans for the farm originated prior to the COVID-19 pandemic’s arrival in the Ozarks, but now more than ever, we are very excited for this partnership and what it means for our community,” Jason Bauer, system director of food services at CoxHealth. “We are looking forward to helping provide our patients and employees with locally grown food that will benefit their health.”

In addition to the food production, the farm will benefit the greater Springfield area in specific ways through three separate USDA grants awarded to Springfield Community Gardens totaling \$1,644,980. In addition to the farm at Cox South, the funding will support projects in progress at The Fairbanks and Schweitzer United Methodist Church.

- \$597,918 comes from National Institute of Food and Agriculture for a beginning farmer program. This program seeks to address the needs and enhance the success of young, beginning, and underrepresented farmers in rural and urban areas of Greene County. The program’s goal is to increase the number, success, and sustainability of beginning farmers and ranchers in the U.S., by providing them with knowledge, skills, and tools

needed to make informed decisions and achieve economic success. This grant is tied to award #2019-49400-30461.



- \$672,457 comes from the USDA Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers program (also known as the 2501 Program). Managed by the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE), this grant helps provide training, outreach, and technical assistance to underserved and veteran farmers and ranchers. This grant is tied to award #AO192501X443G009.
- \$374,605 comes from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to foster self-sustaining solutions that help make healthy foods available to families living in low-income neighborhoods. Awarded through the Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program, these projects increase food security in communities by bringing the whole food system together to assess strengths, establish linkages, and create systems to improve the self-reliance of community members. This grant is tied to #2019-33800-30382.

“The integration of food production, public health and the local economy is necessary for our community’s quality of life,” says Maile Auterson, co-founder and executive director of SCG. “SCG is committed to creating pathways, such as the hospital farm with our partner CoxHealth, to reach not only neighborhoods with community gardens, but institutions who purchase and serve healthy food to their patients and employees and the farmers who grow it.”

The farm is not the first time CoxHealth and Springfield Community Gardens have collaborated for greater community good. There has been a garden at Cox North for several years, and SCG leases space in the hospital’s kitchen.

The farm will be named Amanda Belle’s Farm in honor of Lester E. Cox’s mother, who was known for bringing food to patients in need at the hospital in the early 1900s.



Connect

- Rex Johnson, President: mo.turkey@sbcglobal.net
- Marilyn Kemper, Vice President: marilynkemper@sbcglobal.net
- Jacque Ford, Secretary
- Larry Nelson, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Neighborhood meetings are held at Immaculate Conception Church (3555 S. Fremont Ave.) Please check the Bradford Park newsletter or contact Rex Johnson for upcoming scheduled meetings.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Jacob Boomgaarden: 417-864-1321
jboomgaarden@springfieldmo.gov



Follow Bradford Park on

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

April 17, 2021: 8 a.m.-Noon

Intersection of E. Walnut Lawn & Kickapoo Ave.
Accepted: Trash, Brush, Leaves, Metal, TVs



Bradford Park accepts a check from Community Partnership of the Ozarks for finishing as a runner-up in the Community Engagement Neighborhood Challenge during the month of June. Read more about the neighborhood challenge in the Delaware section on page 10.



Delaware Neighborhood Association wins Community Engagement Neighborhood Challenge

Galloway Village places second

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Community Partnership of the Ozarks' Caring Communities team in June challenged Springfield's 22 registered neighborhoods to come up with a creative way to engage neighborhood residents during the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Delaware Neighborhood Association's June 26 Lemonade Crawl was the winner, bringing home a \$500 check from CPO to use for neighborhood activities.

Galloway Village's Beautify and Remember activity — encouraging neighbors to clean up litter and search for historic photos of Galloway — took second place and \$300 in the challenge. Bradford Park, Greater Parkcrest and Westside Betterment were the runners-up and each took home \$100.

Thank you to Rich Callahan and Air Services Heating, Cooling, and All Service Professional Plumbing for sponsoring the challenge.



Connect

- Jeff Brossard-Sims, President:
delawareneighborhood@gmail.com
or 417-830-3711
- Carroll Neyrey, Vice President
- Cynthia Yarborough, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Nov. 3 • Jan. 5: 6 p.m. @ Westminster Presbyterian Church (1551 E. Portland St.).

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Jacob Boomgaarden: 417-864-1321
jboomgaarden@springfieldmo.gov



Delaware Elementary School
1505 S. Delaware Ave.

Follow Delaware on

Fall Neighborhood Cleanup

Nov. 11: 8 a.m.-Noon

Westminster Presbyterian Church
(1551 E. Portland St.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush (No Leaves), Metal
Curbside Pickup will be available.

Contact Jeff Brossard-Sims (417-830-3711)



Congratulations to the Delaware Dragons on winning the fall league championship, and thanks to Coach Phil Barber!



Aug. 12 groundbreaking begins construction to renovate Hillcrest High School

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

It was a great day to be on the Hill for a celebration.

On Wednesday, Aug. 12, Hillcrest students past and present, current and retired teachers and Springfield leaders came together to break ground on a massive renovation of Hillcrest High School. The nearly \$30 million project will be complete by the end of 2022.

"Over the next two years, this campus will be transformed as we construct a new learning wing and renovate existing parts of the school to improve the learning environment and address security and accessibility barriers," said Superintendent John Jungmann.

"Springfield wants Hillcrest to have the best, and Hillcrest deserves the best." – Dr. Alina Lehnert

Originally, the Hillcrest renovation was designed to be completed in two phases. Phase One was scheduled to be done by June 2022 and Phase Two was scheduled to be funded by a future bond proposal. But due to lower than anticipated construction costs districtwide, all improvements to Hillcrest will be completed, said Jungmann.

"What an exciting time it will be for the Hillcrest students, parents, teachers and alumni to witness

the transformation of their school and see physical evidence that Springfield cares about them," said Dr. Alina Lehnert, school board president. "Springfield wants Hillcrest to have the best, and Hillcrest deserves the best."

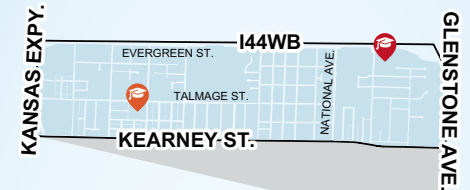
The original north side high school was built in 1957, with remnants of the school's original design still standing throughout its expansive campus. Overlooking it all is the Annex — a building used formerly as Fairview Elementary School, attended by Dr. Denise Fredrick, school board member. She later went on to graduate from Hillcrest High School and was inspired by her Hillcrest teachers to become an educator herself.

Seeing a Hillcrest renovation might be the highlight of her service to Springfield as a board member, she said.

"I attended an open house at Hillcrest prior to the 2019 bond election, and there were many community members who wanted change at Hillcrest but were fearful that such a big project for their school would be tucked away to the bottom of the list," said Dr. Fredrick. "The community trusted, had faith and confidence in this administration and all those working hard to support Proposition S. And folks, here we are! It is real, it is happening and it is going to serve future generations of this community with a home to be proud of. In the words of the Hillcrest fight song, Fight on Ye Hornets Fight With All Your Might to Victory. This is victory!"

Big Shots Golf to open this fall at Kearney and Glenstone

In August, the construction crew working on Big Shots Golf was busy installing the poles along the perimeter of the nets. According to O'Reilly Hospitality Management, Big Shots will open this fall.



Connect

- Grady Cooper, President: picthisl@msn.com
- Emily Jenkins, Vice President
- Melissa Gallian, Secretary,
- Jayme VanMeter, Treasurer
- dolingna@gmail.com



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Nov. 18 • Dec. 8 • Jan. 12: 6:45 – 8 p.m.

6 p.m. optional potluck @ Hillcrest Presbyterian Church (818 E. Norton Road)

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Evan Nicholson: 417-874-2537

enicholson@springfieldmo.gov



Fremont Elementary School
2814 N. Fremont Ave.

Watkins Elementary School
732 W. Talmage St.

Follow Doling on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/dolingneighborhood.com) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/dolingneighborhood.com)
[dolingneighborhood.com](https://www.dolingneighborhood.com)

Adopt-A-Street Cleanups

Oct. 17: 9-10 a.m.

Help us clean up the neighborhood. Meet in the parking lot of Kansas Expressway Church of Christ at the corner of Kansas Expressway and Talmage at 9 a.m. We'll pick up trash along Talmage between Kansas and Broadway. If we have enough volunteers, we'll also tackle Livingston between Kansas and the Livingston Dip. DNA will provide trash bags. Bring your own gloves.



Level
PROPERTY TAX



A rendering of the new Fire Station 4 located on North Delaware. Demolition of Fire Station 4 (located on the boundary between the Doling and Robberson neighborhoods) will begin in late November with construction for its replacement complete in 2021.



Section of Galloway Creek Greenway Trail to be replaced this winter

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The 2,700-foot section of the Galloway Creek Greenway Trail from Sequiota Park south to Republic Road will be replaced this winter with new 8- to 10-foot-wide concrete surface compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act standards. The new trail will follow the same trail alignment and will require no tree removals.

The project will require a 60-day closure of this section of trail. The reconstruction project will be funded primarily through a federal Surface Transportation Block Grant with a 20% required local match.

The Galloway Creek Greenway Trail is the highest-used section of trail in the City and



continues to grow in popularity, connecting neighborhoods and businesses to the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, Springfield Lake, and Pershing elementary and middle schools.

City Council paves way for new mixed-use development on Lone Pine

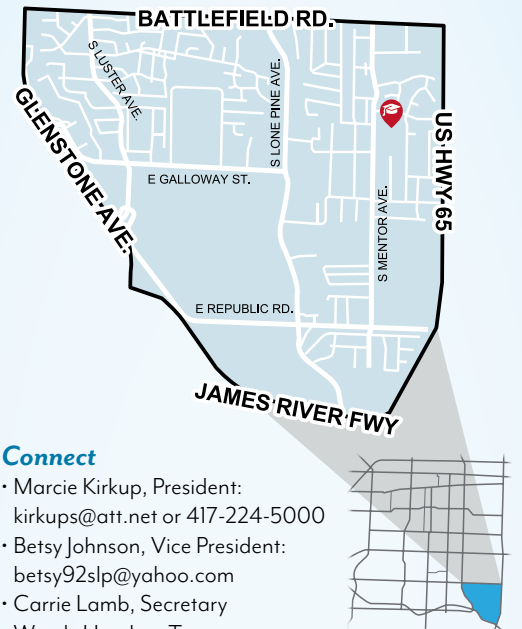
By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

At its Sept. 21 meeting, City Council approved an amended bill to rezone approximately 4.2 acres along Lone Pine Avenue across the street from Sequiota Park.

Elevation Enterprises plans a mixed-use

development with two new multi-family residential buildings and four existing buildings for commercial and residential use.

The amendment reduced the maximum structure height for the buildings fronting Lone Pine Avenue to 56 feet and removed the underground garage.



Connect

- Marcie Kirkup, President:
kirkups@att.net or 417-224-5000
- Betsy Johnson, Vice President:
betsy92slp@yahoo.com
- Carrie Lamb, Secretary
- Wendy Huscher, Treasurer
- gallowayvillage@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 20: 6:30 p.m. @ Galloway Baptist Church (2816 E. Republic Rd.) Meetings are quarterly. Special meetings may be called as needed.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Jacob Boomgaarden: 417-864-1321
jboomgaarden@springfieldmo.gov



 **Sequiota Elementary School**
3414 S. Mentor Ave.

Follow Galloway Village on 
[gallowayvillage.org](https://www.facebook.com/gallowayvillage.org)

Galloway Adopt-A-Stream

Sequiota Park

Visit [gallowayvillage.org](https://www.gallowayvillage.org) or the Galloway Village Facebook page for more information.



Galloway Village accepts a check from Community Partnership of the Ozarks for finishing in second place in the Community Engagement Neighborhood Challenge during the month of June. Read more about the neighborhood challenge in the Delaware section on page 10.



Missouri Job Center relocates north side location to The Fairbanks

By Katherine Trombetta, Missouri Job Center, for SGFNN

The Missouri Job Center in Springfield reopened its north side affiliate office on Aug. 20. The Job Center North is now located in The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Avenue in partnership with the Drew Lewis Foundation. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"We believe this move to The Fairbanks will allow us to provide the services that are needed by area residents," said Sally Payne, interim director of Workforce Development for the City of Springfield. "The new location is easily accessible and has two

bus stops," Payne added. In addition, the Job Center will have four computer stations for job seekers to search for employment or participate in online workshops.

The Job Center North had been located in the Cox Medical Tower since it was first opened in November of 2016. "We are grateful to CoxHealth for their support and we look forward to continuing our partnership in other ways," Payne said.



Connect

- Kathy Lutz, President:
gbna.email@gmail.com
or 417-306-8421
- Pauletta Dunn, Vice President
- Samantha Hunter, Secretary
- Doris Hunter, Treasurer
- **Hovey House: 417-942-2456**



Neighborhood Association Meetings


Oct. 19 • Nov. 16 • Dec. 21: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m./
6 p.m. optional potluck @ St. Joseph Catholic Church
Parish Hall (1115 N. Campbell Ave.)

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Jimmy Andela: 417-874-2535
jandela@springfieldmo.gov



 **Weaver Elementary School**
1461 W. Douglas Ave.

 **Pipkin Middle School**
1215 N. Boonville Ave.

Follow Grant Beach on  
grantbeachneighborhood.org

Fall Neighborhood Cleanup

Oct. 24: 8 a.m.-Noon

Central Assembly of God
(1301 N. Boonville Ave.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush (No Leaves), Metal
Curbside Pickup will be available.

Contact Pauletta Dunn (417-880-2453)

Volunteers needed for Richard's Roots, a.k.a. Grant Beach Community Garden

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

If you have a green thumb and a heart for volunteering, Richard's Roots, a.k.a. the Grant Beach Community Garden, needs you. Since the passing of its former gardener Richard Napieralski, the garden has fallen into disrepair. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Pauletta Dunn at paulett.dunn@gmail.com or 417-880-2453.

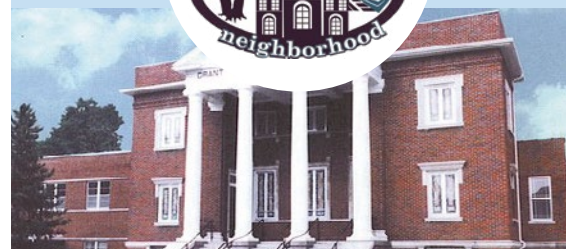
On Sept. 16, 2019, the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association held a rededication ceremony for the garden. The garden was renamed Richard's Roots, in memory of Napieralski, who literally put his blood, sweat, and tears into the garden and passed away in August 2019.



"Richard was an avid gardener (his entire backyard was a garden). Richard also helped establish the Grant Beach produce distribution, which provided fruits and vegetables to those who signed up. Richard had been a member of the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association for over a decade, having served as our treasurer many years ago," said Grant Beach Neighborhood Association President Kathy Lutz.

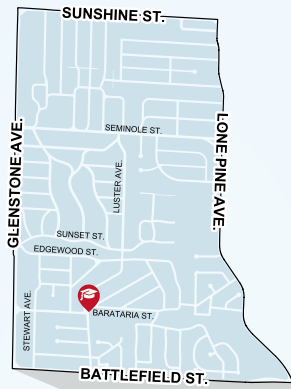


Richard Napieralski



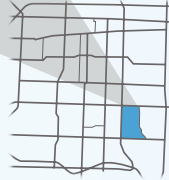
According to an Aug. 17 Springfield News-Leader column by Steve Pokin, Grant Avenue Day Care closed Aug. 21. We want to thank Director Janice Sartin, and the church, for their service to the Springfield community.

BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Erin Gray, President:
erineileengray@gmail.com
or 417-459-9020
- Cindy Cook, Vice President
- Elizabeth Seaton, Secretary
- Andrea Tunia, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Meeting schedule varies. Please check the website or contact an officer for dates, times and locations.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Jacob Boomgaarden: 417-864-1321
jboomgaarden@springfieldmo.gov



 **Field Elementary School**
2120 E. Barataria St.

Follow Brentwood on  
brentwoodsgf.org



Several Springfield Police Department officers lined the sidewalk and hallways of Field Elementary to support Morgan Walsh, daughter of fallen Officer Chris Walsh, on her first day of school. **From SPD's Facebook page:** "Fallen SPD Officer Chris Walsh couldn't be here to see his girl off to school today, but we know he's watching from above as we support and stand with her."

GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Judy Wyrick, President:
jwyrick54@gmail.com or
417-883-0706
- Murielle Reed, Vice President
- Esther Nelson, Secretary
- Fred Romaine, 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.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Eric Luebbert: 417-864-1138
eluebbert@springfieldmo.gov



 **Horace Mann Elementary School**
3745 S. Broadway Ave.

Follow Greater Parkcrest on  



Greater Parkcrest accepts a check from Community Partnership of the Ozarks for finishing as a runner-up in the Community Engagement Neighborhood Challenge during the month of June. Read more about the neighborhood challenge in the Delaware section on page 10.

HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Cody Parsons, President:
codycodemparsons@gmail.com
or 573-480-5393
- Mike Bauer, Vice President
- Anna Pageler, Secretary/Treasurer:
anna.pageler@gmail.com
- Glenn Gohr, Social Media Coordinator:
archives_guy@hotmail.com
- theheartofthewestside@gmail.com




Neighborhood Association Meetings

Nov. 12 • Jan. 14: 6 – 7 p.m. @ Passion Assembly of God (806 N. Forest Ave.) • At the November meeting we will be voting on bylaws and new board members.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Zach Pugh: 417-874-2536
zpugh@springfieldmo.gov



 **York Elementary School**
2100 W. Nichols St.

Follow Heart of the Westside on  



Rebuilt York Elementary School to open in 2022

Due to lower than expected costs on multiple Proposition 5 projects, an estimated \$20.96 million is available to build a new York Elementary School on its current site at 2100 W. Nichols. Demolition of the current school is slated for June 2021, with construction to begin for a new, nearly \$20 million school beginning in August 2021. The rebuilt York is scheduled to open by August 2022.

Read more about the York Elementary School project on SGFNeighborhoodnews.com.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR FRIENDS AT
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

AUTUMN CLEANUP

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES EDITION



STORM WATER

The Stormwater division monitors storm drains, erosion and runoff to help protect the quality of our streams and lakes.

STORMWATER QUALITY (417) 864.1996

springfieldmo.gov/stormwater
yardethic.com



WASTE WATER

The Wastewater division manages the collection and treatment of the waste in water we flush and pour down the drain.

SEWER EMERGENCIES & ISSUES (417) 864.1010
AFTER HOURS SEWER EMERGENCY (417) 864.1923

springfieldmo.gov/wastewater



SOLID WASTE

The Solid Waste division integrates various programs and services to help manage and reduce Springfield's waste stream.

RECYCLING HOTLINE (417) 864.1904

springfieldmo.gov/solidwaste

**ONLY RAIN DOWN
THE DRAIN**

PAGE 2

**NO STINK
IN THE SINK**

PAGE 4

**A PLACE FOR
YARDWASTE**

PAGE 3

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

What flows down our streets and parking lots ends up in our streams.

Practicing responsible water stewardship helps to minimize and reduce the number of pollutants that enter our waterways through the groundwater and our storm drains. This is important because the water that goes into our storm drains is not sent to a treatment plant to be filtered, cleaned or treated.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/stormwater



Fall garden upkeep

Fall is a great time to mulch! Not only does it help to retain moisture, accommodate garden-friendly critters and prevent weed growth in the autumn months, but it also helps to insulate and protect your garden plants from the oncoming cold.

The best time to trim back and cut down natives and perennials is in the late winter months after the plants have gone dormant. Waiting until February or early spring helps keep the roots safe and provide extra food and habitat for wildlife.

See litter? PICK IT UP!

One of the easiest things you can do to help improve water quality (and beautify the community) is to look out for litter. Take a small bag with you on your walks or make a game out of seeing how many pieces of trash you can collect in your neighborhood.

Also pay attention to your curbside trash bin. Make sure all trash is well contained inside on these windy fall days so it doesn't blow litter all over your neighborhood.

Planting Trees in the Fall

September through November is the prime time for planting trees. When planted in the fall, trees are allowed an opportunity for roots to grow and become established well before a winter freeze, avoiding the hot arid summer months that could make growth difficult for newly planted trees.

Rain down the Storm Drain; Not Leaves

Don't rake, sweep or blow leaves, grass clippings or yard debris into the street or storm drain. This practice is discouraged due to the problems it causes to our water quality and stormwater drainage system. In fact, this is a violation of City Code Section 96-27.

Even though yardwaste is organic, it adds nutrients to streams that contribute to algae growth. Not only that, it degrades the water quality of the streams the drains flow to and can even clog storm drains - causing flooding in streets, intersections and neighborhoods.

MOMULCH

MOPOST

MOMulch Product Pricing

Made from locally generated chipped and ground wood waste from limbs, sticks and brush. MOMulch is a real value and is available year-round.

MOMulch and MOPost product sales support waste management efforts and environmental education for our community.

May be purchased in bulk only at the Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC).

Bags may be purchased at all recycling center locations.

Cash and check are the only payment forms accepted.

Wood Mulch	per cubic yard	\$7
Fine Wood Mulch	per cubic yard	\$16
Bagged	1 cubic foot	\$3

No warranties or refunds are available for purchased materials.



A PLACE FOR YARDWASTE

Owning your own property has a lot of benefits, but the waste created while maintaining a yard is certainly not one of them. Understanding how to responsibly dispose of yardwaste - leaves, grass clippings and branches - is a vital aspect of being a good steward of the environment, your property, your neighborhood and the community's resources.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/solidwaste

What, Where & Why

The landfill is not the place for yardwaste. In fact, it is a state law to not dispose of yardwaste in the trash. The Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC) was designed to provide a location dedicated to the disposal and reuse of yardwaste and organics.

What is Accepted

The usual suspects of limbs, sticks, leaves and grass clippings are always accepted. Beyond those, we accept debris from gardens and fall organic decorations like cornstalks, gourds, pumpkins and hay bales through the month of November (please remove any non-organic decorations).

What is NOT Accepted

Rootballs, rocks, lawn bags, boxes, limbs that do not match specifications (*listed to the left*) and trash - even if raked up with yardwaste. These are exceptions for disposal at the landfill.

BRUSH DISPOSAL FEES	FEE
Car/SUV/Pickup or Trailer up to 8 ft. in bed length	\$8.00
Trailer - 8-12 ft	\$15.00
Trailer - 13-16 ft.	\$20.00
Dump Truck	\$30.00
Large Volume fee per cu. yard	\$5.00

Leaves and Grass Clippings

Thanks for not sweeping, raking or blowing leaves into the street or storm drain. Please bag them and bring them to any of our three recycling centers. *There is a 10 bag limit at the Lone Pine and Franklin Ave. centers.*

PRO TIP: Avoid the lines and eliminate multiple trips by disposing of yardwaste at the YRC.

HATE TO WAIT: Visit between Wednesday and Fridays for lower traffic times.

FACILITY DETAILS

Hours of Operation

Open Tuesday-Saturday

SUMMER HOURS: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

FIRST TUESDAY IN APRIL UNTIL FIRST TUESDAY IN NOV.

WINTER HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FIRST TUESDAY IN NOV. UNTIL FIRST TUESDAY IN APRIL

Seasonal Sundays

FALL HOURS: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

FIRST SUNDAY IN NOV. THRU FIRST SUNDAY IN DEC.

Closed Holidays

THANKSGIVING: Thursday, Nov. 26

CHRISTMAS DAY: Friday, Dec. 25



3790 S. FARM RD 119



731 N. FRANKLIN AVE.



3020 S. LONE PINE AVE.

NO STINK IN THE SINK

Don't cause a pain in your drain.

It's normal for a little food to go down the drain in the kitchen, but even if you have a garbage disposal, the sink is not an ideal place to dispose of certain substances. Rather than washing or flushing away unused goods, proper disposal is key to preventing clogged pipes, costly plumber bills and sewer infrastructure problems throughout our City.

Eliminate the stink and keep food – *and other things* – out of your drains and pipes by following these easy tips.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/recycle

THINGS THAT SHOULD NEVER GO DOWN YOUR DRAIN



We have all dumped leftovers or scraps in our drains, but can that really have an effect on our pipes and the City sewer? The short answer is, yes.

It may be easier, but it can cause irreparable harm to the sewer system and sewer laterals from your home.

Coffee Grounds

Grounds can smell good in a stinky drain, but they stick together in the pipes and can contribute to blockages. It is best to add coffee grounds to your home compost or toss into the trash.



Fats, Oils and Grease

Ever heard of a fatberg? If you wash fats, oils and grease down your sink, then you have likely contributed to making one.

Fatbergs are large solid masses in the sewer that are created from a mixture of items (including wipes) the base being fats, oils and greases.

This is because these materials slow in your pipes and the sewer as they cool and congeal - collecting other materials as they pass.

It is best to collect excess from your cooking and place into a jar or can. Once full, it can be capped and thrown into the trash for disposal.

Eggshells

It's been said that eggshells can help sharpen disposal blades, although professional opinion suggests that this is actually more harmful than helpful. Rinse them and throw those shells in the compost or toss into the trash.

Flour

We have all cooked with flour. It is generally used as a thickening agent. When flour is put down a drain and mixes with water, it is just as gloopy and difficult to remove as it was on that whisk or spoon you used to mix up your baked goods earlier.

Dairy Products

This includes milk, yogurt, butter and even margarine. The reasoning isn't the same for each, but they can either congeal and create blockages or, in the case of milk, create issues due to the additional oxygen necessary to break it down.

Bones

The occasional fish bone is fine, but you should never purposely throw bones, fish or other, in your disposal.

Pasta

Noodles don't stop absorbing water and liquids once they are taken off of the stove or once the meal is eaten. Instead, they will continue to absorb liquid in the pipes, causing a sticky and stopped-up mess.

Rice

Same story as pasta! Save for leftovers or make sure it is scraped into the trash.

Produce Stickers

You wouldn't wash normal stickers down the drain, so do not rinse these down, either.

They are not water-soluble and will create issues along the sewer and in the filtration at wastewater facilities.

NEVER FLUSH OR WASH THESE OTHER ITEMS DOWN THE DRAIN:

Kitty litter (even the "flushable" kind), cotton swabs, paint, household cleaners, cotton balls, toothpaste tubes, feminine hygiene products, plastic wrappers, cosmetic wipes, dental floss, contact lenses, cigarette butts, chewing gum, hair, band-aids and, of course, "flushable" wipes

PROPER DISPOSAL OF MEDICATIONS AND SHARPS



1

Step 1

Obtain a well-rinsed detergent bottle or other chemical jug. Drop the sharp end of the object first and reseal bottle or jug. Store in a secure place until nearly full.

2

Step 2

When nearly full, add a mixture of one part bleach and nine parts water. Let this sit for thirty minutes.

3

Step 3

After the solution has sat for thirty minutes, pour into a toilet and flush to the sewer. Be sure that no sharps or solid objects pour out.

4

Step 4

Once emptied, reseal the jug or bottle with its lid - preventing any sharps or solids from falling out.

5

Step 5

Tape vertically across the cap and body of the jug. Then tape around the center to secure the lid from any potential opening.

6

Step 6

Once it is sealed with the lid and taped securely it may be disposed of in the trash.

Medication Disposal

We've seen it on TV and even been told in the past that flushing medications was an acceptable disposal method. Unfortunately, this is wrong. Medications are a pollutant to our waterways when flushed down the toilet. Instead, follow these steps:

Step 1 Collect unused or old medications.

Step 2 Place in a sealed container, such as a sandwich bag, bottle or jar. **Do not crush.**

Step 3 Mix in an unappealing substance, such as coffee grounds, kitty litter, dirt, etc.

Step 4 Throw into household trash.

Step 5 Scratch out or peel off any personal information on medication containers before disposal.

RECOMMENDED DISPOSAL OPPORTUNITY:

DRIVE-THRU MEDICATION TAKEBACK SCHEDULED FOR
10 A.M. - 2 P.M., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

CALL 864-1904 FOR MORE INFORMATION.





Mark Twain's Little Free Library restocked with food and essentials during pandemic

By Diane Smith, for SGFNN

Likely most of you are familiar with the little libraries that are popping up in neighborhoods across the country. We have a lovely library on Tracy Street. What makes this library newsworthy is how those responsible responded to the pandemic.

As many were faced with food insecurity due to lost wages or health conditions that kept them from going out, The Tracy Street Little Free Library at 530 W. Tracy acted. The books were removed, and pantry items filled the library space.

Another neighbor's mother helped our community by stocking free masks in the library. This is a great example of neighbors helping neighbors – which has never been more important than it is today! You can follow them at facebook.com/TracyStLittleLibrary.



Mark Twain fills six dumpsters with first neighborhood cleanup

By Diane Smith, for SGFNN

After officially becoming a neighborhood association in October 2019, one of our goals was to hold a neighborhood cleanup. Unfortunately, our event planned for March was rescheduled due to the pandemic response but undeterred, we planned for our new date.

July 25 dawned bright and sunny with temperatures just right for our cleanup. Our volunteers were ready when neighbors started arriving in trucks, cars, and even pulling trailers! All over the neighborhood, sheds and garages were cleaned out – not to mention yards and driveways. In total, 80 vehicles brought their trash that filled almost six dumpsters totaling 9.82 tons! We also filled two dumpsters with brush and limbs, as well as a truck and trailer full of scrap metal. South Haven



Baptist Church hosted the event and their large parking lot made it easy and safe to drop off items.

Our volunteers were enthusiastic and so helpful – some comments overheard were "This is so much fun!" and "This is so great for our community."

We had so many helpers that participants were quickly on their way after dropping off their items. If you live in the Mark Twain neighborhood and missed this opportunity – don't stress! We already have our next cleanup scheduled for April 17, 2021!



Connect

- Samantha Spartan, President:
marktwainassociation@gmail.com
or 417-343-3702
- Steve Koehler, Vice President
- Stacy Letterman, Secretary
- Michael George, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Nov. 10 • Dec. 8 • Jan. 12: 6:30 p.m.

@ Sunset Church of Christ (1222 W. Sunset St.)

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Eric Luebbert: 417-864-1138
eluebbert@springfieldmo.gov



Mark Twain Elementary
2352 S. Weaver Ave.

Follow Mark Twain on [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

April 17, 2021: 8 a.m.-Noon

Location: TBD

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Leaves, Metal, TVs

Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge

Sunday, Nov. 1

The Bass Pro Marathon is on Sunday, Nov. 1. Be sure to check with your neighborhood association if you're interested in participating in the Neighborhood Challenge.





Meador Park Neighborhood Association hosts annual cleanup, looks forward to Bass Pro Marathon

By Bobbi Ream, for SGFNN

Our big annual neighborhood cleanup took place Sept. 26. These events are one of the many advantages of being a registered neighborhood organization with the City of Springfield. City Council approves the funds for the cleanups, which are then coordinated by Community Partnership of the Ozarks in the spring or fall. Thank you to both organizations for making them possible!

Curbside pick-up has been very well received and has continued to grow. In the past, we have collected a huge number of TVs and monitors, along with various types of players. In addition to being able to bring electronics to the Meador Park collection site, this year the postcard promoting the cleanup could be used as a coupon for the free disposal of two TVs (a \$40 value) at Computer Recycling Center.

On Sunday, Nov. 1, we are hosting another "dance party" cheering section for the Bass Pro Marathon participants. This event provides another opportunity for our neighborhood association. Sponsor Century Link is donating \$10,000 for neighborhoods to compete for. Neighborhoods



who place in the competition can put the winnings to use in whatever way they feel best benefits their neighborhood.

We are attempting to resume regular meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Cowden Elementary School library.

Our annual board of directors election will be on Oct. 29. The November and December meetings will be combined, with details to be announced. Please join Meador Park Neighborhood Association's Facebook group for the latest information available about our activities.

Just as it has been for everyone else this year has offered some challenges and required some changes on the go. I am very pleased with how much we have accomplished, with a couple of speed bumps thrown in for good measure!

Battlefield and Fremont Intersection and Roadway Widening project on schedule to wrap up in November

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Neighbors who travel along Fremont Avenue between Battlefield Road and Sunset Street will soon notice construction activities wrapping up as the Battlefield and Fremont Intersection and Roadway Widening Project nears completion.

"The overall goal of the project is to increase capacity and improve traffic flow in one of our busiest retail areas," explains Public Works project manager Jonathan Peitz. "Widening Fremont north of Battlefield and providing an additional northbound lane is expected to help reduce the bottlenecks along Battlefield."

The project began construction in May, with major utility relocation work by City Utilities occurring prior to the widening project in 2019.

In mid-September, AT&T completed work to relocate a utility vault under a new turn lane in Battlefield Avenue. New traffic signals have been installed and are now operational at the

intersections of Battlefield Road and Fremont Avenue and at Fremont Avenue and the Battlefield Mall entrance.

Pedestrian improvements are expected to be complete by October and include new Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant sidewalks along the east side of Fremont Avenue and a multi-use path on the west side of the roadway.

Traffic delays can be expected in October at the Battlefield Road and Fremont Avenue intersection as construction activities shift to the south side of the intersection to allow contractors to install new concrete islands. The final paving surface of the roadway will be the last item completed and is expected to be applied by the end of October.

"This has been a complicated project, so we're excited to be on schedule to wrap up prior to our November deadline," says Peitz. "A big thank you to the residents and area businesses for their patience and cooperation throughout construction."



Connect

- Bobbi Ream, President:
MPNAMO@yahoo.com
or 417-883-3438
- Shannon Medley, Vice President
- Jeremy Medley, Secretary
- Donna Clarkson, Treasurer


Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 29: 6 p.m. @ Cowden Elementary School (2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.) • November and December meetings will be combined. Details to be announced.

Please join the Meador Park Neighborhood Association Facebook group for the latest information about our meetings and activities.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Jacob Boomgaarden: 417-864-1321
jboomgaarden@springfieldmo.gov

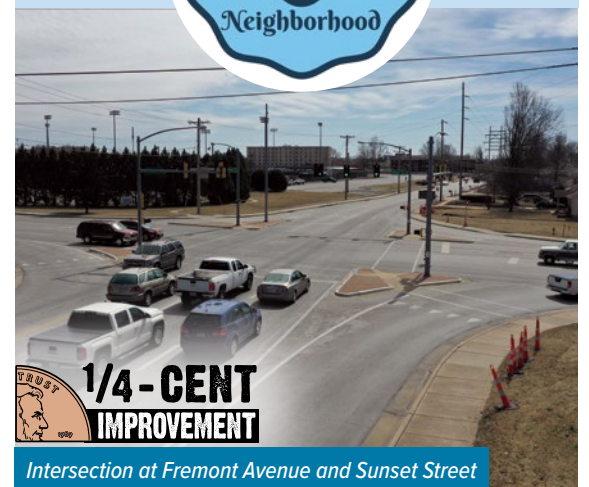
 **Cowden Elementary School**
2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.

Follow Meador Park on  

Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge

Sunday, Nov. 1

The Bass Pro Marathon is on Sunday, Nov. 1. Be sure to check with your neighborhood association if you're interested in participating in the Neighborhood Challenge.



1/4-CENT IMPROVEMENT

Intersection at Fremont Avenue and Sunset Street

Meet Midtown Community Garden leader

Provided by Springfield Community Gardens

Hi! My name is Louise, and I'm the garden leader at the Springfield Community Gardens' Midtown Community Garden. I was born in Buffalo, New York but mostly grew up in Rockville, Maryland. I moved to the Ozarks in 1981, living in a remote part of Ozark County for about four years. I returned to the East Coast for a while and then moved to Springfield in 1986.

I started gardening in the early '70s when I moved to an old farm in northern Illinois. I lived with several friends, and we all embraced vegetable gardening with the intention of growing all our own food! The black, fertile soil of northern Illinois was a fabulous learning ground for novice gardeners, and we had great successes especially with the big beautiful winter squashes like Blue Hubbard and

Cushaw. I taught myself how to can tomatoes, Dilly beans, green tomato chutney, pickles and green beans following the Ball Blue Book to the letter.

I have been gardening ever since then, sometimes growing my own seedlings, sometimes purchasing them from local growers. I spent a number of years cultivating native plants from seed and selling at the Springfield Farmers Market at the Battlefield Mall. I am especially interested in native plants as they support our local pollinators, birds and wildlife.

I have been volunteering at the Midtown Garden for six or more years working with Drury, MSU and Cox nursing school students and neighborhood participants.

Currently, we have work times on Monday evenings at 6 p.m., and Wednesday and Saturday mornings at 8 a.m.

Meet Midtown's Pacific Street Community Garden leader

Provided by Springfield Community Gardens

My name is Mia. I am the garden leader at Springfield Community Gardens' Pacific Street Garden. I was born in St. Louis and raised right here in Springfield, graduating from Parkview High School in 2007.

My background after school consisted of engaging in more education in the area of business and accounting and sealing certifications in real estate.

I want to live a sustainable life and pave a way for my family to both earn income and live above sub-standard living conditions. My mission is to accomplish as much as I can so I can pass down resources to those who may have given up hope or don't know which direction to go.

I created the organization United Community Change (UCC) in order to help my community come together and provide support to those in need while also making progressive changes we all benefit positively from as a whole. United We Stand, United We Win is my motto.

My first mission in the justice movement was assisting with Black Lives Matter. Then I became unexpectedly involved with the community garden and fell in love! My idea was I could contribute to feeding people. As I continued to work, I became inspired to do even more.

With my own urban farm, I will be able to not only grow for my family but also help those who have



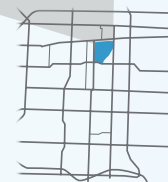
nowhere else to go; people who are poor, or have felonies need hope and jobs. I can help them feel like they have somewhere to start as they help me tend my farm. They can grow the skills of working back in the community while gaining access to resources where they can feed their own family and grow their own farms building our community even more.

The sky's the limit and I would be honored to have my own urban farm and serve the community in the neighborhood I just love. I understand struggle, and I want to help take people out of it and see a better future for their lives. I would like to grow food for our local businesses and teach my children good skills that can be passed down through the centuries.



Connect

- Jamie Saratella, President
- Susan Mann, Vice President
- Brian Shipman, Secretary: 417-880-2855
- Marie Wood, Treasurer: 417-496-8539
- midtown.sgf@gmail.com



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Nov. 9 • Dec. 14 • Jan. 11: 6–7 p.m.

@ Urban Neighborhood Alliance, on Cox North Hospital parking lot (918 E. Calhoun St.)

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Jimmy Andela: 417-874-2535
jandela@springfieldmo.gov



Follow Midtown on [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

Boyd Elementary School
1409 N. Washington Ave.

Central High School
423 E. Central St.

Fall Neighborhood Cleanup

Nov. 21: 8 a.m.-Noon

Cox North Parking Lot
(1423 N. Jefferson Ave.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Leaves, Metal, TVs
Curbside Pickup will NOT be available

Contact Brian Shipman
(417-880-2855)



OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Gerald Clary, President:
gclary@aol.com
- Wendell Royster, Vice President:
jwrcameo5@att.net or
417-883-6541
- Cynthia McHaney, Secretary
- Cindy Cooper, Treasurer




Neighborhood Association Meetings

Meetings are generally held at 6 p.m. on the last Tuesday of alternating months. Contact Gerald Clary for specific information.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Jacob Boomgaarden: 417-864-1321
jboomgaarden@springfieldmo.gov



 **Pittman Elementary School**
2934 E. Bennett St.

Follow Oak Grove on  
ogna.weebly.com

Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge

Sunday, Nov. 1

The Bass Pro Marathon is on Sunday, Nov. 1. Be sure to check with your neighborhood association if you're interested in participating in the Neighborhood Challenge.



Oak Grove Park (1538 S. Oak Grove Ave.)

PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Eric Pauly, President:
ptuml0@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 St. Contact an association officer for meeting times.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Jacob Boomgaarden: 417-864-1321
jboomgaarden@springfieldmo.gov



Follow Phelps Grove on  
phelpsgrove.com

Next Neighborhood Cleanup (Joint Cleanup with University Heights)

May 15, 2021: 7-11 a.m.

Springfield Art Museum
(1111 E. Brookside Dr.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Metal, TVs
Curbside Pickup will be available



Phelps Grove Neighborhood (phelpsgrove.com)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Jan Peterson, President:
jan.peterson@att.net
or 417-838-6216
- John Stinson, Vice President
- Annette Hollon, Secretary
- Donelle Blubaugh, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings


Nov. 4 • Dec. 2 • Jan. 6: 5:30 p.m.

Meetings held via Zoom until further notice. Anyone interested in joining the monthly meeting is welcome to email universityheightsneighborhood@gmail.com for login information.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Jacob Boomgaarden: 417-864-1321
jboomgaarden@springfieldmo.gov



 **Sunshine Elementary School**
421 E. Sunshine St.

Follow University Heights on  
universityheights-sgf.org

Blood drive collected 40 donations for Community Blood Center of the Ozarks

By Jan Peterson, for SGFNN

The University Heights Neighborhood Association partnered with National Avenue Christian Church for a blood drive on July 27. Forty donations were collected, 20 of which came from first-time donors! Massive thanks to everyone who donated!



Robberson remembers Roxanne Bedell Taylor

Provided by Walnut Lawn Funeral Home

Roxanne Marie Taylor, age 66, of Springfield, Missouri, passed away suddenly on June 20.

Her life was honored with a Graveside Service which took place on July 1 at Hazelwood Cemetery.

Roxanne Taylor was born in Springfield, Missouri to Mary Ann and Bobby Gene Bedell on Feb. 19, 1954. She went to school at Robberson Elementary, Reed Junior High and Hillcrest High School in Springfield. Roxanne went to Lincoln University in Jefferson City. She received her bachelor's degree in Business and Industrial Communications from Southwest Missouri State University and a master's degree in Blind Rehabilitation Therapy from Western Michigan University. She worked as an educator for a number of years.

Roxanne was the "big sister" of the family and looked after her sisters and brothers the same as our mother. She loved to cook for big gatherings and was the life of any party. Roxanne always contributed products at our family reunions to generate income for scholarships for high school and college graduates in our family. Roxanne was

a very caring person. She knew everyone, loved people, and truly gone too soon.

She was involved in the Springfield Service Club of the Blind, the voting polls and other organizations around Springfield.

Roxanne was preceded in death by her mother and father, and brother, Terrence Bedell.

Roxanne is survived by her brother, Robert Bedell; sister, Rhonda F Bedell and her husband, Mheta Mwangachuchu, sister, Vanessa Joyner; sister, Karen Thompson; brother, Emmitt Bedell; brother, William Bedell and his wife Beatrice; sister, Renita Strickland; uncle, William Whitcomb, aunt, Virginia McCallum and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Editor's note: Roxanne was a board member of the Robberson Neighborhood Association and contributor to SGF Neighborhood News.



CPO realigns Caring Communities programming to better fit community's needs

(continued from page 7)

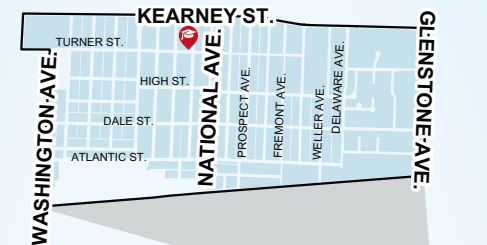
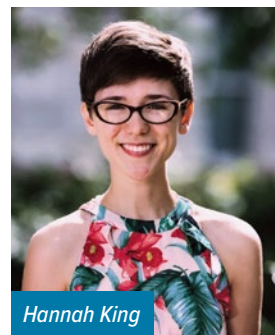
"The work that I did with individuals and families experiencing housing crises as a community-based social worker ignited within me a passion to impact affordable housing in our community," Tripp said. "I am very excited to work collaboratively with neighborhood associations, organizations, and other community groups to identify chronic nuisance properties and gaps in affordable housing. I strive to help create strategies to address those gaps while securing and leveraging resources," Tripp said.

"I am excited to form relationships in the community and find new and creative ways to solve our neighborhoods' problems." – Hannah King

Hannah King, our neighborhood special events

coordinator, is brand-new to CPO, joining our team in August. She is a recent graduate of Missouri State University with bachelor of science degrees in entrepreneurship and marketing. She will be working to coordinate neighborhood cleanups, oversee the Tool Library and help with the planning and facilitation of quarterly neighborhood educational and networking events.

"I am excited to form relationships in the community and find new and creative ways to solve our neighborhoods' problems. Community Partnership already has an abundance of great programs and initiatives that I'm looking forward to spearheading. I hope to strengthen and even expand what is already in place to better serve our community," King said.



Connect

- Michael Blackshear, President: pathwayspastor@gmail.com or 417-631-7595
- Terry Cornio, Secretary
- Phyllis Evans, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 22: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. @ Pathways United Methodist Church (1232 E. Dale St.)

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Evan Nicholson: 417-874-2537
enicholson@springfieldmo.gov



Robberson Community School
1100 E. Kearney St.

Follow Robberson on

Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge

Sunday, Nov. 1

The Bass Pro Marathon is on Sunday, Nov. 1. Be sure to check with your neighborhood association if you're interested in participating in the Neighborhood Challenge.

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

April 24, 2021: 7-11 a.m.

Location TBD

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Metal, TVs
Curbside Pickup will be available



Level
PROPERTY TAX



A rendering of the new Fire Station 4 located on North Delaware. Demolition of Fire Station 4 (located on the boundary between the Doling and Robberson neighborhoods) will begin in late November with construction for its replacement complete in 2021.



Intersection improvements coming to Cherry & Pickwick

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City of Springfield asked for public feedback on its preliminary plans for intersection and traffic calming improvements in the growing Cherry Street and Pickwick Avenue area during the month of August.

In recent years, Cherry and Pickwick has become an increasingly popular activity center for neighborhood residents and outside visitors alike, causing a rise in foot traffic and increasing concerns over pedestrian safety.

“We will also be installing three crosswalks in the area which will further signal to motorists that they are entering a pedestrian friendly area and that they should slow down and use caution.” – Derrick Estell

Planned improvements along Cherry Street will stretch from Fremont Avenue to the west and the railroad crossing to the east. The project design includes the construction of various “bulb-outs,” or extensions of the curb line into the roadway. These modifications will visually and physically narrow the street, forcing traffic to slow down while also reducing the crossing distance for pedestrians and providing additional green space.

“Cherry Street serves as a busy secondary arterial in our roadway network,” explains Public Works project manager Derrick Estell. “The goals of this project include slowing down traffic along Cherry Street, creating a safer and more inviting

environment for pedestrians and contributing to the area’s sense of place through aesthetic design features and landscaping.”

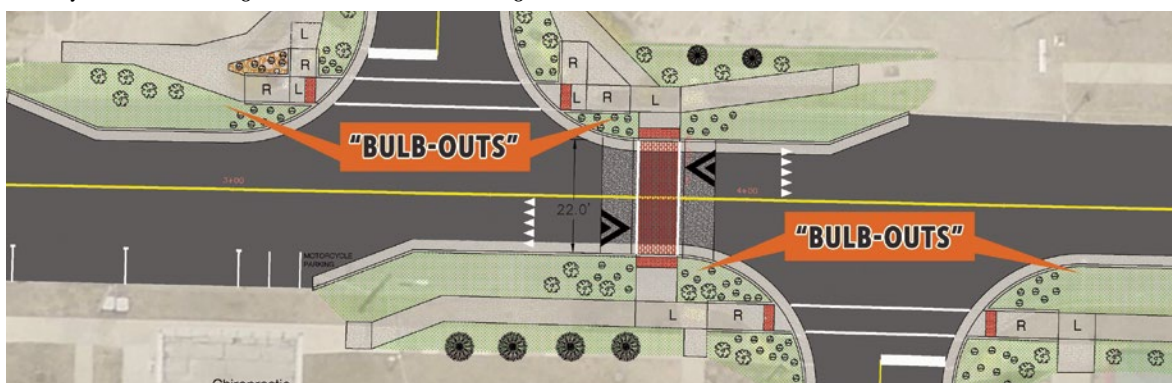
“We will also be installing three crosswalks in the area which will further signal to motorists that they are entering a pedestrian friendly area and that they should slow down and use caution,” Estell added.

The City has established a project website at springfieldmo.gov/cherryandpickwick where interested citizens can learn more about the project and view the preliminary designs. The deadline for public comment on the design was Aug. 21.

“At our July RNA meeting we heard from Derrick Estell and Tina Stob from Public Works about the plans for traffic calming and pedestrian improvements at Cherry and Pickwick. We were generally really pleased with what we saw at the meeting,” said Rountree Neighborhood Association President Mike Brothers, in an Aug. 4 Facebook post to RNA’s page. “Notably, this project actually includes three crosswalks rather than just one. The two crosswalks on the east and west sides will help to slow traffic before vehicles even get to the main crosswalk, which is wider than normal and actually includes a raised element.”

Following the public comment period for the preliminary design, Public Works will develop the final engineering design plans. The project is expected to be bid out to potential contractors in November with construction anticipated in early spring, 2021.

The Cherry and Pickwick Intersection and Traffic Calming Project is estimated to cost approximately \$150,000 and will be funded through the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax Alternative Transportation program.



Connect

- Mike Brothers, Chair:
mikebrothers@drury.edu
or 417-894-9064
- Peggy Wise, Vice Chair
- Laurel Bryant, Past Chair
- Jeremy Tuck, Treasurer
- Nancy Evans, Secretary



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 20 • Nov. 17 • Dec. 15: 7–8 p.m. @ University Heights Baptist Church (1010 S. National Ave.)

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Eric Luebbert: 417-864-1138
eluebbert@springfieldmo.gov



Rountree Elementary School
1333 E. Grand St.

Follow Rountree on
routtreeneews.org

No Rountree Halloween Parade

By Laurel Bryant, for SGFNN

Rountree has decided this year we will not be hosting our Rountree Halloween Parade.

The RNA board decided that we are discouraging families to come to Rountree to trick-or-treat as well. We want our neighborhood to remain as safe as possible in our current pandemic.

Hopefully, we will be able to organize some Halloween activities online this year.

We appreciate your continued support, and will be so looking forward to next year!





Groundbreaking begins construction of Williams Elementary

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

Ground has been officially broken on the school renovation and expansion project for Williams Elementary School.

On Aug. 11, more than 50 teachers, students, community members and design team leaders joined Springfield Public Schools for a special Groundbreaking. The ceremony, led by Superintendent John Jungmann, marked the official start to the \$15.7 million project.

"As I stand here today, I am thankful for those who came before us and enthusiastic about the opportunities that lie ahead of us," said Dr. Jungmann. "When the new Williams Elementary is completed in August 2021, it will allow us to better meet the needs of 21st century learners. It will also enhance the school's ability to serve as a hub for students and their families."

The new school campus will serve 350 students in grades K-5, as well as an additional 100 students in a new early childhood education mini hub. The pre-kindergarten program will provide high-quality preschool for the youngest learners in northwest Springfield at no cost to families.

In addition, the construction project will feature one more expansion of services unique for Williams: a state-of-the-art Boys & Girls Club unit, remodeled from the still-standing school library.

"Every child deserves a space to feel safe and loved with trusted adults who are fierce advocates for them," said Brandy Harris, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield and Hillcrest High School alumna. "Every child needs the tools to thrive, to learn, to be nourished and nurtured. That's what we



do, that's what the staff at Williams does, and that what Springfield Public Schools does every day. This partnership with SPS helps us serve holistically so many families."

The almost new school will open in August 2021, with Williams Mustangs attending the former Sherwood Elementary School during the 2020-2021 school year as construction is completed. The original school structure had only six classrooms, but the new facility will feature 13 modern classrooms, as well as spaces designed for special education students, title services and specialty classes. Plus, there will be four spaces designed for students to collaborate or work in small groups.

Principal Amanda Desa thanked her teachers for their flexibility during a complicated time, sharing her gratitude for a new school for Williams students to be successful for years to come.

"This new building will allow us to continue pursuing our mission and vision at Williams, which is serving the needs of the whole student by providing high-quality instruction in a caring community, where students will learn, grow and thrive," said Desa. "Fortunately for us, by partnering with the Boys and Girls Club, our mission and vision will continue even before school hours."



Connect

- Paula Reeves, President
- Denver Tindell, Secretary
- twna2020@gmail.com or 417-597-4108

Neighborhood Association Meetings


Nov. 17: 7–8 p.m. @ Tom Watkins Park Community Center (2100 W. High St.)

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Zach Pugh: 417-874-2536
zpugh@springfieldmo.gov



 **Williams Elementary School**
2205 W. Kearney St.

Follow Tom Watkins on  

Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge

Sunday, Nov. 1

The Bass Pro Marathon is on Sunday, Nov. 1. Be sure to check with your neighborhood association if you're interested in participating in the Neighborhood Challenge.

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

April 10, 2021: 8 a.m.-Noon

Location TBD

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Leaves
Curbside Pickup will be available



The Tom Watkins Neighborhood Cleanup was held July 18. Read more about it on the next page.

Candy Cane Lane

Drive through the farm and enjoy dazzling farm-themed holiday displays and more than 10,000 lights. Hot cocoa available for purchase.

Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park

3825 W. Farm Rd. 146, Springfield, MO

Fri., Sat. & Sun. nights
Dec. 4-20 • 5-8 p.m.

\$5/vehicle • PARKBOARD.ORG

Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association thanks neighbors and volunteers for successful July 18 cleanup

Provided by the Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association Facebook page

So thankful that Community Partnership of the Ozarks and the City of Springfield partner with neighborhood associations to have annual cleanup days! Special thanks to Patricia Deck and Rachel Tripp from CPO, Mario Gonzalez and Faith Assembly of God Church, and all the amazing volunteers from Freshwater Church and Victory Mission – you all made it possible for us to have a super successful morning! Thank you to all of our neighbors who work to keep their homes, yards, and our community places we can be proud of!



YOU CAN CHANGE TWO LIVES. THEIRS AND YOURS.

Become a Big NOW

Big Brothers Big Sisters. OF THE OZARKS

417-889-9136 bigbro.com

Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association reorganizes, looking for treasurer

By Paula Reeves, for SGFNN

Hi, Tom Watkins neighbors! My name is Paula Reeves, and I am the new president of the Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association. We were just starting to reorganize and rebuild the association when the pandemic hit, so we haven't been able to host events or have meetings. Our day will come, though, and when it does, we hope you'll want to be involved!

I believe that in a healthy neighborhood, people get to know one another, look out for each other, have fun together, feel safe, and take pride in their surroundings. That's what a neighborhood association is all about. They strive to make the neighborhood a better place to live. They build relationships with city leaders, along with the police and fire departments, and keep residents aware of potential developments and changes. They give residents opportunities to meet others in the neighborhood by planning informational meetings, along with fun events and activities. All of these cause the neighborhood to become more stable, more safe, and cause the people to feel pride in their homes and their streets.



Denny and Paula Reeves

For right now, I would invite you to "like" the Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association page on Facebook. When we are able, we will plan events, and we will also give you opportunities at that time to officially join the group. We're even planning to have T-shirts!

Denver Tindell is our association secretary. We are looking for someone willing to be our treasurer. If you're the one, please let me know!

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas, you can contact me by email at twna2020@gmail.com or leave a message at 417-597-4108.

City considering 5-acre tract on West Division for new animal shelter

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City is evaluating the 5-acre lot located at 3303 W. Division St. for the construction of a new animal shelter. The current animal shelter is located at 4002 N. Farmer Road, a site that experiences regular flooding and no longer serves the needs of the community.

Public comment was collected through Aug. 28. For more information about the project visit, springfieldmo.gov/animalsheltersite.

Funded and approved through the 2017 renewal of Springfield's Level Property Tax, the goal of a new animal shelter facility is to provide more functional space for housing animals and for Springfield-Greene County Health Department services.

The project is in the preliminary planning phase and the specific design and programming of the facility has not yet been developed. Following the approval of the usage of this property, the City will solicit for engineering design services to proceed with the design phase.

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

Zoning

Prior to purchasing the property, the City of Springfield completed a phase I and phase II environmental study to ensure there are no environmental issues with the use of this site for this purpose. The property is currently zoned Light Industrial (LI) as is the adjacent property to the north. An animal shelter is a permitted use in this

zoning classification as long as no outdoor animal runs are located within 300 feet of any property zoned or used for residential purposes. The properties to the east and south are zoned Heavy Manufacturing (HH) while the properties to the west are Residential – Town House (R-TH).

Site Analysis

The City completed a Site Analysis of the property to verify that this site would meet the needs of a new animal shelter facility and to identify any potential challenges in the planning, design and construction phases. The site analysis included a preliminary building sketch to assess the location's feasibility, however, the specific programming and design of this facility has not yet been developed.

Stormwater

The City is aware of stormwater drainage concerns in the area and plan to further evaluate the stormwater needs of the site during the design phase of this project.





Weller students welcomed back with walking meet the teacher event

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

For 11 years, Kendall Shores has been teaching first grade at Weller Elementary School. She's greeted her students with a smile, sharing curriculum and building connections with her Weller Panthers.

This year, learning may be different, but she's still committed to welcoming her students back to school.

"I haven't seen any of my students since March, and I've missed them," said Shores. "The Weller Welcome Walk is a great way for me to see their faces, see their smiles, and help them know that we're going to have a great year safely."

On Tuesday, Aug. 18, Weller teachers walked the Weller neighborhood to visit each of their student's homes. A specialty teacher and a classroom teacher were paired to visit students and their families. Together, they dropped off a Weller Welcome Back Bag with a special Weller water bottle, a healthy snack and information about returning back to school safely Aug. 24.

"Last year, we piloted Welcome Walk, where five of our classroom teachers went to each of their student's homes to welcome them back to school," said Dr. Rebecca Donaldson, principal of Weller Elementary. "It was such a huge success, all our



teachers wanted to do it this year — and since it's all outside, at our students' homes, it's a great and safe way to connect with our families and welcome them back."

Shores stopped by 22 homes with counselor Phil Jones, delivering a bag to each student. Parents were able to ask teachers questions about the In-Person or Virtual learning options. Siblings and fellow Weller students were greeted by name, and families waved as they drove by.

"I have a first-grader, too, my daughter Rory," said Shores to a Weller parent, standing next to her incoming Weller kindergarten and first grade students. "I know this year is going to be different, but we're all in this together."

Meet Weller Community Garden leaders

Provided by Springfield Community Gardens

We are Fred and Sandy Rosenkrans! We have been the garden leaders at the Springfield Community Gardens' Weller Community Garden for the last three years.

We have both always been around plants, and farming. Fred spent his childhood in Nebraska on a farm and moved to Iowa as a pastor. Sandy was raised in the country in New Jersey and has always loved gardening. We met in Springfield while Sandy was going to Evangel and Fred was attending Central Bible College.

We left Iowa about five years ago to move back to Springfield to be close to our grandchildren. It's been wonderful. Every Sunday, garden members meet and share a meal together. We used to garden



out of survival to feed our children and foster children. Now we garden to connect our community with local healthy produce and friendship. Join us at our garden behind the Weller Community Church on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays, 8-10 am!



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Nov. 5 • Dec. 3 • Jan. 7: 6–7 p.m. @ Weller Community Church (1722 E. Blaine St.)

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Evan Nicholson: 417-874-2537
enicholson@springfieldmo.gov



 **Weller Elementary School**
1630 N. Weller Ave.

Follow Weller on  

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

May 1, 2021: 8 a.m.-Noon

Turning Point Church

(1722 N. National Ave.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Metal



Weller held their neighborhood cleanup on June 20. From the Weller Neighborhood Association Facebook page: "Thank you to all the organizations that were involved with the Weller Association neighborhood cleanup. It was deeply appreciated."



Construction begins this fall for Ozark Greenways trail through West Meadows

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Construction for a half-mile Ozark Greenways trail connecting the area known as West Meadows, between Fort and Grant avenues north of the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park, began this fall and will wrap up by the end of the year, according to project engineer Jonathan Peitz, P.E., who works in the City's Public Works department.

The \$405,000 project will be funded with a \$250,000 Recreation Trails grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) with a 20% match provided through the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax Alternative Transportation Program.

"The West Meadows connection is a key step in closing gaps along Jordan Creek Greenway," said Ozark Greenways Executive Director Mary Kromrey. "This trail will ultimately stretch over 7 miles from Smith Park to Ewing Park, where it currently connects to Wilson's Creek Greenway. This is a crucial link in connecting downtown, neighborhoods, several parks, and countless destinations! Additionally, the trails identified in Ozarks Transportation Organization's regional trail investment study will tie this trail to the Route 66 Trail that will connect all the way to Strafford."

The West Meadows trail will be a part of the vast Ozarks Greenways' network of 73 miles of greenways, and 81 miles of on-street bike routes. A trailhead will be located on the west end of the trail off of Fort Street and will include a parking lot.

ABOUT WEST MEADOWS

West Meadows is a brownfields redevelopment area located roughly between Main Avenue and

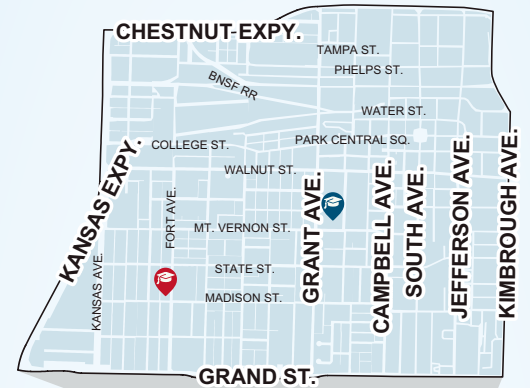
Fort Avenue, just north of College Street (Historic Route 66) in downtown Springfield. The area is ripe with history. Historic Fulbright Spring, the location of one of Springfield's earliest settlements, was discovered on the site during extensive environmental cleanup. The area was also the location of a Union soldier encampment during the Civil War, and lies adjacent to historic Route 66.

The development of West Meadows is part of the community's Jordan Valley Concept Master Plan to redevelop the Jordan Valley through downtown Springfield. Work has been completed in Jordan Valley since the early 2000s, with \$2 million in EPA-funded environmental brownfields cleanups and the development of downtown amenities like Jordan Valley Park, Jordan Valley Commons, Jordan Valley Ice Park, Hammons Field and trail connections.

"What people know as Jordan Valley Park now is actually recognized as 'East Meadows' in the original concept plan," explains City of Springfield Senior Planner and Brownfields Program Coordinator Olivia Hough. "West Meadows is an even larger block of open green space that carries the envisioned 'central park' concept through downtown."

Previous improvements in West Meadows include the restoration of Jordan Creek to a natural wetland corridor, with stormwater, flood control and water quality improvements, native vegetation and trees. The area comprises 18 acres of open urban green space with trails planned for transportation and recreation.

"With currently no street access or parking available for West Meadows, this trail is the first step in opening this area up for public use," says Hough.



Connect

- Caron Parnell, President:
crsettle@gmail.com
or 314-825-6498
- Rusty Worley, Vice President & Treasurer: 417-569-8866 or
rusty@itsalldowntown.com
- Brandon Jensen, Secretary



Neighborhood Alliance Meetings

Oct. 27 • Nov. 24 • Dec. 22: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

@ Broadway United Methodist Church
(545 S. Broadway Ave.)

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Keith Wright: 417-864-1194
kwright@springfieldmo.gov



 **McGregor Elementary School**
1221 W. Madison St.

 **Campbell Early Childhood Center**
506 S. Grant Ave.

Follow West Central on  

Fall Neighborhood Cleanup

Oct. 17: 8 a.m.-Noon

Campbell Elementary
(506 S. Grant Ave.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush (No Leaves), Metal
Curbside Pickup will NOT be available

Contact Caron Parnell
(314-825-6498)

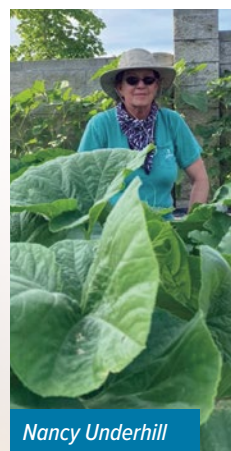
Meet West Central Community Garden leaders

Provided by Springfield Community Gardens

Brandon Jensen has been a co-leader at the West Central Community Garden for just over a year. He got involved in community gardening working with those who are socially and economically disadvantaged while living in Denver and, after returning to Springfield, wants to continue that mission in his hometown.

Every day working in the garden offers a new learning experience, from figuring out how to grow Brussels sprouts, to combating hostile grass takeovers. Brandon and co-leader Nancy Underhill typically work on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m.; come join for fun work, fresh produce, and a cold beer afterward at Mother's Brewing!

I'm Nancy Underhill, the co-garden leader at SCG's West Central Community Garden by Mother's Brewing Company. I work at MSU as one of the arborists on campus. I've also owned a greenhouse business. I have worked my whole life growing things. I have a simple goal, to do what I can to make it better where I live.



Nancy Underhill

If you'd like to volunteer with us, our work days are Thursday's starting at 5 p.m. We like to call it Taps and Trowels, as we can stroll over to Mother's Brewing after our work day!



Brandon Jensen



Block in Westside shows how one neighbor can create wave of positive change

By Candy Smith, for SGFNN

Do you remember the childhood story about stone soup? There are many versions, but the main premise is a hungry soldier going into a town in search of food. The townspeople turn him away. The soldier sets up a pot of water on a cooking fire. He proceeds to make soup with a stone and water. Curious, one by one, the townspeople become involved by contributing food for the soup. This leads to a delicious pot of soup which is enjoyed by the soldier and the whole town. This change in attitude is what I like to call the "stone soup effect."

Something as simple as cutting weeds, picking up trash or painting can be the start of positive change. You could inspire your neighbors and end up with an improved neighborhood, or block.

The "stone soup effect" does not always involve food. It can be applied to neighborhoods. It can happen quickly, but most often, takes time. It can simply start with a neighbor cutting and disposing of overgrown brush in his yard. Other neighbors then follow suit by cleaning up their yard. Then, someone paints their house, which inspires other neighbors to paint theirs. The neighbor who starts the first

project or "stone" ignites interest in other neighbors to start their own project (like the townspeople with vegetables for the soup). Before you know it, you have a delicious "pot of soup" which takes the form of a spruced-up neighborhood.

The 700 block of South West Avenue is the result of the "stone soup effect." This block of houses built in the 1960s has gone through the neighborhood circle of life (new > longtime owners pass away > house sold > becomes a rental > neglected > neighborhood eyesore).

The "stone soup effect" on West Avenue began with a neighbor renovating and painting his house. Then, across the street, a house that was a homeless refuge has been completely gutted and remodeled. Renovations have been done on another house that had been missing a garage door for years. A young couple has moved into yet another house on the block and they are currently remodeling it. While there is still work to be done, the revitalization of the 700 block of South West Avenue began with one "stone" — a neighbor painting his house.

The moral of this tale is to urge you to be the soldier with the stone on your block. Look around to see what you can do to ignite the spark. Something as simple as cutting weeds, picking up trash or painting can be the start of positive change. You could inspire your neighbors and end up with an improved neighborhood, or block. Let's spruce up Springfield!

Meet Westside's Community Garden leader

Provided by Springfield Community Gardens

I'm Missy, the leader at the Springfield Community Gardens' Westside Garden. I grew up on a farm in Brownbranch. I've been around gardening my whole life. We had a large garden every year that we all worked in as kids. My mom (Teda Walker) and I started the Westside Community Garden through Springfield Community Gardens. Together, we learned how to garden here in town and my real passion for gardening began. I've met some wonderful people through SCG. That's how I met Linda Kirkland, our Westside co-leader. When Mom decided to leave the garden, Linda joined me. We love helping grow food for our family and the weekly produce distribution.



Connect

- Joe Roberds, President:
joe65806@yahoo.com
or 417-838-0041
- Candy Smith, Co-Vice President
- Lydia Austin, Co-Vice President
- Sandi Huston, Treasurer
- Peri Redfearn, Secretary



Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings

Nov. 10 • Dec. 8 • Jan. 12: 6:30 p.m., @ Westport Park Apartments, Community Room (250 N. Hilton Ave.)

Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Zach Pugh: 417-874-2536

zpugh@springfieldmo.gov



 **Westport Elementary School**
415 S. Golden Ave.

Follow Westside on   

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

May 22, 2021: 7-11 a.m.

Study Alternative Center
(2343 W. Olive St.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Leaves,
Metal, TVs



Westside accepts a check from Community Partnership of the Ozarks for finishing as a runner-up in the Community Engagement Neighborhood Challenge during the month of June. Read more about the neighborhood challenge in the Delaware section on page 10.



Week-long cleanup offers unexpected opportunities in Woodland Heights

By Becky Volz, for SGFNN

Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association piloted a week-long, unattended cleanup in July. It was an interesting venture, that's for sure. We thought it would work to let the dumpsters sit there unattended and participants would read the signs and dispose of their trash and brush accordingly. Well, we found out that didn't work so well.

Thankfully, our neighbor across the street from the cleanup location, Mona Pieron, took the initiative to help neighbors read the signs and put their trash and brush in the right places.

This venture ended up being a huge success in that we filled 23 trash dumpsters (63 tons) and eight brush dumpsters. The opportunity did attract folks from outside the footprint of Woodland Heights, but that was OK.

My favorite part was meeting neighbors. With this setup, there was more time to visit and talk about cleaning up the neighborhood and working together. This time, it wasn't our usual hurried drive-up cleanup with 150 cars in line waiting to empty their vehicles and trailers. Mostly, neighbors who brought their trash emptied it themselves. But

when our awesome cleanup team was present, they gladly helped stack the dumpsters and consolidate the items.

We had disabled neighbors driving their items to the dumpsters, and we gratefully emptied their vehicles for them. Cleanup day is always prime recycling time, and sometimes trash becomes someone else's treasure!

I met a neighbor who later did some (much needed) yard work for me. Enthusiastic neighbors came by with ideas for keeping our neighborhood clean and helping our elderly and disabled get rid of things they no longer needed.

Visions of service to our neighbors were discussed and plans were made to implement them. It was an impromptu neighborhood mini-meeting, and our cleanup team grew! This opportunity brought our neighborhood together like only a dumpster day can! People worked hard and were very grateful for the opportunity. We heard it over and over ... resounding THANK YOUs!! Republic Services drivers kept busy getting us empty dumpsters.

New friends were made there as well. It truly was a community effort, by and for the community.

Construction on Commercial Street Parking Lot and Alleyway Improvement Project underway

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Commercial Street Historic District residents, business owners and visitors started to see increased activity in the district as construction for the City's Parking Lot and Alleyway Improvement Project began in late August.

The project consists of improvements to the "Dr. Tickle" alleyway located between Campbell Avenue and Boonville Avenue, the C-Street Market alleyway, between Robberson Avenue and Jefferson Avenue, and the public parking lot located at Blaine Street and Jefferson Avenue. The project includes lighting improvements, parking lot resurfacing, minor stormwater and water quality improvements, stamped crosswalks, and other decorative elements.

The overall goal of the project is to enhance parking options along Blaine and create friendlier pedestrian connections from the parking lot to businesses along Commercial Street.

Contractor Hunter Chase was expected to begin in the Dr. Tickle alleyway which was closed to pedestrians for approximately three weeks. Activity



then shifted to the C-Street Market alleyway and then to the parking lot. The public should expect parking availability in the Blaine Street and Jefferson Avenue lot to be limited, as the south portion will be used for staging of materials and equipment.

This project is expected to cost \$523,000 and will be funded by the Commercial Street Tax Increment Financing (TIF) fund and the ¼-Cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax, with pedestrian lighting improvements provided by City Utilities. Completion of the project is expected by late October.



Connect

- Becky Volz, President:
woodlandhna@gmail.com
or 417-880-4210
- Steve Sexton, Vice President:
- Katie Bolt-Goeke, Secretary
- Bernadean McAfee, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings


Oct. 20 • Nov. 17 • Dec. 15: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m./
6 p.m. optional potluck dinner @ Woodland Heights
Presbyterian Church (722 W. Atlantic St.)


Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Evan Nicholson: 417-874-2537
enicholson@springfieldmo.gov



 **Bowerman Elementary School**
2148 N. Douglas Ave.

 **Reed Middle School**
2000 N. Lyon Ave.

Follow Woodland Heights on  
woodlandheightsneighborhood.org

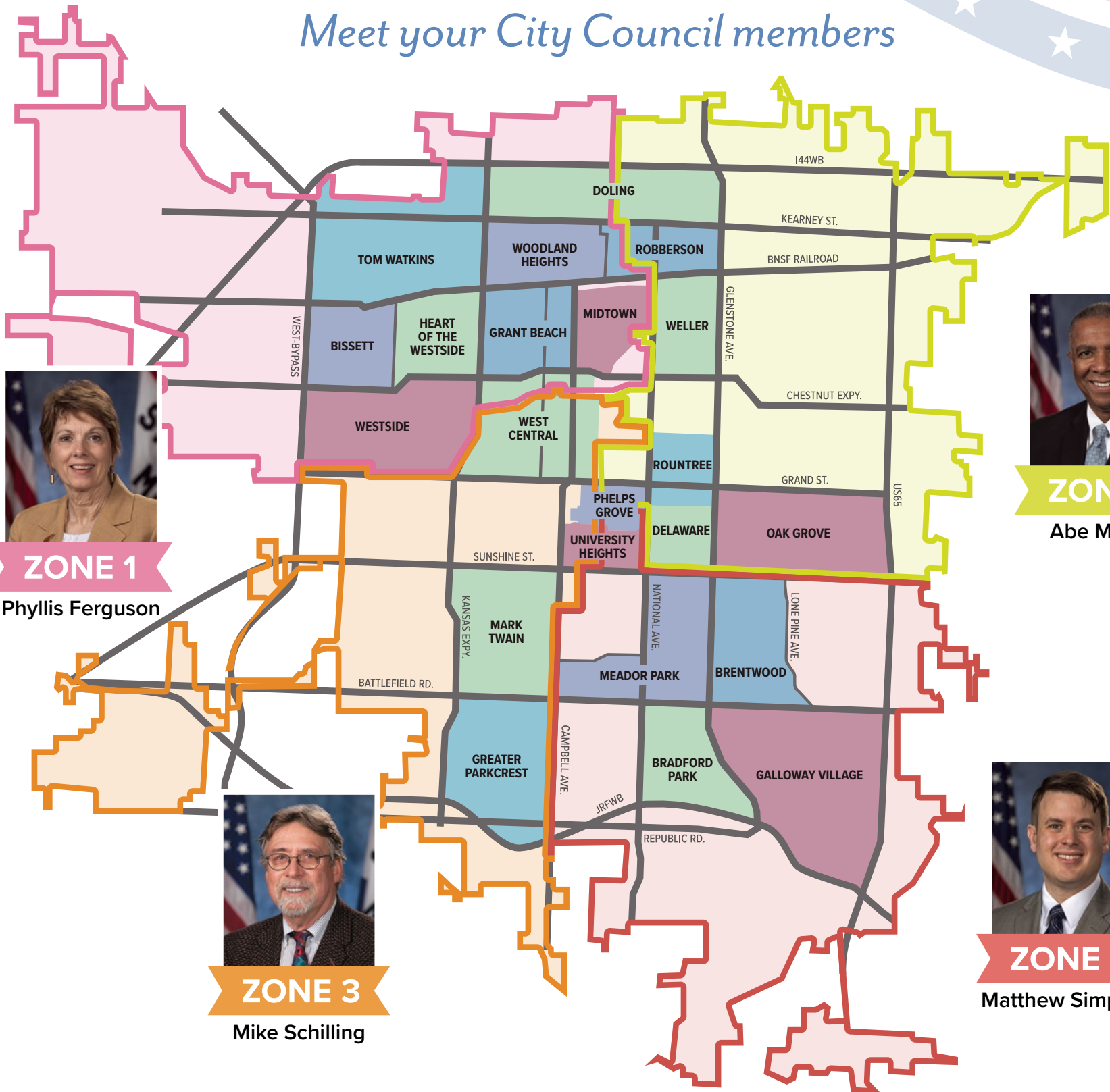
Next Neighborhood Cleanup
April 24, 2021: 8 a.m.-Noon
304 W. Chase St.



Springfield Compost Collective is proud to announce a new community bin drop-off location. Sponsored by Planting Seeds, LLC, the bin is located at the northwest corner of the C-Street City Market. Community bins allow for all of Springfield residents to participate in food waste diversion, regardless of income. Please follow the "accepted items" list during use (this means no bio bags or "compostable" wares). If you'd like to sponsor a community bin at a location of your choice, reach out to us through email or social media!

Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods

Meet your City Council members



ZONE 1

Phyllis Ferguson



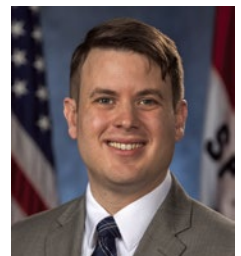
ZONE 2

Abe McGull



ZONE 3

Mike Schilling



ZONE 4

Matthew Simpson

Ken McClure
Mayor



Jan Fisk
General Seat A



Craig Hosmer
General Seat B



Andrew Lear
General Seat C



Richard Ollis
General Seat D



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

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springfieldmo.gov/CityCouncil
Council@springfieldmo.gov

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VIRTUAL
TURKEY TROT



Presented by
Brad Bradshaw,
MD JD LC

LEVEL 1 **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION:** by Nov. 20, 5 p.m.
ParkBoard.org/TurkeyTrot or call 864-1049 or 837-5817
Adults: \$20 ♦ Kids 12 and under: \$15

LEVEL 2 **DRIVE THROUGH PACKET PICK-UP:**
Wed., Nov. 25, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Killian Sports Complex
♦ On-site registration available, Adults: \$30, Kids: \$25

LEVEL 3 **RUN/WALK YOUR OWN 5K**
Nov. 26-29 ♦ Upload your race time and photos ↻

PARKBOARD.ORG/TURKEYTROT

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SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund




Developmental Center
OF THE OZARKS



OZARKS
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#STAYSTRONGSGF

Know the 3 WS




WASH YOUR
HANDS



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WATCH YOUR
DISTANCE



WEAR A
MASK

 **Stay Strong Springfield!**
health.springfieldmo.gov/coronavirus

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