



Chandra and Derek Palmer were Bissett Neighborhood's NOVA Volunteers of the Year.

14th annual NOVAs recognizes 19 neighborhood volunteers and Deliverance Temple Ministries

By Brooke Ash, CPO, for SGFNN

This year's 14th annual Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Awards (NOVA) event, broadcast on Community Partnership of the Ozarks' Facebook page and sponsored by Air Services Heating, Cooling and All Service Professional Plumbing, was obviously different than in years past, due to COVID-19.



Despite the fact that we were not able to celebrate in person, we could not let the opportunity pass without marking this annual event in a meaningful way. The theme of this year's NOVA event was "Silver Linings – Learning to Dance in the Rain."

We chose this theme because we wanted to acknowledge the challenges that 2020 unexpectedly brought our way, while still being able to celebrate the resilience that it has created for us all. Even though storms come our way, it's not about waiting for them to pass, it's about learning how to dance through them.

The virtual NOVA event included a word from sponsor Air Services owner Rich Callahan, special keynote speaker Jeff Houghton, celebration of this year's NOVA winners and announcement of

the winners of the Bass Pro Cheering Challenge. Eighteen neighborhoods sent in NOVA nominations.

This year's NOVA winners are:

- Bissett Neighborhood Association: **Chandra Palmer and Derek Palmer**
- Delaware Neighborhood Association: **Nancy Williams**
- Galloway Village Neighborhood Association: **Duane Johnson**
- Grant Beach Neighborhood Association: **Doris Hunter and Samantha Hunter**
- Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association: **Fred Romaine**
- Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association: **Deliverance Temple Ministries**
- Meador Park Neighborhood Association: **Donna Clarkson**
- Midtown Neighborhood Association: **Jaimie Saratella**
- Oak Grove Neighborhood Association: **Cynthia McHaney**

▶ See 14TH ANNUAL NOVA AWARDS on page 2

Welcome to the Winter 2021 edition of SGF Neighborhood News!

Keep up with what's going on in Springfield neighborhoods and get to know your neighbors with this quarterly newspaper and website.

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City Council extends masking, social distancing, occupancy restrictions until April 9

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

At the recommendation of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department and with the full support of health care partners in the region, City Council at its Dec. 14, 2020 meeting unanimously voted to extend the face covering, occupancy restrictions and social distancing requirements in the city limits of Springfield until April 9.

The ordinance, which comprises Phase 3C of the City's Road to Recovery Plan, has the same requirements as the previous version, which was passed in October 2020, but includes an exemption for baptisms. The new ordinance also provides additional language about enforcement and expectations of businesses and entities.

Springfield-Greene County has had over 20,000 cases of COVID-19 as of Dec. 30, 2020. For the most updated numbers and additional resources and guidance for specific groups, visit the Health Department's website at health.springfieldmo.gov/coronavirus.



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. 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.

▶ See MASKING EXTENSION on page 2

Health Department medical director addresses questions about COVID vaccine

By Dr. Nancy Yoon, Health Department, for SGFNN

Vaccines can be a tricky topic—the science around them can be confusing, misinformation around vaccines is all over the place, and sometimes knowing who or what to believe can be difficult.

Your Springfield-Greene County Health Department is always a good source of information on vaccines—what the latest science is telling us as well as where, when and how to get the vaccines you and your family need.

This is especially important this year as we're all thinking about the COVID-19 vaccine becoming available across the country. You probably have questions about the vaccine itself, where you can get it and maybe even if you should get it.

Vaccines are one of our safest and most effective ways to combat illness, and they have to pass rigorous safety and effectiveness standards before they're ever widely distributed. Vaccines have been studied in tens of thousands of people. The study results are reviewed by independent advisory committees. These committees then give advice on who should receive the vaccine.

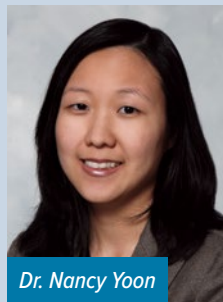
Although the COVID-19 vaccines you've been hearing a lot about were developed in record time, that is a reflection of the global scientific community's collective efforts to combat COVID-19—not any sort of cut corners. Researchers were able to use existing science and technology from other vaccines, which made the development of this one faster than previously used methods of making vaccines.

Vaccines teach the body's immune system how to fight an invader. Just how the vaccine works depends on the type of vaccine and the type of illness it's fighting, but the general idea is to introduce something that helps the body recognize the virus in the future. When your body responds to the vaccine, it learns how to fight that illness so the next time you encounter it, your body is prepared to fight it off without making you terribly sick.

In the case of the COVID-19 vaccine, the first two vaccine candidates are mRNA vaccines. You've seen lots of images of the coronavirus, with those characteristic spikes. These vaccines teach your body to recognize those spikes and to fight off the virus.

Want to know more? You can always find the latest news and information on the COVID-19 vaccine at health.springfieldmo.gov/COVIDvaccine or give us a call Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 417-874-1211.

Dr. Nancy Yoon is the medical director for the Springfield-Greene County Health Department.



Dr. Nancy Yoon

▶ 14TH ANNUAL NOVA AWARDS from page 1

- Phelps Grove Neighborhood Association: **Eric Pauly**
- Robberson Neighborhood Association: **Betty Taylor**
- Rountree Neighborhood Association: **Peggy Wise**
- Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association: **Denny Reeves**
- University Heights Neighborhood Association: **Jan Peterson**
- Weller Neighborhood Association: **Chuck McClancy**
- West Central Neighborhood Association: **Jason Clough**
- Westside Betterment Neighborhood Association: **Lydia Austin**
- Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association: **Janetta Tracy**



Samuel Knox accepts Heart of the Westside's Volunteer of the Year Award on behalf of Deliverance Temple Ministries.

BASS PRO MARATHON NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGE WINNERS

Galloway Village took first place for the second year in a row and \$1,500 in the competition, with their "love shack" theme. Woodland Heights and Delaware tied for second and took home \$1,200 each for their "kicks on Route 66" and "DeLaWayre Pyrates" themes.

Westside took third and \$1,100 for their "Westside MASH" theme. Meador Park took fourth and \$1,000 with a dance party theme.

University Heights, Robberson and Brentwood tied for fifth and each took home \$800. University Heights' theme was "CARBS FTW." Robberson's cheering section featured a workout theme and Brentwood's was "The Tie-Dye Troupe."

West Central, Oak Grove, Rountree and Greater Parkcrest tied for sixth and each took home \$700. West Central's theme was the "Brew Crew." Rountree featured a "Recycled Halloween" theme, and Greater Parkcrest had a "Down Home" theme. Oak Grove's theme was "Old Golf Pros."

A big thank you goes out this year to Brentwood and Robberson for being located at relay exchange points for the marathon and to sponsor Century Link. Bass Pro granted Brentwood and Robberson each an additional \$200 for their help at the relay exchange areas.

"The Neighborhood Challenge this year was excellent, and even with all the challenges we faced this year, the runners had a terrific and exciting opportunity during marathon weekend, so thanks to all of you for making it so special for them," said Melissa Bondy, Bass Pro's program director for community and corporate well-being.

The NOVA virtual award ceremony can be viewed on Community Partnership of the Ozarks' Facebook page, on our YouTube channel CPOzarks and at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.



Delaware tied for second in the Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge and took home \$1,200 for their "DeLaWayre Pyrates" theme.

▶ MASKING EXTENSION from page 1

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.
- While participating in a baptism ceremony or while photographs of the baptism are taken.

"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 Director of Public Health Clay Goddard.

Masks are primarily intended to reduce the spread of virus-laden droplets, which is especially relevant for asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic infected wearers who feel well and may be unaware of their infectiousness to others, and who are estimated to account for more than 50% of transmissions. Masks also help reduce inhalation of these droplets by the wearer. The community benefit of masking for virus control is due to the combination of these effects; individual prevention benefit increases with increasing numbers of people using masks consistently and correctly. Additional social distancing measures help reduce the chances of virus transmission, as it thrives in congregant settings and increases likelihood through density and intensity of physical contact.

On Dec. 8, 2020, hospital leaders from CoxHealth and Mercy told City Council they were unable to take referrals from other hospitals 60% due, in part, to an influx of COVID-19 patients.

Hospital leaders have warned about the impacts of exponential disease spread in the community. There have been record deaths in December, with Greene County reporting 51 fatalities in the first eight days of the month. That's more than the entire months of September and November. With hospitalizations lagging two to three weeks after new infections, health officials are bracing for the impact of gatherings over the holiday season. ▶

► ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to wear a face covering when it is required shall be considered guilty of a violation of a municipal ordinance, which can result in a \$100 fine. A person who owns, manages or otherwise controls a place at which face coverings and social distancing are required who fails to comply or require compliance from patrons or customers can also face a \$100 fine and suspension or revocation of any permit or license issued to the person for the premises on which the violation occurred. Each day on which violations occur is considered a separate and distinct violation. However, if the business or entity requires compliance and the patron or customer refuses to wear a face covering, the owner or manager is not considered in violation of the ordinance.



"We have taken an educational approach first, so it is safe to say that the community is fully aware of the requirements. It is time to step up efforts and send a clear message that those not in compliance will be ticketed," City Manager Jason Gage said. "We are entering into the most deadly phase of the pandemic, and ensuring masking compliance is the least we can do to preserve our hospital capacity and to protect our older friends and family members and those with medical conditions."

Violations can be reported by calling 911.

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," Goddard said. "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."

BACKGROUND

After hearing from hundreds of speakers and reading tens of thousands of written and transcribed comments, City Council first passed an ordinance in July 2020 requiring face coverings and social distancing in public spaces and setting an occupancy limit on special events on public property. In October, the council extended the requirements through Jan. 9.

Grant Avenue Parkway project progresses through preliminary concept design phase

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City of Springfield is progressing through the concept development phase for the Grant Avenue Parkway project – working alongside the community to determine what basic traffic calming and infrastructure design elements could be included in the parkway and where.

More than 250 viewers tuned in as the City and project consultant CMT presented preliminary concept designs for the project during a virtual public event on Nov. 19, 2020. Participating residents and stakeholders were presented four basic design options generated using feedback gathered during the public visioning phase in September. More than 200 individuals provided input through live polling exercises and a follow-up survey.

"At the end of the concept development process, we will provide a baseline concept design to design-build teams, allowing them to innovate and develop unique final designs based on the public's direction." – Leree Reese

"The options presented are very basic mockups of possible project features. We wanted to hear what participants liked and what they didn't like about each option," explains Public Works Project Manager Leree Reese. "This feedback will help guide us toward the public's primary goals and preferred direction for the project."

The City's team will continue to gather input on first-draft concepts through a series of one-on-one stakeholder input sessions scheduled through January. To schedule an input session for your neighborhood or organization, fill out an interest form at grantavenueparkway.com.

In early February, the City's project team expects to present a second draft of design concepts for additional public feedback.

"At the end of the concept development process, we will provide a baseline concept design to design-build teams, allowing them to innovate and develop unique final designs based on the public's direction," says Reese.

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



"In addition to the parkway design, we have been evaluating development opportunities, complimentary building types and related improvements along Grant Avenue. We plan to share some of our progress and listen for feedback from the public in the months to come, as we work to bring it all together," added Principal Planner for the City of Springfield Randall Whitman. "This is an interim stage in an overall planning study of the Grant Avenue corridor."

ABOUT THE GRANT AVENUE PARKWAY CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Funded primarily by a \$21 million federal Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant, the Grant Avenue Parkway will provide major transportation improvements along Grant Avenue in the heart of Springfield.

The Grant Avenue Parkway will create an off-street pedestrian and bicycle pathway along Grant Avenue between Sunshine Street and Downtown Springfield. The 3-mile stretch 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 Parkway route will further connect parks and recreation amenities, neighborhoods, schools, and fill a vital gap in the Ozark Greenways trail network.

The Parkway will start at Sunshine Street and end in a loop downtown via College Street, Boonville Avenue, Mill Street and Main Street. The route is envisioned to include bike and pedestrian friendly facilities, various traffic-calming improvements, bridge enhancements, utility upgrades, fiber connectivity and additional crossing and intersection improvements.

The City will be tackling this corridor improvement project with four improvement goals in mind: Transportation, Economic Development, Quality of Life and Community Revitalization.

To participate and learn more, visit grantavenueparkway.com.



GOOD NEIGHBOR Tip



Obey Traffic Laws

Neighborhood traffic safety is a top concern of Springfield citizens. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reports that 87% of people caught speeding through residential areas actually live in that neighborhood!

By ordinance, the speed limit in Springfield is 25 mph, unless otherwise posted. A lower speed limit of 20 mph can only be found in school zones, university campuses, downtown, and Commercial Street business districts. Collector streets, which are meant to carry more traffic and draw traffic away from residential streets, are posted at 30 or 35 mph.

Driving at or below the speed limit allows you to stop easily to let someone cross in front of you or avoid hitting a child or pet.

For more information, visit springfieldmo.gov/neighborhoodtraffic.



City launches visioning survey for Renew Jordan Creek

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Beginning in January, the City of Springfield will ask the public to help set the vision for the Renew Jordan Creek master plan, examining the potential of the historic creek as it flows through downtown Springfield. An online public visioning survey is set to launch Jan. 6 and lasting through Feb. 7 at renewjordancreek.com.

Visitors to downtown Springfield may not realize that Jordan Creek is flowing beneath their feet. Beginning in the 1930s, it was channeled through a series of underground culverts. Renew Jordan Creek is a multi-phase effort that intends to "daylight" the creek and bring it to the surface, helping to reduce flooding and improve water quality. The project is also viewed as an opportunity to provide an urban amenity and catalyst for further redevelopment along its path through downtown.

Phase I comprises two large blocks of the creek, bordered on the east by Boonville Avenue, Water Street on the south, Main Avenue on the west, and Mill Street on the north. Much of the project area is within the Federal Emergency Management Agency



(FEMA) floodplain within downtown Springfield.

The upcoming public visioning survey will gather input on the public's vision for this Phase I site and will also pose questions about other underutilized spaces along Jordan Creek's footprint.

"As we began the design phase for Renew Jordan Creek, we realized we needed to look outside the boundaries of the current-funded project and look at a wider span of the Jordan Valley," said City of Springfield Quality of Place Director Tim Rosenbury.

▶ See **RENEW JORDAN CREEK** on page 6

City passes '3-foot rule' to increase pedestrian, bicycle safety at crosswalks

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City of Springfield is now one of the few cities in the country where a driver is required to yield to pedestrians waiting near crosswalks in unsignalized intersections.

In early November, City Council approved a series of City Code amendments which allow pedestrians to remain on the sidewalk while requiring vehicles to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian approaching or waiting within three feet of a crosswalk.

"Previous City Code reflected state law which does not require a driver to yield unless the pedestrian is already in the roadway," explains Traffic Safety Professional Mandy Buettgen-Quinn. "This language can be problematic for vulnerable road users such as children and the elderly. The addition allows a pedestrian to remain within the safety of sidewalk and places more responsibility on the driver to slow or stop for them."

Amendments also include a statement providing bicyclists the rights of a pedestrian over a motorist in a crosswalk if the bicyclist is dismounted while approaching, entering and crossing.

"In Springfield, bicyclists are allowed to travel on the sidewalk in all areas outside the perimeter of our downtown and Commercial Street districts," explains Buettgen-Quinn. "This ordinance is to prevent someone on a bike from entering a crosswalk at a speed that a driver would not have the chance to realistically come to a safe stop."

The Springfield Police Department recently received a grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation that will fund crosswalk "Enforcement" exercises. Beginning in spring 2021, police officers will stage at crosswalks in plain clothing, stopping drivers who fail to give the right-of-way to pedestrians. Drivers will initially be provided educational materials and receive warnings. After the warning period, drivers may receive tickets for blatant violations.

"National studies show that this method can significantly drive up crosswalk compliance resulting in 70% of drivers yielding at crosswalks or more," says Buettgen-Quinn. "We are hopeful that, in combination with the recent code changes, these enforcement exercises will have a noticeable impact on pedestrian safety in Springfield."



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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Timmons Hall to offer Black History Month programming for adults and children

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Timmons Hall will host University of Missouri-Columbia associate professor Dr. LaGarrett King 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5 as he presents "Rethinking Black History Month," a workshop aimed at helping communities learn a new framework for and be more intentional about teaching Black history in schools, libraries and other spaces.

The presentation will be livestreamed on the City of Springfield's Facebook page @CityofSGF and at AfricanAmericanHeritageTrailSGF.org.

"I couldn't be more excited about bringing this distinguished guest speaker Dr. LaGarrett King to Springfield," said Timmons Hall Coordinator Christine Peoples. "It is truly an honor! At Timmons Hall, we are intentional on raising the bar in education, history and cultural programming."

Dr. King is an associate professor of social studies education and a founding director at the Carter Center for K-12 Black History Education at MU. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin after an eight-year teaching career in Georgia and Texas. His primary research interest examines the teaching and learning of Black history in schools and society. He also researches critical theories of race, teacher education, and curriculum history.

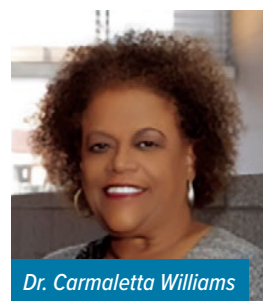


Dr. LaGarrett King

"At Timmons Hall, we are intentional on raising the bar in education, history and cultural programming." – Christine Peoples

According to its website at education.missouri.edu/learning-teaching-curriculum/carter-center/, the Carter Center for K-12 Black History Education leverages history educators, social studies teachers, community educators, policy makers and other advocates to transform Black history education in today's public, private and homeschooled environments.

On Saturday, Feb. 6, Timmons Hall and People's History Café will present "The Assignment," featuring Black Archives of Mid-America KC Executive Director Dr. Carmaletha Williams in the role of author, anthropologist and filmmaker Zora Neal



Dr. Carmaletha Williams



Hurston. The play centers around a college student named Tracie who is struggling to complete her part of a group project for her African American Studies class. The play will be recorded and a link will be posted on Timmons Hall's Facebook page.

Timmons Hall will present additional speakers in 2021. Stay up to date on its programs at parkboard.org/timmonshall.

ABOUT TIMMONS HALL

Timmons Hall, located at 1000 N. Hampton, is a former church that was relocated to Silver Springs Park and restored. The building now serves as an event facility, offering historical, cultural and educational opportunities, with programming directed by Timmons Hall Coordinator Christine Peoples. It's owned and operated by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.



Timmons Temple Church of God in Christ was built in 1932 at the corner of Webster Street and Texas Avenue, overlooking Silver Springs Park. The small church served Springfield's African American community for more than 80 years before the congregation outgrew the building and relocated in 2014. Timmons Temple was sold and slated for demolition. Nonprofit group Save Timmons Temple (now Friends of Timmons Temple) formed to preserve the church, noting its historic significance as well as its unique stone exterior, including sunburst patterns also found in the retaining walls in Silver Springs Park. In early 2015, in coordination with the Park Board, Timmons Temple was carefully lifted from its foundation and relocated by about 600 feet into Silver Springs Park.

▶ **RENEW JORDAN CREEK** from page 4

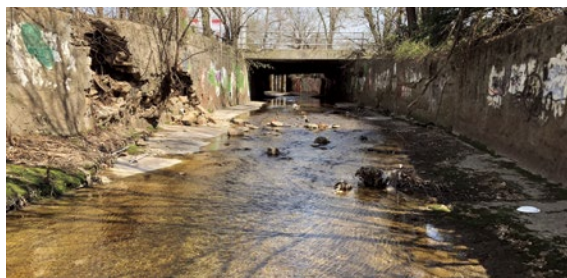
"We don't want this project to be an island of green, but rather it needs to connect to a much larger vision and master plan for the area."

Input from the public visioning survey will be utilized in a highly collaborative design process involving citizens and project stakeholders scheduled for April.

Phase I of the project is funded through Springfield's Level Property Tax and is estimated to cost approximately \$7 million. Future phases are still in the planning stage and are currently unfunded.

ABOUT JORDAN CREEK

Jordan Creek runs through the heart of downtown Springfield, two blocks north of the square. The stream was once pristine and unspoiled, sustained by natural springs. In 1830, Springfield's founder John Polk Campbell and his family were the first white settlers along its banks.



Over the years, settlers began complaining about the flooding of the creek and used it as a garbage dump. As more settlers moved to the area, the stream became polluted and stagnant. As Springfield prospered, additional development occurred along the creek, concentrating rainfall to flood the Jordan Valley. In response, in the early 1930s, the creek was enclosed with massive twin box culverts, two-thirds of a mile long, to help contain flooding.

The combination of industrial users vacating Jordan Valley, postwar efforts to improve health and address pollution and recent efforts at controlling flooding upstream have created new opportunities for Jordan Creek. In the late 1990s, the community cast a vision for Jordan Valley Park, an almost two-mile long, 150-acre linear park with the creek running through most of it. The east and west ends of the park were envisioned to consist of large passive open spaces with the center compressed into an urbanized area one block wide and several blocks in length.

Since 2014, Jordan Creek has been listed on the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' 303(d) List of Impaired Waters due to impairment by polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in stream sediment. Partial funding for the Renew Jordan Creek project is provided by a Section 319 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for stream bank and soil restoration, tree plantings, and disconnection of impervious surfaces to provide a buffer from loading of PAHs.

Renew Jordan Creek is only one part of a big-picture planning effort and other large-scale improvements going on downtown. The City's Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan focuses on the Renew Jordan Creek phase I project as a future catalyst site. The phase I project is also anticipated to function as a downtown anchor amenity along the route of the federal grant-funded Grant Avenue Parkway.

SPS Academy of Fine & Performing Arts opens with student performances

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

When the ribbon was cut for the SPS Academy of Fine & Performing Arts, it was a long time coming.

In 2006, Springfield Public Schools began conversations with the community about a new way to deliver personalized learning: choice programming. In their research of the new teaching method, a special school choice research team discovered that throughout Springfield, community members wanted a fine arts school for elementary students. The experience would be year-round, focused on student engagement and help students cultivate talents and skills to benefit them throughout their lives.

In the decades to come, a number of magnet schools opened: Wonders of the Ozarks Learning Facility in Bass Pro Shops, the Academy of Exploration within Discovery Center and Health Sciences Academy @ Mercy. During those years, the Springfield Little Theatre and SPS searched for ways to partner for a specific choice program, in the right facility, with the right team.

"This will be a space where they have the freedom to express their creativity. Guided by our teachers and experts from Springfield Little Theatre, these students will explore new concepts and develop new talents." – John Jungmann

In 2019, Springfield Little Theatre purchased the former McDaniel School and opened the Judith Enyeart Reynolds School of the Performing Arts for Springfield Little Theatre, known as The Judy. Immediately, SPS coordinator of choice programming Kelsey Brabo began conversations on what a choice program could be for SPS students in the same school where Juanita K. Hammons taught.

On Aug. 20, 2020, the SPS Academy of Fine & Performing Arts officially opened.

"Every day, 50 fifth-graders come here, to The Judy, to learn in an engaging, relevant and personal way, about fine and performing arts," said Superintendent John Jungmann. "This is a space where they have the freedom to express their creativity. Guided by our teachers and experts from



Springfield Little Theatre, these students explore new concepts and develop new talents. We believe the Academy of Fine and Performing Arts is a great new addition to a thriving arts community and helps foster a love of the arts in future generations of students."

Springfield Little Theatre students performed, parents clapped and the community watched as the new magnet school became a reality. Foundation for Springfield Public Schools director Natalie Murdock shared the Foundation's support for the program and its commitment to ongoing financial support, with an annual contribution of \$27,000 to pay for facility costs, and Brabo introduced the Academy's two teachers: Liza Gray and Jayme Carabello.

And finally, SLT Education Director Lorianne Dunn welcomed the crowd to The Judy, the 112-year-old facility built by the Landers brothers, who also built the Landers Theatre. In the new space, all were invited to create possibilities.

"This momentous occasion is truly a dream shared by so many," said Lorianne Dunn. "This building, the programs it holds and now your school, are all a testament to a dream and the evidence of the persistence of the dreamers who come to realize them. Standing here today, I can definitively say that anything is possible."

SPS Choice Programs have focused themes and aligned curriculum that provides students access to unique learning opportunities driven by their passion, inquiry, and community connections. SPS Choice is choice within the public school setting. Across Springfield, eight Choice Programs support more than 3,000 students.



Green for Greene
—An EPA-funded Grant

This FREE five-week training program provides certifications in 13 areas needed for "green" jobs.

**CLASSES STARTING
SPRING 2021**

For more information and to apply online visit springfieldmo.gov/GreenForGreene

or contact Cindy Bennett at cbennett@springfieldmo.gov or 417-841-1890



Find a new career with free training opportunities and guidance

By Francine Pratt, Missouri College Action Network, for SGFNN

Job losses and reduced hours have been a real struggle during COVID-19, but now there's help! Thanks to a commitment by area organizations, there are more opportunities to access training and guidance towards a new or improved career.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT CARE

We are fortunate in Missouri to have upstanding organizations who work hard to build a better tomorrow for the whole community.

- **Prosper Springfield** – A partnership that helps unite resources for education, medical, housing, employment, and transportation issues in the Springfield, Missouri area.
- **Missouri Job Centers** – Community career centers that offer guidance and assistance with job training, assessments, and finding work.
- **Ozarks Technical Community College** – A trusted community college that offers educational guidance, workforce development classes, trade training and two-year degrees.
- **MOCAN** – A Missouri statewide network that strives to bring greater awareness, access, and completion of college and career opportunities to the underserved.

DISCOVER NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Whether you want to find a new job, train towards a better one, or try a new industry, there could be opportunities available to you.

With some short-term training and a little guidance, you could be on your way to a career in an in-demand industry, such as:

- Health and Medicine
- Business
- Teaching and Education
- Manufacturing and Engineering
- Information Technology

TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP WITH A CAREER PATHWAY

Job pathways can help you get started in the field of your choice. These industry maps are an easy guide to the training or education you may need to enter your desired field and achieve the salary you could earn.

Learn about the booming opportunities in health, information technology, manufacturing, or business and find out if your skills will transfer or if a short-term class could teach you what you need.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TRAINING OPTIONS

Online and in-person training is available through the Missouri Job Centers. These trainings can help you get started in manufacturing, IT, healthcare, transportation, or construction careers with only a short time investment.

Classes are offered through well-known providers, like Ozarks Technical Community College, through a partnership with the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development.

Learn more about available training classes or go to the Job Center website to see if you qualify.

GET GUIDANCE TOWARD YOUR NEW CAREER

We all need a little help sometimes. Whether you've just finished training or you're not sure where to start, it's good to talk to someone about your next steps.

Missouri Job Center-Ozark Region

The Missouri Job Center is available by appointment to help you find companies that are hiring, teach you job hunting skills, and refer you to industry training programs.

- **Missouri Job Center Main Springfield Location:** 2900 E. Sunshine St.
- **Missouri Job Center North Springfield Location:** 1126 N. Broadway Ave.
- **Missouri Job Center Branson:** 2720 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway-B.

For questions or to book an appointment, call the main Springfield office at 417-887-4343.

The Missouri Job Center is an equal opportunity employer. For individuals with disabilities, auxiliary aids and services are available.

For equal opportunity information, contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer at 417-882-4343.

Ozarks Technical Community College

Advisers at Ozarks Technical Community College can help you determine which training or certification programs are right for you and how to get started boosting your education. To meet with an advisor, visit the OTC website at otc.edu.

Statewide resources

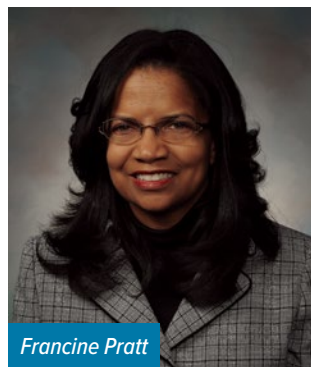
To find job training or search resources in areas like Kansas City, St Louis, Columbia, Poplar Bluff or other parts of the state, MOCAN has broken down services by region. Start your search for closer opportunities at mocollegeaccess.org.

Whether you recently joined the workforce or are a seasoned worker, don't hesitate to take a look at these opportunities. While changing careers can seem stressful in the short-term, you have the chance to build a stable future in a booming industry that interests you.

These organizations are ready to help you take the first step. Sit down with your family and talk about your plan. Look into pathways to see if your current skills can transfer to a more stable industry or see if some short-term training could make all the difference.

INVEST THIS TIME IN YOUR FUTURE.

Whichever path you choose, just remember that we are here to assist you with resources on our website that are easy to access for students, adult learners and those who assist students.



Francine Pratt

Teaching and Education Careers Job Pathway Map

KEYS TO SUCCESS: SPS K-12 GRADES

- Explore-Summer Programs
- Math & Science Competitions
- National History Day Competition
- Social Studies & Speech and Debate classes
- Leadership Academies

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GED OR HiSET

- Teaching Assistant
 - Preschool Teacher
- Approx. \$9-\$15/hour



FULL CERTIFICATE

- Childcare Worker
 - Substitute Teacher
- Approx. \$9-\$17/hour

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

- Paraprofessional
 - Early Childhood Specialist
- Approx. \$13-\$14/hour

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- Primary or Secondary School Teacher
- Approx. \$23-\$29/hour

GRADUATE DEGREE

- College Professor
 - Education Administrator
- Approx. \$30-\$41/hour

To view more Job Pathway Maps, please see this article on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.



Applications for 2019-2024 Neighborhood Works program due March 10

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City has issued a call for project applications for the next round of Neighborhood Works program funding with approximately \$1 million available through the 2019-2024 round of the program

First launched in 2016 and funded through the ¼-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax, Neighborhood Works is intended to fund small-scale capital improvements within officially registered neighborhoods. The program gives residents the opportunity to identify projects they believe will offer the greatest benefit to their area.

Examples of eligible projects include small-scale stormwater drainage improvements, alley improvements, street markings for bikes, small sidewalk improvements and trail connections, and updates to parks such as playground equipment, sidewalks and parking lots.

Individual projects are limited to \$100,000 or less and must take place on city-owned property or right-of-way. Since the program began, it has funded 21 individual neighborhood projects totaling \$1.5 million.

Projects for the 2019-2024 program are planned to be selected in two application cycles. Approximately \$600,000-\$650,000 will be allocated for this first cycle. All leftover funds will be carried over and added to the balance available for a second program funding cycle expected to take place in 2023.

Applicants to the upcoming cycle must be a neighborhood association officially recognized by the City of Springfield six months prior to the application deadline. A neighborhood representative must have attended one of two mandatory application workshops.

The deadline to submit an application is March 10. Applications were sent to the registered neighborhoods in December.

All project applications received by the application deadline will be reviewed for eligibility and feasibility. City staff will then prepare cost estimates for each project and forward eligible applications on to the Neighborhood Advisory Council for evaluation and scoring. The NAC's recommendations will be presented to the City Manager who will finalize the projects to be funded.

For more information, contact Alana Owen, senior planner for the City of Springfield, at 864-1831 or aowen@springfieldmo.gov.



Approximately 3,714 linear feet of new sidewalk were constructed in February 2020 in the Delaware neighborhood, thanks to the City's Neighborhood Works capital improvement grant program.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

2020 a test of endurance for us all

By Rusty Worley, for SGFNN

As we turn the page from a tumultuous and tiresome year, the lessons of the fables of our youth remain unchanging.

The story of the Tortoise and the Hare resonated with me as a lanky kid not blessed with quickness. It reminds us to learn from the rabbit's mistake of smugly taking gifts for granted. The turtle's slow and steady example often wins the race in the long run.

The year 2020 was a test of endurance for everyone. It made us appreciate our family, homes, friends and neighbors.

Here are three things to look forward to in 2021.

FINISH STRONG

Over the past nine months, there have been Stay-at-Home orders, curbside service, limited capacities, social distancing, meetings via Zoom, iconic events canceled, and live streaming for community input sessions and worship services. Family gatherings have been pared down to protect those we love.

Face masks have joined cell phones, wallets and car keys as things we can't leave home without. Six feet became the standard unit of measure, rather than just my height.

Thankfully, vaccines are on the way over the next six months and there is a light on the horizon. We are all asked to continue to responsibly follow the recommendations outlined by health officials since last summer – maintain social distancing, wash our hands more frequently, wear masks when out in public and limit large gatherings – in order to emerge from this pandemic as quickly as possible. Many in our neighborhoods have done a good job of reaching out to help those who need a hand and graciousness will be even more important at the end of this long journey.

RESTORE SGF

The Neighborhood Advisory Council has been part of a new initiative to promote new levels of residential investment – Restore SGF.

It aspires to bring residents, real estate

agents, developers, banks, employers and community organizations together to encourage home ownership, invest in existing housing stock and enhance the quality of life and civic pride in Springfield's historic neighborhoods.



NAC Chair Rusty Worley

Initial strategies for Restore SGF include providing a central resource for all residential programs, more effectively market available options, stimulate the creation of rehabilitation financing and incentives, and reduce barriers to home ownership and reinvestment.

Check out restoresgf.com for more details as they are unveiled throughout the year. You can also read more about it in the Grant Beach Neighborhood section on page 12.

GATHER TOGETHER

Hosting social events is one of the most important roles of neighborhood associations. Monthly general membership meetings, block parties, parades, holiday parties, kickball tournaments, home tours, National Night Out and other gatherings allow us to get to know our neighbors and highlight our authentic places.

The promise of vaccines distributed on a wide scale will allow these valuable events to return in the second half of 2021. We should use the coming months to take a fresh look at these gatherings to incorporate the lessons learned over the past nine months. We have all been changed by what we have experienced, and our events will need to be modified to reflect those new realities.

Poet Robert Frost said, "The best way out is always through."

Thank you to the neighborhood leaders across our community who maintain perseverance during this pandemic to do the little things, step by step, to keep Springfield moving forward.

MOMENTUM
2021 State of the Workforce

The seventh annual Momentum State of the Workforce Survey is now open!

Complete the survey at Momentum2021.net by Jan. 29

Area businesses, government and nonprofit organizations, human resource managers, and area school administrators are encouraged to participate.

Results will be released Feb. 24
at the Momentum State of the Workforce livestream event.

missouri jobcenter
A proud partner of the american jobcenter network



Bissett Neighborhood Association announces 2021 board

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

Many thanks to our officers and board members from past years, and their willingness to continue to participate in 2021. They are:

- President: Russell Moore
- Vice President: Vickie Grinde
- Secretary: Rob Sorbo
- Treasurer: Sheila Radecki
- Board Members: William Harvison, Patty Goss and Mario Gonzales.

As we continue to deal with COVID restrictions,

we have not set specific plans for 2021 meetings and events. As restrictions become more relaxed, a calendar of events will be put together. Among them will be outreach during the first quarter to develop a grant proposal under the Neighborhood Works Program. In the past, this program funded the pavilion and other improvements to L.A. Wise Park.

In addition, the 2021 neighborhood cleanup is currently scheduled for Saturday, June 5; and we hope to renew our neighborhood yard sale in July and Neighborhood Night Out event in August. We'll keep in touch via Facebook and email as plans develop.

Bissett Neighborhood Association year in review

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

And what a year it was! As with virtually everyone, BNA activities for 2020 were a shadow of previous years, with many meetings and events cancelled. Bissett was home to some who passed on due at least in part to COVID, and we mourn their passing. That said, the spirit of the neighborhood remains, and perhaps we have each gained a better appreciation of things taken for granted: enjoying a potluck dinner, seeing or playing in a ball game, chatting over coffee at a local restaurant, praying at churches that were quiet at Easter and other times. And there were so many celebrations like the Fourth of July and Halloween being but shadows of the past. All that said, many found new ways to engage at levels never before through electronic communications, and we saw many more improving their homes, and engaging in walks and other exercise.

One bright spot was that our annual neighborhood cleanup was a great success. Originally scheduled for June, it was held in September. Many came out and helped, so a big shoutout to them as well as the City and Community Partnership of the Ozarks for making the event possible with their support.

Bissett welcomed Eden Village II to the neighborhood. All signs show a quality development emerging which we believe will be a beacon of hope for those previously homeless who

will become members of our community. They have already taken a great step by adopting a portion of West Nichols for street cleanup, and we think there will be opportunities for many within our neighborhood to engage with these new neighbors.

We also pass on our many thanks to Chandra and Derek Palmer who were our 2020 NOVA award winners. Chandra has been a long-time officer of the BNA, and they recently moved out of the neighborhood. If there was an event or activity in Bissett, you could always count on Chandra, Derek and their children to help out. We have had the joy of seeing those kids grow up, and no doubt, by seeing Mom and Dad contribute to the neighborhood, they will be so much more likely to find ways to help others as they continue to grow and mature.

A New Year's Wish for 2021

*'Twas the night before COVID, when all through the 'hood,
Not a meeting was canceled; our plans were all good.
When out through the air came a virus so feared,
That all was disheveled, so much we held dear.
So now a year later, we look with some hope,
That all will sort out, so we can all cope
So from Bissett we say, "Happy New Year to all.
May we each find new ways to love and enthral!"*



Pete Radecki



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Meetings are typically the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Bissett Elementary School (3014 W. Calhoun St.) However, we currently have no specific plans for 2021 meetings. Please contact an officer for more information.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Austin Faulconer: 417-874-2536
afulconer@springfieldmo.gov



Bissett Elementary School
3014 W. Calhoun St.

Follow Bissett on

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

June 5: 8 a.m.-Noon

**Bissett Elementary
(3014 W. Calhoun St.)**

Accepted: Trash, Brush and Metal



**Congratulations
Chandra & Derek Palmer,
Bissett's NOVA
Volunteers of the Year**

BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



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 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: 8 a.m.-Noon

Intersection of E. Walnut Lawn & Kickapoo Ave.

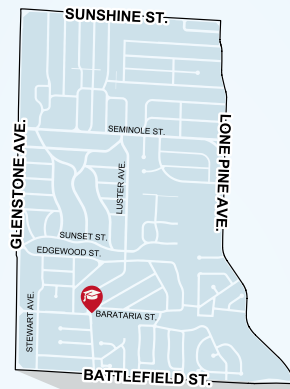
Accepted: Trash, Brush, Leaves, Metal and TVs

Curbside Pickup will NOT be available



Springfield Community Gardens preparing beds at Amanda Belle's Farm at Cox Health in early December 2020.

BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Mert Seaton, President
- Cindy Cook, Vice President
- Jane Augustine, Secretary
- Pam Buhr, Treasurer
- brentwoodsgf@gmail.com

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

Tuesday Morning Book Club

Tuesdays: 10 a.m.

Unity of Springfield (2214 E. Seminole St.)

Facilitated by Correne Craig. The class chooses their book, which is read aloud during class time, with open discussion. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion at any time! No purchase necessary to participate.



StoryWalks provide reading experience during walks:

In November 2020, the sidewalks near Field Elementary were lined with signs sharing the story of *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt* by Steve Metzger. Every 20 feet, walkers can find a new page of the story illustrated on a metal sign—a project made possible by a collaboration between the Springfield-Greene County Library District and the Field Elementary PTA. Read more about the StoryWalk at Field Elementary at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 2 • March 2 • April 6 • May 4: 6 p.m. @ Delaware Elementary Community Room (1505 S. Delaware Ave.)

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

The Delaware Neighborhood Cleanup, Nov. 7, 2020, was a success. Four huge dumpsters of trash, two of yard waste, and a trailer full of scrap metal were collected. At least 51 residents dropped off trash or arranged a curbside pickup. Thank you DNA Volunteers, Westminster Church, Community Partnership of The Ozarks, The Boy Scouts, our Scrap Guy Daniel and Brooke for the donuts. Photo: Jill Horner



**Congratulations Nancy Williams,
Delaware's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year**



GVNA president shares unexpected benefits of organizing as a neighborhood association

By Betsy Johnson, for SGFNN

It was two years ago that Galloway Village Neighborhood Association (GVNA) was officially formed. We had only met six months earlier as a group of individuals who found a common interest – our neighborhood. Since that time, we have benefited from the various programs offered to Springfield neighborhood associations, including our first neighborhood cleanup in September. What we did not expect is probably the biggest benefit of all. We now have neighbors who know each other, and in turn, care about each other.

There was already kindness here. The difference is that we know each other now. We see each other in a different light – and for that we are thankful.

In January, a fire took the home of one of our neighbors, along with all of their possessions. Our neighborhood took immediate action. Two neighbors began fundraising, utilizing social media to get out the word. Another neighbor offered her place of business as the drop-off spot for monetary and material donations. Neighbors came together to make the site of the fire safe, including clearing

and hauling away debris. Businesses stepped in to donate gift cards to restaurants and provide temporary housing. This is only a brief description of many ways our neighbors came together to help one of our own.

During the initial stage of social distancing, GVNA joined with many other neighborhood associations in placing bears in our windows to give children (and many adults) a much needed reason to smile. Some even shared spare bears so other neighbors could participate. Routes were posted on Facebook, along with reactions to the fun.

The time leading up to the election was stressful in many ways. That did not deter us from caring for each other. When a neighbor saw another neighbor struggling to maintain his place in line, he immediately escorted him to the front of the line. As they approached the entrance to Sequiota Elementary School, others in line began to applaud and cheer our neighbor to the “finish line.” This gesture of kindness caught the attention of local media.

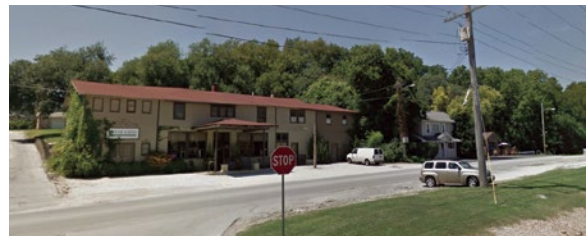
Did becoming a neighborhood association make those who live within the boundaries of GVNA kinder people? No, there was already kindness here. The difference is that we know each other now. We see each other in a different light – and for that we are thankful.

Voters to determine future of former Treadway's site

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

After a successful referendum petition led by Galloway Village neighbors last fall, City Council approved a bill to let Springfield voters determine the future of the area across the street from Sequiota Park.

At its Dec. 14, 2020 meeting, City Council approved a special ordinance calling an election on Aug. 3 to submit to the qualified voters a question as to whether or not to approve General Ordinance 6614, passed by City Council on Sept. 21, 2020, to rezone 4.2 acres of property, generally located at 3503, 3521, 3527, and 3535 S. Lone Pine Ave., from R-SF, Single-family Residential, GR, General



Retail, and LB, Limited Business District to Planned Development No. 374; and adopting an updated Official Zoning Map;” and declaring an emergency.

Property owner Elevation Enterprises plans a mixed-use development with two new multi-family residential buildings and four existing buildings for commercial and residential use.



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

Jan. 19 • April 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

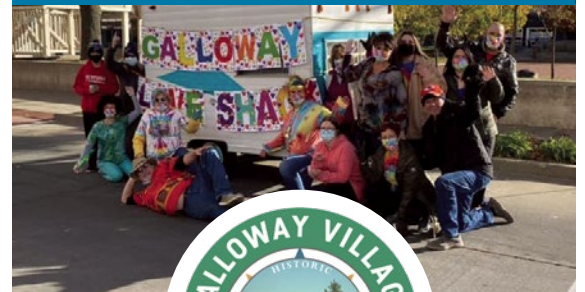
Officer Jacob Boomgaarden: 417-864-1321
jboomgaarden@springfieldmo.gov



 Sequiota Elementary School
3414 S. Mentor Ave.

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

Galloway Village took first place in the Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge for the second year in a row, and \$1,500 in the competition, with their “love shack” theme.



**Congratulations Duane Johnson,
Galloway Village's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year**





Renovations began on this Blue House Project in Grant Beach in the fall of 2020 and include replacing the stairs and converting the attic into living space for the future homeowners.

Restore SGF officially launches with kickoff at The Fairbanks

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Work continues on the City's Restore SGF initiative, which aims to bring residents, real estate agents, developers, banks, employers and community organizations together to encourage home ownership, invest in existing housing stock and enhance the quality of life and civic pride in Springfield's historic neighborhoods.

The initiative officially kicked off to the community Nov. 17, 2020, with a presentation at The Fairbanks by Neighborhood Advisory Council Chair Rusty Worley and Councilman Richard Ollis. Community Foundation of the Ozarks President Brian Fogle and Rep. Bill Owen, who represents Missouri House District 131 (northern Springfield and north-central Greene County) are founding organizers of Restore SGF, along with Ollis, Worley and Brendan Griesemer, assistant director of Planning and Development for the City of Springfield. Fogle and Owen both are retired bankers.

Speakers included affordable housing developer Debbie Hart, Commerce Bank Senior Vice President Doug Neff and Greater Springfield Board of Realtors Chief Executive Officer Jeff Kester. Griesemer was on-hand at the kickoff to answer questions about the City's existing residential grant and loan programs. A video recording of the presentation is available at restoresgf.com.

"Initial strategies for Restore SGF include providing a central resource for all residential programs, more effectively market available options, stimulate the creation of rehabilitation financing and incentives, and reduce barriers to home ownership and reinvestment," said Worley.

Restore SGF's pilot neighborhoods are Midtown, Woodland Heights, West Central and Grant Beach, although some of the incentives and financing options offered by the City of Springfield and other lenders are open to additional neighborhoods and those of all income levels.

THE BLUE HOUSE PROJECT

The Blue House Project, a grassroots initiative led by Drew Lewis Foundation at The Fairbanks founder Amy Blansit, is working to reduce barriers to home ownership one homeowner at a time in the Grant Beach neighborhood. Blansit supports Restore SGF and hopes it will lead to a wave of reinvestment in Springfield's historic neighborhoods.

According to DrewLewis.org, the goal of The Blue House Project is to make homeownership an achievable goal for low-income families in north Springfield. The Drew Lewis Foundation purchases and renovates north side properties to offer a lease-to-buy option for participants in the RISE (Reaching Independence through Support and Education) program, which focuses on providing resources and empowering families to increase self-sufficiency and stability. The goal is transitioning the tenants to homeowners within two years.

Blansit works with lenders, the City of Springfield and countless other community partners to help families access the resources to make their dreams of owning a quality, affordable home a reality.

"This unique path to homeownership helps break the cycle of poverty one property at a time, as the family can learn and develop healthy and sustainable living habits without worrying about the roof over their heads," Blansit says.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Long-term goals for Restore SGF include forming a community development corporation (CDC) with stakeholders and community partners to provide a central resource for all residential programs, more effectively market the programs and create incentives and financing programs especially for rehabilitating older homes.

CDCs are not-for-profit organizations incorporated to provide programs, offer services and engage in other activities that promote and support community development. CDCs usually serve a geographic location such as a neighborhood or a town.

Another dream of the organizers of Restore SGF is the creation of a land bank in Springfield, which is also a legislative priority for City Council for 2021. Land banks require state approval in Missouri and are governmental entities or nonprofit corporations that are focused on the conversion of vacant, abandoned, and tax delinquent properties into productive use. Kansas City, Blue Springs, St. Joseph and St. Louis all have land banks and have used them to improve neighborhoods and housing stock.

Until a CDC is formed, staff from the City's Planning and Development Department are serving as the "front door" for Restore SGF.

Visit restoresgf.com or call 417-864-1031 for more information.



Connect

- Pauletta Dunn, President:
gbna.email@gmail.com
or 417-880-2453
- Kathy Lutz, Vice President
- Doris Hunter, Treasurer
- **Hovey House: 417-942-2456**



Neighborhood Association Meetings


Jan. 18 • Feb. 15 • March 15 • April 19: 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  

Registration for Grant Beach Soccer begins in late February

The season will start April 3 and end May 8. Watch Grant Beach's Facebook page as February gets closer. The last day to sign up is March 20. Contact Yolanda Taylor at 417-952-5736 or Pauletta Dunn at 417-880-2453 with questions. The cost is \$10 per child.



**Congratulations
Doris & Samantha Hunter,
Grant Beach's NOVA
Volunteers of the Year**



Despite no in-person meetings, GPNA has busy year

By Judy Wyrick, for SGFNN

Hello, everyone on Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association!

While we have not had in-person membership meetings, we have managed to stay busy. Thank God for being able to use technology to stay in touch! It has been particularly helpful to touch base with the executive committee when action needs to be taken.

This year, we mourned the loss of Harlan Bristol, a member of GPNA who served on the executive committee, veteran and all-around good guy. We set up a display in the neighborhood to honor him. Our condolences to his wife, Marty.

We participated in the Bass Pro Marathon cheering event again this year. Despite having to mask and stay socially distanced, we had a ball! Our theme for this year was "Down Home."

We donned rolled-up jeans, straw hats, plaid shirts and cow bells and went to work cheering the runners on and offering snacks and water. We cooked our own hot dogs over an approved fire, and they sure tasted good! We even had a picket fence and a cow! Not real of course, but darn cute. It was a beautiful day for the marathon.

We are really looking forward to having membership meetings again, but certainly are respecting the decisions of our leaders concerning the virus. We are also grateful to be able to attend Neighborhood Advisory Council meetings and other City meetings with Zoom.

Stay warm and stay safe.



Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association remembers Harlan Bristol

Provided by Klingner-Cope Family Funeral Home

Harlan Dale Bristol, 72 years, passed into heaven on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020 in Springfield. He was born on Friday, April 9, 1948 in Douglas County to Bill Bristol and Wilda Billinger.

On Oct. 22, 1994, Harlan and Martha Bristol were united in marriage at the East Side General Baptist Church in Springfield. He was a man of faith and served his county with the U.S. Army during Vietnam. Harlan was a lifetime member of the Vietnam Veterans Commission of Springfield Post #952 and served in the VA court system to help other veterans.

He retired from Bass Pro Shops as an inventory specialist and was a member of the Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association. Harlan loved to go fishing and hunting, especially for deer and bear. He and Martha enjoyed flower gardening and taking care of their home.

Harlan was preceded in death by his parents; one

brother, Gary Bristol; one grandson, Blaine Bristol and one nephew, Montana Bristol.

He is survived by his wife of the home; one daughter, Andrea; son-in-law, Kenneth Scott; granddaughter, Nautca Scott; two sons, Michael Bristol of Lafayette, IN and Patrick Bristol of Ava; one brother, Jeff Bristol (wife Michelle) of Ava; one sister, Carolyn; nine grandchildren; one great-grandson and numerous nieces, nephews, friends and family.

A visitation was held Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Klingner-Cope Family Funeral Home at White Chapel, with funeral services following. Full military honors were conducted immediately following the services. Online condolences may be made at klingnerfuneralhome.com.



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.

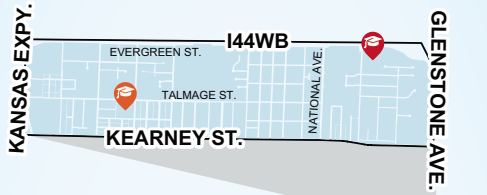
Follow Greater Parkcrest on  

Sanford Park Improvements to begin this winter:
Improvements coming this winter for Sanford Park will improve access and parking. The City of Springfield's Neighborhood Works capital improvement grant program granted \$199,000 for the project, funding a new asphalt parking lot, new picnic shelter and picnic tables, and a paved walkway connecting the park's existing loop trail to Battlefield Road.



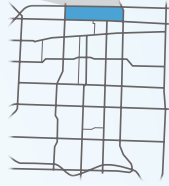
**Congratulations Fred Romaine,
Greater Parkcrest's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year**

DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 12 • Feb. 9 • March 9 • April 13: 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

dolingneighborhood.com

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

May 8: 8 a.m.-Noon

Broadway Baptist Church
(2357 N. Broadway Ave.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush, TVs and Tires



Big Shots Golf shooting for early 2021 opening:
O'Reilly Hospitality Management's Big Shots Golf plans for an early 2021 opening at the corner of Kearney and Glenstone. Snyder Construction Group was the construction contractor for the project, and Springfield Sign created the neon signage.

HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Anna Pageler, President: anna.pageler@gmail.com or 417-343-8290
- Glenn Gohr, Secretary/Treasurer: archives_guy@hotmail.com
- theheartofthewestside@gmail.com



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 12 • March 9 • May 11: 6 – 7 p.m.
@ Passion Assembly of God (806 N. Forest)
Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer **Austin Faulconer**: 417-874-2536
afulconer@springfieldmo.gov



York Elementary School
2100 W. Nichols St.

Follow Heart of the Westside on

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

March 27: 8 a.m.-Noon

Nichols Park (1900 W. Nichols)
Accepted: Trash, Brush, Metal and TVs

Curbside Pickup will be available
Contact Anna Pageler (417-343-8290)



Congratulations
Deliverance Temple Ministries,
Heart of the Westside's NOVA
Volunteers of the Year

Explore our Parks and Trails

PARKBOARD.ORG
OZARKGREENWAYS.ORG

Connect with us!

@TheParkBoard
#SGFPARKS

YOU CAN CHANGE TWO LIVES. THEIRS AND YOURS.

Become a Big **NOW**

Big Brothers Big Sisters.
OF THE OZARKS

417-889-9136 bigbro.com



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

WINTER WINDUP

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES EDITION

2021 Green Resolutions

1. Practice good recycling habits—recycle right!
2. Get a lateral pipe inspection for your home
3. Get Yard Ethic Certified!



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
springfieldmo.gov/recycling



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



STORM WATER

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

REPORT POLLUTION (417) 864.1010

springfieldmo.gov/stormwater
yardethic.com

**CONTAMINATION
HIBERNATION**

PAGE 2

**PLUMBING PROBLEM
PREVENTION**

PAGE 3

**WINTER WATER
QUALITY**

PAGE 4

CONTAMINATION HIBERNATION

Become a responsible recycler and know the difference.

Whether you recycle curbside or at a local center, there is a similar battle faced by each collector—contamination. Understanding how to avoid it can save loads of recycled materials from being ruined by misinformed recyclers. Know the difference and help our city decrease contamination levels at all recycling collection points.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/solidwaste.



A GUIDE FOR WHERE IT GOES		
RECYCLE	TRASH	COMPOST**
Aluminum Cans	Plastic Bags***	Coffee Grounds & Filters
Tin Cans	Plastic Wrap	Pizza Boxes
Corrugated Cardboard	Plastic Coated Paper Boxes	Vegetable Scraps
Newspaper & Magazines	Plastic Coated Paper Cups	Fruit Scraps
GLASS*	Tissue Paper	Plant Waste
Wrapping Paper	Glitter Coated Paper	Paper Products <i>uncoated</i>
Photographs / Pictures	Shiny Drink Pouches	Napkins
Glass Bottles & Jars	Ceramic	Paper Towels
Food and Tissue Boxes	Porcelain	Tea Bags
Toilet Paper Rolls	Plastic Toys	Yard Waste
Junk Mail Paper & Windowed Envelopes	Junk Mail - Plastic Cards	Shredded Paper
Receipts	Plastic Cutlery	
Soap & Shampoo Bottles	Deli Meat & Cheese Bags	
#1-#7 HDPE Plastics <i>labeled</i>	Styrofoam	

NEIGHBORHOOD RECYCLING CENTERS		
LOCATIONS	NEAREST NEIGHBORHOODS	ACCEPTS
Franklin Avenue 731 N. Franklin Avenue	Midtown, Grant Beach, Bissett, Heart of the Westside, Weller, Robberson, Woodland Heights, Doling, Tom Watkins, Westside, West Central, Phelps Grove, Rountree, Delaware, University Heights	Glass, Plastics #1-#7, Aluminum, Tin, Paper, Cardboard, and Limited Yardwaste
Lone Pine Avenue 3020 S. Lone Pine Avenue	Galloway Village, Brentwood, Bradford Park, Meador Park, Oak Grove, Delaware, University Heights,	Glass, Plastics #1-#7, Aluminum, Tin, Paper, Cardboard, and Limited Yardwaste
Yardwaste Recycling Center 3790 S. Farm Road 119	Greater Parkcrest, Mark Twain, Battlefield Area	Glass, Plastics #1-#7, Aluminum, Tin, Paper, Cardboard, Yardwaste and Brush Disposal

*Why Glass is Not Collected by Curbside Pickup

We are often asked why comingled single-stream recycling does not allow glass, but does allow other recyclable materials that are collected at our recycling centers.

The primary reasons center around a precaution to broken glass:

- It is a safety concern for collectors and processors
- Broken glass contaminates loads; rendering materials unusable

** Compost refers to home composting. We strongly encourage citizens to consider home composting. If you are interested and are currently not home composting, sign up for future courses and education at springfieldmo.gov/dishtodirt

*** Can be recycled at specialty locations. Not accepted at curbside or centers. Learn more about specialty locations at springfieldmo.gov/recyclingguide

Know the Difference: Recycle Right

The processing of recyclables collected at our centers and through curbside providers can differ depending on material type. One difference being that *glass is not collected* in single-stream *curbside* recycling while it *is* collected at our three City recycling centers.

There are slight variations between the materials collected curbside and centers, but one complication that we all face is that of contamination.

When people "*wishcycle*," the thought comes from the right place, but these good intentions can *contaminate* an entire load — turning recyclables into trash. Recycling isn't only about wanting to do the right thing; it requires knowing what the right thing is. In order to be successful, items must be placed in the right bin (even if that may be the trash).

Here are a few tips to ensure that what you put in the recycling bins will actually be recycled and repurposed as something new:

- **Rinse before recycling** (plastic & glass soda bottles and food jars)
- **Don't recycle if it has food on it** (greasy pizza boxes and paper plates)
- **No tanglers** (hoses, electronic cords, textiles, string lights & plastic bags)
- **Not these plastics** (deli meat & cheese bags, cutlery, 6-pack rings, plastic film and toys)
- **Unsure? When in doubt, throw it out** (This is an example of "wishcycling")

contamination A contaminant can ruin entire loads of recyclables. Specifically, a contaminant can be a non-recyclable material or trash that makes it in the recycling. It can also be recyclables that are covered in food residue or bottles of beverages that still have liquids in them. Guessing can cause contamination.

wishcycle The act of placing an item that does not belong in the recycling bin that has the appearance of something recyclable. This often results in the contamination of loads of recyclables, which means they are sent to the landfill instead of being repurposed.



Pizza Delivery

PLUMBING PROBLEM PREVENTION

Know the differences between the pipes and how to care for them.

It's easy for people to confuse stormwater drains, sewer laterals and sewer mains. However, they are all different in nature and responsibility. Understanding what each is, what their purpose is and how to ensure they continue to work properly is important and requires all City residents to remember several key responsibilities.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/wastewater.

Not the Drain!

Collect your leftover oils, grease and fats from cooking in a glass jar or even an opened aluminum can.

A Recipe for Fatbergs

Grease, oil and fats will congeal as they cool and if rinsed down a drain, can build up and cause blockages in your home's sewer laterals.

Know Your Pipes

Take a look at the graphic above. This is a cross-section of the network of pipes that live under our city. There are two primary lines of pipe infrastructure that move water through our city. One takes wastewater to be treated and released into our local waterways and another takes stormwater directly to our waterways without treatment.

Sanitary Sewer Main

The pipe that connects all homes and businesses to the wastewater treatment plant.

Sewer Lateral

The pipe that connects homes and businesses to the sanitary sewer main. Anything you flush or rinse down the drain travels through this pipe and is the primary cause of any blockages, backups and clogs experienced in homes — and is the **property owner's responsibility**.

Stormwater Drainage

All stormwater drains into this series of pipes, ditches and culverts from streets and parking lots and flows directly to local rivers, streams and lakes.

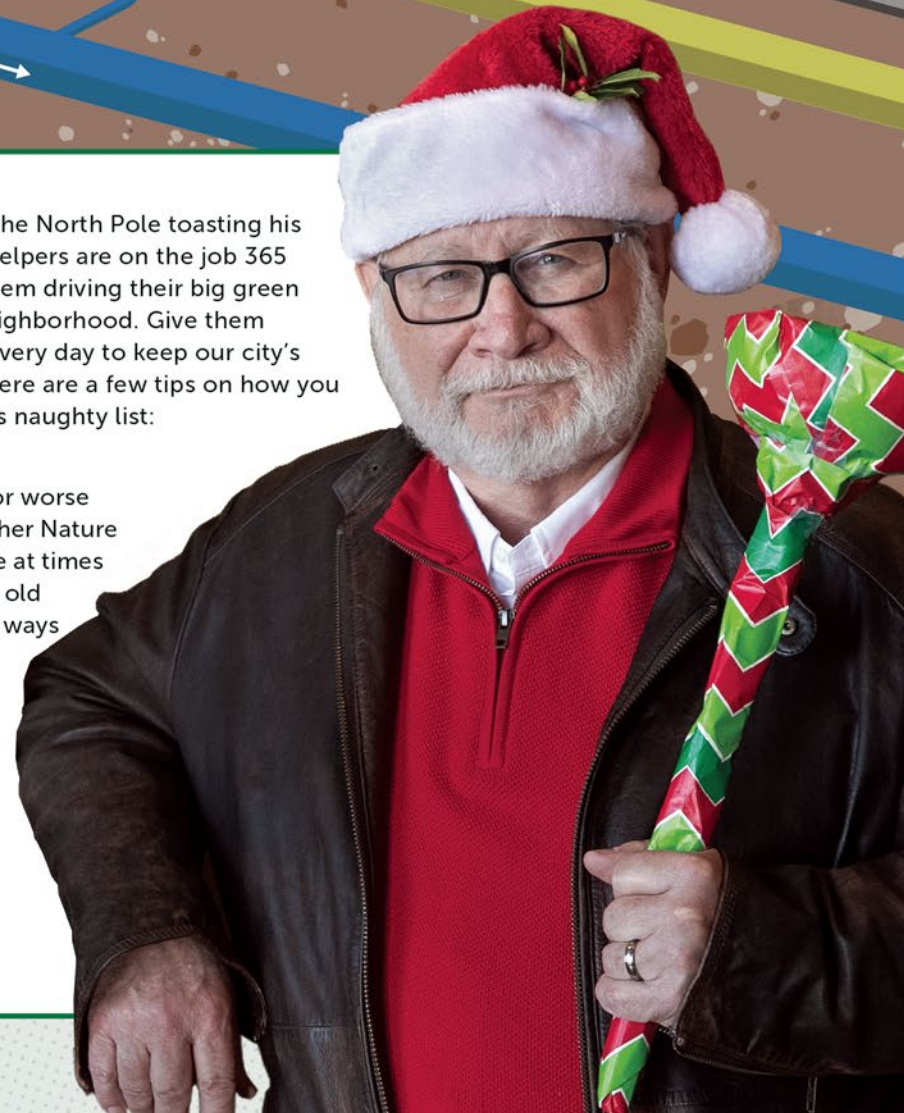
What?! Santa in January?

Sure, the main guy in red may be back at the North Pole toasting his toes by the fire, but Sewer Santa and his helpers are on the job 365 days a year. Chances are you have seen them driving their big green trucks through the city or even in your neighborhood. Give them a wave and remember, they are working every day to keep our city's sewers repaired and maintained. In fact, here are a few tips on how you can help while also avoiding Sewer Santa's naughty list:

Three Steps to Problem Prevention

Everyone has experienced a clog, backup or worse with their home's plumbing. Although Mother Nature or Father Time have a tendency to interfere at times when tree roots invade, corrosion starts or old clay pipes break down, here are three easy ways to decrease your chances of experiencing plumbing issues in your home.

- **Three-P's of Flushing:**
pee, poop and paper(toilet) are the only things that should be flushed down toilets
- **No Wipes Down the Pipes!**
They may say they are flushable, but take it from us, they aren't
- **No Stink Down the Sink!**
fats, oils and grease belong in the trash, not down the drain and in our pipes



WINTER WATER QUALITY

Water freezes; but your attention to water quality should not.

It can be easy to forget about water quality when the days are cold, and we can't swim and float in lakes and streams. However, now is a perfect time to prepare for the spring and begin to plan rain garden and rain barrel installations. Just remember, water quality efforts can remain active in the winter. It doesn't all have to be about planning. Consider a stream cleanup or be water quality conscious through responsible application of salt-melt and de-icers at work and home. *Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/stormwater.*

De-Ice Responsibly

The most common de-icing agent is salt-melt (or rock salt). This is largely due to its low cost and effectiveness at melting ice. As many of us know, this can come with drawbacks if you don't de-ice responsibly. Just remember, all of that salt can flow into our stormwater drains and run straight into our local waterways.

The Bad Side of Rock Salt

The negative effects of rock salt are evident from over-salting. Not only can this wash into our waterways, but it can aid in killing landscaped plantings, cause animal sickness, corrode metal and damage concrete.

Ways to Minimize the Bad

It can be difficult to be proactive when salting sidewalks, driveways and roads. Nobody wants to waste salt if it hasn't begun icing. However, pretreating sidewalks and driveways can minimize the negative effects while also increasing the effectiveness and reducing the amount used. It takes less salt to melt ice as it forms than after it has already formed. Application of a blend of de-icing agents can also reduce the amount used and increase the effectiveness of ice prevention and melt.



What about Shoveling?

When Springfield gets snow, shovel as early and often as possible. Shoveling can help keep snow from packing and forming ice, requiring more de-icers. *It's also a fun activity for the kids on a snow day!*



Harvest the Rain

In anticipation of spring, we generally expect an increase in rainy weather. Collecting that stormwater in a rain barrel is a smart and sustainable way to utilize a resource that otherwise would soak into the ground or run off your lawn into a storm drain. Purchase a rain barrel and save the receipt! You may be eligible for the Right as Rain rebate from jamesriverbasin.com/rain-barrel.



Know Your Soil Before you Plant

Reap the benefits of a healthy lawn this spring. Understanding the nature of your soil will help your lawn and plants thrive with fewer inputs and amendments for growth and success. Begin improving your soil health this year and watch your yard flourish. See if you qualify for a FREE soil test and FREE three-year nutrient management plan by visiting jamesriverbasin.com/lawn-steward.

Build a Rain Garden & Plant Natives

We can often wait until the temperature warms before we begin to plan our gardens. Get a jump on your yard planning while you still have time and consider a rain garden to beautify your yard, create habitat for wildlife & pollinators and help reduce stormwater runoff. In fact, planting natives in your rain garden is a great way to enhance the water quality, air quality and biodiversity of your yard. Learn more about natives at GrowNative.org.

Join our city-wide and neighborhood-friendly Yard Ethic program by making changes like this to your yard this spring. See what other environmental enhancements you can make at yardethic.com or

This year make it a goal to make a positive impact on our local environment. In case you aren't familiar with this popular program, it connects citizens directly to area streams to help remove trash so we can all enjoy our trails, parks and the stream environment. Adopt-A-Stream is available to individuals, families, businesses and community groups willing to adopt a pre-selected portion of a major stream or small creek in need of periodic cleanups. Independent cleanups are also available. Visit springfieldmo.gov/adoptastream to get started today.



Investing in a healthy yard—good for you, good for your neighbor.

Don't wait until spring to start your winter planning. Begin now, so you have a plan once the seasons begin to change. With just three simple practices, your yard could become Yard Ethic certified. It's easy to do and a great way to show that you are an active steward for our local and regional environment:

- Have your soil tested for tailored landscaping visit jamesriverbasin.com/lawn-steward to apply for a soil test.
- Plant for pollinators (like bees and butterflies)
 - Harvest the rain with a rain barrel
- Plant a tree in your yard for habitat and canopy
 - Plan, prepare and plant a rain garden
 - Start home composting

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR RESOURCES & MORE
SUBMIT FOR CERTIFICATION AT YARDETHIC.COM**



Show off your certification all year long with your very own yard sign!

**You Can Make
A Difference,
Clean a Stream**





Past flooding in the Mark Twain neighborhood. Stormwater improvements will be funded through the 2017 renewal of Springfield's Level Property Tax.



Stormwater improvements in Mark Twain neighborhood move to right-of-way phase

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Design plans are now complete for a stormwater improvement project planned in the Mark Twain neighborhood. The City is currently working on acquiring the necessary easements to construct the project which is still anticipated to begin in 2021.

"Our goal is to provide additional stormwater conveyance from the detention basin at Seminole and Nettleton to reduce the number of times the basin overtops and flows down Nettleton, flooding homes along the way." – Zachary Mills

In early 2020, City consultant Great River Engineering completed design plans for the project, located roughly along Westwood Avenue and Seminole Street between the intersections of Westwood Avenue and Wayland Avenue and Seminole Street and Nettleton Avenue.

The area has experienced historic flooding into crawlspaces, frequent street flooding along



Detention basin at Seminole Street and Nettleton Avenue.

Nettleton and Westwood, as well as the overflowing of the detention basin at Seminole and Nettleton.

"Our goal is to provide additional stormwater conveyance from the detention basin at Seminole and Nettleton to reduce the number of times the basin overtops and flows down Nettleton, flooding homes along the way," explains Public Works project manager Zachary Mills.

The project will utilize new underground storm pipe and inlets to allow for proper drainage. Additional detention volume may also be provided through the excavation of the detention basin at Wayland and Westwood.

The estimated cost of the stormwater improvements is \$489,000 funded through the 2017 renewal of Springfield's Level Property Tax.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 12 • Feb. 9 • March 9 • April 13: 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

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

April 17: 8 a.m.-Noon

Location: TBD

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Leaves, Metal and TVs

Curbside Pickup will be available

Contact Samantha Spartan

(417-343-3702 or

marktwinassociation@gmail.com)

Smoke alarm installed by Springfield Fire Department saves two lives in Mark Twain neighborhood

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

A woman and her elderly mother who live in the Mark Twain neighborhood were alerted to a fire Dec. 20, 2020 by a smoke alarm installed by the Springfield Fire Department last year, providing them time to escape safely.

Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms play a vital role in reducing injuries and deaths from a house fire. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home, in each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.

While canvasses are currently paused due to the pandemic, Springfield firefighters have installed 3,620 smoke alarms in area neighborhoods as a component of Project RED Zone, an initiative that began in 2017.

Firefighters have also tested more than 6,800 alarms to ensure they are functioning properly and have replaced over 970 batteries in existing alarms as a part of the project.

Project RED Zone – a reference to the red areas on the Springfield Fire Department's map of fire

incidents – stands for Reduce, Educate, Deliver.



The multifaceted campaign aims to ensure all homes in high-risk areas of the city have working smoke alarms.

"Now approaching year 3 of Project RED Zone, we are starting to see the positive effects of these canvasses, and our efforts to make Springfield a fire safe community," said Fire Chief David Pennington, earlier this year. "We have responded to several house fires now in which the occupants of the home have safely escaped because of a working smoke alarm that we installed for them."

The Fire Department offers free smoke alarms and batteries to anyone in need. If you have questions or need smoke alarms or batteries, call the Fire Department at 417-874-2300 for assistance or to schedule an appointment for a free smoke alarm check or installation.



Police Capt. Culley Wilson accepts a pizza delivery from the Mark Twain Neighborhood Association on Oct. 9, 2020. Due to the cancellation of so many Neighborhood Night Out events, CPO offered neighborhoods \$100 each to show their appreciation to Springfield Police and Fire Departments. The Mark Twain Neighborhood Association chose to deliver food to the South District Police Station/ Fire Station No. 6. They made four different deliveries throughout the day. Thanks to Michele Palmer for delivering the pizzas.

MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Left to right: Sara Stubbins, Lincoln Hopper, Wyatt Hopper and Lincoln and Wyatt's mom Becky Sellers.

Meador Park celebrates third year as a registered neighborhood

By Bobbi Ream, for SGFNN

Two thousand twenty-one will be our fourth year as a registered neighborhood. As an organizing member of Meador Park Neighborhood Association, I have to say that organizing has been a success. We have had excellent help and a lot of fun with our neighborhood cleanups and Bass Pro Marathon cheering sections. Our 2021 officers will be announced in the April edition of SGF Neighborhood News. Here are some highlights from 2020.

Leaves can be good when two boys, Lincoln and Wyatt Hooper, need Christmas money! Their mom, Becky Sellers, knew just what to suggest: become an entrepreneur and see who in the neighborhood needed help with yard work.

It is great to see two young people working so hard. With the warm weather and abundance of leaves to be raked it was a win-win. When Sara Stubbins saw Becky's Facebook post offering the boys' services, she contacted them for help.

We collected food at our November meeting for Cowden Elementary School. Cowden is not able to maintain a pantry, but this event offered our group a chance to say thank you to our meeting location hosts and the help they give our neighborhood.

Like practically everything else, the NOVA



Dr. Cherie Norman, principal of Cowden Elementary School, with the food collected at our November meeting.

Awards were different this year. Presented virtually by Community Partnership of the Ozarks and Air Services Heating and Cooling/All Service Professional Plumbing. This annual event is when we recognize outstanding participants from our own neighborhoods. This year's recipient is Donna Clarkson. Donna is our treasurer, our Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors chair and involved in any other task that needs to be done. Donna is a charter member from 2017 that we are just plain lucky to have. Thank you, Donna, for all you do for MPNA.

Cowden Elementary receives \$5,000 for new technology, tools

By SPS Communication, for SGFNN

During a fall staff meeting, Cowden Elementary had a special guest pop up on their screens via Zoom. Burlington store manager Seth Pike was there virtually to share a big surprise.

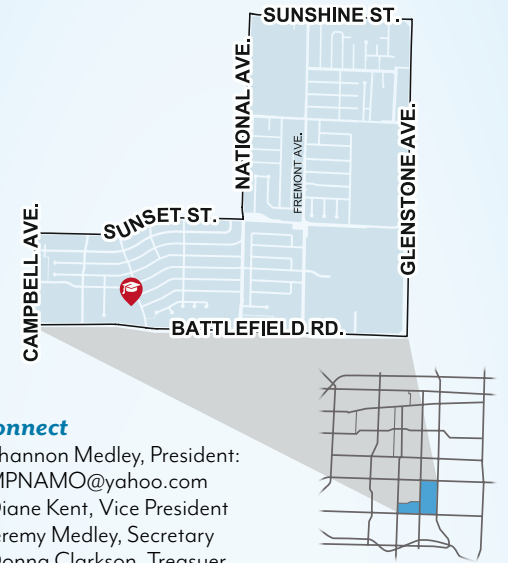
"We're so excited to have the opportunity to acknowledge your extraordinary efforts as teachers at Cowden," said Pike, store manager at a new nearby Burlington store. "The work you do each and every day is important, and at Burlington, we want to support your efforts so that students can learn. That's why we're presenting you with a check for \$5,000 to support you in that work."

In the midst of cheers, Pike explained that the \$5,000 donation was made possible by national support of education by the nationwide retailer. Dr. Cherie Norman was ecstatic to share with her team later in the week that the donation would benefit every classroom in the building.



Part of the \$5,000 would fund an interactive house point app on display throughout the school building, reinforcing the school's student engagement initiatives with the Ron Clark Academy.

"The house model through Ron Clark Academy is all about student engagement, and our teachers have been trained on how to use it to great benefit for our kids and staff," said Dr. Norman. "When we got the check, my teachers were so excited because they knew right away that we needed the funds to continue accessing this interactive app that supports and encourages academic and behavioral success. The money from Burlington made that happen, and we have a lot leftover that will go 100% to students."



Connect

- Shannon Medley, President: MPNAMO@yahoo.com
- Diane Kent, Vice President
- Jeremy Medley, Secretary
- Donna Clarkson, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings


Jan. 28 • Feb. 25 • March 25 • April 22:
6 p.m. @ Cowden Elementary School
(2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.)

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  

Battlefield & Fremont Intersection Improvement Project completed

The Battlefield and Fremont intersection and roadway widening project was completed on time and on budget in November 2020. Thank you to the residents and area businesses for their patience and cooperation throughout construction.



NOVA
2020



**Congratulations Donna Clarkson,
Meador Park's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year**



Redevelopment, improvements to adjacent neighborhoods important to future of C-Street, survey says

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

As part of the Forward SGF Comprehensive Planning process, one of the City of Springfield's planning consultants, Progressive Urban Management Associates (PUMA), conducted an online survey in November and December of 2020 to establish a vision and identify priorities and initiatives to guide Historic Commercial Street for the next five to 20 years.

"The Commercial Street Plan will give us an opportunity to focus on what's working well and formulate strategies to ensure the district continues to thrive in the long-term," said Principal Planner Randall Whitman.

Not surprisingly, C-Street's variety of restaurants, bars and coffee shops were most often cited by those who responded to the survey as reasons for visits to C-Street prior to the pandemic. Other popular responses included the C-Street City Market, shopping and art galleries and events and festivals.

Survey respondents indicated that they felt that redeveloping and repurposing vacant lots and buildings on Commercial Street and focusing on improving conditions in the adjoining neighborhoods (Woodland Heights to the north and

Midtown to the south) will be the most important factors for the future of Historic C-Street. The continued success and popularity of Commercial Street will be critical to the long-term health and revitalization of the neighborhoods that surround the district.

"I'm very happy that the C-Street Plan is addressing our adjoining neighborhoods and their impact on our visitors," said Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association President Becky Volz. "Having to drive through corridors with dangerous buildings and nuisance properties to shop or eat on Historic C-Street can be off-putting, but everyone who comes says it was worth it. I see it like having a beautiful portrait and framing it in broken pieces of unpainted, splintered wood. Imagine if we could frame our C-Street with clean streets, trimmed trees and lawns and maintained houses. Simple improvements and cleanups will change the sense of place and pride for our neighbors. For Woodland Heights (and beyond) the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge is a huge component that creates the connection and belonging with our neighbors to the south," Volz said.

▶ See C-STREET SURVEY RESULTS on page 26

Thanks to those who helped with Midtown's fall cleanup

Provided by the Midtown Neighborhood Association Facebook page

Big thanks to neighbors Steve Wiemer and Kent Brown for helping with Midtown's fall cleanup on Nov. 21. We filled a few dumpsters and were able to visit with neighbors we had not seen for awhile. It was a good morning. James the scrap metal vendor is on the left. A good fellow!



Historic North Washington Street house named December's Midtown Home of the Month

Provided by the Midtown Neighborhood Association Facebook page

Congratulations Steve and Sherryl Olson whose home at 1517 N. Washington was named Midtown Home of the Month for December 2020. The Olsons have lived in this historic home for the past 17 years. Steve can often be seen in the garage repairing pianos and organs. Thank you to Sherryl and Steve for being great Midtown neighbors!



Connect

- Jaimie 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

Jan. 11 • Feb. 8 • March 8 • April 12: 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



Boyd Elementary School
1409 N. Washington Ave.

Central High School
423 E. Central St.

Follow Midtown on

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

April 3: 8 a.m.-Noon

Cox North Parking Lot
(1423 N. Jefferson Ave.) **Accepted:**
Trash, Brush, Leaves, Metal and TVs
Curbside Pickup will NOT be available

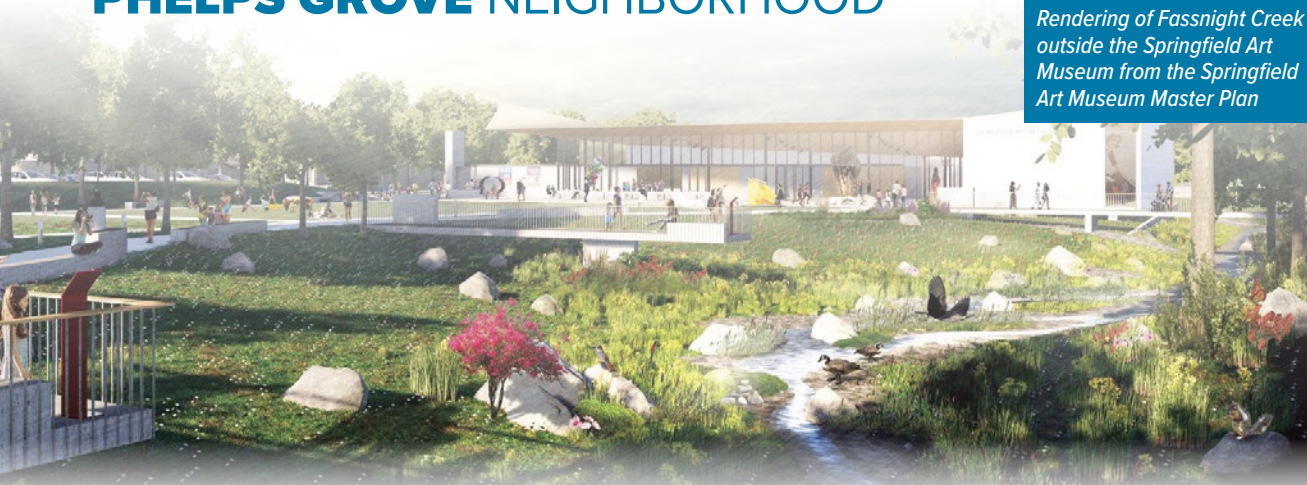


NOVA 2020



**Congratulations Jaimie Saratella,
Midtown's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year**

Rendering of Fassnacht Creek outside the Springfield Art Museum from the Springfield Art Museum Master Plan



Construction for Fassnacht Stormwater Improvement Project at Springfield Art Museum to begin in spring

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

After a successful third round of contractor bidding, the Fassnacht Stormwater Improvement Project at the Springfield Art Museum is anticipated to move forward with construction in the spring.

As part of the Springfield Art Museum Master Plan, the project involves the restoration of Fassnacht Creek along Brookside Drive between Greene and Kings avenues. The goal of the project is to restore the creek to a naturalized channel, reducing the risk of flooding to the museum and surrounding residential properties, and for the benefit of flood mitigation, water quality and the creation of habitat for native birds and pollinators.



to working with the contracting community, scheduling flexibility was added into third-round bid documents allowing for a flexible timeframe for contractors to begin construction and also allowing them to propose a feasible construction duration.

"We've learned that contractors have remained very busy throughout the pandemic," explained Stormwater Engineer Kirkland Preston. "Instead of dictating to them when a project needs to start and end, we are asking contractors to propose a timeline based on their professional experience that will fit in with their busy work schedules."

The City received three bids in mid-November 2020 with the apparent low bidder being Hartman & Company. Taking contract flexibility into account, Preston estimates construction could begin in April.

"We are thrilled to have finally presented a bid package that seemed attractive to the contracting community," says Preston. "This project is vital to the protection of properties surrounding the creek and will provide a wide range of benefits to the neighborhood. We're excited to see it moving forward."

"This project is vital to the protection of properties surrounding the creek and will provide a wide range of benefits to the neighborhood. We're excited to see it moving forward." – Kirkland Preston

The City conducted two rounds of project bidding in early and mid-2020 that did not yield any feasible bids. As part of the City's commitment



The Fassnacht Creek Stormwater Improvement project will restore this section of Fassnacht Creek to a naturalized channel for the benefit of flood mitigation, water quality and creation of urban wildlife habitat.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

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

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: 7-11 a.m.

Springfield Art Museum
(1111 E. Brookside Dr.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Metal and TVs

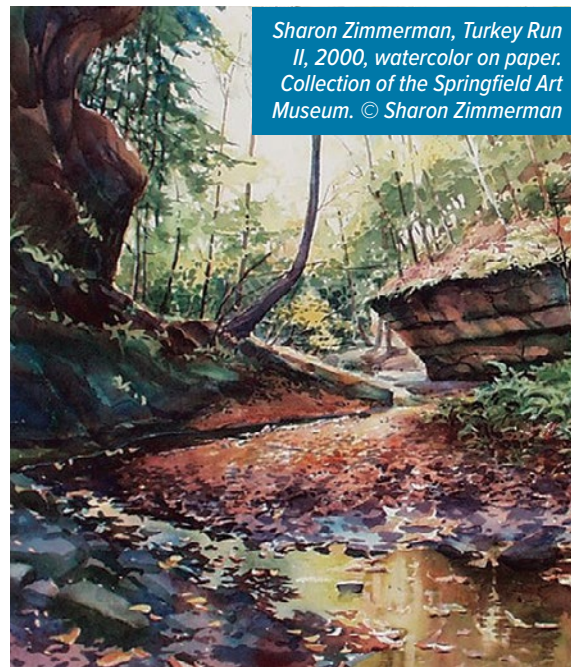


**Congratulations Eric Pauly,
Phelps Grove's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year**

Springfield Art Museum exhibition explores wide range of river-based work

Provided by the Springfield Art Museum

Ozark rivers continue to serve as inspiration and respite for our community and for our artists. A new exhibition, pulled entirely from the museum's collection, explores a wide range of river-based work from our local rivers and beyond, reflecting upon the importance of this resource as both a natural amenity and a source of artistic inspiration. "Afloat: Artists and Rivers," will be on display through April 18.



Sharon Zimmerman, *Turkey Run II, 2000, watercolor on paper. Collection of the Springfield Art Museum. © Sharon Zimmerman*

Southwest Missouri is home to numerous natural resources. Easy access to beautiful parks, trails, and waterways is an important draw for tourists and residents alike. But it may come as a surprise that the Ozarks, and the Current and Buffalo rivers in particular, were at the forefront of the national effort to protect this country's natural rivers.

The beauty of Ozark rivers attracted enough advocates to stop the building of a dam along the Current River in 1949, and to create America's first "explicitly protected river corridor" in 1964, with the development of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, managed by the National Park Service.

"I lost the rivers for part of my life. I took them up again after I came back again (to Missouri) in 1935." – Thomas Hart Benton

One of these staunch advocates was none other than Missouri artist Thomas Hart Benton who voiced his support towards protecting his favorite rivers – the Current, the Buffalo, and the White; sites that he floated on a regular basis and that were featured extensively in his work.

Afloat: Artists and Rivers is generously underwritten by Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's. Additional financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Gerald Clary, President: gclary@aol.com
- Wendell Royster, Vice President: jwrcame5@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

Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!

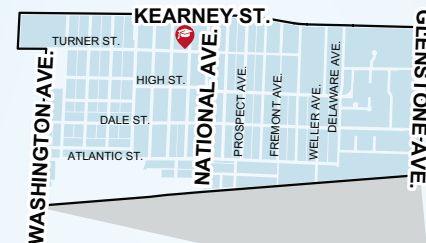


NOVA 2020



Congratulations Cynthia McHaney, Oak Grove's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 28 • Feb. 25 • March 25 • April 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

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

April 24: 7-11 a.m.

Location TBD

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Metal, TVs

Curbside Pickup will be available

Contact Phyllis Evans (417-693-4023)



Students at Robberson Community School collected 79 pairs of new socks for the PTA Clothing Bank as part of Socktober. In total, from 4 locations, 780 pairs were collected and \$1,130 was raised. Socktober is a national movement held each October to collect new socks for those in need. Socks are the No. 1 needed clothing item requested by homeless shelters and clothing banks.

Congratulations Betty Taylor, Robberson's NOVA Volunteer of the Year



Improvements at Cherry and Pickwick pushed back to facilitate necessary utility work

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

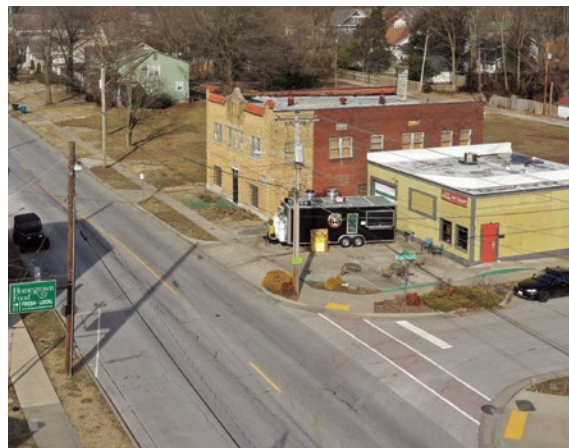
The City is hopeful that planned traffic improvements at Cherry Street and Pickwick Avenue will be under construction before summer, following minor delays due to utility work.

While coordinating with City Utilities on the project design, it was determined that gas and water lines located along Cherry Street between Fremont Avenue and the railroad tracks need to be replaced. Water lines in the area date back to 1894.

“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.” – Derrick Estell

“This is a growing area and just as we’re needing to make improvements to the roadway, the utilities also need to be updated to help support this growth,” explains Public Works Project Manager Derrick Estell. “We would hate to have to cut into a brand new sidewalk to fix something we know is on City Utilities list to be fixed anyway.”

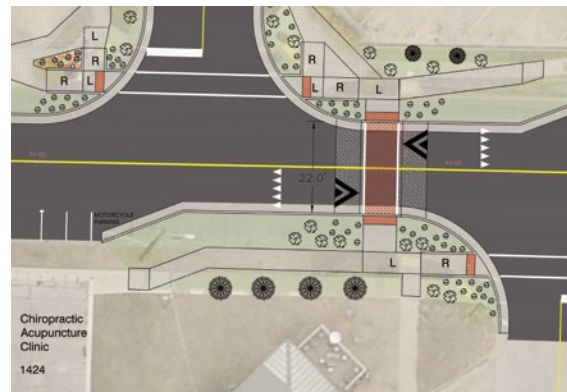
Estell is hopeful the utility work can be completed early in the year, only delaying the roadway project by a few months. The project is anticipated to be out for bid by February, with construction beginning in late Spring.



ABOUT THE CHERRY AND PICKWICK INTERSECTION AND TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECT

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 curbline into the roadway. These modifications will serve to visually and physically narrow the street, forcing traffic to slow down while also reducing the crossing distance for pedestrians and providing additional greenspace.



“Cherry Street serves as a busy secondary arterial in our roadway network,” explains 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.”

The installation of three crosswalks in the area will further signal to motorists that they are entering a pedestrian friendly area and they should slow down and use caution.

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.

For more information, visit the project website at springfieldmo.gov/cherryandpickwick.



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

Jan. 19 • Feb. 16 • March 16: 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 Grand St.

Follow Rountree on  
routreenews.org

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

May 15: 7-11 a.m.

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

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Leaves, Metal, TVs



**Congratulations Peggy Wise ,
Rountree's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year**

To show their appreciation, the Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association took a gift box of steaks and lots of letters and pictures from the kids at Williams Elementary to Fire Station 5.



News and notes from Paula Reeves in Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association

By Paula Reeves, for SGFNN

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

It's the first one in our neighborhood, and it's there for everyone to use. The little library is located directly across the street from 2067 N. Hoffman Ave. If you see something you'd like to read, take it. After you read it, you can bring it back, pass it on to a friend, or keep it. Share a book with the library whenever you can. We try to keep it stocked with books for all ages, from babies to adults.



Little Free Library located across the street from 2067 N. Hoffman Ave.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity through neighborhood book-sharing boxes.

We are also blessed to have a Springfield-Greene County Library branch close to our neighborhood. The Library Station is located at 2535 N. Kansas

Expressway, next to Panera. In addition to the many services offered in the library, they are also sharing children's story times on the Facebook page. You can follow their page by searching Springfield-Greene County Library District.

TWNA FACEBOOK PAGE

We would love to have you follow our Facebook page! We post information about happenings

in our neighborhood and Springfield, especially the north side. As soon as we can have large neighborhood events, you can learn about them there.

HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST

Congratulations to Tom and Dale Milam, who won the neighborhood Halloween decorating contest and a \$25 Walmart gift card! They had some great competition, too! They invited everyone to drive by their house (2074 N. Elizabeth) to see their Christmas decorations and hoped that you enjoy them as much as they do.

THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

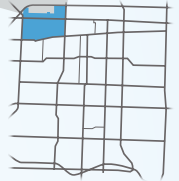
- Greene County Damaged Freight
- McDonald's
- Grant Williams
- Freshwater Church

SHOWING OUR APPRECIATION

We are thankful for our City's public servants, especially our police and fire departments! The Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association took a gift box of steaks to Fire Station 5 and delivered cashew chicken to our former PAR officer, Zach Pugh, along with lots of letters and pictures from the kids at Williams Elementary. Thank you, Officer Pugh and the firefighters at our neighborhood fire station – we appreciate you!



The Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association delivered cashew chicken and lots of letters and pictures from the kids at Williams Elementary to their former PAR officer, Zach Pugh.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Please Contact Neighborhood Officers for meeting times and locations.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Austin Faulconer: 417-874-2536
afaulconer@springfieldmo.gov



 Williams Elementary School
2205 W. Kearney St.

Follow Tom Watkins on  

Next Neighborhood Cleanup April 10: 8 a.m.-Noon

Location TBD

Accepted: Trash, Brush and Leaves

Curbside Pickup will be available

Contact Paula Reeves (417-597-4108 or twna2020@gmail.com)



NOVA
2020



**Congratulations Denny Reeves,
Tom Watkins' NOVA
Volunteer of the Year**



Donelle Blubaugh and her mother Connie Blubaugh prepare many pounds of mashed white and baked sweet potatoes for the University Heights Neighborhood Association Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless. Filmed by KOLR 10 photojournalist Tim Leimkuhler. © 2020 Photo by Jym Wilson

University Heights' Operation Thank You, Nurses pivots to meal for homeless

By Jan Peterson, for SGFNN

It all began with a beleaguered nurse's request for someone to bake a pie. What followed could happen only in the era of social media and was certainly fueled by everything 2020.

When University Heights Neighborhood Association neighbors saw her plea on our Facebook group page, the offers to help started flying. Threads exploded all over the page. Within days, about 40 households were actively working to cater an entire meal for both shifts at the COVID-19 unit at Cox South.

I can't put into words the emotions running through the neighborhood or the degree to which this lifted spirits. The sense of community was palpable.

Throughout the pandemic, we've been told the best thing we can do for our country is to stay home and find new ways to connect with the people we love. It's a terrible thing to not be able to take action against the biggest health threat we've seen in our lifetime.



One of the floral arrangements provided by The Nest and Blossoms and Baskets Gourmet

“Only two things matter. First, people in need will have a great meal tomorrow. Second, we know we can mobilize and do beautiful work together. I'm proud to call UH home.”

I suspect one of the reasons this drive ignited the way it did is because it presented us a tangible way to take action. We could do something meaningful to show our friends on the front lines they are appreciated. They are valued. They are loved.

Offers of turkeys and hams flowed in. There were more pies than I could count. Every side you ever dreamed of, including 30 pounds of mashed potatoes and probably 20 pounds of sweet potatoes. We had donations of massive, gorgeous floral arrangements from The Nest and Blossoms and Baskets Gourmet, lovely cards expressing gratitude and thank-you letters written by the students of Reed Middle School.

The pop-up crusade was dubbed Operation Thank You, Nurses. The effort galvanized our neighborhood in a way I have never witnessed. It was magical.

We all knew from the outset a potluck was out of the question in a pandemic, but we were naively optimistic that a safe meal-delivery plan could be established.

Everyone tried, but it just wasn't possible.

I can't lie. Once that inevitable a-ha moment arrived, I experienced my own private WKRP Thanksgiving Day Turkey Drop moment.

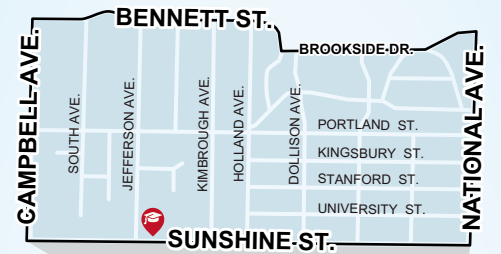
But given that 2020 is the Year of the Pivot, as one astute neighbor dubbed it, I found a Plan B within minutes.

I reached across the park to my friend Marti Knauer, a Phelps Grove neighbor who crossed borders to enthusiastically support our effort. She also is a strong advocate and supporter of the homeless outreach program at the Veterans Coming Home Center.

We split the campaign in two. All of the arrangements, letters, prepackaged goodies, beverages and fruit would go to our health care workers. The meal would go to the homeless.

I posted an explanation of what happened on our Facebook page, explained the pivot, apologized for not doing a better job of thinking things through and braced for the worst. We're a new association; I had visions of someone calling for me to step down.

I got an alert someone had commented. My stomach dropped. I clicked and ... ▶



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

Feb. 3 • March 3 • April 7 • May 5: 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

Next Neighborhood Cleanup (Joint Cleanup with Phelps Grove)

May 15: 7-11 a.m.

Springfield Art Museum
(1111 E. Brookside Dr.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Metal and TVs



**Congratulations Jan Peterson,
University Heights' NOVA
Volunteer of the Year**

▶ "Helping is helping! I am sad we cannot show our health care workers how much we appreciate them but we are still helping someone. No worries on my part and I will deliver six dozen baked rolls to the address you provided tomorrow evening!"

"Sorry it didn't work out for the health care workers but glad to see it's still going to a good cause!"

"Only two things matter. First, people in need will have a great meal tomorrow. Second, we know we can mobilize and do beautiful work together. I'm proud to call UH home."

This theme carried through nearly all of the responses.

Minutes later, I learned our miscalculation was serendipitous. No one had signed up to provide the Wednesday evening meal at the center. We needed to speed up our deadline to 3 p.m. Wednesday in order to provide it.

Hitting fast-forward further motivated the neighborhood.

New offers of casseroles and more arrived.

Our neighborhood has blown me away with its giving spirit, and I've no doubt our pop-up campaign made everyone's Thanksgiving more joyful than it might have otherwise been.

In the end, a full-size SUV headed north to the homeless center at 3 p.m. Wednesday, filled to capacity with all of the components for a splendid meal. Dozens of unsheltered folks enjoyed a feast they otherwise would not have had and there was enough left over to feed homeless youths through



Another one of the floral arrangements provided by The Nest and Blossoms and Baskets Gourmet

Rare Breed. In the wee hours of Thanksgiving Day, another full-size SUV headed south, filled with sweet and savory treats and gestures of gratitude for the workers enduring the worst this pandemic has to offer. Our efforts also landed UHNA members on the 10 p.m. KOLR 10 newscast.

UHNA spread cheer so much deeper into the community than we intended at the outset. It was beautiful. We failed up.

I've been thinking about all that happened in those few days, how a common goal galvanized our sense of community and strengthened the bonds between the houses in our little neighborhood. I think those bonds are even more

important now because we are physically isolated from friends and family.

Our city's wonderful network of neighborhood associations empowers us to work together to combat issues such as nuisance properties, poverty, planned development and more. But having an active neighborhood association also allows us to use our toolbox to mitigate the threat the pandemic poses on a micro level.

As we got deeper into the holiday season and this new virus tightened its grip, UHNA's board had several things in the works to support those around us.

We collected a down payment on another, less-impulsive thank-you for front line health care workers at Christmas. On Black Friday, we launched our Merry and Bright Christmas Decorating Contest to lift spirits. And on a more practical level, we sent a second postcard to every household in our neighborhood reminding them we have a fleet of volunteers ready to help them get whatever they need if they are quarantined or ill.

Our neighborhood has blown me away with its giving spirit, and I've no doubt our pop-up campaign made everyone's Thanksgiving more joyful than it might have otherwise been.

And all of this happened because one tired nurse asked her neighbors if they could spare a pie.



Marti Knauer, Phelps Grove, delivered food to the Veterans Coming Home Center.



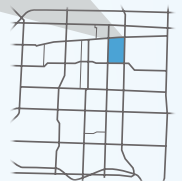
Marti Knauer, Phelps Grove, delivered food to the Veterans Coming Home Center.

WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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




Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 4 • March 4 • April 1 • May 6: 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: 8 a.m.-Noon

Turning Point Church

(1722 N. National Ave.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush and Metal



NOVA 2020



**Congratulations Chuck McClancy,
Weller's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year**



McGregor Tiger Night drive-thru event shares supplies, fun with families

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

On Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020, McGregor Elementary School students received treats and household items at the school's Tiger Night event.

At five drive-thru stations, students were treated to individual candy bags, household essentials like toilet paper, soap and laundry detergent, and a new pair of cozy socks.

School Community Liaison Blaine Broderick helped coordinate the event for his school's 250 learners, partnering with the West Central Neighborhood to purchase more than 1,500 pieces of candy.

"We knew that many of our families would be opting out of traditional Trick-or-treating this year due to COVID-19, so we decided to have a drive-thru option for our event," said Broderick. "With this option, families could drive by, show off their Halloween costumes, pick up candy in a socially distanced manner and even pick up some household essentials."

At two stations, families were able to choose which full-size household items their family needed. Items included hand sanitizer, paper towels, toothbrushes, body wash and more. At each station, caretakers and students wore masks and stayed socially distant, while still engaging with McGregor's team of passionate educators.

"McGregor folks do Halloween right — with a distanced, masked drive-thru event for McGregor families," tweeted Dr. Charles Taylor, school board member. "Great people doing great things in a great



community — and having great fun all the while."

Community partners from the Drew Lewis Foundation were also present to encourage families, cheering them on and providing information on RISE programming, designed to help families access resources and learn valuable life skills.

Whatever families needed, the McGregor community is here to help, said Broderick.

"The importance of supporting students outside of the typical school day is not only tougher during these times, but perhaps more important than ever," he says. "By hosting events outside of the typical school day, we're able to increase supports for our students in a fun, meaningful way, while meeting their needs. We want our students to come to school and feel safe, taken care of and ready to learn. That's what we're here for."



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

Jan. 26 • Feb. 23 • March 23 • April 27: 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  

We had a fabulous turnout for the cleanup Oct. 17, 2020. Thank you to all of the volunteers, especially our two guys who did over 20 pick ups!



**Congratulations Jason Clough,
West Central's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year**

West Central announces first Light up the Night Contest winners

Provided by the West Central Neighborhood Facebook Page (@WestCentralSGF)

West Central Neighborhood Alliance hosted its first ever holiday house contest! Participants uploaded photos to Facebook and the three with the most "likes" by midnight Dec. 20, 2020 won. First place received \$50 and two tied for second each, winning \$25. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year festive. It was exactly what we needed! We hope that you will get out and enjoy the lights! You can see all of the entries on our Facebook page.



Light up the Night Contest first place winner.



Shining Stars Early Childhood Center rededicated to honor Dr. Arthur Mallory

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

Springfield Public Schools officially celebrated the naming of the Mallory Early Childhood Center in October. Since opening almost 10 years ago, the facility had been known as Shining Stars Early Childhood Center.

When naming the newly constructed Adah Fulbright Early Childhood Center, the SPS school board agreed it would be appropriate to change the name of Shining Stars and formally recognize another education advocate. That leader was Dr. Arthur Mallory.

Dr. Mallory served as Missouri Commissioner of Education for 18 years. During his tenure, Missouri developed and implemented an early childhood education program that served as a model for other states. In addition, he oversaw the creation and concept of Parents As Teachers, and he guided the development of special education legislation in Missouri.

Outside the main doors to the facility bearing his name, he spoke fondly of his work in education throughout his life and the promises that education provides.

When I look at a school building I see a promise ... that in that building the children and young

people attending will have a safe and clean place to go to school," said Dr. Mallory. "We also promise that in that building, we will provide an educational program to suit the needs of all the children of all the people. It is a promise that when a child enters our schools, they are going to find care."

Long-time friend of Dr. Mallory and Springfield school board member Gerry Lee spoke at the ceremony, reflecting on the Board of Education's priority to expand services to Springfield's youngest learners.

"We have tried to demonstrate that commitment by allocating funds and resources for expanding early childhood education," said Lee. "We hope that this building, bearing Dr. Mallory's name, will stand as a reminder to each of us to continue this important work."

Across Springfield Public Schools, nearly 1,200 students receive free, foundational early childhood education at four early childhood centers: Adah Fulbright, Campbell, Shady Dell and Arthur Mallory. In addition, a team of nearly 40 Parents As Teachers educators support more than 2,000 Springfield families as they lay the foundation for academic success from birth.



Connect

- Lydia Austin, President: lydiaaustin@live.com or 417-459-9118
- Sharon Brooks, Vice President
- Sandi Huston, Treasurer
- Peri Redfearn, Secretary



Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings

Jan. 12 • Feb. 9 • March 9 • April 13: 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 Austin Faulconer: 417-874-2536
afulconer@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow Westside on  

Next Neighborhood Cleanup

May 22: 7-11 a.m.

Study Alternative Center
(2343 W. Olive St.)

Accepted: Trash, Brush, Leaves,
Metal and TVs

Westside Neighborhood chooses MASH theme for Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Section



Westside took third and \$1,100 for their "Westside MASH" theme in the Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge.



Cindy Robinson wins WNBA Christmas lighting contest

By Lydia Austin, for SGFNN

Cindy Robinson's home at 2520 W. Lombard was the top pick in the Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association's Christmas lighting contest. She won a \$50 gift card to Menards. Photos of the runners up have been posted to SGFNeighborhoodNews.com. Thanks to all of those who participated.



Congratulations Lydia Austin,
Westside's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

Photo Courtesy of the Historic C-Street Facebook page



C-Street survey results

(continued from page 17)

Other factors included maintaining the "Main Street" feel of locally owned, independent businesses on the street and ensuring that Commercial Street is diverse and welcoming to all.

Public improvements such as providing financial incentives for existing and new small businesses, opening the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge and improving connectivity and wayfinding from other parts of the city were the top actions needed from the City of Springfield for the future of the area, according to the results of the survey.

"I'm very happy that the C-Street Plan is addressing our adjoining neighborhoods and their impact on our visitors." – Becky Volz

"It was evident from the survey that nearby residents have a strong attachment to the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge as a community landmark and pedestrian access. Reopening the Footbridge and tailoring incentives to preserve and enhance C-Street will be top priorities identified in the Plan currently being drafted in cooperation with Progressive Urban Management Associates (PUMA) the Commercial Street Advisory Team and City staff. The plan is expected to be complete in early 2021," said Senior Planner Olivia Hough.

Additional ideas for improvements to C-Street included:

- Outdoor space enhancements – dog park, gathering space/park, small event space/ amphitheater, kid friendly, more public

outdoor seating, etc.

- Improved (perception of) safety – many called for some form of an on-the-street safety (or hospitality) presence
- Mitigation of, and better support for, the homeless population
- Improved entryways and gateways
- More dependable and coordinated hours for businesses
- Decorative lighting – over the street, at intersections, at gateways, holiday-themed, etc.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

The survey collected nearly 700 responses from participants representing a cross-section of Springfield residents distributed by age, income and ZIP code, according to PUMA. Over one-third (35%) live in the 65803 ZIP code, which is the home of C-Street. More than half (53%) identified as a non-walking distance from C-Street Springfield resident while 20% said they lived within walking distance. Half of the respondents indicated they are a regular shopper/diner on C-Street. More than half (53%) said they visited C-Street once a week or more to a couple of times a month prior to the pandemic.

"We have continually heard from Forward SGF participants that Springfield needs to be more walkable, liveable, attractive, and welcoming. Commercial Street sets the bar in all those categories and is a great example to emulate elsewhere in the city," Whitman said.

A full summary of the survey results is linked from the online version of this article at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 19 • Feb. 16 • March 16 • April 20:
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. @ 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

Bass Pro Marathon runners get their kicks on Route 66 thanks to Woodland Heights cheering section: Woodland Heights tied for second place and took home \$1,200 in the Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge for their "kicks on Route 66" theme.



Congratulations Janetta Tracy, Woodland Heights' NOVA Volunteer of the Year

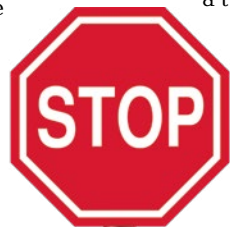
City modifies stop sign locations in Woodland Heights

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

After a series of traffic studies in response to Woodland Heights neighbors' concerns, Public Works reconfigured stop signs at multiple intersections in the neighborhood at the end of November.

The following intersections are marked to alert drivers to the change:

- **Chase Street and Lyon Avenue** is now a four-way stop.
- **Chase Street and Broadway Avenue** is now a four-way stop.
- **Atlantic Street and Washington Avenue** is now a four-way stop.



- **High Street and Campbell Avenue** is now a four-way stop.
- **High Street and Robberson Avenue** is now a two-way stop for Robberson Avenue.

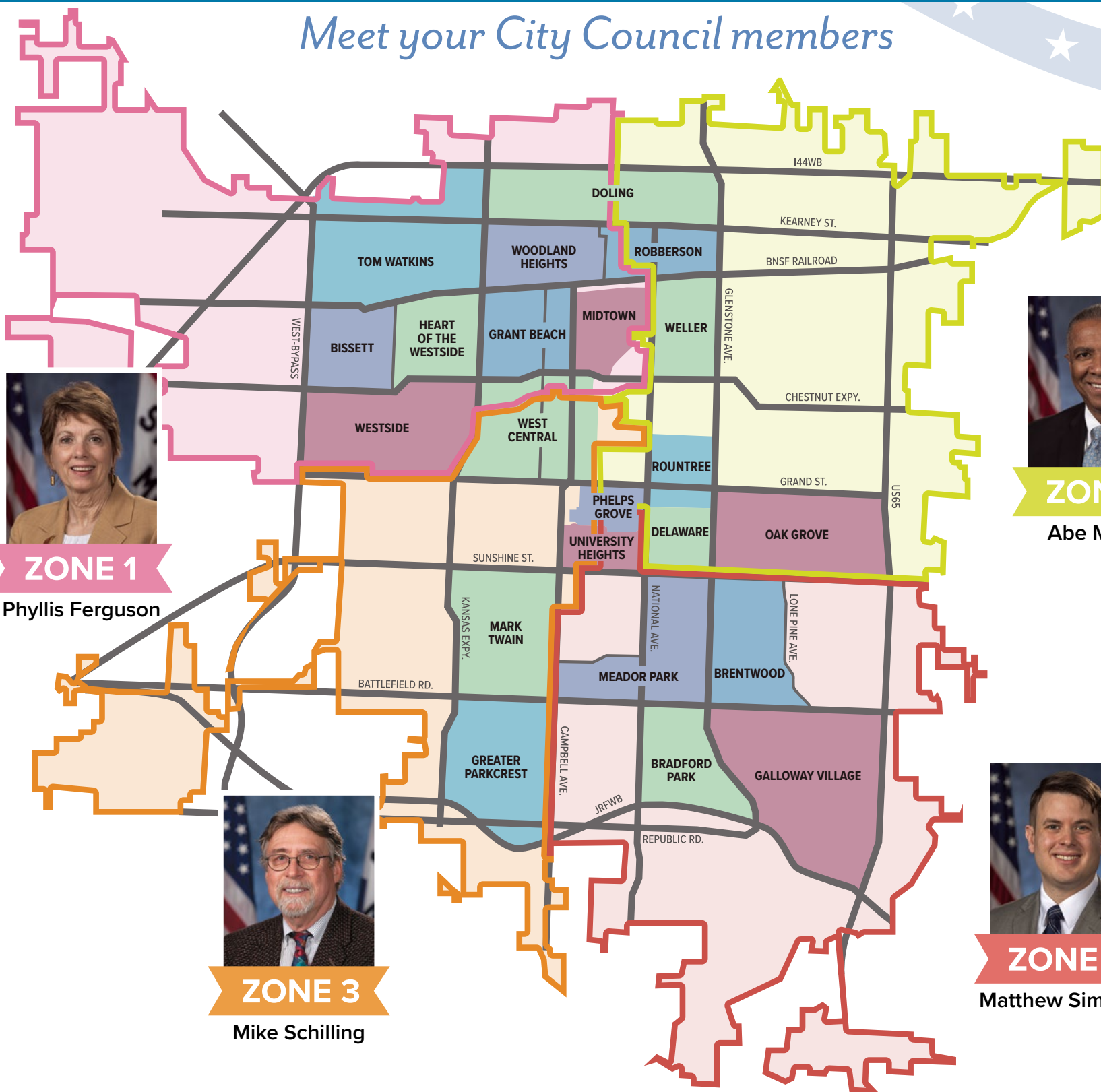
The modifications were made after a series of traffic studies revealed shifts in traffic patterns over time. The studies were conducted in response to citizen concerns regarding drivers running stop signs.

The intersections will be monitored for compliance, and follow-up traffic studies will be conducted.

To learn more about when and how stop signs are placed, visit the Neighborhood Traffic Concerns section of the Public Works webpage.

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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