



Fire Chief David Pennington
vaccinates an individual at
the May 7 Fire Station Fun
Day and Vaccine Clinic.

Welcome to the Summer 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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Mayor thanks community, urges vaccination as COVID-19 regulations end

By Mayor Ken McClure, for SGFNN

Springfield City Council's May 28 repeal of the COVID-19 regulations put in place over several months last year to protect our community followed a series of courageous and difficult actions as part of the community's response to the pandemic.

The ordinances and associated mitigation strategies put in place over the course of those challenging months to protect our citizens served an important purpose and, as a result, saved numerous lives. We took the correct actions at the right times and stood firm. Our community is better because of it.

*I want to thank the community.
We have endured an
unprecedented health care crisis
and have emerged strong.*

Reflecting upon the past 15 months brings me both comfort and grief. Never in my lifetime did I expect to see such valiant sacrifices. To those who have lost loved ones forever due to this pandemic, I share your pain. We will never be able to replace those we have lost. But we certainly can continue to take measures to make sure their deaths were not in vain.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has become the most significant global public health emergency in the 21st century. Back in March 2020, in the face of the

rapidly expanding new virus about which little was known, swift and decisive action was needed.

When we asked you to stay at home and for businesses to shut down, you listened.

Research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association on the impact of COVID-19 now suggests that, in the complete absence of stay-at-home orders, the United States could have seen 220% higher rates of infection and a 22% higher fatality rate. It's simple: those of you who stayed home saved lives.

When we asked businesses, churches, not-for-profits, the arts community and educators to reduce capacity, employ public health safety measures, and assist with mitigation strategies such as testing, quarantining and isolating, you listened.

You promoted behaviors that prevent spread, such as maintaining healthy environments and operations, and you prepared for when people got sick. Those actions resulted in reduced exposure of the virus among individuals, reduced transmission and reduced burden on our health care systems.

► See **MAYOR THANKS COMMUNITY** on page 2



Health Department wants to bring COVID-19 vaccine to your neighborhood

By Aaron Schekorra, Health Department, for SGFNN

Our community has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. With more than 30,000 cases and 435 deaths, this virus has challenged us in ways we never conceived. Fortunately, we have the tool to put COVID-19 in the rearview mirror – vaccine.

Vaccines continue to prove themselves to be a long-term solution to preventing the spread of COVID-19, preventing severe illness, and saving lives. But what might be our greatest weapon in the

war against COVID-19 will only work if more people take advantage of it. And unfortunately, a majority of Greene County residents have not. As of June 18, just 37% of eligible residents are fully vaccinated, rates that are lagging behind both the state and national averages.

COVID-19 is still here and still poses a threat to our community and will continue to do so unless more people prioritize getting vaccinated. Sadly, the burden of this disease will be focused on those who have not yet been vaccinated. In fact, according to patient interviews, more than 98% of positive cases in Greene County since January have occurred in unvaccinated individuals.

This is why the Springfield-Greene County Health Department is committed to making the COVID-19 vaccine readily available and easily accessible to everyone. By working with our community partners and neighborhood associations, we have been able to host COVID-19 vaccination clinics in neighborhood schools, churches, fire stations,

► See **VACCINE OPPORTUNITIES** on page 2



Springfield-Greene County Health Department Community
Health Nurse Jan Atwell vaccinates an individual at the
Missouri Job Center's "Get a Shot, Get a Job" Drive Thru
Job Fair and Vaccine Clinic June 9.

► MAYOR THANKS COMMUNITY from page 1

When we learned that the simple act of wearing a mask helped prevent us from spreading the disease to one another, we asked you to wear one in public, and once again, you listened. Collectively, we achieved a long-term goal of minimizing the severity of COVID-19 in those who contracted the illness and also prevented additional deaths.

I would be remiss if I didn't also thank the communicators — the news media and the City and Springfield-Greene County Health Department public information specialists — who played the crucial role of keeping our citizens informed and educated in a time that is not easy and in an arena that is too often filled with misinformation. We are all blessed, thanks to your professionalism, ethics, conscientiousness and dedication.

I am proud of my colleagues at the City and Health Department and our many partners for making difficult choices but taking necessary action and for persevering. In spite of the contentious nature of many of the actions which needed to be taken, we have seen Springfield at its best.

I want to thank our excellent health care providers and especially our health care workers, law enforcement, firefighters and first responders. You continue to serve the needs of our people in the most trying of circumstances with the most dedication to the highest level of service. Thank you.

The faith community has played an important role throughout all of this and has specifically tended to the spiritual and emotional needs of the community, as they always do, despite their specific challenges related to being separated from their congregations. Thank you.

I want to specifically thank former Health Department Director Clay Goddard and Acting Director Katie Towns for their tireless support and incredible leadership during these unprecedented times. Again and again, they stepped up to the plate, assisting with decision making using a data-driven approach based on sound medical science. I know that they, too, are thankful to our hospital and other health care partners who sacrificed immensely, working in environments that were similar to war zones — seeing and experiencing deaths at a rate no humans should ever have to witness.

I am pleased that our citizens have now had ample opportunity to get vaccinated. The vaccine is certainly the game changer in our fight against COVID-19. COVID-19 is becoming an endemic



City Councilman Matthew Simpson (on the screen) comments before voting on the COVID-19 regulations passed at the July 13, 2020 meeting. Far left is Councilman Abe McGull; center, Mayor Ken McClure; and far right, Councilman Craig Hosmer. To ensure physical distancing to prevent spread of the disease, council members participated in the meetings via videoconferencing.

disease for communities across the world — it is and will be a regular part of the community and will continue to affect individuals, particularly those who are unvaccinated. In these scenarios, both the health care and public health systems have ongoing capacity to respond in these situations.

With the repeal of the ordinance requiring masking and other restrictions, we have done all we can from a public policy standpoint, and now it is the community's responsibility to continue to act prudently. The virus is still here — do not take any unnecessary risks, wash your hands, watch the crowds and above all, get vaccinated.

I want to thank City Council, City Manager Jason Gage and City staff for the steadfast support and encouragement, undergirding my role and actions as mayor, and for the leadership and courage displayed by each council member, in spite of strong criticism from some quarters.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank the community. We have endured an unprecedented health care crisis and have emerged strong. Springfield is resilient and, in my opinion, a model city for dealing with the pandemic. We collaborated, we trusted data and science and we talked to the business and faith communities, as well as our not-for-profits and our schools and universities. Our partnerships are so tightly woven that we are able to do things quicker and more efficiently than most cities.

It is time to move forward on many fronts. Let's do that together.

God bless you and God bless Springfield.

► VACCINE OPPORTUNITIES from page 1

community centers, libraries, parks and apartment complexes. During these events, we've had the chance to speak with so many people who were able to fit the vaccination into their schedule because of the convenience and flexibility these events offer. Often someone can walk up, get registered, get vaccinated and sit for the observation period in less than 25 minutes.

If you are still needing your COVID-19 vaccination, or you've put off getting the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, visit vaccine417.com or call the COVID-19 Call Center at 417-874-1211 to find information for clinics where you can make an appointment or just walk in!

There are many benefits to being vaccinated against COVID-19. Besides several of the fun incentives (like discounts, free donuts, and even ice skating) businesses and organizations have offered for getting vaccinated, many are also allowing fully vaccinated employees and patrons to visit their establishments unmasked. While there is no longer a City ordinance requiring masking in public, the Health Department recommends unvaccinated individuals still mask. Many businesses are following this advice and requiring those who have not yet been vaccinated to mask, so we ask that everyone respect the policies of these businesses.


Perhaps the biggest benefits to getting vaccinated are avoiding severe illness and not having to quarantine. Those who are two weeks out from their second shot of Pfizer and Moderna, or first shot of Johnson & Johnson, are not required to quarantine if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19 if they don't have any symptoms. Once vaccinated, you and your family can travel, work, participate in summer programs, and start the new school year without facing the unplanned interruptions that quarantining causes.

This summer, we plan to continue providing vaccinations throughout our community, but we need your help! If you know of a neighborhood or organization that would like to host a vaccination clinic, let us know by emailing coronavirus@springfieldmo.gov or calling 417-874-1211. Whether it's part of an event or a standalone clinic, we want to work with you. If a clinic is on the schedule in your area, help us get the word out! Springfield's registered neighborhood associations have been a valuable partner in promoting these events.

For some, the end of the mask mandate in Springfield signaled a symbolic end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately this is not the case. COVID-19 is still here, and while we should celebrate the process that we have made as a community, we have a ways to go before we can declare victory. Everyone can play a part in the final leg of this marathon. Talk to your friends and family, point them towards resources and information and tell them about your experience getting the vaccine. With your help we will see more of our community get vaccinated and Finish Strong together.



Springfield-Greene County Health Department Community Health Nurse Debbi Gray vaccinates an individual at a May 25 clinic at the Midtown Carnegie Branch Library.



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OF THE
LIBRARY**

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BOOK
SALE**


Sept. 15-19

E*Plex, Ozark Empire Fairgrounds
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5-year Northwest Project to lift people out of poverty concludes, but RISE program continues

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The five-year Northwest Project, a \$1.2 million initiative funded by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks aimed at lifting people out of poverty with education and resources, released its Year Five Annual Report in April.

The Northwest Project influenced 464 lives in southwest Missouri through programming provided by Drew Lewis Foundation at the Fairbanks.

The original \$1.2 million was leveraged to secure an additional \$850,000. This includes the Missouri Foundation for Health Healthy Homes Initiative grant of \$205,000, an anonymous \$255,000 grant to expand the RISE (Reaching Independence through Support and Education) program, local resource and mental health grants totaling \$50,000, and CARES Act grants and local donations, such as Heart of America Beverage's \$340,000 donation between 2017 and 2021. When consideration is given to in-kind donations from the partners — Drew Lewis Foundation, Missouri State University and Drury University — as well as community volunteers, legal services from Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association members, banking education, and other community resources, the grant total value grew to an estimated \$6.5 million.

Within just six months of joining the RISE program, the average household income increased \$477 per month. At 36 months, the household income increased \$798 per month for active participants.

CURRICULUM

The year-long RISE curriculum consists of weekly group classes in financial literacy, health and wellness, parenting, and other key topics; individual case management (personal development); and financial coaching (with partners such as Multipli Credit Union). Participants enjoy a community dinner before classes begin, and child care is provided.

Upon graduation from the program, participants are paired with a community ally. Allies are community volunteers who volunteer to assist a RISE member in achieving their goals to move to self-sufficiency.

RISE

Reaching Independence through Support & Education

To assist participants with food security concerns, the Drew Lewis Foundation partnered with Ozark Food Harvest, community volunteers and the National Guard to organize food distributions that helped deliver resources to 1,000 people each week, totaling a quarter-million pounds of food (valued at \$822,500) since April 2020.

The program will continue into a sixth year

thanks to donations from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, HRJ Consulting and other funders. The Drew Lewis Foundation has approached foundations, businesses, and local area resource agencies to enable the program to continue to operate at full capacity. In addition to continuing to serve Zone 1 residents, the program will be expanding and replicating in additional neighborhoods, rural communities and state-side.

SUCCESS STORIES

Grant Beach Neighborhood Association Vice President Kathy Lutz and her husband Bruce are two Northwest Project success stories.

"I went from hopeless to beyond hopeful," Kathy Lutz said. "I was initially a naysayer. I could not see what they could possibly do to help us. We had a car title loan and four payday loans."

In 2014, Lutz had open-heart surgery and a month later was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. The mounting medical bills prompted the Lutzes to take out a car-title loan, which carried a 155.13% interest rate. They borrowed \$900 and paid \$1,500 in interest.

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

INCREASED CREDIT SCORES AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The NWP/RISE program has had significant success in assisting participants with increasing their credit scores, refinancing and reducing debt and making sustainable progress toward education and employment goals. The program's objective was to impact the lives of 500 individuals. Although setbacks were experienced in year 5 due to COVID-19, the project was still able to impact 464 lives (123 households). Two new cohorts started, increasing the total lives impacted to 512. However, the data reported includes members who have two data cycles; therefore, the new members were not included in the report.

Seven households moved above the 200% Federal Poverty Guideline and 70% of active households moved above the 100% Federal Poverty Guideline. Monthly household income increased by an average of \$568 per month (\$6,821 annually) for all households. Participants who remained active in the program for 36 months had an average monthly income increase of \$798 (\$9,577 annually).

The average credit score for a participant increased 48 points, improving their bankability, access to low interest loans and even mental and health outcomes. Tracking credit scores is important to understand both financial health and physical health outcomes as credit scores are also predictive of health.

Within just six months of joining the RISE program, the average household income increased \$477 per month. Considering 102 households have



Amy Blansit, CEO of the Drew Lewis Foundation and project director for RISE, chats with a family participating in the RISE program.



Kathy and Bruce Lutz

completed six months of RISE, the total annual increase in income at six-months is \$583,848. At 36 months, the household income increased \$798 per month for active participants.

The RISE retention rate of 62% was used to determine the annual ROI per 100 households at the three-year mark. The predicted annual increase in household income of 62 families equals \$957,600. This value compared to the annual investment of \$240,000 is an investment gain of \$717,600.00 or an ROI of 299%.

IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

The RISE programming built a scaffolding for the emergence of a social economy among participants and staff during the pandemic.

According to the report, participants who remained engaged in the program found themselves in good company as the public health crisis of 2020 unfolded. Especially during the difficult times attributed to COVID-19, participants shared resources for child care, health, banking, utilities and other essential services in the absence of public assistance.

Those interested in getting involved with the RISE program as a participant or a volunteer should contact the Drew Lewis Foundation at 417-200-2223 or email info@drewlewis.org.

GOOD NEIGHBOR TIP



Avoid tall grass & weed overgrowth

The growth of weeds, brush or other rank vegetation in excess of 7 inches in height is declared to be a public nuisance according to Sec. 74-403 of the City Code. If the violation is not corrected at the end of the notice, the property owner can be issued a summons to Municipal Court and the property mowed by the City with a tax lien placed upon it to recover the cost of abatement.

Do you need help?

Community resources are available to help you keep your property in compliance. Visit cpozarks.org/tool-library, or call 417-888-2020 to borrow mowing/trimming equipment from the Springfield Tool Lending Library. If you live in a registered neighborhood, free neighborhood cleanups are offered in the spring or fall. Call 417-888-2020 to find out your neighborhood's next cleanup date. Your neighborhood association may also be able to offer you temporary assistance with your property. Call the Citizen Resource Center at 417-864-1010 to find out if you live in a registered neighborhood and to obtain contact information.

Clean Green SGF volunteers serve 1,800 hours, collect 1,000+ bags of litter

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Springfield is more beautiful than ever, thanks to the help of nearly 1,000 volunteers and more than 1,600 participating households who took part in the City's Clean Green Springfield initiative this spring.

The effects of the pandemic and other factors led to Springfield's streets and streams being strewn with litter. Trash became piled along highways and in illegal dump sites. Volunteer programs were suspended, exacerbating the problem.

Both individuals and groups participated in one or more of numerous cleanup and beautification opportunities, including neighborhood cleanups, roadside trash pickups, plantings, stream cleanups and more.

Cora Scott, director of Public Information and Civic Engagement for the City of Springfield, says the effort served as a catalyst for deeper, broader discussions about community beautification, ownership and pride. Next steps could be new and improved, smarter municipal regulations and practices around trash and the environment; increased numbers of registered neighborhoods; and increased numbers of citizen groups or members of groups dedicated to the beautification cause.

LITTER CLEANUP RESULTS



More than 11 tons of litter were collected during the City's four "Point of Pride" cleanup events and various dump site cleanups. Dodging spring rains, a few hundred people turned up to help clean up at West Meadows, Jordan Creek, Wilson's Creek at Scenic Avenue and Fassnight Creek at Grant Avenue.

An additional 170 groups or individuals registered for one-time roadway or stream cleanups, reinvigorating the City's regular Adopt-A-Street and Adopt-A-Stream programs and keeping the litter management momentum going. Individuals, families, businesses and service organizations mobilized to help remove more than 1,031 bags of litter from Springfield roadways, trails and streams, totaling approximately 8 tons.

In total, 19 tons of litter was picked up through Clean Green Springfield, helping reduce a



University Heights Neighborhood Cleanup. Photo: Jan Peterson

noticeable eyesore in our community, helping to improve water quality and protect the environment.

TRASH/DIFFICULT-TO-DISPOSE-OF-ITEMS RESULTS

More than 200 tons of trash/bulky items in total were disposed of, or recycled, through Clean Green Springfield special offers, and with the support of additional volunteers.

One thousand six hundred and one households disposed of "bulky items" that could have been dumped if they didn't have any other resources. These items are now no longer cluttering people's yards, or dumped illegally, removing an eyesore and protecting the environment.



One hundred ninety-seven mattresses collected over two Mattress Toss event opportunities served more than 130 Springfield households, weighing about 10 tons.

Public Works engineer Ron Bailey said the City collected 1,560 tires during a Tire Toss event, with over 230 households served, weighing about 23 tons.

Just shy of 400 Springfield residents took advantage of special low-cost or no-cost electronics recycling through a partnership with the Computer Recycling Center. Citizens recycled 250 televisions at no cost to residents. Overall, the Computer Recycling Center collected more than 10,000 pounds of electronics: about 5 tons' worth.

► See **CLEAN GREEN SPRINGFIELD** on page 6



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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Plan for the first phase of the Renew Jordan Creek project presented to City Council

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

After months of public engagement and stakeholder work sessions, City staff and a planning and design consultant team from Olsson unveiled a proposed master plan for the Renew Jordan Creek effort downtown, at the June 1 City Council Lunch Workshop.

The Renew Jordan Creek effort intends to “daylight” portions of the creek and bring it to the surface, helping to reduce flooding and improve water quality. Renew Jordan Creek is also viewed as an opportunity to provide an outdoor urban amenity and serve as a catalyst for further redevelopment along the creek’s path through downtown Springfield.

The City previously identified the phase 1 or the primary project site, comprising two large blocks of the creek, bordered on the east by Boonville Avenue and Water Street on the south, Main Avenue on the west, and Mill Street on the north. The master plan seeks to envision a design concept unifying the primary site with possible future enhancements to nearby Founders Park and a newly acquired property located at 404 N. Jefferson Avenue (the former Meek’s Lumber Yard and facility).

“Conceptually, the master plan is a ‘string of pearls’ along Jordan Creek and includes all of Jordan Valley Park. As visitors and residents explore the area, they will be drawn from one active place to another to enjoy amenities unique to each site, yet part of a whole experience.” – Tim Rosenbury

Much of the master plan area is within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain within downtown Springfield, so revising the use of space is crucial to remediate flooding.

“Conceptually, the master plan is a ‘string of pearls’ along Jordan Creek and includes all of Jordan Valley Park,” explains Director of Quality of Place Initiatives Tim Rosenbury. “As visitors and residents explore the area, they will be drawn from one active place to another to enjoy amenities unique to each site, yet part of a whole experience.”

Community engagement for the Renew Jordan Creek Master Plan began in January with the

launch of an interactive project website and city-wide visioning survey that collected more than 600 responses. Input from the public visioning round was utilized in late March in an intensive and highly collaborative concept design process involving a Renew Jordan Creek stakeholder team. The stakeholder team represents a diverse group of interests including downtown businesses, property owners, developers and agencies as well as technical experts in environmental, engineering and architectural design fields.



Artist's rendering of how the daylighted Jordan Creek could look in part of downtown Springfield.

In April, the preliminary concepts developed by the stakeholder team were then taken to the community through a virtual open house gathering more than 120 comments. After further concept development by the stakeholders, the Olsson consultant team developed the proposed plan and site concept renderings.

Olsson will incorporate final feedback from the community into a final master plan document, anticipated by July. The City will then proceed to the engineering design phase for the primary project site with construction estimated to begin in late 2022. Improvements at Founders Park and the 404 N. Jefferson Avenue property will be further considered at a later date.

To learn more about the project and participate in upcoming engagement activities, visit renewjordancreek.com.



The right kind of outdoor light at night allows for dark sky

By Loring Bullard with Randall Whitman, Planning and Development, for SGFNN

At my house, I own an estate extending trillions of miles into space — an extremely long slice of the night sky. Because I live in a city, and there are lights all around me, I just can't see much of it — only a handful of the brightest stars and planets. It's a common problem. Many of us will never see the rare, exquisite beauty of a really dark sky.

Like a lot of insidious problems, the negative impacts of light pollution are just beginning to dawn on us. It confuses migrating birds, and wastes energy. And it can wreak havoc on the human body. Darkness, it turns out, is really good for us, allowing our bodies time to rejuvenate and produce beneficial, cancer-fighting chemicals.

Darkness is not the domain of the boogeyman, or the big bad wolf, as folklore suggests, or that security and lighting companies would have us believe. These companies sell us on their assumption; that more light is always better, making us safer, more secure. Actually, the human eye is designed to work well in low light conditions, much dimmer than what these companies are selling. Bright lights create dark shadows that actually hide burglars, and the light shining in my eyes from my neighbor's porch light means there's no way I'll see someone breaking into her house.

What is really needed outside the house is the right kind of light in the right place — doing the job efficiently protecting our night sky. Use the dimmest bulbs available, if you can. Shield fixtures to shine only on the areas needing vigilance and protection. Lower lights closer to working surfaces rather than brightening the lights. You will be safer, save energy and ultimately, if we all pitch in, allow the gorgeous night sky to re-appear.

So how do issues like preservation of the dark sky fit into neighborhood and community improvement initiatives? How can the city of Springfield "move the needle" on preserving the dark sky? As it turns out, participants in the initial community input phases of Forward SGF stressed that Springfield's proximity to the great outdoors and abundant, healthful natural resources and open spaces was the most important community asset.

Forward SGF will champion a variety of initiatives that seek to improve the livability of our neighborhoods and increase quality of life and enjoyable outdoor experiences for both residents and visitors alike. Protecting mature trees, preserving the dark sky and other sustainable development practices will be initiated and championed in the Comprehensive Plan.

To learn more about local efforts to preserve the dark sky visit darkskymissouri.org or ozarksociety.net.

Loring Bullard is the former executive director of Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and has a strong personal interest in protecting the land, air and water quality for future generations. He and Randall Whitman with the City's Planning and Development Department, collaborated for this article.



► **CLEAN GREEN SPRINGFIELD** from page 4

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS

More than 163 tons of trash were collected during twelve regular spring neighborhood cleanup events facilitated through Community Partnership of the Ozarks. Neighborhood cleanups served 871 households. Approximately 75 new volunteers provided through Clean Green assisted neighborhoods with their regular cleanup activities, adding additional hands for unloading of items, help with bulky item pickup and cleaning up litter around the neighborhood.



City Utilities employees volunteered to help out with the Weller Neighborhood Cleanup May 1. Photo: City Utilities

PARTICIPATION AND SERVICE HOURS

More than 1,350 individuals registered to help clean up and green up Springfield, with approximately 900 following through with volunteer commitments. It can be estimated that Clean Green volunteers contributed more than 1,800 hours of service.

The Independent Sector calculates a national value of each volunteer hour every year. The estimated hourly value in 2021 is \$28.54. Using Independent

Sector's methodology, the value of the Clean Green Springfield volunteer service was \$51,372.

BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS

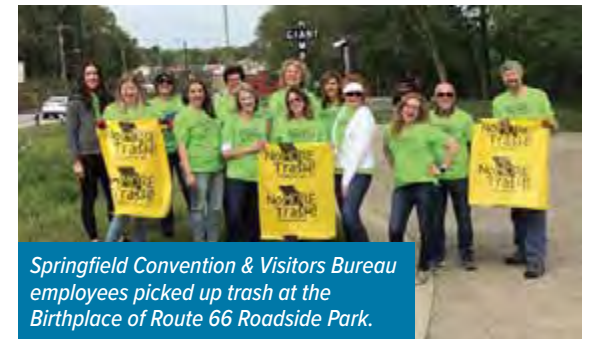
Volunteers have also spread more than 260 cubic yards of mulch and planted 700 plants during three beautification efforts hosted by the City. Hatch Family Foundation made a significant financial contribution for the purchase of plants.

NEXT STEPS

The City is conducting debrief meetings and the Environmental Services department is continuing a litter index initiative to better understand the origins of this litter and working with the Public Information & Civic Engagement department to develop litter prevention strategies. An additional goal is to grow the City's adopted street and adopted stream sections.

SPONSORS

The City would like to thank the follow sponsors/partners for their continued support of Clean Green Springfield: Community Partnership of the Ozarks, KY3/KSPR/CW; Watershed Committee of the Ozarks; The Hatch Family Foundation; Ozark Greenways; iHeart Radio and James River Basin Partnership.



Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau employees picked up trash at the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park.

DO YOU WISH TO BE IN A HEALTHY, COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP?



ShowMe Healthy Relationships

A collaborative project offered by Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation offering free classes for individuals who want to improve relationships.

Learn more at oac.ac/showmehealthyrelationships



To Sign Up Contact OACAC at 417-873-3378 or at ShowMeHealthyRelationships@oac.ac



Human Development and Family Science
University of Missouri

Springfield Police Department updates beat map

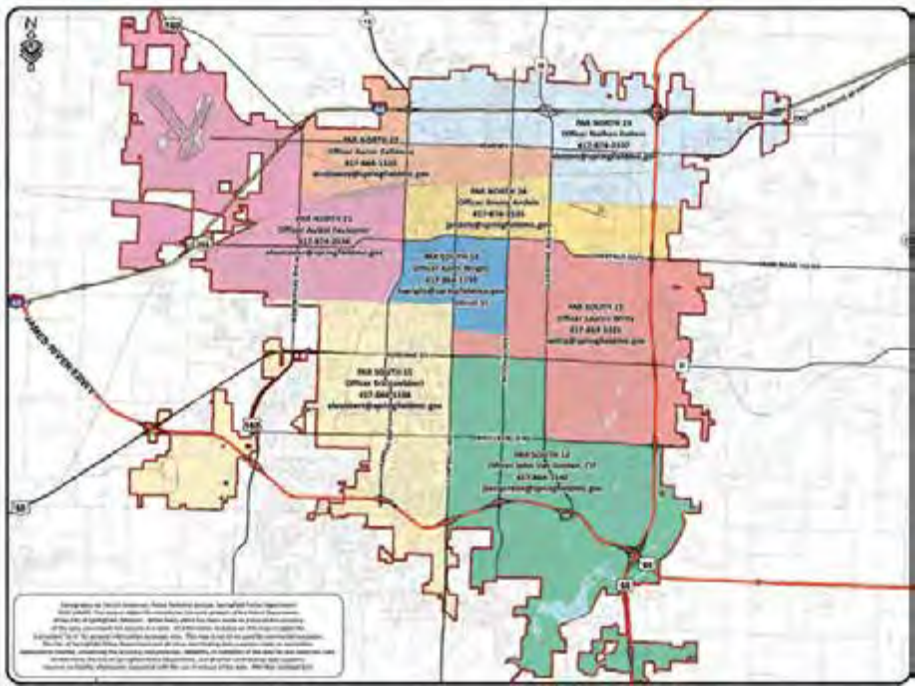
By Jasmine Bailey,
Springfield Police
Department,
for SGFNN

As of March 28, Springfield Police Department officers are patrolling the city using a new beat map. This change is intended to more effectively utilize available staff to respond to calls for service and better assist the citizens of Springfield.

In preparation for this change, there was an extensive review of crime data, Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) data, and registered neighborhood association boundaries.

Based on those findings, a new beat and zone structure was developed by SPD's crime analysis and research and development units.

The city is now divided into two zones, with four beats per zone, for a total of eight beats. The department is expanding the Police Area Representative (PAR) program and will assign a PAR to each beat. The change also includes a designated Entertainment District, encompassing the downtown Community Improvement District (CID) area that



will be staffed by a dedicated squad of officers during specific evening and weekend hours.

"We are hopeful these changes will allow for better resource allocation and result in more effective and efficient police services throughout the city," said Police Chief Paul Williams.

All up-to-date maps are accessible on the Springfield Police Department website, and each neighborhood section in this publication (pg. 10-26) includes the name of the neighborhood's PAR officer as well as their contact information.

Mandatory 10-digit dialing coming in October

By City Staff, for SGFNN

Starting in October, anyone with the area code 314, 417, 660, or 816 in Missouri will soon need to dial all 10 digits when making any calls.

On July 16, 2020, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules to establish 988 as the new, nationwide, easy-to-remember 3-digit phone number for those in crisis to connect with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The rules require phone service providers to direct all 988 calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by July 16, 2022. Currently to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline you must dial 1-800-273-8255.

Ten-digit dialing is needed because some phone numbers start with 988. If someone were to dial a number such as 988-1010, the phone system wouldn't know how to route that call. Because there isn't a 988 area code, requiring all 10 digits makes sure that phone numbers starting with 988 don't confuse the system. This change is not just affecting Missouri. Eighty-two area codes across 36 states will soon require 10-digit dialing.

The switch is happening in phases. Phase One began April 24. Everyone is able to dial both 10 digits and seven digits for all calls. During this time it is suggested to get in the habit of dialing with 10



digits. If you were to dial a long-distance number, you would dial that number the same as you do now. Nothing is changing for long distance calling.

Phase 2 begins Oct. 24, at which time you will only be able to make calls dialing with 10 digits.

Phase 3 begins July 16, 2022. You will be able to dial 988 to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, but not until then. **In the meantime, if you or someone you know is experiencing a suicidal crisis or emotional distress you should still call 1-800-273-8255 to reach the hotline.** More information is available at [fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline](https://www.fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline).

Police to increase enforcement of noisy vehicle ordinance

By Jasmine Bailey, Springfield Police Department, for SGFNN

The Springfield Police Department continues to receive a growing number of complaints in regards to excessively loud exhaust systems on vehicles and motorcycles. Complaints have been received from residents and businesses throughout the city and in many cases, there is a correlation between the vehicle creating the excessive noise and careless and imprudent driving by the same vehicle.

Springfield Police Department officers will immediately increase proactive enforcement of excessively loud vehicles by utilizing Springfield municipal ordinance 106-15, which specifically addresses noisy vehicles. The goal of this proactive enforcement is to lower the incidents of drivers creating excessive and unnecessary noise from engines and exhaust systems, lower the number of injury and fatality accidents, and improve the quality of life in Springfield.

The Springfield Police Department wants to remind all drivers to be vigilant and respectful to others on highways, roads, and in neighborhoods.



PTA Clothing Bank back-to-school shopping hours

By Melissa Haase,
Managing Editor

Mark your calendars! The PTA Clothing Bank will open for back-to-school shopping hours Aug. 12, 9 a.m.-noon and 2-6 p.m. Watch the Facebook page at facebook.com/ThePTAClothingBank for updates on additional summer hours.

The PTA Clothing Bank serves the needs of more than 2,000 students each school year through the entire Springfield school district for students K-12. It is located in the Study Alternative Center, 2343 W. Olive Street. There is a separate entrance behind the school, on the northeast side of the building. Look for the double doors with the PTA Clothing Bank sign above the doors.

Donations of gently used clothing (of all sizes) and new socks and underwear are accepted and appreciated.



2019-2024 Neighborhood Works projects to be announced this summer

By Kristen Milam, Public
Information, for SGFNN

The City's Neighborhood Advisory Committee has submitted its final project recommendations to the City Manager for the 2019-2024 round of the Neighborhood Works program. An award announcement for approximately \$600,000-650,000 of available funding is expected early this summer, but was not available by SGF Neighborhood News' print deadline. Please watch sgfneighborhoodnews.com for upcoming project award details and timeline.

Sixteen neighborhood associations took part in mandatory application workshops hosted in December 2020 and January, with more than 16 project applications submitted from 11 neighborhoods. Applications included six parks-related projects, seven traffic engineering projects, two street maintenance projects and one traffic/stormwater/parks combined project.



First launched in 2016 and funded through the 1/4-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 of investment.

Projects for the 2019-2024 program will 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.



Pedestrian safety program SGF Yields wins innovation award

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

SGF Yields, the City's pedestrian safety program, has been named a 2021 Innovation Award recipient by the Missouri Municipal League.

"The Missouri Municipal League is happy to announce that the City of Springfield project SGF Yields – Pedestrian Safety Campaign has won for the Extra Large Cities Category (population more than 30,000) for 2021," said Policy and Membership Associate Ramona Huckstep. "There were 29 applications this year and eight in this category so there was some stiff competition. We would like to congratulate the City of Springfield."

SGF Yields was created by the Public Works and Public Information departments and aims to initiate a cultural change in Springfield toward being more pedestrian-friendly.

The multifaceted and multimedia campaign uses a comprehensive approach involving education, engineering and enforcement initiatives to reach and impact citizens and visitors. The program includes Mr. Walker statue installations at various crosswalks around Springfield, crosswalk compliance assessments by Public Works staff, driver yield checks by the Springfield Police Department, engineering modifications at various crosswalk locations and partnerships with schools and organizations for educational appearances.



Motorists are encouraged to actively watch for pedestrians and yield to them at crosswalks. Pedestrians are urged to travel responsibly – using crosswalks, obeying traffic signals and following other tips to stay safe. Learn more about SGF Yields at springfieldmo.gov/SGFYields.

MML's Innovation Awards program showcases municipal projects that demonstrate new approaches for solving municipal challenges.

The awards, which will be presented at the MML Annual Conference in St. Louis on Sept. 28, complement the league's goal of serving as a clearinghouse for municipal information. The awards recognize and celebrate successful programs, spotlighting those that could benefit other communities.

Community Partnership launches new online rental housing locator

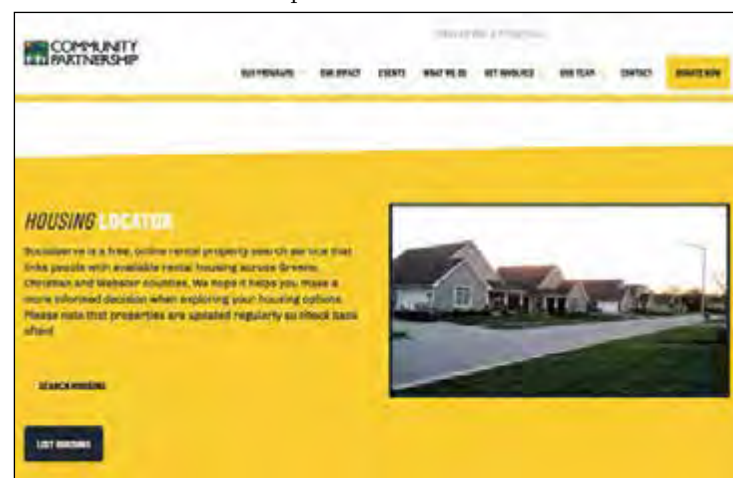
By Rachel Tripp, Community Partnership
of the Ozarks, for SGFNN

There's a new resource in the Springfield region – The Community Partnership Rental Housing Locator. The Rental Housing Locator is a free, searchable registry of affordable housing in Christian, Greene, and Webster counties, provided by Community Partnership of the Ozarks and financial sponsor, OakStar Bank. It's powered by Emphasys Software and supported by the nonprofit bilingual Socialserve Call Center. Socialserve provides professional housing and listing services, assists displaced households in finding new housing, offers waiting list opening support, and gathers housing data. This resource quickly connects people to critical housing and community resources and is a pivotal resource for disaster preparation and recovery.

The Rental Housing Locator has listings of all types of rental housing – market-rate, subsidized, Housing Choice Voucher Program and Veteran vouchers, income-based, senior, accessible, and more. The website is multilingual and ADA Section 508 accessible. There are helpful tools available to help you determine what you can afford to rent, calculate moving costs, and create a budget, as well as a comprehensive and printable rental checklist. No fees or personal information is required to search for housing using this new tool and you may search online or call the toll-free

call center. The locator tool adheres to Fair Housing & Affirmative Marketing best practices and has basic, advanced and accessible search tabs featuring over 20 accessibility feature selections. The Rental Housing Locator can be found on Community Partnership's website at cpozarks.com.

Currently, there are nearly 1,200 units listed in the Springfield region. For landlords and property providers, the Rental Housing Locator is always free to list rental properties. The Socialserve Call Center assists with adding and updating listings and allows for posting unlimited units quickly, at no cost, with user-friendly listing tools. If interested in listing properties go to socialserve.com/cpozarks/ login or call 1-877-428-8844 (toll free) to sign up for a free account and begin listing. If you have any questions or need assistance listing or searching for properties, you may also call Community Partnership of the Ozarks at 417-888-2020.



Neighboring: A practical approach with tangible benefits

By David Burton, for SGFNN

When we think about making a community more robust, we often think of financial or economic gains. However, building social capital through networks and reciprocity impacts our community more.

The single best way to grow social capital is with neighboring.

Current research shows the majority of Americans lack personal relationships. This leads to isolation, depression, and anger. But less than three percent of Americans say they know their neighbors' names, know a fact about them, and have spoken to their neighbors in the last month.

One of the great ways to overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation is developing relationships with our immediate neighbors.

Active neighboring also helps people and communities expand the participation and breadth of voices while respecting differences and embracing the diversity that makes communities vibrant places to live, work, and play.

But neighboring takes effort and time. Turn off Netflix, get up off the couch, and spend more time front-yard living. Make yourself available and



David Burton

allow yourself to be interruptible. Making yourself available is an essential step that opens the door to knowing your immediate neighbors.

Here are specific things you could do this summer to become a more engaged neighbor.

Register for University of Missouri Extension's Neighboring 101 class. These are free Zoom sessions that take place during the noon hour once a month. If you would like to enroll in "Neighboring 101," you can do so at extension.missouri.edu. Search for the class name in the page search bar. You must register in advance to get the class notice or access to past class recordings with our special guests.

Read a good book on neighboring. Let me suggest "The Art of Neighboring" by Dave Runyon, John McKnight's book "The Abundant Community," Kristin Schell's book "The Turquoise Table," Melody Warnick's book "This Is Where You Belong" or Susan Pinker's book "The Village Effect."

Please help us celebrate National Good Neighbor Day on Sept. 28 (first proclaimed by President Jimmy Carter in 1978). This year in Greene County, the plan is to celebrate an entire week (Sept. 26 to Oct. 2) with a 1,000 Acts of Neighboring Challenge. Individuals will be able to submit examples of neighboring during the week and be entered for prizes. We will also present awards for the best examples of neighboring in every community in the county. You can learn more online at extension.missouri.edu.



Boy Scout troops helped Alan and Dawn Edes clear the wooded area behind their home. It happened because Diana Flannigan's son, Scott, wanted to help his neighbors after they suffered two arson fires in 2018.

Neighboring is tangible and practical, and a one person at a time approach has real benefits too. But I cannot do it for you!

In 2019, I discovered that I was not doing a good job of loving my neighbor in my neighborhood. The opposite of love is not hate, it is apathy. When my wife and I changed our approach 24-months ago, we have discovered a "gold mine" of people and backgrounds right around us!

What good things might happen if you truly got to know the people in your neighborhood and they got to know you?

David Burton is the county engagement specialist for University of Missouri Extension in Greene County and coordinator for the new Engaged Neighbor Program. He can be reached by phone at 417-881-8909 or email burtond@missouri.edu.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

It's good to be back in the company of neighbors

By Rusty Worley, for SGFNN

Potlucks. Block parties. Ice cream socials.

After more than a year of social distancing and Zoom meetings, it is good to be back in the company of neighbors. Associations are convening once again in person to engage with one another and find new ways to strengthen the quality of life in their respective areas of Springfield.

The Neighborhood Advisory Council consists of the presidents and representatives of Springfield's 22 registered neighborhoods. NAC meets quarterly with members of City Council and City departments.

Here are six highlights from the May quarterly Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting:

NEIGHBORHOOD WORKS RECOMMENDATIONS

A NAC subcommittee led by Pete Radecki of the Bissett Neighborhood worked closely with Public Works to review applications for Neighborhood Works. A total of 14 capital projects spread across 11 neighborhoods and valued at \$516,450 were recommended for approval to the City. A second application round will be opened up in 2022 to allow neighborhoods to modify the four applications that were determined to be not feasible and bring other initiatives to the table for consideration for the remaining \$483,550 in Neighborhood Works capital funding.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Lt. Mike Lucas of the Springfield Police Department shared that the City has identified four

additional community-oriented policing (COP) officers and the COP officers began returning to in-person neighborhood meetings as the COVID-19 restrictions were phased out as a part of the Road to Recovery protocols.

CLEAN GREEN SPRINGFIELD

Due to the effects of the pandemic and other factors, the City of Springfield and its community partners have received lot of comments and complaints about the amount of trash along roadways. Through interaction with neighborhoods and other civic groups, City staff sensed a burst of energy from the community and willingness to get out, be active and make an impact. To leverage this momentum and give Springfield a boost of positivity coming out of the pandemic, the City formed a multi-departmental team this spring to work alongside community partners and sponsors to develop a menu of ways the community can help clean up and green up Springfield. This initiative has the potential to connect neighborhoods with hundreds of new volunteers to enhance visible corridors throughout Springfield.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT SERVICES UPDATE

New BDS Director Dwayne Shmel provided an update on how the department has been actively filling several new full-time and contracted staff positions to more proactively address chronic nuisance properties. More to come from this critical City department in its partnerships with NAC on addressing blight and problem properties.

RESTORE SGF

Brendan Griesemer shared the progress underway with the new Restore SGF effort to increase the

home ownership rate and enhance the quality of the housing stock in Springfield's historic neighborhoods. Rep. Bill Owen, R-Springfield-Greene County, worked diligently this spring in Jefferson City for approval of a new land bank for the City to assemble tax-delinquent properties and return them to the property tax base. Unfortunately, the legislative session ended before the land bank bill could be presented in either chamber. "We will gear up and go for it next year," Owen said.

A trip is planned this summer for stakeholders to visit Des Moines, Iowa, to learn of their progress in reinvesting in center city neighborhoods.

NAC LEADERSHIP FOR 2021-22

The group unanimously approved the proposed slate of officers for the 2021-22 fiscal year. I will continue as chair and Becky Volz of Woodland Heights will be the vice chair. She is slated to step into the chair position in July 2022. The NAC Nominating Committee will be recruiting candidates for the vice chair position next spring.

As NAC emerges from over a year in the virtual realm, it looks forward to accomplishing even more as its representatives and civic advocates reap the benefits of interacting directly with their fellow neighbors and citizens this summer!



NAC Chair Rusty Worley

Bissett Neighborhood Association Meeting
May 18 at L.A. Wise Park Pavilion



BNA partners with Eden Village 2 neighbors for street cleanup, plans neighborhood yard sale

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

FIRST STREET CLEANUP A SUCCESS

Bissett Neighborhood Association held its first street cleanup of the year on Saturday, April 17. We targeted Hillcrest between Nichols and Chestnut Expressway. Thanks in large measure to volunteers from Eden Village 2, we were able to get most of it cleaned up. These cleanups certainly improve the main entrances to our neighborhood and additional street cleanups are being considered for later this summer/fall. Keep an eye out for them on the BNA Facebook page or Nextdoor. We could always use more volunteers. Come out and show your pride for our neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE

Bissett's "Yard-Zale" is back this year, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, July 17, after last year's cancellation due to COVID-19. If you live in the neighborhood and would like to hold a sale in your yard, contact Russell at 787-246-6416, and he'll get

your sale on the list for day-of-sale flyers and get a yard sale sign put up in your yard. BNA will also handle promotions of the event. If you would like to come out for the sale, just drive into the Bissett neighborhood and look for a "Yard-Zale" yard sign in any of the participating sales. In addition to looking at the cool stuff for sale, you can pick up a map showing addresses of all participating sales. In previous years, there have typically been more than 20 sales, so well worth the drive if you happen to live on the other end of town.

FIRST MASKLESS NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

What a joy it was May 18 to hold a neighborhood association meeting without required masking! It was held outdoors at the L.A. Wise Park Pavilion. Given the number of meetings and events that were cancelled over the last 16 months, the meeting felt a lot like a reunion of long-lost friends! Most of the attendees had not seen each other since before the lockdowns, and all were smiling!

Newly elected City Council and Missouri legislature reps meet with Zone 1 neighborhoods in May

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

Newly elected Zone 1 City Councilwoman Angela Romine and 131st District State Rep. Bill Owen conducted a listening session with representatives of Zone 1 neighborhood associations May 27 at Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church.

The event was organized and hosted by the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association. Twenty-four neighbors representing the Bissett, Doling, Midtown, West Central, Westside, Woodland Heights, Grant Beach and Heart of the Westside neighborhoods were present to outline key concerns and establish strong lines of communication with their new representatives.

As she begins her term on City Council, Councilwoman Romine expressed her commitment to engage with her constituents. "To help the community, I have to get out and listen," she said.

"I thought it went very well, and I've heard the same from everyone I talked to afterward," said Woodland Heights President Becky Volz. "We had leaders from eight of the 10 Zone 1 neighborhoods represented. We have some wonderful neighborhood leaders who are working hard to address and solve issues in our community."

"Many are weary with the length of time it takes to get (truly) dangerous buildings/properties razed.



I, for one, remain optimistic that we will make progress this coming year; that our confidence in working with City staff and City Council will increase and that we will have some of our problems resolved so we can celebrate the collaboration with our neighbors, the council, the Springfield Police Department, the Planning and Neighborhoods team within the Planning and Development department, Building Development Services and all of the organizations that support the residents and neighborhoods in Zone 1. Our challenge will be to create ways to implement our ideas," Volz added.

TOP CONCERNS

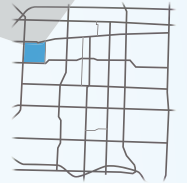
Top concerns expressed by neighbors were nuisance properties, property crimes and squatting.

► See **ZONE 1 REPS MEET WITH NEIGHBORS** in the Woodland Heights section on page 26



Connect

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




Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 13 • Sept. 14: 6:30 p.m. @ L.A. Wise Park Pavilion (3100 W. Nichols St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

Follow Bissett on  

Bissett Neighborhood "Yard-Zale"

July 17: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

If you live in the neighborhood and would like to hold a sale in your yard, contact Russell at 787-246-6416.



Bissett Neighborhood Association's June 5 cleanup at Bissett Elementary School resulted in the collection of 10.26 tons of trash (five trash dumpsters and three yard waste dumpsters filled). We had 14 volunteers and 56 volunteer hours (five of those from the Clean Green Springfield initiative). We served a total of 52 households. BNA received about \$200 in donations and made a little over \$150 for the scrap metal collected (about 1,200 pounds).



Former Heritage Cafeteria property to be redeveloped

Provided Content

Sam M. Coryell, president of Coryell Collaborative Group, and Jennifer Coryell acquired the historic Heritage Cafeteria on March 17 with plans to reimagine the property.

A new development is set to revitalize the location where the Heritage Cafeteria served Springfield for 56 years at 1364 E. Battlefield Road. Coryell Collaborative Group, an acquisition, development and operations management organization will facilitate the development of the vibrant five-story multi-use building. The new development will feature luxury apartment homes with ground-floor retail space for shops, restaurants and other merchants.

The modern style multi-use development will boast 95 luxury apartment homes professionally managed by TLC Properties and will also feature

6,350 square feet of retail space with Battlefield Road frontage. Amenities will include a pool, rooftop fitness center and lounge and common spaces for residents to enjoy. Floor plans will range from micro studios to three-bedrooms with a pet-friendly and smoke-free atmosphere. The strategic acquisition also includes the four store-front business strip directly south of the historic Heritage Cafeteria building.

"The Heritage Cafeteria was a mainstay in Springfield for so many generations and bringing this new development to life will provide the next generations another way to enjoy this iconic spot," Sam Coryell said. "It's only right to reignite this landmark and keep its legacy alive while offering modern apartment homes and a place for businesses to thrive."

The new development is set to break ground in the fall.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer John Van Gorden: 417-864-1140
jvangorden@springfieldmo.gov



Follow Bradford Park on

City constructs intersection safety improvements at National Avenue and Kingsley Street

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Following years of monitoring crash rates and safety concerns at the intersection of National Avenue and Kingsley Street, Springfield Public Works constructed a median to limit left turns onto National Avenue to improve safety at the intersection.

In a recent crash rate analysis, 22 accidents were reported at this intersection over a 30-month period, with 21 crashes being attributed to left turns in the intersection. This number does not include an unknown number of unreported incidents and regularly observed close calls. Although there were no fatalities recorded during this 30-month period, nine of these crashes resulted in injuries.

Public Works constructed a relatively low-cost median, with updated signing and striping, that will prevent left turns onto north and southbound National from Kingsley Street on the east and the private drive on the west. The median will also prohibit traffic crossing National Avenue entirely.

"This is what we call a three-quarter access or 'left-in, right-in, right-out' only," explains Traffic Engineer Brett Foster. "It still allows traffic to flow in and out but restricts the risky and often impractical left-turns out attempted there. These improvements will help reduce loss of property, personal injury and make this area much safer for all who use it."

Several alternative options exist to access north or southbound National Avenue.

From the west (Shared access drive):

- Drivers can utilize shared access driveways to make a left-turn at Republic Road, then head north on National.
- Motorists can also take a right turn at National Avenue, turn left at Republic Road, then use Fremont Avenue to head north.

From the east (Kingsley Street):

- Motorists wanting to go south on National can travel east on Kingsley Street to Fremont Avenue, where they can travel south.

The project was completed with Public Works Street Operations crews and cost less than \$10,000, funded through the 1/4-Cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax Traffic Calming Program.



Top: Eighty-eight tomato plants went in the ground at Amanda Belle's Farm in early May. **Bottom:** The pack shed at Amanda Belle's farm arrived in late May. Thank you to the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Food Insecure Urban Agriculture Matching Grant Program for their funding of \$25,000 to make this possible. If you're interested in volunteering at Amanda Belle's or any of the Springfield Community Gardens visit springfieldcommunitygardens.org/volunteer. Photos: Springfield Community Gardens.



Springfield Fire Department breaks ground for new Fire Station 4

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The Springfield Fire Department broke ground for the new Fire Station 4, April 27 at 2423 N. Delaware.

Fire Station 4 is located on the boundary of the Doling and Robberson neighborhoods. The old station was demolished March 26 to make way for the rebuilt station, which will be operational in about a year. The old station, which was built in 1968, had long exceeded its usefulness.

"We look forward to replacing this station with a modern facility and equipment," said Fire Chief David Pennington.

Funding for the new station, which will cost \$2,971,016, will be provided by the voter-approved Level Property Tax, which was renewed by Springfield voters in 2017.

"We are keeping our promise to Springfield voters," Pennington said.

The tax, which generates about \$8.5 million per year, will also fund the replacement of Fire Station 7, which was built in 1958 at 2129 E. Sunshine, and two new stations: Fire Station 13 in the 1900 block of West College in the West Central neighborhood and Fire Station 14 at the northeast corner of West Chestnut Expressway and North Duke Avenue.

Construction for station 13 will begin later this year and is expected to be completed in late 2022. Demolition and construction for station 7 will begin in spring 2022 and be operational by 2023. Full design services, bidding and construction for station 14 is planned as part of the 2026 bond package made possible by the Level Property Tax.

"I am very excited about building two new fire stations in underserved areas of Springfield, both of which have high fire risk," said Pennington. "These new stations will reduce the amount of travel time for our fire crews to reach emergencies in these areas."

Big Shots Golf opens ahead of schedule

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The much-anticipated O'Reilly Hospitality Management-affiliated Big Shots Golf opened ahead of schedule May 17 at the corner of Kearney Street and Glenstone Avenue.

The facility features 56 driving-range bays on two stories with 3,500 square feet of event space, a golf academy for year-round training, full service restaurant and bar and an array of amenities for avid golfers and non-golfers alike and fun seekers of all ages, according to its website.

The facility is led by General Manager Brian Inman, who most recently served as the general manager of DoubleTree by Hilton in Springfield, a property also owned by O'Reilly Hospitality, LLC.

"I'm excited about this career change," Inman said, in an August 2020 press release. "I'll get to hit a bucket of balls any time I want."

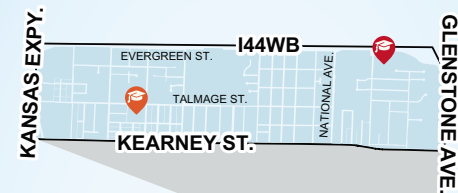
"Brian is one of the strongest leaders in our company, and this will be a great new challenge for him to build a new team that will bring a dynamic and fun filled experience to southwest Missouri," said CEO Tim O'Reilly. "This will be a game changer for our area and Brian is just the person to lead the charge for us."



ABOUT BIG SHOTS GOLF

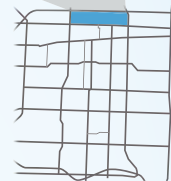
Owned by Club Corp, BigShots Golf is a tech-driven entertainment and culinary experience offering fun for all ages and skill levels.

Venues offer approachable virtual golf games and entertainment activities, scratch kitchens that bring bold flavor and unexpected items, plus signature cocktails, craft beer and wine. In addition, indoor and outdoor lounge seating, sports bars, mini golf, outdoor patios and private event spaces provide the ideal atmosphere to hang out with families and friends. Players can compete in their own hitting bays, with other players at the same venue, or in real-time with players at other BigShots Golf locations through Live Play.™



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 13 • Aug. 10 • Sept. 14: 6:45 – 8 p.m. @ Hillcrest Presbyterian Church (818 E. Norton Road)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Nathan Feters: 417-874-2537
nfeters@springfieldmo.gov



Fremont Elementary School
2814 N. Fremont Ave.

Watkins Elementary School
732 W. Talmage St.

Follow Doling on  

dolingneighborhood.com

Mobile Library Stop

Delivering books, movies and CDs to your neighborhood. Service is limited to Holds Pickup and Returns

Wednesdays: 3-3:30 p.m.

Glenwood Manor (2540 N. Delaware Ave.)





Grassroots Lone Pine Bike Park gets boost from Hatch Foundation, Ozark Greenways

By Melissa Haase, for SGFNN

The Hatch Foundation has awarded Ozark Greenways a \$255,000 grant to develop the Lone Pine Bike Park and Greenspace project. The park, which is located in the wooded area between the Galloway Creek Trail and Lone Pine Avenue west of Southern Hills Boulevard, got its start as a grassroots effort by mountain bikers from the Brentwood and Southern Hills neighborhoods, according to Ozark Greenways Executive Director Mary Kromrey.

Kromrey said back in 2019, she heard that mountain bikers were creating bike trails out of the dirt trails in that area off the Galloway Creek Trail north of Sequiota Park. She added that their efforts really took off in the spring of 2020 when people were staying home during the pandemic. She met with some of the bikers last summer and wanted to continue the work they started, later holding mapping and visioning sessions to collect additional input about what the park could be.

"This amazing investment by the Hatch Foundation will bring many of the ideas from the mapping and visioning sessions to reality, including construction of up to three new miles of trail, trail features including a hub, refinement of some of the existing trails, significant ecological restoration to reduce stormwater runoff and soil erosion and improvements to the area with native trees, shrubs, grasses, and trail signs and kiosks," she said.

The park can be accessed via the Galloway Creek



Trail. Parking is available at Sequiota Park, 3500 S. Lone Pine, in front of Pershing Middle School at 2713 E. Seminole, or at the Battlefield shopping center at Lone Pine and Battlefield.

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE

Phase 1 of development will take place through December, with a primary focus on new trail construction in the large open field. Watershed Conservation Corps will be working in the woods on ecological restoration/improvements.

Phase 2 of development will take place January-May 2022, with a primary focus on refining and rerouting some of the existing trails in the woods. Watershed Conservation Corps will shift to working in the field. The corps will provide maintenance of the native trees and grasses for the next year.

No special election in Galloway rezoning case

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Greene County Circuit Court Judge David Jones ruled May 24 in favor of developer Elevation Enterprises LLC in a lawsuit filed against the City of Springfield and City Council to block an election asking voters whether a property across the street from Sequiota Park should be rezoned for a 100-unit apartment complex and business development. The judge agreed to stop a planned Aug. 3 election and found that a zoning referendum process outlined in the City Charter conflicts with state law.

That petition process had allowed Galloway Village Neighborhood Association members to collect more than 2,700 signatures and submit them to the City, asking City Council to reverse its September 2020 decision to rezone the property or put the question to rezone it before voters.

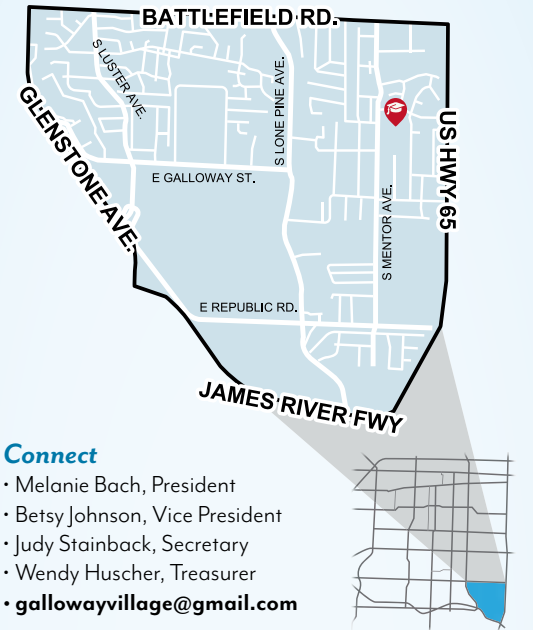
Council opted to call an election, but Elevation Enterprises' lawyer wrote in court documents



the petition should be invalid because it didn't explicitly seek a vote.

City Attorney Rhonda Lewsader said the decision confirmed the City's position that a contradiction exists in the City Charter. The contradiction is between the Charter section outlining the process for referendums and the Charter section detailing zoning procedures. State law also dictates procedures for zoning property that are in conflict with the City Charter's referendum procedure.

▶ See [GALLOWAY REZONING](#) on page 14



Connect

- Melanie Bach, President
- Betsy Johnson, Vice President
- Judy Stainback, Secretary
- Wendy Huscher, Treasurer
- gallowayvillage@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 20 • Oct. 19: 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 John Van Gorden: 417-864-1140
jvangorden@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow Galloway Village on 
gallowayvillage.org

Neighborhood Cleanup

Coming Fall 2021

Galloway Baptist Church

Check gallowayvillage.org for updates.



At its March 22 meeting, Springfield City Council approved the Springfield-Greene County Park Board's proposal to add nearly 16 acres to historic Sequiota Park in southeast Springfield. Read more about the park expansion at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

► **GALLOWAY REZONING** from page 13

"City Council did what they felt was best in the difficult situation of receiving a zoning referendum when Charter provisions conflict with state law. This decision makes clear that repealing rezoning through a general election would conflict with state law," Lewsader said.



Artist's rendering of Elevation Enterprises' planned mixed-use development known as Treadway's.

If the City sought to address the conflict in the Charter, the issue would need to go to a vote of the people. An attempt to address this conflict went to a vote in 1994, but voters defeated the suggested fix. Lewsader said there has not been a decision whether to take this before voters again.

"In this case, all parties had ample time and opportunity to express their opinions about the original proposed rezoning request, and the matter came before both the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council, with public hearings held in front of both," she said.

The Galloway Village Neighborhood Association, which in the spring was granted a motion to intervene in the lawsuit, is appealing Jones' May 24 ruling. The neighborhood association filed a motion to expedite the appeal in an effort to get a court order to put the referendum on the Aug. 3 ballot, but it was denied.

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 brentwoodsgf.org or contact an officer for dates, times and locations.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Lauren Witty: 417-864-1321
lwitty@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.



Kirkwood Park (S. Glendale Ave. & Seminole St.)

DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 6 • Aug. 3 • Sept. 7 • Oct. 5: 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 Lauren Witty: 417-864-1321
lwitty@springfieldmo.gov



Delaware Elementary School
1505 S. Delaware Ave.

Follow Delaware on



Delaware crowd-sources funds for neighborhood mural

By Jeff Brossard-Sims, for SGFNN

The Delaware Neighborhood Association is raising money to beautify our neighborhood by having a mural painted on the wall to the northwest side of Portland and Glenstone, just as you enter the neighborhood. We have been given permission to paint this wall and the board has approved the project.

The picture above is the wall to be painted. It is located directly behind the new Casey's on Portland, across the street from the butterflies on the Lost and Found building. The below picture is an artist's rendering of what the mural will look like. Being that our logo is the dogwood flower, this is a wonderful way to enhance the entrance into the neighborhood on Portland.

Rather than taking this money out of our association's general fund, the board voted to create a GoFundMe fundraiser for this project with a goal of \$2,000 by May 31.



SUMMER GUIDE



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



The Department of Environmental Services protects the natural resources and public health of our City and region for current and future generations by providing effective and integrated management of stormwater, wastewater, and solid waste.



STORM WATER

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

STORMWATER QUALITY
SpringfieldMO.gov/stormwater
417-864-1996

**WATERWAY
WELLNESS**



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
SpringfieldMO.gov/sewer
417-864-1923

**SEWER
SATISFACTION**



SOLID WASTE

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

RECYCLING HOTLINE
SpringfieldMO.gov/solidwaste
417-864-1904

**RECYCLE
RIGHT**

WATERWAY WELLNESS

From our streams and to our sinks. Practicing responsible water stewardship helps to minimize and reduce the amount of pollutants that enter our waterways through the groundwater and our storm drains. This is important because the water that goes into our storm drains is not sent to a treatment plant to be cleaned and treated. In fact, that water will go downstream and be someone else's drinking water.

RAKE & BAG YOUR YARD WASTE

Leaves, trimmed grass, branches (big or small) and even dirt are not intended to be collected and channeled to our waterways via the City's storm drain system. Rake your yard waste and bring it to one of our three recycling centers. Larger branches are only accepted at the Yardwaste Recycling Center located at 3790 S. Farm Rd. 119.



PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS

Poo-lution exists! Pet poop can be seen as "part of nature" but not only can it take awhile to decompose, it is smelly, an eyesore and potentially a breeding ground of bacteria and disease. Simply put, it's just not safe to leave on the ground. Take a bag with when you go on a walk and remember to Scoop the Poop!



STAY CLEAN AND GREEN

Our Clean Green Springfield campaign was a tremendous success with over 19 tons of litter collected from our streets and waterways throughout April and May. Let's keep the momentum going! Keeping litter out of our streets and waterways is a year round effort. Read more on page 4 of this issue of SGF Neighborhood News and for more information on how to continue the effort visit www.cleangreensgf.com.

NO BUTTS ABOUT IT

If you smoke, don't flick your butt. Put it out and place in an ash tray or can. Once the fear of fire potential is eliminated, these should be disposed of in the trash. This is better than polluting our streets, sidewalks and streams with litter. In fact, cigarette butts are considered the highest volume form of litter.



LEARN MORE AT SpringfieldMO.gov/stormwater

SEWER SATISFACTION

From our sinks and into our streams. We send a lot of icky things down our pipes and drains. Human waste and toilet paper are gross, but our sewers and treatment plants are designed for these sorts of pollutants. However, many more items make their way to the treatment plants or in many cases, get clogged and congealed on their way. Of course, the water that carries those things to our treatment plants is a resource that we work hard to clean and disinfect for release back into our waterways for future use.

FOUND IN THE FLUSHER

It's easy to flush things down the drain and forget about them.

A lot of times, those forgotten memories resurface in the form of a wet mess of overflowed water from a clogged sanitary sewer lateral (the pipe that connects a property owner's home to the City's sewer system). At each of the wastewater treatment plants we find a variety of items that are filtered out during the process that should have never been flushed.



DO NOT FLUSH THESE ITEMS

- FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS
- "FLUSHABLE" WIPES
- COTTON SWABS
- TOOTHPASTE CONTAINERS
- CONTACTS
- DENTAL FLOSS & PICKS
- MEDICATION & PILLS
- FORMS OF BIRTH CONTROL
- PET FISH (OR ANY PET)
- HAIR



NO WIPES IN THE PIPES

They say they are flushable; and technically, that is true. However, once they are flushed, they can take years to decompose. This can cause clogs in the property owner's sewer lateral and also the City's sewer main. When mixed with greases, fats and oils in the sewer, they congeal and harden and create serious blockages and infrastructure damage. The best way to avoid these issues is by throwing them in the trash along with household cleaning wipes, diapers, and feminine hygiene products.

LEARN MORE AT [SPRINGFIELDMO.GOV/WASTEWATER](https://springfieldmo.gov/wastewater)

RECYCLE RIGHT

Everything that is placed inside your trash can ends up in a landfill, presumably forever.

In fact, nearly 70% of the materials sent to our City landfill could have been recycled. Recycling is a vital step in waste reduction, and it's up to each of us to ensure that we're recycling and recycling right. Sometimes items make their way into the recycle bin when they don't belong or are too dirty to be recycled. This causes contamination, ruining an entire batch of recyclables. Knowing what is recyclable and the steps to recycle right will help to ensure that your items can be processed and on their way to a new life!

NOT ALL PLASTIC IS RECYCLABLE

Sure, it looks like plastic, smells like plastic and maybe it even tastes like plastic.

First of all, do not taste the plastic! Secondly, if there is no recycling symbol with the numbers 1-7, then sadly, it can't be recycled. This includes some summer fun items we use regularly, like hoses, kid's sprinklers, squirt guns, lawn chairs, 6-pack rings and even plastic kiddie pools.

RINSE BEFORE RECYCLING

Current estimates suggest that only about 1/5 of plastic is recycled. Worse yet is the fact that so much of the material can't be recycled because of contamination. One way to help our community eliminate this problem is if it had food or drink in it and can be recycled, then give it a rinse to remove the food before tossing in the bin.

DON'T GUESS WHEN IT COMES TO RECYCLING!

Wish-cycling is the practice of tossing questionable items into the recycle bin, hoping they are recyclable. This wastes time and money in the processing of recyclables, and inevitably can create more waste as these items can contaminate an entire load of recyclables. Common wish-cycling items include paper plates, shredded paper, pizza boxes, tissue paper, drinking glasses, stemware, deli meats and cheese bags, ceramic and porcelain dishware.

GET TANGLED UP IN RECYCLING!

Just don't allow the recycling to get tangled up. "Tanglers" is the name we give to items like plastic bags, hoses, electrical cords, stringed lighting and textiles. These items are not recyclable and are a major source of machine malfunctions at recycling facilities. These are best disposed of in the trash or can be taken to one of the local electronic recyclers. Call before arrival.

RECYCLING LOCATIONS NEAR YOU!



YARDWASTE RECYCLING CENTER

3790 S. FARM RD 119



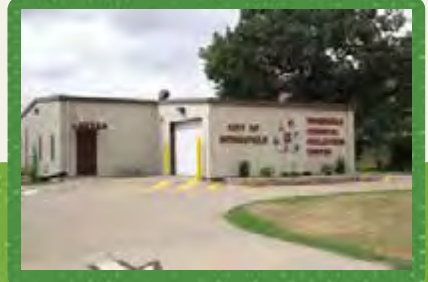
FRANKLIN AVENUE

731 N. FRANKLIN AVE.



LONE PINE

3020 S. LONE PINE AVE.



HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL COLLECTION CENTER

1226 W. NICHOLS ST.

LEARN MORE AT [SPRINGFIELDMO.GOV/RECYCLE](https://springfieldmo.gov/recycle)



Youth Sports Program returns in Grant Beach

By Kathy Lutz, for SGFNN

Grant Beach Neighborhood Association is happy to announce the return of the Grant Beach's low-cost Youth Sports Program with soccer in the spring and fall.

Fall soccer will begin on Sept. 20. Children 3 through fifth grade can participate and the cost is \$10 per child.

Mark your calendar for the following sign-up dates.

- Friday, Aug. 20 at Grant Beach's Neighborhood Night Out: 6-10 p.m. at Grant Beach Park.
- Saturday, Aug. 28: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hovey House, 800 W. Hovey St.

- Saturday, Sept. 11: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hovey House.

There are also forms on the door at Hovey House. Completed forms may be dropped off in the locked box on the front porch at Hovey House.

If you would like to coach a team or referee, please contact Pauletta Dunn at 417-880-2453. We always need coaches! Coaches, referees and concessions volunteers must pass a background check by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

For more information, check out our Facebook page, Grant Beach Sports. If games are cancelled for any reason, it will be posted on the Grant Beach Sports Facebook page.

Volunteers needed for Richard's Roots, Grant Beach's community garden

By Kathy Lutz, for SGFNN

If you enjoy gardening or spending time outdoors, please consider volunteering in our garden. There is always something that needs done in the garden.

If you are interested, contact Peggy Wissmueller at 417-619-4726 or Lori Ross at 417-227-0576.

If you have a garden and extra produce, you are welcome to leave it in the kiosk at Hovey House, 800 W. Hovey St. I guarantee that the produce will be picked up and used quickly.



Grant Beach's community garden was renamed Richard's Roots in memory of Richard Napieralski, who passed away in August 2019.

Richard was an avid gardener (his entire backyard was a garden). Richard also helped establish the Grant Beach produce distribution, which provided fruits and vegetables to

those who signed up. Richard had been a member of the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association for over a decade, having served as our treasurer many years ago.

Grant Beach creates Housing/Property Concerns Committee

By James Norman, for SGFNN

The mission of the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association's Housing/Property Concerns Committee is to make the neighborhood a better place for our neighbors and to increase safety in our neighborhood.

If you are interested in getting involved in the committee and working with us to find solutions to code violations or have questions or concerns about a property, contact us at GBNAConcerns@gmail.com.



Mark your calendar for Grant Beach Neighborhood Night Out Aug. 20

By Kathy Lutz, for SGFNN

Come out and have fun with us! COVID-19 kept us from having our annual event last year, but this year we will have our party in the park!

Grant Beach Neighborhood Association will host the annual Neighborhood Night Out 6-10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20 at Grant Beach Park.

We will have free food, music, lots of vendor tables, a cake walk, auction, door prizes and more! Check our Facebook page (Grant Beach Neighborhood Association) or our Facebook group (GBNA Grant Beach) for more information to come.

We hope to see you there!



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

July 19 • Aug. 16 • Sept. 20: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m./ 6 p.m. optional potluck @ St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall (1115 N. Campbell Ave.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

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

Follow Grant Beach on   
grantbeachneighborhood.org

Mobile Library Stop

Delivering books, movies and CDs to your neighborhood. Service is limited to Holds Pickup and Returns

Thursdays: 5:50-6:30 p.m.
The Fairbanks (1126 N. Broadway Ave.)



Missouri Job Center North located at The Fairbanks (1126 N. Broadway Ave.)



Final phase of Republic Road Widening at Campbell Avenue to begin this fall

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City is set to begin the final phase of Republic Road widening later this year, providing traffic capacity and safety improvements along one of the busiest retail corridors in Springfield.

The project will include the widening of Republic Road from three lanes to five lanes between Fairview Avenue and the traffic signal at Chase, including sidewalk and Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades, stormwater improvements and the addition of bike lanes. Improvements will be constructed at the intersections of Republic Road and Campbell Avenue and Republic Road and the driveway at Chase, including upgrades to traffic signals.

Construction will also extend north on Campbell Avenue, including updates to stormwater and utility infrastructure. The project is designed to provide better integration between Republic Road and the James River Freeway interchange.

Public Works anticipates having a contractor selected this summer with construction potentially beginning by fall. Traffic impacts can be expected throughout construction, which is estimated to last between eight and 12 months. The public will be notified of specific impacts as work begins and details become available.

"This is a really complicated improvement project due to its proximity to James River Freeway, the number of properties surrounding the intersections and the amount of utilities in place to support those businesses." – Andrew Flippin

Approved by voters in the 2016 cycle of the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax, the project timeline has been delayed due to necessary coordination with property owners, MoDOT and City Utilities.

"This is a really complicated improvement project due to its proximity to James River Freeway, the number of properties surrounding the intersections and the amount of utilities in place to support those businesses," explains project manager Andrew Flippin. "The design phase took longer than we expected, but by working together, we'll be able to deliver a better product in the long run."

The project includes a cost share with MoDOT, with a total estimated cost of \$4 million.



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



There's a story behind the columns of Village Green

By Judy Wyrick, for SGFNN

Tucked away in the southwest part of Springfield is a beautiful subdivision named Village Green, which is part of the Greater Parkcrest registered neighborhood. Village Green has two columns at the intersection of Broadway and Walnut Lawn as you enter the subdivision, and that is where this story begins.

If you have been around long enough and are familiar with the area, you have heard the columns called many names – castles, concrete pillars, columns and "those two white things at the end of Broadway," to name a few. Kids have played on and around them for years on their way to and from Horace Mann Elementary.

Several years ago, a young man missed the curve and ran into one of the columns with his car. Only then did we find out that the bricks that make



up the columns had been specially made here in Springfield. When those of us helping the company put the column back together, we found out that those bricks were no longer being made on a regular basis! Thankfully, the company agreed to make the bricks for us to fix the column.

When it was completed, we painted it white again for a while and then a soft green with only the letters "V" and "G" painted in black and we added solar lights. In May, we began another refresh for the columns, which included a new paint job and letters. The refresh was completed in June.



Community Garden at Wesley United Methodist Church (922 W. Republic Rd.) The garden is located on the south side of the church property and includes 28 raised beds, a large in-ground donation bed, a 20-fruit tree orchard, 130 feet of blackberry vines, a Kid's Korner with popcorn, peppers, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, watermelon and cantaloupe. The raised beds are available to rent. Nearly two tons of produce is contributed each year to partner organizations in the community to help feed the hungry. The garden team is always seeking additions to its team of volunteers. Photo: Wesley Church (facebook.com/WesleyChurchSGF)



Mark Twain Neighborhood Cleanup has unintentional benefits

By Anna Meyer and Samantha Spartan, for SGFNN

On the trash-covered surface, neighborhood cleanups are about getting rid of unwanted junk and picking up litter. But underneath the debris, the value is even greater.

The recent Mark Twain Neighborhood cleanup resulted in seven trash dumpsters (14.5 tons) of discarded trash, 2.1 tons of metal, three brush dumpsters and 2,400 pounds of paper shredded. This included 104 neighbors participating, 22 household pickups, 19 volunteers and an overwhelming amount of community banding together. After a long year of hardship and isolation, reconnecting with old neighbors and meeting new was an unintentional positive in addition to cleaning up spaces. The pride felt within our community making our streets clean and prosperous-looking also had concrete benefits.

"Sunset Church of Christ was thrilled to host this event for our community. In a world where love for neighbor seems to be on the decline, our desire is to be a people who honor God and love fellow humans." – Phillip Bates

Mark Twain is lucky to have the Sunset Church of Christ as our host for our monthly meetings.



Phillip Bates, preaching minister, said, "Sunset Church of Christ was thrilled to host this event for our community. In a world where love for neighbor seems to be on the decline, our desire is to be a people who honor God and love fellow humans. We hope to continue our involvement in the Mark Twain Neighborhood through regular service opportunities that meet the physical and spiritual needs of our community."

As a registered neighborhood, these organized cleanups are free for everyone within the neighborhood. This gives residents the opportunity to dispose (for free!) yard waste and other debris trash haulers will not accept, or only accept for a fee. Those piles of window panes, shingles and siding, bulky furniture – oftentimes a breeding ground for pests – were disposed of by drop-off or pickup, and in many cases repurposed or recycled to keep debris out of landfills.

Any registered neighborhood can benefit from this kind of organized cleanup. One person's trash cleanup is everyone's treasure.



Connect

- Samantha Spartan, President: 417-812-6067 or marktwainassociation@gmail.com
- Stacy Letterman, Secretary
- Rebecca Welsh, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 13 • Aug. 10 • Sept. 14 • Oct. 12: 6:30 p.m.
@ Sunset Church of Christ (1222 W. Sunset St.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



 **Mark Twain Elementary**
2352 S. Weaver Ave.

Follow Mark Twain on  

Mark Twain Neighborhood Association Board Election

Coming in August

Positions available: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, four zone representatives



"If you have driven through a major intersection in the neighborhood, you have probably noticed our new signs. We are so excited to finally have them up!"
– Samantha Spartan

SPLASH & SIZZLE

Discount Pool Admission



Admission is \$1 or **FREE** with canned food donation at all outdoor pools.
Daily 5:30-6:30 p.m. • Donations benefit Ozarks Food Harvest



ParkBoard.org/Aquatics





Second phase of Central Street corridor improvements begin this summer

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Construction to continue "complete street" improvements along the Central Street corridor are set to begin this summer with the goal to provide a system for all modes of transportation in a pedestrian-heavy area of the city.

The project involves converting Central Street to a "complete street" between Benton Avenue and Clay Avenue with a multi-use path along the north side of Central and a sidewalk on the south side. Intersection and signal improvements will be made at Central Street and Drury Lane. Underground stormwater infrastructure will also be included as well as the installation of a small rain garden at Central and Clay to help improve water quality. Gas, water, electrical and fiberoptic utilities will be updated within the project boundaries.

Phase I of the project made "complete street" improvements along Central Street from Clay Avenue to National Avenue, redirecting traffic around Ozarks Technical Community College Campus via Pythian Avenue. The project installed a roundabout at Central and Sherman and included various pedestrian facilities. Phase II of the project will continue these improvements and carry them west through the Drury University campus. Future phases will eventually connect vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists to Central High School and the City Government Complex.



Considering Central Street bisects the Drury University campus, the City worked closely with the university throughout the project design process to plan around on-going facility construction and to ensure it aligns with Drury's established master plan. The project will incorporate on-street parking, decorative street lighting and a grass-covered median throughout the extent of the project.

The City has selected contractor D&E Plumbing & Heating, Inc. to complete the work. The project is expected to cost \$2.1 million and will be funded through the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax with reimbursements from City Utilities for the utility upgrades. Completion is anticipated by the end of the year.

North Summit house built in 1915 selected for Midtown Home of the Month in May

Provided by Midtown Neighborhood Association Facebook Page

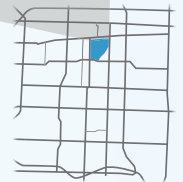
Congratulations to Danny and Mabel Schlink for being chosen as Midtown's Home of the Month for May! This home at 1352 N. Summit was built circa 1915.

The Schlinks renovated the home in 2017 and moved in the same year. Danny is a local restaurateur while Mabel spends her time gardening and reading romance novels in her lovely backyard.



Connect

- Dylan Chorce, President
- Brian Shipman, Vice President
- Ronald Ives, Secretary
- Marie Wood, Treasurer
- midtown.sgf@gmail.com
- 417-501-9732



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Aug. 9 • Sept. 13: Board meeting (open to the public) 5:30-6:30 p.m. General membership meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. We are currently meeting via ZOOM. If you would like a link to attend a meeting, send an email to midtown.sgf@gmail.com.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Boyd Elementary School
1409 N. Washington Ave.

Central High School
423 E. Central St.

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

The 30th annual Old-Fashioned 4th of July Parade & Celebration Saturday, July 3 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

This year's theme: "A Little Old, A Little New, Red, White & Blue We Celebrate you!"

Parade starts at Drury University at 10 a.m. and ends at Washington Park (1600 N. Summit Ave.) where the celebration continues until 1 p.m.

More Information at [Facebook.com/midtownsgf](https://www.facebook.com/midtownsgf).



Progress at the new Boyd Elementary construction site
Photo: Springfield Public Schools

HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Anna Pageler, President:
417-343-8290
- Glenn Gohr, Secretary/Treasurer:
• theheartofthewestside@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 13 • Sept. 14: 6 – 7 p.m. @ Passion Assembly of God (806 N. Forest Ave.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



York Elementary School
2100 W. Nichols St.

Follow Heart of the Westside on

Mobile Library Stop

Delivering books, movies and CDs to your neighborhood. Service is limited to Holds Pickup and Returns

Tuesdays: 3:10-3:45 p.m.

York Elementary Area (2100 W. Nichols St.)



The Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Cleanup on March 27 resulted in the disposal of nearly 21 tons of trash. Twenty-six volunteers also showed up to help. Thanks to Passions Assembly of God Church, First Free Will Baptist Church, and Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Shannon Medley, President
- Diane Kent, Vice President
- Jeremy Medley, Secretary
- Donna Clarkson, Treasurer
• meadorparkna@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 22 • Aug. 26 • Sept. 23: 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 John Van Gorden: 417-864-1140
jvangorden@springfieldmo.gov



Cowden Elementary School
2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.

Follow Meador Park on

Upcoming Neighborhood Events

Meet Your Neighbors BBQ

July 24 • Meador Park

Bass Pro Cheer Tent

Nov. 1

Check out the Meador Park Neighborhood Association Facebook Group for the latest information.



National Night Out Returns to Meador Park!

Aug. 3 • 4-7 p.m.

OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Lauren Witty: 417-864-1321
lwitty@springfieldmo.gov



Pittman Elementary School
2934 E. Bennett St.

Follow Oak Grove on
ogna.weebly.com

Mobile Library Stop

Delivering books, movies and CDs to your neighborhood. Service is limited to Holds Pickup and Returns

Wednesdays: 6-6:30 p.m.

Country Club Village Apartments
(Wildan & Cinderella Streets)



Crews from Springfield Public Works and Environmental Services visited Alice Pittman Elementary School for Career Day on May 26 to show off their trucks, demo equipment and talk about the important jobs they do every day for our community.



Springfield Art Museum breaks ground on Phase I of 30-Year Master Plan

By Joshua Best, Springfield Art Museum, for SGFNN

The Springfield Art Museum is pleased to announce that Phase I improvements to the museum's grounds are underway. In 2018, the museum commissioned award-winning architecture firm, BNIM to produce a 30-year Master Plan for its building and grounds. The goal of this plan was to reimagine the museum during its 90th anniversary year as a 21st century civic asset by expanding educational and public programming space and creating strong physical and aesthetic connections between the museum grounds, an adjacent public park, and a greenway trail. While the scope of the master plan was limited to the museum's building and grounds, it was to be understood in the context of a larger, multi-phased plan to link the museum to other parts of the community through parks and trails.

"We are so inspired by the museum's 90 years of service to our community, and excited about the next 90 years, and we invite you to join us on this journey as we create something beautiful and artful for our community and the Ozarks region." – Nick Nelson

Phase I of this master plan includes improvements to the museum's grounds including widening and naturalizing Fassnight Creek, which flows through a concrete channel directly south of the museum, to mitigate flooding risk to the museum. Phase I will also include creating trail connections to nearby amenities including the Waterwise Garden south



Construction for the Fassnight Creek Stormwater Improvement Project, part of the Springfield Art Museum's Master Plan, began in March.



Rendering from the Springfield Art Museum's 30-Year Master Plan

of the museum and Phelps Grove Park to the west of the museum. Parking will be relocated and expanded on the north side of the museum grounds to create additional greenspace for the museum's WPA-era amphitheater located on the western edge of the grounds.

Phase I improvements are estimated to cost \$3 million and are fully funded through a mix of public and private investment. The active construction project has closed Brookside Drive to through traffic for an estimated seven months. The museum remains open to the public. Visitors to the museum should utilize Bennett Street and the north parking lot entrance. Museum Director Nick Nelson says, "We are so inspired by the museum's 90 years of service to our community, and excited about the next 90 years, and we invite you to join us on this journey as we create something beautiful and artful for our community and the Ozarks region."



Rendering from the Springfield Art Museum's 30-Year Master Plan

In lieu of a traditional ground-breaking ceremony, the museum held a small socially distanced event and worked with Opfer Communications to produce a video and virtual ground-breaking to explain the impact of this project on the museum's next 90 years of service to the community. You can view the virtual ground-breaking at: youtube.com/watch?v=MOHHPObmdes. Learn more about the museum's visionary 30-year Master Plan by visiting: sgfmuseum.org/258/30-year-Master-Plan.

The Springfield Art Museum is located at 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Admission is always free. Donations are gratefully accepted.



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



Follow Phelps Grove on [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)
phelpsgrove.com

Phelps Grove/University Heights cleanup results in disposal of more than 19 tons of trash

By Jan Peterson, for SGFNN

We hauled off a serious amount of trash! Thanks to everyone who volunteered and to everyone who got rid of their stuff! Also a big thank-you to our street team who took care of tidying our streets.

- 118 households served (attendees and curbsides total)
- 24 volunteers (11 of those volunteers were with Clean Green Springfield)
- 10 total dumpsters pulled (Seven trash and three brush) – 19.01 tons of trash total.
- 1.74 tons of scrap metal recycled.

We got rid of more than 8 tons in October, so this is a dramatic increase. Yay, team!





Traffic-calming improvements at Cherry and Pickwick to be complete by fall

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Construction on long-anticipated traffic calming and pedestrian improvements at Cherry Street and Pickwick Avenue began June 14, with project completion expected in October.

Improvements will extend along Cherry Street 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 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 functions as a busy secondary arterial in Springfield's roadway network. The goals of the project are to slow down traffic, create a safer and more inviting environment for pedestrians and also contribute to the growing 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.

Traffic flow through the work zone will be limited to a single lane of westbound traffic for a large portion of the project duration. Eastbound traffic is advised to follow the marked detour. Sidewalks will also be impacted, as crews work to replace and enhance pedestrian offerings in the area. Residents can expect complete nighttime closures of Cherry Street for utility work and a week-long closure near the end of the project for the installation of crosswalks.

In late May, following weeks of steady rainfall, a



Public Works Street Operations crews install a new stormwater pipe across Cherry and repairs the roadway following sinkhole damage in late May.

small sinkhole opened up in the roadway on Cherry Street, just east of the intersection of Cherry and Pickwick. Public Works responded to assess the damage and determine a temporary repair plan prior to the Memorial Day weekend. The sinkhole caused damage to stormwater infrastructure underneath Cherry. Street Operations crews later mobilized to install a new stormwater pipe across Cherry Street and complete a permanent repair.

Sinkholes are relatively common in Springfield due to the region's karst topography. On average, the City responds to over 30 sinkholes per year, most of which are relatively small and easily repaired.

The Cherry and Pickwick Intersection and Traffic Calming Project is estimated to cost approximately \$170,000 and will be funded through the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax Alternative Transportation program. City Utilities will be funding utility renewal work throughout the project area. The City has contracted with D&E Plumbing & Heating to complete the work.



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

July 20 • Aug. 17 • Sept. 21: 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 Lauren Witty: 417-864-1321
lwitty@springfieldmo.gov



Rountree Elementary School
1333 Grand St.

Follow Rountree on
routreenews.org



Pickwick Street Fair June 5. Photo: Abe McGull



The home at 1125 S. Delaware Ave., owned by Laura McCaskill and known as the Fairbanks House, was designated as a Springfield Historic Site by Springfield City Council, after nomination by the Landmarks Board in May. Learn more at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

Enjoy movies under the stars!
No tickets required.
Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.
Concessions for sale.

Downtown Springfield
Founders Park
330 E. Water St., west of Jefferson Ave.

PARKBOARD.ORG/MOVIES

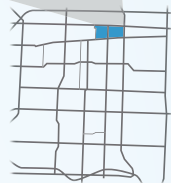
Friday and Saturday
Movies begin at dusk (about 9 p.m.)

ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Phyllis Evans, Secretary: 417-693-4023 or svmbroomrider@att.net
- Dolly Vranka, Treasurer
- Lillie Beal, Member-at-Large



Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 22 • Aug. 26 • Sept. 23: 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 Aaron Callaway: 417-864-1320
alcallaway@springfieldmo.gov



Robberson Community School
1100 E. Kearney St.

Follow Robberson on

Mobile Library Stop

Delivering books, movies and CDs to your neighborhood. Service is limited to Holds
Pickup and Returns

Wednesdays: 4:25-5 p.m.
2350 N. Taylor Ave.



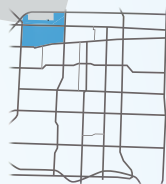
The Springfield Fire Department broke ground for the new Fire Station 4 April 27 at 2423 N. Delaware. Fire Station 4 is located on the boundary of the Doling and Robberson neighborhoods. Read the full story in the Doling Neighborhood section on page 12.

TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Denver Tindell, Secretary:
denver.tindell@freshwaterchurch.tv



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Please Contact Neighborhood Officers for meeting times and locations.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Aaron Callaway: 417-864-1320
alcallaway@springfieldmo.gov



Williams Elementary School
2205 W. Kearney St.

Follow Tom Watkins on

Williams students tour their new school's construction site

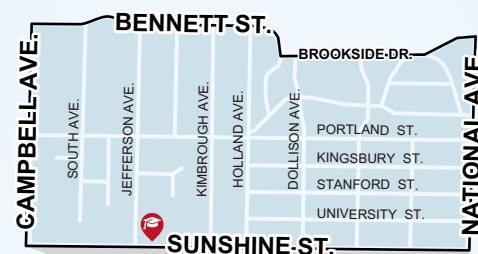
By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

On May 21, Williams Elementary celebrated the end of their school year in an exciting way: by touring their new school's construction.

More than 150 students K-5 were able to visit the new northwest Springfield elementary school construction site. SPS Bond Projects Manager Bryan Saunders, alongside Nabholz Construction leaders, guided small groups of students safely through the school's construction site. From collaborative spaces to classrooms, students were eager to see where they'll learn – and what it will look like when completed in August.



UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 7 • Aug. 4 • Sept. 1 • Oct. 6: 5:30 p.m.
Meetings held via Zoom until further notice. Anyone interested in joining the monthly meeting is welcome to email universityheightsneighborhood@gmail.com for login information.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Lauren Witty: 417-864-1321
lwitty@springfieldmo.gov



Sunshine Elementary School
421 E. Sunshine St.

Follow University Heights on
universityheights-sgf.org



Phelps Grove/University Heights cleanup results in disposal of more than 19 tons of trash

By Jan Peterson, for SGFNN

We hauled off a serious amount of trash! Thanks to everyone who volunteered and to everyone who got rid of their stuff! Also a big thank-you to our street team who took care of tidying our streets.

- 118 households served (attendees and curbsides total)
- 24 volunteers (11 of those volunteers were with Clean Green Springfield)
- 10 total dumpsters pulled (Seven trash and three brush) – 19.01 tons of trash total.
- 1.74 tons of scrap metal recycled.

We got rid of more than 8 tons in October, so this is a dramatic increase. Yay, team!



West Central's Caleb Sanders cultivates connections with neighbors along with native plants

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

When West Central resident Caleb Sanders began growing native plants in his yard, his original intent was to help soak up stormwater. What Sanders didn't realize was that his landscaping would lead to a stronger connection with his neighborhood.

"The soil in the area retains a lot of water, so I was having issues with moisture in my basement. Native plants help slow down the rain and keep it from filtering down," explains Sanders, director of the Watershed Conservation Corps for the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks.

He started small in 2017, planting a few "water loving plants" in beds around his house. He noticed an impact in the moisture level after just a few plants. He also noticed he enjoyed spending time outside meeting the variety of people who were out and about in the neighborhood.

"It ended up being such a cool experience, being outside and talking to people. It created a sense of neighborhood for me. Now what inspires me to do it is definitely the community impact. Being outside in your yard, you feel more attached and committed to your neighborhood," he said.

Following initial success, Sanders then decided to take it another step, installing all native prairie plants throughout his yard and further increasing the time he spends outside on maintenance. He also qualified for gold certification through the City's Yard Ethic program.

Yard Ethic is a free certification program that encourages and rewards environmentally friendly yard care that can save money, conserve water, reduce stormwater pollution and create habitat. Residents who complete three to five checklist items — testing the soil in their yard, planting native plants, installing a rain barrel and planting a tree —



Lance Leaf Coreopsis (yellow) and Yarrow (white)

can apply for certification and receive an official Yard Ethic plaque.

"Yard Ethic was really important to help tell the story about what I was doing on the property," said Sanders. "It gives me an objective source for reasons why this yard works and how it functions in an urban space. It has proven results for my property and surrounding properties."

When asked the advice he would give to homeowners considering native landscaping, he reemphasizes time commitment and the importance of planning.

"This is not an out for mowing," he explains. "If you go down the route of native plants, even in a small garden, the amount of weeding and time you will spend will be a considerable commitment. You can't just throw a bunch of native seeds down and never tend to them again."

"You also can't over plan any sized project," continues Sanders. "Look at species height, species composition and plan around that. Some species are more aesthetic and have longer periods of blooming and some just end up really tall. At this point I'm still refining my plant palette and that's something I should have done more at the beginning."

To learn more about yard maintenance resources offered through Yard Ethic and apply for certification, visit YardEthic.com.



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

July 17 • Aug. 24 • Sept. 28: 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

Mobile Library Stops

Delivering books, movies and CDs to your neighborhood. Service is limited to Holds Pickup and Returns

Mondays: 3:20-3:50 p.m.

South Tower (770 South Ave.)

Tuesdays: 2:20-2:50 p.m.

Jenny Lind Hall Apts. (711 S. Jefferson Ave.)

To see a full list of Mobile Library Stops in West Central check out the West Central section at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

10th annual Birthplace of Route 66 Festival Aug. 13 and 14

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

After having to cancel the 2020 Birthplace of Route 66 Festival due to the pandemic, festival organizers the City of Springfield, Aaron Sachs & Associates, KY3/KSPR/CW, Downtown Springfield Association and West Central Neighborhood Alliance are thrilled to announce that the festival is BACK ON IN 2021!

The festival will take place Aug. 13 and 14, barring any major negative developments in

local COVID-19 case counts and assuming significant continued vaccination progress. Potential attendees from other communities may want to check Springfield-Greene County's COVID-19 Dashboard when deciding whether to attend. A risk assessment quiz is also available.

▶ See **BIRTHPLACE OF ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL** on page 24



► BIRTHPLACE OF ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL from page 23

Registration links for the car show, the Charity Bike Show and the Gypsy Tour Poker Run to benefit the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association are live at route66festivalsgf.com. The Mother Roadster Foundation will raffle off "The Fezster," a 1932 Ford Roadster named after the Shriners who have worn the iconic red cap and do so much to help the children at Shriners Hospitals for Children. The 2019 raffle raised more than \$40,000 for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

A full lineup of free entertainment is planned, including a free street party and concert 8-11 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12 with a pre-party at 6:30 p.m. The Friday parade will start at 6 p.m. at Grant Avenue and College Street traveling east through Park Central Square to St. Louis Street and dispersing at National Avenue. Musical acts on Friday evening at the Motorcycle Village Stage at Jefferson Avenue and McDaniel Street begin with Machine Gun Symphony and headliners Sixwire with former guitarist and vocalist for Ted Nugent and Brad Whitford, Derek St. Holmes. On Saturday, the concerts kick off with Nathan Bryce and the Loaded Dice, Sequel Dose, the Rosy Hips, the Dirty Saints and headliners Sixwire with former Kansas lead vocalist John Elefante and former Journey lead vocalist Steve Augeri. The Park Central Stage will feature local performers with the lineup TBA.

The festival's unforgettable Globe of Steel is back this year, along with the Extreme Trampoline Show and Pogo Fred.

The 6.K Run/Walk and the Route 66 Exhibit Hall at The Old Glass Place will return this year. Visit route66festivalsgf.com for registration links.



PRE-FESTIVAL SOCIAL AUG. 10 ON PARK CENTRAL SQUARE

A pre-festival Andy's Frozen Custard social to celebrate Missouri's Bicentennial, hosted by History Museum on the Square, City of Springfield, and the Downtown Springfield Association, is planned for 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 10 on Park Central Square. Entertainment will be provided by The Detectives, Shaun Munday and Central High School's acappella group the Brotones.

THE BIRTHPLACE OF ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL FUND

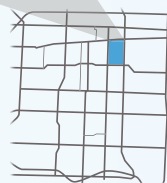
In conjunction with the festival, organizers are establishing a Mother Road to Recovery Fund at Community Foundation of the Ozarks and are encouraging donations, which will provide direct employee assistance to health care workers, public school employees, as well as restaurant and entertainment district workers. The need is great, and our community has proven time and again that we can rally for recovery.

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

Aug. 5 • Sept. 2 • Oct. 7: 6–7 p.m. @ Weller Community Church (1722 E. Blaine St.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

Follow Weller on  

Mobile Library Stop

Delivering books, movies and CDs to your neighborhood. Service is limited to Holds Pickup and Returns

Wednesdays: 3:45-4:15 p.m.
1600 Block E. Blaine St.



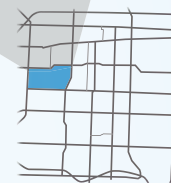
Clean Green Springfield volunteers from City Utilities helped out during the Weller Neighborhood Cleanup on May 1.

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



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

July 13 • Aug. 10 • Sept. 14 • Oct. 12: 6:30 p.m.,
@ Golden Avenue Baptist Church (558 S. Golden Ave.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

Follow Westside on  

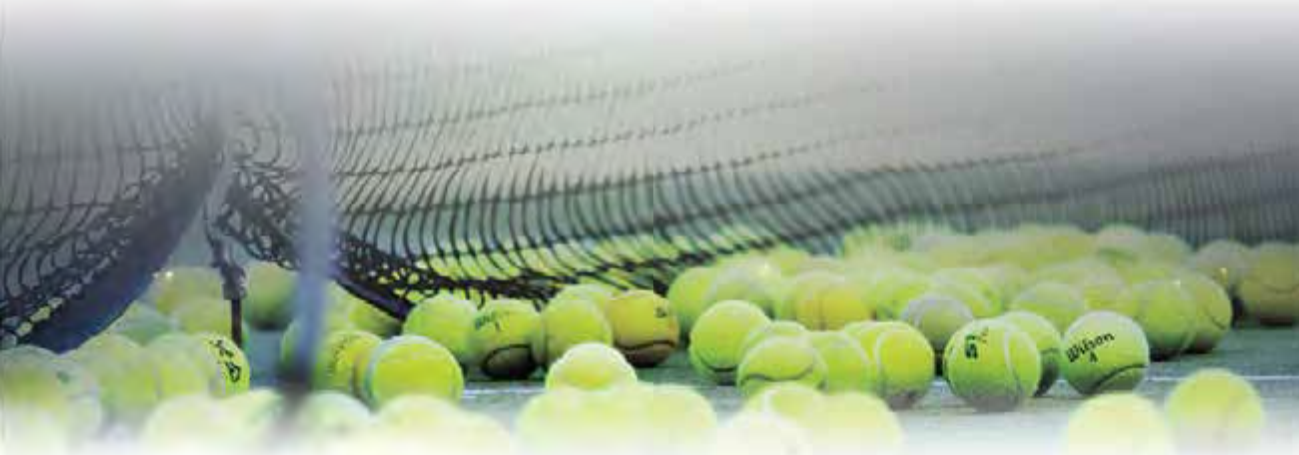
Mobile Library Stops

Delivering books, movies and CDs to your neighborhood. Service is limited to Holds Pickup and Returns

Thursdays: 2:45-3:15 p.m.
Westport Park Apts. (250 N. Hilton Ave.)
Thursdays: 6:45-7:15 p.m.
Craigmont Place (740 S. Lafontaine Ave.)



The Westside Neighborhood Cleanup was held May 22 at Study Alternative Center.



Tennis Under the Lights introduces kids of all ages to the sport of tennis

By Mona Pieron, for SGFNN

On Friday, June 4, Woodland Heights neighbors gathered at Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic St., for a night of food, fun, and fraternization.

"While the focus of the event was on the tennis, the real hope for the evening was that neighbors will use it as a chance to get out with their families and enjoy their first mask-free outside park-sponsored event." – Mark Penticuff

The Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board teamed up with the United States Tennis Association to sponsor this event to introduce children of all ages to the fun and healthy sport of tennis. All were invited to participate in a free series of games and classes. Stations were set up to cover the individual skills needed, and courts were marked off to reflect the sizes of those participating

so everyone had a chance to "succeed" at the tasks. Instructions were also offered in alternative games that encourage use of the courts for simpler, easier forms of friendly competition and healthy exercise.

Mark Penticuff, Glendale High School tennis coach, Woodland Heights neighbor, and event co-chair said, "While the focus of the event was on the tennis, the real hope for the evening was that neighbors will use it as a chance to get out with their families and enjoy their first mask-free outside park-sponsored event. It was an opportunity to sit, relax, visit with your neighbors, partake of free food and drinks, and watch the children play on the courts. Now that we have more lights, time after the games was given over to parents and other adults to have a little practice!"



Photo: Mark Penticuff

Neighbors, agencies collaborate to solve lighting problem at Lafayette Park

By Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Park Board, for SGFNN

Four years ago, new lights flickered to life at one of the oldest parks in the city, Lafayette Park. Funded by a grant through the City of Springfield's Neighborhood Works program, through an application from the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association, the lights brightened up the tennis court and the shady east side of the park.

"There was a problem in the neighborhood, and a collaboration between the residents and the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association, the parks department, the City and City Utilities fixed the problem. And it's a beautiful fix!" – Phyllis Ferguson



But the west side of the park, an open field with a walking track, remained unlit. And after dark, neighbors started noticing some questionable activity.

"People were parking along the border of the park at night, and if you walked over in the morning, you'd find trash, you'd find evidence of drug use, and there were some fights," said Chance Parish, a neighbor of Lafayette Park. "It made the area seem unsafe. Neighbors were afraid, even people who had lived here for years."

▶ See **LIGHTS AT LAFAYETTE PARK** on page 26



Connect

- Becky Volz, President:
woodlandhna@gmail.com
or 417-880-4210
- Steve Sexton, Vice President:
- Kathleen Day, Secretary
- Jan Hutcherson, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings


July 20 • Aug. 17 • Sept. 21: 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 Aaron Callaway: 417-864-1320
alcallaway@springfieldmo.gov



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

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

Follow Woodland Heights on  
woodlandheightsneighborhood.org



Summer Solstice Art Fair 2021, Lafayette Park

► LIGHTS AT LAFAYETTE PARK from page 25

After several appearances by law enforcement, neighbors of Lafayette Park proposed a more lasting solution: #LightLafayette. It started with sharing photos and video on social media, but quickly became a neighborhood conversation, ultimately resulting in a partnership between several agencies that shared a vision for expanding lighting at Lafayette Park.

"The story here is collaboration," said former Zone 1 City Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson, also a neighbor of the park. "There was a problem in the neighborhood, and a collaboration between the residents and the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association, the parks department, the City and City Utilities fixed the problem. And it's a beautiful fix!"

The neighborhood presented the proposal to the City of Springfield. Ferguson, serving as mayor pro tem at the time, helped expedite the City's response, bringing together City Utilities of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. City Utilities responded quickly, installing new street lights on the park's perimeter.

The Park Board priced and later installed decorative park lighting around the walking track, matching the fixtures on the east side. The City of Springfield and Ferguson's City Council "pothole fund" helped cover the costs. The Park Board also repaired some lights from the earlier installation, and park rangers stepped up patrols.

Almost immediately, neighbors said, Lafayette Park felt safer.

"It is amazing how much the lights have helped," said Parish. "There are people in the park from daylight to dark. It's totally different than when we moved in two years ago."

Ferguson said the lesson learned here is that when neighborhoods have an issue needing attention, they need to speak up.

"If you have a neighborhood issue, talk with your neighborhood association, talk to the City about what your need is, and help work out a solution," said Ferguson. "Your voice will be heard, but you have to speak. The City is not always going to know how big the problem is, or what needs to be fixed. The neighbors know that better than anyone, so it takes the neighborhood to help fix the problem."

Parish said it was gratifying to see the power of neighborhood collaboration.

"It's easy to feel alone, like you can't reach out," he said. "But the first thing to do is reach out and talk to your neighbors. Find the thing you need, make the case for it, and ask. It's the smallest thing in the world, and most people don't think that would work. But it worked for us."



Zone 1 representatives meet with neighbors

Continued from page 10

In general, the group applauded efforts to address nuisance properties, but expressed concern that progress has not been consistent. Neighbors cited several specific nuisance properties that have taken years to address.

Many are encouraged by the City's commitment to address nuisance properties by providing additional resources to the Building Development Services department to increase the number of inspectors dedicated to nuisance property enforcement. Neighbors hope that inspectors will consider each property on a case-by-case basis, regarding the nature of the violation and the capacity of the violator to address the issue.

Skyrocketing construction costs, lack of awareness of reputable repair companies, and for many, difficult financial circumstances make it challenging to address violations quickly, particularly when building codes continue to become more complex.

Councilwoman Romine noted that success in addressing these issues requires both balance and heart. Rep. Owen added that Springfield's proposed land bank bill in the state legislature and community development corporation could become important tools to help.

"We had leaders from eight of the 10 Zone 1 neighborhoods represented. We have some wonderful neighborhood leaders who are working hard to address and solve issues in our community." – Becky Volz

He indicated that while the legislature did not provide the needed authorization in its latest session, he is optimistic about it happening next session. Councilwoman Romine applauded and encouraged private efforts to help address such properties. One example was an individual with means to purchase a vacant property, tearing it down and then selling the lot. Other examples include neighbors helping neighbors by mowing the lawn of someone in need.

Neighbors said that another broadly felt problem related to nuisance properties is trash build-up. To address this, one neighborhood is exploring the creation of a Neighborhood Improvement District, which could use revenue generated via property tax to contract with a single trash hauler for the entire neighborhood and assist with keeping sidewalks clear of vegetation. Such sidewalk improvements are sorely needed, particularly for those who are blind or wheelchair bound. A related concern is the frequent blockage of sidewalks by parked cars and construction barricades, the dangers posed by bicyclists on sidewalks and motorists not yielding to pedestrians at crosswalks.

Regarding property crimes, Neighborhood Watch efforts should be encouraged. Some believe that the current Springfield Police Department Neighborhood Watch program needs to be more flexible so that fewer individuals need to be trained



for the program to receive SPD support. A lack of consequences for juvenile theft and vandalism offenders is a concern, with many hoping City Council might be able to help address this matter.

Others indicated that squatters often exacerbate property deterioration, particularly in vacant properties. It was noted that in some vacant properties, lawns are kept up and repairs are made in a timely fashion, so while all feel fewer unoccupied dwellings would improve neighborhoods, the emphasis in addressing vacant properties should be on those in poor condition. Rep. Owen indicated that a land bank might also help address this matter.

Vacant former public schools were discussed. All too often, Springfield Public Schools has closed school buildings with no apparent plan for the disposition of them. As a result, adjacent neighborhoods suffer. The former Doling Elementary was cited as an example, and the former Fairbanks Elementary, now a community hub, was another.

While the latter has become a valued community resource, it had been empty for years, as is the case with Doling. Unlike most closed commercial properties, vacant school buildings are often located in the heart of neighborhoods and contribute to neighborhood deterioration. While not a direct solution, a desire for better communication and strategic collaboration between City Council and the school board was expressed. Perhaps the soon-to-be-closed former Boyd Elementary might be an opportunity for one such collaboration.

The discussion related to homelessness was perhaps the most difficult. Neighborhood leaders are torn between their desire to help those in need with concerns for damage to property, and the trash and dangerous items left by squatters. One neighborhood leader acknowledged that an important path out of homelessness begins with a home, and that perhaps funding to convert some vacant houses into transitional homes for the homeless could be one solution, citing success with a similar program in Aurora, Colorado.

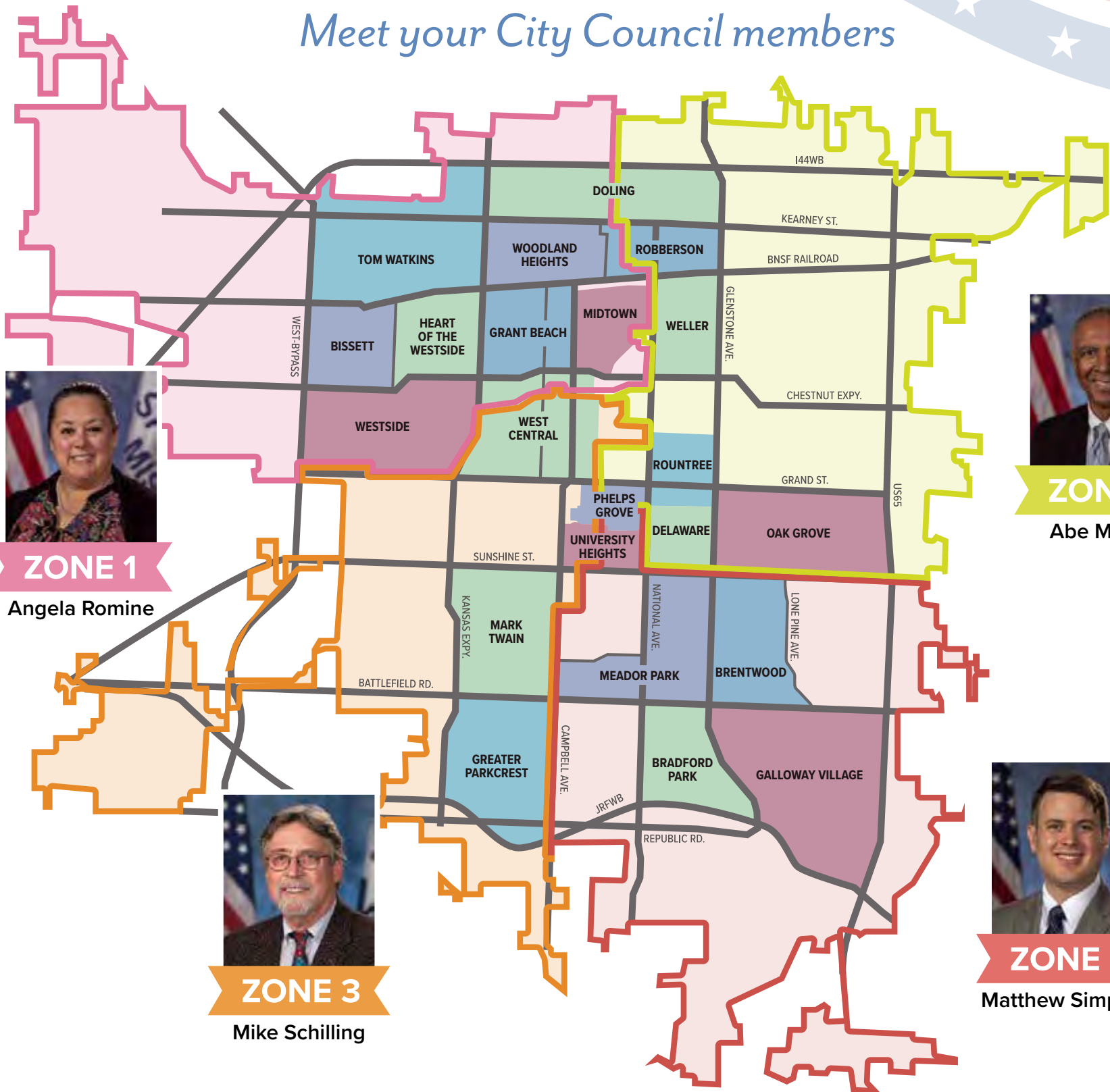
In closing, Rep. Owen expressed optimism about the next legislative session and believes there is motivation to make the legislative process within the House of Representatives more efficient. Councilwoman Romine emphasized that she is on City Council to represent her constituents.

Councilwoman Romine described typical City Council agendas as being filled with staff-recommended ordinances and issues and said she desires a greater degree of communication from constituents regarding items the council is asked to act upon.

Everyone who attended greatly appreciated the time taken by these elected officials to engage neighborhood leaders, and are optimistic that this meeting was just the first, and certainly not the last such listening session. Many thanks to them, and to Woodland Heights for making this event possible.

Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods

Meet your City Council members



ZONE 1

Angela Romine



ZONE 2

Abe McGull



ZONE 3

Mike Schilling



ZONE 4

Matthew Simpson

Ken McClure
Mayor



Heather Hardinger
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.

 @CityofSGF

springfieldmo.gov/CityCouncil
Council@springfieldmo.gov

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