City selects design-build team for Grant Avenue Parkway project

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

After an extensive proposal development and selection process, the City of Springfield has selected a team of contractors, landscape architects, engineers and consultants led by Radmacher Brothers Excavating Company, in partnership with project designers Cook, Flatt & Strobel (CFS) Engineering and Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects, to design and construct the Grant Avenue Parkway corridor improvement project. The team is calling itself the GAP Collaborative.

THE COMPLETE DESIGN-BUILD TEAM INCLUDES:

- Radmacher Brothers Excavating Company — Lead construction contractor
- Cook, Flatt & Strobel (CFS) Engineering — Lead engineering designers
- Hoerr Schaudt — Landscape architecture and urban design services
- VSM Engineering — Utility coordination and storm drainage design services
- Custom Engineering — Electrical engineering services for undergrounding of utilities
- Shockey Consulting — Planning and public engagement consultation.

Radmacher Brothers, CFS Engineering, and Hoerr Schaudt have collaborated in various projects. Recently approved projects range from larger ticket items such as pedestrian safety infrastructure, capacities on similar corridor projects, including the $35 million Rogersville Project Freeway U.S. 60 design-build project for the Missouri Department of Transportation, and the Wornall Road design-build project (79th Street to 85th Street) in Kansas City.

“"The GAP Collaborative team understands the importance of creating vibrant, transformative space within public rights-of-way and will bring our global experience to the City of Springfield,” the team said in its Statement of Qualifications document for the project. “We create beautiful award-winning spaces that are authentic and true to their respective cities that are integrated with active mobility solutions. It is our plan to do the same in the Grant Avenue Parkway corridor.”

14 capital improvement grants approved through 2019-2024 round of Neighborhood Works program

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Fourteen improvement projects across 10 neighborhoods have been approved for funding through phase 1 of the 2019-2024 round of the Neighborhood Works program. Project applications varying for $600,000-$650,000 of available funding were evaluated by the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) then approved by the city manager in June.

First launched in 2016 and funded through the ¼-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax, Neighborhood Works is intended to fund small-scale capital improvements within officially registered neighborhoods. The program gives residents the opportunity to identify projects they believe will offer the greatest benefit to their area including small-scale stormwater drainage improvements, sidewalk and trail connections, public parking and alleyway improvements and updates to parks. Individual projects are limited to $100,000 or less and must take place on City-owned property or right-of-way.

Recently approved projects range from larger ticket items such as pedestrian safety infrastructure, stormwater drainage and park equipment to smaller requests for community garden improvements and landscaping.

New this round, the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) submitted a request for $24,000 to fund four speed boards to help reduce speeding on streets in registered neighborhoods. NAC Chair Rusty Worley presented this project idea to help tackle an issue all neighborhoods experience.

“The City’s Traffic Engineering division works with neighborhoods individually on speeding complaints. We have a limited number of speed boards we deploy on a regular basis to help measure the issue in individual areas,” explains Neighborhood Works program administrator Dawne Gardner. “The additional boards provided by the City BDS inspectors working to identify, clean up trash-filled properties.
New Zone 1 Councilwoman Angela Rominelistening and learning to serve constituents

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Zone 1 Councilwoman Angela Romine says it only took her about a day to decide to run for City Council last fall. Zone 1 is the northwest quadrant of the city, encompassing all or parts of the Doling, Tom Watkins, Woodland Heights, Robberson, Bissett, Heart of the Westside, Grant Beach, Midtown, Westside and West Central neighborhoods.

“I had no idea how the City worked but I knew I wanted to be here for the people of Zone 1,” she said. “I think it’s an advantage that I don’t know anything about the processes because I ask a lot of questions, which is a learning opportunity for both me and the average citizen. The more people we can get engaged, the better.”

Romine, a massage therapist who grew up as a military brat and served in the military herself for three years, moved to Springfield with her husband, who was also in the military, in 2012. Before settling in Zone 1, they lived downtown and in the Southern Hills neighborhood in southeast Springfield. They have no children, but they have three “fur kids.” They live in the Tom Watkins neighborhood.

She said being self-employed provides her with the flexible schedule needed to serve on City Council. Springfield City Council members are essentially volunteering their time, because they are not paid positions.

“Sometimes I’m not able to get to every meeting because if I’m not working, I’m not making money, but I am willing to sacrifice income to serve Zone 1. I am trying to listen to everyone—not just those I agree with,” she said.

Her hopes for Zone 1 include improving housing and infrastructure conditions, working to reduce crime, increase and improve long-term services for those experiencing homelessness, and beautify the city.

“When I was out campaigning and knocking on doors, I was shocked to see the state of some of the homes,” she said.

She looks forward to learning everything she can about City processes so she can answer her constituents’ questions.

“I want people to know that they can ask questions and we can all work together to make our city better,” she said.

Federal funds to help Springfield with recovery efforts

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) passed by Congress earlier this year, the City of Springfield has received $40 million in federal money. To ensure that the money is spent in ways that best meet the needs of Springfield, the City Council is asking for citizen input as it reviews and prioritizes various projects that qualify for funding under the ARPA guidelines.

To assist in this effort, Springfield households have been randomly selected to participate in a citywide survey. Any one adult (age 18 and over) in households receiving the survey, may participate. Completed questionnaires will go directly to Opinion Research Specialists, a local independent research company, who will collect and analyze the results. The information provided is completely anonymous and will not reveal your identity.

“Sometimes I’m not able to get to every meeting because if I’m not working, I’m not making money, but I am willing to sacrifice income to serve Zone 1. I am trying to listen to everyone—not just those I agree with,” she said.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks pledges $600K to launch Restore SGF community redevelopment program

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Invest DSM Executive Director Amber Lynch presented at the Sept. 7 Council Lunch meeting to answer questions about how Springfield’s Restore SGF program could be modeled after the Des Moines nonprofit.

Invest DSM is a collaboration between the City of Des Moines and Polk County, Iowa created as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in July 2019. Invest DSM provides holistic and innovative solutions such as neighborhood block grants that engage and strengthen neighborhoods. They do this through strategic investments in real estate and partnerships to improve quality of life. Invest DSM’s vision is vibrant, healthy, thriving neighborhoods.

“We have several bankers here that we’ve been visiting with who are interested in investing in this initiative as well.” — Brian Fogle

Restore SGF’s goals include encouraging home ownership and enhancing Springfield’s housing stock. The program’s strategies are to provide a central resource for all residential programs, more effectively market residential programs, stimulate the creation of rehabilitation incentives and provide resources to reduce barriers to home ownership and reinvestment in Springfield’s historic neighborhoods.

At the meeting, Community Foundation of the Ozarks President Brian Fogle announced a commitment of $600,000 to create such a program in Springfield. Restore SGF’s supporters, which include Fogle, Councilmen Richard Ollis and Abe McGull, Councilwoman Heather Hardinger, Neighborhood Advisory Council co-chairs Rusty Worley and Becky Volz, 131st District Rep. Bill Owen and other community members, including bankers, real estate professionals traveled to Des Moines to learn about Invest DSM earlier this summer. The group has asked City Council for $1 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to get the program off the ground.

“I’m pleased to tell you that Community Foundation of the Ozarks is making a commitment of $600,000 to Restore SGF,” Fogle said. “We’re making a $500,000 program-related investment at 2.5% interest with maturity in seven years, which will be that ‘patient capital,’ that Restore SGF can use to buy homes and revitalize them, loan money at low interest rates, etc. A $100,000 grant over five years will provide funding for staff to do the ‘mission work.’ We have several bankers here that we’ve been visiting with who are interested in investing in this initiative as well.”
City preparing for another round of Clean Green Springfield volunteer opportunities this fall

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

In early 2021 when Springfield needed some love, the community stepped up.

Thanks to the help of more than 1,000 volunteers who made the spring 2021 launch of Clean Green Springfield a success, the City and project partners are ramping up for a second round of clean up and green up opportunities this fall.

“We received a lot of positive feedback from citizens, neighborhoods, partner organizations and City Council following the spring campaign,” explains Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement Cora Scott. “We are excited to launch a fall round of Clean Green volunteer opportunities targeted around the month of October.”

Back again will be two “Point of Pride” cleanup events—one on Oct. 2 at Doling Park and another on Oct. 9 at West Meadows. Volunteers may also sign up for one-time roadway and stream cleanups—opportunities that proved popular for busy organizations and families in the spring.

New this fall is a greater emphasis on volunteer support surrounding neighborhood cleanups.

Seven of the City’s registered neighborhoods plan to host cleanups scheduled in October through early November. Events are facilitated through a partnership between the City, Community Partnership of the Ozarks and each registered neighborhood association.

Due to staffing issues with the waste hauling contractor, cleanup events must now be hosted during the week. Volunteers are needed to register for “Cleanup Support Crew” to help neighbors unload items at the drop-off site and potentially lend a hand with bulky item pickup. Volunteers for “Litter Teams” are also needed and will be dispatched to help cleanup street segments, alleyways, parks and public spaces throughout the neighborhood.

Volunteers for neighborhood cleanups will have the opportunity to sign up for three shifts—Morning shift (roughly 7 – 11 a.m.), Lunchtime (roughly 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.) and Afternoon (roughly 2-7 p.m.)

“Conducting neighborhood cleanups during the week is something we’re going to try for the upcoming fiscal year,” explains Rachel Tripp, Community & Neighborhood Development Specialist with Community Partnership of the Ozarks. “The change provides the opportunity to host full-day events and hopefully serve even more families and residences throughout each neighborhood.”

With the switch to daytime hours, the City plans to encourage businesses to step up to register employee teams seeking community service and team-building opportunities during the work day.

“In the spring, we learned that employers are looking for simple volunteer opportunities that allow their workers a fun and fulfilling experience,” explains Scott. “What better opportunity than to come out, help pick up litter and instantly see the positive effects it has on a local neighborhood.”

Also popular in the spring were no-cost opportunities for difficult to dispose of items. For Clean Green’s fall offerings, the City has allocated $10,000 to provide 500 vouchers to cover tipping fees at the landfill (a $20 value). This voucher will cover the disposal of up to 1,240 pounds of waste per citizen, which generally accounts for a pickup truck or trailer-load of household bulky items. Citizens may be required to cover the difference if disposing of extremely heavy items like shingles or dense furniture.

“The goal is to provide an opportunity for residents who may not be a part of a registered neighborhood to still be able to dispose of bulky items at no cost,” explains Superintendent of Solid Waste Eric Roberts. “Many residents don’t realize how close Springfield’s Noble Hill Sanitary Landfill is to town and how convenient it can be for everyday residents to use to help clean up their properties and neighborhoods.”

The following Springfield registered neighborhoods are hosting fall cleanups:

• Greater Parkcrest: Tues., Oct. 5
• Meador Park: Thurs., Oct. 7
• Galloway Village: Tues., Oct. 12
• Grant Beach: Tues.-Wed., Oct. 19-20
• West Central: Tues., Oct. 26
• Oak Grove: Thurs., Oct. 28
• Delaware: Thurs., Nov. 4

Dates are subject to change. For more information about these cleanups please see the neighborhood sections on pages 10-26. For the most up-to-date information, a full lineup of Clean Green opportunities and to register to volunteer please visit CleanGreenSGF.com. Up-to-date neighborhood fall cleanup information will also be available at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

NAC will be dedicated to neighborhoods to share and rotate their use. With the availability of this equipment, data will be gathered in a more timely manner to hopefully facilitate a resolution.”

Public Works will relocate the speed boards for the neighborhoods at their request and analyze the data collected. Public Works expects to purchase the new equipment and deploy the boards beginning this fall.

Projects in the following neighborhoods were approved for Neighborhood Works funding.

• Bissell
• Brentwood
• Galloway Village
• Grant Beach
• Greater Parkcrest
• Mark Twain
• Midtown
• Rountree
• Westside
• Woodland Heights.

All leftover funds from projects selected in this phase will be carried over and added to the balance available for a second program funding cycle expected to take place in 2023.

Check out the NEIGHBORHOOD SECTIONS on pages 10-26 for a full description of the project or projects in each neighborhood.

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Avoid trash & solid waste accumulation

Accumulation of trash and solid waste is declared to be a public nuisance in Sec. 74-381 and 74-382 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 cleared 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. 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 and other cleanup resources available. 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.

City BDS inspectors working to identify, clean up trash-filled properties

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Thanks to additional resources allocated by City Council over the last two years, the City’s Building Development Services Department is taking a proactive approach to code enforcement regarding trash and solid waste accumulation in yards, alleys and driveways.

Up to four two-person inspector teams have been driving neighborhood streets since early summer and rating GIS-mapped properties in real time with a tablet computer as heavy, medium or light for trash accumulation.

“A property rated as heavy has at least one pickup-truck full of trash that needs to be hauled away. A medium property would have about half a truck full of trash, and one rated as light would have a bag of trash, or maybe a mattress or two in the yard.” – Dwayne Shmel

“A property rated as heavy has at least one pickup-truck full of trash that needs to be hauled away,” says BDS Director Dwayne Shmel. “A medium property would have about half a truck full of trash, and one rated as light would have a bag of trash, or maybe a mattress or two in the yard.”

Shmel says his inspectors evaluated the city north of Chestnut Expressway (18,203 properties) and rated 3,303 (18.2%) for trash accumulation. The next swath of town to be evaluated will be Chestnut Expressway south to Sunshine Street this fall, extending south after that.

Property owners with trash violations can expect a notice to be posted in their yard. If the trash isn’t cleaned up within 15 calendar days, the City will have a contractor clean it up and recoup the cost of the abatement via a property tax lien through the Greene County Assessor’s Office.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the City’s neighborhood cleanup program, which offers free trash and yardwaste disposal to registered neighborhoods.

WHAT’S CONSIDERED TRASH?

- Rubbish, trash and debris: can be remains of something broken down, piling trash, litter or solid waste in the yard, having decaying animal or food waste, and various other trash materials.
- Lumber, construction material, firewood and bricks/blocks: can be lumber or firewood that is not stacked six inches off the ground, bricks or concrete blocks that are not stacked and any lumber, construction material or wood that is rotting or deteriorating.
- Indoor furniture.
- Derelict automobiles, tires, equipment, machines or scrap metal.
- Appliances, electronics and other indoor items.

Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness needs your help to operate Crisis Cold Weather Shelters this winter

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

On any given night, about 200 people sleep outside in Springfield because they have nowhere else to go.

Every winter, overnight Crisis Cold Weather Shelters open in our community to provide emergency shelter beds. During the 2020-2021 winter, Crisis Cold Weather Shelter sites were open 74 nights and provided 5,907 nights of shelter to approximately 370 individuals. These shelters save lives and would not be possible without the dedication of host sites, community volunteers and partners like the City of Springfield and City Utilities.

To help meet this critical need, the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness is challenging businesses, churches, civic organization and other groups to help provide overnight Crisis Cold Weather Shelters this winter by volunteering, donating funds, supplies and/or space.

To learn more about how you or your organization or business can help, visit https://cpozarks.org/programs/crisis-cold-weather-shelters/ or contact Amanda Stadler at 417-888-2020 or astadler@cpozarks.org.
James River Basin Partnership ecotourism program to connect citizens with waterways

By Todd Wilkinson, James River Basin Partnership, for SGFNN

The Senegalese forest engineer Baba Dioum once said, “In the end, we will only conserve what we love; we will only love what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.” In that spirit, the James River Basin Partnership (JRBP) has started a new ecotourism program to get organizations, businesses, government agencies, and even private citizens out on local waterways to connect with what they protect.

In the summer of 2020, we were approached by Springfield Brewing Company, who asked us to partner with them on the release of their new flagship beer. SBC wanted a water-quality themed name for an American Pale Ale and pledged a portion of the proceeds of each case sold would go to JRBP, as well as our logo and website appearing on each can.

JRBP and SBC staff met several times to discuss potential names, before settling on Blue Canoe American Pale Ale, inspired by an old blue canoe owned by long-time water warrior, Loring Bullard.

JRBP staff suggested a “gravel bar tasting” and an ecocloat as part of the release activities, and SBC graciously agreed to co-host, providing a can of Blue Canoe and a picnic lunch for each participant. On Sept. 19, 2020, twenty attendees made the five-mile float from H.L. Kerr Access to Galena on the James, learning about everything from aquatic life to the history of float trips on the James and White Rivers, and Leave No Trace principles.

Since then, JRBP has partnered with both local municipalities, as well as businesses like the popular adventure guide service, 37 North Expeditions, to provide on-the-water education and outreach programs in 2020 and 2021.

“Our ecotourism program allows us to expand our outreach to include businesses, partner organizations, and municipal employees to help them understand the role they play in protecting our Ozarks waters,” said Brent Stock, JRBP executive director.

The City of Springfield’s MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) stormwater permit, issued through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, includes a “good housekeeping” requirement for municipal operations. The city wants to show that it practices what it preaches regarding pollution prevention and serve as a community leader. A part of the good housekeeping program is employee education and training. Sarah Davis, a stormwater specialist with the City of Springfield’s Environmental Services Department, heads up the training. “My goal is to help folks understand the connection between what they do at work and the health of our local streams,” said Davis.

In the past, Davis gave PowerPoint presentations and walking tours of Springfield’s Jordan Creek underground. She covered everything from leaks and spills and proper storage of materials to chemical application and yard waste.

“We did that for three years, and we were always trying to bring up new topics and respond to problems they were bringing us,” stated Davis. And then 2020 happened.

With the pandemic prohibiting traditional training sessions, Davis and JRBP began discussing the idea of getting city employees out on the James River to see the reality of stormwater management through local streams.

“The ecocloat concept allowed us to still meet the goals of educating city employees on their connection to stormwater runoff and pollution prevention, all while staying safe during COVID,” stated Davis.

One city employee on the front lines of water quality is Rosa Aviles of Public Grounds Maintenance. Aviles told Davis before the float that she had picked up 70 pounds of dog feces off public property in one morning.

“These folks see the direct relation of what they’re doing and the water quality downstream—street sweepers, maintaining ditches, concrete,” said Davis. “They interact with waterways daily.”


“By bringing all of these divisions together, we’re creating one big team for the environment and highlighting their roles in protecting local waterways,” said Stock. “We’re hoping they’ll see themselves as ambassadors for water quality.”

Both floats started at the Joe Crighton Access on the upper James River and floated to Southwood Canoe Access on Lake Springfield. Along the way, JRBP staff discussed the history of water quality in the Springfield metro area, MS4 stormwater requirements, and gave a brief introduction to stream ecology. Employees from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board’s Outdoor Initiatives assisted with shuttling and safety.

Participants on both floats were engaged and enthusiastic as they paddled down the James. Aviles even told Davis how much “she needed this day” and asked if there was a way to rent canoes and take her family out.

“I feel like this is a good example of a ripple effect,” noted Davis. “Hopefully, she’ll share the importance of water quality with her family and how she and her co-workers help protect the James River.”

“We’ll see you on the river.”
Crime prevention is everyone’s business

By Jasmine Bailey, Springfield Police Department, for SGFNN

While the Springfield Police Department is currently experiencing a staffing shortage, our ability to effectively respond to calls for service remains our top priority. In fact, between 2019 and 2020, the average response time for priority one calls (a life-threatening situation or where serious injuries are believed to exist) improved from 6:40 minutes to 6:16 minutes. However, the best way to control crime in our community is through crime prevention, and every member of the community plays an important role in this effort. There are several tactics that can be implemented to avoid crime from occurring in your neighborhood.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) focuses on lighting and landscaping design, among other strategies, that will reduce potential hiding places for criminals and make your home less susceptible to being burglarized.

One important approach is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Criminals typically make rational choices about their targets and are less likely to commit a crime if there is greater risk of being caught or if there is greater effort required and fewer perceived rewards. CPTED focuses on lighting and landscaping design, among other strategies, that will reduce potential hiding places for criminals and make your home less susceptible to being burglarized.

One method to consider is the use of dense barrier plants that have thorns or needles. They should be used below and to the sides of windows and next to fences and walls where access is not needed or desired. Another consideration might be to refrain from using bark or wood chip borders between the lawn and the building or residence. They can be replaced with decorative river rock or gravel because a prowler walking on a rock surface will likely make more noise than they would walking on wood chips. Proper lighting is also important for preventing crime. When lighting is strategically placed, it can have a substantial impact on reducing fear and the occurrence of crime. Effective lighting should allow the identification of a face from about 30 feet away for a person with normal vision.

Vehicle theft and thefts from vehicles are common crimes throughout neighborhoods in Springfield, and preventive measures should be taken to keep from becoming a victim. As the weather begins to cool, remember not to leave your vehicle running unattended and always remove the keys and lock the doors. Twenty percent of all vehicles stolen have the keys left inside, which is prohibited through City Ordinance 106-33. To prevent items from being taken out of your car, the best advice is to avoid leaving them in plain sight and always lock your doors. More information on CPTED can be found on SPD’s website under the “Crime Prevention” tab.

There are also a couple other online tools on SPD’s website that can help you stay informed and prevent crime in your neighborhoods. The first is the LexisNexis Community Crime Map found under the “Information” tab. This tool allows citizens to research specific incidents of crime throughout the city. A wide variety of crime types are available, including motor vehicle theft, burglary, aggravated assault and more. This information is meant to empower citizens by supplying them with knowledge of what is occurring, which in turn, can help the police and the community work together to reduce incidences of crime.

Another helpful tool is to utilize SPD’s camera location registration program. Video footage is one of the best methods for identifying and apprehending criminals and convicting those who are caught in the act of committing a crime. If you have a surveillance camera, you can register it on SPD’s website under the “Crime Prevention” tab. Please note that with this program officers will not be able to monitor your camera footage. The program allows SPD to know there are cameras in the area where a crime has occurred. Officers can then request footage from the owner to see if that footage contains evidence of a crime.

Finally, never hesitate to contact your Springfield Police Area Representative (PAR) officer, with questions about crime prevention. Each PAR officer is trained in crime prevention techniques and are available to provide guidance to the citizens of Springfield. SPD recently added two new PAR officer positions in order to more effectively serve the community. There are now a total of eight PAR officers, each assigned to a specific area of the city. Identify your PAR officer and their contact information by calling 417-864-1810, by accessing the information under the About Us section of springfieldmo.gov/SPD, or by checking the PAR officer listing in your neighborhood section on pages 10-26.
Performing acts of neighboring easier than you think

By David Burton, for SGFNN

Performing an act of neighboring is easier than many people imagine.

Acts of neighboring are often simple gestures that help you be a good neighbor, lift up others and make your neighborhood or community a better place to live.

Dave Runyon, author of “The Art of Neighboring” sometimes defines it this way: “neighboring means learning the names of the people that live closest to you, using their names, and throwing great social events.”

I have created a list of neighboring examples to help people think about what it could mean in their neighborhood. Do not be limited by this list, just consider it a basic starting point.

1. Go for a walk and bring a small trash bag to pick up trash along the sidewalk.
2. Use sidewalk chalk to write an inspiring message on the sidewalk in front of your home.
3. Ask an elderly neighbor or parent with young children if you can pick up items for them while you’re at the store.
4. If you play a musical instrument, give invitations to your neighbors to attend an outdoor concert on the curb at a given time.
5. Introduce yourself to a neighbor, especially if you’ve lived near each other for a while but haven’t met.
6. Compliment a neighbor on a feature of their home or garden.
7. Offer to mow the lawn of a busy young family or older adult neighbor.
8. Make a double batch of the cookies you’re baking and bring some to a neighbor.
9. Know parents who could use a night out? Offer to babysit a neighbor’s child for free.
10. Organize a blitz neighborhood cleanup.
11. Make dinner for a neighbor who has just had a baby or surgery.
12. Throw a socially distanced happy hour. Invite your neighbors to hang out on their porches one evening, in waving and shouting distance.
13. Join your neighborhood association or HOA.
14. Create an emergency contact list with your neighbors. You’ll be one another’s first line of defense in case of a disaster.
15. Give a neighbor a book you think they would like.
16. Write a letter of encouragement to a neighbor you know is having a hard time.
17. Send a friend a helpful or inspiring article that made you think of them.
19. Host a neighborhood monthly men’s club where you meet and learn about the hobby of a neighbor (like car restoration).
20. Host neighborhood chats in lawn chairs on the driveway.
21. Move a picnic table to your front yard for a gathering spot with neighbors.
22. Host a neighbor for coffee and dessert.
23. Front yard game nights.
24. Neighborhood contest for lawns or Christmas lights.
25. Neighborhood backyard garden tour.

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 burton@missouri.edu.

Woodland Heights neighbors helped out an elderly neighbor by cleaning up after winter storms took down trees in her backyard. Read more about this story in the Woodland Heights section on page 26.

Nominate your favorite neighborhood volunteer today!

NOVAS
6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7
Oasis Convention Center (2546 N. Glenstone Ave.)*
*Tentative depending on COVID-19 case counts

> NONPROFIT BOARD TRAINING from page 6

a board member must give undivided allegiance when making decisions affecting the organization. This means that a board member can never use information obtained as a member for personal gain, but must act in the best interests of the organization.

DUTY OF OBEEDIENCE

The duty of obedience requires board members to be faithful to the organization’s mission. They are not permitted to act in a way that is inconsistent with the central goals of the organization. A basis for this rule lies in the public’s trust that the organization will manage donated funds to advance the organization’s mission. This duty also requires board members to obey the law and the organization’s internal rules and regulations.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

- Attend all board and committee meetings and as many functions, such as special events, as possible.
- Be informed about the organization’s mission, services, policies, and programs.
- Prepare for board and committee meetings by reviewing the meeting agenda and supporting materials.
- Serve on committees or task forces and offer to take on special assignments when your capacity allows.
- Make a personal financial contribution to the organization.
- Inform others about the organization. Advocate for the organization.
- Suggest possible nominees to the board who can make significant contributions to the work of the board and the organization.
- Keep up-to-date on developments in the organization’s field.
- Follow conflict-of-interest and confidentiality policies.
- Assist the board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing the organization’s financial statements.

Wichmer can be reached at 417-881-1397 if your neighborhood association board would like to schedule a training session.
PTA Clothing Bank upcoming shopping dates

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Mark your calendars! Here are the upcoming PTA Clothing Bank shopping dates through January 2022:

- Thurs., Oct. 14: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Oct. 28: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Nov. 11: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 13: 10 a.m.-Noon
- Thurs., Dec. 9: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Jan. 13, 2022: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Jan. 27, 2022: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Watch the Facebook page at facebook.com/ThePTAClothingBank for updates and volunteer information.

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.

Health Department launches the Finish Strong 417 vaccine outreach campaign

By Aaron Schekorra, Health Department, for SGFNN

The COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbated by the Delta variant, continues to impact our community. We have made progress in the vaccination effort. As of Aug. 20, more than 45% of Greene County residents 12 and older were vaccinated. To protect more of our neighbors from the severe illness that COVID-19 can cause, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department has expanded its vaccine outreach in Springfield neighborhoods with the Finish Strong 417 campaign.

“The more people who are vaccinated, the safer we all are,” said Director of Health Katie Towns. “But we also understand that many people still have questions about the vaccine, and we want to provide every opportunity possible to get those questions answered.”

Over the next several months, many throughout the community will hear from the Health Department, at their doors, over the phone, and through text messages. During these interactions, residents will have the opportunity to ask questions about the vaccines and have their concerns addressed. Making these one-on-one connections will allow us to have meaningful conversations about the COVID-19 vaccines and promote vaccination clinics occurring at centers, fire stations, parks, churches, and other venues within our city’s neighborhoods.

Working at the neighborhood level also allows us to provide focused outreach to different populations in our community. For instance, vaccine information and promotional materials were made available in Spanish in the neighborhood around Iglesia Cristiana Casa de Oracion, where the Health Department then held a vaccination clinic.

A vaccination event like the clinic at Iglesia Cristiana Casa de Oracion or at a fire station might administer a couple dozen vaccines. This is far different than the 6,131 vaccines provided at the Mega Vaccination Event in early April. But through clinics like these, we have been able to reach thousands of people. Every dose administered brings us one step closer to getting back to normal. Vaccinating one person can help keep them safe and protects those around them.

If you haven’t gotten vaccinated yet or you’re looking for information on third doses of Pfizer or Moderna, head to vaccine417.com or call the COVID-19 Call Center at 417-874-1211. This fall we plan to continue providing vaccinations throughout our community, but we need your help! If your neighborhood 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! Our community’s neighborhood associations have been a valued partner in promoting these events.

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 1 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.
NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Neighborhood revitalization should be top priority of Forward SGF

By Rusty Worley, for SGFNN

The Springfield community will be refining its priorities in the next few months in the Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan. It will include many worthwhile initiatives, including closing the gaps in the Ozarks Greenways system and enhancing parks, investing in placemaking and addressing public safety. However, neighborhood revitalization should also be on the short list of major priorities over the next 20 years.

Properties within the city limits have lost ground over the past two decades to the suburban bedroom communities that offered greenfield subdivisions and new schools. The typical three-bedroom, two-bath home outside the city limits of Springfield was $100,000 to $150,000 in the early 2000s. Now, those same starter homes are $200,000 and more, especially in the current hot real estate market.

The value proposition has changed in many of Springfield’s historic neighborhoods. Properties can often be acquired in the $40,000 to $80,000 range and another $60,000 in renovations makes them much more attractive to young families. At the same time, there are a myriad of community investments that will be improving the Queen City’s quality of life, including the Grant Avenue Parkway, Renew Jordan Creek, $170 million in Springfield R-12 school system upgrades, and $120 million in residential fiber optics from City Utilities and its partners.

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The time is right for Springfield to identify neighborhood revitalization as a top priority.

A recent trip of community leaders and residential advocates to Des Moines, Iowa, highlighted a model for our community to emulate. The city of Des Moines and Polk County, Iowa joined forces to establish Invest DSM as a private non-profit to provide holistic and innovative solutions that strengthen neighborhoods through strategic allocations in real estate and partnerships. The passage of a sales tax initiative secured $50 million over 10 years with the focus on increasing property values.

In just two years, the entrepreneurial and passionate Invest DSM staff have created three programs that are beginning to demonstrate impressive results.

The Block Challenge Grant allows teams of residents to band together to make tangible improvements to the exterior of their properties. Groups of five to nine property owners are eligible for up to $1,000 of matching fund reimbursements for a wide variety of ways they can enhance their curb appeal. Groups of 10 or more receive $2,500 in reimbursements. Two main requirements of the grant are that the properties must be within line-of-sight from each other to create a daisy chain of improvements and they must have a party at the end of the project to come together to celebrate their shared successes. Over the past year, 16 teams with 240 participants have invested over $1.1 million. For every dollar Invest DSM has funded, property owners have invested $1.$1.5.

The Homeowner Renovation Grant offers residents in designated neighborhoods the opportunity to receive 30-50% in reimbursements for high quality upgrades to their properties to significantly increase the home values and neighborhood desirability. This includes a wide variety of exterior enhancements, kitchen upgrades, bedroom additions and other efforts to make the properties more marketable for today’s consumers. The typical project is in the $30,000 to $50,000 range, with Invest DSM funding approximately $12,000 to $20,000 of that amount. A total of 79 projects have been approved for 2021 with an annual budget for Invest DSM of more than $1.3 million. The Homeowner Renovation Grants are focused on strengthening the “missing middle” neighborhoods to bolster them from slipping into at-risk and deteriorated conditions.

Invest DSM also spotlighted its assistance of commercial properties that are pivotal as neighborhood hubs — coffee shops, pizza places, bakeries, breweries, etc. Springfield has similar examples with Cherry and Pickwick, Downtown’s Brewery District, C-Street and Galloway Village. Expanding these economic opportunities into as many neighborhoods as possible should be an important component of Forward SGF.

There is much work left to do. Springfield can learn from other communities such as Des Moines to revitalize our neighborhoods.

Setting a shared goal on the horizon and working together to thoughtfully move in a common direction is attainable through the foundations already established in the Neighborhood Advisory Council. I look forward to joining Springfield’s dedicated residential advocates and you to make those aspirations a reality.
Bissett Neighborhood Yard Sale
a big success

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

After cancellation of Bissett’s annual neighborhood-wide “Yard-Zale” in 2020 due to COVID-19, we were pleased to hold the event again this past July 17. With 24 homes participating, it was a great way for many to find new homes for their surplus belongings, and of course make a little money. Some young children of one participant got the entrepreneurship bug and put up a beverage stand and did quite well, no doubt aided by the hot temperature that day! In addition, many enjoyed conversation and laughs with customers from across the city. BNA benefited with about a half dozen new memberships.

HILLCREST/NICHOLS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

$78,000

Sidewalk and intersection improvements including radius improvements at the intersection of Hillcrest Avenue and Nichols Street, ADA sidewalk replacement on Hillcrest Avenue from Nichols Street to Brower Street and a concrete landing at the bus stop along Nichols Street near L.A. Wise Park. This project is anticipated for construction in spring 2022.

The L.A. Wise Park pavilion in Bissett was funded by the Neighborhood Works program.

The Library Express West is the Springfield-Greene County Library District’s first 24-hour kiosk, where patrons can browse and check out books, DVDs, music CDs and audiobooks with their library card any hour of the day, seven days a week. Patrons can scan their library card or key in their card number to access materials. The vending unit is under a lighted canopy, so you can use it any time of the day or night, in any weather. Located on the parking lot of Orchard Plaza (3872 W. Chestnut Expressway).

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings
Meetings planned for Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Jan. 11 and Christmas Party on Dec. 14, locations to be announced. Pot luck at 6 p.m., Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

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

Bissett Elementary School
3014 W. Calhoun St.

Follow Bisset on

Follow Bisset on
Pedestrian connectivity improvements progress in Brentwood

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

As one pedestrian safety and connectivity project wraps up, another begins this fall in the Brentwood neighborhood.

Completed this summer, a long-requested pedestrian connection across Lone Pine Avenue at Greenwood Street is expected to increase safety and connectivity to the Galloway Ozark Greenways trail. The newly installed traffic signal provides a safe crossing for bikes and pedestrians while also protecting turning vehicles. A new sidewalk along the east side of Lone Pine Avenue from Greenwood Street to Covington Street connects pedestrians and bicycles to the Greenway Trail via a new 10-foot multi-use path along the south side of Covington.

“The new traffic light at Greenwood will create a stopping point on Lone Pine and provide safe opportunities for both traffic and pedestrians to maneuver.” – Joe Hamp

“While conducting on-site observations for the project, we often heard screeching tires as vehicles attempted to pull out from Covington or Greenwood onto Lone Pine,” explains project manager Joe Hamp. “The new traffic light at Greenwood will create a stopping point on Lone Pine and provide safe opportunities for both traffic and pedestrians to maneuver.”

An advance warning light was also installed to the south of the project to help alert motorists when there is a red light ahead.

Set to begin in September, a major sidewalk connection will soon be under construction along Luster Avenue between Seminole Street and Sunset Street. The connection will result in a continuous sidewalk corridor from Seminole Street to Battlefield Road and improved access to Field Elementary School. A bid from contractor Liming Concrete was approved in March.

“We ran into a few scheduling issues at first, but we are ready to begin construction around Sept. 13,” says Hamp. “We expect to start near Seminole Street and work our way south.”

The sidewalk will begin on the east side of Luster Avenue, continuing down to Berkley Street where it will cross to the west side of the road and continue from Berkley to Sunset Street.

“We designed the crossing from east to west in an effort to construct the sidewalk within existing right-of-way, avoid grading issues and preserve trees,” says Hamp. “The new crosswalk will be signed so drivers are aware to watch for pedestrians.”

The project is estimated to cost approximately $100,000 and will be funded through the Transportation Alternatives Program through MoDOT with a 20% match from the City’s ½-cent Transportation Sales Tax.

Motorists can expect periodic flaggers present when construction calls for a short-term lane closure. Project completion is anticipated in December.

IMPROVEMENTS TO KIRKWOOD PARK

Installation of new accessible playground equipment at Kirkwood Park (2201 E. Seminole St.), including rubber surfacing and concrete base. Playground equipment installation is expected in spring 2022.

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

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

Follow Brentwood on brentwoodsgf.org

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

- **Connect**
  - Rex Johnson, President:  
    mo.turkey@sbcglobal.net
  - Marilyn Kemper, Vice President:  
    marilynkmkemper@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**
  [Facebook](https://facebook.com)

Sunset over Amanda Belle’s Farm (located off of Primrose Street across from Cox South). Photo courtesy of CoxHealth Nurse Practitioner Helen Allen and Springfield Community Gardens. SpringfieldCommunityGardens.org

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**DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD**

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

- **Neighborhood Association Meetings**
  Oct. 5 • Nov. 2 • Dec. 7 • Jan. 4: 6 p.m. @ Delaware Elementary Community Room (1505 S. Delaware Ave.)
  Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

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

- **Follow Delaware on**
  [Facebook](https://facebook.com)

Delaware Neighborhood Ice Cream Social Aug. 27 at Delaware Elementary School.

Delaware Neighborhood Fall Cleanup
Thurs., Nov. 4: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Westminster Presbyterian Church
(1551 E. Portland St.)
Trash, Yardwaste, Leaves, Metal Recycling & Curbside*

*Curbside pickup will be available. Contact Jeff Brassard-Sims for details. Information is subject to change. Please check CleanGreenSGF.com for the latest updates.

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**DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD**

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

- **Neighborhood PAR Officer**
  Officer Nathan Fetters: 417-874-2537
  nfetters@springfieldmo.gov

- **Follow Doling on**
  [Facebook](https://facebook.com)

Doling Park (301 E. Talmage St.), Photo: Springfield CVB

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**DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS.com**
Wildlife calendar, holiday gathering, stream cleanups planned for Galloway Village this fall

By Betsy Johnson, for SGFNN

Life in Galloway Village is never boring. The scenery changes with the seasons, and our wildlife never ceases to amaze. This year, we want to celebrate this by dedicating our 2022 calendar to the wildlife of Galloway Village, and we need the assistance of our neighbors. We need photos of various types of wildlife, encompassing the seasons. If you would like to submit a photo, use #gallowaywildlife and post it on our Facebook page Galloway Village Neighbors. The goal is to have our 2022 calendar available at our next association meeting, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Oct. 19 at Galloway Baptist Church.

Those attending the meeting will be able to see our recently planted Giving Tree, located in the front west-end lawn of Galloway Baptist Church. This evergreen is not yet tall, but will grow each year. This tree will be the location of our annual holiday gathering. Each year, we ask our neighbors to bring donations to help our neighbors enjoy the holidays more. The date and specific information on the event will be posted on our Facebook page and on our website, GallowayVillage.org.

If you have not recently visited our website, GallowayVillage.org, please take a look! Our site is now easier to use and allows our neighbors who are not on Facebook to stay informed. Our business partners are also listed on this site, letting our neighbors become familiar with businesses within our Association boundaries. If you know of a business within the GVNA boundaries that would be interested in becoming one of our business partners, let us know! Just email us at gallowayvillage@gmail.com.

The dates/times for upcoming events, including our stream cleanups, will be posted on both the GVNA website and Facebook pages. Our stream cleanups are a fun and rewarding way to keep the stream that runs through Sequiota Park litter free. Plus, the added bonus of discussing the interesting finds at the end of the day!

Another way of becoming involved with GVNA is in sharing some joy with our neighbors. This can be done by joining us for the annual Bass Pro Marathon cheering contest. We have won top prize both years we have entered, and always welcome more to join in the fun. The marathon takes place this year on Sunday, Nov. 7. Spreading the joy can also be done by lighting up your home during the holidays and sharing a photo. Prizes will be awarded for the most dazzling homes. One of our goals is to have Galloway Village become a go-to neighborhood for seeing holiday lights. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information!
Construction underway for improvements to Fire Station 10

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Construction began in July for improvements to Springfield’s Fire Station 10 at 2245 E. Galloway St., which was built in 1979. The newly renovated station will be operational by January 2022.

The $644,000 project includes renovation of the station’s kitchen, dining and living room spaces, physical fitness areas and sleeping quarters. The station’s laundry areas will also be updated to allow for the proper inspection, cleaning, drying and storage of turnout gear (firefighter protective clothing).

Station 10’s firefighters and apparatus were relocated to Fire Station 11 at 4940 S. Fremont until the renovation is complete. Modifications have been made to adjoining fire station response districts to minimize the impact to response times due to the construction, Fire Chief David Pennington said.

“We are so fortunate to have such a supportive community that recognizes the ongoing needs of a fire service such as ours,” Pennington said. “These much-needed renovations to Station 10 will provide this fire station the ability to serve our community for decades to come.”

The Fire Department continues working as promised to improve its facilities using funding provided by the continuation of the Level Property Tax approved by Springfield voters in 2017.

The tax generates about $8.5 million a year, which is allowing the department to replace and renovate outdated fire stations and equipment for the first time in decades, as well as build two brand-new stations – Fire Stations 13 and 14 – over the next several years.

Pennington noted these additional projects in the pipeline for the department:

• Work continues to replace Fire Station 4 at 2423 N. Delaware, which was demolished in March. The new, nearly $3 million station will be operational in spring/early summer 2022. The old station, which was built in 1968, had long exceeded its usefulness.

• Demolition and construction to replace Fire Station 7, which was built in 1958 at 2129 E. Sunshine, will begin in spring 2022 and be operational by 2023. The total budget for the project is just over $3 million.

• Construction for the brand-new Fire Station 13 in the 1900 block of West College in the West Central neighborhood will begin soon and will be complete by summer 2022 at an estimated construction cost of $2.34 million.

• Construction for the brand-new Fire Station 14 at the northeast corner of West Chestnut Expressway and North Duke Avenue is planned as part of a 2026 bond package made possible by the Level Property Tax. The estimated cost for the project is not yet known.

Meet the Galloway Village Neighborhood Association officers

Provided by the Galloway Village Neighborhood Association

PRESIDENT MELANIE BACH

“My family moved to Galloway Village from Memphis, TN, in 2004. We have thoroughly enjoyed raising our three children in this historic, scenic area. We have made many lasting memories in Galloway, from witnessing a wrecking ball demolish the Ash Grove Lime Plant to seeing hundreds of bats fly across Barton Road, heading out for their nightly hunt. My favorite things about living in Galloway are the sense of community, the wildlife, and the convenience to area businesses.”

VICE PRESIDENT JUDY STAINBACK

“Hello Galloway Neighbors! My name is Judy Stainback, the ‘old lady’ of the GVNA board! I retired in April 2020, and promptly got to enjoy the stay-at-home order because of nasty COVID! My favorite summer time activity is growing flowers! I probably have about 50 different plants to take care of and enjoy seeing the blooms as the seasons progress. Galloway area is such an oasis of nature that I hope we have to enjoy for years. We need our neighbors to help us make that dream a reality by educating yourselves on what is going on around us, working to preserve what we have and protect it for our children and grandchildren! Volunteer your time, talents and treasures (financial support!) so our Galloway can be an oasis for years to come! Let me know if I can help you connect with us!”

SECRETARY JACQUE THUMMEL

“My family has lived and worked in the Galloway area since the early 1900s. Words can not describe how great it was to grow up in this area. Galloway is rich in history and richer in loving and caring families. Many founding families or their descendants still reside here. I initially got involved with GVNA after hearing life long residents voicing concerns about their family properties. I continue to be involved to help future residents.

Having grown up in Galloway, I of course went to Sequiota School. In 1971, Sequiota 5th graders researched and compiled a book about Galloway. Although I was too young to have been involved with the creation of this book, I still love the dedication of it. It is as follows, ‘To all future Generations of Galloway. Love your land as we have.’ My hope is to be part of a group and generation that still sees value in preserving and protecting the character, green spaces and the wildlife of Galloway so children in future generations can also say, Galloway was a great place to grow up.”

TREASURER WENDY HUSCHER

“Sequiota Park drew my husband and I to this area in 1992. We started our business, About Faces Photography, and we started our family, and we never left. We see the value in the trees and the wildlife that this area offers and we vow to protect it! If you take those assets away, you lose what we came here for. We have treasured living and working in our ‘portrait park’ while still being five minutes from the mall for 25 years. I am fighting to be able to have my grandchildren visit and have it still feel like Galloway.”

Visit gallowayvillage.org to learn more about the other board members of GVNA.

Galloway greenway trail reconstruction south of Sequiota Park complete

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

In June, City contractor Liming Concrete, LLC completed reconstruction of a deteriorating section of the Galloway Greenway Trail between Sequiota Park and Republic Road.

The project replaced 2,700 feet of existing asphalt trail with a new 8- to 10-foot-wide concrete surface compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

The Galloway Creek Greenway Trail is the highest-used section of trail in the City and continues to grow in popularity, connecting neighborhoods and businesses to the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, Springfield Lake, and Pershing Elementary and Middle Schools.

The project cost approximately $141,380, funded 80% through a Surface Transportation Block Grant through the Missouri Department of Transportation, with the remaining 20% funded through the City’s 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax.
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.

**STORMWATER**
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

**ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN**

**WASTEWATER**
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

**NO STINK IN THE SINK**

**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

**A PLACE FOR YARDWASTE**
ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

What flows down our streets and parking lots ends up in our streams. Practicing responsible water stewardship helps to minimize and reduce the number of pollutants that enter our waterways through the groundwater and our storm drains. This is important because the water that goes into our storm drains is not sent to a treatment plant to be filtered, cleaned or treated. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/stormwater.

PLANTING TREES IN THE FALL

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

FALL GARDEN UPKEEP

Despite spring being the season of gardening and yard work, many professionals agree that fall is as important, if not more important because many plants and trees respond more positively during this time of the year. Fall is a great time to mulch. Not only does it help to retain moisture, accommodate garden-friendly critters and prevent weed growth in the autumn months, but it also helps to insulate and protect your garden plants from the oncoming cold. It is tempting to trim back and cut down natives and perennials. However, you should refrain! The best time for this is in the late winter months after the plants have gone dormant. Waiting until February or early spring is a great time to trim back to keep the roots safe and provide extra food and habitat for wildlife.

MOMULCH PRODUCT PRICING

Made from locally generated chipped and ground wood waste from limbs, sticks and brush, MOMulch is a real value and is available year-round. MOMulch and MOPost product sales support waste management efforts and environmental education for our community. It may be purchased in bulk only at the Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC). Bags may be purchased at all recycling center locations. Cash and check are the only payment forms accepted.

DON'T RAKE, SWEEP OR BLOW LEAVES, GRASS CLIPPINGS OR YARD DEBRIS INTO THE STREET OR STORM DRAIN. This practice is discouraged due to the problems it causes to our water quality and stormwater drainage system. In fact, this is a violation of City Code Section 96-27. Even though yardwaste is organic, it adds nutrients to streams that contribute to algae growth. Not only that, it degrades the water quality of the streams the drains flow to and can even clog storm drains – causing flooding in streets, intersections and neighborhoods.

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MOMULCH PRODUCT PRICING

Made from locally generated chipped and ground wood waste from limbs, sticks and brush, MOMulch is a real value and is available year-round. MOMulch and MOPost product sales support waste management efforts and environmental education for our community. It may be purchased in bulk only at the Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC). Bags may be purchased at all recycling center locations. Cash and check are the only payment forms accepted.

DON'T RAKE, SWEEP OR BLOW LEAVES, GRASS CLIPPINGS OR YARD DEBRIS INTO THE STREET OR STORM DRAIN. This practice is discouraged due to the problems it causes to our water quality and stormwater drainage system. In fact, this is a violation of City Code Section 96-27. Even though yardwaste is organic, it adds nutrients to streams that contribute to algae growth. Not only that, it degrades the water quality of the streams the drains flow to and can even clog storm drains – causing flooding in streets, intersections and neighborhoods.

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

What flows down our streets and parking lots ends up in our streams. Practicing responsible water stewardship helps to minimize and reduce the number of pollutants that enter our waterways through the groundwater and our storm drains. This is important because the water that goes into our storm drains is not sent to a treatment plant to be filtered, cleaned or treated. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/stormwater.

PLANTING TREES IN THE FALL

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

FALL GARDEN UPKEEP

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**WHAT, WHERE & WHY**

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

**WHAT IS ACCEPTED**

The usual suspects of limbs, sticks, leaves and grass clippings are always accepted. Beyond those, we accept debris from gardens and even fall organic decorations like cornstalks, gourds, pumpkins and hay bales (remove wire or string).

**WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED**

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

**LEAVES & GRASS CLIPPINGS**

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

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

**HATE TO WAIT:** Visit between Wednesday and Fridays to avoid traffic.

**YARDWASTE RECYCLING CENTER**

3790 S. Farm Rd 119

**TUESDAY - SATURDAY**

**SUMMER HOURS:** 8AM - 6PM
First Tuesday in April until first Tuesday in November

**WINTER HOURS:** 8AM - 5PM
First Tuesday in November until first Tuesday in April

**SEASONAL SUNDAYS**
Fall Hours: 1PM - 5PM
First Sunday in November through first Sunday in December

**CLOSED THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS DAY**

**OTHER RECYCLING FACILITIES**

**BRUSH DISPOSAL FEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAR/SUV/PICKUP OR TRAILER UP TO 8 FT. IN BED LENGTH</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAILER 8-12 FT.</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAILER 13-16 FT.</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUMP TRUCK</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LARGE VOLUME FEE PER CU. YARD</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FRANKLIN AVE RECYCLING CENTER**
731 N. Franklin Ave.

**LONE PINE RECYCLING CENTER**
3020 S. Lone Pine

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**A PLACE FOR YARDWASTE**

FALL IS NEAR AND SOON LEAVES WILL BE EVERYWHERE.

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

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Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/solidwaste.
NO STINK IN THE SINK

DON'T CAUSE A PAIN IN YOUR DRAIN.
It's normal for a little food to go down the drain in the kitchen, but even if you have a garbage disposal, the sink is not an ideal place to dispose of certain substances. Rather than washing or flushing away unused goods, proper disposal is key to preventing clogged pipes, costly plumber bills and sewer infrastructure problems throughout our City. Eliminate the stink and keep food – and other things – out of your drains and pipes by following these easy tips.
Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/wastewater.

THINGS THAT SHOULD NEVER GO DOWN YOUR DRAIN

- COFFEE GROUNDS
- EGG SHELLS
- FLOUR
- DAIRY PRODUCTS
- BONES
- FATS, OILS & GREASE
- PASTA
- RICE
- PRODUCE STICKERS

NEVER FLUSH OR WASH THESE OTHER ITEMS DOWN THE DRAIN:
Kitty litter (even the “flushable” kind), cotton swabs, paint, household cleaners, cotton balls, toothpaste tubes, feminine hygiene products, plastic wrappers, cosmetic wipes, dental floss, contact lenses, cigarette butts, chewing gum, hair, band-aids and, of course, “flushable” wipes

PROPER DISPOSAL OF SHARPS & MEDS

STEP ONE:
Obtain a well rinsed detergent bottle (preferred), or antifreeze jug. Drop sharp end of object first. Reseal bottle or jug. Store in a secure place.

STEP TWO:
When full, add one part bleach and nine parts water. Let set for 30 minutes.

STEP THREE:
Pour all liquid down the sewer.

STEP FOUR:
Reseal the container.

STEP FIVE:
Tape container securely closed.

STEP SIX:
Place in trash.

MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Some law enforcement and pharmacy locations have permanent drug drop boxes within their facilities. The boxes, similar to large postal mailboxes, allow community members to anonymously and discreetly dispose of unused, unwanted or expired medications by dropping them into these boxes.

Some things may be prohibited from disposal, such as needles/sharps, glass or inhalers. These boxes are locked and closely monitored, and regularly emptied with the contents properly disposed of per regulations. For a list of drop box locations visit www.cpozarks.org/programs/opioid-prevention/safe-disposal.
Sanford Park improvements coming along

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The connector walkway between Battlefield Street and the walking trail is complete and awaiting additional dirt work and grass seed. The parking lot and picnic shelter are complete and the driveway approach from Franklin Avenue to the parking lot, lighting, and signage installation are in progress.

The City of Springfield’s Neighborhood Works capital improvement grant program granted $199,000 for the project, funding a new concrete parking lot, new picnic shelter and picnic tables, and a paved walkway connecting the park’s existing loop trail to Battlefield Road.

STORMWATER AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Requested park improvements at Horace Mann School-Park include tennis court repairs and resurfacing as well as stormwater improvements including new concrete channel, manhole adjustments and watertight grate.

Target for completion is spring/summer 2022.

SANFORD PARK PHASE 2

New sidewalk connection from Battlefield Road to Sanford Park including lighting, new park signage and a bike rack.

Target for completion is fall.

$47,259

$52,741

Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park

Harvest Fest

Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze

Open Tues-Sun, Sept 28-Oct 24

Open weekends, Oct 2-24

PARKBOARD.ORG/FARMPARK

SGF.NEIGHBORHOODNEWS.com • 15

Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!
wearing a mask. There will be lots of treats! Be sure to stop Board will host a Trunk or Treat 6-8 p.m. Oct. 31 at the train Historical Museum and the Springfield-Greene County Park By Kathy Lutz, for SGFNN Trunk or Treat in Grant Beach Park on Halloween
By Kathy Lutz, for SGFNN The Grant Beach Neighborhood Association, the Railroad Historical Museum and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board will host a Trunk or Treat 6-8 p.m. Oct. 31 at the train depot in Grant Beach Park. Due to COVID, we recommend wearing a mask. There will be lots of treats! Be sure to stop by Hovey House to enter the costume contest.

Grantee
• 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
Oct. 18 • Nov. 15 • Dec. 20 • Jan. 17: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m./6 p.m. optional potluck @ St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall (1115 N. Campbell Ave.)

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

Grant Beach Neighborhood Fall Cleanup
Tues.-Wed., Oct. 19-20: Times TBD
Central Assembly of God (1301 N. Boonville Ave.)
Trash, Yardwaste, Metal & Curbside

*Curbside pickup will be available. Contact Pauletta Dunn for details. Information is subject to change.
Please check CleanGreenSGF.com for the latest updates.

RICHARD NAPIERLSKI COMMUNITY GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS
Install a freeze-proof yard hydrant within the west end of the garden area and provide new water service. Target for installation is spring 2022.

Trunk or Treat in Grant Beach Park on Halloween
By Kathy Lutz, for SGFNN
In August, we elected our new officers for the next two-year term. We are proud and thankful for everyone that stepped up to serve on the board. The terms runs Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2023. Our new board is as follows: Samantha Spartan, President; Kimberly Holloway, Vice President; Stacy Letterman, Secretary; Rebecca Welsh, Treasurer; Tom Payne, Southeast Member-at-Large; Cindy Million, Northwest Member-at-Large; Johanna Wood, Northeast Member-at-Large; Southwest Member-at-Large seat is vacant.

Mark Twain announces board elections
By Samantha Spartan, for SGFNN

Neighborhood Association Meetings
Oct. 12 • Nov. 9 • Dec. 14 • Jan. 11: 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 Trunk or Treat
Oct. 30: 4-6 p.m.
The Parking Lot at Sunset Church of Christ (1222 W. Sunset St.)

Tree Planting, Landscaping and Fence Removal
Planting of trees, shrubs, grasses and removal of fencing along City owned property in the southeast corner of Kansas Expressway and Sunshine Street. The target for project completion is spring 2022.

Mark Twain Fall Cleanup
Thurs., Oct. 7: 6 a.m.-7 p.m.
Meador Park (2500 S. Fremont Ave.)
Trash, Yardwaste, Leaves, Metal, Electronics & Recycling

Information is subject to change. Please check CleanGreenSGF.com for the latest updates.

Mark Twain neighborhood Association
President: 417-812-6067 or marktwainassociation@gmail.com
Kimberly Holloway, Vice President
Stacy Letterman, Secretary
Rebecca Welsh, Treasurer

Meador Park Neighborhood Fall Cleanup
Thurs., Oct. 7: 6 a.m.-7 p.m.
Meador Park (2500 S. Fremont Ave.)
Trash, Yardwaste, Leaves, Metal, Electronics & Recycling

Information is subject to change. Please check CleanGreenSGF.com for the latest updates.

The Meador Park Neighborhood Association hosted a Back-to-School Ice Cream Social for Cowden Elementary on Aug. 18. The ice cream was donated by Culver’s.
Ground broken in July for new York Elementary

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

Springfield students, community leaders and staff broke ground on a new York Elementary School July 21. The new school will open in 2022.

“For the past 110 years, York has stood right here on this plot of land,” said Dr. Lora Hopper, York principal. “York was petitioned in 1911 by a Civil War veteran living in this community, who was concerned about educating young people and preparing them for the future. That continues to be our mission today.”

York began as a four-room school house in 1911, but after a nearly $21 million investment, the school will be an innovative learning facility and community hub for its neighborhood. Plus, the school will feature a modern, dedicated art room, expanded library and special instructional areas for learning, collaborating and connecting at school. View more project details of the new York Elementary at sps.org/Page/5214.

Superintendent Grenita Lathan participated in her first groundbreaking event at Springfield Public Schools, sharing her excitement with the York community about a brand new school, made possible by strategic, consistent usage of bond funds by SPS.

“Lower than anticipated costs and effective management of current Prop S projects mean that York can open in 2022, years before it might have,” said Dr. Lathan. “Now, that’s a great reason to celebrate! Cost savings from Prop S have also enabled us to expedite Phase 2 of Hillcrest High School and add storm shelter safe rooms at Field and Twain elementary schools.”

York was constructed in 1911. It was named after William York, a disabled Civil War veteran, who circulated a petition in the fall of 1910 requesting the construction of a school in that area. Below is a timeline of the school’s development.

- **1911:** Original building was 8,459 square feet, consisting of four classrooms and one basement room.
- **1923:** Annexed into Springfield Public Schools R-12 District
- **1930:** Addition of 7,782 square feet including five classrooms and restrooms.
- **1954:** Addition of 11,061 square feet consisting of four classrooms and a multipurpose room.
- **1967:** Addition of 4,153 square feet for two kindergarten classrooms and one regular classroom.
- **1991:** Addition of a learning resource center and two classrooms.

Heart of the Westside board, bylaws election in November

By Anna Pageler, for SGFNN

Heart of the Westside will hold an election 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9 at Passion Assembly of God Church to elect 2022 officers and make some needed changes to the association’s bylaws. Our focus this year is making our “Purposes and Goal” clear, applicable and compatible to our mission statement.

Here is a short link to view our proposed ratifications: t.ly/VJYj.

CURRENT CANDIDATES
- Anna Pageler (2021 president)
- Glen Gohr (2021 secretary/treasurer).

EMPTY SPOTS (SEE GOOGLE FORM FOR DESCRIPTIONS)
- Vice President
- Social Media
- Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
- Special Events Coordinator
- Social Media Coordinator.

If you would like to be a candidate or nominate a candidate, you can submit your selections two ways:
1. Digital Google Form (t.ly/mhZ5)
2. Email (theheartofthewestside@gmail.com)

Nominations will be accepted until Oct. 31.

Heart of the Westside participates in York Elementary Back to School Bash

By Anna Pageler, for SGFNN

Heart was invited to participate in York Elementary’s Back to School Bash back in August. We had a booth set up with Giant Jenga for kids and families to play as well as info about HOTW. As a result, connections were made; we had fun; and our partnership with York Elementary (faculty, staff and students) was built.
Central Street closed to daytime traffic between Benton Avenue and Clay Avenue through December

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Central Street will continue to be closed to through traffic in sections between Benton and Clay Avenues between 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., daily, for the duration of the Central Street Corridor Phase 2 project. Completion is anticipated in December.

The traffic signal at Central Street and Drury Lane is temporarily deactivated to allow for project construction. The intersection will function as a four-way stop until upgraded traffic signals are installed later this fall.

“We placed LED message boards on either side of the project bounds to alert motorists to the change,” explains Project Manager Nicholas Edelman. “We also installed flashers on the stop signs to increase visibility and awareness.”

The City will continue to coordinate with Drury University and Central High School on specific impacts to their campuses and operations as the school year progresses.

Daytime through traffic is advised to follow the marked detour via Sherman Avenue, Calhoun Street and Benton Avenue. Pedestrians and motorists are asked to use caution when traveling through the work zone.

ABOUT THE CENTRAL STREET CORRIDOR PHASE II PROJECT

The Central Street Corridor Phase 2 project will continue “complete streets” improvements along Central Street between Benton Avenue and Clay Avenue, including a multi-use path on 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 be included as well as the installation of a small rain garden at Central and Clay to help improve water quality. The project will also incorporate on-street parking, decorative street lighting and a grass-covered median. Gas, water, electrical and fiber utilities will be updated within the project boundaries.

A complete street network is one that is planned, designed, constructed, operated and maintained to service pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages to safely and efficiently travel. The City formally adopted its Complete Streets Policy in 2014. The complete streets effort aligns with a consistent call from citizens for a more walkable community, heard in citizen surveys and throughout the Forward SGF comprehensive planning process.

The Phase 2 project is expected to cost $2.1 million and will be funded through the ¾-cent Transportation Sales Tax with reimbursements from City Utilities for the utility upgrades. Completion is anticipated by the end of the year.

For more information, visit the Central Street Corridor Phase 2 project webpage.

ALLEWAY CLEANUP

This project consists of removing overgrowth of vegetation in the alleys located in Midtown. The target timeframe is fall/winter.

SILVER SPRINGS PARK WATER LINE

Install a freeze-proof hose bib on the north wall of the Silver Springs Park pavilion. Work was recently completed.

NEW BOYD ELEMENTARY OPENED WITH RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

BY SPS COMMUNICATIONS, FOR SGFNN

More than 150 community members gathered on Sept. 9 to celebrate the official opening of the new Boyd Elementary School. In families and led by proud Boyd teachers, they walked past a historic mosaic relocated from their previous school. Attendees viewed the Mary S. Boyd History Wall, created from photographs and stories shared by Midtown citizens, many of which attended the former Berry school — where the new school sits. The $20 million facility features a variety of modern, collaborative spaces designed for interactive learning, as well as the first pre-kindergarten Primary Years Programme in Springfield. Four classrooms of early childhood education learners gather each day to learn and thrive in a space specially designed for their needs, while also providing free, high-quality preschool for nearby families.

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Central High School Botanical Society receives $3,000 grant for school garden

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

Central High School’s school garden is about to keep on growing.

The Central High School Botanical Society applied for a grant from the Whole Kids Foundation to help fund their school garden late last school year. And on Aug. 2, Central’s gardeners were notified that they had received a $3,000 garden grant.

The school’s garden was one of 1,400 applicants selected to receive funds.

“Receiving the Whole Kids Foundation garden grant is recognition of the community that Brandi Mendenall and I have been building over the last eight years,” said Paul Epps, CHS Botanical Society leader and Environmental Sciences teacher. “Central Botanical Society has had about 250 members since we started. These gardeners have developed friendships, work ethic and a sense of ownership that they still hold. We get texts from them all the time, sharing memories of building something or tasting a vegetable for the first time.”

The Central High School garden features berry bushes, blooming flowers and hearty vegetables, all grown and cared for by CHS students, staff and community volunteers. In addition to the garden’s harvest, its infrastructure is supported by additional CHS students. Industrial Arts classes build garden beds and benches. Poetry classes explore the human condition among the plants. And hungry neighbors are encouraged to harvest overflowing herbs, vegetables and more.

“I hope earning a $3,000 grant for the Central Botanical Society’s gardens will pave the way for other Garden Champions in the district to apply for grants and advocate for their school’s gardens,” said Kendall Slaughter, Farm to School coordinator at SPS. “I also hope that it will motivate more schools and more teachers to participate in the Farm to School program.”

PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

Connect
- Eric Pauly, President: ptumil10@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 phelpsgrove.com

Stormwater Improvement project at the Art Museum reaches halfway point
By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Contractor Hartman and Company has made progress since breaking ground in March, completing sanitary sewer main relocations along Brookside Drive and conducting excavation and grading from east to west along Fassnight Creek between Kings Avenue and Greene Avenue. Hartman has also installed bridge piers for two pedestrian bridges located on the east and west sides of the project and landscape crews have installed turf reinforcement and erosion control materials to aid in the establishment of native seeds.

“Work progress was extremely fragmented in early summer as we experienced regular rainfall, industry-wide materials and vendor delays have also had an impact on the timeline,” explains project manager Kirkland Preston. “Despite these factors, Hartman has made progress and expects to be largely completed by winter with items like landscaping and finishing work that may get pushed back to spring, when weather will be more favorable.”

Still to come are roadway alignment modifications to Brookside Drive, decorative stone and landscaping involving more than 200 native Missouri plants.

“As the general shape of the channel and pools have started to take shape, one promising sign is that a couple of mallard ducks and other wildlife have moved in, despite the noise and activity of ongoing construction,” reports Preston. “This return to nature is what we’re aiming for with the project and it’s cool to see.”

For more information visit springfieldmo.gov/samstormwater.

ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings
Oct. 28 • Dec. 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 acallaway@springfieldmo.gov
Follow Robberson on phelpsgrove.com

The Robberson alleyway cleanup this summer was a success! Did you know that the O’Reilly Center for Hope’s home is in the Robberson neighborhood? Together with some pretty amazing volunteers, the Robberson Neighborhood Association and the City of Springfield, we removed over 1,000 pounds of trash, bulky items, and brush from the Robberson neighborhood. Thank you to everyone who helped get the word out, to everyone who came out and volunteered, to the No Reservations food truck for a delicious lunch – we appreciate you! Provided by Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

SGFNEIGHBORHOODNEWS.com • 19
Meet Oak Grove Neighborhood Community Garden Leader Ken Bass

Provided by Springfield Community Gardens

Ken Bass has been a garden leader with Springfield Community Gardens (SCG) since the East Stanford/ Oak Grove Neighborhood Garden’s opening in 2015.

How it works: This garden is part of SCG and is sponsored by Schweitzer United Methodist Church. Neighborhood residents pay $5 plot rentals for 4’x12’ plots. Gardeners keep all the produce they produce (one plot has grown as much as 245 pounds in a single growing season!).

“To be successful, get help, start slow, don’t do more than you can handle, and don’t be afraid to try new things.” – Ken Bass

Gardeners are expected to keep their plots tidy and are encouraged to get creative with produce choices and infrastructure (check out some of the solutions gardeners have found for vines!). There are no scheduled workdays – plot holders come when it’s convenient for them to maintain and harvest from their plots.

Ken’s favorites things about being a garden leader are:

Meeting new people. Many Burmese refugees and African immigrants in the neighborhood rent plots and enjoy growing staples from their countries, like bitter melon, roselle, and pumpkin leaves.

Learning from others. Ken enjoys learning about new recipes and produce options (did you know peanuts grow well in Missouri? Producers here do!), and growing techniques. Ken is from a family of gardeners and has taken master gardener classes through the MU Extension Office but still learns from others every growing season!

Building neighborhood connections. With 70 plots rented out, there’s always a producer out in the garden.

Ken’s advice for new gardeners: “To be successful, get help, start slow, don’t do more than you can handle, and don’t be afraid to try new things.”

Stop by the garden at 2710 E. Stanford in Springfield or visit springfieldcommunitygardens.org for volunteer opportunities.
SGF Yields to host lantern walks in Rountree and Woodland Heights in October

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

October is National Pedestrian safety Month. SGF Yields and the Rountree and Woodland Heights Neighborhood Associations will host lantern walks in their neighborhoods Oct. 2 (Rountree) and Oct. 16 (Woodland Heights) to promote safe walking habits and remind drivers to watch for pedestrians and yield at crosswalks.

“The lantern walks came about as a result of Rountree and Woodland Heights’ participation in the SGF Yields Citizen Action Group, a group of folks who provide support and input on pedestrian and bicycle safety efforts in Springfield,” says SGF Yields Traffic Safety Professional Mandy Buettgen-Quinn. “They also recommend locations for crosswalk enforcement and sometimes attend yield checks to help encourage positive driver behavior.”

“We encourage neighborhood schools, after-school programs and families to craft lanterns at home to use on the walks. Neighbors are encouraged to decorate their porches and lawns with lampions as well,” says Buettgen-Quinn.

Lanterns can be easily made with recycled soda bottles, paper plates and vellum or tissue paper and safely powered by glow sticks.

Families can join the walks at any point along the approximately two-mile circular routes to show off their lanterns. This prevents crowding at the starting and ending points. Along the way, they can learn about safe street crossings and get their pictures taken to enter their lanterns into a competition.

While this year’s walks will be designed to be contact-less, we hope that neighborhood lantern events will grow to become an early October tradition in our community, Buettgen-Quinn says.

The walks will begin at sunset, around 7 p.m. At press time, the routes were still being determined. Visit sgfneighborhoodnews.com or contact your neighborhood association president for the latest details.

ADA COMPLIANT SIDEWALKS AND RAMPS

This project will rehabilitate and replace non-compliant sidewalks and curb ramps in the Rountree neighborhood in various locations along Kentwood Avenue, Fairway Avenue, Catalpa Street, Delmar Street and Weller Avenue. The timeframe for this project is spring 2022.

$85,499

Rountree Halloween Parade: Oct. 31, 5 p.m.

Please stay tuned to SGFNeighborhoodNews.com or the Rountree Neighborhood Association Facebook Group for the latest updates.
University Heights hosts second fundraiser for local health care workers

By Linda Regan, for SGFNN

It’s past time to share some recognition! Kudos to John Fahey (who said our neighborhood should again step up to thank health care workers); University Heights Neighborhood Association President Jan Peterson, who made it happen); and SO MANY DONORS, including friends from outside UHNA who contributed to our neighborhood “Health Care Workers Project.” I’m sharing Jan’s recent post and just a few photos to demonstrate, once more, the power of a group of caring individuals.

FROM JAN:

“You all deserve a standing ovation! We raised more than $3,000 and I have no idea how much more in donations in products. Our very generous partners at Panera (seriously — they kicked in 100 meals!) delivered 150 boxed lunches to Mercy COVID-19 workers. We also had 150 gift bags overflowing with stuff for them to pamper themselves with — everything from basic yummy smelling spa-style toiletries to scented candles, lotions, potions and facials. Our friends at Cox got the same treatment — another 150 meals, another 150 stuffed goodie bags. We even had enough money left over to buy an abundance of on-the-go snacks including protein bars, individual trail mix packages, all kinds of jerky and, of course, 32 pounds of candy. If anyone deserves a sugar buzz, it’s these folks. We also delivered an abundance of thank-you cards to remind them we care. So thank you all again for making this effort the success it is. You knocked it out of the park. Here’s hoping we coax a few smiles on their tired faces. In addition, a massive thank you to Ashley Berg at Yard Love Springfield for hooking us up with an encouraging sign! Hospital heroes will see it as they pull in to park for their shifts. Thanks, Ashley! I live in a special neighborhood!”
UPDATES TO TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS AT ZAGONYI PARK

This project includes repairs to the basketball court and installation of a new chain link fence. The tennis courts will also be striped to serve as Pickleball courts. Target for project completion is fall.

New Ed V. Williams Elementary celebrated with ribbon-cutting ceremony

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

On Sept. 2, Williams Elementary School teachers, students, neighbors and community leaders gathered to celebrate the new Williams with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new school features innovative learning environments, dynamic classrooms and flexible spaces for collaboration for nearly 400 learners, pre-K to grade 5. Also, a new Boys & Girls Club unit is located within the school’s walls, the O’Reilly Unit. This dedicated space provides a safe and nurturing environment for before- and after-school programming available for all Williams families.

The Library Express West is the Springfield-Greene County Library District’s first 24-hour kiosk, where patrons can browse and check out books, DVDs, music CDs and audiobooks with their library card any hour of the day, seven days a week. Patrons can scan their library card or key in their card number to access materials. The vending unit is under a lighted canopy, so you can use it any time of the day or night, in any weather. Located on the parking lot of Orchard Plaza (3872 W. Chestnut Expressway).
Grant Avenue Parkway Project Reveal

Continued from the front page

This team’s selection is dependent on City Council’s final approval, scheduled for a first reading measure on Sept. 20. The deadline to obligate the $22 million federal Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the project is Sept. 30.

“The GAP Collaborative team understands the importance of creating vibrant, transformative space within public rights-of-way and will bring our global experience to the City of Springfield” – GAP Collaborative

“Our project team at the City is excited for the GAP Collaborative to join our team, and we’re ready to begin coordinating with our community partners, residents and stakeholders in making this project a reality for Springfield,” says Public Works Project Manager Leree Reese.

Depending on the contractors’ schedules, construction on the Grant Avenue Parkway is anticipated in 2022 with completion expected in 2024.

ABOUT THE GRANT AVENUE PARKWAY PROJECT

Funded primarily by a $22 million federal Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant, the Grant Avenue Parkway will provide major transportation improvements along Grant Avenue in the heart of Springfield.

The project will create a multi-use pedestrian and bicycle pathway along Grant Avenue between Sunshine Street and Downtown Springfield. The three-mile stretch will connect downtown businesses and neighborhoods with the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium (WOW). The route is envisioned to include bike and pedestrian friendly facilities, various traffic-calming improvements, bridge enhancements, utility upgrades, fiber optic internet connectivity and additional crossing and intersection improvements.

To view a recording of the Project Reveal broadcast and for more information on the project, visit grantavenueparkway.com/reveal.

An artist rendering of potential updates to Hawthorn Park proposed in the GAP Collaborative’s placemaking master plan. Some updates would rely on the interest of a private developer to work alongside the City to make this concept a reality.
Jefferson Avenue Footbridge renovation, other improvements to take shape this winter on C-Street

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

A list of highly anticipated improvements will soon become reality in the Commercial Street Historic District as the City begins TIF-funded parking and placemaking projects and prepares for the rehabilitation of the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge.

APPROVED TIF FUNDED PROJECTS

In August, City Council approved a budget adjustment allocating a total of $655,000 to support a slate of improvement projects in the Commercial Street Historic District.

Based on public input received at the annual Commercial Street Tax Increment Financing (TIF) public meeting in June, City staff recommended City Council allocate $290,000 of TIF funding and an additional $365,000 from previous-budgeted Public Works funds as cost-sharing to complete the following public improvements:

• **DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE: $5,000**

  The City’s sign shop will produce and install street signage to help direct citizens and visitors from surrounding roadways to the historic district and public parking lots. Staff expects to install signage later this fall.

• **PUBLIC PARKING IMPROVEMENTS: $595,000**

  Two public parking lots located at Pacific Street and Campbell Avenue and Pacific Street and Robberson Avenue will be redesigned, including new pavement, lighting, landscaping and irrigation improvements through a cost-share split between TIF funding and Public Works funds. Public Works anticipates the design of both parking lots to be under development this winter. Construction in early Summer.

• **PUBLIC ART: $40,000**

  Funding to purchase or commission two public art pieces and sponsor two temporary pieces for multiple years. City staff will work alongside C-Street stakeholders this fall to begin developing an Art Collection Plan for the district to help guide the future art selection process. The two temporary rotating pieces will be facilitated through Sculpture Walk Springfield.

• **FOOTBRIDGE PLAZA SCHEMATIC DESIGN: $15,000**

  Funding to develop a schematic design for upgrades to the Footbridge Plaza to consider hard surfaces, landscaping, lighting and sound system installation. Construction is currently unfunded.

  Public Works will also proceed with the design and construction of Commercial Street gateway signage elements previously approved for $150,000 of TIF funding in early 2020. Architectural design work for the gateway signage will be lumped together on the same contract with the Footbridge Plaza Schematic Design project. The City expects to have an architect secured and begin engagement with the public on both projects this fall.

JEFFERSON AVENUE FOOTBRIDGE

“We will use several strategies through this bidding process to help engage the contracting community and find the right company to take this on.”

– Nicholas Edelman

Public Works is awaiting final construction document approval from the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge Renovation project. Upon receiving final approvals, the City will put the project out for contractor bidding.

See C-STREET IMPROVEMENTS on page 26
A promise fulfilled: Team Wilmoth’s Habitat for Humanity journey

By Kristina Wilmoth, for SGFNN

15 YEARS AGO — I first heard about Habitat for Humanity after seeing a commercial for Habitat International on television. My family of four was living in substandard housing conditions and I thought, could it be possible? Could there be a local organization that helped families like mine become homeowners?

It took a few keystrokes on a donated desktop computer that I used for my night college schoolwork to learn Habitat for Humanity of Springfield was a local nonprofit that helped individuals and families renovate their homes and become homeowners through their programs. I quickly scanned the qualifications and saw my family was sorely below the income guidelines and set a goal to keep moving forward and kept Habitat in my back pocket.

5 YEARS AGO — After finding employment in my own neighborhood (Grant Beach) at the Drew Lewis Foundation, my husband and I were able to pay off all our debt except our auto loans and student loans and we kept those current. In the meantime, we grew our family through adoption, and it was clear very quickly we would need a bigger space than our rented four-bedroom home. We found mentors who advised us to continue to work on our credit so we could qualify for a home loan soon.

2 YEARS AGO — Team Wilmoth (our family name) became a permanent family of 10 after the adoption of two sibling groups. My husband Josh and I knew it was time to look for a permanent home to fit the needs of our family, including the newly diagnosed special needs of four of our kiddos. We applied for traditional home loans, FHAs, and even explored owner finance options.

We were denied. Or the home was too small. Or we were asked to pay too much down to the owner. I felt hopeless and betrayed by the system as I scrolled through rental properties that were twice what we were paying at the time.

And then I remembered my “back pocket” and emailed Habitat for Humanity of Springfield.

I’d like to say that was the easy part, but really, the work began at that point. Applying to become a Habitat family was similar to all the other home loan applications. But this time, we heard a different answer: “If you work hard (350 sweat equity hours for a double adult head of household), you can qualify for a 0% loan on a home built for your family.”

We were elated! Things were coming together as I moved into a role at Life360 Community Services and continued to build my career path while building community partnerships.

Josh and I began to attend classes at Habitat on home ownership, financing, banking, etc. We completed sweat equity hours on other homes in the program and built our own community of support within Habitat for Humanity.

And then COVID-19 happened. Construction halted, volunteer hours stopped, and we all waited. But a bright light shone through: the plans for our Habitat home in the Woodland Heights neighborhood. Our house renderings were mailed to us, and the kids went to work claiming bedrooms. I found some ink and they put their fingerprints on their bedrooms on the floor plan. That printed floor plan is weathered and now framed for us to enjoy for years to come.

When allowed to return to volunteering, we completed all 350 sweat equity hours and watched as our house evolved from lumber framework to a home.

AUGUST 17, 2021

Josh and I became homeowners.

We signed a lot of paperwork, heard a lot of “congratulations” and became homeowners.

I don’t think it hit us until later when we heard our older adopted kiddos ask if the house could still be “taken away from us” and we were able to say firmly and confidently, “No. This is our home. We own it.”

We gave our kids something adults in their lives had not given them before.

A promise fulfilled.

Woodland Heights assists neighbors in need

By Becky Volz, for SGFNN

In late summer, a group of Woodland Heights neighborhood volunteers assisted a mother of two who lost her partner and could not keep up with maintaining her property.

“The mom was not sure she could stay in the house emotionally,” said Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association President Becky Volz.

“The lawn became overgrown and neighbors wanted to be sure it didn’t invite squatters or look empty. So, we spent a day mowing, weeding, cleaning, trimming, raking, then hauling off everything. It was definitely an act of love and compassion to help the mom, which she greatly appreciated, and also kept the block from having an overgrown property.”

Winter storms had taken down trees in the backyard of an elderly Woodland Heights neighbor. It also took out her electric service. She couldn’t find someone to repair her electric and went for three weeks during cold weather without heat, then decided to call her neighborhood association. Electric was promptly repaired by a licensed electrician, neighbor with a generous heart. As for those trees that soon grew into an urban forest, neighbors got together and began the clean up process.

“We had four trailer loads of brush and tree stumps and three big tree trunks were salvaged by a local forester,” Volz said. “The backyard ‘forest’ was cleared to the dirt and grass seed was sown. It’s a lawn again and neighbors all around are very happy.”
Meet your City Council members

Zone 1
Angela Romine

Zone 2
Abe McGull

Zone 3
Mike Schilling

Zone 4
Matthew Simpson

Meet your City Council members

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:
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Tuesdays 12 p.m.

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