



15th annual NOVAs recognizes 18 volunteers, Eden Village II and Urban Roots Farm



By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Community Partnership of the Ozarks and sponsor Air Services Heating & Cooling hosted the 15th annual Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Awards (NOVA) ceremony, Dec. 7, 2021 at The Oasis to recognize and reward outstanding neighborhood volunteers who work tirelessly to improve and revitalize their communities.

"We've learned that even through a difficult season, there were still bright spots and positive moments. We've come through the unexpected season stronger and more resilient than before." – Brooke Ash

A nova is a brightly shining star. CPO feels organizations and individuals who tirelessly work at making our community a better place to live should be recognized as stars. The annual NOVAs banquet allows us to reflect on the achievements and contributions made by dedicated people in our community. The NOVAs banquet is a highlight

of our year, and we truly enjoy the opportunity to celebrate those who may go unnoticed for all they do in and for our neighborhoods.

City Councilman Richard Ollis presented the keynote address about Welcoming Change: Celebrating the Past and Embracing the Future, which was the theme of the banquet.

"We chose this theme because over the last 18 months, we've all been required to reimagine how we do life, to make changes – both voluntary and involuntary, and to embrace a new normal," said CPO Caring Communities Director Brooke Ash. "We've learned that even through a difficult season, there were still bright spots and positive moments. We've come through the unexpected season stronger and more resilient than before. We wanted to make tonight about acknowledging the challenges, reflecting on the good, and inspiring hope for the future."

REACHING FOR THE STARS AWARD

The Reaching for the Stars Award is an annual award given to a person, organization, or partner that has had a particularly large and profound impact on the neighborhoods throughout the past year.

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Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of SGF Neighborhood News!

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

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Fall neighborhood cleanups result in more than 67 tons of trash removed from Springfield neighborhoods

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

The fall cleanup season was a success, and we are looking forward to the spring cleanups!

OVERALL TOTALS

- Tons of trash collected: 67.37
- Trash bins filled: 42
- Yardwaste/brush bins filled: 11
- Tons of scrap metal collected: 6.24
- Curbside pickups: 95
- In-person dropoffs: 473
- Households served: 568
- Clean Green volunteers: 18
- Clean Green volunteer hours: 55
- Volunteers (including Clean Green volunteers): 111
- Volunteer hours: 546.

NEIGHBORHOOD TOTALS

Greater Parkcrest

Greater Parkcrest hosted the first neighborhood cleanup event of the fall 2021 season. They collected



Volunteer group from Central High School's Project Green Schools club that helped out during Delaware's fall neighborhood cleanup. Photo: Nancy Williams

11.56 tons of trash (filled nine trash dumpsters and one yardwaste dumpster), and 2.15 tons of scrap metal. Thirteen volunteers donated 67 hours of time, and they served a total of 146 households.

► See FALL CLEANUP RESULTS on page 3

E-scooters, other micromobility device rentals could come to Springfield this summer

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The electric scooter rental industry is one of the most rapidly growing and changing industries in the country. Recognizing growing public interest in e-scooter companies as well as a variety of challenges experienced in other communities, the City of Springfield is developing a framework to provide for the safe and efficient operation of e-scooter companies within city limits.



The rental of bikes, electric scooters and other small devices is categorized under the transportation umbrella known as micromobility. From 2010 to 2018, studies show there were 207 million total rentals of micromobility devices across the U.S. E-scooters accounted for 38.5 million rides in 2018 alone, representing a significant rise in usage and popularity.

"As experienced in other communities, e-scooters can present potential benefits and drawbacks. They're fun and provide a perceived economic benefit. They can be used as alternate transportation and can reduce the need for vehicles in certain capacities," said Public Works Traffic Engineer Brett Foster. "However, e-scooters can be dangerous when not operated correctly, they're often left in inconvenient spots and can block sidewalks and driveways. If not well managed in a community, e-scooter rentals have the potential to become a public nuisance and eyesore."

Foster said the City has heard from e-scooter rental companies Bird and Lime over the past few years as those companies determine whether Springfield is a viable market. City staff have reached out to Missouri State University, the Downtown Springfield Association and the Downtown Community Improvement District to find out how to make e-scooter rental work in Springfield.

The City's plan involves making long-term changes to the City Code to provide safe, efficient and economically viable operation of micromobility companies here. Code changes may require companies to sign a cooperative agreement outlining certain restrictions and operational guidelines. The development of these code changes will combine input from stakeholders, micromobility companies and the public.

"We expect to present our suggested code changes to City Council this spring," Foster said.

► NOVA AWARDS from page 1

The 2021 Reaching for the Stars Award went to NOVA's sponsor Air Services Heating, Cooling, and All Services Professional Plumbing, which has been a supporter and sponsor of numerous neighborhood events and activities for the last four years.

"They value the work that neighborhoods do to make our city a safer and friendlier place to live and work. They have sponsored, and participated in neighborhood night out events, National Night Out events and NOVA banquets. Because of their continued dedication and support of neighborhoods and CPO, we would like to honor them as the 2021 Reaching for the Stars recipient and thank them for their partnership," Ash said. Air Services owner Rich Callahan accepted the award.

SHINING STAR AWARD

This year, CPO introduced a new award at the NOVAs – the Shining Star Award. This award goes to an individual who has gone above and beyond as a volunteer at a neighborhood event.

This year's Shining Star is someone who deserves special recognition for their hard work and for going above and beyond.

"For several years, scrap metal recycler James Weir has been present at most of the neighborhood cleanups. He receives some compensation for his work, but he stands out because he truly goes that extra mile. He gets involved and helps unload everyone's items, even if there's no metal to be hauled," Ash said.



INDIVIDUAL NOVAS

- Bissett: Eden Village II
- Bradford Park: David and Julie Caffey
- Brentwood: Mert Seaton
- Delaware: Jill Hoener
- Galloway Village: Charles Ewing
- Grant Beach: Denise Kershner and Rose Stockwell
- Greater Parkcrest: Bill and Debbie Butts
- Heart of the Westside: Tana Miller
- Midtown: Amanda Dixon
- Oak Grove: Bonna Kirkhoff
- Phelps Grove: Spike Anderson
- Robberson: Phyllis Evans
- Rountree: Mike Brothers
- University Heights: Annette Hollon
- West Central: Urban Roots Farm
- Westside: Zach Smith
- Woodland Heights: Isaiah Lapierre.

BASS PRO MARATHON NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGE AWARDS

Concluding the evening were the Great Neighborhoods grants to neighborhoods and the Bass Pro Marathon cheering sections awards.

"On behalf of Bass Pro, thank you to those who were able to participate in the cheering challenge.

They report that they got great feedback from runners and having you all at the event cheering your hearts out was a true gift," Ash said.

Galloway Village took first place and \$1,000 in the cheering section competition. Delaware and Woodland Heights tied for second place and each took home \$850. Mark Twain placed third and took home \$750. Midtown took fourth and won \$700. Brentwood, Robberson and Westside tied for fifth and each took home \$650. Rountree placed sixth and won \$600. Meador Park took seventh place and \$550. Greater Parkcrest, University Heights, Weller and West Central tied for eighth and each took home \$500. Grant Beach placed ninth and took home \$250.

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS GRANTS

Alana Owen from the City's Planning & Development department awarded \$500 Great Neighborhoods grant checks to 14 neighborhoods in recognition of their efforts in 2021.

"This year we awarded eligible neighborhoods a Recognition Grant regardless of points earned due to the impact of COVID-19 on neighborhood activities. Some neighborhoods have been able to resume normal activities, while other neighborhoods are struggling to get back on their feet," Owen said.

Those eligible for grants were:

- Robberson Neighborhood Association
- West Central Neighborhood Alliance
- Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association
- Brentwood Neighborhood Association
- Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association
- University Heights Neighborhood Association
- Bissett Neighborhood Association
- Bradford Park Neighborhood Association
- Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association
- Weller Neighborhood Association
- Grant Beach Neighborhood Association
- Galloway Village Neighborhood Association
- Meador Park Neighborhood Association
- Phelps Grove Neighborhood Association.

The Great Neighborhoods program encourages clean, safe, and friendly neighborhoods through activities and programs that develop relationships between neighbors and their neighborhood association. This is a voluntary program where registered neighborhoods can participate and earn points toward designation as a City of Springfield Great Neighborhood, along with grant money to be used toward a neighborhood program or activity.

Points can be earned in the three categories that define Great Neighborhoods: clean, safe, and friendly. Neighborhoods are scored and ranked based on the information in their application as well as their effort to follow the four principles of the Great Neighborhoods program:

- Residents must lead the process.
- A long-term commitment is expected.
- All neighbors interested in participating must be included.
- Continual activities that engage everyone in the neighborhood.

Neighborhoods can earn up to:

- \$500 – 9 points (at least 3 points in each category)
- \$750 – 18 points (at least 6 points in each category)
- \$1,000* – 18 points (at least 6 points in each category) *requires a \$250 match.

2021 Clean Green Springfield campaigns result in tons of trash removed from neighborhoods

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Volunteers made a difference once again in the cleanliness and beauty of the community by participating in a variety of cleanup and green up opportunities available during the fall round of Clean Green Springfield.

A total of 454 "Clean Greeners" registered to take part in one-time roadway or stream cleanups, beautification events, Point of Pride cleanups and Neighborhood Cleanup events hosted in October and November. With a number of events impacted by rain, an estimated 300 participants followed through with volunteering, providing 600 hours of service or more to the community.

Throughout the fall initiative, more than 500 bags of litter were collected from Springfield roadways, streams and neighborhoods, totaling approximately 3.84 tons.

Clean Green volunteers also registered to help support neighborhood cleanups, resulting in more than 67 tons of trash and bulky items removed from neighborhoods and kept from illegal dump sites.



Nearly 400 of these vouchers are still available and the offer has been extended through June 20, while supplies last.

"The goal is to provide an opportunity for residents to be able to dispose of trash and bulky items at no cost. 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 it to help clean up their properties and neighborhoods." – Erick Roberts

Landfill vouchers 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 to be able to dispose of trash and bulky items at no cost," explains Superintendent of Solid Waste Erick 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 it to help clean up their properties and neighborhoods."

Visit cleangreensgf.com/landfill to learn more details and limitations of this offer and to register to receive a digital voucher.



NForm Architecture employees helped with flower bed maintenance on C-Street as part of Clean Green Springfield in October 2021.

"Combining the spring and fall Clean Green initiatives together, we are thrilled to report a total of 23 tons of litter cleaned up from our fair city," says Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement Cora Scott. "Two hundred tons of trash and bulky items were disposed of or recycled through Clean Green, and 1,300 volunteers contributed more than 2,400 service hours to the community. We are overwhelmed by citizens' response and look forward to planning future opportunities to clean up and green up in 2022."

LANDFILL VOUCHER OPPORTUNITY CONTINUES THROUGH SPRING

As part of Clean Green's fall offerings, the City allocated \$10,000 to provide 500 vouchers to cover tipping fees at the landfill (a \$20 value).



CNH Industrial Reman conducted a regular roadway cleanup of their adopted segment along Willard Road between Kearney Street and FR 123.

► FALL CLEANUP RESULTS from page 1

Meador Park

Meador Park was the second cleanup event of the season. They collected 5.93 tons of trash (filled six trash dumpsters and two yardwaste dumpsters), and 1.3 tons of scrap metal. Thirteen volunteers donated 47 hours of time (seven of those were Clean Green volunteers). They served 75 households, and we connected with a new partner through their event – Environmental & Community Action of the Ozarks (a youth-led organization focused on environmental volunteerism in the Ozarks).

Galloway Village

This was Galloway Village's second ever cleanup event (they hosted their very first cleanup event last year). They collected 5.98 tons of trash (filled three trash dumpsters and one yardwaste dumpster) and 1.2 tons of scrap metal. Four volunteers donated 37 hours of time. They served a total of 55 households.

Grant Beach

Grant Beach was the first two-day cleanup event, and like last year, had a ton of volunteer support. Thirty-three volunteers donated 192.5 hours of time (three Clean Green volunteers, 17 Victory Mission volunteers, nine from Hope Homes, one volunteer from Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, and three from the neighborhood association). They collected 22.06 tons of trash (filled 12 trash dumpsters and three yardwaste dumpsters). They served 83 households (41 in-person and 42 curbside pick-ups). Victory Mission donated not only their time but also two box trucks for curbside pick-ups.

West Central

West Central's cleanup event was held at a new location this year – Southside Baptist Church. They collected 8.32 tons of trash (filling five trash dumpsters and one yardwaste dumpster) and 0.83 tons of scrap metal. Eighteen volunteers donated 61 hours of time (one of those being a Clean Green volunteer who walked around the neighborhood and picked up trash). They served a total of 61 households (41 in-person and 20 curbside).

Oak Grove

Oak Grove chose to have their cleanup 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on one day only. Within that timeframe, they served 51 households (35 in-person and 16 curbside pick-ups.) Twelve volunteers donated 59 hours of time. They collected 5.77 tons of trash (filling three trash dumpsters and one yardwaste dumpster) and 0.76 tons of scrap metal. This was a wet and rainy event, but the neighborhood came prepared with doughnuts and coffee, and East Grand Church of Christ was kind enough to allow them to use their gym and restrooms.

Delaware

Delaware was the last cleanup event of the fall 2021 season. They collected 7.75 tons of trash (filling four trash dumpsters and two yardwaste dumpsters). Eighteen volunteers donated 82 hours of time (seven of those volunteers were with Project Green Schools, and they registered through Clean Green Springfield). They served a total of 97 households (17 curbside and 80 in-person).



GOOD NEIGHBOR Tip



Handle Conflict Peacefully

If there comes a time where there's an issue, handling conflict in a peaceful manner is crucial to maintaining a good relationship with neighbors. Your best bet is to meet face to face and discuss the issue calmly in person — it's easy for messages to get misinterpreted when communicating through other neighbors, social media, text or email.

One of the best things you can do to be a good neighbor is to think about how you'd like to be treated. Being respectful, kind and extending a helping hand to those who live around you go a long way. Get involved with your neighborhood by attending block parties and other events — it's a great way to meet your neighbors, get on good terms and form lasting relationships.



New Citizen Resource Center coordinator brings customer service experience to role

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Donna Thomas grew up in a small town in a large family. She credits that experience for giving her a heart for public service. As the new Citizen Resource Coordinator, in charge of operations at the City's Citizen Resource Center, (CRC) Donna's friendly voice is often the first you hear when contacting City offices. The CRC is a part of the Department of Public Information & Civic Engagement and is the front door for citizen concerns.

"Showing kindness and helping others was a lesson taught early in life," she said. "I am thankful to have been given the opportunity to use those skills in my career choice."

Donna joined the City seven years ago, most recently serving as an assistant in the legal department. When she saw the job posting for the CRC, however, she said she knew immediately that she wanted to apply. "Customer service is my favorite thing. I believe that as City employees we are here to serve the residents of Springfield and those that come here to work and to play. Knowing that I have had a part in helping someone resolve an issue, find something they are looking for or just listen for a minute makes my day," she said.

"Showing kindness and helping others was a lesson taught early in life. I am thankful to have been given the opportunity to use those skills in my career choice." – Donna Thomas

The CRC also includes newcomer Susan Scott, who joined the team in early 2021 from Missouri State University. Citizens can reach Thomas and Smith by calling 417-864-1010, emailing City@springfieldmo.gov, or submitting a service request through the City's mobile app: "Go Springfield Mo."

"There were lots of surprises that occurred during the peak of the pandemic," Thomas said. "The City buildings being closed was probably the biggest one. The greatest feeling of accomplishment during that



Donna Thomas

time was knowing that even though our buildings were closed, our citizens still received the services that they were dependent upon us for."

She said she has been impressed with the commitment to public service she has seen at the City since joining.

"It is not unusual to have something come up at the very end of the day that needs immediate attention. This can often be an issue that could be a risk to public safety. I have never had one of those issues arise that the person I called, who was preparing to leave for the day to go be with their family, didn't just say, 'I will take care of it.' Some of those things I know were not quick fixes, but always they go above and beyond to make sure the public is safe. I commend City staff for their dedication."

Thomas said days go by quickly in the Department of Public Information & Civic Engagement.

"You never know what will happen, which is a plus in my book," she said

Thomas' life philosophy involves making a difference in the lives of the people around you.

"If you want to change the world, work on the things that occur in the 3-foot circle you are in the middle of first."

Prior to joining the City, Thomas served at Mercy for 28 years, most recently serving as the executive secretary for the Springfield hospital president, chief nurse executive and vice president of human resources.



MOMENTUM 2022 State of the Workforce

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

Complete the survey at Momentum2022.net by Jan. 31

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

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



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

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PUBLISHER

Jason Gage
jgage@springfieldmo.gov

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Cora Scott
cscott@springfieldmo.gov

MANAGING EDITOR

Melissa Haase
mhaase@springfieldmo.gov

DESIGNER

Rebecca Pfizner
rpfizner@springfieldmo.gov

PHOTOGRAPHER/WEB DESIGNER

Christopher Akins
cakens@springfieldmo.gov

CONTRIBUTORS

Joshua Best	Pete Radecki
Jeff Brossard-Sims	Bobbi Ream
Rachel Douglas	Samantha Spartan
Laramie Ellis	Lauren Stockham
Jill Hoener	Rachel Tripp
Kathy Lutz	Katherine Trombetta
Kristen Milam	Becky Volz
Mark Montgomery	Jym Wilson
Caron Parnell	Rusty Worley
Jan Peterson	Judy Wyrick

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Alana Owen	

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your submissions!
Please send them to Melissa Haase
mhaase@springfieldmo.gov.
417-864-1003.

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Timmons Hall's Black History Month programming to feature educator Akbar Cook, Sr.

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Timmons Hall will host Newark, New Jersey high school principal Akbar Cook, Sr. as part of its Black History Month programming in February. Cook is the keynote speaker in the Freedom Classroom 101 Workshop Series and will present at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4 at Timmons Hall in Silver Springs Park, 1055 E. Webster St.

Seating is limited; please register by Jan. 21 by calling 417-864-1046. The presentation will be livestreamed on the City of Springfield's Facebook page @CityofSGF and on AfricanAmericanHeritageTrailSGF.org.

The workshop series aims to equip teachers to research, rethink and reimagine how they teach African American studies.

Cook became known for creating the Light's On program at Newark, New Jersey's West End High School, which provides students with a safe place to spend Friday nights. Each week, kids eat, play video games and basketball, and participate in other activities until 11 p.m. thanks to Cook's efforts. During the summer, the one-night-a-week program initially increased to three, but in 2020, Oprah Winfrey surprised Cook with a \$500,000 donation to the school, which allows it to keep its lights on every night.

"Ultimately, our goal with this program isn't to merely bring to light issues that face underserved individuals but to create significant, lasting change to the Springfield community." – Bridget Dierks

Cook has not lost a student to gun violence since starting Light's On. He says there has been an increase in daily attendance since making other investments in the school. In 2019, West Side installed a laundry room to provide students with a way to launder their school uniforms because some students were coming to school in dirty uniforms and were being bullied, resulting in chronic absenteeism. While students wash their clothes, a teacher helps them with their school work.

Cook has appeared on "Ellen" and "CBS This Morning" and been featured on CNN and The Grio's websites for his efforts.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks provided the grant funding the Freedom Classroom 101

Workshop Series and to bring Cook to Springfield. Last summer, CFO announced that it is deepening its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion with the first grant programs of the new fiscal year, dedicating additional unrestricted grantmaking funds for nonprofit agencies that work to uplift members of marginalized identity groups.

"Ultimately, our goal with this program isn't to merely bring to light issues that face underserved individuals but to create significant, lasting change to the Springfield community," said Bridget Dierks, CFO vice president of programs. Last year, the program funded projects for eight nonprofits serving a wide range of people, including Hand in Hand Multicultural Center's work with immigrant families, Springfield Public Schools' professional development program for students with disabilities, and Ujima Language and Literacy's development as an up-and-coming educational program.

"The CFO is proud to support the work of agencies committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in Springfield and across central and southern Missouri," Dierks said. "We continue to commit grant dollars to this work because it is vital to the future success of our communities."

The Freedom Classroom 101 Workshop Series will feature three additional presenters at Timmons Hall in April, June and August. More information will be posted to parkboard.org/TimmonsHall when the details are finalized.

Cook was born and raised in Newark's West Ward. He attended Essex Catholic High School, where he excelled as a student and basketball player. Cook attended college on two basketball scholarships, attending St. Catherine's College in Kentucky before graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in education from Florida Atlantic University, a Division I university in Boca Raton, Florida. He went on to receive a master's degree in administration from St. Peters University in Jersey City in 2006. Cook's love for children and basketball led him to Newark Vocational School in 2008, where he became head coach of the boys' basketball team. In 2012, he was named vice principal of West Side High School.

He also serves as co-director of Greater Newark's LifeCamp, a summer camp for inner city youth.



Akbar Cook, Sr.



Police chief provides updates on crime prevention/reduction plan and officer recruitment

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Springfield Police Chief Paul Williams provided updates to City Council at their Oct. 21 retreat to discuss crime and policing at Lake Springfield Boathouse and at the Nov. 29 City Council meeting.

Although Springfield's overall crime rate has not significantly increased despite continued

population increases over the last 20 years, Williams acknowledged that the department considers it too high and is taking active and innovative steps to reduce it. A recent increase in violent crime, largely due to a trend of higher gun violence in Springfield, is a particular area of concern and focus.

"We had a goal of increasing our number of police officer applicants to 278 in 2021. I'm happy to report that we had 387 applicants. Out of those, we had 180 who signed up to come test or met the initial requirements," Williams said Nov. 29. "We were shooting for an academy class of 20 for January. As of today, we hired 16 for that class. I have 10 more conditional offers. I've upped the ante and increased the goal for the next academy class to 25-30. We will follow up with another class in September and start testing for that class in January. Our academy is a six-month program followed by three months of field training, so these new officers will be in the field by late fall 2022."

"Our recruiting efforts are reaping dividends already and I hope that's going to continue."

– Police Chief Paul Williams

Williams said SPD's goal for lateral hires (experienced police officers joining the department from another agency) is to have a lateral academy class of two officers twice a year.

"We have one officer already hired and three more in process," he said. "Our recruiting efforts are reaping dividends already, and I hope that's going to continue. A nationwide marketing and recruitment campaign kicked off Dec. 1, so we expect to see some positive results from those efforts as well."



Police Chief Paul Williams

CRIME PREVENTION AND REDUCTION

To reduce crime, proactive prevention is the goal. Every member of the community plays a vital role in crime prevention, especially considering community-wide matters such as drug abuse and poverty contribute to instances of criminal activity. Neighborhood engagement also has the potential to prevent crime by increasing place attachment and quality of life by up to 60%.

Crime prevention and reduction also requires buy-in from stakeholders throughout the criminal justice system, including judges, county commissioners, City government, police, the Greene County Sheriff's Office and attorneys. Williams is in the process of reconvening the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC). The CJCC will provide an avenue to discuss and find solutions to issues related to crime in our community.

The SPD's focus regarding crime prevention within the city is a data-driven approach. The department utilizes data to educate officers about crimes occurring in areas throughout the city so they can focus on hotspots and persons of interest and is working to enhance and improve those efforts. The priority is directing available resources effectively and efficiently, pre-emptively reducing the opportunity for crime to occur.

Two new tactics the department will employ to improve those efforts are Data-Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) and the newly funded Risk Terrain Modeling (RTM) which will identify environmental conditions and features of the landscape that lead to opportunities for crime. Another example is the increased use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTD), which uses urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments to prevent crime from occurring.

The department has also utilized historical data to identify four types of crime, one per quarter, that significantly increase during those timeframes. In January, the SPD will implement an enhanced crime prevention strategy to focus on increasing awareness, education, and prevention of those crimes: Q1 stolen vehicles, Q2 residential and commercial burglaries, Q3 vehicle break-ins and Q4 robbery.

Technology plays an invaluable role in crime prevention. The SPD currently utilizes a variety of technologically advanced tools to prevent and investigate crime, and additional resources will be deployed in the coming months. The department is continually exploring best practices from across the

country that could be implemented in Springfield to enhance those efforts.

Williams is hopeful that a co-responder Mental Health Mobile Response Team will soon be implemented. Working with local agencies, such a program could partner Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers with a mental health professional to jointly respond to non-violent incidents involving mental health crises.



Finally, the SPD is currently experiencing a shortage of officers (51 vacant sworn positions). Low staffing allows little time for officers to take breaks during their shifts or proactively patrol the community.

According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police best practice model, 30% of a patrol officer's time should be dedicated to responding to calls for service, 30% should go toward proactive measures, (i.e., officer-initiated activities including traffic stops and preventative patrol), and 30% of officer shift time should be dedicated to administrative duties, (writing reports and taking breaks), leaving 10% flex time to be utilized in any of those ways.

Due to staffing levels and call load, SPD officers were spending nearly 85% of their 10-hour shifts responding to calls for service, with about 14% of their shifts left for proactive patrol efforts. Just over 1% was left for administrative tasks, and no flex time left available. To address these issues, effective Jan. 2, officers moved to 12-hour shifts. This change provides more officers on the street, reduces individual officers' workloads, and allow more time for proactive enforcement activities.



Keeping students safe from seasonal viruses at school

By Lauren Stockham, Health Department, for SGFNN

It's January. The holidays are over, the air is dry and cold and kids are back at school.

The cold winter months are prime time for seasonal viruses to spread in schools. With students inside more often, it's important to take added precautions to stop the spread of illness.

SYMPTOM TRACKER

The continued risk of COVID-19 remains this winter, but we can also count on typical winter illnesses like the common cold, RSV and influenza to make their rounds in classrooms.

People catch these viruses in similar ways: inhaling airborne droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes, touching contaminated surfaces or being in close contact with someone who is sick.

Symptoms are similar but can vary with each illness. Parents should watch for these signs, but know it is best to contact your health care provider if you think your child is sick:

COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Fatigue
- New loss of taste or smell.

INFLUENZA

- Fever
- Cough
- Body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea.

COMMON COLD

- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Sneezing.

RSV

- Runny nose
- Decrease in appetite
- Fever
- Wheezing.



PREVENTION AND PRECAUTIONS

The best preventative step against COVID-19 and influenza is to get vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccine is available to children five-years-old and up. Influenza vaccines are available yearly for children six months and older.

Schools can take precaution by disinfecting surfaces that are touched often, hosting vaccination clinics, encouraging students to cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.

If your child is displaying symptoms of illness, keep them home from school, especially if they have a fever. Reduce close contact with other people and encourage other preventative measures, like wearing a mask and frequent hand washing.

CAN ANOTHER SURGE BE PREVENTED?

The answer lies in the community's vaccination rates. With the opportunity for everyone ages five and up to be vaccinated against COVID-19, the risk of a surge can be reduced.

Those who contracted COVID-19 during the Delta variant surge in summer 2021 can expect their natural immunity to begin to wane in the new year. As a result, the Health Department strongly recommends vaccination to help prevent another incidence of illness and to help avoid a case surge in the community.

Schedule your COVID-19 and flu vaccines at Vaccine417.com.

Workforce Development Department seeking applicants for next Green for Greene session

By Katherine Trombetta, Missouri Job Center, for SGFNN

The City's Department of Workforce Development, housed at the Missouri Job Center, is seeking applicants for the next session of the Green for Greene training program. Green for Greene is funded by a \$200,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Currently, we are looking for at least 20 people interested in career training in this exciting field at no cost to the participant." – Cindy Bennett

This free, five-week training program in which participants earn certifications for environmental-related careers begins the week of March 21, with a registration deadline of March 3. During the course of the training, participants receive 13 certifications including OSHA 10, OSHA 40-Hour HAZWOPER, trenching and excavation, confined space, lead renovation repair and paint, lead abatement, mold abatement, asbestos handler, forklift driver, silica, flagger, bloodborne pathogens and first aid/CPR.



Green for Greene
-An EPA-funded Grant

"We are very excited to offer this program which provides good paying jobs in a variety of career pathways," said Program Manager Cindy Bennett. "Currently, we are looking for at least 20 people interested in career training in this exciting field at no cost to the participant," she added.

You must be 18 or older to participate. High school diploma or GED encouraged. To apply or for more information, visit springfieldmo.gov/greenforgreene or call Cindy Bennett at 417-841-1890.



PTA Clothing Bank upcoming shopping dates

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

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

- Thurs., Jan. 13: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Jan. 27: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Feb. 10: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Feb. 24: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Sat., March 5: 10 a.m.-Noon
- Thurs., March 24: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., April 7: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., April 21: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., May 5: 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.



Cowden Elementary students collected 430 new pairs of socks during Socktober for the PTA Clothing Bank.



**YOU CAN
CHANGE TWO
LIVES.
THEIRS
AND
YOURS.**



Become a Big NOW



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters.
OF THE OZARKS**

417-889-9136 bigbro.com

Connections for success: Workforce Development program helps formerly incarcerated people rebuild their lives

By Katherine Trombetta, Missouri Job Center, for SGFNN

Thanks to a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, the City of Springfield's Department of Workforce Development has relaunched a program to help formerly incarcerated individuals reenter the workforce.

The APPLIE Pathway Program (APPLIE stands for About Persons with Past Legal Issues in Employment) will provide credential training and career readiness workshops to more than 400 individuals housed in Missouri Department of Corrections facilities. Once released, the program connects them with employers via job fairs and provides on-the-job training once employment is obtained, as well as support and resources to address any issues they may encounter after release to help them maintain employment.

"We are actively recruiting businesses to participate in the on-the-job training portion of the program. Employers can receive reimbursement for 50% of wages up to 1,040 hours of full-time employment. We make every effort to match their skill sets with available jobs." – Carmen May



"We prepare these folks for re-entry into the workforce by offering assessments, training, resume prep, interview tips, and how to confidently talk about their legal history with employers," said Program Supervisor Carmen May. "We are actively recruiting businesses to participate in the on-the-job training portion of the program. Employers can receive reimbursement for 50% of wages up to 1,040 hours of full-time employment. We make every effort to match their skill sets with available jobs," she added.

Springfield-area employers interested in participating in the APPLIE program are asked to contact Jennifer Biri at 417-841-1895 or Bill Smillie at 417-880-5692.



NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

NAC forms 3 subcommittees to carry out Great Neighborhoods principles

By Rusty Worley, for SGFNN

Several years ago, the City of Springfield established the Great Neighborhoods program to recognize registered neighborhoods that meet benchmarks in three core areas – clean, safe, and friendly. They are not specific qualities because it is the role of the neighborhood residents to define what is appropriate for their neighborhood. We believe that most of the issues that challenge residents are common in any given neighborhood. By coming together, neighbors can work proactively to resolve issues that will improve the quality of life.

The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) includes representatives from every registered neighborhood within the city limits. The group has grown from 16 neighborhoods just a decade ago to 23 with another on the way.

NAC will be following the Great Neighborhoods model to serve as a roadmap out of the past two years of the isolation of the pandemic to address our shared challenges. Three neighborhood leaders have stepped up to chair the following subcommittees:

CLEAN

Eric Pauly, Phelps Grove, chair

The Clean Subcommittee will be working with

Building Development Services and Planning to coordinate new strategies to address chronic nuisance properties, collaborate with multiple civic groups to propose a new rental inspection program, and create revisions to the neighborhood teams process.

SAFE

Jeff Barber, Rountree, chair

Recent incidents in the Rountree and Delaware neighborhoods, were visible examples of the ongoing frustrations with criminal activity throughout Springfield. This includes assaults, gun violence, property thefts, noise disturbances and more. NAC will be working with the Police Area Representatives (PARs) to restart Neighborhood Watch trainings, identify public areas to request additional lighting from City Utilities, encourage residents to be more active on their sidewalks, and to utilize new digital tools such as doorbell cameras and social media.

FRIENDLY

Jan Peterson, University Heights, chair

After the COVID-19-induced hibernation, neighborhoods are eager to resume general membership meetings, social get-togethers, holiday traditions, and block parties. SGF Neighborhood News is a point of pride and a valuable tool to

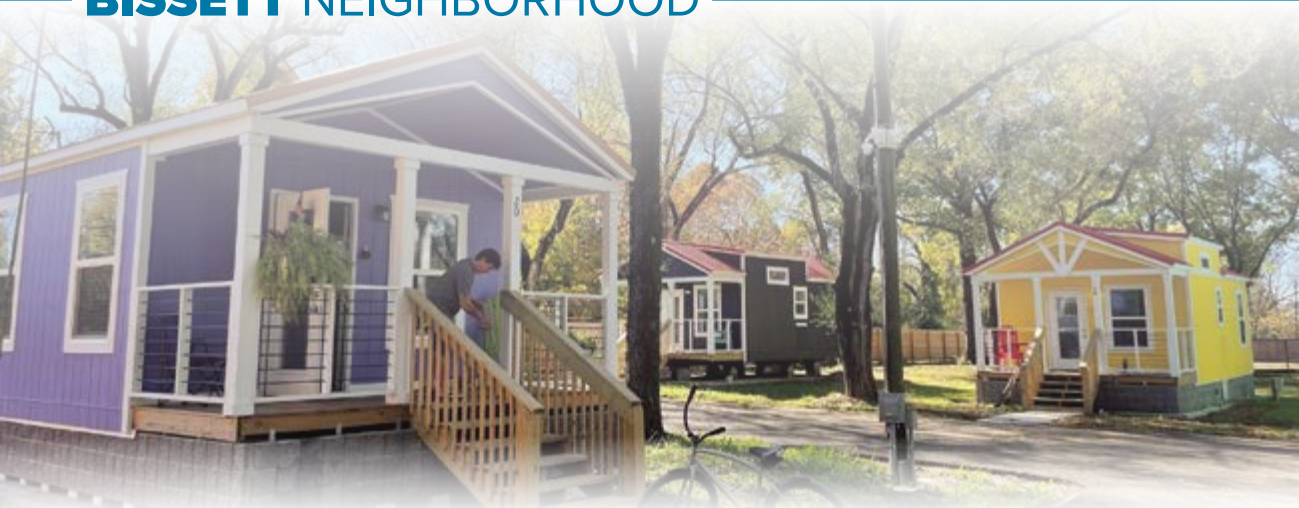
tell stories across Springfield's neighborhoods and the City's support of public engagement. The Friendly subcommittee will guide neighborhoods in finding new ways to reach out to their residents, to share successes and learn from shortcomings, and to promote their respective history and strengths to attract the next generation of neighbors.

NAC representatives will have the opportunity to serve on one or more of these subcommittees based on their areas of passion and expertise. Meetings will be held regularly with reports out to the full NAC at its quarterly meetings. City Council will be updated on our progress.

The challenges Springfield neighborhoods face are not new. But they require different ways of thinking to overcome decades of inertia, apathy and bureaucracy. I am excited to work alongside your NAC leaders, City Council and City staff to achieve long-awaited progress on making Springfield cleaner, safer and friendlier.



NAC Chair Rusty Worley



Bissett's Eden Village II recognized with NOVA

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

Two years ago the west end of Brower Street in the Bissett neighborhood was a ramshackle assortment of dangerous and largely abandoned mobile homes. It was also the site for frequent illegal dumping, and experienced frequent police calls related to drugs and other crimes.

Today, it is a beautiful park, a community center with tiny houses populated by formerly homeless individuals whose new homes and environment make for fundamental transformation in their lives. All this has been accomplished through donations and many hours of volunteer time from over 100 individuals and organizations. Making this especially extraordinary is that it was all accomplished during the most difficult time of the pandemic.

BNA expresses heartfelt thanks to The Gathering Tree leadership, staff and donors, which together comprise the driving force which made this possible. Their vision and commitment has resulted in Eden Village II.

BNA had a great experience at EVII last November when we held a general membership meeting and pot luck Thanksgiving dinner at the community center. In addition to a great meal and meeting, we



enjoyed a tour of the grounds and one of the new tiny homes. This is definitely a quality facility!

The official EVII grand opening took place Nov. 30. Many were in attendance, including representatives of supporting churches, companies and individuals and of course the real stars: the new EVII residents!

Jesus said, "Whatever you do for the least of my brethren, you do it to me." Clearly the EVII family is showing how best to embrace and help some of the most vulnerable, and doing this within our Bissett neighborhood. They are exemplary in how to make Springfield a place of nurture and caring amongst all.

Bissett looks back on 2021, elects 2022 officers

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

BNA activities for 2021 were certainly a step up from the previous year. Emerging from the pandemic, BNA held a handful of meetings, a street cleanup, a neighborhood-wide yard sale, and special Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. In addition, our annual neighborhood cleanup was a great success. It was held in September instead of the usual June, and we hope to return to that early summer schedule in 2022. Many came out and helped, and we extend our thanks to the City and Community Partnership for making the event possible.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Russell Moore, who has been our president for the past two years. He stewarded our organization through the difficult pandemic, a time during which many small organizations shut down. Russell was central in helping BNA get back to a more normal level of activity. He provided leadership and performed the many sometimes-thankless behind-the-scenes tasks to make this possible. As a result of his efforts, we look toward 2022 with optimism and new vigor.



NEW BOARD OFFICERS

Many thanks to each of our officers and board members from past years. Our officers for 2022 are:

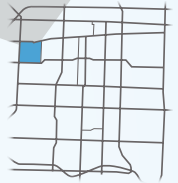
- President: Rob Sorbo
- Vice President: Vickie Grinde
- Secretary: William Harvison
- Treasurer: Sheila Radecki

As of this writing, specific plans for 2022 meetings and events have not been set. Feel free to contact our officers or look at our Facebook page as the schedule develops. Neighborhood association members should be on the lookout for emails providing schedule information as well.



Connect

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




Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 8: 6:30 p.m. (optional pot luck at 6 p.m.)
Location to be announced

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

Follow Bissett on  

Bissett Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

Tues-Wed., June 7-8:

Noon Tuesday-Noon Wednesday

Information is subject to change. Look for more information in the spring issue of SGF Neighborhood News



Bissett Vice President Vickie Grinde presented the award to Eden Village II

Congratulations

EDEN VILLAGE II

Bissett's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

NOVA 2021

BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Neighborhood meetings 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



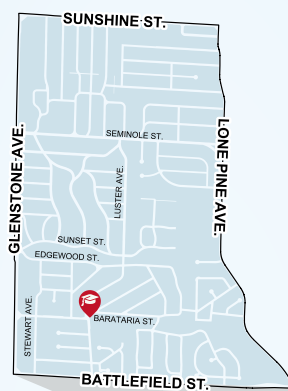
Dellene Nelson (right) presented the award to David Caffey (left)

Congratulations

DAVID & JULIE CAFFEY
Bradford Park's NOVA
Volunteers of the Year

**NOVA
2021**

BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Field Elementary School
2120 E. Barataria St.

Follow Brentwood on
brentwoodsgf.org



Brentwood Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

Thurs., April 28: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

*Information is subject to change. Look for
more information in the spring issue of
SGF Neighborhood News*

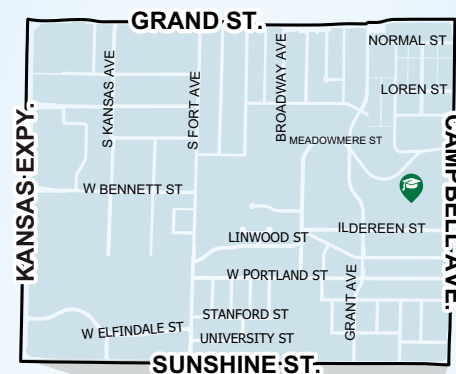


Congratulations

MERT SEATON
Brentwood's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2021**

FASSNIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Nathan Cook, President:
nathancurtiscook@gmail.com
- Trent Condellone, Vice President
- Renee Culver, Secretary/Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 1 • March 1 • April 5: 6:30 p.m. @ Parkview High School Cafeteria (516 W. Meadowmere St.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Parkview High School
516 W. Meadowmere St.

Follow Fassnight on



Fassnight becomes Springfield's 23rd registered neighborhood

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The City of Springfield welcomes Fassnight as its 23rd registered neighborhood. This designation means that a neighborhood association has provided the City with proof that the organization is active; and, that it has made efforts to involve residents and property owners from throughout the neighborhood in activities. Registered neighborhoods receive the following from the City's Planning & Neighborhoods Office:

- Mailing labels with a master copy of all local addresses (and property owners addresses) that fall within the boundaries of the neighborhood.
- Service request data: a report is issued monthly and contains all citizens' code complaints targeting areas within the neighborhood boundaries.
- Area zoning notices: registered neighborhoods are notified of any zoning requests and updates within the area. This information is provided by the Development Review Office of the City's Planning Department.
- Neighborhood programs information: notices of neighborhood programs that the City or participating organizations offer.

Neighborhoods Office staff can provide residents with many resources to make neighborhood associations successful. Is your neighborhood interested in registering with the City? Contact Senior Planner Alana Owen with any questions at 417-864-1831 or aowen@springfieldmo.gov.



Yearlong fundraising campaign results in Delaware's new wall mural

By Jeff Brossard-Sims, for SGFNN

Delaware has a new mural wall to welcome folks into the neighborhood.

About a year ago, members of the Delaware Neighborhood Association started discussions on creating a mural for the block wall on the northwest corner of Glenstone and Portland. After obtaining the appropriate approvals, the neighborhood association's board of directors reached out to several local artists for design ideas and bid proposals. A dogwood design was selected, the DNA board voted on the expenditure and began the process of fundraising. Local artist Farley Lewis was selected to complete the mural. About half of the total funds were raised through a GoFundMe campaign shared on the Delaware Neighborhood Association Facebook page and individual members' pages. The remaining funds were obtained through individual asks made to the various businesses located within the Delaware neighborhood.



The fundraising process took the better part of the year. Once the funds were raised, the process accelerated. The wall took just a little over two weeks to complete. Thanks to the artist and to all of the businesses and neighbors who made it possible.

Delaware Pirates and Pixies Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Section

Photos by Jill Hoener, Delaware Neighborhood Association Facebook Page



Delaware tied for second place in the Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge, earning the neighborhood \$850.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 1 • March 1 • April 5: 6 p.m. @ Delaware Elementary Community Room (1505 S. Delaware Ave.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



 **Delaware Elementary School**
1505 S. Delaware Ave.

Follow Delaware on  

DNA Women GET OUT!

Day and location change each month.
Contact Nancy Williams at 417-496-2187
or see Delaware's Facebook group event
listing for details. Come join us for food,
drink (if you want), and frivolity!



Congratulations

JILL HOENER
Delaware's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year



Sewer improvements coming along Pea Ridge Creek near Doling neighborhood

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City is planning two sanitary sewer improvement projects along the Pea Ridge Creek in north Springfield, targeted to begin in late 2022.

The projects are aimed at reducing the number of sanitary sewer overflows in the area by increasing the size and capacity of underground sewer pipes. Improvements will also provide capacity for any future growth and development in the area.

"Environmental Services uses a variety of rehabilitation and maintenance methods to help repair and extend the life of Springfield's sanitary sewer system," explains Mike DeLong. "However, repeated cases of sanitary sewer overflows in the Pea Ridge Creek area tell us that we have capacity issues that warrant construction to improve service and protect public health in this area."

The City and easement acquisition contractors hosted an informational open house in late November at the Doling Northview Center to help inform the public and impacted property owners of the details of the project and what to expect from the easement acquisition and construction process. Those who missed the open house are encouraged to visit springfieldmo.gov/pearidge to learn more.

"Repeated cases of sanitary sewer overflows in the Pea Ridge Creek area tell us that we have capacity issues that warrant construction to improve service and protect public health in this area." – Mike DeLong

The City is under an amended consent judgment with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows. The City's



Overflow Control Plan was revised in early 2021 to establish a supplementary plan and timeline for investment in improving Springfield's aging sanitary sewer system.

Sanitary sewer improvements around Pea Ridge Creek are anticipated for construction beginning in the fall. The combined cost of the projects is estimated at \$5.2 million and will be funded using sanitary sewer reserve funds as outlined in the Supplemental Overflow Control Plan approved by City Council in April 2021.

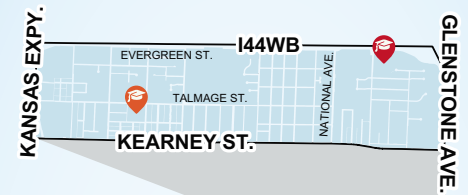
ABOUT THE PROJECTS

The Pea Ridge Sanitary Sewer Project will follow along the north fork of the Pea Ridge Creek roughly between Heritage Avenue and National Avenue. The project will replace approximately 5,500 feet of an existing 12-inch sanitary sewer main with a new 24-inch pipe. About 1,200 feet of 18-inch main will also be added to run parallel with an existing pipe.

The Doling Park Sanitary Sewer Project will join with the Pea Ridge project near Heritage Avenue and will run south along the Doling Branch of Pea Ridge Creek into Doling Park. The project will replace roughly 6,900 feet of existing sanitary sewer main with larger diameter pipe up to 27 inches.

The goal of both projects is to increase sewage capacity within the sanitary sewer collection system and reduce overflows.

For more information, visit the project webpage at springfieldmo.gov/PeaRidge.



Connect

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

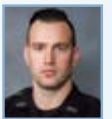


Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 11 • Feb. 8 • March 8 • April 5: 6:45 – 8 p.m.
@ Hillcrest Presbyterian Church (818 E. Norton Road) Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Fremont Elementary School
2814 N. Fremont Ave.

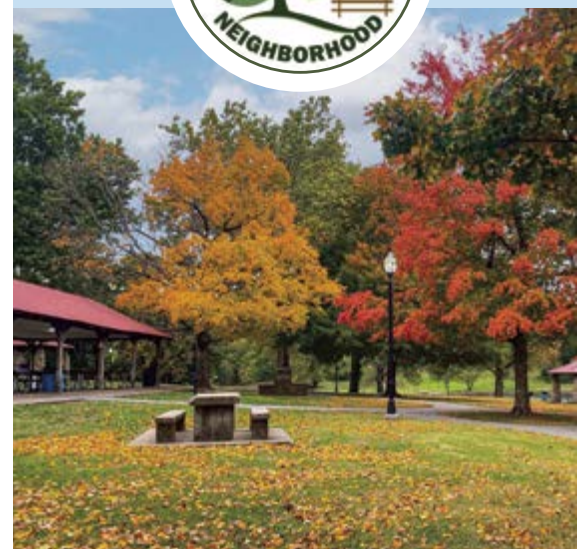
Watkins Elementary School
732 W. Talmage St.

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

Mobile Library Stop

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

Wednesdays: 2:45-3:15 p.m.
Glenwood Manor (2540 N. Delaware Ave.)



Doling Park (301 E. Talmage St.) in late October 2021.
Photo from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board



It takes a village to raise a village

By Laramie Ellis, for SGFNN

An African proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child," but it also takes a village to raise a village. Look at the heart of Galloway Village and you'll see not just one singular person making a difference, but a collective group of individuals doing whatever it takes to continue supporting our "village."

In 2021, the Galloway Village Neighborhood Association had two one-day yard sale spectaculars, and when we say spectaculars, we mean SPECTACULARS! The first sale took place in late June and it was a hot one! With the donations and collections from the neighborhood, there were enough unique pieces and goodies to span the entire distance of a church parking lot (literally the entire Galloway Baptist Church Parking lot, to be exact). Although it felt like the warmest day of the summer, the love and support of our neighborhood that one day provided that much more warmth within the hearts and spirits of the GVNA board members, and it was then they realized "Why stop there?"

In late October, Galloway Village Neighborhood Association hosted yet another yard sale in the parking lot of Galloway Baptist Church. Hundreds upon hundreds of donated items collected from the incredible neighborhood members, loaded into the trucks and trailers of even more incredible neighbors, neighbors always willing to lend a hand. Well, their June yard sale might have felt like the hottest day of summer but the evening before their fall sale, it seemed like the odds were stacked against them. As trucks began being unloaded and tables unfolded, the rain started, the wind shifted and the temperatures dropped. And dropped. But that didn't stop the incredible volunteers loading up their trucks and bringing the goodies to dry land until the weather passed and it was safe to unpack.



The day of the sale, Galloway was fortunate enough to see not only sunshine, but a high of 67 degrees. This article, however, is not about the incredible weather they had that October day, but once again, the phenomenal love and support from their neighbors in the form of even more donations from the community and twice the amount of shoppers and donated items. At the end of the day, the items left were donated to local charities and Galloway Village was shown what it takes to raise a village — a community that loves and cherishes it as much as the next guy or gal.

Thank you to Galloway Baptist Church as well and a special thanks to everyone who donated items, setup the sale area, shopped and made donations to the GVNA. Galloway Village Neighborhood Association vows continuous support to Galloway Village and are constantly reminded by such events that we cannot do it without your support. Thank you!

City plans two upcoming roadway projects in the Galloway Neighborhood

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City of Springfield is in the final planning stages of two upcoming roadway improvement projects impacting the Galloway Village neighborhood. An update on the Galloway Street Widening and Battlefield and Lone Pine Intersection Improvement projects was provided to the Galloway Village Neighborhood Association in October, with more detailed information to come in the spring.

The widening of Galloway Street to three lanes

between Luster Avenue and Lone Pine Avenue has been anticipated



for years and is expected to improve safe traffic and pedestrian connections to Sequiota Park and the Galloway Greenway Trail. The project will widen the road to three lanes, providing a center lane for turning traffic, sidewalks along the south side of the roadway and a multi-use path on the north side.

► See **GALLOWAY ROADWAY PROJECTS** on page 14



Connect

- Melanie Bach, President
- Ron Boles, Vice President
- Jacque Thummel, Secretary
- Wendy Huscher, Treasurer
- gallowayvillage@gmail.com



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 18 • April 19: 6:30 p.m. @ Galloway Baptist Church (2816 E. Republic Rd.) Meetings are quarterly. Special meetings may be called as needed.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

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



Congratulations
CHARLES EWING
Galloway Village's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year



▶ GALLOWAY ROADWAY PROJECTS from page 13

Two traffic calming roundabout intersections will be installed at Galloway Street and Luster Avenue and at Galloway and Lone Pine Avenue. Stormwater infrastructure will also be upgraded and drainage improved along Luster Avenue.

The project is anticipated for contractor bidding in the spring, with an estimated construction cost of \$5 million, funded through a Governor's Cost Share Grant and the ¼-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax.

"Contractors are very busy right now and material supply and cost is still pretty high following the pandemic, so we're not sure what to expect when we put this project out to bid," explains project manager Nicholas Edelman. "Recent bids have come in 30-50% higher than our cost estimates, if we receive any bids at all. It's hard to plan for that and provide a solid idea of when construction will take place in the current industry environment."

With a feasible bid in the spring, says Edelman, the City hopes to begin construction in the summer.



Design plans are also being finalized for future intersection improvements at Battlefield Road and Lone Pine Avenue.

"We know traffic flow through the Galloway neighborhood will be impacted by construction. ... We don't want to throw two projects at you at the same time, so we'll wait and see how Galloway goes, then plan to tackle Battlefield and Lone Pine after that." – Nicholas Edelman

The improvements will include the addition of three dedicated right turn lanes to improve traffic flow and safety – providing turning lanes for northbound to eastbound, eastbound to southbound and westbound to northbound turns. The project will also include traffic signal upgrades and pedestrian and Americans with Disabilities Act improvements.

The project is estimated at a cost of \$800,000 and will be funded through the ¼-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax. Intersection improvements are not expected to begin until late 2023, following the completion of the Galloway Widening Project.

"We know traffic flow through the Galloway neighborhood will be impacted by construction associated with the Galloway widening project," says Edelman. "We don't want to throw two projects at you at the same time, so we'll wait and see how Galloway goes, then plan to tackle Battlefield and Lone Pine after that."

For questions or comments about the projects, contact Nicholas Edelman at Nicholas.edelman@springfieldmo.gov.

GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Meetings are held on an as-needed basis at 6:30 p.m. Contact a neighborhood officer to find out the next scheduled meeting.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Eric Luebbert: 417-864-1138

eluebbert@springfieldmo.gov

Horace Mann Elementary School
3745 S. Broadway Ave.

Follow Greater Parkcrest on



GPNA plans a family night with "Chili, Chocolate and Bingo" event

By Judy Wyrick, for SGFNN

Hopefully after the holidays and weather permitting, the GPNA Executive Committee will host an event called, "Chili, Chocolate and Bingo" for the neighborhood. Probably a 6-8 p.m. event because it will need to be on a Thursday evening. Truly a fun event for all. The social committee will prepare the chili from a Horace Mann Chili recipe that has been around for a long time. Then we'll plan for several kinds of chocolate dessert. The most fun part will be playing bingo. There will be special accommodations for any kiddos that come, and if they aren't reading yet, they will use pictures for their markers. Prizes will be awarded. Looking forward to this!



Congratulations

BILL & DEBBIE BUTTS

Greater Parkcrest's
NOVA Volunteers of the Year

**NOVA
2021**

HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 11 • March 8: 6 – 7 p.m. @ Passion Assembly of God (806 N. Forest Ave.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Austin Faulconer: 417-874-2536

afaulconer@springfieldmo.gov

York Elementary School
2100 W. Nichols St.

Follow Heart of the Westside on



Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

Tues-Wed., March 29-30: Time TBD

Nichols Park (1900 W. Nichols St.)

Trash, Yardwaste, Metal, & Leaves

Curbside pickup will be available. Contact Anna Pageler

Information is subject to change. Look for more information at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com



Congratulations

TANA MILLER

Heart of the Westside's
NOVA Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2021**

HOME AND ENVIRONMENT WINTER GUIDE



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



STORM WATER

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

STORMWATER QUALITY
SPRINGFIELDMO.GOV/STORMWATER
417-864-1996

WINTER WATER QUALITY

PAGE 4



WASTE WATER

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

SEWER EMERGENCIES & ISSUES
SPRINGFIELDMO.GOV/SEWER
417-864-1923

WASTEWATER KNOW-HOW

PAGE 3



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

NEW TOOLS TO HELP REDUCE WASTE

PAGE 2

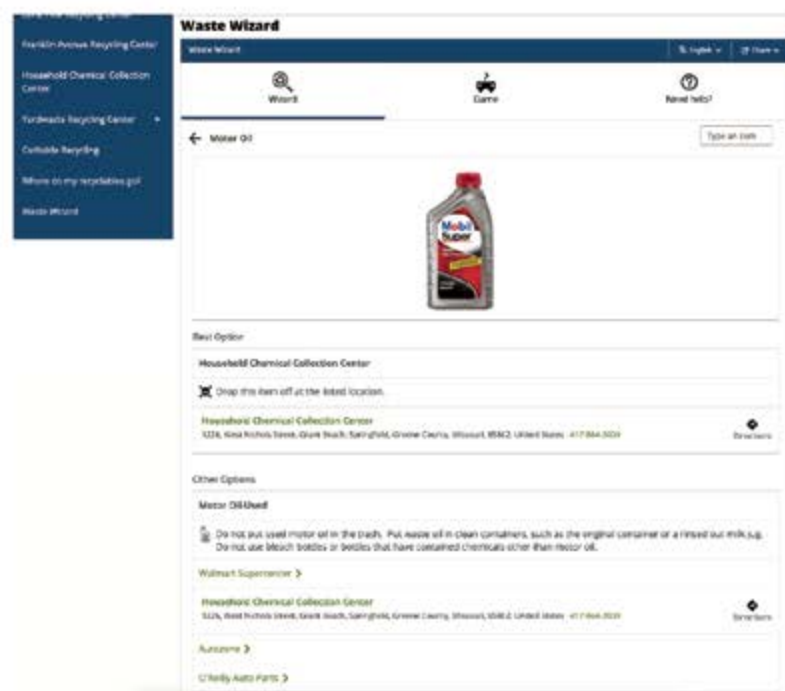
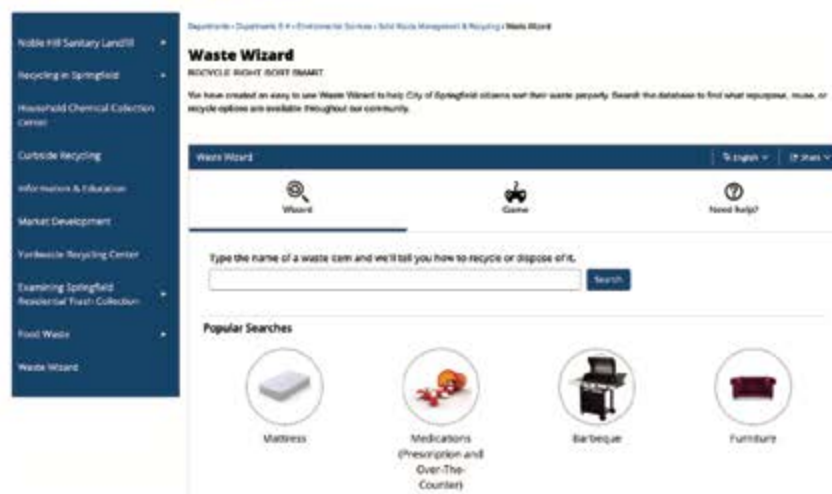
NEW TOOLS TO HELP REDUCE WASTE



We're headed into 2022 with a new tool to help residents recycle and reuse!

Environmental Services' solid waste division recently launched the Waste Wizard, a searchable online tool aimed at connecting citizens to a wealth of recycling and donation options in Springfield. Type an item or keyword into the search bar and the Wizard will provide a list of locations in the area where that item is accepted for recycling or disposal.

Access the Waste Wizard and learn more about recycling in Springfield by visiting springfieldmo.gov/recycling.



LEARN ABOUT RECYCLING IN SGF BY PLAYING A GAME!

Check out the fun "Recycle Right Springfield" game in the Waste Wizard tool for kids and adults.

Sort items into the correct recycling center, landfill or home compost bin to build your own virtual park! Access the Waste Wizard by visiting springfieldmo.gov/recycling.



WASTEWATER KNOW-HOW

3 SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP STAY BACKUP FREE IN 2022

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

Don't Flush Stuff!

Pee, poop and paper (toilet) are the only things that should be flushed down toilets. That's right, not even "flushable" wipes.



Connect with a Local Plumber

Get a lateral pipe inspection and talk about a maintenance plan and potential repairs.

Don't Pour Down the Drain

Fats, oils and grease belong in the trash, not down the drain and in our pipes.



KNOW YOUR PIPES

There are two primary lines of pipe infrastructure that move water throughout our city. One takes wastewater to be treated and released into our local waterways and another takes stormwater directly to our waterways without treatment.

Sanitary Sewer Main

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

Sewer Lateral

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

Stormwater Drainage

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

Collect your leftover oils, grease and fats from cooking in a glass jar or even an opened aluminum can then toss them in the trash!

WHAT IS THAT THING?!



It's a gigantic root ball recently removed from a sanitary sewer manhole in someone's yard! Tree roots can penetrate into sewer pipes through cracked or damaged pipes or through improper tree placement. This can happen in City-managed sewer mains, but also frequently happens in a home's private sewer lateral pipes. While the sewer main is the City's responsibility, maintenance of a home's lateral pipes is the property owner's responsibility. Just remember to take care where you plant trees and also consider scheduling a sewer lateral inspection with a licensed plumber to help manage any potential repairs and maintenance.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/sewerlaterals.

WINTER WATER QUALITY

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

It can be easy to forget about water quality when the days are cold and we can't swim and float in lakes and streams. However, water quality efforts can remain active in the winter. **Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/stormwater.**

De-ice Responsibly

Follow de-icing product directions carefully to reduce the amount used. Just remember, all of that salt or de-icing chemicals can flow into our stormwater drains and straight into our local waterways.

Winter Litter Challenge



Litter really piles up in our community during the wintertime and is a source of pollution that impacts water quality, fish and other wildlife. Based on local stream assessments, it is estimated that there are over 600,000 pieces of trash in Springfield streams, 60% of which is plastic. Cigarette butts are also a

commonly littered item with an estimated 50,000 butts in local streams. On those occasional sunny, warmer days this winter, get outside and pick up litter in your neighborhood. Consider joining the Adopt-A-Stream or Adopt-A-Street programs or doing a one-time stream cleanup. **Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/adoptastream or springfieldmo.gov/adoptastreet.**

Report Pollution

As always, keep an eye out for dumping of chemicals or yardwaste in streets or storm drains and other water pollution concerns such as tracking of mud from construction sites or improper outdoor storage or disposal of materials that can pollute stormwater runoff. **Report water pollution concerns to the Citizen Resource Center at 417-864-1010.**

REPORT DUMPED CHEMICALS & YARDWASTE IN STREETS & STORM DRAINS 417-864-1010

LOOKING TOWARD SPRING



Harvest the Rain

Collecting stormwater in a rain barrel is a smart and sustainable way to utilize a resource that otherwise would soak into the ground or run off your lawn into a storm drain. Purchase a rain barrel and save the receipt! You may be eligible for the Right as Rain rebate from jamesriverbasin.com/rain-barrel.



Know Your Soil Before You Plant

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

Build a Rain Garden & Plant Natives

Consider a rain garden to beautify your yard, create habitat for wildlife & pollinators and help reduce stormwater runoff. In fact, planting natives in your rain garden is a great way to enhance the water quality, air quality and biodiversity of your yard. **Learn more about natives at GrowNative.org.** See what other environmental enhancements you can make at yardethic.com



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

Winter is a great time to start your spring garden planning. With just three simple practices, your yard could become Yard Ethic certified. It's easy to do and a great way to show that you are an active steward for our local and regional environment:

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

Learn more at yardethic.com.

GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD



Grant Beach Neighborhood Night Out brings 500 to Grant Beach Park

By Kathy Lutz, for SGFNN

On Friday, Sept. 24, 2021, the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association hosted our annual Neighborhood Night Out at Grant Beach Park. We had approximately 500 in attendance and a great time was had by all!

We had great food provided by Life 360 Community Services along with their massive food distribution. They brought inflatables and their block party trailer.

Louie and Fetch from the Springfield Cardinals

dropped by to visit with us at Neighborhood Night Out.

The train museum was open and is an enjoyable activity for all ages. We had several vendor tables set up by area organizations.

We had our raffles, a 50/50 Raffle and our live auction, which is our main fundraiser of the year. We had some great Raffle Baskets and Live Auction items this year. A big THANK YOU to all of our donors and our vendors.

We started shutting down about 9 p.m., but Life 360 Community Services was still there, handing out food and supplies until about 11 p.m.

Sign up for Grant Beach spring soccer in February

By Kathy Lutz, for SGFNN

Sign-up dates for spring soccer will be held at Hovey House (800 W. Hovey St.) 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the following dates:

- Saturday, Feb. 12
- Saturday, Feb. 19
- Saturday, Feb. 26
- Saturday, March 5.

Games will begin April 2 at Grant Beach Park.

Registration forms and background check forms will be on the door at Hovey House if you do not receive one.

SUMMER 2022 BASEBALL

Registration forms will go out the first week of April or may be picked up at Hovey House. Sign-up dates will be posted on our Facebook page. Games will start June 9 at the Grant Beach Park ballfield.

For more information, check out our Facebook Page: Grant Beach Sports or contact Pauletta Dunn, 417-880-2453.



Grant Beach's band of gypsies cheers on Bass Pro Marathon runners in November

By Kathy Lutz, for SGFNN

Grant Beach was well represented this year at the Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge. Our volunteer team was made up of four generations of the Nichols-Dunn Family, dressed as a band of gypsies. They were well received by the runners and they enjoyed themselves cheering the runners on.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 17 • Feb. 21 • March 21: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m./
6 p.m. optional potluck @ St. Joseph Catholic Church
Parish Hall (1115 N. Campbell Ave.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

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

Follow Grant Beach on  
grantbeachneighborhood.org



Congratulations
DENISE KERSHNER
& ROSE STOCKWELL
Grant Beach's NOVA
Volunteers of the Year



SPRINGFIELD CHILDREN'S BUSINESS FAIR



Child business entrepreneurs attend five courses that are held weekly and focus on major components of business including economics and entrepreneurship. Area business leaders volunteer to teach concepts on marketing, advertising, pitch, business analysis and more.

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 9

9 a.m.-2 p.m., 321 E. Commercial St. (Commercial Street City Market)

Learn more at facebook.com/SpringfieldMO.CBF

Sponsored by
 

To become a sponsor, guest instructor or a named partner, please contact Billie at billie@life360.org or call 417-447-9000

Stormwater improvements in Mark Twain neighborhood under construction this winter

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City of Springfield has contracted with general contractor Hartman and Company to begin construction of stormwater improvements along Westwood Avenue between Wayland and Seminole streets in the Mark Twain Neighborhood. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-December and is estimated for completion in early summer.

The project will include the construction of a new underground storm drain system to increase capacity downstream from the detention basin located near the intersection of Seminole Street and Nettleton Avenue. This basin frequently overflows, flooding the street and properties to the south. The new storm pipe will be primarily installed in the right-of-way along Seminole Street between Nettleton and Westwood Avenue and along Westwood from Seminole Street to Wayland Street.

As construction ramps up, nearby residents can expect heavy machinery, open trench excavation, impacts to the street and periodic road closures. Road closure details will be provided to the public as information becomes available.

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



Mark Twain Neighborhood Association looks forward to spring cleanup, activities

By Samantha Spartan, for SGFNN

Mark Twain had a great time participating in the Sunset Church of Christ Trunk or Treat and the Bass Pro Marathon! We look forward to participating again in the future. We hope everyone liked our pirate ship!

We are looking forward to an amazing 2022. Be on the lookout for our spring cleanup information so you can plan your spring cleaning accordingly.

We would love to see you at our monthly meetings! We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. You do not have to be a member to attend. For more information, please see our Facebook page at facebook.com/marktwainneighborhood.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 11 • Feb. 8 • March 8 • April 12: 7 p.m.
@ Sunset Church of Christ (1222 W. Sunset St.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

Follow Mark Twain on  

Mark Twain Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

Thurs., May 5: Time TBD

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

Information is subject to change. Look for more information in the spring issue of SGF Neighborhood News



Mark Twain took third place in the Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge, earning the neighborhood \$750.

MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Bobbi Ream, President
- Felicity Cordell, Vice President and Secretary
- Donna Clarkson, Treasurer
- meadorparkna@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 27 • Feb. 24 • March 24: 6 p.m. @ Cowden Elementary School (2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Cowden Elementary School
2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.

Follow Meador Park on



Meador Park looks forward to in-person events in 2022

By Bobbi Ream, for SGFNN

With COVID-19 vaccinations available for almost everyone, we are looking forward to 2022 National Night Out, cookouts and kickball! We did a great many things in spite of the necessary restrictions this past year. Our big event was the neighborhood cleanup. It was different, but under the circumstances, it was successful. Thanks to all. We held our annual back-to-school social with Cowden Elementary School, which Culver's made possible. Because we are accustomed to meeting outside in the summer, we were able to continue with our regular meetings. MPNA is going to donate \$25 monthly to Cowden to support their food bank and/or needs of the students, which Dr. Norman says is a welcome donation. Our annual garage sale made the second weekend in June the most popular time of the year. Everyone was glad to be outside. We had more than 60 sales in the Thursday-Sunday time frame. This was only our second year. Consensus: "Let's do this again." We are going to resume our Neighbors Helping Neighbors program—maybe taking on one or two events every five or six weeks throughout the year.

OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Lauren Witt: 417-864-1321
lwitt@springfieldmo.gov



Pittman Elementary School
2934 E. Bennett St.

Follow Oak Grove on
ogna.weebly.com

Mobile Library Stop

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

Wednesdays: 6-6:30 p.m.

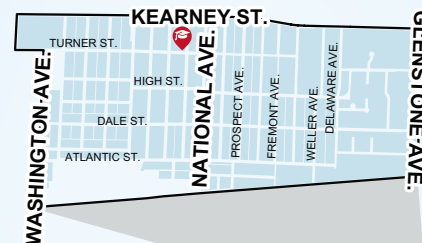
Country Club Village Apartments
(Wildan & Cinderella Streets)



Congratulations
BONNA KIRKHOFF
Oak Grove's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2021**

ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 27 • Feb. 24 • March 24: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
@ Pathways United Methodist Church (1232 E. Dale St.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Robberson Community School
1100 E. Kearney St.

Follow Robberson on

Robberson Neighborhood Association Trunk or Treat event
Oct. 30, 2021 at Pathways United Methodist Church



Congratulations
PHYLLIS EVANS
Robberson's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2021**



Completion of Central Street Corridor project expected in January

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Roadway improvements along the Central Street Corridor between Benton Avenue and Clay Avenue are expected to wrap up in January.

The phase II corridor project to continue "complete streets" improvements along Central Street between Benton and Clay avenues, includes a multi-use path on the north side of Central and a sidewalk on the south side. Intersection and signal improvements were made at Central Street and Drury Lane, as well as underground stormwater infrastructure improvements. The project also incorporates on-street parking, decorative street lighting and a grass-covered median. Gas, water, electrical and fiber utilities were updated within the project boundaries.

"We're excited to see this stretch of roadway reopen and function better as a route connecting pedestrians, bicyclists, transit as well as motorists to the variety of education and civic institutions in the area." – Nicholas Edelman

"Progress was slow going in the fall as the contractor worked through utility and stormwater



work," says project manager Nicholas Edelman. "We coordinated very closely with Drury and the contractor did what they could to accommodate school and sports traffic. We'll wrap up the project a little later than anticipated but not by much."

Sod and landscaping work will take place in the spring as temperatures rise.

"We're excited to see this stretch of roadway reopen and function better as a route connecting pedestrians, bicyclists, transit as well as motorists to the variety of education and civic institutions in the area," added Edelman.

The project cost approximately \$2.1 million and was funded through the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax with reimbursements from City Utilities for the utility upgrades.

Rehab of Jefferson Avenue Footbridge on hold for now

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

In December, City of Springfield Public Works staff updated City Council on the results of a bid process for the rehabilitation of the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge, a historic pedestrian bridge built in 1902 that spans the railroad tracks north of Historic Commercial Street and connects Commercial Street to the Woodland Heights neighborhood.

Bid results were nearly double the cost of the roughly \$3 million engineering estimate on the historic structure, which was closed in 2016 due to safety concerns following a routine inspection. A detailed structural evaluation concluded that nearly 40% of the bridge needs repaired or strengthened, and the paint system is failing and no longer protecting against corrosion.



The City received final approval from the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to bid the project in the fall after an extensive public engagement and planning process involving multiple local, state and national agencies.

► See REHAB OF JEFFERSON AVENUE FOOTBRIDGE ON HOLD in the Woodland Heights section on page 25



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 10 • Feb. 14 • March 14 • April 11: Board meeting (open to the public) 5:30-6:30 p.m. General membership meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. We are currently meeting via ZOOM. If you would like a link to attend a meeting, send an email to midtown.sgf@gmail.com.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Boyd Elementary School
1409 N. Washington Ave.

Central High School
423 E. Central St.

Follow Midtown on



Congratulations
AMANDA DIXON
Midtown's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2021**



Springfield Art Museum announces 2022 exhibition lineup

By Joshua Best, Springfield Art Museum, for SGFNN

The Springfield Art Museum celebrates its 94th year of service to our community with a special exhibition calendar packed with local, regional, and international interest during 2022. On Oct. 28, 1994, Mayor N.L. "Mac" McCartney proclaimed Oct. 28 as Springfield Art Museum Day. Twenty-seven years later, Mayor Ken McClure issued a new proclamation honoring the museum's 75th anniversary as a department of the City of Springfield. Prior to being deeded to the City of Springfield in 1946, the museum was privately run by a group known as the Art Study Club.

NEW IN 2022

Yoko Ono: Mend Piece

April 9 – July 10

Beginning in April, the Springfield Art Museum invites our visitors to engage with the participatory exhibition, Yoko Ono: Mend Piece. Ono proposes communal mending as an act of healing. In a seemingly simple white room, shattered cups and saucers are placed on a table. Participants are asked to mend the fragments together using common household items: twine, glue, scissors, and tape. The resulting works are displayed on nearby shelves, evidence of the power of collective action.



Yoko Ono, *Mend Piece* (Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York City version), 1966/2015, ceramic, nontoxic glue, cello tape, scissors, and twine. Dimensions variable. Collection of the Rennie Museum, Vancouver, 2018. Photographed by Blaine Campbell. Installation view, courtesy of the Rennie Collection. © 1966/2015 Yoko Ono.

Yoko Ono is widely recognized for her pioneering conceptual art, which has encompassed performance, instruction, film, music, and writing. She also continues to work tirelessly for world peace. *Mend Piece* embraces the metaphor of the ancient Japanese art of Kintsugi, a technique

of repairing broken or cracked pottery using brushstrokes of gold and silver, a philosophy that treats the breakage and repair as part of the object's history – an important and precious detail, rather than something to disguise.

This exhibition is organized by the American Federation of Arts (AFA). The presentation of Yoko Ono's *Mend Piece* (Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York City version) is part of Art Room, an ongoing series of contemporary art installations organized by the AFA. Support for the Springfield Art Museum's presentation of Yoko Ono: *Mend Piece* is generously provided by a lead gift from the Melinda J. McDaniel Charitable Trust, UW, Bank of America, N.A., Trustees and additional support from Howard C. and Nadia T. Cavner.

The Open Window

April 9 – July 10

Italian Renaissance theorist Leon Battista Alberti instructed painters to consider the frame of a painting as an open window. This treatise laid out a method for effectively creating single-point space in painting and, consequently, served as a defining concept for theories of painting, architecture, and moving pictures. Of course, "Alberti's window" has been challenged repeatedly by modern artists through painting movements like Cubism, photographic collage, and avant-garde film. The works in this special exhibition, pulled from the museum's permanent collection, either follow or challenge the metaphor of Alberti's window, while providing an intellectual space to consider how our own views are framed.



Lois Dodd, *Broken Window with View*, 1987, Oil on linen. Collection of the Springfield Art Museum. © Lois Dodd/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

Humanities: Vol. 1

July 23 – Nov. 13

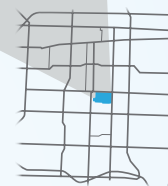
The Springfield Art Museum, like any institution, is supported by a wide variety of staff roles. While some might be familiar with the idea of a curator or educator, it takes everyone from security to custodial, development to administration to keep the museum moving forward. Regardless of job duties,

► See **ART MUSEUM 2022 LINEUP** on page 20



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Follow Phelps Grove on
phelpsgrove.com

Phelps Grove Neighborhood Spring Cleanup (Joint with University Heights)

Thurs., May 26

Time & Location TBD

Information is subject to change. Look for more information in the spring issue of SGF Neighborhood News



Congratulations

SPIKE ANDERSON

Phelps Grove's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2021**

Timeline for stormwater improvements at Springfield Art Museum extended through March

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Brookside Drive to remain closed to traffic between National Avenue and Kings Avenue until spring.

Scheduling challenges have caused the construction timeline for stormwater improvements near the Springfield Art Museum to be extended through the spring. The project reached the mid-way mark this fall despite experiencing industry-wide staffing and supply challenges.



The project to reduce flooding and improve water quality to properties near the Art Museum involves restoring a portion of Fassnacht Creek to a naturalized channel along Brookside Drive between Kings Avenue and Greene Avenue. The project also includes the construction of two pedestrian bridges and installation of more than 200 native plants and shrubs.

City construction contractor Hartman and Company has experienced delays throughout construction due to subcontractor scheduling and materials supply. These challenges are consistent with those experienced industry wide as contractors struggle to hire necessary workers and supply chains remain inconsistent following the effects of the pandemic.

"The City has been coordinating closely with Hartman as construction has progressed," explains project manager Kirkland Preston. "We were hopeful the project could keep to the original timeline and wrap up in the fall, but unfortunately that wasn't possible under the conditions. Per their contract, Hartman has until mid-April to complete the project."

Due to cold weather, crews plan to demobilize from the work site in January and February. Around March, when temperatures begin to rise, Hartman and Company is expected to proceed with roadway alignment modifications to Brookside Drive, decorative stone work and the installation of native landscaping.

For more information on the project and to subscribe to receive regular email updates, visit springfieldmo.gov/samstormwater.



► ART MUSEUM LINEUP from page 19

everyone at the museum works in and around the permanent collection. So, what connections with art have we made as we secure the building, manage contracts, coordinate facility repairs, and write grants? This exhibition seeks to answer that question by highlighting favorite works by a range of people who help move the museum forward including staff, board, docents, and committee members.

Humanities: Vol. 2

Sept. 17, 2022 – Feb. 19, 2023

This exhibition started with a series of questions: What does our collection mean to Springfieldians? Does our collection mean anything to Springfieldians? How would we know? To seek answers to this question, Curator of Art Sarah Buhr invited three local artists in different disciplines to tour the museum's vaults and see the connections that might exist between the collection and the community. These tours have resulted in an exhibition that will pair objects from the museum's permanent collection, as chosen by poet Kate Murr, musician Jin J X, and dancer Sarah Wilcoxon, with original work created in their own mediums, inspired by the chosen objects. The result will be an exhibition featuring the museum's permanent collection, new poetry, new music, and a dance film created by these local artists.

Rodney Frew

Nov. 26, 2022 – March 19, 2023

This exhibition features work by longtime local artist and art educator Rodney Frew. Frew taught at Missouri State University for 34 years, retiring with emeritus status. He exhibited his work often at the museum, as well as in national and international exhibitions. The museum was gifted a large body of work by the artist's son, Morgan Frew, in 2019. This exhibition will feature many of these newly donated works in context with additional work by Rodney Frew from the museum's collection.

Frieda Logan: Swap Meet

Nov. 26, 2022 – March 19, 2023

Frieda Logan was a local artist who was active in the Springfield Visual Arts Alliance, the Springfield Art Museum's annual Watercolor USA exhibition, and the Visual Arts Committee for Springfield Public Schools. Prior to retiring in Springfield, Logan managed a freelance career in Kansas City creating commercial illustrations for Macy's Department Store and Ray's Advertising. This exhibition features a series of paintings, gifted by Logan to the museum in 2004, featuring heartfelt depictions of daily life in the Midwest, circa 1982, from swap meets to flea markets, from Kansas City street musicians to mohawked museum visitors.

Lyrical Abstraction

Nov. 26, 2022 – March 19, 2023

In America in the 1960s and 70s, a group of artists developed in reaction to the aesthetics and political implications of minimalist and conceptual art. Artists such as Dan Christensen, Larry Poons, Robert Natkin, and Sam Francis sought to expand the idea of abstract painting and to reassert the importance of the formal elements of line and color. These artists were dubbed "lyrical abstractionists" and their work was characterized by loose gestural brushstrokes, acrylic staining, occasional imagery, rich color, and other painterly techniques. This exhibit features work by lyrical abstract artists in the museum's permanent collection including Poons, Natkin, Francis, and Jules Olitski, among others.

RETURNING IN 2022

All School Exhibition

March 5 – April 24

The museum's longest running exhibition initiative, the All School Exhibition invites student artists from public, private, parochial, and home school cooperatives to exhibit outstanding artwork in our largest gallery space. This exhibit also reflects the work of the incredibly talented teachers in our community, many of whom are practicing artists themselves. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the All School Exhibition. Support for the All School Exhibition is generously provided by Howard C. and Nadia T. Caver.

Missouri State University MFA Showcase

May 7-22

This special exhibition features bodies of work produced by Missouri State University graduate students pursuing a master of fine arts degree in visual studies from the Art + Design Department.

Watercolor USA 2022

June 4 – Aug. 28

This annual summer favorite returns with over \$20,000 in cash prizes, artist materials packages, and possible museum purchase awards available. This will be the 61st showing of the very best in contemporary American watermedia, as judged by Kevin Umaña, co-founder of The Ekru Project in Kansas City.

EVERGREEN IN 2022

New works from American artists from the 18th century onward will continue to rotate quarterly into Creating an American Identity, our semi-permanent exhibition of our permanent collection that focuses on the ways in which artists respond to and reveal our cultural identity as Americans. This exhibition includes a selection of 75+ works from as wide an array of artistic voices as possible with our current collection including even more works by women, people of color, Indigenous peoples, and LGBTQ+ communities.

Selections from the museum's Asian art collection are currently installed in our Hartman Gallery. Selections from the museum's ceramics collections are currently installed in the Musgrave Gallery. Patrons can also enjoy installation pieces like Anne Lindberg's titled sky and Dale Chihuly's Autumn Persian and Feather Chandelier, year-round. The museum's grounds also include outdoor sculptures including works by Rebecca Hackemann, John Henry, Richard Hunt, and Ernest Trova.

CONTINUING FROM 2021

The Inferno of Dante: Etchings by Michael Mazur (through Feb. 20)

This special exhibition pairs 41 etchings from the museum's permanent collection illustrating Dante Alighieri's The Inferno. The exhibit pairs Mazur's etchings with the relevant excerpted portions of Dante's poem in Italian, along with English translations by U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky. Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

Linda Lopez: Long Lost (through March 20)

This major solo exhibition features immersive spaces, mosaics, and sculptures by Linda Nguyen Lopez, a first-generation American artist of Vietnamese and Mexican descent. Her unexpected porcelain sculptures investigate language and identity as imaginatively embedded in the mundane objects around us. Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Mike Brothers, Chair:
mikeandmo@gmail.com
or 417-894-9064
- Peggy Wise, Vice Chair
- Jeremy Tuck, Treasurer
- Nancy Evans, Secretary


Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 18 • Feb. 15 • March 15: 7–8 p.m. @ University Heights Baptist Church (1010 S. National Ave.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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

 **Rountree Elementary School**
1333 Grand St.

Follow Rountree on  
routreenews.org

The Cherry and Pickwick Traffic Calming Project was completed in November 2021. Final landscaping and a ribbon cutting ceremony are expected in spring 2022.



Congratulations
MIKE BROTHERS
Rountree's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2021**

TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Please contact neighborhood officers for meeting times and locations.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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

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

Follow Tom Watkins on  



Mobile Library Stop

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

Tuesdays: 4:30-5 p.m.

John B. Hughes Apts. (2100 N. Clifton Ave.)



The local chapter of the Lions Club and the 1969 Graduating Class of Hillcrest High School presented Williams Elementary with a buddy bench for its new playground in November 2021! The bench was constructed using 500 pounds of recycled plastic bags. Photo: Williams Elementary Facebook page

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings

Jan. 11 • Feb. 8 • March 8 • April 12: 6:30 p.m.,
@ Golden Avenue Baptist Church (558 S. Golden Ave.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

Follow Westside on  

Bass Pro Marathon Westside
Neighborhood Cheering Section



Congratulations
ZACH MILLER
Westside's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2021**

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

The O'Connell family won first place in the decorating category.



University Heights neighbors participate in second annual Halloween contest

By Jan Peterson, for SGFNN

University Heights Neighborhood Association celebrated Halloween with its second annual contest for best decor and best hands-free treat-conveyance system. Taking first place in the best decor category was the O'Connell family, who won a \$50 gift card to Mama Jean's. Second-place winners, the Head family, took home a gift bag and Sonic gift card.

The Pelletier family came up with the most ingenious treat-delivery system and also won a \$50 gift card to Mama Jean's. Taking second place was the Catlins, who also won a treat bag and Sonic gift card. Thank you to all the families who participated. We can't wait to see what everyone cooks up next Halloween.



The Pelletier family won first place in the hands-free treat delivery category.

University Heights heroic Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Section

Photos by Jym Wilson



Connect

- Jan Peterson, President:
janpetersoncreative@gmail.com
or 417-838-6216
- John Stinson, Vice President
- Annette Hollon, Secretary
- Donelle Blubaugh, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 2 • March 2 • April 6: 5:30 p.m.

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Lauren Witty: 417-864-1321

lwitty@springfieldmo.gov



Sunshine Elementary School
421 E. Sunshine St.

Follow University Heights on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/universityheights-sgf.org) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/universityheights-sgf.org)
universityheights-sgf.org

University Heights Neighborhood Spring Cleanup (Joint with Phelps Grove)

Thurs., May 26

Time & Location TBD

Information is subject to change. Look for more information in the spring issue of SGF Neighborhood News



Congratulations
ANNETTE HOLLON
University Heights' NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

NOVA
2021



Weller's Rogers Community Food Forest offers sustainable food source for neighbors

Provided by Springfield Community Gardens

The Rogers Community Food Forest (RCFF) is located at 1436 N. Rogers Ave. The City of Springfield donated the lot, and City of Springfield Associate Planner and garden volunteer Ben Tegeler began planting the site in 2018.

WHAT IS A FOOD FOREST?

This site is different from Springfield Community Gardens' other gardens — it's not a garden at all! It's a food forest, a "diverse planting of edible plants to mimic the ecosystems and patterns found in nature (PFF)." The goal is a self-sustaining site where people can grow food, and connect to the area's natural history. In contrast with traditional community gardens, food forests focus on holistic resilience and biophilic design over managing and maintaining specific production areas. There are seven general layers in a food forest (check out this diagram from Project Food Forest):



Engaging multiple layers creates a more robust and resilient ecosystem and allows for more production across layers. Many food forests, like RCFF, begin by planting overstory (trees) that take two to five years before they start producing. RCFF is only a few years old and just now starting to produce!

WHY FOOD FORESTS?

Knowledge from many disciplines including permaculture, arboriculture, ecology, microbiology, and natural history collaborate to focus on the land and natural systems already at work. No two food forests will look alike, because they are tailored to their region! Produce reflects what best grows in the region. RCFF currently hosts native and hearty apple, pear, persimmon, jujubee, pawpaw, hazelnut, cherry and mulberry cultivars with plans for future densification. Plan for plant communities,



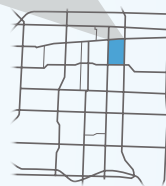
not individuals. Species from different forest layers provide shelter, shade, and nutrients to each other.

Food forests allow growth and change with minimal interference after the initial "hard work" of site design and layout, soil testing, cultivar choice, and planting are completed. They can last for generations, growing communities along with their produce. Follow our social media for updates on this site! To learn more about what Ben does, check out Ozark Mountain Permaculture at Facebook.com/OzarkMountainPermaculture.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 3 • March 3 • April 7: 6 – 7 p.m.

@ Weller Community Church (1722 E. Blaine St.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Jimmy Andela: 417-874-2535

jandela@springfieldmo.gov



Weller Elementary School
1630 N. Weller Ave.

Follow Weller on  



Fred, Sandy, and Chris at Weller Community Garden had a record breaking year, harvesting 5,057 lbs of nutrient dense, local food. This food fed volunteers in the garden as well as an average of 75 families through the weekly Weller food distribution. Thank you to our garden leaders and volunteers for their commitment to creating a community where everyone has access to healthy, local food! Provided by Springfield Community Gardens



West Central neighbors clean up Jordan Creek during Clean Green Springfield

By Caron Parnell, for SGFNN

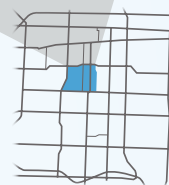
More than 25 West Central Neighbors jumped in to clean up historic Jordan Creek in the fall as part of the Clean Green Springfield effort. Together, they pulled up tons of trash, everything from shopping carts to swimming pools. Using ropes, they pulled the trash up the banks to be hauled away. Caroline Murski, event organizer said, "Everyone came together to make a huge difference! We can't wait to do it again this spring!"

The creek is part of the proposed Ozark Greenway Trail and has long been the site of encampments. Precautions were taken to remove discarded hypodermic needles, as well as the tents, blankets and sleeping bags that were stuck to the bottom of the creek. The event was hosted by Bissett Neighborhood Association President Russell Moore, who treated everyone to a pizza party afterwards.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Alliance Meetings

Jan. 25 • Feb. 22 • March 22: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
@ Broadway United Methodist Church
(545 S. Broadway Ave.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

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

Follow West Central on   



West Central
President Caron
Parnell presented
the award to
Urban Roots Farm

Congratulations
URBAN ROOTS FARM
West Central's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2021**



Green for Greene
-An EPA-funded Grant

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

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SPRING 2022**

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



Woodland Heights has a busy fall with marathon cheering section, cleanups and elections

By Becky Volz, for SGFNN

Woodland Heights' new board officers were voted in at our November neighborhood meeting and appointed at the December meeting. They are:

- Jason Gish
- Janet Graham
- Janan Hutcherson
- Charlyn Ingwerson
- Chance Parish
- Jill Penticuff
- Mona Pieron
- Steve Sexton
- Janet Tracy
- Becky Volz.



Woodland Heights tied for second place in the Bass Pro Marathon Neighborhood Challenge, earning the neighborhood \$850.

We did two small fall cleanups: a curbside pickup of large items and a Saturday morning with three dumpsters and thunderstorms! We filled all three dumpsters. Every little bit of trash and brush removed helps the neighborhood breathe better! Our spring cleanups are set for April 26 and 27.

We are looking forward to participating in Springfield Police Department's Neighborhood Watch training and hopefully the Block Watch training program.



Rehab of Jefferson Avenue Footbridge on hold

Continued from page 18

The design goals are to fully rehabilitate the bridge and retain its historical significance and to bring it in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

The City conducted a variety of outreach and publicity efforts in hopes of attracting a large number of qualified bids, according to Public Works Assistant Director Martin Gugel. Those efforts included:

- Direct outreach to contractors referred by BNSF and Great River Engineering, and to membership of Springfield Contractor's Association (SCA) and Associated General Contractors (AGC)
- Posting on MoDOT's website
- Being highly publicized with local and national media coverage
- Hosting a contractor pre-bid meeting, which was well attended
- Pushing back the bid deadline per contractor requests.



Gugel cited the current bidding environment — the cost of materials, the labor-intensive nature of the project, subcontractor/contractor availability and the risk of working on the bridge over an active railroad — as potential reasons for bids coming in considerably higher than the original estimate.

► See **JEFFERSON AVENUE FOOTBRIDGE** on page 26



Connect

- Becky Volz, President:
woodlandhna@gmail.com
or 417-880-4210
- Steve Sexton, Vice President



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 18 • Feb. 15 • March 15: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
@ Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church
(722 W. Atlantic St.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Bowerman Elementary School
2148 N. Douglas Ave.

Reed Middle School
2000 N. Lyon Ave.

Follow Woodland Heights on

woodlandheightsneighborhood.org

Woodland Heights Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

Tues., April 26: Time TBD

Information is subject to change. Look for more information in the spring issue of **SGF Neighborhood News**



Congratulations

ISAIAH LAPIERE
Woodland Heights' NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2021**

▶ JEFFERSON AVENUE FOOTBRIDGE from page 25

Planned funding sources for the bridge rehabilitation included 80% from federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds with a 20% local match from various funding sources, including the ¼-cent Capital Improvement and ⅛-cent Transportation sales taxes. The match also relies on \$50,000 raised by Commercial Street supporters.

As the administrator of federal STBG funding, MoDOT must review and concur with the awarding of a bid on the project. After consulting with MoDOT on the two submitted bids, MoDOT indicated they would not approve awarding the project to either company.

"Due to difficulties with labor shortages and scheduling conflicts, both contractors struggled to provide documentation of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirement within a three-day post-bid window," explained Gugel. "Upon review of the documentation and good faith effort on the part of both companies, MoDOT indicated they would not concur with awarding either proposal."

With acceptance of a bid no longer an option at this time, City Council considered funding options for the potential rebidding of the project at a later date. Council directed staff to continue their research as further details are released regarding federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal funding. Council members also asked Public Works to look into improvements of the appearance of the bridge closure, as well as potential enhancements to alternate pedestrian routes at Washington and Lyon avenues.

ABOUT THE JEFFERSON AVENUE FOOTBRIDGE

- Constructed in 1902.
- Ownership was transferred to the City in 1998.
- Minimal bridge rehabilitation in 2002.
- Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.
- Icon of Springfield history and a symbol of North Springfield.
- Transportation connection and significant to C-Street business district.



Kate Baird and Mike Stevens at the former Doling Elementary School



Couple plans to reopen former Doling Elementary building as New Moon Studio Space

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The former Doling Elementary School, 1423 W. Atlantic, will have new life breathed into it when it reopens as a space for artists to create called New Moon Studio Space. Doling opened in 1916 and closed in 2002.

At press time, husband and wife Kate Baird, an artist, and Mike Stevens, executive director of Moxie Cinema, were working on purchasing the building from Springfield Public Schools. Their vision is to offer secure, functional workspaces for artists and creative workers in a supportive community setting.

"Private and shared studio spaces in a range of sizes will be available," says Baird. "Many of the studio spaces are former classrooms with large windows and abundant natural light. Rents will likely range from \$100 per month to \$600 per month. There are also a variety of other spaces on offer, including offices and an all-purpose room."

Baird added that New Moon aims to meet the needs of a range of creative practices and attract a mix of emerging, mid-career and established artists.



Amenities will include:

- 24-hour keypad access
- Wireless internet
- climate-controlled spaces
- off-street parking
- classroom and storage facilities.

The couple is soliciting feedback for the facility via a studio/workplace needs survey available at newmoonstudiospace.com.

C-Street stakeholder focus group develops draft Commercial Street Art Collection Plan

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

In the fall, City staff worked alongside a focus group made up of Commercial Street stakeholders and members of the local art community to develop an Art Collection Plan for the historic district.

In August of 2021, City Council approved a \$40,000 Tax Increment Financing (TIF) allocation for new artwork for the Commercial Street Historic District. The purpose of the Art Collection Plan is to guide new art acquisitions, rotating pieces and exhibits and deaccessions. The current C-Street collection will be included in the plan. It will also summarize how to develop and refine the existing collection, identify gaps and major areas of focus (priorities for acquisitions) acting as overarching guidelines for art in the public realm of C-Street.

An online C-Street Art Collection Plan survey was made available to the general public in early November. Input from more than 266 survey responses was then used in the development of the draft plan.

"When developing the Art Collection Plan, it



was important to include ideas from those who live and work in the district and assess the current collection, but we also needed to consult with the greater art community find out what might be appealing to future visitors," explains Senior Planner Olivia Hough. "Based on what we have heard, the Art Collection Plan will be integrally related to enhancing economic vitality, placemaking, walkability and elevating the overall visitor experience in the district."

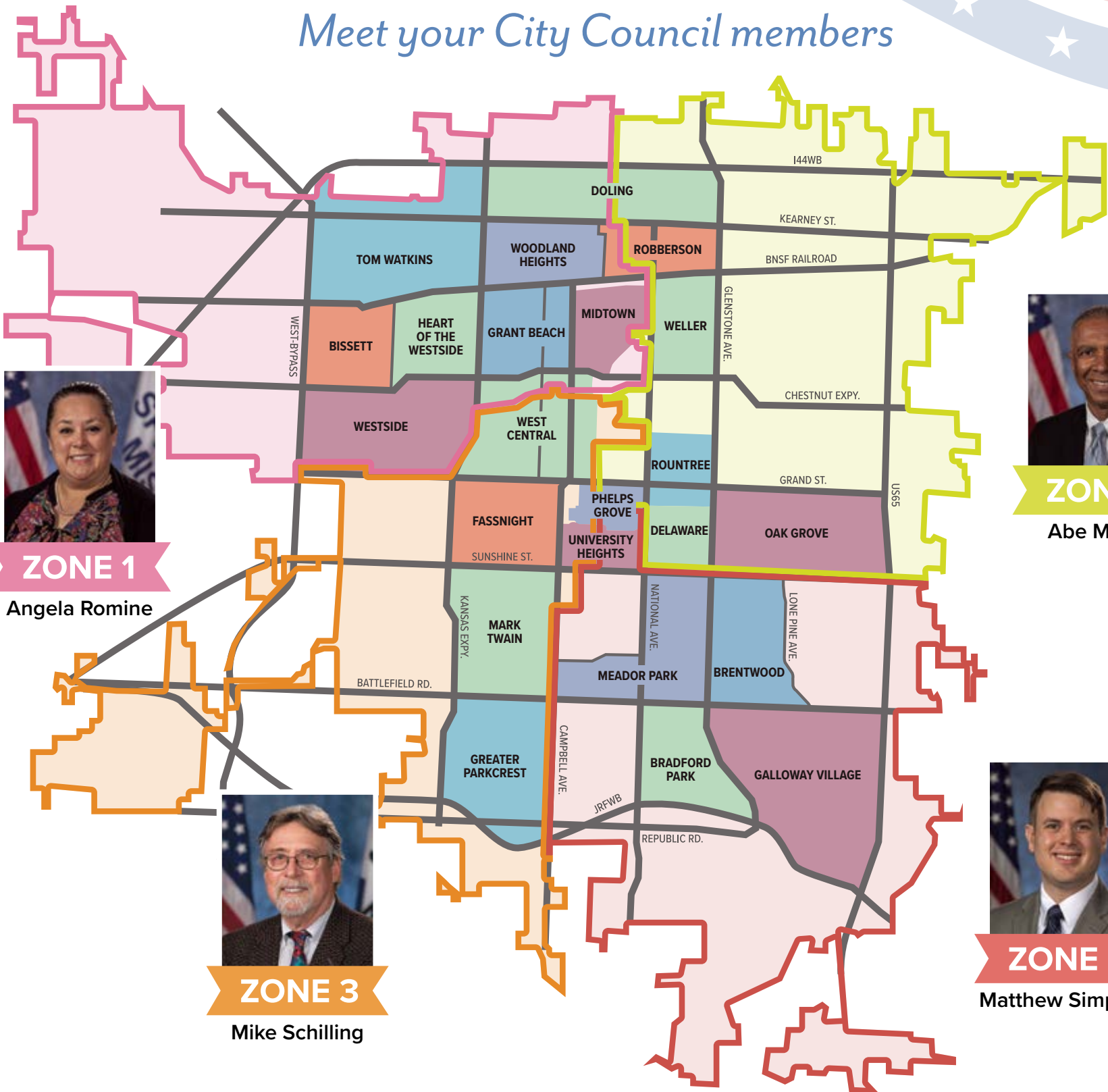
The draft C-Street Public Art Collection Plan is expected to be distributed for review and comment in early 2022, with opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback

at a public engagement meeting to be scheduled in January or February.

Feedback on other approved TIF-funded projects will also be gathered in early 2022 including input on a plan for installing directional signage, conducting public parking improvements, and developing designs for improvements to the Footbridge Plaza and historic district gateway signage. For more information on upcoming Commercial Street TIF-funded projects, visit springfieldmo.gov/cstreet or sign up to receive project update emails.

Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods

Meet your City Council members



ZONE 1

Angela Romine



ZONE 2

Abe McGull



ZONE 3

Mike Schilling



ZONE 4

Matthew Simpson

Ken McClure
Mayor



Heather Hardinger
General Seat A



Craig Hosmer
General Seat B



Andrew Lear
General Seat C



Richard Ollis
General Seat D



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

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Council@springfieldmo.gov

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The City welcomes
FASSNIGHT
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Read more about the Fassnight
Neighborhood on page 10.



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