

SPRING 2022

VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 2



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Restore SGF announces first round of pledges to spur reinvestment in historic neighborhoods

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Restore SGF, a community initiative to improve housing conditions and raise residential property values in Springfield's historic neighborhoods, started the new year with several pledges of support from local financial institutions. To date, almost \$2 million has been pledged, with \$1.5 million in loan funding and \$250,000 in grants.

"Restore SGF continues to build momentum and excitement regarding funding and implementation. Thank you to Commerce Bank, Central Bank, OakStar Bank, Bancorp South, and Legacy Bank for their pledges," said Community Foundation of the Ozarks President Brian Fogle. Fogle, a former banker, is a member of the initiative's launch team. CFO has pledged \$20,000 over five years (\$100,000 total) in grant funding for Restore SGF, plus \$500,000, for the initiative's revolving loan fund.

"Restore SGF continues to build momentum and excitement regarding funding and implementation." – Brian Fogle

In addition to CFO's pledge, OakStar Bank, Commerce Bank, and Legacy Bank have committed \$10,000 over three years (\$30,000 total) in grant funding, while Central Bank has committed \$20,000 over three years (\$60,000 total) in grant



funding. Legacy Bank and Central Bank have each committed \$250,000 for the revolving loan fund, and Systematic Savings & Loan committed \$500,000 to mortgage loans in Restore SGF's program areas.

"Pledging support to Restore SGF is a concrete way for financial institutions to show their commitment to Springfield's low-to-moderate income neighborhoods and help improve the community," Fogle added.

The commitment that Restore SGF is asking from financial institutions involves:

- a multi-year pledge of grant funds matching homeowners' funds for exterior home repairs. These funds will be deployed on five to 20 home "line of sight bundles" for maximum impact.

▶ See **RESTORE SGF** on page 2

Neighborhoods get updated crime numbers at February NAC meeting

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The City's Planning & Development shared each neighborhood's top police incidents from 2015 through 2021 at the Feb. 9 Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting.

Incident types reported were:

- Arson
- Assault
- Assault, domestic
- Assault, life-threatening
- Auto Theft
- Burglary, residential
- Domestic disturbance
- General disturbance
- Drugs (all activities)
- Homicide
- Stealing from a vehicle
- Trespassing
- Vandalism/property damage.

The Community Crime Map website at communitycrimemap.com allows citizens to get a better idea of the criminal activity in their area.



The public can use this to look at crime occurring in their neighborhoods, potential new neighborhoods, or near their work. To make anonymous tips you can call Crime Stoppers at 417-869-TIPS (8477) or online at www.P3tips.com.

▶ See **CRIME NUMBERS** on page 3

- a pledge of revolving loan funds for major home renovations.
- a pledge to make normal home loans in Restore SGF's targeted neighborhoods.

Financial institution representatives are encouraged to contact Fogle at 417-864-6199 if they have questions.

ABOUT RESTORE SGF

Fogle and a group of Restore SGF supporters, including Neighborhood Advisory Council co-chairs Rusty Worley and Becky Volz, 131st District Rep. Bill Owen, City staff, City Council members and other community members traveled to Des Moines to learn about a similar initiative called Invest DSM last summer.

Restore SGF has asked City Council and the Greene County Commission for American Rescue Plan Act funding to get the program off the ground.

Goals include encouraging home ownership and enhancing Springfield's housing stock.

"Program-related Investment" (PRI) is one of the commitment options for Restore SGF. The goal of this pool of funds is to provide "patient capital" to allow the new organization to be a catalyst in neighborhoods when the private sector has yet to build investor confidence.



In redeveloping neighborhoods, there are those houses and/or multi-family dwellings that have deteriorated significantly and are a detraction to the neighborhood. Because of the neglect, and the nature of appraisals reflecting past transactions, often the initial investments into a neighborhood may have appraisal challenges, or just a lack of investor confidence because there is not yet a history of an acceptable investment return.

PRI provides much-needed patient capital to let the organization acquire, rehab, and eventually, sell a property to provide a catalyst for other development. As investors gain confidence, and the comparables for appraisals catch up, the private market takes over, Fogle explained.

"The intent of that investment is truly just that — a longer-term, low interest loan to provide the patient capital. The expectation is to return the funds to the original investor. It will be treated as an investment, not a grant, but will have more flexible terms than a traditional real estate development loan. PRIs are not uncommon in the community development and philanthropic world, and Community Foundation of the Ozarks has made several over the past few years," he said.

City hires new directors for Economic Vitality, Planning & Development departments

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

NEW ECONOMIC VITALITY DIRECTOR

Amanda Ohlensehlen joined the City of Springfield as director of Economic Vitality March 28. Ohlensehlen most recently served as the community and economic development manager for the City of New Bern, North Carolina.

Prior to serving in New Bern, she was the economic development coordinator and director of the tourist and event center in the City of Havelock, North Carolina.

"We are excited about Amanda and the opportunity she brings to the table for the City of Springfield. The new department is a great chance for the city to advance a lot of the goals set forth in the comprehensive plan and the City Council priorities," said Deputy City Manager Maurice Jones.



Amanda Ohlensehlen

"Springfield is such a special place with so much to offer and everyone has been so helpful. I am ready to jump in to ensure a vibrant future for Springfield and the region." – Amanda Ohlensehlen

The Department of Economic Vitality was created in July 2021 to focus on vibrancy and taking a proactive approach to helping businesses and entrepreneurs, to positively impact the region's economic ecosystem. The department's primary services are entrepreneurial development and support, business retention/tourism support and business expansion and attraction.

The creation of the department formally separated the City's economic development function from the Department of Planning & Development. The purpose in doing so was to eliminate any confusion regarding the facilitative and recruitment role of economic development from the Planning & Development Department's regulatory role applied through local zoning laws.

Primary objectives of the department are to encourage reinvestment and quality economic growth, coordinate significant development projects that impact the community's tax base, retain and facilitate expansion of existing businesses, promote entrepreneurship, and attract new businesses by fostering a positive business environment.

The new department works closely with the City's quality of place initiatives and regional economic development partners to leverage resources and enable the City to be attractive to quality business investment.

"I was extremely excited to come home to Missouri and join the team in Springfield. This is a wonderful

community and I appreciate the commitment to placemaking. I look forward to helping guide the vision of the department and build on past successes," Ohlensehlen said. "Springfield is such a special place with so much to offer and everyone has been so helpful. I am ready to jump in to ensure a vibrant future for Springfield and the region."

NEW PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Susan Istenes joined the City as Planning & Development director Feb. 15. Istenes previously served as the City of Clayton, Missouri's director of Planning & Development since 2010.

Istenes has a master of science in urban and regional planning from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia and decades of experience leading planning and development functions at various cities. She started her formal career in Florida before moving to Missouri.

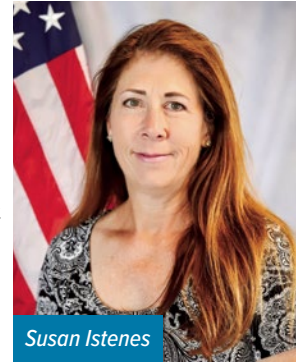
In her previous role in Clayton, she oversaw staff responsible for all aspects of comprehensive planning, zoning administration, the review and issuance of building/construction permits and related code enforcement. She coordinated and conducted the site plan review and rezoning processes for major development proposals, ensuring proposals complied with local and state statutes and regulations. She also administered zoning laws and prepared planning studies and long-range plans.

"I've always gotten a good vibe when visiting the area and a sense of pride in the community about Springfield." – Susan Istenes

"The time I have spent in Springfield has been positive and enjoyable; people are friendly and helpful," Istenes said. "The area is beautiful, the city offers large city amenities and services but retains a small-town feel. I appreciate the city's commitment to historical preservation, its downtown area, and proximity to rural areas and open spaces. I've always gotten a good vibe when visiting the area and a sense of pride in the community about Springfield."

Istenes supervises a team of 25 employees and serves as principal advisor to the city manager as well as other community stakeholders and will direct the preparation and maintenance for the City's Master Plan, Forward SGF, a project Istenes says she looks forward to completing.

"Susan brings to our organization the perfect blend of technical knowledge and leadership experience. We are very excited to have her lead our Planning & Development Department," said City Manager Jason Gage.



Susan Istenes

► **CRIME NUMBERS** from page 1

The department released its Annual Crime Report in March. In 2021, there was a 3.6% increase (+211 reports) for crimes against persons, an 11.3% decrease (-1,928 reports) for crimes against property, and a 2.2% decrease (-60 reports) for crimes against society. Overall, crime in Springfield in 2021 was down 6.9% (-1,777 reports) compared to 2020.

"Through tracking and releasing crime data, we can give citizens a realistic look at crime in our community," Police Chief Paul Williams said. "The information helps us identify successful policing strategies as well as highlighting areas where we can make improvements through community-wide participation in crime prevention."

This is the first time SPD has been able to compare a full year of crime report data since switching to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in January 2020. The implementation of NIBRS allows for a significantly more comprehensive look at crime in the community compared to the data tracked in previous years.

The 2021 crime report also features updated clearance rates. Clearance rates are fluid and change over time as investigations progress and eventually lead to prosecution.

The crime prevention initiative, launched in early 2022, aims to reduce crime in the community through the education of the public. With the public's help, SPD can continue the trend of

Total Police Incidents 2015-2021

Neighborhood Service Area	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bingham	512	537	567	495	464	481	494
Bissett	197	1,170	935	738	570	367	212
Bradford Park	279	320	375	266	334	313	271
Brentwood	164	231	262	162	177	181	245
Cooper Park	348	345	364	347	370	281	356
Delaware	188	222	211	175	174	138	204
Doling Park	760	772	832	752	814	740	768
Downtown	388	414	469	462	456	452	414
Ewing	236	254	305	296	312	253	295
Fassnight	426	466	570	588	534	545	397
Galloway Village	230	291	306	201	304	291	322
Grant Beach	847	878	922	806	796	798	801
Greater Parkcrest	365	411	445	313	338	298	300
Heart of the Westside	490	573	473	467	1,023	460	400
Kickapoo	345	407	446	358	417	414	431
Lake Springfield	64	71	84	68	79	90	77
Mark Twain	526	548	693	598	549	452	436
Meador Park	668	737	801	650	698	680	711
Midtown	574	694	724	725	750	621	614
Oak Grove	497	598	675	488	617	555	542
Parkwood	348	467	490	354	417	419	518
Phelps Grove/University Heights	253	288	270	259	234	287	208
Robberson	520	562	588	540	588	556	506
Rountree/Walnut	409	444	485	466	466	402	442
Seminole/Holland	264	322	332	282	319	303	275
Sherwood	185	185	207	191	220	158	174
Southern Hills	353	376	437	272	351	336	322
Southside	125	172	190	153	142	139	139
Tom Watkins	747	810	712	711	791	691	707
Weller	373	335	369	327	356	331	350
West Central	2,034	2,185	2,227	1,909	1,880	1,698	1,496
Westside	851	1,008	987	865	836	688	690
Woodland Heights	554	592	618	568	613	548	461
Young Lilley	176	253	197	159	209	148	160

reducing crime in Springfield. To learn more, visit springfieldmo.gov/crime.

To see your neighborhood's crime statistics for 2021 and how they compare to those of past years, please turn to your neighborhood's section.

DISCLAIMER: The City of Springfield Police Department, and all other contributing data suppliers, make no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of the data for any particular use. Furthermore, the City of Springfield Police Department, and all other contributing data suppliers, assume no liability whatsoever associated with the use or misuse of the data.



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JULY 29**

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GOOD NEIGHBOR Tip



Avoid tall grass & weed overgrowth

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

Do you need help?

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

Neighborhood Works improvement projects in progress in 14 neighborhoods

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Five neighborhood improvement projects have been completed and more are underway in the 2019-2024 round of Neighborhood Works improvement project funding.

First launched in 2016 and funded through the 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax, Neighborhood Works is intended to fund small-scale capital improvements within officially registered neighborhoods. The program gives residents the opportunity to identify projects they believe will offer the greatest benefit to their area including small-scale stormwater drainage improvements, sidewalk and trail connections, public parking and alleyway improvements, and updates to parks. Individual projects are limited to \$100,000 or less and must take place on City-owned property or right-of-way.

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

The current slate of approved projects represents approximately \$600,000-\$650,000 in funding.

BISSETT

Hillcrest/Nichols Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility Improvements – \$78,000

Sidewalk and intersection improvements including radius improvements at the intersection of Hillcrest Avenue and Nichols Street, ADA sidewalk replacement on Hillcrest Avenue from Nichols Street to Brower Street and a concrete landing at the bus stop along Nichols Street near L.A. Wise Park.

Multiple sidewalk projects will be included on the same construction contract. The contract is expected to be advertised for bid in mid-March with construction beginning in late spring or summer.



NEIGHBORHOOD WORKS

1/4-CENT IMPROVEMENT

BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

Improvements to Kirkwood Park – \$99,000

Installation of new accessible playground equipment at Kirkwood Park (2201 E. Seminole St.), including rubber surfacing and concrete base. Playground equipment installation is expected this summer with completion anticipated in the fall.

GALLOWAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

Galloway Village Neighborhood Intersection Improvements – \$0

Project consists of repairing edges of the roadway and intersection at Mentor Avenue and Republic Street where large trucks and busses have caused damage. Public Works Street Operations crews will conduct the repair work and fund through the City's regular roadway maintenance budget. Project is expected to take place this summer.

GRANT BEACH

Richard Napieralski Community Garden Improvements – \$3,810

Install a freeze-proof yard hydrant within the west end of the garden area and provide new water service. Target for installation is summer.

GREATER PARKCREST

Stormwater and Park improvements – \$47,259

Project at Horace Mann School-Park is now complete, including tennis court repairs and striping for Pickleball courts. These courts are only available to the public outside of school hours.

Sanford Park Phase 2 – \$52,741

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

MARK TWAIN

Tree planting, landscaping and fence removal – \$20,000

Public Works street operations division expects to remove fencing in the coming weeks along City-owned property in the southeast corner of Kansas Expressway and Sunshine Street. Landscaping crews will then install trees and landscaping. Project is estimated for completion by summer.

▶ See **NEIGHBORHOOD WORKS** on page 6

PROTECT YOUR SELF PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBORS

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vaccine417.com



SPRINGFIELD -
GREENE COUNTY
HEALTH



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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Please send them to Melissa Haase
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AdScenes piling up in your driveway? Here's how to unsubscribe

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Mayor Ken McClure sent a letter to Springfield-News-Leader Midwest President of Sales Allen Jones earlier this year regarding neighborhood complaints about delivery of the AdScene, which is a free News-Leader publication. Below is the letter from McClure, along with the response from Jones on how to opt out of delivery of the publication.

Dear Mr. Jones,

It is my understanding that Gannett – Missouri Publishing, Inc. is the publisher of the AD Scene, a free periodical that is delivered door-to-door in Springfield weekly. Over the years, the City has received numerous complaints from citizens who do not wish to receive it. I have personally received several complaints directly over the past few months. Delivery has gone from being merely a nuisance in a yard each week to now where copies are frequently thrown into the street. On arrival home from a City Council meeting on Monday evening, I found my copy in the street in front of my house, with similar treatment of my neighbors on either side of me. Wednesday afternoon I picked up ten additional copies thrown into the street as I walked in my neighborhood. Several residences had multiple copies still in their yards.

I would like to make two requests: 1) please provide a convenient and well-publicized means for residents to opt-out of delivery, and, 2) at a minimum, the publication should be thrown into the yard or driveway of the residence and not into the street.

City staff will follow up with you within a week if we have not heard from you. We are happy to help publicize the opt-out solution as well.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this. We appreciate the fine work the Springfield News-Leader does to keep our citizens informed.

Sincerely,
Ken McClure



RESPONSE

Ken,

I appreciate you reaching out to me directly regarding challenges you and others are experiencing with AdScene. "Haphazard" delivery of the product is unacceptable, and I appreciate your willingness to partner on solutions. It is our expectation that the product is delivered into yards and that each and every home that does not want the product be promptly removed from delivery. Our distribution team receives multiple requests each week to add or remove addresses and is constantly updating the list and spot checks routes for accuracy.

To your question on "opt-out" options, the phone number and email to use are below:

- **Phone: 417-836-1106 (must leave the address on the message with request to cease delivery of AdScene to the address)**
- **Email: Austing@ansnewspapers.com**

I'm committed to doing a full review of the AdScene product with the team in Springfield to ensure it is living up to its original intent to bring value to the community. I'd like to conduct an audit (from production/content to delivery) and would be happy to have a deeper conversation regarding actions we'll be taking in the short/long term to address the concerns you've brought forward after digging in a bit more.

Allen Jones

Brock Rowe named interim director of City of Springfield Building Development Services department

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Brock Rowe has been named interim director of the City of Springfield's Building Development Services department. He most recently served as assistant director. Rowe grew up in the Ozarks, earning an associate of arts degree from North Arkansas College in Harrison, Arkansas and a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Arkansas.

He has extensive experience in the building trades, working for 18 years in construction as a carpenter and a foreman for construction projects all over northwest Arkansas and southwest Missouri. He transitioned to a career in code enforcement and became a building inspector for the City of Branson, where he acquired eight International Code Council certifications. Since joining the City of Springfield, he has earned a Certified Floodplain Managers Certification from the Association of State Floodplain Managers and is currently completing a master of science degree



in construction management from the University of Arkansas through the College of Engineering.

"In the time I have spent at the City of Springfield the staff has become my family. I value each staff member, and I am very excited to lead this team," Rowe said. "I will continue to value their input and continue to support them as we navigate through day-to-day activities and into the future."

MIDTOWN

Alleyway Cleanup – \$5,000

This project consists of removing overgrowth of vegetation in the alleys located in Midtown. Project expected for completion in early spring.

Silver Springs Park Water Line – \$270

Work is complete. Crews installed a freeze-proof hose bibb on the north wall of the Silver Springs Park pavilion.

ROUNTREE

ADA Compliant Sidewalks and Ramps – \$85,499

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

Multiple sidewalk projects will be included on the same construction contract which is expected to be advertised for bid in mid-March. Construction is anticipated to begin in late spring or summer.

WESTSIDE

Updates to Tennis and Basketball Courts at Zagonyi Park – \$5,872

Tennis court resurfacing is complete, with new striping to serve as pickleball courts. Basketball court repairs and improvements including a new chain link fence is expected for completion by fall 2022.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS

Repair and restoration of Charlie Norr Community Center – \$69,000

Work is in progress to repair the community center located at 310 W. Atlantic St., including cleaning and replacing brick, tuckpoints, repairing storefront framing, window glazing and door. A temporary security wall is in place with demolition of existing storefront to be improved in progress. Target for completion is summer.

Alley Grading and Pothole Repair – \$25,000

Work to conduct trash removal, grading and pothole repair of all alleyways in Woodland Heights is complete.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Reserve four speed boards to help reduce speeding on neighborhood streets – \$24,000

Speed boards have been purchased and installation complete at 1050 W. Mt. Vernon St., 2416 S. Bennett St., 809 W. Broadmoor St. and 2331 S. Ingram Mill Road. Speed boards are intended to be relocated periodically at NAC's request in an effort to reduce neighborhood speeding city-wide.

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



Get free internet through AT&T by combining program with federal benefit

Provided Content

Eligible households can now get free internet through AT&T by combining a new plan from the low-cost Access from AT&T program (<https://www.att.com/internet/access/>) with federal benefits from the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) (<https://about.att.com/story/2022/affordable-connectivity-program.html>).

The Access from AT&T program now provides faster internet plans with up to 100 Mbps of symmetrical speeds for \$30 per month, an increase from the 10 Mbps maximum provided in the original Access from AT&T plan. In addition, there's no cap on data usage with the new \$30 Access from AT&T plans.

Customers who prefer the original plans and have speeds of 10Mbps or less available can still take advantage of reliable internet with the \$5–\$10 per month plans.

All households that qualify for ACP will also

qualify for the Access from AT&T program, including the newest speed tier. Eligible households that take advantage of the up to \$30 per month ACP benefit (or up to \$75 per month for those on qualified tribal lands) can then receive internet service at no monthly charge.

HOW DO I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FREE INTERNET?

First, confirm that you are eligible for the ACP benefit and get approved with the federal government's National Verifier at acpbenefit.org. Then, call 1-855-220-5211. AT&T will verify your ACP approval and set you up on a plan with the ACP benefit.

You can choose to apply your ACP benefit to the Access from AT&T plan, or you can apply it to most of AT&T's existing plans. Check out which AT&T internet plans are available in your area at <https://www.att.com/buy/broadband/availability.html>.



Access from AT&T

What you should do:

1. Apply for the Affordable Connectivity Program at acpbenefit.org
2. After verifying your eligibility, call us at (855) 220-5211 to determine your plan

What you can get:

- FREE Internet service¹
- Internet speed plans up to 100 MB²
- No overage charges³

Learn more at att.com/internet/access/

¹Without the ACP benefit, Access from AT&T plans are up to \$30/month. ²Depending on availability at the customer's address.

³The new \$30 Access from AT&T plan includes unlimited usage. All existing Access from AT&T plans (except DSL, which has 150GB of usage) will allow up to 1TB of usage. A COVID overage waiver applies to all existing Access from AT&T plans (except DSL) through 4/30 to waive any overage fees.

Careless smoking leading cause of accidental fires in Springfield

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

In 2022, the Springfield Fire Department has already responded to five residential structure fires resulting from careless smoking.

On average, the department responds to nearly 20 fires per year which occur as a result of careless smoking or inappropriate disposal of smoking materials. "The leading cause of accidental fires in the City of Springfield is one which is completely preventable through use of safe practices," said Fire Chief David Pennington. To keep you and your family safe, the Springfield Fire Department recommends these safety tips if you smoke:

- Never leave lit cigarettes or charging electronic cigarettes unattended.
- Use deep, sturdy ashtrays with a stable base, such as a table, that is difficult to tip over.
- Do not discard cigarettes in potted plants, landscaping, dried grass, leaves or other things that can easily ignite.
- Never smoke in bed or while drowsy.
- Smoke outside. Most fire fatalities result from

fires that are started in living rooms, family rooms or bedrooms.

- Never smoke or allow anyone to smoke where medical oxygen is used. Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster, hotter rate.
- Do not smoke around flammable liquids such as gasoline or oil-soaked rags.
- Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches and other smoking materials out of the reach of children.
- Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away. Warm ashes dumped in waste cans can smolder for hours, then ignite.

Working smoke alarms save lives. Smoke alarms should be installed and maintained in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home, including your basement. If you need assistance with replacement of your battery or need a new smoke alarm, please contact the Springfield Fire Department at 417-874-2300. Batteries and smoke alarms are installed by your firefighters free of charge.



Fair Housing event April 30 at O'Reilly Center for Hope

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

Community Partnership of the Ozarks' Landlord & Tenant Education Subcommittee (as part of the Housing Collaborative) is currently in the process of planning a free Fair Housing event 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 30 at the O'Reilly Center for Hope (1518 E. Dale St).

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and door prizes include a drawing for City Utilities credit and an annual Springfield Tool Library membership. We will have a HUD representative joining us to give a presentation about Fair Housing, and we plan to host panel presentations, focus groups, and breakout sessions (anticipated topics to include: weatherization, negotiating a lease, budgeting, Fair Housing resources, rental checklist, codes and ordinances, and landlord-tenant law).



Program offers elementary students chance to explore career paths through art

By Katherine Trombetta, Missouri Job Center,
for SGFNN

Thanks to a \$10,000 Challenge America grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, Bingham Elementary School fourth-graders will get to explore career paths through art during the next school year.

"Art @ Work is such an exciting program because we get to use artwork to encourage growth in students' problem solving, critical thinking, and collaboration skills." – Jenny Schwartzberg

The Art @ Work program is a collaboration between the City of Springfield's Department of Workforce Development and the Springfield Art Museum and is designed to develop soft skills that can be used in the workplace later in life. The monthly sessions are geared toward students who may lack exposure to art, with a focus on increasing community engagement, fostering the development of work-ready skills and allowing access to hands-on art projects.

"We are pleased to partner with the Springfield Art Museum and Springfield Public Schools to bring this program to fourth graders at Bingham Elementary School. This program allows kids to work in small groups and collaborate on art projects related to career paths," Workforce Development Director Sally Payne said.



Challenge America offers support primarily to small organizations for projects in all artistic disciplines that extend the reach of the arts to populations that are underserved. The NEA is the only arts funder in the United States – public or private – that provides access to the arts in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. jurisdictions. Each year, it awards thousands of grants to provide everyone in the United States with diverse opportunities for arts participation.

"Art @ Work is such an exciting program because we get to use artwork to encourage growth in students' problem solving, critical thinking, and collaboration skills. This kind of interdisciplinary and interactive program is a fantastic way to bring the museum's assets outside of our physical space and into the classroom," said Museum Educator Jenny Schwartzberg.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Spring provides neighborhoods opportunities to connect

By Rusty Worley, for SGFNN

Neighborhoods are the grassroots of our community. They have a unique ability to authentically advocate to improve the quality of life, communicate organically, and recreate in ways to escape a culture absorbed in cell phones and streaming services.

ADVOCATE

The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) partnered with the Community Partnership of the Ozarks to convene a Nuisance Property Work Group to make recommendations to City Council on changes to existing ordinances, presenting new strategies, and creating new incentives for residential investment. The group consists of representatives from neighborhoods, REALTORS, developers, and City staff to identify best practices that could be implemented in Springfield.

NAC also submits annual budget recommendations to the city manager for the municipal fiscal year that begins each July 1. This year's requests include funding for Tolemi software to allow City departments to develop a vacancy database that could be utilized across departments; increasing the number of neighborhood cleanups by 50%; and allocating \$8,000 for 200 vouchers to

be distributed across 10 neighborhoods to trap, spay/neuter and vaccinate feral cats. The budget request will also call for investing in neighborhood revitalization through strengthening the Building Development Services residential staff; authorizing federal stimulus funds for the new Restore SGF program to promote home ownership and increasing property values; and creating a new revolving loan for emergency repairs for rental housing.

NAC looks forward to working together with City Council and staff on these critical issues.

COMMUNICATE

In a world with far too much noise (literally and figuratively), neighborhoods are an important megaphone to let residents know what is happening in their own back yard.

The SGF Neighborhood News publication is a point of pride for NAC and the City of Springfield Department of Public Information and Civic Engagement. Its professional design and wide distribution allow neighborhood organizations a platform to share their stories.

Neighborhoods are eagerly emerging from the isolation of the pandemic. Many combine old-fashioned door knocking with e-mail blasts and

social media posts to reach their residents wherever they may be. Be sure to contact your own neighborhood to be included in their forms of distribution.

RECREATE

Several neighborhoods will be teaming up this spring to participate in the annual Kickball Tournament at Meador Park on April 24. This is a great way for neighbors and their kids to get to know one another better, while getting outside to be more active and foster some good-natured competition.

With the warmer weather of spring and decreasing Covid case counts, neighborhoods will be resuming their block parties, parades, and ice cream socials. Check with your neighborhood on their activities in the coming months.

Many thanks to our NAC representatives, neighborhood leaders, and City partners for the time they dedicate to making the Springfield community a better place to live, work, and play!





Bissett Neighborhood Association/Eden Village II partnership blossoming

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

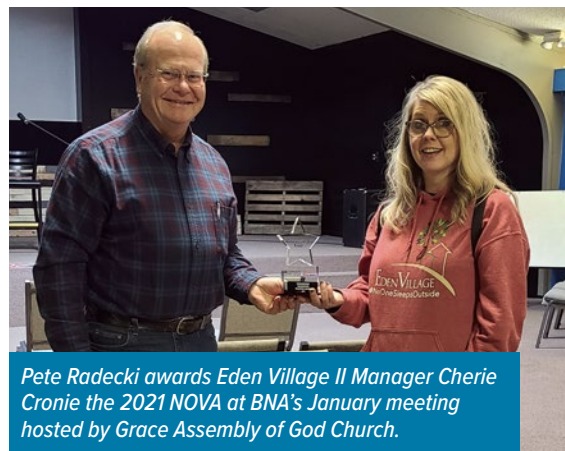
Since its recent establishment in the Bissett neighborhood, The Gathering Tree's Eden Village II has been developing a growing relationship with BNA. EVII was awarded a NOVA last December from BNA in recognition of its establishment and importantly, for its part in replacing the old derelict and largely abandoned trailer park at the west end of Brower Street.

Cherie Cronie, EVII manager, received the award at BNA's January meeting, where she also provided an excellent update on EVII goings-on. As of this writing, the facility is at or near capacity, with many formerly unsheltered folks now residents and beginning new and better chapters in their lives.

EVII is also supporting BNA by performing cleanups on Nichols Street, and has graciously opened its Nancy Good Community Center for meetings and other events. In February, BNA held a pot luck dinner and meeting at the facility, where



BNA and EVII residents share a pot luck dinner at the BNA meeting in February at the Nancy Good Community Center located at Eden Village II.



Pete Radecki awards Eden Village II Manager Cherie Cronie the 2021 NOVA at BNA's January meeting hosted by Grace Assembly of God Church.

members received a status report on crime in the neighborhood and safety tips from our new PAR Officer Brad Loveland. I provided an update on the work of NAC's Nuisance Property Work Group.

Largely to support the EVII residents, BNA proposed and was successful in obtaining a grant through the Neighborhood Works Program to replace sidewalks along Hillcrest, widen the Hillcrest/Nichols intersection and improve the bus stop near the intersection.

The work is anticipated to be completed this year. Recently, BNA arranged for potted plants to be donated to EVII residents and will continue to seek opportunities for support. In addition, BNA and EVII plan to work together for the upcoming Bissett Neighborhood Cleanup scheduled for June 7.

EVII is certainly shaping up to be an excellent addition to our neighborhood.

Bissett Neighborhood Cleanup preparations underway

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

Unlike previous years, the Bissett annual cleanup will be held in midweek instead of on a Saturday. The public dropoff is scheduled for 4-8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7 with the tentative location Bissett Elementary School west parking lot.

If you live in Bissett, be looking for a postcard in the mail a couple of weeks before the event for more details. TVs and computer monitors can also be



disposed of without charge, although they will need to be taken to a different site.



Connect

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




Neighborhood Association Meetings

Please contact BNA or check the Neighborhood Association's Facebook page for upcoming meeting dates, times and locations.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Brad Loveland: 417-874-2536
bloveland@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow Bissett on  

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	55	35	21
Assault, Domestic	125	77	51
Assault, Life Threat	2	1	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	71	47	26
Burglary, Residential	46	26	15
Disturbance, Domestic	45	25	15
Disturbance, General	18	11	6
Drugs, All Activities	63	38	16
Homicide	1	1	1
Stealing From A Vehicle	78	61	36
Trespassing	11	8	3
Vandalism, Property Damage	55	37	22
TOTAL	570	367	212

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://www.sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.

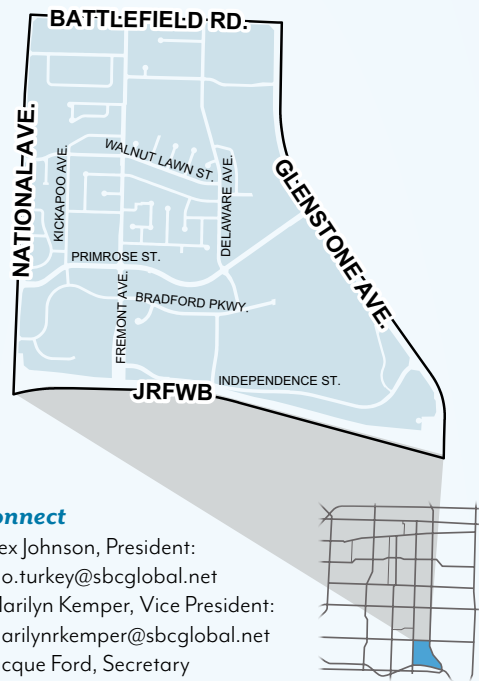


Bissett Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

Tues., June 7: 4-8 p.m.

Bissett Elementary School
 (3014 W. Calhoun St.)

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

April 19 • July 19 (Ice Cream Social) • Oct. 18: 6:30 p.m.
@ Immaculate Conception Church (3555 S. Fremont Ave.)

- June 12: Neighborhood Home & Garden Tour, 2-4 p.m.
- June 17 & 18: Neighborhood Garage Sale

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Follow Bradford Park on

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	19	17	8
Assault, Domestic	34	32	22
Assault, Life Threat	0	0	1
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	39	31	26
Burglary, Residential	4	4	9
Disturbance, Domestic	11	4	5
Disturbance, General	6	4	9
Drugs, All Activities	51	22	29
Homicide	0	0	1
Stealing From A Vehicle	124	148	125
Trespassing	18	15	8
Vandalism, Property Damage	28	36	28
TOTAL	334	313	271

See this story on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com
for incident numbers going back to 2015.



DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

May 3 • June 7 • July 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 Witt: 417-864-1321
lwitt@springfieldmo.gov



Delaware Elementary School
1505 S. Delaware Ave.

Follow Delaware on

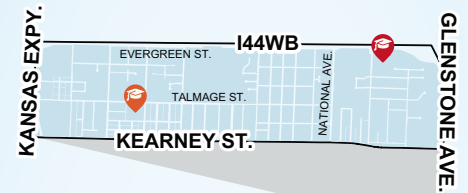
Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	9	8	7
Assault, Domestic	12	13	19
Assault, Life Threat	0	0	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	20	14	18
Burglary, Residential	16	11	13
Disturbance, Domestic	4	5	3
Disturbance, General	4	3	4
Drugs, All Activities	49	37	51
Homicide	0	1	0
Stealing From A Vehicle	46	27	60
Trespassing	0	2	8
Vandalism, Property Damage	14	17	21
TOTAL	174	138	204

See this story on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com
for incident numbers going back to 2015.



DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

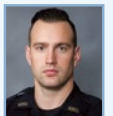
May 10 • June 14 • July 12: 6:45 – 8 p.m.

@ Hillcrest Presbyterian Church (818 E. Norton Rd.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Nathan Fettes: 417-874-2537
nfettes@springfieldmo.gov



Fremont Elementary School
2814 N. Fremont Ave.

Watkins Elementary School
732 W. Talmage St.

Follow Doling on
dolingneighborhood.com

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	2	0
Assault	68	64	80
Assault, Domestic	104	115	136
Assault, Life Threat	0	2	1
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	84	96	75
Burglary, Residential	90	47	37
Disturbance, Domestic	30	31	25
Disturbance, General	27	15	24
Drugs, All Activities	137	92	106
Homicide	1	2	0
Stealing From A Vehicle	133	140	144
Trespassing	52	57	62
Vandalism, Property Damage	88	77	78
TOTAL	814	740	768

See this story on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com
for incident numbers going back to 2015.



Doling Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

Tues., May 3: 7 a.m.-2 p.m.
Doling Park (301 E. Talmage St.)



Unity of Springfield to host 5th annual Earth Day celebration April 22-23

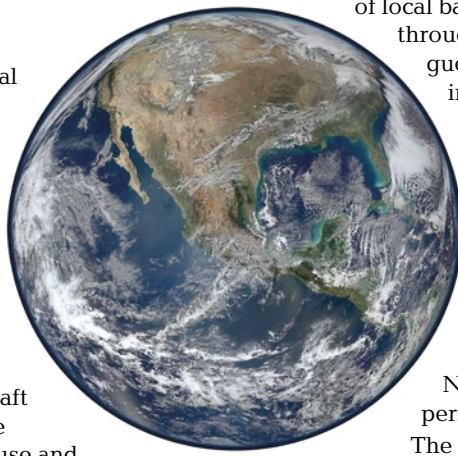
By Brandy Martin, for SGFNN

Unity of Springfield, 2214 E. Seminole, will host the fifth annual Planet Unity celebration. The event will be held April 22-23, 6-9 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Admission for both days is free.

Both Friday and Saturday will feature live music, food, wine and beer. Saturday, local vendors are offering a wide range of eco-conscious products to purchase. There will be free craft activities for kids and adults, face painting, a children's bounce house and a plant sale.

The Earth Day 5K will be held in conjunction with Planet Unity on Saturday morning at 8 a.m. This race will begin and end at Unity of Springfield. You can go to Unity of Springfield's website to register or go to <https://actnowracing.com/events/702/earth-day-5k> and register there.

Saturday, local vendors are offering a wide range of eco-conscious products to purchase. There is an indoor silent auction, craft activities for kids and adults, face painting, snow cones, a children's bounce house and healthy lunch options to buy courtesy of local farmers and Bambinos Café. People are invited to participate in the drumming circle, promoting peace among diverse religions, and environmental How-To Workshops. A variety



of local bands are providing live music throughout the day, alternating with guest speakers addressing the international 2022 theme, Invest in Our Planet, and other ecological topics.

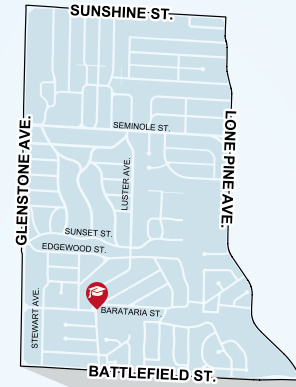
Sixth Sense Circle Visual Arts group will be performing Friday evening. Roots in Rhythm, a performance drum group, will be performing and leading a drum circle at 10 a.m. Saturday. Beyond the Circle Native American dancers will be performing at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

The conservation education director with the Dickerson Park Zoo speaks from 1-1:45 p.m. She will have several animals with her and will discuss the various threats to these species.

There is plenty of seating at the event and plenty of space outdoors for people to spread out and come make an afternoon of it.

This is Unity of Springfield's fifth year hosting Planet Unity, and we are excited that environmental protection is becoming more mainstream through educational events such as this.

Planet Unity is made possible by sponsorship from individuals and businesses. To help support this event and contribute to a healthier planet, go to: planetunityinfo@gmail.com or call the Church office at 417-887-2214. To follow Planet Unity, go to: facebook.com/planetunityspringfield.



Connect

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




Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 18 • May 23 • June 27: 6:30 p.m. @ Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library (2214 S. Brentwood Blvd.) Visit brentwoodsgf.org for more information.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

Follow Brentwood on   brentwoodsgf.org

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	9	9	9
Assault, Domestic	11	16	23
Assault, Life Threat	1	0	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	19	22	17
Burglary, Residential	21	20	12
Disturbance, Domestic	3	1	3
Disturbance, General	3	1	8
Drugs, All Activities	38	31	84
Homicide	0	1	0
Stealing From A Vehicle	46	52	61
Trespassing	10	5	10
Vandalism, Property Damage	16	23	18
TOTAL	177	181	245

See this story on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com for incident numbers going back to 2015.



Brentwood Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

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

Brentwood Christian Church
(1900 E. Barataria St.)

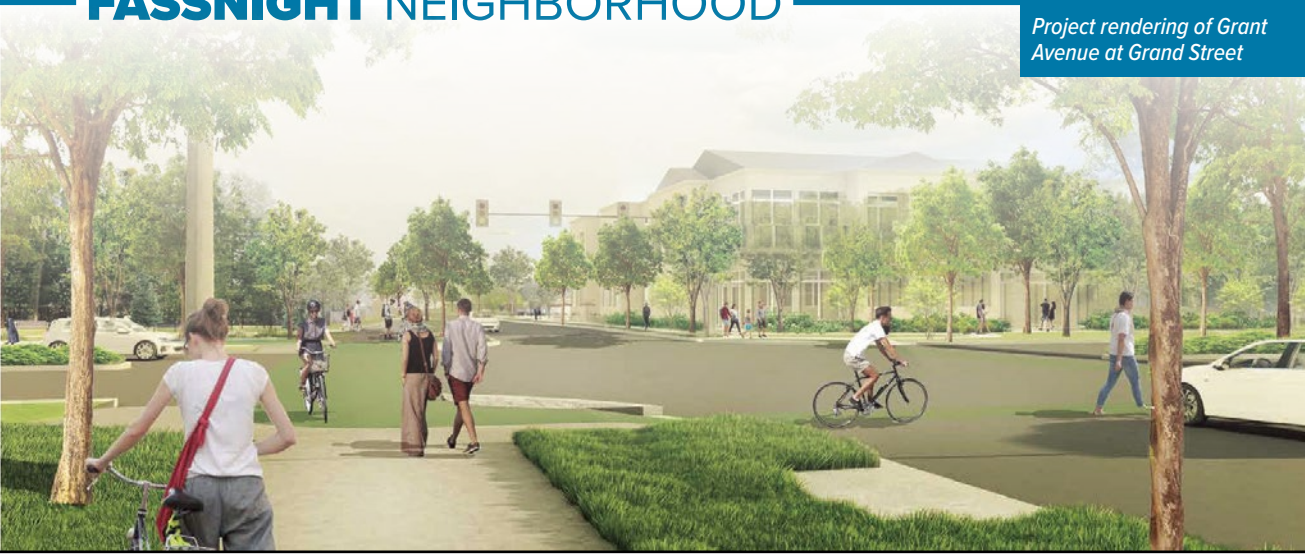
PLANET UNITY: APRIL 22-23

Unity of Springfield, 2214 E. Seminole
Friday: 6-9 p.m. • Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
ADMISSION IS FREE!

Earth Day 5K (8 a.m. Saturday, April 23)
Food • Beer • Wine • Crafts • Artisans
Product Vendors • Speakers • Live Music

Visit facebook.com/planetunityspringfield for more info
or call 417-887-2214 or email planetunityinfo@gmail.com





Project rendering of Grant Avenue at Grand Street

Study to ID neighborhood revitalization and economic development tools begins along Grant Avenue Parkway

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City of Springfield has engaged planning consultants PGAV to help identify the areas along the Grant Avenue Parkway corridor (Grant Avenue between Sunshine and College streets) that qualify for economic development and neighborhood revitalization tools.

The study area encompasses Grant Avenue between Catalpa Street to the south and Olive Street to the north. The analysis will examine properties located roughly between Patton Avenue to the east and Douglas Avenue to the west.

The goals of the study are to create resources for economic development and neighborhood revitalization along the Grant Avenue Parkway corridor and into surrounding neighborhoods. The consultant team will look for opportunities to leverage private investment in commercial and residential properties and will identify programs to provide benefits to existing residents.

“This analysis will work in coordination with extensive corridor planning efforts to facilitate private investment that will work in-step with the public infrastructure improvements and the community’s vision for this corridor.” – Sarah Kerner

“Neighborhood revitalization and economic development are two of the four overall goals of the Grant Avenue Parkway corridor improvement effort,” explains Assistant Economic Vitality Director Sarah Kerner. “This analysis will work in coordination with extensive corridor planning efforts to facilitate private investment that will work

in-step with the public infrastructure improvements and the community’s vision for this corridor.”

PGAV has conducted preliminary field observation of properties in the study area. Later this spring, the team will facilitate open opportunities for residents, property owners and developers to engage in the process and provide input.



Project rendering of Grant Avenue Parkway near Parkview High School

“We want to know what type of private investment people are interested in, whether that’s people investing in new commercial development or homeowners investing in their homes,” explains PGAV project leader Andy Struckhoff. “We also need help identifying the challenges and potential barriers to investing in the area as well as the unique opportunities.”

A final study report and recommendations are expected to be brought to City Council in late spring.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINNING SOON

Construction on the first sections of the Grant Avenue Parkway is anticipated to begin this summer with a groundbreaking ceremony planned for late May. The City’s design/build contractor is wrapping up the final planning to provide a detailed construction schedule. Stay tuned for more information regarding upcoming roadway closures and impacts, coming later this spring.

For more information on the Grant Avenue Parkway corridor improvement project, development and neighborhood revitalization efforts, visit grantavenueparkway.com.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

May 3 • June 7 • July 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 Brandon Greathouse: 417-864-1138
bgreathouse@springfieldmo.gov



Parkview High School
516 W. Meadowmere St.

Follow Fassnight on

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	4	3	1
Assault	46	38	33
Assault, Domestic	51	52	45
Assault, Life Threat	0	0	1
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	53	58	48
Burglary, Residential	51	27	12
Disturbance, Domestic	25	16	16
Disturbance, General	16	7	8
Drugs, All Activities	96	114	87
Homicide	0	0	0
Stealing From A Vehicle	105	175	94
Trespassing	28	13	15
Vandalism, Property Damage	59	42	37
TOTAL	534	545	397

See this story on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com for incident numbers going back to 2015.



Fassnight Park (1301 S. Campbell Ave.)



Galloway Village plans spring/summer events

By Laramie Ellis, for SGFNN

ADOPT-A-STREAM CLEANUPS

On April 22, you may feel the overwhelming sense to recycle the bottles in your trash can. Maybe you'll even head down to the Lone Pine Recycling Center to drop off all those newspapers you have been hanging on to for a project. When you're done, you'll probably feel pretty good about yourself. Why would you feel this way on the 22nd of April? Because it's Earth Day! You can feel this sense of satisfaction more than just once a year, and I'll tell you how.

More than half of property appraisers will reduce the assessed value of homes if it is littered.

Did you know the presence of litter decreases property values by 7%? As per a recent survey, 40% of homeowners think that the litter reduces the value of homes by 10-24%, and according to 55% of real estate agents, property value decreases by about 9%. More than half of property appraisers will reduce the assessed value of homes if it is littered. Often when you drive through Springfield, and even through Galloway Village, you will see trash scattered along the path. Head down to Sequiota Park and you will find this along the trail, throughout the stream, even along the trees.

If you see trash while enjoying our gorgeous trails, pick it up! If you notice a wrapper stuck in a branch at the park, throw it away! That garbage in your car? It doesn't need to be thrown out your window, it needs to be tossed in the proper trash and recycling containers.

Your Galloway Village Neighborhood Association adopted the section of Galloway Creek that runs through our beloved Sequiota Park in 2019. If you are interested in doing more in your own back yard, join us at the Sequiota Park Adopt-a-Stream Cleanup, sponsored by the Galloway Village



Neighborhood Association July 16 and Aug. 24.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

Next up is our quarterly neighborhood association meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m. at Galloway Baptist Church. We are trying to build our membership up through a membership drive, and are requesting that each member recruit one neighbor to join GNVA this year. Please get out there and tell people what we are about and why they should

join us. The more active members we have, the stronger our neighborhood will be!

GARAGE SALE

We are planning a spring/summer garage sale and are looking at June 4 for a potential date. We are letting you know now so that you can gather up your unwanted items and bring them to About Faces Photography to be added to our sale. Don't forget about us when you get knee deep into spring cleaning. We can turn your clutter into cash that will help our neighborhood!

Mark your calendars, save the dates, and get excited!



Galloway Village Yard Sale in October 2021



Connect

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


Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 19 • July 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



 Sequiota Elementary School
3414 S. Mentor Ave.

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

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	0	1
Assault	15	19	16
Assault, Domestic	23	36	27
Assault, Life Threat	1	0	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	24	16	29
Burglary, Residential	20	10	13
Disturbance, Domestic	3	7	6
Disturbance, General	1	5	6
Drugs, All Activities	24	15	23
Homicide	0	0	0
Stealing From A Vehicle	145	144	167
Trespassing	14	8	2
Vandalism, Property Damage	34	31	32
TOTAL	304	291	322

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://www.sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



Sequiota Park (3500 S. Lone Pine Ave.)

GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD



Grant Beach baseball program sign-up starts in May

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Summer baseball season will soon be here! Grant Beach Neighborhood Association offers instructional summer baseball for children ages 3-13 years that concentrates on the basics of the game. Registration costs \$10 through May 21. All registrations after May 21 will be \$15. Scholarships are available.

The six-week league starts June 9. Sign up at Hovey House 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 14 and May 21.

All games are played at Grant Beach Park on Thursday and Friday evenings, depending on age and the number of teams.

If you would like to coach, please come by Hovey House (800 W. Hovey St.) to obtain a Volunteer Background Check form.

Questions? Contact Pauletta Dunn at 417-880-2453 or Sonja Nichols at 417-379-6084.



Check out our Sports page on Facebook: Grant Beach Sports for additional information and/or updates.



FREE SUMMER TENNIS EVENTS

TENNIS UNDER THE LIGHTS

Friday, June 3
7-9 p.m.
Lafayette Park

RACQUET, WHITE AND BLUE

Friday, July 8
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Grant Beach Park

PARKBOARD.ORG



Connect

- Pauletta Dunn, President
- Bruce Lutz, Vice President: 417-501-8878
- Kathy Lutz, Treasurer/Acting Secretary: 417-306-8421, GBNA.email@gmail.com
- **Hovey House: 417-942-2456**



Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 18 • May 16 • June 20: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m./
6 p.m. optional potluck @ St. Joseph Catholic Church
Parish Hall (1115 N. Campbell Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Weaver Elementary School
1461 W. Douglas Ave.

Pipkin Middle School
1215 N. Boonville Ave.

Follow Grant Beach on
grantbeachneighborhood.org

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	3	11	10
Assault	97	89	95
Assault, Domestic	142	119	138
Assault, Life Threat	1	5	1
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	70	73	68
Burglary, Residential	64	72	74
Disturbance, Domestic	34	47	45
Disturbance, General	29	20	31
Drugs, All Activities	123	116	99
Homicide	3	1	4
Stealing From A Vehicle	76	94	79
Trespassing	86	63	59
Vandalism, Property Damage	68	88	98
TOTAL	796	798	801

See this story on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com
for incident numbers going back to 2015.



Heart of the Westside at the NOVA awards banquet, December 2021

Anna Pageler reelected as Heart of the Westside president

By Anna Pageler, for SGFNN

I am so thankful and honored to have been re-elected as your Heart of the Westside president for 2022. I am looking forward to this year! We had our cleanup at the end of March. We will continue our bimonthly neighborhood association meeting schedule to let you know of important and beneficial information. We are planning a couple of events to give opportunities for you to meet and connect with HOTW neighbors.

Beyond the 2022 schedule, I want to relay three goals that I have as president.

CLEANUPS

First, as we get closer to our spring cleanup I am reminded of memories and also the immense benefit this opportunity has given HOTW. One of these memories is a story that started several years ago. A lady had moved to the neighborhood the same day of the cleanup. Through the cleanup she got some things cleaned out of the house she was moving into, but she was in need of a couch. Thanks to our Passion A/G Church volunteers (which included Glen Gohr) we had connections that knew of an unused couch. From that connection, this lady became a member of the Passion A/G Church and is now serving in the church. Fast forward to spring 2021, this lady – Marybeth – signed up to be a volunteer for the spring 2021 cleanup. As a result, the cleanup came full circle. She went from being a resident helped by the cleanup to becoming a volunteer to help other Heat of the Westside neighbors.

Beyond this story, over the years, HOTW's cleanups have given so many residents the ability to dispose of junk and brush who wouldn't have otherwise been able to. It has also created opportunities for connections between neighborhood church volunteers and residents. In addition, our cleanups have the most engagement of our events. This includes the amount of people that participate in the cleanup, the connections made between volunteers and HOTW neighbors as well as connections made with residents as they call in to reserve a curbside pickup. Lastly, in just the last two cleanups the cleanups have resulted in disposal of more than 40 tons of trash from the neighborhood!

Cleanups play a crucial part in our neighborhood. Therefore, as president I commit to continue planning yearly cleanups for HOTW. In addition, I would like to reach the goal this fall or fall 2023 to host and fund a brush-only cleanup. My goal is to build a network of neighbors with trucks and/or trailers who would be willing to help their neighbors throughout the year. Then, if a landowner or BDS or a neighbor complaint occurs, this truck/trailer network could mobilize and help remove the trash, brush, or junk. As a result, HOTW becomes a cleaner, safer and friendlier neighborhood.

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

Secondly, as president I commit to intentionally connecting with our neighborhood churches. We have around 10 churches. Because we are for the most part a residential area, I believe that our neighborhood churches are some of our most important assets to our neighborhood. Thanks to several churches located within our neighborhood, we funded events, provided volunteers for the cleanups, hosted meetings and met the needs of our neighbors.

For example, it was thanks to Passion A/G Church we could host our summer movie nights. Thanks to Deliverance Temple, we could provide free water and popcorn. Thanks to First Free Will Baptist Church and Passion A/G Church, we had enough trucks and trailers to offer curbside pickups and unload vehicles at the cleanup site.

Lastly, between various churches – Salvation Army, Passion A/G, Deliverance Temple, and New Growth Ministries – neighbors have been housed and fed and much more. All in all, because of their countless contributions, having a representative from each of our churches present at our events and meetings offers support and voice to our neighborhood.

PASSING THE BATON

Finally, as HOTW president I commit to finding and raising up a new leader to pass the baton. I am honored to lead this year and am willing to run as president for 2023. However, after that, I will officially step down. I definitely want to continue my investment into HOTW but as a volunteer and participant.

All that to say that, I do not want to just drop the position on the next HOTW leader. My desire is that HOTW continues growing and becoming a bigger part of the neighborhood. Also, I want to avoid the necessity for our neighborhood association to start from scratch again. A couple of practical ways that passing the baton would happen is through handing off our association's bank account and social media accounts (Google and Facebook) as well. Along with that is passing the baton on our HOTW's mission and goals as well as sharing the connections that have occurred with residents, churches and other partners.

HOTW is going to have a great year! There are bound to be challenges and ups and downs, but ultimately, through continuing the course with cleanups, being intentional with our HOTW churches and beginning the process of passing the baton, I believe 2022 will be a year of growth and connection!



Anna Pageler with Neighborhood PAR Officer Austin Faulconer



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

May 10 • July 12: 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 Brad Loveland: 417-874-2536

bloveland@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow Heart of the Westside on   

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	3	3
Assault	540	37	31
Assault, Domestic	96	99	89
Assault, Life Threat	3	0	1
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	60	58	57
Burglary, Residential	61	35	24
Disturbance, Domestic	51	38	37
Disturbance, General	17	11	8
Drugs, All Activities	88	57	51
Homicide	0	1	0
Stealing From A Vehicle	45	51	43
Trespassing	14	17	20
Vandalism, Property Damage	48	53	36
TOTAL	1,023	460	400

See this story on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com for incident numbers going back to 2015.



GO GREEN THIS SPRING

BEST PRACTICES FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE HOME & YARD CARE

**Learn more about what we do for the citizens of Springfield!
Click and connect with us!**



**STORM
WATER**

springfieldmo.gov/stormwater
Recycling Hotline: (417) 864-1996



**WASTE
WATER**

springfieldmo.gov/wastewater
Sewer Issues & Emergencies
(417) 864-1010
After Hours Sewer Emergency
(417) 864-1920



**SOLID
WASTE**

springfieldmo.gov/solidwaste
Recycling Hotline: (417) 864-1904



@SGFenvironmentalservices



@SGFenviromservi



@SGFenvironmentalservices



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

Join the Yard Ethic community by implementing practices that save money, beautify your yard, conserve water, reduce stormwater pollution and create habitat. You can be eligible to be Yard Ethic certified by completing three or more of the items listed below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Test your soil | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant a tree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant for pollinators | <input type="checkbox"/> Build a rain garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harvest the rain | <input type="checkbox"/> Compost |

Once certified, show off your certification with a complimentary Yard Ethic certification sign!

Learn more about the program and apply for certification at YardEthic.com.



Compost or Mulch for Landscaping

The Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC) creates mulch and compost out of the locally generated plant-based materials received yearly, a true MO product with MO benefits. Purchase in bulk at the YRC or by bag at the Lone Pine Recycling Center.

Find more info and resources at springfieldmo.gov/MOProducts.



Spring Cleaning—Garage Edition!

As you go through your garage, don't just send unwanted items to the landfill. **Go to springfieldmo.gov/recycling and use our "Waste Wizard" tool to see where they can be disposed of safely.**

Things like antifreeze, bug sprays and other chemicals should be disposed of at the Household Chemical Collection Center, keeping chemicals out of the landfill and our region's water supply. Items like gently used clothes, toys, etc. can be donated and given a second life.



Have a Few Trees to Trim?

Gather all your twigs and branches and dispose of them at the Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC). These will be repurposed into our MOPost and MOMulch products for purchase at the YRC by the yard or bag and at Lone Pine Recycling Center by the bag.

Accepted brush must be 6 inches or less in diameter and 4 feet or less in length.

Brush Disposal Volume	Fee
Car/SUV/Pickup or Trailer (Under 8ft.)	\$8
Trailer (8-12 feet)	\$15
Trailer (13-16 feet)	\$20
Dump Truck	\$30
Large Volume fee/cubic yard	\$5

For more info, go to springfieldmo.gov/recycling.



Take Care of Storm Drains!

Water that goes down storm drains goes directly to waterways, so take care that it is clean water that goes down. If washing your car at home, direct the soapy water into your yard to naturally filter. Take care to keep grass clippings out of streets and storm drains. Keep an eye on storm drains in your neighborhood and help us keep them clean by picking up trash and debris.

Report pollution in streets, storm drains or waterways by calling (417) 864-1010.



Bypass the Bowl

Sure, “flushable wipes” say “flushable,” but take a closer look at the label. They are NOT intended to go down the toilet or drain, and they are a dangerous ingredient in sewer clogs and backups. Don’t forget that only the three Ps should be flushed — Pee, Poo and (toilet) Paper. **Learn more about what not to flush at springfieldmo.gov/JustTrashIt**



Be A Food Waste Warrior!

In Springfield, food waste is the second largest component of our collective waste stream, accounting for over 12% of the waste that makes it to the landfill every day. That’s over 31,000 tons of food and organic material being sent to our landfill every year. Dish to Dirt is a home composting program that allows us to educate and engage the community on this topic, but to also institute new practices and behaviors at home. **Sign up for the newsletter at springfieldmo.gov/dishtodirt**

So what exactly can you compost at home?

A lot of things! In fact most produce byproducts and even some other surprising items you might not have considered before, including:

- Apple cores & banana peels
- Vegetable scraps
- Tea bags
- Shredded papers
- Facial tissues
- Other fruit scraps
- Paper towels
- Coffee grounds & filters
- Napkins
- Dry leaves, grass clippings & small twigs



Sanitary Sewer Laterals

Sanitary sewer laterals are the pipes that connect every home and business to the public sanitary sewer system. Wastewater from toilets, sinks and appliances go down the drain and run through the lateral into the City’s sewer line and toward a wastewater treatment plant.

Why is this important? The sewer lateral is actually the property owner’s responsibility. When a lateral is broken or blocked, the owner is required to manage the repairs and maintenance. In fact, the City of Springfield’s Environmental Services Department highly recommends that all homebuyers schedule a sewer lateral inspection. **Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/SewerLaterals**



Spring Cleaning—Even Under the Sink!

Often, random household cleaners or even chemicals like antifreeze make their way under your sink or in your garage and they remain out of sight, out of mind. Maybe they’re aging or you don’t need them anymore, but don’t put them in the trash can to go to the landfill! Make an appointment at the Household Chemical Collection Center (HCCC). Let them handle your household chemicals and ensure they are disposed of safely and responsibly, keeping chemicals out of the landfill and our region’s water supply.

For questions about scheduling an appointment, call (417) 864-2000 or email hshldchemcollect@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 Brandon Greathouse: 417-864-1138
bgreathouse@springfieldmo.gov



Horace Mann Elementary School
3745 S. Broadway Ave.

Follow Greater Parkcrest on

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	16	20	10
Assault, Domestic	46	36	33
Assault, Life Threat	0	1	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	32	23	35
Burglary, Residential	19	15	14
Disturbance, Domestic	8	14	10
Disturbance, General	10	7	5
Drugs, All Activities	39	49	40
Homicide	0	1	1
Stealing From A Vehicle	124	87	97
Trespassing	22	15	12
Vandalism, Property Damage	22	30	43
TOTAL	338	298	300

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://www.sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

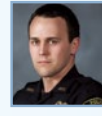
- Bobbi Ream, President:
417-883-3438
- Felicity Cordell, Vice President
and Secretary
- Donna Clarkson, Treasurer
- meadorparkna@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 28 • May 26 • June 23: 6 p.m. @ Cowden Elementary School (2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.) if school is in session. Other locations will be noted on the Meador Park Neighborhood Facebook page.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Cowden Elementary School
2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.

Follow Meador Park on

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	0	1
Assault	121	112	126
Assault, Domestic	74	84	76
Assault, Life Threat	1	0	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	61	64	71
Burglary, Residential	28	20	21
Disturbance, Domestic	22	17	21
Disturbance, General	12	16	15
Drugs, All Activities	90	69	88
Homicide	0	1	2
Stealing From A Vehicle	175	188	192
Trespassing	63	45	32
Vandalism, Property Damage	51	64	66
TOTAL	698	680	711

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://www.sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Wendell Royster, President:
jwrcameo5@att.net or
417-840-7630
- Gerald Clary, Vice President
- Melissa Young & Lisa Napoli, Secretaries
- Cindy Cooper, Treasurer

Neighborhood Association Meetings

General meetings are held on the last Tuesday of alternating months March through September at Oak Grove Community Center (1538 S. Oak Grove Ave.) Contact Wendell Royster for more details.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Pittman Elementary School
2934 E. Bennett St.

Follow Oak Grove on

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	2	0
Assault	29	23	32
Assault, Domestic	78	80	89
Assault, Life Threat	2	0	1
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	72	53	42
Burglary, Residential	44	39	26
Disturbance, Domestic	16	20	24
Disturbance, General	19	12	8
Drugs, All Activities	91	72	83
Homicide	0	0	2
Stealing From A Vehicle	172	166	158
Trespassing	24	18	9
Vandalism, Property Damage	70	70	68
TOTAL	617	555	542

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://www.sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



Adopt-A-Street Cleanup Sat., April 23: 9-10 a.m.

Meet at Holy Trinity Church parking lot on E. Bennett St. Grabbers and trash bags will be provided. Come out and join us!



Mark Twain Neighborhood looking forward to spring and summer

By Samantha Spartan, for SGFNN

We are looking forward to spring here in Mark Twain! Our speaker in March was Kathryn Kekufahl, master gardener. In April, we will hear from the Fire Department for our quarterly check-in. We will also hear from our own Johanna Wood. She will offer guidance on property value and what we can do to prepare for our cleanup on May 5. Our neighborhood cleanup will be held on Thursday, May 5 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the parking lot of Sunset Church of Christ at the corner of Sunset and Fort.



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

If you have not yet joined us for a meeting, please stop by. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Sunset Church of Christ. Hope to see you there!

Lawn Art With Neighbors (L.A.W.N.) returns in 2022

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

PUBLIC VIEWING: APRIL 23-MAY 8

Lawn Art With Neighbors (L.A.W.N.) returns in 2022 and invites the community of Springfield to create a work of art in your front lawn for a city-wide public art exhibition. L.A.W.N. is a city-wide public art exhibition made for front lawns by community members located in and around Springfield. Created as a grassroots project focused on connecting our vibrant community, L.A.W.N. seeks to empower public art made by the people as a contribution to Springfield's sense of place and the built environment we all share.

Originally established in April 2020 as a response to COVID-19, L.A.W.N. was created as an effort to encourage art-making and viewing as a form of bolstering mental health and community building during stay-at-home orders. Now L.A.W.N. endures as a public art opportunity open to all community members and art forms. Past L.A.W.N. exhibitions included sculptures, paintings, installations, video projections, podcasts, social practice projects, and more. In fact, L.A.W.N. 2020 saw 65 front lawn art installations created by nearly 100 community members. Participants in apartment complexes without access to traditional front lawns were encouraged to create art installations on their patios or balconies, where allowable by their building management companies.

L.A.W.N. continues to be a hopeful and safe experience during challenging times as an annual public art exhibition open to all community members and art forms. Accessibility is at the core of L.A.W.N., as all are welcome to participate,



including children and families, people who have never participated in an art exhibition before, and professional artists alike.

"Springfield is a wonderful community filled with creative and active people of all ages. L.A.W.N. aims to showcase and celebrate that creativity in every neighborhood, from one lawn to another," said L.A.W.N. co-founder Shauna Smith.

HOW TO EXPERIENCE L.A.W.N.

Drive, walk, run, or bike on your way to an activity or while exercising!

Sculpture Walk Springfield, Springfield Art Museum, Greene County MU Extension Council, and Missouri State University: Art+Design are not liable for personal injury or property damage.

- Avoid entering private property
- View Art from the street or sidewalk
- Avoid touching art
- Take lots of photos
- Share Photos on social media #LAWNSGF

For questions about this event please contact LAWNSGF@gmail.com

Interested in Participating in L.A.W.N.? Visit our Call for Art Page at sculpturewalkspringfield.org.

Need some inspiration? Check out the 2020 L.A.W.N. Exhibition and the 2021 L.A.W.N. Exhibition also at sculpturewalkspringfield.org.



Connect

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

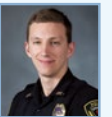



Neighborhood Association Meetings

May 10 • June 14 • July 12: 7 p.m. @ Sunset Church of Christ (1222 W. Sunset St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Brandon Greathouse: 417-864-1138
bgreathouse@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow Mark Twain on  

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	27	26	27
Assault, Domestic	77	52	61
Assault, Life Threat	1	0	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	55	59	52
Burglary, Residential	34	26	19
Disturbance, Domestic	22	18	23
Disturbance, General	14	12	9
Drugs, All Activities	54	65	68
Homicide	1	0	0
Stealing From A Vehicle	203	131	119
Trespassing	12	11	5
Vandalism, Property Damage	49	52	53
TOTAL	549	452	436

See this story on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com for incident numbers going back to 2015.



**Mark Twain Neighborhood
Spring Cleanup**

Thurs., May 5: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

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



Central Street project wraps up between Benton and Clay Avenues

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Central Street has reopened to through traffic between Benton and Clay avenues as construction on the Central Street Corridor Phase II project nears completion.

The project to add "complete street" improvements along the Central Street Corridor between Benton and Clay avenues began in July 2021, with the goal to provide a system for all modes of transportation in a pedestrian-heavy area of the city. Originally estimated to wrap up in December 2021, scheduling conflicts and materials availability required adjustments to the project's timeline.

"Utility and stormwater upgrades took longer than we anticipated in the fall with staffing and vendor delays contributing to the impacts in the project timeline," explains Project Manager Nicholas Edelman. "With the new concrete pavement and crosswalks, intersection and signal improvements completed, the roadway was reopened to traffic in January while crews continued work on the additional parts of the project."

A new multi-use path on the north side of the roadway and sidewalk along the south side were completed in March. Sod and median landscaping is anticipated for installation in early April.

"We want to thank Drury, OTC, Central High School and all other nearby organizations for their patience as we worked through the challenges with this project," added Edelman. "Ultimately, these improvements are expected to improve connections

for all modes of transportation to safely and efficiently access these vital institutions and services."

ABOUT THE CENTRAL STREET CORRIDOR PHASE II PROJECT

The Central Street Corridor Phase II project will continue "complete streets" improvements along Central Street between Benton Avenue and Clay Avenue, including a multi-use path on the north side of Central and a sidewalk on the south side. Intersection and signal improvements will be made at Central Street and Drury Lane. Underground stormwater infrastructure will be included as well as the installation of a small rain garden at Central and Clay to help improve water quality. The project will also incorporate on-street parking, decorative street lighting and a grass-covered median. Gas, water, electrical and fiber utilities will be updated within the project boundaries.

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

The Phase II project is expected to cost \$2.1 million and will be funded through the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax with reimbursements from City Utilities for the utility upgrades. Completion is anticipated by the end of the year.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

May 9 • June 13 • July 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  

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	5	3	1
Assault	103	91	107
Assault, Domestic	91	66	67
Assault, Life Threat	0	4	2
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	65	50	49
Burglary, Residential	47	36	44
Disturbance, Domestic	29	23	25
Disturbance, General	21	22	18
Drugs, All Activities	171	102	75
Homicide	1	1	0
Stealing From A Vehicle	95	103	95
Trespassing	62	50	66
Vandalism, Property Damage	60	70	65
TOTAL	750	621	614

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://www.sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



FREEDOM CLASSROOM 101

APRIL 23 AND JUNE 11

TIME: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

FEE: \$30/Person, includes lunch



April 23, Mark Simmonds & Dr. Sabrina A. Brinson



June 11, Taj Suleyman



PARKBOARD.ORG/TIMMONS



Springfield Art Museum receives \$5 million gift to fund capital campaign project

By Joshua Best, Springfield Art Museum, for SGFNN

The Springfield Art Museum announced March 3 that it has received a \$5 million lead gift to its 2028 campaign from the Sunderland Foundation of Overland Park, Kansas. In 2018, during the museum's 90th anniversary year, a master plan was unveiled that would expand the museum's education, exhibition, lobby, administrative and community spaces; activate the amphitheater and auditorium; mitigate flood risk; and create sculpture, biking and hiking trails that connect the City's oldest cultural institution with other areas of the city, including the new Grant Avenue Parkway project.

"We have envisioned a place that speaks to all our visitors' senses with a modern, creative building and beautiful landscapes. Whether indoors or outdoors, visitors will be immersed in an artistic experience. The Sunderland Foundation's lead gift helps propel this project from concept to reality." – Nick Nelson

"The Springfield Art Museum's vision is expansive and invigorating for southwest Missouri," said Kent Sunderland, foundation chairman. "We can trace both our family and business roots back to Springfield and the surrounding area. Sunderland family members performed on the museum's amphitheater stage many years ago. We make this gift not only to honor our heritage but to inspire others to invest in the museum as the leader for cultural tourism, quality of place, and arts education in this region. We are proud to be a part of launching the museum's next 100 years of service to citizens today and for generations to come."

In 2020, the City of Springfield secured and committed nearly \$2.5 million to naturalize and daylight much of Fassnacht Creek which runs alongside the museum and remove the museum and the adjacent homes from a FEMA floodplain.



Additionally, the Sunderland Foundation committed an initial \$500,000 in early 2020 to fund a new parking lot that will ultimately connect the museum to its WPA-era amphitheater via continuous greenspace, while reducing groundwater contamination through green paving technology.

"We cannot thank the Sunderland Foundation and its board and family members enough for their confidence in the museum's ambitious goals for its future. The Springfield Art Museum's master plan is truly transformational – for the institution and for our community," added Museum Director Nick Nelson. "We have envisioned a place that speaks to all our visitors' senses with a modern, creative building and beautiful landscapes. Whether indoors or outdoors, visitors will be immersed in an artistic experience. The Sunderland Foundation's lead gift helps propel this project from concept to reality."

The Springfield Art Museum's capital campaign is structured so that fundraising and construction will be complete by the museum's 100th anniversary in 2028. With the Sunderland Foundation gift, the museum has raised nearly \$9 million to date toward the \$25 million campaign.

For more information about contributing to the 2028 campaign, please contact Kate Francis, museum affairs officer for fundraising and development at kate.francis@springfieldmo.gov or 417-874-2865.

▶ See ART MUSEUM GIFT on page 19



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 7 p.m. Usually at Fire Station 1 community room, but in-person meetings are still currently suspended.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Follow Phelps Grove on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/phelpsgrove.com) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/phelpsgrove.com)
[phelpsgrove.com](https://www.phelpsgrove.com)

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Numbers include the University Heights Neighborhood

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	7	8	5
Assault, Domestic	15	32	26
Assault, Life Threat	0	0	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	18	14	22
Burglary, Residential	33	21	20
Disturbance, Domestic	2	12	6
Disturbance, General	7	8	6
Drugs, All Activities	56	56	30
Homicide	0	0	0
Stealing From A Vehicle	64	101	58
Trespassing	8	7	5
Vandalism, Property Damage	24	28	30
TOTAL	234	287	208

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://www.sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



**Phelps Grove Neighborhood
Spring Cleanup**
(Joint with University Heights)

Thurs., May 26: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
National Avenue Christian Church
(1515 S. National Ave.)

Art Museum stormwater, parking lot and trail improvements take shape this spring and summer

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City's Fassnacht Creek Stormwater Improvement Project at the Springfield Art Museum is expected to wrap up this spring, while two additional art museum master plan-related projects will continue to take shape this spring and into the summer.

Public Works stormwater engineer and project manager Kirkland Preston reports that many of the finishing touches on the stormwater improvements remain incomplete as of mid-March. Landscaping work with native Missouri tree and plant species are planned for installation by mid-April. Crews are also still working on masonry work on the headwalls and handrails on pedestrian bridges. Brookside Drive will also be resurfaced in the coming weeks as part of the project.

The project completion deadline with contractor Hartman & Co. is mid-April, and crews are hopeful that timeline can be maintained.

Art museum parking lot improvements are currently underway alongside the final stages of the stormwater project. Contractor, Branco, began construction in late January.

The parking lot project will include the relocation of parking to the north side of the museum property, creating better connectivity between the museum grounds and Phelps Grove Park and adding additional green space to the amphitheater. In addition to expanded parking, improvements will include enhanced access to the museum grounds through trails and walkways, improved lighting and the reconstruction of the amphitheater wing



walls. Attractive landscaping including native plantings will be included as well as stormwater management features such as pervious pavers and other improvements that will help water quality by addressing non-point source pollutants.

Parking lot improvements are expected to be complete in June and followed closely with the beginning of construction on a multi-use trail connection through Phelps Grove Park. The trail will extend from Clay Avenue through the park and connect pedestrians and bicycles to the museum property. The project will include the installation of the decking for the pedestrian bridge located nearest the entrance to the museum. The project is expected to be complete this fall.

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



ART MUSEUM GIFT from page 18

The museum's nonprofit 501(c)(3) foundation, Friends of the Springfield Art Museum, Inc., is receiving and managing the museum's 2028 campaign private contributions. The Springfield Art Museum is located at 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Admission is always free. Donations are gratefully accepted.

ABOUT THE SPRINGFIELD ART MUSEUM

The Springfield Art Museum is Springfield's oldest cultural institution, founded in 1928. A department of the City of Springfield, the museum invites you to connect with the world, your community, and yourself through active engagement with art objects. For more information about the museum's 2028 campaign, please visit sgfmuseum.org/258/Museum-Master-Plan.

ABOUT THE SUNDERLAND FOUNDATION

The Sunderland Foundation was established in 1945 by Lester T. Sunderland, who served as president of the Ash Grove Cement Company for 33 years and as a highly respected leader in the cement industry. Since its inception, the foundation, which continues to be led by Sunderland's descendants, has focused on supporting construction projects, awarding grants to nonprofits in the Kansas City region and other markets traditionally served by the Ash Grove Cement Company. For more information, please visit www.sunderland.org.



SPRINGFIELD

THE SNUG KICKBALL NEIGHBORHOODS

CITYWIDE TOURNAMENT
APRIL 24
Registration starts at noon,
games begin at 1 p.m.
Meador Park Softball Complex
Visit the **The SNUG** or **SGF Kickball**
Facebook Groups for more information.

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE NOW
FOR PARK BOARD PROGRAMS

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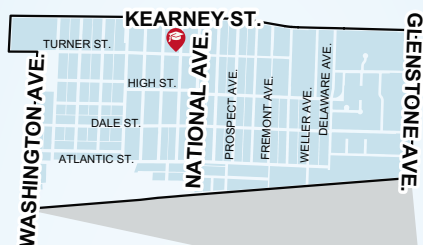
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Summer Camps
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SGFNEIGHBORHOODNEWS.com • 19

ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 28 • May 26 • June 23: 6:30 – 8 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 Trenton Herr: 417-864-1320
therr@springfieldmo.gov



Robberson Community School
1100 E. Kearney St.

Follow Robberson on

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	2	4	2
Assault	50	41	47
Assault, Domestic	91	85	100
Assault, Life Threat	0	3	2
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	61	54	40
Burglary, Residential	80	70	33
Disturbance, Domestic	24	32	25
Disturbance, General	19	21	17
Drugs, All Activities	109	65	66
Homicide	0	2	2
Stealing From A Vehicle	52	71	79
Trespassing	26	31	30
Vandalism, Property Damage	74	77	63
TOTAL	588	556	506

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



**Robberson Neighborhood
Spring Cleanup**
Thurs., April 21: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
**Pathways United Methodist
Church (1232 E. Dale St.)**

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

April 19 • May 17 • June 21: 7–8 p.m. @ University Heights Baptist Church (1010 S. National Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Rountree Elementary School
1333 Grand St.

Follow Rountree on routreenews.org

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Numbers include the Walnut Neighborhood Service Area

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	22	26	26
Assault, Domestic	44	39	51
Assault, Life Threat	0	1	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	54	33	54
Burglary, Residential	25	16	15
Disturbance, Domestic	5	16	14
Disturbance, General	6	13	9
Drugs, All Activities	84	60	43
Homicide	0	0	0
Stealing From A Vehicle	155	130	153
Trespassing	15	15	29
Vandalism, Property Damage	56	53	48
TOTAL	466	402	442

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



**Rountree Neighborhood
Spring Cleanup**
Thurs., May 12-Fri. May 13: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
**University Heights Baptist Church
(1010 S. National Ave.)**

TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Meetings are held on an as-needed basis. Please contact neighborhood officers for meeting information.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Trenton Herr: 417-864-1320
therr@springfieldmo.gov



Williams Elementary School
2205 W. Kearney St.

Follow Tom Watkins on

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	1	6	1
Assault	59	61	74
Assault, Domestic	142	116	128
Assault, Life Threat	0	2	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	78	75	89
Burglary, Residential	68	52	41
Disturbance, Domestic	39	33	41
Disturbance, General	25	22	25
Drugs, All Activities	109	73	57
Homicide	1	4	2
Stealing From A Vehicle	126	134	119
Trespassing	68	36	46
Vandalism, Property Damage	75	77	84
TOTAL	791	691	707

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



Improvements coming to West Bypass and Kearney Street intersection

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

A \$3.8 million project to add turn lanes and guardrail, widen existing turn lanes and resurface asphalt is under way at West Bypass and Kearney Street. The project will be complete by December, weather permitting. The work will be done during both daytime and nighttime hours to reduce the traffic impacts, according to a Missouri Department of Transportation news release. West Bypass will receive a new asphalt driving surface between I-44 and James River Freeway and new guardrail in certain areas once the intersection improvements are complete. Read more about the traffic impacts of this project in this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://sgfneighborhoodnews.com).



University Heights launches monthly speaker series

By Jan Peterson, for SGFNN

In April, the University Heights Neighborhood Association launched a monthly speaker series exploring all sorts of topics of interest to the neighborhood.

The series kicked off April 6 with Master Gardener and UHNA treasurer Donelle Blubaugh talking about how to get rid of invasive species such as the particularly vigorous winter creeper, or climbing euonymus. This invader can choke out native plants crucial to a healthy ecology and is notoriously difficult to eradicate. She offered insight

on how to win the battle with this woody vine.

The board is asking neighbors to offer topics they are interested in learning more about by emailing uhnasgf@gmail.com.

Topics already in the works include crime and safety discussions, landscaping to deter crime, native gardening advice and more.

The speaker series is held as part of UHNA's monthly board meeting, which is at 5:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month. The board currently meets via Zoom, but as weather warms, they look forward to meeting in person. Stay tuned for updates.

Meet Lesley Earls: Library Media Specialist Bingham and Sunshine Elementary Schools

Provided SPS Communications

"Librarians have such an important 'behind the scenes' role in their schools. We have this amazing job of curating and maintaining a whole collection of resources to support our students and staff. We spend a lot of time helping students learn how to find and use information, as well as helping to



foster a love of reading. Chromebook and technology support are also a huge part of our role as librarians. But of course, I love seeing students fall in love with reading. Seeing how excited they get when I show them new books or seeing a student who says they don't like to read find a book that just sparks something in them is the best part of my job." — Lesley Earls



Connect

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

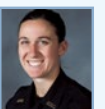



Neighborhood Association Meetings

May 4 • June 1 • July 6: 5:30 p.m. Meetings held via Zoom. Anyone interested in joining the monthly meeting is welcome to email uhnasgf@gmail.com for login information.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

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

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Numbers includes the Phelps Grove Neighborhood

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	7	8	5
Assault, Domestic	15	32	26
Assault, Life Threat	0	0	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	18	14	22
Burglary, Residential	33	21	20
Disturbance, Domestic	2	12	6
Disturbance, General	7	8	6
Drugs, All Activities	56	56	30
Homicide	0	0	0
Stealing From A Vehicle	64	101	58
Trespassing	8	7	5
Vandalism, Property Damage	24	28	30
TOTAL	234	287	208

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://www.sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



**University Heights
Neighborhood Spring Cleanup**
(Joint with Phelps Grove)

Thurs., May 26: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
National Avenue Christian Church
(1515 S. National Ave.)



**SPRING
BOOK
SALE**

thelibrary.org/booksale

April 27-May 1

*E*Plex, Ozark Empire Fairgrounds*
3001 N. Grant Ave. Free Parking & Admission

Wed.-Fri. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. – Half-Price Day

Sun. 1-5 p.m. – Bag Day

Friends Night Preview Sale: Tues., April 26: 5-8 p.m.

Members please make sure your dues are paid in advance.

Not a member? Join at the door – individual memberships are \$5.

Cash or Check Only. Question? Email us at friends@thelibrary.org





Reconstruction of Division Street between National and Glenstone anticipated to begin this summer

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City is finalizing the process to select a contractor for the reconstruction of Division Street between National Avenue and Glenstone Avenue. Construction is anticipated to begin this summer and last about a year.

“The public will be notified of traffic impacts as soon as details become available, but we expect any full closures of the roadway to be limited to nighttime hours so we can keep daytime traffic flowing as much as possible.” – Andy Haase

The project includes the complete rebuilding of Division Street including new pavement, curb and gutter as well as stormwater drainage



improvements. A new sidewalk will be constructed along the north side of the roadway. A multi-use path will be built along the south side. Fiberoptic connectivity and gas and water utility renewals will be conducted through a cost-share agreement with City Utilities.

“As soon as we have City Council approval to accept a bid we will begin meeting with the selected contractor to outline a construction schedule,” explains project manager Andy Haase. “The public will be notified of traffic impacts as soon as details become available, but we expect any full closures of the roadway to be limited to nighttime hours so we can keep daytime traffic flowing as much as possible.”

The estimated construction for the project is \$4.6 million, with funding provided by revenues from the 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax and the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax programs.



Connect

- Mark Maynard, President:
doc@ceoradio.net
or 918-231-4960
- Rosetta Clarida, Vice President

Neighborhood Association Meetings

May 5 • June 5 • July 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  

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	1	1	0
Assault	15	35	31
Assault, Domestic	55	34	83
Assault, Life Threat	0	0	0
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	35	27	42
Burglary, Residential	46	39	16
Disturbance, Domestic	14	22	29
Disturbance, General	10	8	9
Drugs, All Activities	76	68	39
Homicide	1	1	1
Stealing From A Vehicle	56	50	62
Trespassing	12	12	11
Vandalism, Property Damage	35	34	27
TOTAL	356	331	350

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://www.sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



Weller Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

Thurs., May 19: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Turning Point Church (1722 N. National Ave.)



Springfield's first community fridge to open in West Central this year

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

What started as a grassroots effort to combat food insecurity and food waste in Europe in 2015 has resulted in brightly painted refrigerators popping up on street corners across the U.S.

Later this year, Springfield's first community fridge will be built by Drury University architecture students and professional mentors near the street entrance of Urban Roots Farm, 823 W. State Ave., thanks to the efforts of West Central neighbor Mal Bailey, local architect Kate Stockton, Urban Roots Farm, the West Central Neighborhood Alliance and Drury University's chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students' Freedom by Design entity.

"I can see the fridge as a hub for other positive community involvement" – Caron Parnell

A community fridge is a refrigerator located in a public space. Also known in other states as "love fridges" or "freedges," the refrigerators offer free food, household and hygiene items to anyone who needs them. Items for the fridges are donated by individuals and organizations, and the fridges are maintained by volunteers. Fresh produce courtesy of Urban Roots will be a staple among the fridge's offerings.



Bailey, center, chats with West Central neighbors

The fridge came about a year ago as a result of West Central neighbor Mal Bailey, who was concerned about her neighbors' ability to access healthy food. She posted on Facebook to thank a neighbor for popping up a free curbside food pantry.



The winning design is pictured at far right.

"When I first moved to West Central in 2018, I knew it was one of the city's poorest areas," Bailey said. "Once the pandemic hit, I saw the needs in the neighborhood up close. I saw free pantries being put up and neighbors putting out food because they knew their neighbors needed help," Bailey said.

Bailey connected with Chelsy Cantwell and Stockton and Drury University architecture faculty member Sara Khorshidifard, Ph.D., who directed Better Block SGF's 2022 community design competition, We Create. We Create is an annual competition that engages community members to identify a concern in the city and develop solutions.

Khorshidifard challenged her students to develop a concept for a community fridge for Springfield. Urban Roots Farm volunteered space on their property to house the fridge, and funding was identified through donations and grants.

Three teams presented their design concepts at a March 5 meeting at Urban Roots Farm. The winning design includes a covered wooden structure with a metal roof with solar panels and space for a fridge, pantry cabinets, trash and compost bins and a storeroom.

"The presentations put together for the March 5 meeting were fabulous, and a great way to involve the stakeholders in this effort. I can see the fridge as a hub for other positive community involvement," said Caron Parnell, West Central Neighborhood Alliance president.

Bailey and Khorshidifard estimate the community fridge will be in place by the end of the year. "Our neighbors will definitely benefit from this project," Parnell added. "Thanks to our neighbor Mal, who put a lot of work into this effort!"



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

April 27: 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Broadway United Methodist Church (545 S. Broadway Ave.) • May 25: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Outdoor Location Pending Weather • June 22 (Summer Social): 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Mother's Brewing Company (215 S. Grant Ave.)

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   

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	4	13	6
Assault	221	223	205
Assault, Domestic	212	181	189
Assault, Life Threat	4	0	1
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	149	142	121
Burglary, Residential	146	11	70
Disturbance, Domestic	51	40	37
Disturbance, General	62	48	61
Drugs, All Activities	308	230	175
Homicide	2	2	3
Stealing From A Vehicle	321	437	326
Trespassing	165	110	118
Vandalism, Property Damage	235	261	184
TOTAL	1,880	1,698	1,496

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://sgfneighborhoodnews.com) for incident numbers going back to 2015.



Explore West Meadows this spring on new Ozark Greenways trail

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

West Central neighbors are encouraged to enjoy the new half-mile Ozark Greenways trail connecting West Meadows north of the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park. The trailhead is located on the west end of the trail off of Fort Street and includes a parking lot. Access the trailhead by turning north on North Fort Avenue from West College Street north of the park.



“This trail will ultimately stretch over 7 miles from Smith Park to Ewing Park, where it currently connects to Wilson’s Creek Greenway. This is a crucial link in connecting downtown, neighborhoods, several parks, and countless destinations!” – Mary Kromrey

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

Transportation Program. “The West Meadows connection was a key step in closing gaps along Jordan Creek Greenway,” said Ozark Greenways Executive Director Mary Kromrey. “This trail will ultimately stretch over 7 miles from Smith Park to Ewing Park, where it currently connects to Wilson’s Creek Greenway. This is a crucial link in connecting downtown, neighborhoods, several parks, and countless destinations! Additionally, the trails identified in Ozarks Transportation Organization’s regional trail investment study will tie this trail to the Route 66 Trail that will connect all the way to Strafford.” The West Meadows trail is part of the vast Ozarks Greenways’ network of 73 miles of greenways, and 81 miles of on-street bike routes.



First Baptist Church opens Community Outreach Center

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

West Central neighbors may have noticed a new logo and lighted sign on First Baptist Church’s former activities building at Campbell Avenue and Mt. Vernon Street.

The church has repurposed the building into a Community Outreach Center. The center is open to the public 6-8 p.m. on Thursday evenings for Pickleball, bowling, ping pong and billiards. It also contains a large multipurpose room and smaller fireside room.

To find out how you can be involved in these activities or use the rooms for meetings, please contact church liaison David J. Eslick at 417-350-5708 or the First Baptist Church office at 417-866-7207 during normal business hours.



Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!

Attend neighborhood association meetings to learn more about what’s going on in your area, neighborhood projects, programs offered, and more!

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

May 10 • June 14 • July 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 Brad Loveland: 417-874-2536
bloveland@springfieldmo.gov

Westport Elementary School
415 S. Golden Ave.

Follow Westside on

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	1	5	4
Assault	75	65	72
Assault, Domestic	131	125	147
Assault, Life Threat	1	1	1
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	85	74	73
Burglary, Residential	106	62	48
Disturbance, Domestic	59	38	51
Disturbance, General	22	13	27
Drugs, All Activities	115	91	81
Homicide	2	0	3
Stealing From A Vehicle	120	117	81
Trespassing	32	19	33
Vandalism, Property Damage	87	78	69
TOTAL	836	688	690

See this story on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com for incident numbers going back to 2015.



Westside Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

Tues., May 17-Wed., May 18:
8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Hope and Anchor Church
(2216 W. College St.)



Couple find right fit with renovated cottage in Woodland Heights

By Janet Graham, for SGFNN

In 2019, my husband Rich and I sold our condo on Walnut Street, thinking we might not want that "style" of living long term. We didn't know exactly what we wanted, so we decided to rent a loft while we looked.

We soon learned we did not want to rent forever but weren't sure which direction we wanted to go. Then COVID hit, so that slowed everything down.

"We love being part of the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association and in a small way doing our part to restore this great neighborhood!"

We have owned property in several ZIP codes in Springfield. I knew I didn't want a three-bedroom brick ranch with a subdivision feel. I wanted a neighborhood. I wanted a cottage feel. I wanted to know my neighbors, and I wanted projects.

The problem was how quickly things were selling and whether what we might find needed way more work than we might have the energy, time and money to do!

On the last Sunday of January 2021, we drove over to take a look at a house listed on Chase that we knew had been renovated. Not our style or price but drove around the block and came down Douglas. I mentioned the "cute cottage with the



Janet and Rich Graham

arbor and picket fence." We had almost bought a house 20 years ago on this very block!

On Tuesday morning of that week, Rich called from work and said guess what's listed on North Douglas?

I threw on a coat and drove over! Real estate agent Adrianna Bertoldie lived next door at that time and when I called the number on the sign, she showed me the house right away. Adrianna and her husband had restored 1896 N. Douglas and Adrianna is involved in the Restore SGF initiative.

We came back after Rich got home from work and made an offer. Two offers were submitted, the other actually higher, but they accepted ours!

We have a list of projects a mile long, but we love it and are settling in. We plan on staying here for the foreseeable future.

We love being part of the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association and in a small way doing our part to restore this great neighborhood!



Connect

- Becky Volz, President:
woodlandhna@gmail.com
or 417-880-4210
- Steve Sexton, Vice President
- Chance Parish, Secretary
- John Dilliard, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 19 • May 17 • June 21: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
@ Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church
(722 W. Atlantic St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Trenton Herr: 417-864-1320
therr@springfieldmo.gov



Bowerman Elementary School
2148 N. Douglas Ave.

Reed Middle School
2000 N. Lyon Ave.

Follow Woodland Heights on
woodlandheightsneighborhood.org

Police Incidents 2019-2021

Incident Type Description	2019	2020	2021
Arson	1	1	0
Assault	60	57	51
Assault, Domestic	140	107	89
Assault, Life Threat	2	4	2
Auto Theft, Stolen Vehicle	55	59	50
Burglary, Residential	65	49	39
Disturbance, Domestic	29	25	26
Disturbance, General	18	23	14
Drugs, All Activities	97	75	50
Homicide	1	3	1
Stealing From A Vehicle	78	67	60
Trespassing	12	17	23
Vandalism, Property Damage	55	61	56
TOTAL	613	548	461

See this story on [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://www.sgfneighborhoodnews.com)
for incident numbers going back to 2015.



**Woodland Heights
Neighborhood Spring Cleanup**
Tues., April 26-Wed., April 27:
7 a.m.-7 p.m.
304 W. Chase St.

Woodland Heights

DIRT DAY 2022
Saturday, May 7th at Lafayette Park • 202 E. Atlantic • 10 AM to 2 PM

The **PARK**
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD

City Council paves way for 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 New Moon Studio Space. Doling opened in 1916 and closed in 2002. City Council approved a conditional use permit for the former school to operate as a space for artists to create at its Feb. 22 meeting.



Husband and wife Kate Baird, an artist, and Mike Stevens, executive director of Moxie Cinema, plan to purchase the building from Springfield Public Schools. Their vision is to offer secure, functional workspaces for artists and creative workers in a supportive community setting.

"A big thank you to Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council for approving our conditional use permit, and also to staff in the Planning & Development Department for guiding a couple of true novices through this process. The CUP is important because it allows this former elementary school to be used as a studio building. We look forward to being good neighbors in Woodland Heights!," said the couple, in a Feb. 22 post on New Moon Studio Space's Facebook page.



Mike Stevens and Kate Baird

Baird, a former educator for the Springfield Art Museum, said "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."

She 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.

Woodland Heights neighbor finds new career in fixing up his property

By Mona Pieron, for SGFNN

When Woodland Heights neighbor Dakota Woehr set out to purchase a house to rehab with his father, little did either of them realize it would be a life-changing experience. Woehr had recently graduated with a degree in electronic media production, and was working as a videographer. He had helped his parents with a couple of their restorations and decided it was time to do a project of his own. After looking at several homes, they decided a house in Woodland Heights would be the place to start.

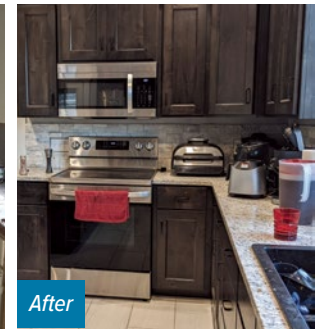
"I didn't know anything about the neighborhood, but it was in a nice location, affordable and could be rehabbed for a nice return on my investment," said Woehr.

His four-bedroom, two-bath had been built in 1918, so was well constructed, but had sat vacant for over a year, and "was pretty torn inside from squatters," he said. The bones of the little house were solid, and Woehr thought he and his parents could revive it, so off they set on the road to rehab.

The first thing he and his dad did was sit down and plan the renovation. There were floors to fix, insulation to add, walls to replace, plumbing and wiring to bring up to code. The work would serve as a good hands-on education in construction.

Working his day job, and spending his nights and weekends at the house, it took Woehr most of the last year to get the house to the point where he and a couple of roommates could live in it, but he's very happy with his results.

That's not to say there weren't bumps along the way. "The foundation needed more work than originally planned, and adding that third bathroom was tricky. Evidently there had been a fire in that



laundry room/pantry at some point in the past, so that took some rethinking," he said. Still, each step was taken in stride and treated as a learning experience.

With all the knowledge Woehr has gained, he's found he enjoys the work and has decided to do construction full time. He now works for Moffett Construction. Once all of the exterior work on his house is complete this spring, he will begin looking for another hidden gem to purchase, polish and sell to finance the next project.

Summer Solstice Art Fair set for June 18

By Steve Miller, for SGFNN

Moon City Creative District and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board are excited to announce the 2022 Summer Solstice Art Fair, June 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in Lafayette Park. In addition to featured artists, we'll have live music and food vendors. This is a juried art show with awards in various categories.

Applications and more information will be announced on our website mooncitycreative.org and facebook page facebook.com/mooncityspringfield. The event is free and open to the public. Make sure



to save some time on the longest day of the year to visit north Springfield's only art fair.

The Summer Solstice Art Fair is sponsored by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

FREE SUMMER TENNIS EVENTS

TENNIS UNDER THE LIGHTS

Friday, June 3
7-9 p.m.
Lafayette Park

RACQUET, WHITE AND BLUE

Friday, July 8
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Grant Beach Park

PARKBOARD.ORG

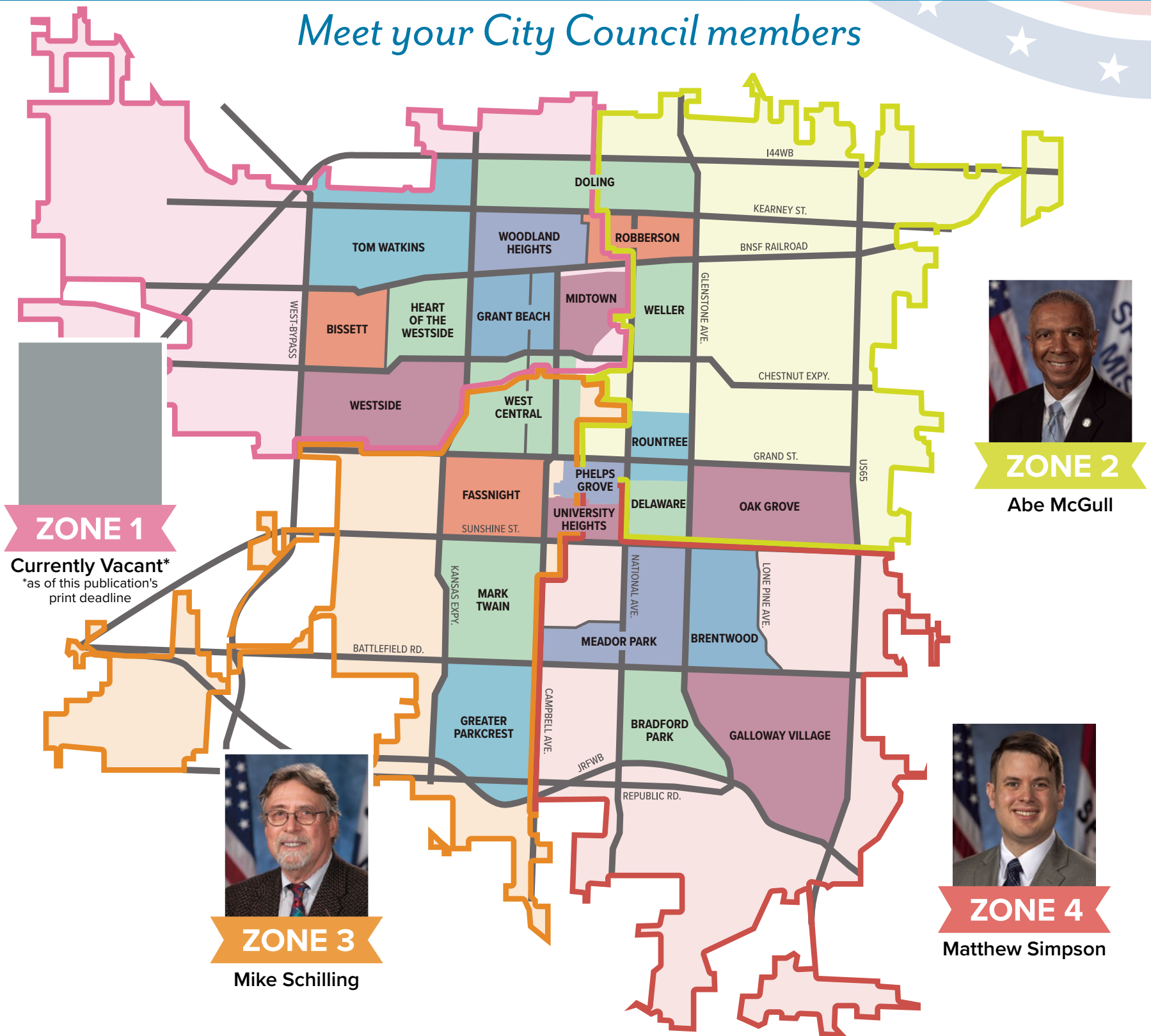
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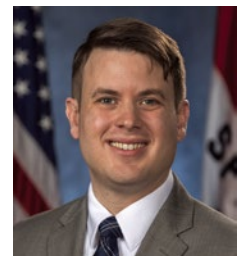
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Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods

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ZONE 4
Matthew Simpson



ZONE 3
Mike Schilling

Ken McClure
Mayor



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General Seat C



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