



Hammons Field becomes municipally owned baseball stadium

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

City Council voted Feb. 14 to approve a combination \$12 million purchase agreement that includes Hammons Field and the parking lots directly across Trafficway south of the stadium and to the west of the stadium, not currently marked for parking. A long-term lease agreement with the Springfield Cardinals, Double-A affiliate of the 11-time Major League Baseball (MLB) World Champion St. Louis Cardinals is also part of the deal, along with the City's commitment to fund \$4 million in stadium improvements. The lease agreement, going through 2038, ensures the 2012 Texas League Champion Springfield Cardinals remain in Springfield where they have played since the affiliate's founding in 2005.

"Having a major league club own its minor league affiliate is very rare. We plan to be the home to the Springfield Cardinals for generations to come." – Mayor Ken McClure

Unrestricted savings from the General Fund and monies earmarked for "Economic Vitality" from the Level Property Tax Fund will be used to fund the investment.

"We have the Double-A franchise of the most popular Major League team in the Midwest," said Mayor Ken McClure. "They add a vibrancy, excitement and level of entertainment as well as



foster a great degree of community pride. Having a major league club own its minor league affiliate is very rare. We plan to be the home to the Springfield Cardinals for generations to come."

"The St. Louis Cardinals have long enjoyed a strong relationship with the Springfield community, and we look forward to continuing it for many years to come," stated Cardinals' President of Baseball Operations John Mozeliak. "The Cardinals organization shares a special connection with Springfield and southwest Missouri, and we cherish the enthusiastic support you have provided our team and players for nearly two decades."

The Springfield Cardinals compete as a member of the Texas League's North Division. The Cardinals began play in 2005, winning three Texas League North 1st Half Division titles, two Texas League North 2nd Half Division titles, two Texas League North championships and one Texas League championship (2012).

► See **HAMMONS FIELD** on page 2

Register now for Clean Green Springfield volunteer opportunities

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Springfield is a beautiful city, but in recent years the community is noticeably struggling with the negative impacts of trash and litter. You can be a part of the solution by joining Clean Green Springfield!

The City of Springfield and partner organizations relaunched the Clean Green Springfield initiative with a fresh series of city-wide cleanup and beautification activities planned during April and May. Individuals, families, businesses and service organizations are invited to roll up their sleeves and participate in one or more opportunities including roadside trash pickups, stream cleanups, planting and mulch events, neighborhood cleanups and more. Special disposal opportunities will also be offered for items that are difficult for residents to dispose of, including mattresses, tires, and household chemicals.

Since launching in 2021, Clean Green Springfield has engaged more than 2,000 volunteers contributing more than 2,500 service hours to cleanup and

beautification activities, and removing more than 25 tons of litter from streets

and waterways. The program has also aided in the responsible disposal of more than 200 tons of trash and bulky items that might otherwise be dumped along roadways.

"The community made such an impact with Clean Green Springfield in 2021 not only with how much litter and trash we collected, but in how many people came together and connected toward a common purpose," explains Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement Cora Scott. "The City and our partners are officially issuing a challenge to the community to make Clean Green 2023 even bigger and more impactful.

► See **CLEAN GREEN** on page 8



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Through the 2022 season, a total of 126 former Springfield Cardinals have gone on to make their Major League debut with St. Louis and an additional 30-plus others debuting with different MLB teams.

The lease agreement with the Cardinals has been structured to ensure the stadium is paying for itself and for the improvements and maintenance required by Major League Baseball. Part of the team's rent will be split between operating and capital funds. The Cardinals have an incentive to keep costs low, because any revenue left over at the end of the year goes into a fund for capital improvements. The City will create an initial \$4 million capital improvement fund to make the immediate Major League Baseball mandated improvements that address player health and safety and spectator experience. After that, the agreement is expected to cover the operation costs and for future improvements and maintenance.

"The Springfield Cardinals offer great entertainment and are a source of pride for fans in the region, and we're happy to see Mayor McClure and the City Council consider this step to ensure Springfield remains the Cardinals' home for years to come," Gov. Mike Parson said. "The investment is not only a win for sports fans but means economic opportunity for businesses and people in southwest Missouri."

BACKGROUND

Hammons Field is also home to the Missouri State University Baseball Bears, who played their first game in 2004 on the opening day of Hammons Field. Hammons Field has hosted five Missouri Valley Conference Tournaments and the 2015 NCAA Division I Regional (won by Missouri State). Missouri State will continue to play its home games at Hammons Field under the provisions of their lease.

Hammons Field opened in 2004 on the corner of Sherman Avenue and Trafficway Boulevard as the centerpiece of a major downtown development project. The investments along the Jordan Valley Corridor in the 1990s and early 2000s changed the landscape of Springfield's downtown and ushered in a new era of revitalization that included the addition of Jordan Valley Park and Jordan Valley Ice Park.

The stadium has a seating capacity of 6,750 and is unique due to its baseball-specific outbuildings. The stadium currently has two large buildings just outside the right-field walls. The larger of the two serves as a fully furnished indoor practice facility

complete with AstroTurf, batting cages, and a small diamond for drills. The smaller building serves as administration, including general manager offices, as well as housing Springfield Cardinals and Missouri State University Baseball Bears clubhouses, a cardio workout facility, and the physical trainer's office. Hammons Field also boasts one of the largest high-definition video boards in Minor League Baseball.

The City issued bonds in 2002 in order to lend the late Springfield developer/philanthropist John Q. Hammons the money to construct Hammons Field on land the City acquired. The City's redevelopment agreement with Hammons required him to make an annual rent payment in the amount equal to the City's annual bond payment.

The idea was that once the bonds were paid off, the City would sell him the stadium and a portion of the land under it for \$1. The redevelopment agreement also required the City to provide Hammons with a 50-year ground lease on the remaining portion of the land under the stadium.

Under Hammons' bankruptcy plan, the court ordered that the bonds be paid off and that the John Q. Hammons Charitable Trust (a new trust created to honor the legacy of the benevolent hotelier) be required to acquire the stadium in order to sell it. Once the bonds were paid off, it became clear during discussions that the community would benefit the greatest if the City eventually became owner of the stadium.

HISTORY OF BASEBALL IN SPRINGFIELD

Springfield, Missouri, has hosted professional baseball teams since as early as 1905, when the Springfield Highlanders began play. For nearly 30 years, the team was variously called the Highlanders, Jobbers, and Merchants. There were several years when no team existed at all.

The original White City Park was built in 1901 on Boonville, near West Lynn Street and North Campbell, but caught fire and was rebuilt in 1921.

In 1931, the St. Louis Cardinals purchased a minor league team, renamed it the Cardinals, and relocated it in Springfield. That year, the team won the first of several Western Association titles. In its heyday, the original Springfield Cardinals were the kings of the Western Association in the same way that they are consistently atop the Texas League today. With a front office led by future Hall of Famer Branch Rickey, Springfield also went to the playoffs in 1931,



1932, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, and 1941, and won league titles in 1931, 1932, 1934, 1937, and 1939.

Due to the outbreak of World War II and much of baseball being put on hold, the Cardinals left Springfield in 1942. Following the war, St. Louis moved the team to St. Joseph, Missouri, where it remained until 1953. The City of Springfield saw a brief re-emergence of minor league baseball when the rival Chicago Cubs moved its affiliate to Springfield for one season taking the name Springfield Cubs, playing in Memorial Stadium in West Springfield.

Though there was a gap of 63 years, most in the Springfield and St. Louis organizations consider the current Cardinals the same group which existed in 1932. Many pieces of fan apparel actually say, "Springfield Cardinals circa 1932." The deck on top of the Cardinals dugout also has the championship banners from the 1930s and 1940s.

Springfield played host to several players that would go on to play in Major League Baseball. Stan Musial played 87 games in Springfield; other players to come through Springfield were Dizzy Dean and his brother Paul, Pepper Martin, and Joe Medwick.

Former Springfield Cardinals have gone on to make their Major League debut with St. Louis or different Major League Baseball teams including recent stars are Matt Carpenter, Luke Voit (also a former Bear), Matt Adams, Jason Motte, Lance Lynn and 2013 NLCS MVP Michael Wacha.

The Springfield Cardinals have hosted rehab assignments of stars like Yadier Molina, Chris Carpenter and Adam Wainwright.

Other teams' brightest stars have come through Hammons Field as prospects: all-Star Players like Mike Trout, Salvador Perez, Nolan Arenado, Alex Bregman, Troy Tulowitzki and 2022 American League Rookie of the Year Julio Rodriguez.

Police: crime down 17% in 2022

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Overall, crime in Springfield in 2022 was down 17% (-4,092 reports) compared to 2021, according to the Springfield Police Department's 2022 Annual Crime Report. The report tracks and analyzes more than 50 crime types in three categories: crimes against persons, crimes against property and crimes against society. The report also contains a comparison to crime report numbers from 2021.

In 2022, there was a 5.1% decrease (-315 reports) for crimes against persons, a 21% decrease (-3,257 reports) for crimes against property, and a 19.2% decrease (-520 reports) for crimes against society.

"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 second year SPD has been able to compare a full year's worth 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 2022 crime report also features updated clearance rates. Clearance rates are fluid and change over time as investigations progress and eventually lead to prosecution.

SPD's crime prevention initiative was launched in



2022 and will continue in 2023 with focused efforts to reduce crime in the community. With the public's help, SPD can continue the trend of reducing crime in Springfield. To learn more, visit springfieldmo.gov/crime.

Remember to vote April 4

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The City of Springfield will have three measures on the April 4 municipal ballot.

The first measure will ask Springfield voters whether to repeal the existing 5% hotel/motel/tourist court tax and replace it with a licensing tax at the same 5% rate for hotels, motels and tourist courts and add short-term rentals (Airbnbs, Vrbs). The other two measures are amendments to Springfield's City Charter.

HOTEL/MOTEL TAX

Ballot language

Shall the City of Springfield, Missouri:

- Repeal the existing five percent license tax (which includes a minimum license tax of \$5 per monthly license) imposed on the business of renting, leasing, or letting living quarters, sleeping accommodations, rooms, or a part thereof, in connection with any hotel, motel or tourist court, of which two and one-half percent will end upon the repayment of debt issued for the Jordan Valley park projects; and
- Replace it with a five percent license tax, to be effective on July 1, 2023, imposed on the business of renting, leasing, or letting living quarters, sleeping accommodations, rooms, or a part thereof, in connection with any hotel, motel, tourist court, or short-term rental, derived from or paid by transient guests for sleeping accommodations, and to be allocated as follows for the benefit of the local economy.
 - Forty-seven percent of tax proceeds used to promote travel and tourism,
 - Four and one-half percent of tax proceeds used to attract and host sporting events,
 - Four and one-half percent of tax proceeds used to support the arts and cultural tourism, and
 - The balance of tax proceeds used to pay debt service for bonds issued under the prior license tax and to fund capital improvements, including by issuing and paying debt service for bonds, to attract travel and tourism?

On April 4, the City of Springfield will submit to qualified voters a question whether to repeal the City's three-tiered license tax of 5% of gross receipts on hotels, motels and tourist courts and replace it with a new license tax of 5% of gross receipts on hotels, motels, tourist courts and adding short-term rentals. Upon passage, the new licensing tax would become effective July 1.

The City adopted by ordinance in 1979 (prior to Missouri's adoption of the Hancock Amendment) a license tax for hotels, motels and tourist courts based on gross receipts. Voters authorized increases in 1998 for funding Jordan Valley Park projects and related debt service (with expiration when bonds have been repaid) and in 2004 for funding to attract sporting events and conventions and to retain a tourist information center increasing the licensing tax to 5%.

The proposed replacement tax would continue at the same 5% rate and would consolidate three separate taxes into one that will not expire (one-half of the existing tax expires when the bonds for Jordan Valley Park are paid off. That is projected in the year 2028). Removing the sunset and modifying the tax structure

increases funding for sports and arts and cultural tourism and continues the funding into the future.

Distribution

| Current allocation: | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Convention & Visitors Bureau | 47% |
| Jordan Valley Park debt | 44.26% |
| Capital Grant Committee | 5.64% |
| Sports Commission | 1.55% |
| Arts Council | 1.55% |

| Proposed allocation: | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Convention & Visitors Bureau | 47% |
| Jordan Valley Park debt | 44% |
| Sports Commission | 4.5% |
| Arts Council | 4.5% |

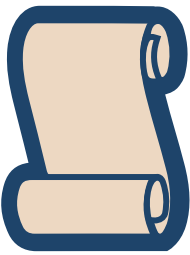
AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CHARTER

Springfield's City Charter was adopted in 1953. It serves as Springfield's constitution. Any amendments to the charter require a vote of the people it serves. The City is asking Springfield voters to consider amendments to the City Charter in two areas:

CONTRACTS/BIDDING

Ballot language

Shall Section 2.16(25) of the Springfield City Charter be amended to authorize that an ordinance approving acceptance of a bid and entry into contract with the successful bidder may be passed at the City Council meeting at which it is introduced?



This ballot measure proposes an amendment to section 2.16 of the City Charter, pertaining to contracts and bidding and would allow the City Council to approve acceptance of a bid and entry into a contract with the successful bidder in the same City Council meeting.

Passage of this amendment would reduce the time to award bids and contracts by at least two weeks, which may increase the number of bidders.

Reducing the approval time improves the City's ability to fit a project into the construction season. With the complexity of Public Works projects (right of way acquisition, utility conflicts, federal approvals, etc.), it can be very difficult to start the project as early in the construction season as possible. Some items such as asphalt paving, come late in the project and cannot occur once the weather gets too cold. In those cases, finishing the projects may be delayed until the following spring. Avoiding the delay can improve our service level to the community and potentially reduce costs.

One of the reasons decreasing the approval time could help attract more bidders relates to the current challenges with the supply chain. Once the contractor submits a bid, they are at risk to changes in pricing for the materials needed for a project. Shortening the approval time reduces their risk of commodity prices going up and makes it more attractive to bid a project. Reduced risk can also result in better bids for the City.

This amendment would in no way change



adopted bidding requirements. If approved, this Charter change would go into effect upon passage.

HUMAN RESOURCES/HIRING

Ballot language

Shall Sections 3.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.5, 6.6, and 6.7 of the Springfield City Charter be amended to change the word "personnel" to the phrase "human resources," authorize the city manager to allow the director of human resources to remove some types of non-regular employees, revise the list of positions in the unclassified service to add some positions and remove others, add provisions related to employee reinstatement and promotion, expand the application of the veterans' preference to all veterans of the United States armed forces who served active duty and were honorably discharged, and revise the provision authorizing a five-point veterans' preference to a requirement to provide a reasonable veterans' preference?

If approved, this ballot measure would make several wording updates to the City Charter, such as replacing the word "Personnel" with "Human Resources," allow the City to provide a hiring preference to all honorably discharged veterans who served active duty and delegate authority to the Human Resources director to remove certain categories of employees, revising the description of "classified employees."

The ballot measure also addresses protocols for former employees requesting reinstatement to their former position and provides a possible option for the director of Human Resources to waive the testing requirement when they seek reinstatement in less than one year.

For more information on the proposals, visit springfieldmo.gov/election

CITY OF Springfield

OPINION: Woodland Heights neighbor pleads to save historic footbridge

By Chance Parish, for SGFNN

A popular refrain from an earlier era delivered a plaintive, though simple, plea: "give us Bread, but give us Roses."

Several years before that phrase was set to use, begging the pairing of utility with dignity, the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge was erected in 1902 in North Springfield to connect the Woodland Heights Neighborhood to business and commerce on (what is now 'Historic') Commercial Street.



The bridge was then, as now, a wonder – wrought in iron and steel. It was built to serve a purpose – to safely transport citizens from a primarily working-class neighborhood to businesses and places of employment located south. It allowed pedestrians to cross 16 tracks, constantly teeming with steam engines, safely. And its silhouette, those elegant lines against smoky sunsets proved awe-inspiring. The bridge became indispensable as a tool of travel, and the poetry it provided lodged itself in local culture. The bridge became iconic as a monument, as a sculpture – our answer to towers and statues elsewhere. And with this indispensable tool providing such beauty alongside usefulness, we had our fill of bread and roses.

Seven years ago, we lost this wonder. The Jefferson Avenue Footbridge, the Eiffel Tower of Springfield, fell into disrepair. No longer could our citizens stand on the bridge at dusk, floating above train tracks, and watch the moon rise. It was truly the end of an era. Pedestrians in our working-class neighborhood were cut off from ease of access to Historic Commercial Street, access that they had enjoyed for over a century. And for seven years there have been no easy strolls to the farmer's market on weekend mornings. We are left now with dingy, unsanitary underpasses that connect our neighborhood to Historic Commercial Street. Our citizens, who once swelled with pride at the mention of the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge and walked along its 562 unobstructed feet with delight, now fear trips on foot to the nearest grocery store. And with the closing of the footbridge, a light has gone out in the Woodland Heights Neighborhood.

▶ See **JEFERSON AVENUE FOOTBRIDGE** in the Woodland Heights Section on page 25

Restore SGF names board of directors, holds first meeting

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Restore SGF, a nonprofit community initiative to improve housing conditions and raise residential property values in Springfield's historic neighborhoods, has named 11 community members to form a board of directors and held its first meeting in January.

RESTORE SGF'S BOARD MEMBERS ARE:

- Joselyn Baldner, president/CEO of Central Bank of the Ozarks
- Andrew Doolittle, developer, broker and investor, Everett Homes
- Amy Blansit, CEO, Drew Lewis Foundation
- Brian Fogle, president, Community Foundation of the Ozarks
- Rusty Worley, former Neighborhood Advisory Council chair and executive director of the Downtown Springfield Association
- Adrianna Bruening, real estate agent
- Becky Volz, NAC chair
- Heather Hardinger, City Councilwoman
- Richard Ollis, City Councilman
- Andrea Brady, community outreach and development manager, Great Southern Bank
- John Everett, president and CEO, Legacy Bank & Trust.

ABOUT RESTORE SGF

Springfield City Councilman Richard Ollis, Community Foundation of the Ozarks President/CEO Brian 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 in the summer of 2021.

In redeveloping neighborhoods, there are 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.

Restore SGF has created a pool of funds from various sources 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.

"The intent of that investment is truly just that – a longer-term, low interest loan to provide the patient capital," said Fogle. "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. This is part of our Mission-Related Investment program launched over 10 years ago that provides similar patient capital investments throughout the Ozarks."

At its July 25, 2022 meeting, City Council approved Restore SGF's \$1 million request from the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund.

The ARPA funding, along with a \$300,000 allocation from the City's 2022-2023 fiscal year budget and investments totaling \$240,000 disbursed over three years from Community Foundation of the Ozarks and several banking industry partners, will allow Restore SGF to hire staff and begin programming in the second quarter of 2023 with two grant programs – the Block Challenge Program and the Homeowner Improvement Program.

These programs are based on proven models in Des Moines, Iowa (Invest DSM) and other cities and will help residents make needed repairs, updates and renovations and improve the curb appeal of their properties, while at the same time encouraging them to engage with their neighbors.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks 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.

OakStar Bank, Commerce Bank, Old Missouri Bank, Great Southern Bank, Guaranty, Arvest 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. Great Southern Bank, Legacy Bank and Central Bank have each committed \$250,000 for the revolving loan fund.

In addition to these commitments, many financial institutions have agreed to commit loan and mortgage dollars to Restore SGF's targeted neighborhoods.



Encouraging reinvestment in Springfield's heritage neighborhoods.



SGF NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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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Next housing study community meeting planned for June

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

About 100 residents had their first opportunity Feb. 23 to give their input on a city-wide housing study that could shape the future of how people live in Springfield.

Springfield Mayor Ken McClure kicked off the event. The meeting began with an overview of the housing study process and was followed by one-on-one interactions between the community members present and the consultants hired to conduct the housing study. A full recording of the meeting is available at springfieldmo.gov/housingstudy.

The next public meeting will take place in June with a third planned for September. The study is set to be completed by October.

The City hired Atlanta-based firm APD Urban Planning + Management to conduct the study, which will in part, assist Restore SGF, an initiative to restore houses and increase homeownership in Springfield.

APD is currently in the data collection phase of its Springfield study which includes researching previous plans and studies, and a windshield survey.

According to project manager Deborah Jensen, APD specializes specifically in housing neighborhoods. She went on to point to their work in cities with highly historic neighborhoods that require preservation, such as a study they conducted in Augusta, Georgia where their historic neighborhoods were in "extremely distressed" conditions. ADP's services are built around identifying existing strengths and assets and creating a vision and road map for improving the existing housing market and making permanent, high-quality housing achievable for residents.

APD is currently in the data collection phase of its Springfield study which includes researching previous plans and studies, and a windshield survey.

The windshield survey consists of a parcel-by-parcel analysis that looks at the use of the land, building condition, and whether a building is occupied. It will also include a count of all housing



units in the city and in specific areas. Much of this data the team is collecting manually by driving through each neighborhood in a vehicle with a 360-degree camera, allowing the planners to have very specific and up-to-date data across the city.


Once data is collected, APD will assess various metrics like the residential market, the zoning and development capacity in different areas of the city and the level of displacement risks.

APD will ultimately provide recommendations on how the City can improve its housing metrics through policy changes. Zoning code recommendations could include rules on what type of housing can be built, parking requirements, minimum lot sizes and density restrictions.

Data analysis will continue through June. The consultant team will present their analysis of Springfield's current housing at the June community meeting, which will then inform what implementation recommendations APD makes to the City.

The purpose of the study is to create a detailed housing database with housing conditions, unit counts, affordability and neighborhood characteristics and amenities.

Watch the City's social media and springfieldmo.gov for updates on the upcoming meetings, and if you see APD staff driving through neighborhoods reviewing conditions give them a friendly wave!



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Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. – Half-Price Day
Sun. 1-5 p.m. – Bag Day

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Download Revive app to access guidance, resources during drug overdose

By Brooke Pawling, Health Department, for SGFNN

The 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment showed that drug use and the rate of overdose deaths in our community is significant. In fact, people in Greene, Christian, and Webster counties are 25% more likely to die of a drug overdose than people in the rest of the United States.

While our community is fortunate to have many resources and treatment options to reduce drug dependency, these numbers highlight the need for more solutions focused on saving lives when an overdose occurs.

This is why the Health Department launched Revive. Revive is a mobile- and web-based app that connects people who use substances, their loved ones, and people in the community who might encounter someone experiencing an overdose with resources and lifesaving guidance. The goal is to prevent an overdose from becoming an overdose death.



When someone downloads Revive or uses the web version, they can access interactive maps that will guide them to where they can access Naloxone, a medicine that rapidly reverses opioid overdoses. Other maps will show users where they can access substance use treatment resources and where they can safely dispose of drugs. Additionally, the app includes guidance on recognizing the signs and symptoms of an overdose and an overview of Missouri's Good Samaritan laws which are in place to protect someone who calls 9-1-1 from being charged with drug possession and minor violations.

Then, if the user encounters someone experiencing an overdose, Revive asks them a few questions to provide personalized, step-by-step instructions on what to do to keep them alive until emergency medical assistance arrives.

Substance use impacts people and families from every part of our community. Long term solutions to reduce the stigma that prevents people from seeking help and connect people with effective treatment programs are needed. In the meantime, we must work to reduce the harm that drugs inflict on our community and keep those with substance use disorders alive.

Anyone in our community can use Revive. The mobile app is available for free on both Apple and Android devices. To download Revive or access the web version, go to ReviveSGF.org today.



NEST Partnership offers new parents help when they need it most

By Brooke Pawling, Health Department, for SGFNN

After Sarah gave birth to her baby, she began to experience postpartum depression. Often referred to as "baby blues," postpartum depression occurs after a person gives birth. Feelings of emptiness, sadness and hopelessness begin to arise. It's common but can be very debilitating to the people who experience it.

Sarah's postpartum depression led her to the NEST Partnership at Springfield-Greene County Health.

The NEST Partnership at Springfield-Greene County Health provides prenatal case management and infant services to those in need through referrals. Registered nurses are available to provide support as a person navigates life with a new baby or before having one. Community Health Advocates (CHAs) work closely with NEST Partnership to ensure that clients are being connected to resources they need like health care, food, transportation, housing, and mental health services.

It may be hard to picture what this help can do for families, but Sarah can attest through her story that the help provided has changed her life.

In fall 2022, a NEST nurse, Alisa, and a CHA, Teresa, began working with Sarah after her postpartum depression became unmanageable. As a young mother, Sarah was facing difficulties obtaining resources in the community. A CHA connected Sarah with organizations that helped her find a job, apply for rent assistance and SNAP, navigate the post office system and find clothing.

"You have helped me so much," she told Teresa and Alisa. Now connected to resources that she didn't know about or couldn't access prior to working with NEST Partnership, Sarah's mental health has improved.

Through every one of her visits Teresa was there to help translate so that Sarah, whose first language is Spanish, could freely speak with her nurse and be updated on the health of her baby. For example, during her most recent appointment, Sarah expressed concern about a rash on her daughter's bottom that had since gone away. Working with a translator, the nurse gave her advice on diapers and creams that can help when a rash occurs.

During her appointments, Sarah's NEST nurse weighs her baby, takes vitals, and answers any health-related questions she may have about her baby. The trust between the nurse, CHA and client is important. When creating a bond with a family, this helps ensure the family gets all the help they



need throughout the program's duration. For infant services, nurses will work with a family for up to six months depending on the needs of a family. Since Sarah began working with NEST in fall 2022, her postpartum depression has significantly improved based on the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS). This questionnaire, given in the beginning of the program and toward the end, helps identify whether the parent who gave birth may have postpartum depression. Each answer is given a score of 0 to 3. The highest score is 30. In the beginning, Sarah scored up to a 16. In her second to last session with the NEST nurse and CHA, she scored a 6.

There are many in the Springfield community with stories like Sarah but are unaware that the NEST Partnership and Springfield-Greene County Health's CHAs are here to help. To learn more about the process of NEST Partnership and CHAs, visit health.springfieldmo.gov.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM EXTENDED

Springfield-Greene County Health is also announcing the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Community Health Worker Initiative grant, initially rewarded in 2022, has been extended through Jan. 31, 2024.

The initial funding allowed the Health Department to build a team of community health advocates to assess the health needs of the community. With the extension, the CHWi team will continue to address the many health disparities that were highlighted by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for another year. To learn more about the Community Health Advocate program read this full story at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving help from one of our community health advocates, send an email to Healthoutreach@springfieldmo.gov for assistance.

CRIME STOPPERS NEEDS YOU!

The Greater Springfield Area Crime Stoppers Advisory Board is looking for members to assist in promoting and growing the program!

LEARN MORE OR APPLY
SpringfieldCrimeStoppers.com or 417-888-2020





Lawn Art With Neighbors (L.A.W.N.) returns in 2023

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

PUBLIC VIEWING: APRIL 22 – MAY 7

Lawn Art With Neighbors (L.A.W.N.) returns in 2023 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.

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 and is 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.

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.

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.



All members of the community are encouraged to participate by creating a work of art using materials available at home: sculpture, chalk art, installation, etc. in front of their residence. This project is about expressing creativity, no matter the skill level.

"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.

THE RULES

- Create works that are viewable from the street or sidewalk. We are not in control of the public,

but what you make can encourage safe viewing options.

- Use materials that are NOT hazardous- i.e. sharp items, oil/gas, etc.
- Use materials that have a chance to survive a week during a variety of weather conditions. (i.e. chalk may wash away if not covered)
- If your artwork is no longer on view during the viewing window of time, contact lawnsge@gmail.com so the map can be updated.
- Do not disrupt sidewalks — allow for walking, wheelchairs, and strollers to continue to use the sidewalks.
- No hate speech or derogatory images.
- Do not use other people's property without permission.
- Artwork created remains the property of the creator, and they are solely responsible for the artwork. Sculpture Walk Springfield, Springfield Art Museum, Greene County MU Extension Council, and Missouri State University hold no liability for damage or injury that occurs while creating or viewing art.
- Fill out the participation form by April 15 to be included on the L.A.W.N. map.
- Complete works and have them on display by 10 a.m. April 22.
- Attempt to keep work up and on view through May 7.
- Share L.A.W.N. with your friends and neighbors! How many people can you get to participate?
- Return L.A.W.N. signs to designated signage drop off point May 8-13. Location TBA.

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 1: Priority Registration
- April 1-19: Pick up your L.A.W.N. signs.
- April 15: Participation form due. Your form must be turned in by April 15 to be included in the map. (Late registrations are accepted)
- April 15-21: Project detail form due to L.A.W.N. team.
- April 22: Photos of the finished project due to L.A.W.N. Team.
- April 22-May 7: L.A.W.N. Public Viewing
- April 29: Kick-off celebration of Sculpture Walk Springfield's 2023 collection. Celebration is 5-9 p.m. downtown in Robberson Alley. L.A.W.N. will be tabling this event.
- April 29: International Sculpture Day! Post photos on social media using #ISDay2023 and #LAWNSGF.
- May 7: Official end of L.A.W.N. events.
- May 8-13: Return L.A.W.N. signs. Location TBA.

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

Interested in Participating in L.A.W.N.?

Need some inspiration? Visit the Call for Art Page and check out the inspiration gallery at sculpturewalkspringfield.org/LAWN.



Celebrate Earth Day with screening of 'Toy Story 4,' family activities at the art museum

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City's Department of Environmental Services and the Springfield Art Museum are teaming up to host a free, family-friendly Earth Day event, 1-5 p.m., Saturday, April 22 at the Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Families will learn about environmental stewardship and sustainability while discovering new ways to make toys from discarded items.

The film "Toy Story 4" will begin in the art museum auditorium at 1 p.m. as part of Environmental Services' "Enviro Flick" movie screening series. Various make-and-take toy and activity stations will be available until 5 p.m.

"The message of repurposing and reusing is incorporated throughout the entire movie. Forky is a great example of creating something new and loved from a waste product." – Laurie Davis

"'Toy Story 4' is a perfect reminder that toys can be created from many different resources — including the recycling bin!" says Environmental Services Education Outreach Coordinator Laurie Davis. "The message of repurposing and reusing is incorporated throughout the entire movie. Forky is a great example of creating something new and loved from a waste product."

Released in 2019, "Toy Story 4" follows Woody and Buzz Lightyear as the pair and the other toys go on a road trip with Bonnie, who creates Forky, a spork made with recycled materials from her school. Forky is convinced he is trash and doesn't fully understand his important role in the world.

"We're also excited that this event is taking place during the art museum's All School Exhibition," says Davis. "This will further drive home the message that creativity and use of imagination are skills that are just as essential as any other subject area. Art can be created from a treasure trove of everyday materials."

The event and activities are offered at no charge. "Toy Story 4" is rated G.



► CLEAN GREEN from page 1

If we each do our part, Springfield will continue to be the beautiful city we know it to be."

Recent discussions at City Council meetings have reenergized this Clean Green effort, as Mayor Ken McClure and City Council members urge staff to seek solutions to preventing litter, as well as recruit adopt-a-street and adopt-a-stream partners. The City plans to launch an anti-littering PSA campaign, along with the volunteer recruitment effort.

"Taking pride in our community means taking responsibility and each doing our part," said Mayor McClure. "It means looking around at our habits as individuals, neighborhoods, organizations, businesses, and as a community and getting involved and making a change."

The City's Environmental Services Department is investigating the causes of litter and making suggestions for ways to address the problem. Additional enforcement measures could be inevitable, according to City Manager Jason Gage.

THE PROBLEM:

In 2019, Environmental Services completed a trash assessment analyzing Springfield streams. They found on average 155 pieces of trash in a 100-foot stream section (628,324 total in Springfield area streams). Nearly 60% of trash found in streams is plastic, and on average there were 14 cigarette butts found in the stream (57,797 cigarette butts in Springfield area streams).

Citizens reported more than 1,000 complaints to the Citizen Resource Center about trash and debris in the right-of-way and more than 2,000 trash-related nuisances on private property in 2019.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING? WHERE IS THIS TRASH COMING FROM?

The simple answer is, it's coming from ALL OF US.

- Litter is intentionally tossed out windows or unintentionally blows out of uncovered trailers and truck beds.
- Businesses and residences leave dumpsters and bins unmanaged and often overflowing.
- Residents choose to dump their household waste and bulky items in an illegal location because they may not have the resources to properly dispose of it.

WHY THIS MATTERS!

What goes on our streets ends up in our streams. Keeping water resources clean starts with putting trash in its place – the trash can!

Litter in our community gets washed into storm drains when it rains and ends up in our streams. Based on local stream assessments, it's estimated that there are over 600,000 pieces of trash in Springfield streams, 60% of which is plastic. Cigarette butts are also a commonly littered item with an estimated 50,000 butts in local streams. Trash affects the use and enjoyment of waterways and trails for popular recreational activities and is a source of pollution that impacts water quality, aquatic life and animals.

CLEAN GREEN 2023 EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Registration is now open for Clean Green 2023 volunteer events and opportunities. All details and a simple registration process can be found at CleanGreenSGF.com.



ROADWAY & STREAM CLEANUPS (PICK THE TIME AND DATE THAT FITS YOUR SCHEDULE!)

More than 120 sections of littered roadway and many area streams are in need of cleanup. Register for a one-time cleanup of any of the segments in need and a volunteer coordinator will help connect you up with a roadway or stream segment or you can suggest your own cleanup location. The City provides the trash bags, volunteers say when and where to pick them up when filled. Hundreds of dedicated teams already committed to adopted areas are also encouraged to conduct a cleanup during the spring initiative.

POINT OF PRIDE EVENTS

On certain Saturdays in April and May, the City will host a cleanup at a location significant to Springfield. Bring your team to lend a hand to make these locations the point of pride they are.

BEAUTIFICATION EVENTS

A number of planting, mulch spreading and general beautification events will be held throughout the month of April, including landscaping in roadway medians and in the City's rights of way.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS:

The City of Springfield contracts with Community Partnership of the Ozarks to coordinate free cleanups in registered neighborhoods. Neighborhood residents can dispose of yard waste, old furniture, construction debris and much more free of charge.

Clean Green Springfield is a program of the City of Springfield and its partners: Community Partnership of the Ozarks, and KY3/KSPR/CW. To receive notifications about Clean Green Springfield activities, visit CleanGreenSGF.com.

A full listing of 2023 Point of Pride & Beautification events is available at CleanGreenSGF.com or in this story on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

Neighborhood Cleanup Events are listed in the neighborhood sections (pages 9-24).

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

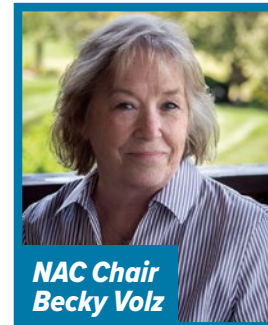
Spring a great time to connect with neighbors

By Becky Volz, for SGFNN

Milestones accomplished! We are now 24 registered neighborhoods who are a part of the Neighborhood Advisory Council. We have increased our voice when we advocate to the City for the needs and concerns of our neighborhoods.

I encourage you all to connect with your neighborhood association and work together on your goals.

Another milestone is the Comprehensive Plan has been approved and is on the road to implementation. This will affect our neighborhoods in many ways with zoning updates. Have a look at Chapter 7, Housing and Neighborhoods, at forwardsgf.com. The city has also started a housing study and is gathering input from all neighborhoods on what we want to see changed, improved as well as housing design ideas. This study performed by APD Urban Planning & Management along with the city will assist the recommendations in the Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan for housing and neighborhoods. It is a much-needed study that will also support the work of the Nuisance Property Work Study group.



**NAC Chair
Becky Volz**

... spring has arrived and it's time for cleanups, block parties, tea with your neighbors, events in the park, and gardening. You live in a house ... you live in a neighborhood. Honor it, take care of it.

And, with a housing shortage of over 14,000 residential units, attention must be given to repairing, upgrading, or remodeling nuisance properties that are scattered throughout our neighborhoods.

In the meantime, spring has arrived and it's time for cleanups, block parties, tea with your neighbors, events in the park, and gardening. Keep track of what your neighborhood does in the categories of Clean, Safe and Friendly. The Great Neighborhoods program awards your efforts. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/greatneighborhoods.

You live in a house ... you live in a neighborhood. Honor it, take care of it. We are all working together to create a clean, safe and friendly place to raise our families and to age in place. Thank you for investing in your neighborhood!

BISSETT NEIGHBORHOOD



Busy spring and summer coming for Bissett

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

In addition to regular membership meetings, we have two big events coming up this summer: our annual cleanup and annual neighborhood-wide yard sale.

The cleanup is scheduled for June 7, 3-8 p.m. Unlike past years', we are planning to hold it in the back lot of Complete Electronics Recycling, located at 2935 W. Chestnut Expressway. There should be a post card that will come to all addresses in Bissett as we get closer to the event. This event is free for most items dropped off, and we are planning again to have curb side pickups available for those who may be unable to bring their refuse. Fees are required for disposal of TVs, refrigerators and other freon-containing appliances, and unfortunately, we will not be able to take tires.

Our annual neighborhood-wide yard sale is set for Saturday, July 15, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. As in the past, BNA will do promotions to get the word out. For BNA members, we will also provide a sign in each participant's yard, as well as additional way-finding signs at the perimeters of our neighborhood. Sales in previous years have been well attended, and we expect the same again this year.



Regular membership meetings are slated for April 11, May 9, July 11 and Sept. 12. Starting at 6:30 p.m., you can count on an interesting guest speaker on a topic of interest to all, plus crime updates from our neighborhood's SPD police officer and information about city-wide initiatives via Springfield's Neighborhood Advisory Council. The meetings are preceded by an optional free pot luck dinner starting at 6 p.m. Meetings are held at the Eden Village 2 Community Room at the west end of Brower Street.

Be looking for meeting and event updates on Facebook and NextDoor, and feel free to reach out on our email should you have any questions. As all Bissett activities are conducted by volunteers, we welcome any and all who might be willing to join with us in helping out. Working together, we can make Bissett a cleaner, healthier and safer neighborhood.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 11 • May 9 • July 11 • Sept. 12: 6:30 p.m./Potluck at 6 p.m. @ Eden Village 2 (3155 W. Brower St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Josiah Overton: 417-874-2536
joverton@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow Bissett on  

★Neighborhood Cleanup★

Wed., June 7: 3-8 p.m.

Complete Electronics Recycling
(2935 W. Chestnut Expressway)

Accepted Items: Trash, Yardwaste,
Leaves, and Metal



Eden Village 2 (3155 W. Brower St.)

BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Dellene Nelson, President:
dellene007@aol.com
- Marilyn Kemper, Vice President
- Barb York, Secretary
- Larry Nelson, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 11 (Bingo) • May 9 • June 13: 6:30 p.m.
@ Immaculate Conception Church
(3555 S. Fremont Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Follow Bradford Park on  

Bradford Park welcomes new officers for 2023

By Dellene Nelson, for SGFNN

Bradford Park welcomes new officers for 2023: Dellen Nelson, President; Marilyn Kemper, Vice President; Barb York, Secretary; and Larry Nelson, Treasurer.

We are so thankful for Rex Johnson, past president for the last three years. He has been such a good leader. Jacque Ford will be stepping down as secretary. She has been in that position since the neighborhood was formed in 2008. Jacque will remain on the board. We have plans for four fun events this year, and we hope to have a neighborhood cleanup in the fall. We will be meeting the second Tuesday of the month at Immaculate Conception Church and will have Bingo at our April 11 meeting. Hope to see you there!



Amanda Belles Farm, April 2022



SGF Kickball

NEIGHBORHOOD CHAMPIONSHIP

SUN., APRIL 23
RAIN DATE: SUN., APRIL 30

Registration Starts at Noon
Play Begins at 1 p.m.

MEADOR PARK SPORTS COMPLEX
Fremont at Sunset (Use Sunset Entry)

FREE TO ENTER:
Neighborhood Teams
Individuals also welcome!
Ages 8 and Up

Special Thanks to Springfield-Greene County
Park Board, Community Partnership of the
Ozarks, and Air Services Heating and Cooling

NOW for Parks!

HIRING






Lifeguards • Ball Fields • Cashiers
Concessions • Camps and Childcare
Maintenance • and MORE

PARKBOARD.ORG/JOBS

BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD



Unity of Springfield to host 6th annual Earth Day celebration April 21-21

By Brandy Martin, for SGFNN

Unity of Springfield, 2214 E. Seminole, will host the sixth annual Planet Unity celebration. The event will be held April 21-22, 6-9 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Admission for both days is free.

Friday night features live music, snacks, beer and wine, and provides a preview of Saturday's events, which center on this year's Earth Day theme: "Invest in Our Planet." Admission is free both days.



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 2023 theme, Invest in Our Planet, and other ecological topics.

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 sixth 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: unityofspringfield.org/planetunity2023 or call the Church office at 417-887-2214.




Connect

- Mert Seaton, President
- Brent Rinker, Vice President
- Lisa Meeks, Secretary
- Jane Augustine, Treasurer
- brentwoodsgf@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 24 • May 29 • June 26: 6:30 p.m. @ Unity Church of Springfield (2214 E. Seminole St.)
Check brentwoodsgf.org for updates.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Field Elementary School

2120 E. Barataria St.

Follow Brentwood on

[brentwoodsgf.org](https://www.facebook.com/brentwoodsgf.org)

Tuesday Morning Book Club

Tuesdays: 10 a.m.
Unity of Springfield (2214 E. Seminole St.)

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




Kirkwood Park (2201 E. Seminole St.)

DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD



City's Private Sewer Repair Program continues in Delaware, Rountree, Phelps Grove and University Heights

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City's Department of Environmental Services is launching another round of outreach in the Delaware, Rountree, Phelps Grove and University Heights neighborhoods to encourage participation in the City's Private Sewer Repair Program.



City records show a history of sanitary sewer manhole overflows and basement backups in these neighborhoods. Overflows and basement backups can be relieved by repairing improper connections to the sanitary sewer that are often found on private property. Basement drains, downspouts, sump pumps and uncapped cleanouts all contribute to sewer system overflows by allowing excess rainwater into the sanitary sewer system.

That's where the City's Private Sewer Repair Program can help.

Even if a property owner doesn't experience backups or sewer issues themselves, their improper sewer connections could be contributing to sewer problems experienced by their neighbors and are encouraged to schedule a free evaluation.

The free voluntary program helps prevent rainwater from entering the sanitary sewer, causing backups into homes and untreated water to overflow

into area streams and lakes by repairing improper connections. Property owners and residents are asked to schedule a free plumbing evaluation to identify improper connections to the sewer system. When improper connections are found, property owners are asked to allow qualified local plumbers, paid by the City, to make the repairs.

Environmental Services first offered the program in these neighborhoods in 2019. Since then, complications with the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors have hindered the number of households and properties the City has been able to impact with this program.

Residents may see program evaluators going door-to-door. They are reaching out and leaving door hangers to try to increase participation in this important program. Evaluators and City staff always wear City of Springfield logo clothing and carry City identification.

Even if a property owner doesn't experience backups or sewer issues themselves, their improper sewer connections could be contributing to sewer problems experienced by their neighbors and are encouraged to schedule a free evaluation.

Visit springfieldmo.gov/privatesewerrepair for more information on the program or call 417-874-1295 to schedule a no-cost plumbing evaluation of your property. Evaluations take up to 45 minutes.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

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

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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

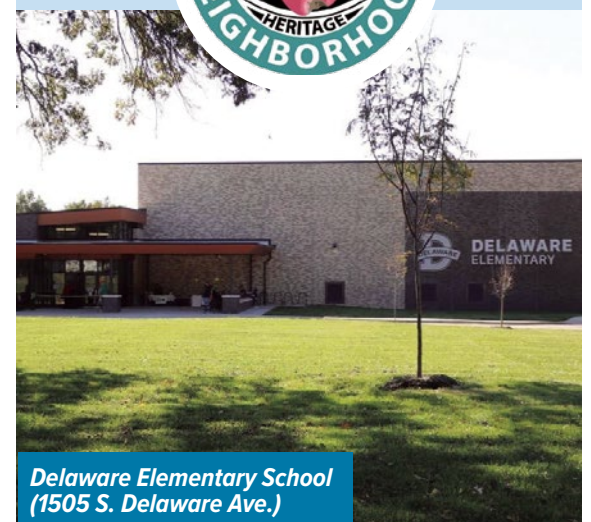


 **Delaware Elementary School**
1505 S. Delaware Ave.

Follow Delaware on   

DNA Women GET OUT!

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



Delaware Elementary School
(1505 S. Delaware Ave.)

FASSNIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD



Construction for third section of Grant Avenue Parkway to continue through fall

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Construction of the Grant Avenue Parkway improvements is progressing on schedule with work in section 2 of the parkway route (Sunshine to Ildereen) nearing completion and construction in section 3 (Catalpa to Grand) and 4 (Grand to State) began in March.

SECTION 2

Construction work continues in section 2 between Sunshine and Ildereen for utility work, construction of the multi-use path, some curb and driveways and a new signal at Portland.

“We also ran into some weather conditions that impacted the schedule slightly. Aside from that, construction has progressed relatively smoothly and we’re excited to wrap up as soon as we can and move the operation north to the next sections.” – Leree Reese

In March, City Utilities Electric Division began converting service from overhead electric lines to newly installed underground lines. This work is anticipated to last 3-4 weeks and may impact individual residents’ electrical service. Residences that may experience a brief outage will be notified via door hanger in advance.

When electrical work is completed in section 2, two-way traffic may be restored for a time. Construction of the multi-use path in this section is awaiting final acquisition of a small number of necessary easements. As soon as these easements are clear, the contractor will move forward with construction of the path which is expected to take two to three weeks.

“It’s difficult to estimate how long it will take to acquire easements needed for any project. With the large number of properties involved in GAP Section 2, it’s taken a bit longer than we originally anticipated,” explains Public Works

Project Manager Leree Reese. “We also ran into some weather conditions that impacted the schedule slightly. Aside from that, construction has progressed relatively smoothly, and we’re excited to wrap up as soon as we can and move the operation north to the next sections.”



SECTIONS 3 & 4

Utility work inside the City’s right-of-way in section 3 (between Catalpa Street and Grand Street) and into section 4 (between Grand Street and State Street) began in March. This work requires a lane closure through both sections to allow one-way southbound traffic only. Northbound traffic is detoured to Campbell Avenue. Motorists are advised to watch for message boards providing details of this closure and obey all posted construction signage.

Construction in section 3 is expected to continue through fall.

For more information on the Grant Avenue Parkway project and to sign up to receive regular project update emails, visit grantavenueparkway.com.



Connect

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



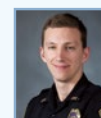
Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 4 • May 2 • June 6: 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.

 **Jarrett Middle School**
906 W. Portland St.

Follow Fassnight on  

Neighborhood Cleanup

Thurs., April 6: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Fassnight Park
(1300 S. Campbell Ave.)

Accepted Items:

Trash, Yardwaste, Leaves, and Metal

Curbside pickup will NOT be available.



Fassnight Creek June 2022. Photo by Chris Akins

GALLOWAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

Join your Galloway Village neighbors for quarterly creek cleanups

By Carrie Lamb, for SGFNN

Part of the mission of Galloway Village Neighborhood Association is preserving the area's natural qualities. Adopting Galloway Creek was a "natural" fit for the association. Since 2019, neighbors have gathered in Sequiota Park three times a year with gloves and grabbers and headed out to fill as many big yellow bags as possible. Some head up to the corner of Battlefield and Lone Pine where litter from the road and parking lots accumulates on the trail and in the skinny line of vegetation along the creek. Others head deep into the creek channel where litter washed in from as far north as Sunshine and west to Glenstone gets hung up on every tree root and limb. The park itself needs attention too, with little bits of trash from park users accumulating around its edges and green spaces.

One usually doesn't have to take too many steps in any direction to start filling a bag with food wrappers, cups, straws, and plastic bags. You'll never look at these plastic items, used a single time and discarded, the same way again after picking them out of every nook and cranny of the creek. If let be, they will eventually find their way downstream into Lake Springfield or maybe farther into the James River and Table Rock Lake. Scientists are finding microplastics, tiny pieces of broken-down plastic, in the world's rivers and oceans everywhere these days.

Littering is an unfortunate reality, but a small commitment of time can make quick work of this unsightly problem. Over the past four years,



Galloway neighbors have contributed 200 volunteer hours and picked up 150 bags of trash from the creek, trail, and park. It's fulfilling to leave things cleaner than you found them and a great excuse to enjoy and explore our natural areas. An old sketch from the 1930s of the historic Half-A-Hill dance hall and property at Battlefield and Lone Pine labeled the creek "safe" at the north end near the road and "mysterious but interesting" farther south where the channel is deep and filled with tall pillars of bedrock. The creek is still a mysterious and interesting place today and worth a hike in your muck boots. For those who want to stay on more stable ground, cleaning up the trail and park will give you a fresh perspective on these familiar places, and you are sure to receive a few smiles and words of appreciation from passersby. At the end of a cleanup, there is always some lively conversation about the strangest or biggest finds of the day.

Come join us for our remaining 2023 cleanups on June 10 and Sept. 30 at 10 a.m. at Sequiota Park. If you can't make it, take a few minutes of time on your own to clean up your street or pick up litter on your daily walks. Every little bit helps to keep our village clean.

Battlefield Corridor Improvement Project to begin in late summer/fall

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Roadway and intersection improvements along East Battlefield Road between Luster and Lone Pine avenues are expected to begin in late summer or fall.

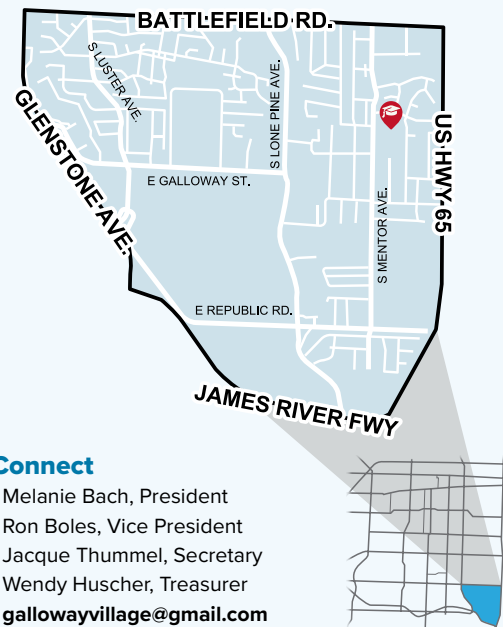
The Battlefield Corridor Improvement Project will combine a number of roadway improvements and repairs into one project in an effort to reduce costs, coordinate traffic control and minimize impacts to traffic and businesses.

THE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE CORRIDOR WILL INCLUDE

- Intersection improvements at Battlefield and Lone Pine, including additional turn lanes, capacity improvements, sidewalk connections and pedestrian facilities.
- New trail connection from Galloway Creek Greenway Trail – including a 10-foot-wide multi-use path from the Galloway Creek Greenway to a new 5-foot sidewalk that will run north along Lone Pine Avenue to the intersection at Battlefield. The path will connect with the greenway between the City's Lone Pine Recycling Center and the Half-a-Hill Shopping Center.



- Intersection improvements at Battlefield and Luster, including signal upgrades and pedestrian improvements in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Concrete pavement panel replacement, involving the removal and replacement of individual sections of concrete pavement that is in poor condition along Battlefield Road between Lone Pine and Luster avenues.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 18 • July 18 • Oct. 17: 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

Pasta Express Night

Tues., April 25: 4-9 p.m.
(3250 E. Battlefield Rd.)

Stream Cleanup

Sat., June 10: 10 a.m.
Sequoiata Park



"Public Works was originally approaching each of these improvements as separate projects led by different divisions of the department," explains Project Manager Nicholas Edelman. "By coordinating and packaging everything into one project, we hope to deliver a better project, at a lower cost and with fewer impacts to the public."

The Battlefield Corridor Improvement Project will be funded through a combination of sources including the 1/4-cent Capital Improvement and 1/8-cent Transportation sales taxes.



DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD



Praise Assembly breaks ground on 40-acre park

Provided by Praise Assembly

The leaders at Praise Assembly hope to make their church's corner of town better by building a 40-acre park on its expansive campus at 3535 N. Glenstone Ave. north of the Doling neighborhood. The church broke ground Feb. 12 for a park built in five phases, with the first phase (comprising a pavilion, open gathering space and gravel walking paths) complete by June. Phase 2 will include a playground, utilities and restroom and is estimated to be complete by June 2024. Basketball, Pickleball and volleyball courts are planned for June 2025. Softball and soccer fields are planned for June 2026. Community gardens and concrete paths are on the horizon for July 2027.



According to the church's website, the area surrounding Praise Assembly is a "play desert":

"Most of our homes are miles from the nearest park. No place to walk in the mornings. No place to read while the kids play tag. No place to walk the dogs at the end of the day. So we decided to do something about it. God blessed Praise with 40 acres of green space. So we want to bless our community with a park ... Parks make our neighborhoods a better place."

To follow the progress of the park, or to donate to the park, visit praise.church/park.



Connect

- Nick Robinson, Acting President
- Hannah Sartin, Secretary
- Jean Ackley, Treasurer
- dolingna@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 18 • May 16 • June 20: 6:30 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 Fetters: 417-874-2537
nfeters@springfieldmo.gov



 **Fremont Elementary School**
2814 N. Fremont Ave.

 **Watkins Elementary School**
732 W. Talmage St.

Follow Doling on  

★Neighborhood Cleanup★ (Joint with Tom Watkins)

Wed., May 10: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Doling Park
(301 E. Talmage St.)

Accepted Items:

Trash, Yardwaste, and Metal

Curbside pickup will NOT be available.

Mobile Library Stop

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

Wednesdays: 2:45-3:15 p.m.

Glenwood Manor (2540 N. Delaware Ave.)



HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

May 9 • July 11 • Sept. 12 • Nov. 14 (elections):
6-7 p.m. @ Passion Assembly of God Church
(806 N. Forest Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Josiah Overton: 417-874-2536
joverton@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow Heart of the Westside on  

★Neighborhood Cleanup★

Tues., March 28: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Nichols Park (1900 W. Nichols St.)

Accepted Items: Trash, Yardwaste, Leaves, and Metal

Curbside pickup will be available.

Contact Anna Pageler or Glenn Gohr for details.

April Food Pantries

Nichols Park Food Pantry

April 5: 9:30-11 a.m., 1900 W. Nichols St.

New Growth Food Pantry

April 15: 9:30 a.m.- Noon, 1351 N. Marion Ave.

College Street Baptist Food Pantry

April 15: 10-11 a.m., 2216 W. College St.



HOME & ENVIRONMENT SPRING GUIDE

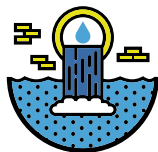
Best practices for environmentally
responsible home & yard care.



STORM WATER

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

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



WASTE WATER

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

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



SOLID WASTE

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

RECYCLING HOTLINE
SPRINGFIELDMO.GOV/SOLIDWASTE
417-864-1904

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 goes down the drain and runs 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, Environmental Services highly recommends that all homebuyers schedule a sewer lateral inspection.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/SewerLaterals

Spring cleaning got you in a tizzy?

Remember, when you throw things "away," away is in the landfill! **Instead, visit springfieldmo.gov/recycling and use the "Waste Wizard" tool to search your items to find opportunities to recycle and safely dispose of materials.** 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.



Follow us on social:



@SGFEnvironmentalServices



@sgfenvironmentalservices

Learn more about SGF Environmental Services:
springfieldmo.gov/environment

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. The Dish to Dirt home composting program is one way that citizens can address this problem in their own backyards. 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:

- Fruit scraps
- Vegetable scraps
- Paper towels (no wiped up chemicals)
- Tea bags
- Coffee grounds & filters
- Shredded papers
- Napkins
- Pet hair
- Dry leaves, grass clippings & small twigs
- Shredded cardboard



Take Care of Storm Drains!

Water that goes down storm drains goes directly to our waterways. 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

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 in bags or by the cubic yard and at the Lone Pine Recycling Center by the bag. **Accepted brush must be 6 inches or less in diameter and 4 feet or less in length. For more info, go to springfieldmo.gov/recycling.**

| <i>Brush Disposal Volume</i> | <i>Fee</i> |
|--|------------|
| 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 |



Local Compost & Mulch

Available for purchase in bulk at the YRC with a limit of four yards per visit. **For more info, visit springfieldmo.gov/MOPProducts.**

Yard Ethic

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

- ☐ Test your soil
- ☐ Plant a tree
- ☐ Plant for pollinators
- ☐ Build a rain garden
- ☐ Harvest the rain
- ☐ Compost

You will receive a free Yard Ethic sign for your yard by achieving gold or silver certification. You can also utilize other programs that help you work toward Yard Ethic certification such as Blooming Boulevards, Right-as-Rain, Pollinator Garden Grant program, and more. **Learn more about the program and apply for certification at YardEthic.com.**



Blooming Boulevards provides free installation of a rain garden in the right-of-way of suitable locations. Rain gardens are small, shallow depressions planted with vegetation that collect the "first

flush" of runoff after a rainstorm. This first flush is usually the most polluted. Deeply rooted vegetation and healthy, well-structured soil allow runoff to be filtered and soak into the ground.

Right as Rain currently offers a "rain barrel rebate" which pays 50 cents per gallon of storage capacity up to a maximum of \$300. To help conserve the public water supply, it is a good idea to capture rainwater for use in watering landscapes. Rainwater is soft and very good for plants and rainwater

systems are simple and easy to install.



The Pollinator Garden Grant Program provides free native plants for qualifying applicants. Applications open July 1 for fall garden installations. Locations must be highly visible to the public in City right-of-way or front yards.

Native plants are well adapted to the local climate and soil conditions and are ideal choices when it comes to supporting and preserving biodiversity of native organisms. Native plants provide seeds and insects for wildlife, especially songbirds. Native plants also have deep root systems, allowing rainwater to infiltrate into the soil rather than becoming runoff.

Private Sewer Repair Program

City records show a history of sanitary sewer manhole overflows (SSOs) and basement backups in various Springfield neighborhoods. These can be relieved by repairing improper connections to the sanitary sewer often found on private property. Basement drains, downspouts, sump pumps and uncapped cleanouts all contribute to SSOs by allowing excess rainwater into the sanitary sewer system. In an effort to combat overflows, Environmental Services offers the Private Sewer Repair Program which is a voluntary program that offers property owners the opportunity to have improper connections repaired at no charge. Residents are asked to schedule a no-cost plumbing evaluation to identify improper connections to the sewer system. When improper connections are found, property owners are asked to allow qualified local plumbers, paid by the City, to make the repairs.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/PrivateSewerRepair



FREE EARTH DAY MOVIE & ACTIVITIES

April 22, 1 - 5 p.m.
at the Springfield Art Museum
(1111 E Brookside Dr.)

Join us for a family friendly Enviro Flick to celebrate Earth Day!

Toy Story 4
showing at
1 - 2:30 p.m.

Make and Take activity stations 2:30 - 5 p.m.
Find ways to create toys from trash!



clean green

SPRINGFIELD

Register now for a variety of cleanup and greenup volunteer opportunities throughout April and May!

2023 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Join a “Point of Pride” Cleanup

The City will be hosting a cleanup at a significant Springfield location on select Saturdays in April and May.



Assist with a Neighborhood Cleanup

Help registered neighborhood associations with bulky item pickup, unloading items and site cleanups during their spring waste dropoff events.



Cleanup Roadways & Streams

Conduct a one-time cleanup of one of 120+ sections of littered roadway or stream. We'll supply the bags, you tell us when to pick them up! If you already adopt a street, stream or highway, help us by planning a cleanup of your section in April or May.



Help with Beautification Activities

Have a green thumb? Join in on a number of planting and beautification activities.



Register at:
cleangreensgf.com

GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD



MoDOT's Chestnut Expressway improvement project to begin in spring 2024

Provided by MoDOT

In spring 2024, MoDOT will begin a \$7.9 million project to improve Chestnut Expressway (Loop 44/Business 65) between Business 65 and Eastgate Avenue. An interactive map is available at modot.org/chestnut-expressway-loop-44business-65-safety-operational-improvements-project. Neighbors can sign up for emailed project updates at the same link.

Project highlights include:

- Signal improvements at various locations
- Sidewalk (ADA) improvements at various locations
- Intersection improvements at various locations
- Improve safety and traffic operations by managing access
- Operational improvements at U.S. Route 65 diverging diamond interchange
- Install mid-block pedestrian hybrid beacon
- Resurfacing and pavement marking from Lulwood Avenue to Eastgate Avenue.

Traffic impacts include:

- Nighttime work hours from 8 p.m.-6 a.m.
- Lane closings on Chestnut Expressway (Loop 44/Business 65) at times
- Narrowed lanes and traffic shifts on Chestnut Expressway (Loop 44/Business 65) at times
- During higher traffic volume times, drivers can expect occasional delays
- During the intersection work, turn lanes may be closed at times
- Crews and equipment close to traffic in areas
- Drivers may need to seek alternate routes to get to their destinations



Connect

- Pauletta Dunn, President: Pauletta.Dunn@gmail.com
- Bruce Lutz, Vice President: 417-501-8878
- Kathy Lutz, Secretary: GBNA.email@gmail.com
- Fred Ellison, Treasurer
- Hovey House: 417-942-2456

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 17 • May 15 • June 19: 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 Ben Wilson: 417-874-2535
bwilson@springfieldmo.gov

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

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

Follow Grant Beach on  



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 the week ending June 17. Sign up at Hovey House 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 20, May 27 and June 3. The coaches' meeting and skills camp will take place at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. respectively on June 10 at Grant Beach Park.

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

MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Bobbi Ream, President: 417-883-3438
- Brian Miller, Vice President
- Christine Fish, Secretary
- Donna Clarkson, Treasurer
- meadorparkna@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 27 • May 25 • June 22: 6:30 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  

Spring offers event opportunities in Meador Park

By Bobbi Ream & Brian Miller, for SGFNN

We are looking forward to a really good year. We are planning for many more events this year. Donna Clarkson will host our next event on April 15 for our Cherokee Street Adopt-A-Street project, which will be followed by coffee and scones at the Dancing Mule.

Meador Park is the site for the City-wide Kickball Tournament April 23 with a rain date of April 30. Most all of the planning is finished – we just keep meeting because we have a good time. Watch the Facebook Group SGF Kickball for details. You do not have to have a full team to participate, just come over to Meador Park by noon, and we will do some matching to make teams. This is fairly non-competitive; we will be playing with children and adults on the same team, on the field at the same time.

We are looking for neighbors willing to host small "block party" type events, if this is something that you would be interested in doing, let us know

Our neighborhood will be hosting the Annual Garage Sale June 9 and 10.



GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD



City begins final phase of Republic Road Widening at Campbell Avenue in March

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City began the final phase of Republic Road Widening beginning March 13 providing traffic capacity and safety improvements along one of the busiest retail corridors in Springfield. The project is designed to improve traffic flow between Campbell Avenue, Republic Road and James River Freeway.

The Republic Road Widening Phases 4 & 5 will expand the roadway to five lanes between the traffic signal at Chase (Fairview Avenue) and the intersection of Campbell Avenue and Republic Road. Improvements will include Americans with Disabilities Act compliant sidewalk upgrades, bike lanes and traffic signal upgrades. Construction will also extend north on Campbell to improve stormwater and utility infrastructure.

“We may have an occasional short-term lane closure, but any closures lasting more than a few hours we plan to conduct at night so we can keep traffic moving.” – Andy Haase

Various lane closures will be limited to overnight hours in an effort to minimize traffic impacts during the day. At least one lane of traffic flow in all directions is expected to be maintained at all times. Motorists are advised to expect delays and use caution at all times.

“We hope to keep traffic flowing normally throughout the day,” explains Public Works Project Manager Andy Haase. “We may have an occasional short-term lane closure, but any closures lasting more than a few hours we plan to conduct at night so we can keep traffic moving.”

BACKGROUND

In spring 2022, Springfield Public Works and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) teamed up to collectively bid the Republic Road improvement project alongside interchange improvements to Campbell Avenue and James River Freeway. Contractor Capital Paving and Construction was awarded the projects and is completing construction on MoDOT and the City’s projects concurrently. Coordination between the projects will help reduce traffic impacts, increase safety for motorists during construction and help reduce overall costs.

Approved by voters in the 2016 cycle of the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax, the Republic Road Widening Phases 4 & 5 projects is funded through the 1/8-cent Sales Tax, Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, as well as a cost share with MoDOT. Construction is estimated to cost \$5.4 million.

The project is anticipated for completion in December.



Connect

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

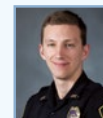


Neighborhood Association Meetings

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   



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!





CAMPS AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES

SPARC Day Camps

Ritter Springs

Farm Park Camps

Outdoor Adventures

Skateboarding Camps

Figure Skating & Ice Hockey

Junior Golf

Equestrian Camps

Zoo Education Programs



DISCOVER MORE
PARKBOARD.ORG/CAMPS

MARK TWAIN NEIGHBORHOOD



Join Mark Twain neighbors for annual cleanup, monthly meetings with guest speakers

By Samantha Spartan, for SGFNN

We are looking forward to once again hosting our neighborhood cleanup, aka, trash day, May 4, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. We will be at the Sunset Church of Christ at the corner of Fort and Sunset.

You are able to dispose of trash, yardwaste and scrap metal. Please ensure that all small/household trash is confined. We will not accept loose household trash.

Please see our Facebook event page for more information or you can call or text 417-812-6067.



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

We have had some great meetings the last few months! February's topic was about water quality. Brooke Widmar from the James River Basin Partnership shared information on where our runoff ends up and the effect we have on its quality. We look forward to seeing new faces in the coming months. Please join us for these future topics:

- April 11: David Burton, Engaged Neighbor Program
- May 9: Master Gardeners
- June 13: Laurie Davis, Recycle Right
- July 11: PAR Officer
- Aug. 8: Pam Stoelzel, Advance Care Planning
- Sept. 12: Fire Department Update and Richard Crabtree, Springfield History
- Oct. 10: Housing Updates and Care
- Nov. 14: PAR Officer
- Dec. 12: Holiday Social.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 11 • May 9 • June 13: 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

Neighborhood Cleanup

Thurs., May 4: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

Accepted Items:

Trash, Yardwaste, and Metal

Curbside pickup will be available.

Contact Samantha Spartan
at marktwainassociation@gmail.com
or 417-812-6067 for more information.



MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 10 • May 8 • June 12: 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 Ben Wilson: 417-874-2535
bwilson@springfieldmo.gov



Boyd Elementary School
833 E. Division St.

Central High School
423 E. Central St.

Follow Midtown on

MoDOT's Chestnut Expressway improvement project to begin in spring 2024

Provided by MoDOT

In spring 2024, MoDOT will begin a \$7.9 million project to improve Chestnut Expressway (Loop 44/Business 65) between Business 65 and Eastgate Avenue. An interactive map is available at modot.org/chestnut-expressway-loop-44business-65-safety-operational-improvements-project. Neighbors can sign up for emailed project updates at the same link. Read the full story in the Grant Beach section on page 15 or on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.



OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Wendell Royster, President:
417-840-7630
- Lena Sample, Vice President
- Melissa Young & Lisa Napoli,
Secretaries
- oakgrove1538@gmail.com



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Meetings are held at Schweitzer Church (2747 E. Sunshine St.) entrance B, Room 101 at 6-7 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month January-October. Watch for meeting announcements on Facebook and Nextdoor.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Pittman Elementary School
2934 E. Bennett St.

Follow Oak Grove on
ogna.weebly.com

Mobile Library Stop

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

Wednesdays: 6-6:30 p.m.

Country Club Village Apartments
(Wildan & Cinderella Streets)



Oak Grove Park and Community Center
(1538 S. Oak Grove Ave.)

PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



Art in the Garden Tour June 25

By Vicky Trippe, for SGFNN

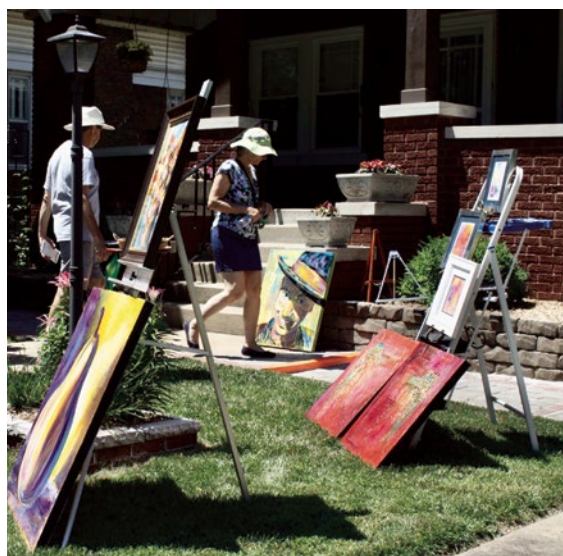
Lovers of nature, art and architecture will all find something to enjoy during the Phelps Grove Neighborhood Art in the Garden Tour on Sunday, June 25, 1-4 p.m.

The Phelps neighborhood is defined by tree-shaded streets lined with Craftsman style, bungalow and four-square homes whose residents tend to beautiful gardens, both street-side and behind their homes.

During Art in the Garden, local artists display and sell their work in numerous front or back yards or even on front porches, and visitors are invited to tour the gardens and enjoy the flowers, art, and live music, which will be performed in some of the gardens.

Tickets of \$10 each can be purchased in the parking lot at the Springfield Art Museum, and free parking will be available there too. Maps of the garden locations and descriptions of the art being displayed will be given to those who buy tickets.

Watercolor USA will be on display at the museum on the day of the tour.



Connect

- Dave Trippe, President:
d.trippe@mchsi.com
or 417-569-5759
- Renee Tyson, Vice President/
Secretary: 417-863-0246
- Nancy Danielsen, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Phelps Grove Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of the month at Fire Station 1 community room (720 E. Grand St.) Contact a neighborhood officer to find out the time.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Scott Wallace: 417-864-1194
swallace@springfieldmo.gov



Follow Phelps Grove on
phelpsgrove.com

★Neighborhood Cleanup★ (Joint with University Heights)

Thurs., May 25: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

National Avenue Baptist Church
(1515 S. National Ave.)

Accepted Items:

Trash, Yardwaste, Leaves, and Metal

Curbside pickup will be available.

Contact Eric Pauly at ptum10@gmail.com
or 417-736-9357 for more information.



Private Sewer Repair Program outreach is coming to your neighborhood soon! Check out this story in the Delaware Section on page 11 and visit springfieldmo.gov/PrivateSewerRepair for more information.

ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD

Rountree, we've come a long way, baby

By Nancy Evans, for SGFNN

The Rountree Urban Conservation District (Rountree UCD) is a "zoning overlay district with special standards" that was originally formed in 1985. Formed simultaneously with the Rountree UCD in 1985, the Rountree Area Advisory Council (now known as the Rountree Neighborhood Association) was created to "preserve and advance the neighborhood."

And boy do we take that task seriously! In the years that followed Rountree residents spent more than a few of their evenings providing input and asking questions in community discussions.

Then the questions were directed at us when a News-Leader reporter called to get our thoughts on the new apartment building planned for the corner of Cherry Street and Kickapoo Avenue. On Sept. 22, 2014, individual Rountree board members and residents sent this letter to City Council:

"Dear (City Council Person),

As you may be aware...

In addition, and due to the swift advancement of the developer's current plans, we are asking City Council to deny approval of Council Bill 2014-212. (A special ordinance adopting the East Cherry Flats Redevelopment Plan and Blight Report.)...

The Rountree Neighborhood is thankful for the development of the City of Springfield. We are eager to be active participants in the future growth and development of our area to work towards a plan that is not only conducive for our residents of Rountree, but to our MSU neighbors, and the entire Springfield Community."

Our vision is for Rountree to be "green and walkable" with a thriving small business district, public art, and connected neighbors.

And so it began, Rountree's passionate involvement in, and desire to improve and preserve not only our beautiful and unique piece of Springfield, but to set standards to help other neighborhoods do the same.

- March 17, 2015 – The RNA Board received word that "our project," in which we would like the UCD and the RNA reviewed and have certain criteria met, was added to the Planning and Zoning department list of projects.
- May 2017 – We requested City Council impose an administrative delay on zoning requests and lot consolidation in Rountree until the UCD was revised. They approved this request.
- June 2017 – Traffic Calming Project. (photo of a planning meeting for this project is pictured above). This process brought together private citizens, traffic planners, engineers, and traffic designers. Using choke points, bump out, speed guns, and a crosswalk made from tape



the full reality of speeding cars and necessity for permanent traffic calming was brought to everyone's attention. We made believers out of the naysayers.

- We continued to have multiple conversations with City staff and council regarding land use, tax abatements, and four-plus-story structures. Conversations happened and compromises to benefit all were made.
- Fall 2017 brought us the expansion of Domino's Pizza. Domino's reached out to the RNA to endorse their appeal to the City for expansion of their building and parking lot. Appreciative of the collaborative attitude, the RNA board reviewed the plans, had conversations and determined the plans reasonable. Improvements were made.
- Spring 2018 – The City hired H3 Consultants to help bring to fruition the much-needed updates to our Neighborhood Plan. This initiated community input meetings and the solidification of a conceptual plan. Reminder...Neighborhood Plan first, then UCD. The purpose of these work sessions was to "Identify strategies and areas which over time will maintain and preserve the character and quality of the neighborhood. Residents with similar vision introduced us to the proposed plan for the old Spanish Mission building at Cherry Street and Pickwick Avenue. That plan included preserving and restoring the Spanish Mission building into a mixed-use space with a business, possibly a restaurant, below and apartment space above.

And finally, on Nov. 19, 2018, the Rountree Neighborhood Plan official revision was voted on and approved. The plan set action items in immediate, short, medium and long-term goals. We have already met our immediate goals (one of which was traffic calming), are halfway through our short-term goals, and continue to look ahead and move forward with equal passion and vision until all our goals are met.

How do we do it? We work with the City and developers. We continue to show up and have conversations. We value the importance of people, investment, and environment and that can only happen through conversation and collaboration.

Why do we do it? Our vision is for Rountree to be "green and walkable" with a thriving small business district, public art, and connected neighbors. Our vision has safe, tree-lined streets with understory lighting. We value placemaking. Front porch living with walkable, quality small business districts nearby are worth the investment. We do it to support the Cherry/Pickwick District as the neighborhood commercial center and gathering place. We do it to support diversity and a multi-generational community. Because we love Rountree and we care.



Connect

- Peggy Wise, President:
wise1peggy@gmail.com
or 417-860-8990
- Laurel Bryant, Vice President
- Jeff Bromberger, Secretary



Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 18 • May 16 • June 20: 7-8 p.m. @ University Heights Baptist Church (1010 S. National Ave.)
Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



 **Rountree Elementary School**
1333 Grand St.

Follow Rountree on   

routreenews.org

★Neighborhood Cleanup★

**Tues., May 2: 9 a.m. through
Wed., May 3: 9 a.m.**

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

Accepted Items:

Trash, Yardwaste, Leaves, and Metal

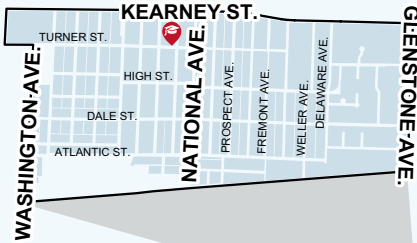
Curbside pickup will be available.

Contact Peggy Wise at wise1peggy@gmail.com
or 417-860-8990 for more information.



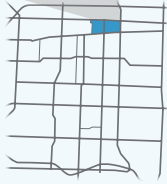
The 2023 Pickwick Street Fair will be June 10.
Learn more on the next page (pg. 20).

ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Mary Ann Bonetti, President:
ladyemage@msn.com
- Phyllis Evans, Secretary: 417-693-4023 or svmbroomrider@att.net
- Dolly Vranka, Treasurer
- Lillie Beal, Member-at-Large



Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 18 • May 16 • June 20: 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

★Neighborhood Cleanup★

Wed.-Thurs., May 17-18
7 a.m.-7 p.m. (both days)

Pathways United Methodist Church
(1232 E. Dale St.)

Accepted Items:

Trash, Yardwaste, and Metal

Curbside pickup will be available.

Contact Phyllis Evans at svmbroomrider@att.net or 417-693-4023 for more information.



TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Colby Wallace, President:
colby.reid.wallace@gmail.com



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

★Neighborhood Cleanup★

(Joint with Doling)

Wed., May 10: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Doling Park
(301 E. Talmage St.)

Accepted Items:

Trash, Yardwaste, and Metal

Curbside pickup will NOT be available.



**Want to submit
an article
about your
neighborhood?**

*Let your neighborhood
president or other
representative know!*

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Donna Hemann, President
- John Stinson, Vice President
- Susan Robinson, Secretary
- Donelle Blubaugh, Treasurer
- uhnsagf@gmail.com

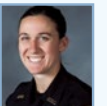


Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 5 • May 3 • June 7 • July 5: 5:30 p.m.
@ Springfield Art Museum Community Room
(1111 E. Brookside Dr.)

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

★Neighborhood Cleanup★

(Joint with Phelps Grove)

Thurs., May 25: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

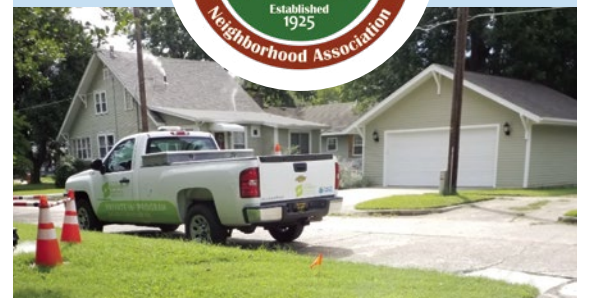
National Avenue Baptist Church
(1515 S. National Ave.)

Accepted Items:

Trash, Yardwaste, Leaves, and Metal

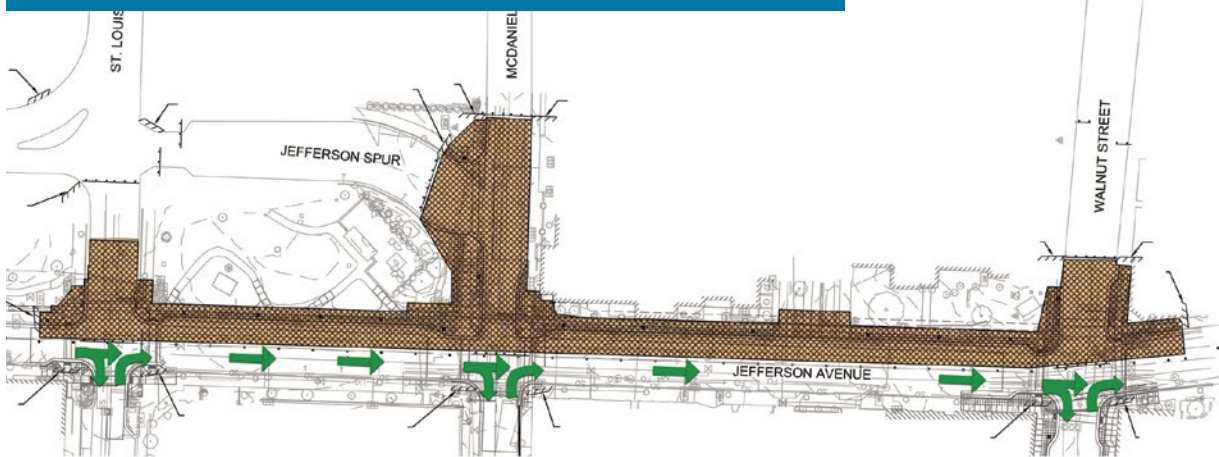
Curbside pickup will be available.

Contact Donna Hemann at uhnsagf@gmail.com for more information.



Private Sewer Repair Program outreach is coming to your neighborhood soon! Check out this story in the Delaware Section on page 11 and visit springfieldmo.gov/PrivateSewerRepair for more information.

WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD



Construction on Jefferson Avenue to continue with streetscaping between St. Louis and Walnut streets

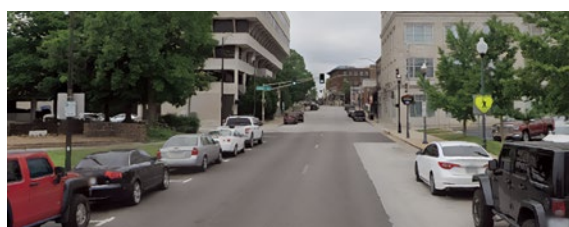
By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Construction along Jefferson Avenue will continue this spring and summer between St. Louis and Walnut streets as streetscape improvement work ramped up in March.

The Jefferson Avenue Streetscape project will extend the downtown streetscape look to this segment of Jefferson, with upgraded ramps and sidewalks to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, along with roadway improvements, stormwater infrastructure and lighting. A new traffic signal with pedestrian facilities will be installed at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and St. Louis Street, while signal modifications and upgrades will be constructed at the McDaniel and Walnut intersections. The project will also include upgrades to electrical facilities in Jubilee Park to aid in future downtown event needs.

“The new light at Jefferson and St. Louis will be one of the major changes to the area. ... This signal will provide a controlled crossing and increased accessibility and safety for both pedestrians and vehicles attempting to cross Jefferson.” – Angela Nelson

“In March, the construction underway in the project area was a contractor for City Utilities working to renew water and relocate gas utility lines ahead of the streetscape project,” explains Public Works project manager Angela Nelson. “Their contractor will continue to work between McDaniel and Walnut streets, hopefully finishing up in April while the City’s contractor, KCI, begins construction on the streetscaping between St. Louis and McDaniel.”



The two contractors plan to coordinate their work in an effort to streamline traffic control. Motorists can expect a single lane of traffic to be maintained along Jefferson for most of the project’s 90-day duration.

CONSTRUCTION AND TRAFFIC FLOW WILL BE FACILITATED IN TWO PHASES:

Phase 1—Began in March:

Expect construction along the east side of Jefferson Avenue. A single lane of southbound traffic will remain open. Left turns off Jefferson will not be permitted between St. Louis and Walnut streets. All east- and westbound traffic crossing Jefferson will not be permitted through these intersections. Signals at the McDaniel and Walnut intersections will be deactivated and temporary stop signs posted to allow right turns on and off of Jefferson. Detours will be posted guiding traffic around the work zone via Cherry Street and Kimbrough Avenue.

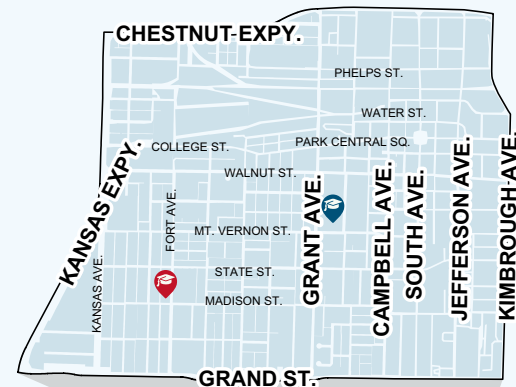
Phase 2:

Expect construction to shift to the west side of the project. A single lane of southbound traffic will remain open. Right turns off Jefferson will not be permitted between St. Louis and Walnut streets. All east- and westbound traffic crossing Jefferson will not be permitted through these intersections. Detours will be posted guiding traffic around the work zone via Grand Street and Campbell Avenue.

“The new light at Jefferson and St. Louis will be one of the major changes to the area,” says Nelson. “We have considerable cross traffic demand at this location. This signal will provide a controlled crossing and increased accessibility and safety for both pedestrians and vehicles attempting to cross Jefferson.”

Construction of the Jefferson Avenue Streetscape improvements is anticipated to last 90 days at a cost of \$1.8 million. It is funded through the ¼-cent Capital Improvement and ⅛-cent Transportation sales taxes.

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



Connect

- Brandon Jenson, President:
brandonjenson8487@gmail.com
- Rand Youngblood, Vice President
- Rusty Worley, Treasurer:
rusty@itsalldowntown.com
- Kathleen Cowens, Secretary



Neighborhood Alliance Meetings

April 25 • May 23: 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Broadway United Methodist Church (545 S. Broadway Ave.)
June 27 (Summer Social): Time and Location TBD.
Please check our Facebook page at westcentralspringfield.org for updated information.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Scott Wallace: 417-864-1194
swallace@springfieldmo.gov



McGregor Elementary School
1221 W. Madison St.

Campbell Early Childhood Center
506 S. Grant Ave.

Follow West Central on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/westcentralspringfield.org) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/westcentralspringfield.org)
westcentralspringfield.org

MoDOT’s Chestnut Expressway improvement project to begin in spring 2024

Provided by MoDOT

In spring 2024, MoDOT will begin a \$7.9 million project to improve Chestnut Expressway (Loop 44/Business 65) between Business 65 and Eastgate Avenue. An interactive map is available at modot.org/chestnut-expressway-loop-44business-65-safety-operational-improvements-project. Neighbors can sign up for emailed project updates at the same link. Read the full story in the Grant Beach section on page 15 or on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.



Improvements coming to intersection of Mt. Vernon and Broadway

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

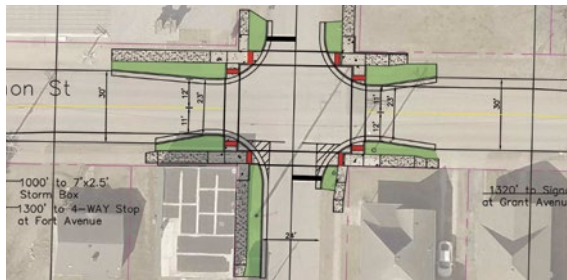
Improvements are coming soon to Mt. Vernon Street and Broadway Avenue with the construction of traffic calming modifications to enhance vehicle and pedestrian safety. Construction is anticipated in late spring or early summer and is estimated to take one month.



The project was generated by concerns about neighborhood speeding and sight-distance issues at the intersection of Mt. Vernon and Broadway, in the West Central neighborhood. The project will largely involve the construction of "bulb-outs" or extensions of the curb into the roadway, narrowing the width of the road and creating a traffic calming effect.

"With the addition of these traffic calming modifications, we hope to alleviate sight distance and speeding concerns, improving safety for pedestrians and drivers." – Brett Foster

"The proximity of nearby buildings to the intersection restricts sight distances for turning movements at the intersection," explains Traffic Engineer Brett Foster. "The width of Mt. Vernon Street also promotes speeding. With the addition of these traffic calming modifications, we hope to alleviate sight distance and speeding concerns, improving safety for pedestrians and drivers."



The project will also include pedestrian markings, new striping, curbs and new sidewalk connections in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Zone 3 Councilman Mike Schilling indicated support for partially funding the project through the Minor Neighborhood Improvement Program ("Pothole Funds"), part of the City's ¼-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax. Remaining funding will come from the ⅛-cent Transportation Sales Tax Turning Lane and Safety Improvements Program. Construction is estimated to cost \$93,000.

Motorists can expect periodic lane closures on Mt. Vernon and on Broadway throughout construction. Detailed traffic impacts will be communicated to the public when a construction schedule is determined.

WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

April 6 • May 4 • June 1 • July 6: 6-7 p.m. @ Weller Community Church (1624 E. Blaine St.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Ben Wilson: 417-874-2535
bwilson@springfieldmo.gov

Weller Elementary School
1630 N. Weller Ave.

Follow Weller on

Neighborhood Cleanup

Thurs., April 13: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Turning Point Church
(1722 N. National Ave.)

Accepted Items:

Trash, Yardwaste, and Metal

Curbside pickup will NOT be available.

Weller Community Garden Distribution

Wednesdays: 1-2 p.m.

Weller Community Church (1624 E. Blaine St.)



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

April 11 • May 9 • June 13: 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 Josiah Overton: 417-874-2536
jovertont@springfieldmo.gov

Westport Elementary School
415 S. Golden Ave.

Follow Westside on

Neighborhood Cleanup

Tues., May 16: 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Hope and Anchor Church
(2216 W. College St.)

Accepted Items:

Trash, Yardwaste, Leaves, and Metal

Curbside pickup will be available.

Contact Lydia Austin at lydiaaustin@live.com
or 417-459-9118 for more information.



Fire Station 13 was officially placed into service on Feb. 28 at 1900 W. College St. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be scheduled for a later date.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD



Experience the city on foot with neighbors with Woodland Walkers group

By Chance Parish, for SGFNN

The "Woodland Walkers" began as a simple idea. My husband and I take walks almost every evening. We reasoned that sharing a walk with community members every now and then in order to bring people closer together was a simple thing. Community is, after all, made up of people. You have to get to know your neighbors in order to have a functioning community. And, as I'm fond of saying, if you can't take a walk in your neighborhood, then it's not your neighborhood.

As an LGBTQ+ couple living on the north side of Springfield, my husband and I have had our share of issues. Most days are fine. Most weeks are the same. But there are moments that test you. And, after any incident options presented are few. You can go inside and lock your door forever or you can push.

I love my evening walks. And the world doesn't change if you stop being seen.

The entire idea is simple: everyone should be able to take a walk in their city. ... These streets belong to you. This city is your city. These neighborhoods are your neighborhoods. No one should be afraid to take a walk. And communities are made of people like you. In Woodland Heights, we hope to continue strengthening our community by walking our neighborhood's streets — and beyond.

I began talking to neighbors about these things, and I tried sharing the joy of experiencing the city on foot. When pressed about the dangers of pedestrian life in Springfield, I had to admit some of my neighbors' expressed concerns were valid. Though the vast majority of our five years worth of evening walks had been calm and peaceful, we had encountered a few unsettling moments too. Many

neighbors expressed a strong desire to experience the city in a new way, but they were apprehensive about doing this alone.

So "Woodland Walkers" was born. The idea was simple. We began announcing (usually weekly) dates for group walks. Neighborhood residents were invited to meet at Lafayette Park. From there we did something revolutionary. As a group of neighbors, we wandered our neighborhood on foot. And we explored together. And we talked to each other. We got to know each other. And we experienced the slower beauty of the world at a stroll's pace.

Once we ran out of neighborhood to explore in Woodland Heights, we started taking field trips. At first this just consisted of walks to Historic C-Street or to Washington Park in Midtown. Our walking groups sometimes swelled to over 15 people. Eventually, we got up the courage to form a few "walking buses." This was our term for longer trips with an agenda. So far our "walking buses" have consisted of trips downtown to participate in free events (i.e. music in Founders Park) and we've managed to wrangle groups of up to 10 neighbors for these "buses." It is quite amazing to see 10 neighbors gather, walk two miles together, enjoy an event and then walk two miles back home together, all in the evening, on the north side of Springfield.

Winter has kept us from doing our Woodland walks for the last few months. Though my husband and I still wander the streets in winter time, I can't always convince others to do the same. Hopefully in the coming months we can continue our group walks, though. Maybe this time with more structure. And I'm seeing a "walking bus" tour of downtown's Sculpture Walk in our future.

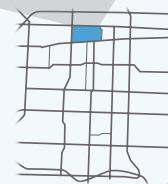
The entire idea is simple: everyone should be able to take a walk in their city. It doesn't matter who you are, where you are from, what you look like, what creed you claim, who you are attracted to or how you identify. These streets belong to you. This city is your city. These neighborhoods are your neighborhoods. No one should be afraid to take a walk. And communities are made of people like you. In Woodland Heights, we hope to continue strengthening our community by walking our neighborhood's streets — and beyond.

Stay tuned to Woodland Heights' social media and website for future "Woodland Walker" dates.



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 18 • May 16 • June 20: 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

★Dumpster Days★

Tues.-Wed. April 25-26
6 a.m.-8 p.m. (Both Days)

304 W. Chase St.

Accepted Items:

Trash, Yardwaste, Metal, Leaves, and Electronics

Curbside pickup will be available.

Contact Mona Pieron at 417-576-6491 or
monapieron@gmail.com for more information.

Dirt Day

Sat., May 20: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Lafayette Park (202 E. Atlantic St.)

Summer Solstice Art Fair

Sat. June 17: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lafayette Park (202 E. Atlantic St.)

Neighborhood Yard Sale

Sat. June 24: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Times subject to change. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for details.



Woodland Heights neighbors give large and small trash the ol' heave-ho throughout neighborhood

By Becky Volz for SGFNN

Are you as tired as we are of driving through the neighborhood and seeing large items on the curb waiting to be reused, repurposed or tossed!? If so, let's do something about it! You'll need a truck and trailer, volunteers with strong backs, durable gloves and a sense of humor and donations to take the items to the landfill.

Pick a day, create a route and do a drive around the neighborhood. Be sure to log (keep record of) what you dispose of so we can justify our time and gas money. Then, watch the trees smile and neighbors wave!



CHASE STREET CLEANUP

On a warm (ish) winter day, neighbors and volunteers from the Greater Springfield Board of Realtors, determined to make Woodland Heights shine, did an impromptu trash cleanup along Chase Street. With trash bags and grabbers in hand, they enjoyed some conversation and the slow walk along the street picking up trash. Just two hours of time and the muddy winter grass breathed again. Every little bit helps!

Little Fruit Garden gets a fence

By Becky Volz for SGFNN

It was five years ago when the Little Fruit Garden got its start, and its name, in Woodland Heights on the south side of Reed Academy on West Atlantic. Named in honor of a long time school secretary at Reed Academy, Janet Little, the garden provides sweet yummy fruit for neighbors passing by.



One of the dreams for the Little Fruit Garden was to have a fence where the students could create artwork in partnership with Moon City artists. That dream finally came true this past fall when neighbors got together and installed a fence. Panels for the fence had been salvaged from the Marsh



Travel property when it was demolished. Other pieces were donated from a neighbor. Supplies to build the fence were provided by Habitat for Humanity Springfield.

The canvas is ready! We are excited to see what colorful artistic creations will appear on the fence by our students and our Moon City artists. More maintenance and repairs are needed at the Little Fruit Garden. Take a walk by and see what you can do to practice your gardening skills! And, a bench is already there for you to rest or take a lunch break. Come see us.

► JEFFERSON AVENUE FOOTBRIDGE from page 4

We have been left with stale bread, and we have lost our roses.

Now we long for brighter days, and we steer our minds away from dreaded thoughts of demolition. Our hearts and our souls are bound to the fate of this beautiful bridge that connects proverbially opposed sides of the tracks. To go forward into the future, we believe that "us" and "them" are unhelpful concepts. The "we" this bridge provides is the future. Our neighborhood is in need of revitalization. Disconnection from the growing commerce along Historic Commercial Street can only hinder our efforts. And the dark pathways left for our pedestrian access will never fill the human need for astonishment our citizens once found when strolling over the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge.



We are pleading. Help us preserve the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge. Help save our local culture. Help maintain our colossal art piece. Help give our citizens safe access to "the other side of the tracks."

We envision a future where the bridge is open once again and our citizens can find poetry in the sound of yet another generation of little feet skipping across the bridge's wooden planks on the way to the farmer's market on Historic Commercial Street where locally grown fruits and vegetables that might not otherwise be accessible without vehicular transport can be purchased.

We close our eyes and we can see a future where, at the end of toil-filled days, the citizens of our neighborhood can stand on the bridge watching trains go by, sighing with contentment. All the while, on the ground below neighbors gather, artists capture images of the bridge in their medium of choice, future architects sketch the bridge's lines and dream of an earlier time when a thing of beauty could also be a thing of use. And so we end with the old refrain, our plea — "give us Bread, but give us Roses." Help us save the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge.

Editor's Note: The City of Springfield continues to look for all potential funding opportunities to fund the projected \$6 million rehabilitation of the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge. Public Works staff applied for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants in 2022 and 2023. The project was not awarded in 2022, but the application made it to the final round of scoring. Award notifications for 2023 are expected this summer or fall. The City has also applied for a U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant for the footbridge's rehab and is currently awaiting award notification.

The Commercial Club of Springfield has raised \$50,000 to support the footbridge's rehabilitation. If you would like to donate to the fund, visit https://cfzarks.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=2677.

TENNIS UNDER THE LIGHTS

Friday, June 3

7-9 p.m. | Lafayette Park

PARKBOARD.ORG



Events

April – June 2023

EDUCATION & RESOURCES

Springfield-Greene County Library District Free Technology Classes: You can choose what you want to learn and go at your own speed with our self-paced tutorials. We provide the computer and you select from a wide variety of lessons designed specifically for individual learning. Visit thelibrary.org/ComputerTraining, a library branch, or call 417-837-5011 for the schedule. Please note these classes are for adults.

Springfield-Greene County Library District Mobile Library: The Mobile Library is a state-of-the-art bookmobile that delivers books, music, movies. Patrons of the Mobile Library may request delivery of materials from other branch libraries and return materials checked out at other libraries. Patrons may also register to vote on the Mobile Library. Learn more and check out the schedule at thelibrary.org/mobilelibrary.

PTA Clothing Bank Shopping Dates: The PTA Clothing Bank serves the needs of more than 2,000 students each school year through the entire Springfield school district for students K-12. It is located at the Study Alternative Center, 2343 W. Olive St. There is a separate entrance behind the school, on the northeast side of the building. Look for the double doors with the PTA Clothing Bank sign above the door. More information at facebook.com/ThePTAClothingBank.

- Thurs., March 30: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., April 13: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., April 27: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., May 10: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

ARTS, CULTURE & FUN

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

First Friday Art Walk: First Friday of each month, 6-10 p.m., Downtown Springfield. Art lovers "Walk the Walk" throughout the Downtown Arts District, enjoying original art, music, demonstrations and performances in gallery venues. Visit ffaw.org.

Free Family Pass to the History Museum on the Square: Families can check out a free pass to explore all the hands-on exhibits about Springfield's early days and infamous characters. Become part of the story as you "ride" on the passenger train, encounter a Wild Bill Hickok shootout, and immerse yourself in the Birthplace of Route 66. All you need is your library card, and you can check out a pass at any Springfield-Greene County Library branch, the Mobile Library, or Library Express East and Library Express West 24-hour kiosks. Passes admit up to six people and are valid for seven days. For more information and guidelines, about the passes, visit thelibrary.org/pass. The History Museum on the Square is located at 154 Park Central Square.

All School Exhibition: Through April 23: Wed.-Fri. Noon-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Every March, the Springfield Art Museum invites student artists from across our community, in kindergarten through twelfth grades, to exhibit outstanding artworks in the All School Exhibition. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/239/All-School-Exhibition.

Art in Motion: Through July 9: Wed.-Fri. Noon-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. This focus exhibition examines ways that artists portray movement or motion within their work. Pulled from the museum's permanent collection, this exhibit features prints, sculpture, paintings, and drawings by Anne Lindberg, Garo Zareh Antreasian, Jacob Burmood, Sylvia Glass, Ray Howlett, and Carlos Cruz-Diez, among others. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/274/Missouri-State-University-Collaborations.

Cherry Blossom Kite and Piñata Festival: Sat., April 1: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Celebrate culture and spring with Springfield Sister Cities Association. Bring a kite to fly or build one with us, and whack a piñata nearby. Enjoy Japanese and Mexican performances and children's activities, and free admission to Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden as it reopens for the season. All ages. *Free Admission, \$7/Kite kit.*

Easter at the Farm: Sat., April 1: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Rd 146. A day of family-oriented activities celebrating spring, including arts and crafts, games and the Easter Bunny. We'll have 20,000 candy-filled eggs with kids' hunts throughout the day. Kids are limited to 15 eggs each, while supplies last. Bring your Easter basket, but please no cellophane basket filler – it's bad for farm animals. Ages: 12 yrs. and under. *Free admission, some activities have a small fee.*

Holding Space: Contemporary Enamel Vessels: April 8-July 30: Wed.-Fri. Noon-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. This group exhibition focuses on the enamel process through an examination of the vessel form, and features a core body of work by local Springfield artist Sarah Perkins – considered among the leading figures in the contemporary enameling field – as well as work by Beate Gegenwart, Tanya Crane, Harlan Butt, Helen Carnac, Jessica Calderwood, Kat Cole, Yi Chen, Barbara Minor, and the late June Schwarcz. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/273/Holding-Space-Contemporary-Enamel-Vessel.

Floating Easter Egg Hunt: Sat., April 8: 6 months-4 yrs.: Noon-1 p.m., 5-8 yrs.: 1:30-2:30 p.m., 9-12 yrs.: 3-4 p.m., Chesterfield Family Center, 2511 W. Republic Rd. A hoppin' good time with a floating twist! We fill the pool with floating eggs for kids to splash, swim and plunge their way to gathering them up. Every participant receives a prize! Bring a waterproof basket to collect eggs. Children ages 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult in the water. Registration required. ParkBoard.org/Chesterfield. 417-891-1616. *Fee: \$10/Member, \$20/Non-member.*

Author Diane Wilson Presents "The Seed Keeper" During Library's Community One Read: Thurs., April 13: 7 p.m., The Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell Ave. The public is invited to hear author Diane Wilson discuss her book "The Seed Keeper." The novel spans several generations, following a Dakota family's struggles and sacrifices to preserve their way of life and protect what matters most. Her visit is part of the March-April One Read, that encourages the whole community to read the same title and attend related programs. The Library will host a range of programs with the Springfield American Indian Center about sustainable gardening, the Three Sisters seed plantings, and Native American culture. The full schedule is at thelibrary.org/oneread.

Ozarks Life Stories – A Study of the People Who Shaped Our Culture: April 20-May 5, The Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell Ave. This series features topics ranging from Max Hunter: Ozarks Folk Song Collector, to the legacy of golfer Horton Smith, to Ernie Bedell on "Generation B Music & Melodies." The series rounds out with an evening with photographer Bob Linder on Life Though a Lens, and video journalist Ed Fillmer with a collection of his Ozark Life Stories. Visit thelibrary.org/programs for details.

Arbor Day Celebration: Sat., April 22: 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Celebrate Arbor Day with all things trees! 10 a.m. program includes a Mayor's Proclamation and Tree City USA Awards, followed by crafts and activities, guided walks through the gardens, a tree planting with the Greater Springfield Board of Realtors, and free tree giveaways. Tree-themed fun for kids and adults! All ages. *Free.*

Earth Day Festival: Sat., April 22: 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Jordan Valley Park, 635 E. Trafficway. The Ozark Mountain Daredevils return to Springfield to headline the annual Earth Day Music and Sustainability Festival, presented by Kaleidoscope. This one-day multi-band festival takes place in a new location, Jordan Valley Park in downtown Springfield. Proceeds benefit the Ozark Society, Springfield Compost Collective and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. EarthDaySpringfieldMo.org. *Fee: Tickets are \$35, free for kids 12 yrs. and under with a paid adult.*

Master Gardener and Garden Society Plant Sale: Sat., April 29: 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Presented by the Master Gardeners of Greene County and other garden societies. Held rain or shine at the Japanese Garden Pavilion. Arrive early for best selection of trees, shrubs, grasses, perennials, bedding plants, herbs, bulbs and more. All ages. *Free admission, prices vary per plant.*

Farmstead Spring Showcase: Sat., April 29, May 13, June 10: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Presented by the Friends of the Gray/Campbell Farmstead. Discover heirloom arts and history of the 1860s. GrayCampbellFarmstead.org. All ages. *Free.*

Missouri State University MFA Showcase: May 6-28: Wed.-Fri. Noon-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. This special exhibition features works by Master of Fine Arts candidates in the MFA Visual Studies program at Missouri State University. This year's exhibition features six thesis bodies of work by Dana Bridges, Rick Briggenghorst, Meidi Karampour, Teddy Osei, Shauna LeAnn Smith, and Jean Paul Vivas. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/274/Missouri-State-University-Collaborations.

Watercolor USA: June 10-Sept. 3: Wed.-Fri. Noon-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. This is the 62nd exhibition of Watercolor USA, a national, annual juried exhibition recognizing contemporary American watermedia painting. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/246/Watercolor-USA.

Find more local events on the Events Calendar at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com/Events or, for Springfield-Greene County Park Board events, visit ParkBoard.org/Events.

Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods

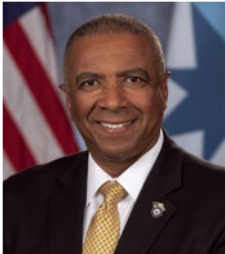
MEET YOUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

* This page will be updated to reflect the results of the April 4 election in the July edition.



ZONE 1

Monica Horton



ZONE 2

Abe McGull



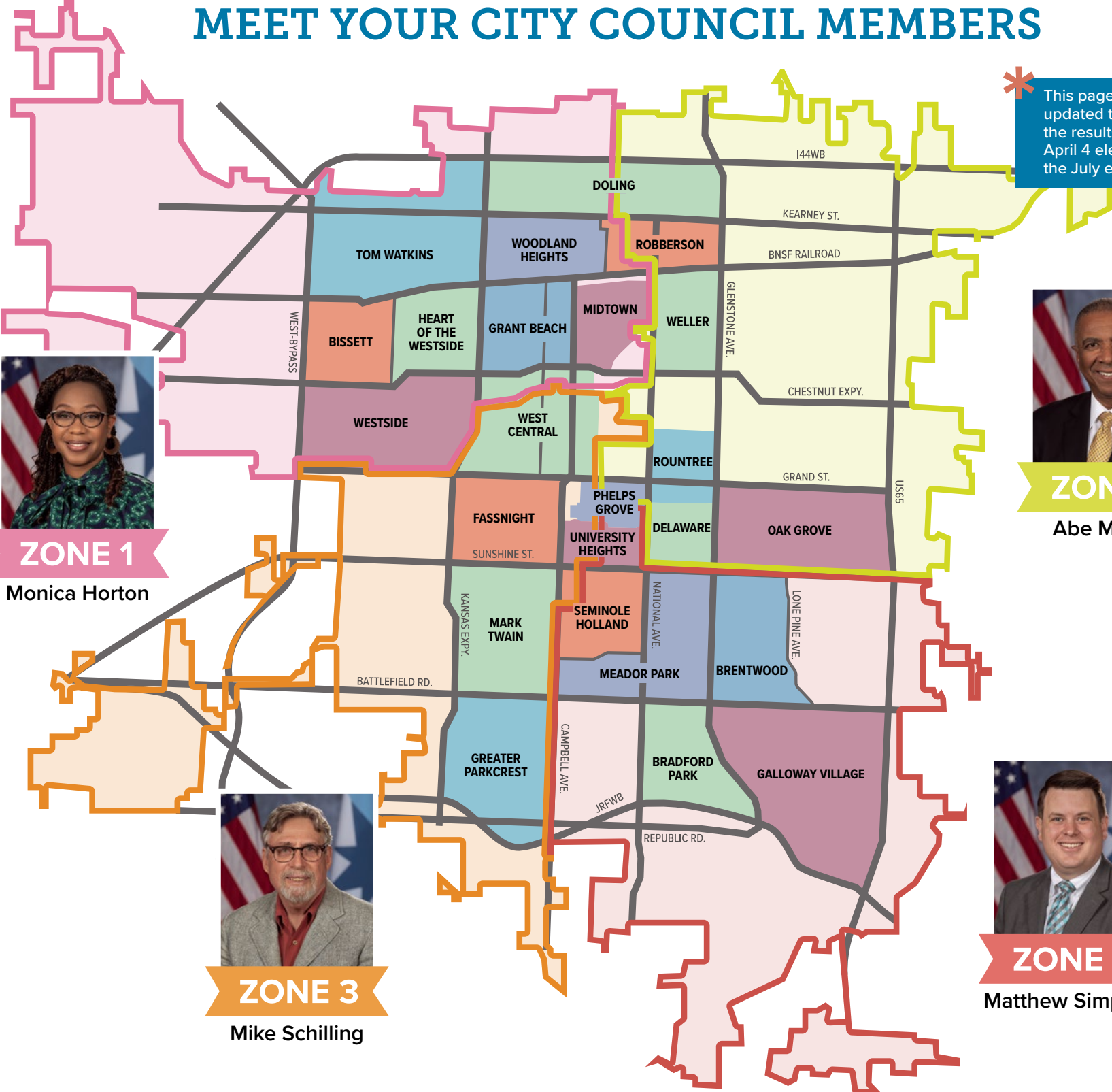
ZONE 3

Mike Schilling



ZONE 4

Matthew Simpson



Ken McClure
Mayor



Heather Hardinger
General Seat A



Craig Hosmer
General Seat B



Andrew Lear
General Seat C



Richard Ollis
General Seat D



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

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Council@springfieldmo.gov

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Remember to Vote April 4



The City of Springfield will have three measures on the April 4 municipal ballot.

For more information on the proposals, check out this story on page 3 of this issue or visit springfieldmo.gov/election.



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