



Restore SGF launches first round of programming to improve Springfield neighborhood conditions

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Residents of some of Springfield's oldest neighborhoods will soon have the opportunity to get reimbursed up to \$2,500 for sprucing up the outside of their homes — the only catch is that they have to work together to do it.

At a ribbon cutting and open house Sept. 14 at its new offices at 1409 W. Sunshine, new nonprofit Restore SGF announced its first program to encourage reinvestment and improve neighborhood conditions: a block grant program where neighbors work in teams to create a chain reaction of improvements.

Homeowners in Woodland Heights, Grant Beach, Doling east of Robberson Avenue, Fassnight and Meador Park east of National Avenue, can apply to participate in Restore SGF's Block Challenge Grant Program, which reimburses neighbors up to \$2,500 to fix exterior maintenance issues, get a fresh paint job, add curb appeal or make other exterior improvements.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS.

- Almost any exterior home improvement project that can be seen from the street is eligible for reimbursement, up to \$2,500.

- Neighbors work in teams of five to 19.
- Participants must be able to see their next team member's home from their front porch or a few steps just beyond. (They are not necessarily next-door neighbors.) If you stand on your porch, can you see the next closest team member's home? If so, your team is forming the way it should.
- Neighbor teams of five to nine persons are eligible for up to \$1,000 reimbursement per member. Neighbor teams of 10 to 19 are eligible for up to \$2,500 reimbursement per member.
- Each team member must be the homeowner, and the owner of record. (Contract for deed properties are not allowed.) The team member must be current on their property taxes.
- The exterior of the property must be in compliance with all City of Springfield property maintenance codes.



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City Council and Planning & Zoning Commission to move out of Historic City Hall

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Springfield City Council and Planning & Zoning meetings will move from Historic City Hall to the Springfield Regional Police-Fire Training Center beginning in October. Renovations on City Hall will take place over the next few years, thanks to voter support of the Level Property Tax.

The Oct. 2 City Council Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the training center, located at 2620 W. Battlefield. Planning & Zoning will host its first meeting there at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 5.

Doors open for public meetings at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting room opening at 6 p.m. Parking is available in front (northside) of the building and along the east and west sides. Security check-in procedures remain the same and the seating capacity mirrors that of City Council Chambers, the previous meeting room. The facility is located on a City Utilities bus line and is handicap accessible.

The City's Department of Public Information & Civic Engagement will continue to live stream the meetings at CityView.Springfieldmo.gov and on [Facebook.com/CityofSGF](https://www.facebook.com/CityofSGF).



The design for the renovated City Hall will include a new stairwell and elevator capable of accommodating medical emergencies, new mechanical and electrical systems, information technology and security upgrades, new public restrooms, renovated office spaces, and Council Chambers. The building most recently housed City Council Chambers, Springfield Fire Department's

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Local Good Neighbor Week celebrations Sept. 28-Oct. 4

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

The City of Springfield, KY3 and other sponsors are partnering for a series of block parties in Springfield parks to celebrate Good Neighbor Week Sept. 28-Oct. 4.

The block parties will be held 5-7:30 p.m.:

- Thursday, Sept. 28 at Chesterfield Park
- Friday, Sept. 29 at Nichols Park
- Monday, Oct. 2 at Smith Park
- Tuesday, Oct. 3 at Fassnight Park
- Wednesday, Oct. 4 at Sequiota Park.

Good Neighbor Week is a statewide event aimed at encouraging acts of kindness. In addition to the City and KY3, Springfield's Good Neighbor Week celebrations are sponsored by Hatch Foundation, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Engaged Neighbor Program at the University of Missouri Extension, Aaron Sachs & Associates, Price Cutter and Springfield-Greene County Library District.

"We used to all gather at our neighborhood park, and it was such a fond childhood memory. I hope we can bring some of that simple joy to the forefront. We really are more alike than we are different." – Brian McDonough

Those who come out to the block parties will meet the KY3 First Alert weather team, receive a free bike helmet from Aaron Sachs and enjoy an ice cream social by Hiland Dairy. Children will also receive free coloring books, courtesy of KY3 and Aire Serv. Entertainment will be provided by some of the finalists from the Great Route 66 Talent Search.

"We understand the importance of strong neighborhoods, and want to promote connections and good will, fostering a sense of community throughout Springfield," said Cora Scott, the City's director of Public Information & Civic Engagement. "Come and learn your park's rich history and discover great volunteer opportunities as well."

KY3 General Manager Brian McDonough hopes attendees will enjoy a nice evening meeting their neighbors in their local park.

"We used to all gather at our neighborhood park, and it was such a fond childhood memory," he said. "I hope we can bring some of that simple joy to the forefront. We really are more alike than we are different."

David Burton, University of Missouri Extension community development specialist, spearheads the Greene County extension's Engaged Neighbor program to encourage the development of engaged neighbor relationships, foster healthy neighborhoods, develop grassroots leaders and fund neighborhood connectors. He will speak at the events and ask neighbors to take a "good neighbor pledge."

"With all of the national attention this week has received, we have increased our goal for reported acts of neighboring and have big future plans,



but we do need Missourians to take action and then participate by reporting what they did on our website," Burton said. "This is also a great time for state residents to nominate someone for recognition as the most engaged neighbor in Missouri."

You can easily nominate top engaged neighbors and report acts of neighboring at missourigoodneighborweek.com.

Contact information submitted is used for reporting purposes and for mailing of prizes. This year, all engaged neighbor nominees will receive a unique keychain by mail, and the top 10 nominees statewide will receive \$100 and a framable certificate. Those judged to have done the "top acts of neighboring" will receive the same prize package.

A submission is an entry to both the statewide and county recognition programs.

Hatch Foundation Director Erin Danastasio got involved with Springfield's Good Neighbor Week because her foundation is involved with Clean Green Springfield, an annual citywide cleanup and beautification campaign, and sees the need to encourage the types of community volunteerism that help make Springfield better.

ABOUT GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK

Gov. Mike Parson signed HB1738 on July 1, 2022 establishing Good Neighbor Week. The bill was introduced by state Rep. Bishop Davidson of Republic.

The celebration period begins on Sept. 28, which is also National Good Neighbor Day (first created in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter). The week is jointly organized by University of Missouri Extension and the Hopeful Neighborhood Project.

"Research shows us that knowing one's neighbors reduces loneliness, crime and isolation, leading to safer and more vibrant communities. Missouri setting aside a whole week is a real game-changer, I think, at a time it was desperately needed." – David Burton



West Central neighbors Jonathan, Melissa and Julius Miller helped remove downed tree limbs from a neighbor's roof after a storm. Read more about it in the West Central Neighborhood section on page 22.

Missourians from all walks of life celebrated the first Missouri Good Neighbor Week (Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2022). The goal was to record 10,000 acts of neighboring, but the week ended with 12,854 acts reported and more than 113 people nominated as engaged neighbors. Nominations of individuals or reports of neighboring came from 63 of Missouri's 114 counties.

"I love discussing the acts of neighboring that got reported," said Burton. "These are the stories that do not normally make the news but are the behaviors that are impactful to our own health, community, and neighborhoods."

In 2022, 17 Missourians, including Sharon Taylor Gullett and Pam Buhr of Springfield, were recognized with statewide awards as part of Good Neighbor Week.

"Research shows us that knowing one's neighbors reduces loneliness, crime and isolation, leading to safer and more vibrant communities," said Burton. "Missouri setting aside a whole week is a real game-changer, I think, at a time it was desperately needed."

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- Examples of eligible projects include (but are not limited to):
 - ▶ Landscaping
 - ▶ Concrete work (driveways, sidewalks, front steps)
 - ▶ Exterior painting
 - ▶ Siding (home or garage)
 - ▶ Roofing (home or garage)
 - ▶ Window repair or replacement
 - ▶ Storm windows.
- Teams submit applications to Restore SGF staff for approval. This includes a group application and every individual team member's completed Scope of Work form, "before" photos and contractor bids (if applicable).
- Staff reviews the projects and renders a decision, usually within two weeks.
- Once the project is completed, the team member fills out the reimbursement form, attaches receipts, invoices and "after" photos, and submits to Restore SGF. Only materials and/or work purchased after approval can be submitted for reimbursement.
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, Sept. 15 to Dec. 1.

"I see this Block Challenge Grant program being a great incentive for neighbors to do the upgrades on their homes they have been dreaming of doing and the team approach will strengthen neighborhoods as neighbors work together," said Neighborhood Advisory Council Chair Becky Volz. A longtime Woodland Heights resident, Volz serves as president of the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association and is on the board of directors for Restore SGF.

HOW WERE THE NEIGHBORHOODS SELECTED?

A selection committee comprised of Restore SGF board members spent considerable time evaluating the neighborhoods in each of the City's four City Council zones. Factors considered included:

- Historic features/preservation
- Community assets within or on the periphery
- Median income
- Housing market is neither in-demand nor rapidly declining
- 50/50 owner/renter mix
- Neighborhood organizations with strong leadership
- Willingness to be open to nationally trending housing solutions
- New large public and/or private investment
- Generally acceptable housing condition but lacks features/updates for today's home buyers
- Average number of vacant properties
- Average crime rate
- Desirable nearby amenities (parks, trails, renovated or rebuilt schools, commercial districts)
- Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) credit for contributing financial institutions.
- Current conditions and opportunities noted from a driving tour conducted from a recent City housing study
- Current and future investments
- Synergy.

"We believe that neighborhood revitalization must go beyond the demolition of condemned



homes," said Restore SGF Interim Director Dana Elwell. "This is why we're focusing on what we've identified as 'middle market' neighborhoods — those that are neither the strongest nor the weakest in the Springfield housing market."

As the strategy proves successful over time, Restore SGF hopes to expand the boundaries of its programming areas and make more neighborhoods eligible for funding with a goal of diverse, mixed-income neighborhoods with rising home prices and a variety of housing options.

The Block Grant Program is just the beginning. Restore SGF plans to launch a homeowner renovation program and a down payment assistance program, Elwell said.

ABOUT RESTORE SGF

Restore SGF was formed to breathe new life into Springfield's core neighborhoods after decades of disinvestment.

An initial \$1.3 million investment from the City of Springfield (\$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and a \$300,000 FY 2023 budget allocation), plus \$1.89 million in investments from Community Foundation of the Ozarks and several area financial institutions allowed the organization to get on its feet. Interim Executive Director Dana Elwell was hired in July.

"As community members, business owners, and citizens of Springfield, it's important we all take pride in our city and work toward improvements that impact our overall quality of life here in the Ozarks," said Joselyn Baldner, Restore SGF board member and president/CEO of Central Bank of the Ozarks. "Restore SGF aims to do just that by bringing together neighbors and local organizations to reinvest in historic neighborhoods. It is only together that we can make every part of our city the best it can be."

Board members

- 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: REALTOR
- Becky Volz: NAC chair
- Heather Hardinger: City Councilwoman
- Richard Ollis: Former City Councilman
- Andrea Brady: community outreach and development manager, Great Southern Bank
- John Everett: president and CEO, Legacy Bank & Trust.

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Contact Dana Elwell at 417-986-6970 or info@restoresgf.com.

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administrative staff, the City's Risk Management Division, and other City staff in office spaces that have not significantly changed since 1976.

The City budgeted \$6,377,000 for the renovations, funded through the City's Level Property Tax, approved by voters in 2017. The original building was constructed in 1891 as a federal building and post office. A major addition was designed and constructed on the north end of the building and wrapped the east side of the building in 1913. The interior would go through major renovations with the addition of a mailing vestibule and a small elevator by the stairs.



In 1936, the courthouse and post office moved to a different location and the building became City Hall. In 1973, City Council designated Historic City Hall as a site on the Springfield Historic Register. Six years later, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 27, 1979.

FALL NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS

**Oak Grove, Brentwood
& Galloway Village**

**SAT., OCT. 14
8 a.m.-Noon**

**Enterprise Park Lanes
(1625 S. Enterprise Ave.)**

**Grant Beach, Midtown
& Weller**

**SAT., OCT. 21
8 a.m.-Noon**

**Cox North Parking Lot
(1471 N. Benton Ave.)**



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or online at cpozarks.org/financial-literacy.



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We'll take your scraps!

City launches new recycling program to reduce food waste

By Kristen Milam, Public Information,
for SGFNN

Apple cores, moldy sandwiches, chicken drumsticks, leftover pasta, eggshells and more — beginning this fall, up to 1,000 area residents will have the opportunity to recycle uneaten food through a new pilot program provided by the City's Department of Environmental Services.

Funded through a \$286,000 Composting and Food Waste Reduction grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the City's Dish to Dirt Food Scraps Recycling pilot will provide participants the opportunity to drop off food waste items for free at any of the City's three recycling drop-off facilities during designated hours. From there, food waste will be transported to the City's Yardwaste Recycling Center and turned into nutrient-rich compost.

"Composting food scraps allows area residents to turn their waste into a valuable resource instead of rotting in the landfill, generating methane and taking up limited space." – Ashley Krug

Food waste represents approximately 14% of the materials sent to Springfield's Noble Hill Sanitary Landfill, according to a waste study prepared for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in 2016. Approximately 42% of that food waste comes directly from our homes. It's estimated that food waste generates over 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions.



"Food waste represents a big problem in the solid waste industry, but I continue to be encouraged by the fact that of all the challenges we face, food waste



is one we can all make a significant impact on right in our own kitchens, back yards and at our City facilities," explains Market Development Coordinator Ashley Krug. "Composting food scraps allows area residents to turn their waste into a valuable resource instead of rotting in the landfill, generating methane and taking up limited space."

A commercial branch of the program is expected to kick off later this year, providing a number of businesses and restaurants with training and resources to recycle their food waste.

"The City has operated a large-scale composting facility at the Yardwaste Recycling Center since 1991," says Krug. "Funding from this grant will allow us to scale up our composting operations and provide the Food Scraps Recycling pilot to residents and businesses for 18 months. We expect to get our hands dirty and learn a lot during that time and will continue working toward overall food waste reduction throughout our community."

Drop-off locations will accept residential food waste through the program beginning Sept. 29. Residents interested in participating are encouraged to learn more and register at springfieldmo.gov/foodscraps.

REGISTER NOW!

**Presented by
Brad Bradshaw, MD JD LC**

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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.

Volume 7 • Issue 4 • Fall 2023

SGFNeighborhoodNews.com

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Produced by the Department of Public Information, City of Springfield, MO.

City Council hears update on Renew Jordan Creek Project in July

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Springfield City Council heard an update on the Renew Jordan Creek project, including updated project renderings, an anticipated project schedule and funding plan, during a July 25 Council Lunch Workshop.

Renew Jordan Creek is a project to “daylight” or uncover 1,100 feet of Jordan Creek and build several bridges in downtown Springfield. The project area consists of two large blocks in the urbanized center of Jordan Valley Park, bordered on the east by Boonville Avenue, Water Street and the railway on the south, Main Avenue on the west, and Mill Street on the north. Later phases of the project envision improvements at Founders Park and the property at 404 N. Jefferson Ave.

The overall project goals include flood reduction and water quality improvements, in addition to pedestrian and connectivity enhancements, sustainable greenspaces integration, comfort and safety improvements and sense of place development.

The project is expected to cost nearly \$30 million to be funded through a variety of sources.

“Almost half of the funding planned for this project is coming from state or federal grants,” says City Manager Jason Gage. “I want to commend City staff and the project team for their hard work to seek out external funding and manage the complex requirements of these grants.”

Local funding from the project will come from the City’s Level Property Tax, ¼-cent and ⅛-cent sales taxes, and Environmental Services Green Infrastructure funds. External funding sources include Surface Transportation Block Grants, Local ARPA funds, Department of Natural Resources

Project rendering of the area between Mill and Water streets in downtown Springfield



(DNR) ARPA funds, a Department of Economic Development ARPA grant, and Environmental Protection Agency and DNR grants.

“We plan on using a low interest state revolving loan program to help make up any shortfall in our funding and provide contingency,” explains City Project Manager Kirkland Preston. “Currently, out of the \$13 million we were approved to borrow, we only expect to use under \$2 million. The project is well positioned to be funded for construction.”

Olsson project manager Jared Rasmussen reported that the engineering design for the project is 90% complete with the 100% plans expected to be provided to the City later this year. The project will undergo environmental review and permitting processes this fall through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and BNSF Railway.

The project team anticipates advertising the project for contractor bids in early 2024, with a target for beginning construction by summer of 2024. Work is expected to last approximately 18 months, with a hopeful completion date in late fall of 2025 or early spring of 2026.

For more project information and to view updated renderings, visit renewjordan creek.com.

You're invited

**Thursday,
OCT. 12
6-8 p.m.**

Springfield Art Museum
1111 E. Brookside Dr.

LakeSGFPlan.com
LakeSGFPlan@springfieldmo.gov

LAKE SPRINGFIELD PLAN
MEETING & OPEN HOUSE

Time and distance offer more control over conflicts

By Cris Swaters, Springfield Police Department, for SGFNN

The holiday season can be a challenging time of year for many in the community. Navigating family dynamics and emotionally charged situations is hard. With that, the Springfield Police Department sees an increase in reports of domestic violence in the last three months of the year.

Before the conflict escalates, separate from the situation. Distance from the conflict can allow you to think of a resolution that doesn't include violence.

Domestic violence is never the victim's fault. It is never trivial, excusable, or deserved. It is a crime that knows no social or socioeconomic bounds and can happen anywhere to anyone.

If you find yourself in a conflict, remember that time and distance equal control. Before the conflict escalates, separate from the situation. Distance from the conflict can allow you to think of a resolution that doesn't include violence.

Anytime the Springfield Police Department receives a call about domestic violence, an officer will respond as quickly as possible.

We know that victims of domestic violence may need additional services because it affects all aspects of a person's life. The Greene County Family Justice Center serves as a central hub of resources for victims or potential victims of domestic violence. Onsite partners like Harmony House, The Victim Center, Burrell Behavioral Health, Legal Services of Southwest Missouri, and the Greene County Prosecutor work together with us to provide comprehensive services to help survivors stay safe. All services are free, confidential and victim-centered.

If you have been the victim of domestic violence, know that it is never your fault. Please reach out to us or the Family Justice Center.



Neighborhoods can help prevent opioid OD deaths with education, training and naloxone intervention

By Aaron Schekorra, Health Department, for SGFNN

In recent years, the opioid crisis has emerged as a critical public health concern, claiming countless lives across the country. According to the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment, the Springfield community, comprised of Greene, Christian, and Webster counties, sees more drug poisoning deaths than the rest of Missouri and the United States. Amidst this crisis, neighborhoods and local associations have the unique opportunity to play a pivotal role in preventing overdose deaths through proactive initiatives such as distributing naloxone (commonly referred to by the brand name Narcan) and raising awareness. By fostering a sense of unity, responsibility, and compassion, communities can transform into powerful agents of change, saving lives and providing a lifeline to those in need.

The opioid epidemic knows no boundaries, affecting urban and rural neighborhoods alike. However, communities have the potential to become the first line of defense against overdose deaths. Establishing neighborhood-based interventions can have a profound impact by ensuring that immediate help is available when it is needed the most. This is where the distribution and education surrounding naloxone come into play.

Naloxone is a medication that can rapidly reverse opioid overdoses. Administered nasally or through injection, it effectively restores normal breathing and provides a crucial window of time for professional medical assistance to arrive. Neighbors equipped with naloxone have the power to act swiftly and decisively, potentially saving lives that might otherwise be lost to overdose.

Education is the cornerstone of any successful neighborhood naloxone initiative. Local associations can collaborate with Springfield-Greene County Health to organize training sessions and receive



crucial information. By teaching residents about the signs of overdose, proper naloxone administration, and the importance of calling emergency services, neighborhoods empower their members with the knowledge and skills needed to intervene effectively.


Neighborhood associations are well-equipped to create a network of support that extends beyond the initial training. Establishing a system where naloxone is readily available, easily accessible, and replenished regularly ensures that no one is left without a lifesaving tool. This network can also serve as a platform for sharing stories of recovery, destigmatizing addiction, and fostering a sense of empathy within the community.

Neighborhoods can play a crucial role in reducing the stigma associated with addiction. By openly discussing the opioid crisis, hosting awareness campaigns, and engaging in conversations about mental health and substance use disorders, communities can create an environment where individuals feel comfortable seeking help. This, in turn, can encourage those struggling with addiction to come forward and access the support they need.

The opioid crisis demands a comprehensive and community-driven response. Neighborhoods and neighborhood associations have a unique opportunity to make a significant difference in the fight against overdose deaths. By distributing naloxone, educating residents, building a supportive network, and reducing stigma, communities can become a force for positive change, offering hope, healing, and a chance at recovery to those most vulnerable. In this collective effort, every life saved through a neighborhood naloxone initiative becomes a testament to the power of unity and compassion.


For more information on making naloxone available in your neighborhood or hosting an overdose prevention training, neighborhood associations and other community groups can contact Springfield-Greene County Health by emailing advocate@springfieldmo.gov.

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Birthplace of Route 66 Festival brings 65K downtown

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The City of Springfield worked with community partners to host the 11th annual Birthplace of Route 66 Festival Aug. 10-12 in downtown Springfield. About 2,000 people joined the Emerald City Band for the Rockin' the Route Concert and Street Party to kick off the festival Thursday evening.

Many City departments, including the Department of Public Information & Civic Engagement, Public Works, Environmental Services, Police, Fire, Health, Parks, Planning and the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management provided significant support for the festival, which saw 65,000 people visit Springfield. Visitors from **22 states** checked in at the Information Tent on Park Central Square. Staff also spoke with visitors from **seven different countries**, including families from Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Colombia and Mexico.

Keeping residents and visitors alike safe, as well as all parts of the city accessible and welcoming, was a top priority during the three-day event. Significant financial and logistical support came from event partners Aaron Sachs & Associates/Ozarks on Two Wheels (presenting sponsor); KY3/KSPR; West Central Neighborhood Alliance; University Plaza and Rotary Clubs of Springfield.



Continuous trash pick-up service by Environmental Services and Public Works kept the festival footprint clean, and continuous shuttle service provided by both City staff and volunteers made the mile-long footprint easier to navigate, particularly for those with physical handicaps.

Festival founders Jack and Tammy Stinson served as the grand marshals of the Birthplace of Route 66 Parade Friday night. The Stinsons also received the John T. Woodruff Award for their contributions to preserving and celebrating Route 66.

New to the festival this year was the Great Route 66 Talent Search. Long-time Springfield entertainer Vic Vaughan won the professional division and Brecka Henderson won the amateur category. They will now have an opportunity to audition for America's Got Talent. Thanks to Councilwoman Monica Horton, Sam Timmerman, Ty Barnes and Jessie Cowen for judging the competition.

The Kansas City Chiefs Champions Tour was a part of the festival this year, thanks to private donors and City of Springfield support. The Chiefs brought the Super Bowl Trophy to the Springfield Expo Center, the use of which was donated by University Plaza. Chiefs alumni players Neil Smith,



Danan Hughes and Brandon Williams joined Mayor McClure and other elected officials in the '57 Chevy Custom Float in Friday night's parade. The event ended with a rally at the Aaron Sachs stage.

Josie and Wilmer Erfling from Hermann were first-time visitors to the festival. They emailed the following detailing their experience at the festival:



"What a terrific time we had! We came with another couple to scope out your event for our small, local car club. Everything about it was so well planned for us. The city workers that blocked the streets with the BIG trucks were so helpful and pleasant. The drivers of the shuttles were all so friendly and helpful. We absolutely LOVED the Emerald City Band. If they are back next year, we will be back for sure. The ladies selling T-shirts were fun too! We loved the parade and the free food while waiting. All of the directions sounded so intimidating until we were on site; then it made so much sense! We stayed at the University Plaza, which was a perfect location for us. We will be back! Thank you for providing a wonderful event for car folks young and old. PS: Honestly, the rain was a welcome break ... time to rest and regroup!"

FUN FACTS

- Total number of registered cars in the show: 560
- Parade entries: 592
- Vendors: 50 plus
- Musical acts: 50 plus
- 4 stages
- Winners of the Talent Search:
 - Pro: Vic Vaughan
 - Amateur: Brecka Henderson
- Estimated overall attendance: 65,000 despite the rain and heat.

Voters approve recreational marijuana sales tax

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Springfield voters in August passed a ballot measure to add a 3% sales tax on the retail sale of adult use marijuana, also known as recreational marijuana. The tax is estimated to generate about \$1.8 million per year.

"[Council] could spend all funds in one program, divide them evenly or take a more customized approach. If they should focus on long-term programming using the funds, then it is possible they will prepare a longer-term funding plan similar to our capital improvement program." – Jason Gage

Proceeds from the tax will be used for public safety, mental health services, housing and substance abuse services. City Manager Jason Gage said he expects that City Council will budget certain dollars for each (or all) categories they wish to address each budget year, depending on the programming. "They could spend all funds in one program, divide them evenly or take a more customized approach. If they should focus on long-term programming using the funds, then it is possible they will prepare a longer-term funding plan similar to our capital improvement program," he said.



Mayor Ken McClure is pleased with the result, saying the funds will be put to good use, addressing critical issues in the community.

"We are very grateful for the support of the community with this passage," he said. "Community health, public safety, and the housing shortage are important issues. I am pleased we will have additional funds for these purposes."

Retail sales of recreational marijuana are already taxed by the state of Missouri at a rate of 6%. The sales tax rate in the city limits of Springfield is 8.1% for all retail goods, which includes the City's sales tax rate of 2.125%.



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Must be 18 and live in the 58 county service area. Military veterans and spouses receive Priority of Service.

This ad was prepared by the City of Springfield using federal funds under award ED22HDQ3070090 from the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of Economic Development Administration or the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Good Jobs Challenge logo is a trademark of the Economic Development Administration. Used with permission.

RUTLEDGE-WILSON FARM PARK

Harvest FEST

FREE
ADMISSION

WEEKENDS, Oct. 7-29

Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. | Sun., 12-6 p.m.



ParkBoard.org/HarvestFest

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

City Council resolution provides light at the end of the nuisance-property tunnel

By Becky Volz, for SGFNN

It was in June of 2020, the early stages of our city's Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan, that I received the first draft of the Housing & Neighborhoods vision statement and goals. There it was — the 20-year plan. (They had started on the plan in June of 2019). Our City leadership was expressing interest and concern for the conditions of our neighborhoods and housing stock. Of course, the conditions of our declining neighborhoods have been discussed for decades. Would this new plan start the ball rolling? I am optimistic!

In October of 2020, CPO (Community Partnership of the Ozarks) brought together a group of stakeholders creating the Nuisance Property Subcommittee. We started looking at how to address growing issues and concerns with housing conditions for our neighbors. From this subcommittee, the Nuisance Properties Work Group was formed in January of 2022 where we honed in on the problems and developed some solutions.

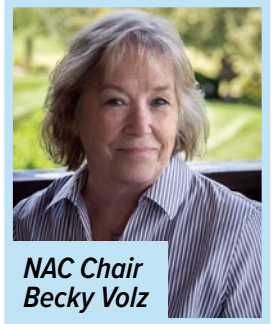
This past August, City Council adopted a resolution that focuses on addressing nuisance properties. We can truly celebrate the progress here!

In May of this year, the Nuisance Property Work Group, led by Rusty Worley, presented our report to the City Council. Included in the report were recommendations for investments by the City of nearly \$665,000 initially and an additional \$125,000 annual increase in City expenses.

Also we recommended replacing the rental registration program with an actual inspection program, changes in city code, as well as a new City staff position dedicated to residential nuisance properties and dedicating resources to deal with root causes such as poverty and disinvestment. It was found in some of the research that from 2015-2020 there were 17,000 code complaints with 71% of those from rental properties.

This past August, City Council adopted a resolution that focuses on addressing nuisance properties. We can truly celebrate the progress here! A short summary of the requirements of this resolution includes

- Reporting data quarterly to City Council on nuisance properties



NAC Chair
Becky Volz

- Asks the Finance and Administration Committee to assess escalating fees and fines for chronic nuisance properties and report recommendations based on the findings.
- The Community Involvement Committee will be asked to consider the feasibility of all recommendations from the Nuisance Property Work Group's Final Report and present their findings to council. The resolution also aligns with the city's Forward SGF Plan's initiative to support and invest in revitalizing neighborhoods.

You've heard it before: timing is everything — even when it's not on our desired schedule. Think about when we look at a clock — we don't see all the moving parts behind the face that changes and advances where the hands are pointing and what keeps the clock hands moving. Some clocks are incredibly complicated and have so many moving parts. As neighbors, helping neighbors and speaking up and getting involved, we are the moving parts and our efforts will be noticed. Progress is moving forward, second by second. And that feels really slow but it is one house at a time, one empty lot at a time, one boarded up building at a time. Don't give up. We can overcome discouragement by working together.

Speaking of moving part, all the while the Nuisance Property Work Group was working away creating recommendations for City Council, City staff have been working behind the scenes with a lot of moving parts. Here are three things you can look into.

- The comprehensive plan has wrapped up. Look at the final plan for Housing & Neighborhoods at <https://forwardsgf.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ch7HousingNeighborhoods.pdf>.
- A Housing Study has begun and will have final reports in November. You can dive into these details at springfieldmo.gov/housingstudy What we have learned from the consultants with APD Urban Planning and Management so far is that nearly two-thirds of all residential properties in Springfield are more than 50 years old. More than 2,000 residential properties — about 5% of all housing — were found to be in a poor to dilapidated condition.
- The process of updating land development and municipal codes per the Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan has begun. The City created place teams for citizens to participate in. Consultants with Multistudio have been hired to review and recommend updates with an expected report at the end of 2024. This is a huge and much-needed update.

Learn what's going on. Engage with your neighborhood association. I just know there are some brilliant ideas sitting on a front porch somewhere waiting to share. Keep the light on!



BISSETT NEIGHBORHOOD

Construction at Hillcrest and Nichols to improve the roadway.



Neighborhood Works projects making a difference in Bissett

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

With the recent completion of two public improvement projects and a third soon to be completed, the City's Department of Public Works and those working with them are making a huge impact in Bissett.

With the school year getting rolling, roughly half of our neighborhood's elementary-aged school children can now walk to school via a concrete sidewalk instead of a dirt (or mud) cow path! This project for a sidewalk between the walking trail of L.A. Wise Park and the school walkways has been in the works for several years, but has been delayed due to the complexity of building the sidewalk on an area that traverses both Springfield-Greene County Park Board and Springfield Public Schools properties. Many thanks go out to Traffic Safety Professional Mandy Buettgen, our friends in Parks, Public Works, Bissett Elementary and SPS Facilities who all played roles in making this happen.

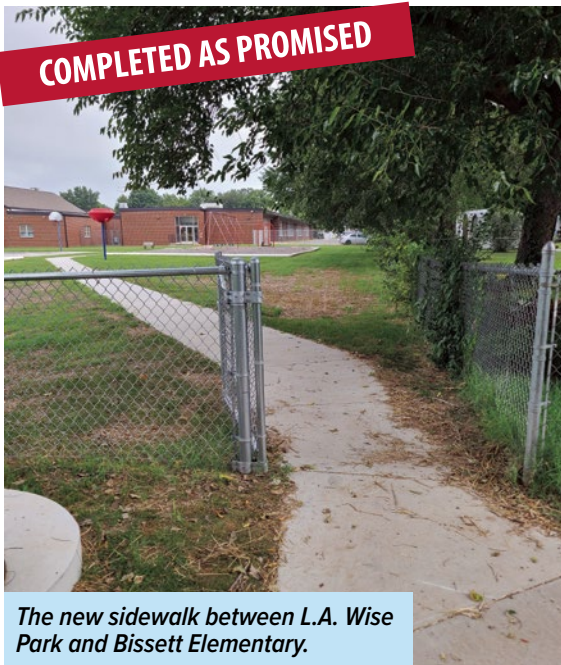
for cars, trucks, school buses and pedestrians — especially now that school is back in session.

And last, but certainly not least, are the improvements underway on Hillcrest, including the widening of its intersection with Nichols, and street and sidewalk repairs and replacement all the way to Brower. Scheduled to be complete this fall, the work will virtually eliminate the many times trucks and trailers would drop tires into the ditch at the Nichols/Hillcrest intersection — often requiring a tow truck to get them out. It will make a huge difference for pedestrians — including our Eden Village 2 neighbors — walking along Hillcrest on a sidewalk often to get to the bus stop at Nichols. Before the sidewalk replacement, this was dangerous due to slopes, breaks and a steep drop into a ditch, and was impassable for those in wheelchairs or anyone in icy weather. And with the added driveway for the church at the Nichols/Hillcrest corner, egress for the patrons on Sundays and Wednesday nights will be safer and much improved. Again, Tina Stob and her colleagues deserve much credit for designing this project and seeing it through to completion.

Of course, none of these projects would be possible without the work of many construction workers, line locators and others. Working these kinds of jobs in tight locations and through some of this summer's brutally hot temperatures is not easy. Our hats are off to all of them!



COMPLETED AS PROMISED



The new sidewalk between L.A. Wise Park and Bissett Elementary.

Another big deal is the widening of Glenn Street between Division and Calhoun. Huge thanks to Senior Designer Tina Stob with Public Works. This project, just approved in May, is a reality and makes this heavily traveled connector into our neighborhood considerably safer and easier to drive

COMPLETED AS PROMISED

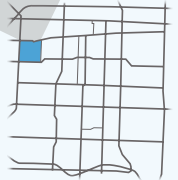


Glenn Street, post-construction.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 10 • Nov. 14 • Dec. 12 • Jan. 9: 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
jovertan@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow Bissett on  

Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!



Glenn Street, before the construction to widen it.

BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD



Brentwood's Unity church celebrates 90th birthday

By Brandy Martin, for SGFNN

On June 24, Unity of Springfield celebrated its 90th Birthday. The celebration included a cook-out, live music from local artist Dallas Jones, kids' activities such as face painting, numerous giveaways, and of course, birthday cake. It was a wonderful time of connection and fellowship.

There is food available 24/7 in the parking lot and indoors Monday-Thursdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Unity supports a number of unsheltered and food insecure families with this food ministry and your unexpired donations are always welcome.

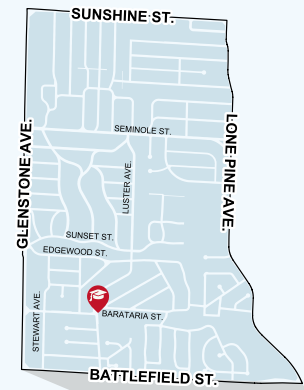
In addition to its own church ministry, Unity gets out into the CommUnity. Each year, Earth Day is celebrated with Planet Unity which is a day-long festival geared towards education and celebration of things we can do for our environment. From November through March, Unity operates a Cold

Weather Crisis Shelter. The CommUnity Cupboard is one of the few no barrier food pantries in the area. There is food available 24/7 in the parking lot and indoors Monday-Thursdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Unity supports a number of unsheltered and food insecure families with this food ministry and your unexpired donations are always welcome.

Weekly events include African Drumming, a book discussion group, two Al-Anon group meetings, and an Abraham/Hicks discussion group. On the first Thursday of every month, Unity hosts a Drum Circle. There are extra instruments for those who are just wanting to check it out. Upcoming events at Unity include Diversity Game Night, psychic medium Steffany Barton, a concert with Daniel Nahmod, and an Artist Showcase. For more information, please go to unityofspringfield.org.



Planet Unity, April 2023



Connect

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

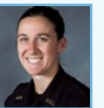


Neighborhood Association Meetings

The meeting schedule varies. Please check brentwoodsgf.org or contact an officer to find out the details of the next meeting.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

Follow Brentwood on  
brentwoodsgf.org

SGF Yields Lantern Walk

Saturday, Oct. 7

The Brentwood neighborhood route starts at 6:45 p.m. at Field Elementary School

Local neighborhoods and community partners invite you on an evening stroll with lanterns aglow! Play some games and learn about safe walking habits.

Read the full story in the Phelps Grove section on page 18. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.

UNITY ARTISTS SHOWCASE

OCTOBER 14
1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Art in a variety of mediums will be on display including sculpture, pottery, oil painting, jewelry and quilts. There will be a concession stand for refreshments.

2214 E. Seminole St., Springfield, MO 65804



First day of school, Aug. 22 at Field Elementary School (2120 E. Barataria St.)

Summer Party celebrates new playground at Kirkwood Park

By Amy Hunsaker-Williams, for SGFNN

On Tuesday, Aug. 8, the Brentwood Neighborhood hosted a Summer Party to celebrate the installation of the new playground equipment at Kirkwood Park. The association participated in the Neighborhood Works grant program and earned \$100,000, which was used to purchase and install the new equipment. Due to COVID-related delays, there was much anticipation around the installation and the new equipment is a wonderful addition to the neighborhood. The Summer Party included a food truck, music, lawn games, and an opportunity to experience the new equipment and build community.



Brentwood Neighborhood Association adds three committees to increase engagement

By Amy Hunsaker-Williams, for SGFNN

The Brentwood Neighborhood Association formed three new committees this year to help reach our goals of revitalizing a sense of community amongst our neighbors, the local businesses located within our boundaries, and the businesses owned by our neighborhood residents. Those committees consist of the social committee, the business committee, and the membership committee. These committees are tasked with organizing existing and new events and activities, finding new ways to include and involve local businesses, and encourage greater participation and membership in our neighborhood association. We look forward to a fantastic year of community events and the planning of many, many more!



FRIENDLY REMINDER

If you are an existing member of the Brentwood Neighborhood Association (or looking to join), membership renewal fees are due Oct. 1. You can submit a new application and/or pay your dues on our website, brentwoodsgf.org.

Join Brentwood for Good Neighbor Week Celebration Oct. 4

By Amy Hunsaker-Williams, for SGFNN

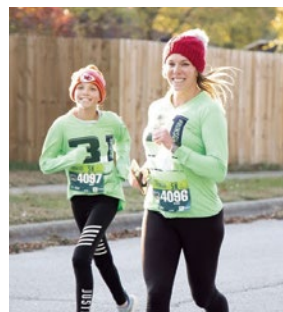
The Brentwood neighborhood will participate in the Good Neighbor Week Celebration at Sequiota Park on Oct. 4. This event is designed to coincide with Missouri's Good Neighbor week, Sept. 28-Oct. 4. Missouri's Good Neighbor Week encourages citizens of Missouri to "participate in events and activities to establish connections with their neighbors." The 2023 goal of the organization is to document 15,000 acts of "neighboring" in the state of Missouri. In the future, the Brentwood neighborhood hopes to support their efforts by establishing one day a year in which the residents of our neighborhood can make an intentional effort to help one another with household repairs, chores, clean up...or simply provide any small gestures of kindness. But, for now, we will join the City of Springfield in their celebration. More information about this event will be released soon. In the meantime, we encourage our Brentwood residents to be thinking about how they can benefit their neighbors through acts of kindness, and we encourage you to check out this list provided by KY3 at <https://www.ky3.com/2021/07/20/ky3-kids-100-acts-kindness/>.



Join Brentwood neighbors Nov. 5 to aid marathon runners

By Amy Hunsaker-Williams, for SGFNN

The Nov. 5 Bass Pro Fitness Series Conservation Marathon is a Boston Marathon qualifier, suitable for beginners and experienced athletes alike. Participants from various levels will enjoy picturesque routes through neighborhoods, trails, historic Route 66, Missouri State University, and downtown Springfield. With mainly flat terrain and a scenic course, the event starts at Bass Pro Shops and ends at Wonders of Wildlife Museum.



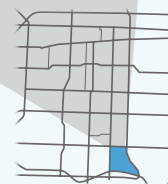
The Brentwood Neighborhood Association will once again participate in the event by hosting one of the many aid stations along the race route and offering race appropriate drinks and snacks for runners. A theme will be chosen soon and all residents are welcome to join us at the table to cheer on the runners. And we will also use this as yet another opportunity to build community by hosting a neighborhood pancake breakfast!

BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 10 • Nov. 14 • Dec. 12 • Jan. 9: 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 [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [g](#)

Thanks to Bradford Park neighbors who place neighborhood meeting signs

By Dellene Nelson, for SGFNN

Great Neighbor Awards went to our neighbors who always place the street sign reminders of our meetings out on the street corners: Butch McDowell, Suzanne Drennon, Amanda Messerly, Jeanne Strom, Nancy Shelton, Sherry Clopine, Sharon K., Jennifer Lohr and Brenda Jones. Thank you!



Staff at Amanda Belle's Farm at CoxHealth are enjoying an upgraded processing area thanks to funding from the USDA Missouri Department of Agriculture and the Timken Foundation of Canton. – Springfield Community Gardens.

DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD



Delaware hosts 4th annual Lemonade Crawl in August

By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

Delaware Neighborhood held one of its most popular events again in August – the Lemonade Crawl. This was the fourth annual event, which started in the summer of 2020 in response to CPO's Neighborhood Challenge. CPO encouraged neighborhoods to have a creative event with safe COVID practices, and the Lemonade Crawl was born (and took first place in the challenge!). The event has become well known and was even written up in the 417 Home magazine 2023 Design Awards edition.



This year we had 'Four for the 4th' – four lemonade stands vying for three awards – Best Lemonade, Best Stand, and Best Overall. A fourth, impromptu award was added for Best Lemonade Additive (for the adult beverages). The four stands were the Lemon Lounge, Captain America's Marvel-ous Lemonade, Lexi's Lovely Lemonade, and the Oceanside Lemonade Stand. All of the various lemonades were delicious and creative. Make plans to join us in 2024 for the fifth annual Lemonade Crawl!



Connect

- Nancy Williams, President:
delawareneighborhood@gmail.com
or 417-496-2187
- Paris DePaepe, Treasurer
- Cynthia Yarborough, Secretary

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 3 • Nov. 7 • Dec. 5 • Jan. 2: 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  

SGF Yields Lantern Walk

Saturday, Oct. 7

The Delaware guided neighborhood route to Phelps Grove Park starts at 6:10 p.m. at Delaware Elementary School.

Read the full story in the Phelps Grove section on page 18. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.



DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 19 • Nov. 16 • Dec. 21: 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 Thieman: 417-874-2537
nthieman@springfieldmo.gov



 Fremont Elementary School
2814 N. Fremont Ave.

 Watkins Elementary School
732 W. Talmage St.

Follow Doling on  

SGF Yields Lantern Walk

Saturday, Oct. 7

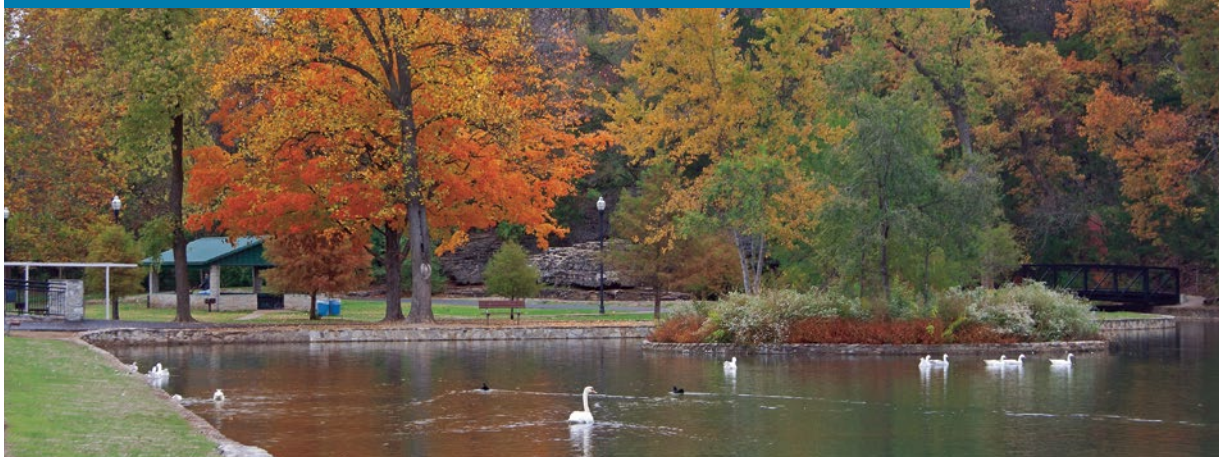
The Doling neighborhood route to Commercial Street starts at 6:30 p.m. at Lafayette Park.

Local neighborhoods and community partners invite you on an evening stroll with lanterns aglow! Play some games and learn about safe walking habits.

Read the full story in the Phelps Grove section on page 18. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.



GALLOWAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD



Exploring the rich history of Sequiota Park

By Reva Koehn, for SGFNN

Nestled within the heart of Springfield, Missouri, Sequiota Park stands as a serene oasis where history and nature intertwine, offering visitors a glimpse into the region's past while providing a peaceful escape from the bustling city life. Spanning over 90 acres, this cherished park has evolved over the years, transforming from a bustling recreational area to a preserved haven of tranquility.

Sequoiata Park's history dates back to the late 19th century when it was known as Sequiota Cave and Mill. The park's centerpiece, Sequiota Cave, once attracted curious explorers and entrepreneurs alike. In the late 1800s, the cave became a popular tourist attraction, offering guided tours to those eager to marvel at its unique geological formations and underground wonders. The accompanying mill, powered by the flow of nearby Galloway Creek, played a crucial role in the local economy, grinding grain for the surrounding community.

As the years went by, the park underwent several transformations. The cave lost its appeal as a tourist hotspot, and the mill's importance diminished with the advent of modern milling methods. However, the park's natural beauty remained a draw, prompting the city to acquire the land and open it to the public in the 1920s. It was during this period that Sequiota Park transitioned from an industrial site to a recreational haven, attracting families, nature enthusiasts, and picnickers.

In the mid-20th century, Sequiota Park experienced a renaissance. A beloved stone bridge, reminiscent of a European countryside, was constructed over the creek, adding a touch of elegance to the park's landscape. Trails were developed, meandering through lush woodlands and open fields, providing opportunities for hiking and exploration. These enhancements solidified the park's reputation as a cherished destination for both locals and visitors.

In recent decades, Sequiota Park has continued to evolve. The Friends of the Garden, a local volunteer group, has been instrumental in preserving and enhancing the park's natural beauty. Educational programs, nature walks, and community events are now regularly held, fostering a deep appreciation for the area's ecosystem and history.

Today, Sequiota Park stands as a testament to the enduring connection between human history and

the natural world. Its serene setting offers a respite from the demands of modern life, inviting visitors to stroll along its trails, listen to the babbling creek, and find solace among the trees. The park's rich history, from its days as a bustling mill and cave attraction to its current incarnation as a beloved green space, serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving our past while embracing the beauty of the present.

Galloway's very own recently put together the second annual "Picnic in the Park" held at Sequiota Park. With over 45 meals served, consisting of hot dogs, chips, Italian ice, and beverages, families enjoyed the serenity of the park with fellow neighbors. Giving back to the community, Galloway Village Neighborhood Association donated the remainder of the chips to Sequiota Elementary. The remaining hot dogs, Italian ice, and water were served at National Night Out (another great neighborhood event).



Sequoiata Park is more than just a park; it's a living tapestry of history and nature woven together over generations. From its origins as a cave and mill to its transformation

into a cherished recreational area, the park stands as a testament to the enduring relationship between humanity and the environment. As visitors explore its trails and soak in its tranquility, they become part of the park's ongoing story, contributing to the legacy that is Sequiota Park.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 17 • Jan. 16: 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

SGF Yields Lantern Walk

Saturday, Oct. 7

The Galloway Village neighborhood route starts at 6:45 p.m. at Sequiota Elementary School

Local neighborhoods and community partners invite you on an evening stroll with lanterns aglow! Play some games and learn about safe walking habits.

Read the full story in the Phelps Grove section on page 18. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.



Battlefield improvements take shape between Luster and Lone Pine avenues

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Construction on the Battlefield Corridor Improvement Project – a collection of roadway and intersection improvements along East Battlefield Road between Luster and Lone Pine avenues – continues this fall with major portions of the project expected to take shape in September.

The project combines a number of necessary roadway improvements and repairs into one large project in an effort to reduce costs, coordinate traffic control and minimize impacts to traffic and area businesses. The project includes intersection improvements at Battlefield and Lone Pine Avenue, a new trail connection from Galloway Creek Greenway Trail, intersection improvements at Battlefield and Luster Avenue and concrete pavement panel replacement along the corridor.

Stormwater drainage improvements were completed at the intersection of Battlefield and Lone Pine in early September, along with the completion of the trail connection, reports Project Manager Nicholas Edelman.

“Over the next month, the contractor plans on having the right turn lane northbound to eastbound completed as well as the turn lanes on Battlefield to Lone Pine,” says Edelman. “While this work is being completed, north-south traffic will be shifted at times to a single lane only in both directions. The straight and turning movements will all be happening out of one lane.”

Concrete panel replacement along the corridor is planned to begin in October. The public can expect a variety of single lane closures as the concrete work takes place. Traffic is expected to remain flowing. Motorists are urged to use caution and may experience minor delays.

“So far everything has gone smoothly and we’re on track to have these improvements completed by winter,” says Edelman.

The Battlefield Corridor Improvement Project is expected to cost \$1.4 million and is funded through a combination of sources including the ¼-cent Capital Improvement and ⅛-cent Transportation sales taxes.

For more information on the project, visit springfieldmo.gov/battlefieldcorridor.



GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD



Kathy Lutz remembered as beloved wife, mother and grandmother and for service to her neighbors in Grant Beach

Provided by Herman H. Lohmeyer Funeral Home

Kathy Lynn Lutz (née Pearl), 67, of Springfield, Missouri, passed away at Mercy Hospital on June 20. She was born on June 12, 1956 in Iberia to Alva Pearl and Anita Crane. She married Bruce Lutz on June 12, 1975. Kathy devoted her life to community service projects. She was an integral part of the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her husband, Bruce Lutz; and her children, Tracey Lutz, Jessica Clements (née Lutz), and Michael Lutz.

Memorial services were held June 28 at The Fairbanks with Pastor Joshua Wilmoth officiating under the care of Herman H. Lohmeyer Funeral Home.

Kathy had served as president and most recently as vice president of the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association. She will be missed.



Connect

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




Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 16 • Nov. 20 • Dec. 18: 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  



Gardens AGLOW 2023



SELECT DATES ♦ Nov. 24-Dec. 31 ♦ 5-8:30 P.M.

Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden 2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield, Mo.

FRIENDSOFTHEGARDEN.ORG



Friends OF THE GARDEN



The PARK
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD

HOME & ENVIRONMENT

AUTUMN GUIDE

Learn more about what we do for the citizens
of SGF at springfieldmo.gov/environment



**WASTE
WATER**



**SOLID
WASTE**



**STORM
WATER**



CITY OF
Springfield
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES



BUY ONE, GET TWO
BOG2

MOMULCH

Sept. 5 - Nov. 4 (While supplies last)

Only at the Yardwaste Recycling Center.

Bulk unscreened MOMulch only.

springfieldmo.gov/MOProducts

Cash, card & check accepted.

A PLACE FOR & YARDWASTE LEAVES



FALL IS HERE AND SOON LEAVES WILL BE

EVERYWHERE. Understanding how to responsibly dispose of yardwaste - leaves, grass clippings and branches - is a vital aspect of being a good steward of the environment, your property, your neighborhood and the community's resources.

WHAT, WHERE & WHY

The landfill is not the place for yardwaste. In fact, it is against state law to dispose of yardwaste in the trash. The Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC) was designed specifically for the disposal of yardwaste and organics.

WHAT IS ACCEPTED?

The usual suspects of limbs, sticks, leaves and grass clippings are always accepted. Beyond those, we accept debris from gardens and even fall organic decorations like cornstalks, gourds, pumpkins and hay bales (remove wire, candles or string). Please bag leaves and grass and bring them to any of our three recycling centers. There is a 10 bag daily limit at the Lone Pine and Franklin Ave. centers.



WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED?

Some exceptions to yardwaste items that should be disposed of at the landfill include: rootballs, rocks, lawn bags, boxes, and limbs that do not match specifications above.

PRO TIP: Make your trip easier by disposing of yardwaste at the YRC. There are no stairs to climb, materials are accepted unbagged, and there's less traffic.

HATE TO WAIT? Organize at home and have your items ready to unload before arriving to speed up your visit.



Don't know if your items can be recycled or where they can be disposed of? Go to springfieldmo.gov/wastewizard and search your item.

The Waste Wizard will give you information on ways to responsibly dispose of items, whether that be donation, recycling or the landfill and places where items can be taken.

Solid Waste Fall Events

Landfill for the Long-Haul: Landfill Awareness Event

October 13 | 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Noble Hill Sanitary Landfill
3545 W. Farm Road 34, Willard

Sign up for tours at springfieldmo.gov/landflltours

Boo at the Bin: Trash or Treat

October 27 | 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Lone Pine Avenue Recycling Center
3020 S. Lone Pine Avenue

Pumpkin Smash: The Return

November 4 | 9 a.m. - noon

Yardwaste Recycling Center
3790 S. Farm Road 119, Brookline

America Recycles Day: Customer Appreciation Events

November 15 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

All City recycling centers



*Let's make beautiful
compost together*

Register to receive your own yellow bin and help us recycle food scraps by visiting springfieldmo.gov/foodscraps

**Read full article on page 4 of
SGF Neighborhood News!**

Fall Native Plants

Mums are a fall staple but they are not native to our region. The Ozarks have many beautiful plants that flower in the fall that are suited to our region's climate and generally require minimal watering once established and no chemical fertilizers or pesticides. The long root systems of native plants make them particularly useful in absorbing stormwater runoff. Native plants also provide important food sources for butterflies and birds.

Consider planting native plants instead of mums. Below are some good options for beautiful blooms in fall!

Learn more at grownative.org.



Aromatic Aster
Symphyotrichum oblongifolium
Flowers Oct. to Nov.
Growing Zones 3-8
Full sun
1 - 3 feet



Black-Eyed Susans
Rudbeckia hirta
Flowers late summer to fall
Growing Zones 3-7
Full sun
2 - 3 feet



Missouri Coneflower
Rudbeckia missouriensis
Flowers summer to fall
Growing Zones 5-8
Full sun
2 - 3 feet



Purple Cone Flower
Echinacea purpurea
Flowers summer to fall
Growing Zones 3-8
Full sun to part shade
2 - 5 feet



Showy Goldenrod
Solidago speciosa
Flowers summer to fall
Growing Zones 3-8
Full sun
2 - 3 feet



Sky Blue Aster
Symphyotrichum oolentangiense
Flowers late summer to fall
Growing Zones 4-8
Full sun
1 - 5 feet



Smooth Ironweed
Vernonia fasciculata
Flowers summer to fall
Growing Zones 4-9
Full sun
2 - 4 feet



Sneezeweed (Helen's Flower)
Helenium autumnale
Flowers summer to fall
Growing Zones 3-8
Full sun
2 - 5 feet



Wild Bergamot
Monarda fistulosa
Flowers summer to fall
Growing Zones 3-9
Full sun to part shade
2 - 4 feet



Only Rain Down the Drain

Don't rake, sweep or blow leaves, grass clippings or yard debris into the street or storm drain.

This practice is discouraged due to how it degrades the quality of our water, affects the stormwater drainage system, can cause a safety risk and is a violation of City Code.

Though yardwaste is organic, it adds nutrients to streams that contribute to algae growth. It also affects the water quality of our streams and

can even clog storm drains -

causing flooding in streets, intersections and neighborhoods.

Grass and leaves may be disposed of at the Lone Pine Avenue and the Franklin Avenue recycling centers and of course you can always use it in home compost.



Don't forget that the storm drain nearby goes straight to our local streams.

It is not intended to be a depository for **oil** and **soap residue** or **excess fertilizers**. Disposing of these in the storm drain is actually against the law!



Please take care to bag up your yardwaste and not rinse any chemicals or trash into the storm drains.

Report clogs or pollution in City storm drains by calling (417) 864.1010 or visiting springfieldmo.gov/environment.

Upcoming native plant sales:

November 4 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Hosted by Watershed Committee of the Ozarks at Wire Road Brewing

DON'T POUR GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN!

It's normal for a little food to go down the drain in the kitchen, but the sink is not an ideal place to dispose of food waste. Rather than washing or flushing away unused goods, proper disposal is key to prevent clogged pipes, costly plumber bills and sewer infrastructure issues throughout our city. Even a garbage disposal won't eliminate the negative effects that food, fats, oils and grease have on your plumbing and the City's sewers.

Check out the City's new Dish to Dirt Food Scraps Recycling Program on page 4 of SGF Neighborhood News for a better way to dispose of those food scraps!

Never wash these down the drain:

- Fats
- Oils
- Grease
- Dairy Products
- Flour
- Eggshells
- Pasta
- Rice
- Bones
- Coffee Grounds
- Cigarette Butts
- Medications & Pills
- Produce Stickers



Grease clogged in pipes



Instead of pouring your holiday grease down the drain, collect it in a can or jar, lid it, cool it and dispose of the container in the trash.



Q&A WITH EVERETT KELLEY: What is smoke testing?

Everett Kelley has worked for the City for 25 years in various roles, but currently serves as a Sewer Operations Coordinator managing the Private Sewer Repair Program. Everett helps the City make sewer repairs to meet regulatory requirements and help citizens discover problems in their own sewer lateral connections that could save money and prevent serious issues in the future.

Q: WHAT IS SMOKE TESTING?

A: Smoke testing is one of several methods used to determine potential sources of inflow and infiltration, or I&I, in sanitary sewer infrastructure. Inflow is the rainwater that flows into sewers via roof downspouts, foundation drains and other improper connections. Infiltration refers to the groundwater that seeps into sewer pipes through holes, cracks and other damage to sewage pipes. Water from I&I does not belong in our sanitary sewers and can overload the system causing overflows as well as issues at our two wastewater treatment plants.

Odorless smoke is generated using a gas-powered motor in which "smoke" oil is heated into a vapor and then dispersed through sections of public sewer mains and private lateral connections using a high-pressure fan. The smoke will filter through cracks, breaks and other defects located throughout the sewer system and provides a visible sign of sewer issues. Smoke sightings above ground are documented by staff members according to location, density and area.

Q: HOW DOES SMOKE TESTING HELP THE CITY IMPROVE THE SEWERS?

A: Smoke testing is used to identify issues in the City's sewer mains, but it also helps identify defects on private property that may qualify for no-cost repairs through the City's Private Sewer Repair Program. By eliminating the sources of excess water

identified during testing, the City is able to reduce large flows observed at the wastewater treatment plants and lessen the risk of overflows, sewer back-ups and other environmental hazards in homes, neighborhoods and businesses.

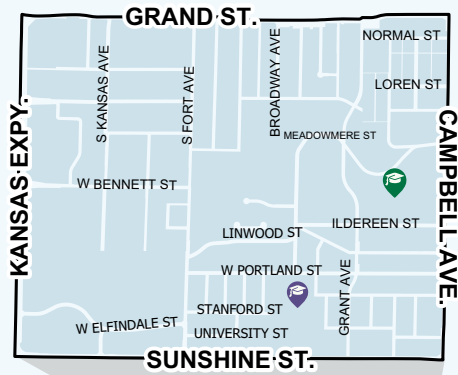
Q: HOW DOES SMOKE TESTING AFFECT ME?

A: There is a potential that smoke can enter buildings due to improper sewer connections, dry plumbing traps and illicit connections. This is an opportunity for you, the homeowner, to alert City employees performing the testing and get help identifying the source in the home. If the harmless smoke enters your home during the test, that means sewer gases may be regularly entering as well.

We recommend residents pour several cups of water down all floor drains and rarely used sinks, bathtubs and toilets in the days before smoke testing in your neighborhood. If you have health concerns about the smoke potentially entering a home we encourage you to work with City staff prior to testing to make necessary accommodations. It's also good for property owners and residents to be aware that City personnel will be entering yards to determine if there are any leaks or breaks in sewer lines. We send a postcard notification to property owners and residents in the weeks prior to conducting smoke testing, and we place door hangers out 24-48 hours prior to a test to make sure those at home are aware. There will also be visible signage around the area as the smoke testing is occurring.



FASSNIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 3 • Nov. 7 • Dec. 5 • Jan. 2: 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 Stevin Cisneros: 417-864-1138
scisneros@springfieldmo.gov

Parkview High School
516 W. Meadowmere St.

Jarrett Middle School
906 W. Portland St.

Follow Fassnight on

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



Springfield Skate Park, 945 W. Meadowmere St.

GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD



Republic Road Widening construction to progress westward to Campbell Avenue this fall

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Construction on the final phase of roadway widening along Republic Road has progressed this summer as crews plan to tackle improvements on and west of Campbell Avenue beginning in September.

The project involves the widening of Republic Road from three lanes to five lanes between Fairview Avenue and the traffic signal at Chase, including sidewalk and Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades, stormwater improvements and the addition of bike lanes. At the intersection of Campbell Avenue and Republic Road, traffic signals will be upgraded and additional turn lanes will be added. Signal upgrades will also be completed at Republic Road and the driveway at Chase. Construction will extend north on Campbell Avenue, including updates to stormwater and utility infrastructure. The project is designed to provide better integration between Campbell Avenue, Republic Road and James River Freeway.

Construction efforts over the summer have yielded the completion of a majority of Republic Road improvements located east of Campbell. City contractor Capital Paving has completed utility work, stormwater installations, curb and gutter, sidewalk installation and concrete paving on this segment of the project as well as the installation of an upgraded traffic signal at the Chase entrance.

The public will begin seeing more construction activity on Campbell Avenue in September and October with stormwater infrastructure, curb and gutter, sidewalk and paving operations all anticipated for installation during that timeframe.

Utility relocations have begun along Republic Road west of Campbell, but stormwater work and other roadway construction will not ramp up on that portion of the project until crews have completed most of the work on Campbell Avenue.

"So far the contractor has kept traffic impacts to a minimum and traffic flow has been maintained in all directions," explains Project Manager Nicholas Edelman. "We still expect to keep lane closures limited to overnight hours so we can keep this busy area moving during the day."

The Republic Road Widening project is anticipated for completion in December. The \$5.4 million project is funded through the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax, Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds and is also a cost-share with the Missouri Department of Transportation.



Connect

- Ken Brooks, President:
- Tom Wyrick, Vice President
- Debbie Butts, Secretary
- Joe Stokes, Treasurer
- greaterparkcrestneighborhood@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 19: 6:30 p.m. @ The Way Church (903 W. Katella St.) Meetings are held on an as-needed basis at 6:30 p.m. Contact a neighborhood officer to find out about the next scheduled meeting.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Stevin Cisneros: 417-864-1138
scisneros@springfieldmo.gov

Horace Mann Elementary School
3745 S. Broadway Ave.

Follow Greater Parkcrest on

Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Garage Sale

Oct. 5-7

Call Janet at 882-1241 if you have unwanted items you would like to donate to benefit the association.



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

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

Elections & Bylaws Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 14 • 6 p.m.

Passion Assembly of God Church
(806 N. Forest Ave.)

Voting Details To Be Announced.
Check Facebook for updates.

Food Pantries

Nichols Park Food Pantry

Oct. 4: 9:30-11 a.m., 1900 W. Nichols St.

New Growth Food Pantry

Oct. 21 • Nov. 18 • Dec. 16: 9 a.m.- Noon,
1351 N. Marion Ave.

College Street Baptist Food Pantry

Oct. 21 • Nov. 18 • Dec. 16: 10-11 a.m.,
2216 W. College St.



MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Meador plans a boo-nanza of fun events this fall

By Bobbi Ream, for SGFNN

Summer was a good time! From "Adopt-a-Street" and Coffee at the Dancing Mule organized by Donna Clarkson to National Night Out with Christine Fish setting us up for our guests to blow bubbles in the breeze.

136th District Rep. Stephanie Hein reviewed the 2022/23 Missouri legislative session and visited with us while we enjoyed an ice cream treat. Rep. Hein also brought copies of the Missouri House of Representatives publication for children "DO YOU KNOW MO."

We have a great fall lined up with BOO-NANZA on Saturday, Oct. 21 (rain date Oct. 28), this event will be 2-4 p.m. at the Cowden Elementary School parking lot. Our Ghostly DJ, Jason Gish will be returning this year with his spooky music. We have added Dena, The Balloon Lady along with a bounce house and City Parks and other surprises.

Wear your own best costume and join this event with your best dressed doggie for the parade. There will be prizes.



Boo-nanza, October 2022

We are looking into a really big surprise for a holiday event and looking a little further into the future: Citywide Neighborhood Kickball will return in the spring. Who would like to be on the team?

VERY GOOD NEWS

Neighborhood Cleanup (dumpster day) is returning to a Saturday in the spring – there will NOT be a fall cleanup.

As you see we are in need of many, many volunteers for these special events, join us and let's get acquainted. You can also check us out on Facebook.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Sept. 28 • Oct. 26 • Dec. 28: 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

Mobile Library Stop

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

Tuesdays: 1:20-2 p.m.

Battlefield Towers (1451 E. Woodland St.)

Wednesdays: 6:45-7:15 p.m.

S. Dollison Ave. & E. Downing St.



Meador Park Neighborhood Association at National Night Out Aug. 1.



MARK TWAIN NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 10 • Nov. 14 • Dec. 12 (Holiday Social) • Jan. 9: 7 p.m. @ Sunset Church of Christ (1222 W. Sunset St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Stevin Cisneros: 417-864-1138 scisneros@springfieldmo.gov

Mark Twain Elementary
2352 S. Weaver Ave.

Follow Mark Twain on



A giant thank you to all of the families and friends who came out to enjoy your neighborhood park for the second annual Mark Twain Days on Sept. 9! If you missed it, don't worry. There's more opportunities to join us, and we are hoping to expand the event in the future! – Carolyn Goucher

OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

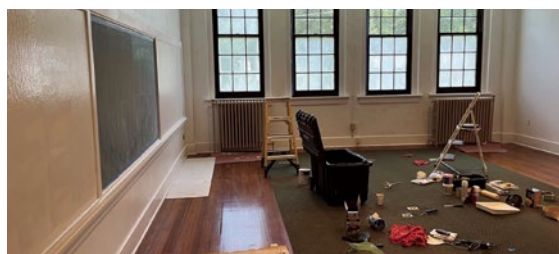


New Moon Studio Space finds home in Oak Grove

By Melissa Haase,
Managing Editor

After a false start trying to convert the former Doling Elementary School building, the owners of a place for artists to create are over the moon about their recent opening in Oak Grove.

Husband and wife Kate Baird, an artist, and Mike Stevens, executive director of Moxie Cinema, opened New Moon Studio Space in September at 2574 E. Bennett. The building was most recently the home of Junior League of Springfield, but housed Oak Grove Elementary School from 1935 until the 1980s. The school, annexed by Springfield Public Schools in 1956, served the former unincorporated community of Oak Grove Heights.



"Private and shared studio spaces in a range of sizes are available," says Baird. "The studios are housed in the old Oak Grove School building dating to 1935, so many of the studios are former classrooms with large windows and abundant natural light. Rent for studio spaces will likely range from \$125/month to \$795/month. There are also a variety of other spaces on offer."

Amenities include:

- 24-hour access
- WiFi/internet
- climate-controlled spaces
- off-street parking.

"We aim to meet the needs of a range of creative practices and attract a mix of emerging, mid-career and established artists," Baird said.

If you are an artist looking for space to create, visit newmoonstudiospace.com.



Connect

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

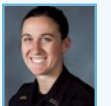


Neighborhood Association Meetings

Meetings are held 6-7 p.m. at Oak Grove Community Center in January, March, May, July, September and November on the last Tuesday, unless there's a holiday and then the meeting will be the Tuesday before. 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)



Adopt-a-Street Cleanup Oct. 14

We furnish grabbers and trash bags. No advance sign up is needed – just show up at Holy Trinity Catholic Church (2818 E. Bennett St.) at 9 a.m. and meet your neighbors!

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

Oct. 9 • Nov. 13 • Dec. 11 • Jan. 8: 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  



A big Midtown thank you to Courtney Donaldson for using her talents to beautify our neighborhood! Courtney is an art teacher here in Springfield.

PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



SGF Yields hosting Lantern Walks Oct. 7 in several neighborhoods

By Mandy Buettgen-Quinn, for SGFNN

October is national Pedestrian Safety Month. Springfield's Pedestrian Safety Campaign, SGF Yields, works with neighborhoods to make walking fun and safe.

Set for the first Saturday of October, Springfield residents are invited to join in on a lovely evening stroll with lanterns!

Starting at sunset, participants stroll with their illuminated lanterns along the designated one-mile route. Along the way, there are multiple stations where children learn safe walking tips. Drivers learn about crosswalk safety and parents are encouraged to practice safe street crossings with their children during the walk. Residents along the route can help make the autumn walk especially beautiful by placing lights along the sidewalks, decorating their porches and applauding the children for their beautiful lanterns.

Lanterns can easily be crafted at home, or families may attend a free lantern workshop at the Springfield Art Museum.

The main event will take place at Phelps Grove Park where families have the opportunity to play games, join the 0.3 mile parade and learn about pedestrian safety along the way. You may park near Phelps Grove Park. If you wish to walk further away for a longer stroll, you may join one of the neighborhood lantern trains that start at nearby elementary schools and lead to Phelps Grove Park (Sunshine Elementary, Delaware Elementary and Rountree Elementary).

Lantern Walks will also take place across Springfield, passing through Commercial Street, led by the Woodland Heights and Robberson neighborhoods and in West Central, Galloway and Brentwood neighborhoods.

Lanterns can easily be crafted. If you need ideas or want to participate in a lantern-making workshop ahead of the event, come to the Springfield Art Museum at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6.

For more information visit springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.



Connect

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

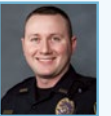


Neighborhood Association Meetings

Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month in the Fire Station 1 Community Room (720 E. Grand St.) Contact a neighborhood officer to find out the time.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

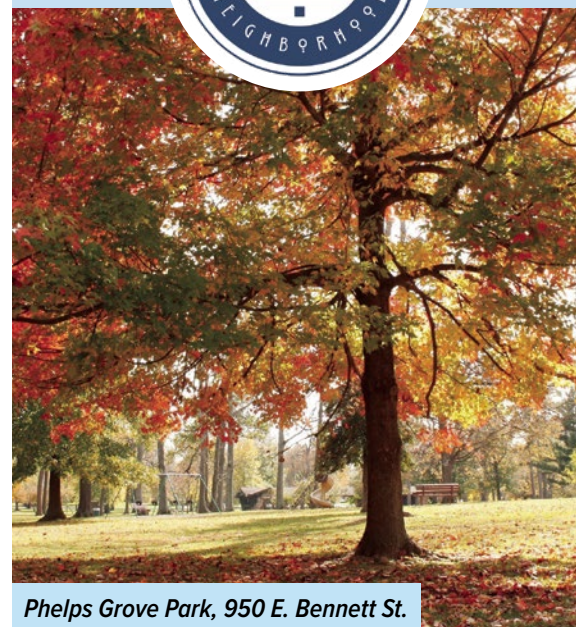
Officer Scott Wallace: 417-864-1194
swallace@springfieldmo.gov



Follow Phelps Grove on  
phelpsgrove.com

Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!



Phelps Grove Park, 950 E. Bennett St.

ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD



Updates to Rountree Urban Conservation District pave way for new neighborhood plan

By Mike Brothers, for SGFNN

Greetings, neighbors! This is a reminder and a thank you. A reminder that after six years of engagement and input, City Council voted on updating the Rountree Urban Conservation District document on June 26. The UCD has been in place since 1985 and was last amended around the turn of the century. In 2015 the RNA began requesting dialog with the City on updating the UCD again, and that process began in 2017, first with the creation of the Rountree Neighborhood Plan, a visioning document. The UCD is the mechanism by which the Neighborhood Plan is brought to life and is the culmination of several years' worth of engagement within the neighborhood, working with City staff.

Specific to the UCD, a steering committee and two subcommittees formed, one focused on the interior residential portion of the area and one focused on the commercial areas at the edges. Those groups met 15 times from 2019 to 2022. There were many different disciplines who worked in these groups: architects, engineers, realtors, business owners, developers, property owners and residents. One final open house in December 2022 presented the proposed changes to the public for comments and more input.

THANK YOU to everyone who's given time and input on the neighborhood plan and UCD over the years. If you haven't been following or would like

to know more, some great resources are below. One good way to learn about what's being proposed is watching the explanation to City Council from its meeting on June 5. Senior City Planner Alana Owen provided a great overview beginning at the 2 hr., 20 min. mark in the video, link below. About 30 minutes of Council dialog and public input follows that.

Here's a quote from her presentation worth noting about how the UCD fits in with the major comprehensive plan (ForwardSGF) that the community approved last year following a citywide public input process: "This (UCD) proposal is really at the heart of what ForwardSGF recommends, all the way from the vision statement at the very beginning of the plan where it talks about creating placetypes where people want to live and work, all the way to the guiding principle of 'quality of place' and then all throughout the document, every chapter, from the housing and neighborhoods chapter to the economic development chapter. ... It talks about quality of place, creating placetypes, beautifying corridors, and updating the development code to be able to implement the recommendations of the plan. We're looking at updating the city code citywide — this is the same thing on a smaller scale for this neighborhood."

View all materials from the UCD update at <https://www.springfieldmo.gov/5828/Rountree-UCD>.

Smashburgers in Rountree!

By Nancy Evans, for SGFNN

Rountree residents walk, ride, or run to Casper's! The long-awaited opening of Casper's has finally happened, located in the building that formerly housed Anton's Coffee Shop, at 937 S. Glenstone. Kitchen Manager Ed Tucker was kind enough to take a few minutes to chat with me. At 1:30 on a Wednesday afternoon the restaurant was busy and people were still walking in. One can only assume they were going to order one of the many delicious items, fully smothered in chili. Previously served only on Mondays, Veggie chili is now available every day. A new item will soon appear on the menu as well. What will it come with? Chili, of course! Is the chili spicy? Nope, but for the spice-fire lover there is a plethora of hot sauces from which to choose, including the specially ordered Gunslinger, made with red jalapenos. Neighbors, we now have



smashburgers and chili in the neighborhood. As Ed says, "come on in, it's been a while!"

Casper's is open 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with a drive-through opening hopefully mid-September.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 17 • Nov. 21 • Dec. 19: 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  

SGF Yields Lantern Walk

Saturday, Oct. 7

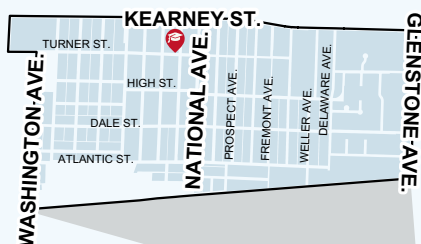
The Rountree guided neighborhood route to Phelps Grove Park starts at 6 p.m. at Rountree Elementary School.

Read the full story in the Phelps Grove section on page 18. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.



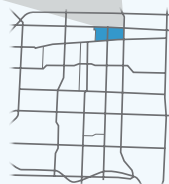
It started as an idea...What if for one day everything stopped? And we all just listened to the music? Play Music on the Porch Day in Rountree was Aug. 26. Musicians played live music on five different porches throughout the neighborhood for two hours, including this one on Pickwick. Rountree neighbor Barb Thurman's energy, love of people, and love of music were the driving force behind this event. THANK YOU, BARB, for making this happen! – Nancy Evans

ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Mary Ann Bonetti, President:
ladyemage@msn.com
- Phyllis Evans, Secretary: 417-693-4023 or symbroomrider@att.net
- Dolly Vranka, Treasurer



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 17 • Nov. 21 • Dec. 19: 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  

SGF Yields Lantern Walk Saturday, Oct. 7

The Robberson neighborhood route to Commercial Street starts at 6:30 p.m. at Lafayette Park.

Local neighborhoods and community partners invite you on an evening stroll with lanterns aglow! Play some games and learn about safe walking habits.

Read the full story in the Phelps Grove section on page 18. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.



Robberson Community School
(1100 E. Kearney St.), January 2023.
Photo Credit: Michelle Obermaier

SEMINOLE HOLLAND NEIGHBORHOOD



Fall brings several events to Seminole Holland

By William Cooper, for SGFNN

Hey there, have you caught wind of all the buzz in the Seminole Holland Neighborhood? Get ready for a whirlwind of fun events coming your way!

Hold onto your hats, because on Saturday, Oct. 7, 5:30 p.m., we're teaming up for a super cool Lantern Walk from Sunshine Elementary School to Phelps Grove Park. It's a family-friendly extravaganza you won't want to miss.

And guess what? The fun doesn't stop! Monday, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m., we're revving up the energy again with a general membership meeting at Messiah Lutheran Church.

Now, remember this one: Sunday, Nov. 5, brace yourselves for the Bass Pro Cheering Challenge. We're in it to win it, and we want you to be part of our team. While the details are still cooking, you better believe we're aiming for that sweet victory and some extra cash for the association!

Last but not least, Monday, Nov. 25, at 6 p.m., we've got a board meeting lined up at Messiah Lutheran Church. You're absolutely invited!

Stay tuned for more updates and get ready to join in on all the action. See you around the neighborhood!

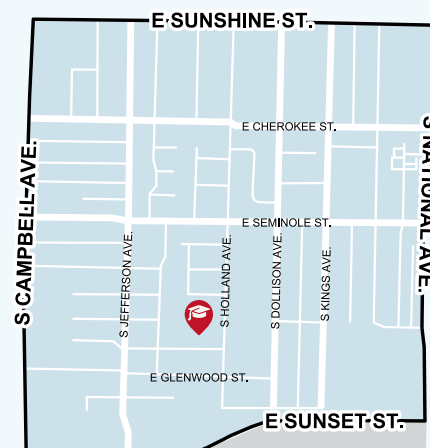
For more information about the Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association visit SeminoleHolland.com.

SGF Yields Lantern Walk Saturday, Oct. 7

The Seminole Holland guided neighborhood route to Phelps Grove Park starts at 6:15 p.m. at Sunshine Elementary School.

Local neighborhoods and community partners invite you on an evening stroll with lanterns aglow! Play some games and learn about safe walking habits.

Read the full story in the Phelps Grove section on page 18. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.



Connect

- Willa Williams, President
- Shanna Boyle, Vice President
- William Cooper, Secretary
- Amy Shelburn-Zarins, Treasurer
- SeminoleHolland@gmail.com



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Nov. 25: 6 p.m. @ Messiah Lutheran Church (925 E. Seminole St.) Meeting schedule varies. Please check the website, Facebook page, or email us for the latest updates.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



 **Holland Elementary School**
2403 S. Holland Ave.

Follow Seminole Holland on  
seminoleholland.com

Mobile Library Stop

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

Wednesdays: 6:45-7:15 p.m.

S. Dollison Ave. & E. Downing St.



Messiah Lutheran Church, 925 E. Seminole St.

TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Colby Wallace, President
- Denver Tindell, Vice President
- Kayla Chatman, Secretary
- Maria Tindell, Treasurer
- twna.sgf.mo@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

General meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday in February, May, August & November. Board meetings are in January, April, July and October. Board meetings are open to all members. Contact neighborhood officers or check our Facebook page to find out the time and location.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Williams Elementary School
2205 W. Kearney St.

Follow Tom Watkins on

Mobile Library Stop

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

Tuesdays: 4:30-5 p.m.

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



**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
- uhnsgf@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 4 • Nov. 1 • Dec. 6 • Jan. 3: 5:30 p.m.

@ Springfield Art Museum Community Room
(1111 E. Brookside Dr.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Sunshine Elementary School
421 E. Sunshine St.

Follow University Heights on

SGF Yields Lantern Walk

Saturday, Oct. 7

The University Heights guided neighborhood route to Phelps Grove Park starts at 6:15 p.m. at Sunshine Elementary School.

Local neighborhoods and community partners invite you on an evening stroll with lanterns aglow! Play some games and learn about safe walking habits.

Read the full story in the Phelps Grove section on page 18. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.



Sunshine Elementary School, 421 E. Sunshine St.

WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 5 • Nov. 2 • Dec. 7 • Jan. 4: 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



Thanks for the community support and bearing the heat with us on Aug. 25 for our Neighborhood Night Out. A special thanks to the Springfield Police Department, Washington Avenue Baptist Church, Springfield-Greene County Library District, Weller Community Garden, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Springfield-Greene County Park Board and Weller Community Church. And big thanks everyone for all the donations. It's deeply appreciated.

WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD



New West Central president reflects on what makes neighborhood remarkable

By Duane Keys, for SGFNN

West Central, one of Springfield's oldest neighborhoods, shines not just for its historic charm but for the warmth and unity of its residents. Known as the most walkable neighborhood in town, West Central is where neighbors come together to make a difference in each other's lives.

The Birthplace of Route 66 Car Show and Festival, an iconic event that rolls through West Central every year, recently witnessed a remarkable display of neighborly camaraderie. This beloved gathering, started by West Central in 2011, attracted an astonishing 560 car show entries and brought over 60,000 visitors to our neighborhood. But behind the scenes, it was the dedicated volunteers from O'Reilly Auto Parts and our very own neighbors who braved sweltering heat and drenching rain to ensure the car show's smooth operation.

One visitor from Texas described it as "the best run and managed car show" he had ever attended. The secret to its success? Neighbors helping neighbors. The dedication of these volunteers, fueled by a love for their community, made this event unforgettable.

In West Central, it's no secret that the neighborhood includes some of the poorest residents of our city, but it also includes some of the most generous. Another example of this community spirit is the addition of a community fridge. Several neighbors have taken it upon themselves to regularly fill it with fresh produce and frozen foods, creating a valuable resource for those in need. Their selflessness exemplifies the true spirit of neighbors helping neighbors.



The community's commitment to preserving its natural beauty is another testament to West Central's spirit. Regular stream cleanups of Jordan Creek, which meanders through our neighborhood, demonstrate a shared commitment to environmental stewardship. These gatherings, often accompanied by BBQs and community bonding, highlight the neighborhood's dedication to preserving its unique natural assets.

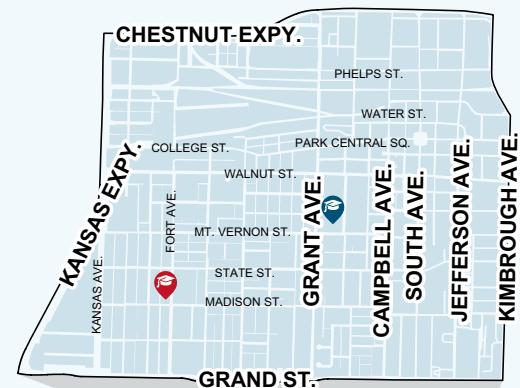


Recently, a fierce storm left one neighbor with a tree perilously perched on her home. The Miller family of West Walnut (Jonathan, Melissa and Julius) and another neighbor took matters into their own hands. They worked tirelessly in the early morning hours to remove the bulk of the tree, sparing their neighbor further damage. Their determination and kindness are a shining example of neighbors coming together to lend a hand.



These stories emphasize the importance of nurturing a culture of mutual aid. West Central is a place where checking on your neighbor isn't just a polite gesture but a meaningful act of community care. They remind us that, in this neighborhood, we're not just neighbors; we're lifelines for each other.

If you'd like to be part of this incredible community and join in on the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors, we encourage you to consider becoming a member of the West Central Neighborhood Alliance. Together, we can continue to look out for one another, lending a hand when needed and nurturing the vibrant spirit that defines our remarkable West Central community.



Connect

- Duane Keys, President:
duane.keys@gmail.com
- Caroline Murski, Vice President
- Rusty Worley, Treasurer:
rusty@itsalldowntown.com
- Kathleen Cowens, Secretary

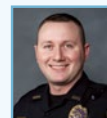


Neighborhood Alliance Meetings

Oct. 24 • Nov. 28 • Dec. 26: 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Broadway United Methodist Church (545 S. Broadway Ave.)

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  

SGF Yields Lantern Walk

Saturday, Oct. 7

The West Central neighborhood route starts at 6:45 p.m. at the corner of Grant Avenue and Walnut Street.

Local neighborhoods and community partners invite you on an evening stroll with lanterns aglow! Play some games and learn about safe walking habits.

Read the full story in the Phelps Grove section on page 18. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.



Better Block SGF announced June 24 that the community fridge is now open at Urban Roots Farm in the West Central neighborhood.

Grant Avenue Parkway construction moves into West Central neighborhood

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Construction continues along the Grant Avenue Parkway as contractor crews focus on sections 3 and 4 located north of Parkview High School where utility work and the beginning stages of roadway improvements are beginning to take shape.

Crews anticipate expanding construction north into the West Central neighborhood this fall depending on progress and conditions in sections 3 and 4. The acquisition of necessary right-of-way easements directly along the route also continues to progress.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE BY SECTION:

SECTION 2 (SUNSHINE TO ILDEREEN)

Grant Avenue has reopened to two-way traffic between Ildereen and Sunshine streets using a temporary pavement surface. With heavy construction equipment still expected to use this route, the final asphalt pavement is not planned for application until construction is complete between Sunshine and University.



The City is still in the process of acquiring necessary right-of-way easements between Sunshine and University streets so Parkway improvements can be constructed. This work will require various lane closures and traffic impacts at the intersection.

Details of the traffic impacts will be communicated as soon as updated information is available.

SECTIONS 3 & 4 (CATALPA TO STATE)

Grant Avenue is currently **one-way southbound only** using the west side of the roadway from Meadowmere to Grand. Construction crews have finished up utility work in this section and are finishing up concrete work along the east side of the roadway. In late September crews expected to shift construction activity to the west and move the southbound lane over to the east side of the road. The one-way traffic condition in these sections is expected to remain through the winter.

Some property owners directly impacted by the project in these sections may have begun to receive communication via mail regarding needed right-of-way easements. This outreach will be conducted in phases with several groups of property owners set to receive letters through the fall.

SECTION 5 (STATE TO WALNUT)

As utility work wraps up in section 4, construction crews are gearing up to begin utility relocations north of State Street. This will require the closure of Grant Avenue to southbound traffic only using a single lane of traffic. Northbound traffic is advised to follow the posted detours generally utilizing Campbell Avenue. This one-way shift is expected to take place in early fall depending on construction progress and conditions in other sections of the Parkway. Information will be communicated as soon as details are available.

For more information about the Grant Avenue Parkway project and to sign up for regular project updates, visit grantavenueparkway.com

Owners of Urban Roots Farm make difficult decision to put farm in fallow

Provided by Urban Roots Farm

This is hard.

Melissa and Adam have made the very difficult decision to put Urban Roots Farm in fallow at the end of the summer. For 14 years, in various configurations, we have barely made this work. In 2009 Mel and Adam built the farm together (with gobs of help from our community), and worked it side by side for six years. They worked insane hours, and side jobs along the way to keep things afloat, and it was theirs, and they loved it. In 2016, Adam went to work off the farm, and Melissa and Alyssa carried on with the insane hours, and far less pay than they deserved. In 2018, when Melissa and Adam took a job in Arkansas building Red Barn Farm, Alyssa stepped up to run the show, and when she was ready to move on three years later, Kevin and Carsen jumped in.



A lot of variables drove our decision to hit the pause button now rather than later, and we want you all to know that we, Adam, Mel, Kevin, and Carsen are continuing forward into great opportunities in farming.

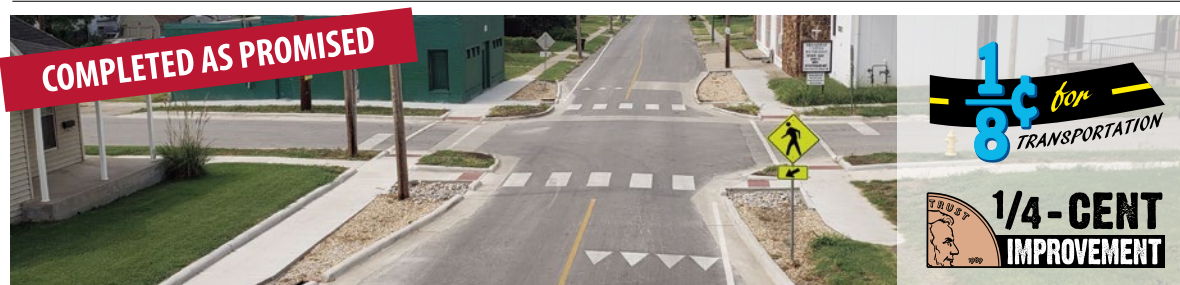
Mel and Adam are building Turnbuckle Farm, which Mel calls their graduate program, in Bentonville, Arkansas, and Kevin and Carsen have accepted a great opportunity to continue their farming careers.

Rather than thinking of this as an ending, we are looking at it as a rest. We will keep the property that houses the farm, give the soil some much needed cover-cropping love, and wait for clarity in what comes next for this place we love so much.

For now, Adam's brother Curtis (Millsap Farm), is going to support the CSA and on-site farmstand.

The farm has been an enormous part of our identities for the last 14 years. We love our customers, the community which has grown around the farm, and being farmers. We continue to be incredibly grateful to our community for the support you have given over the years. Some of you have been part of the farm community for nearly as long as we've been farmers. Others of you have only just joined, but all of you are the reason it lasted this long.

Please stay tuned as we continue this journey, and please continue to support small farms.



Intersection improvements at Broadway and Mt. Vernon were completed this summer including traffic calming modifications to help enhance vehicle and pedestrian safety. Rain gardens to help with stormwater drainage and water quality were also installed and are scheduled for planting this fall. The project cost approximately \$93,000 and was funded through the 1/4-cent Capital Improvement and 1/8-cent Transportation sales taxes.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD



Jefferson Avenue Footbridge offers 'majestic' backdrop for summer Porch Pickin' concert

By Chance Parish, for SGFNN

On Sunday, July 16, the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association held its third Porch Pickin' in Woodland Heights concert on the lawn of a beautiful Chase Street home with a majestic view of our beloved Jefferson Avenue Footbridge in the background. Upwards of 30 neighbors and friends gathered to listen to musical performances by Lija Fonner and the Flower Power & Eddie Gumucio. There were also poetry readings from A Poet Named Shay and our neighborhood's very own rhyming troubadour, Matthew Siegmann.



When the concert was finished, neighbors gathered on the lawn to enjoy conversation, cool beverages and the rumbling sound of nearby trains passing under the (hopefully, soon to be restored) Jefferson Avenue Footbridge.

The concert series returns every third Sunday through Oct. 15 to various porches throughout the Woodland Heights Neighborhood. Visit woodlandheightsneighborhood.org or our social media for locations.



Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association celebrates Fourth of July in Midtown

By Mona Pieron, for SGFNN

The Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association (WNHA) participated in Midtown's annual Fourth of July Parade on Tuesday, July 4. The theme of the parade was "Fantastic Fourth," and the WNHA members proudly displayed the four most fantastic traits that help Woodland Heights Neighbors effect change. Those traits being that WNHA community members are: Welcoming, Helpful, Neighborly and Active.

The parade was a great success, and the WNHA members had a wonderful time celebrating the Fourth of July with their neighbors. They were



proud to show off their community's fantastic qualities and to spread the word about all that makes Woodland Heights a special place.

The WNHA is always looking for new ways to get involved in the community. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the WNHA at woodlandhna@gmail.com.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 17 • Nov. 21 • Dec. 19: 6:30 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 [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/woodlandheightsneighborhood.org) [woodlandheightsneighborhood.org](https://www.woodlandheightsneighborhood.org)

SGF Yields Lantern Walk Saturday, Oct. 7

The Woodland Heights neighborhood route to Commercial Street starts at 6:30 p.m. at Lafayette Park.

Local neighborhoods and community partners invite you on an evening stroll with lanterns aglow! Play some games and learn about safe walking habits.

Read the full story in the Phelps Grove section on page 18. Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.



Silent Nights in Woodland Heights offers unique opportunity for neighbors to connect

By Chance Parish, for SGFNN

On July 8, the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association started our new outdoor movie series, Silent Nights in Woodland Heights. Woodland Heights community members are scrappy, creative and used to doing more with less. Community members had the idea of selecting public domain (copyright-free) silent films, which were made pre-1927 and building a community film series.

We still needed a viewing space, though, and a screen to project our films on. A neighborhood couple were generous enough to offer their driveway and their garage door. And so on July 8, chairs were set up in the driveway of a neighborhood home near Lafayette Park. And Maurice Tourneur's 1918 film "The Blue Bird" was projected onto the garage door to the delight of all those gathered.



Our most popular Silent Night (so far) was July 21, when we projected three early silent film versions of "Alice in Wonderland" (1903, 1910, and 1915). It was a magical evening full of Cheshire Cats, Mock Turtles, White Rabbits and cheerful giggles from gathered neighbors.



We think that Silent Nights in Woodland Heights is definitely the best time that you can have watching a silent movie on a garage door on the north side of Springfield. And it's a great way to get to know your neighbors.

Silent Nights in Woodland Heights will return every other Friday while weather permits to a garage door in Woodland Heights. Visit woodlandheightsneighborhood.org and our social media for scheduled showings.



We wanted this film series to be simple, and we thought it important not to disturb surrounding neighbors with amplified noise, so the films are shown without any soundtrack. Neighbors are instead encouraged to talk, laugh and joke throughout the showings. Laughter and running commentary are the soundtracks to Silent Nights.

City discusses next steps for the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge rehabilitation

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, SGFNN

Following an \$8 million state budget appropriation announced over the summer, the City of Springfield continues gathering information to determine next steps and an anticipated timeline for moving forward with the rehabilitation of the historic Jefferson Avenue Footbridge.

Immediately following the announcement, the City project team began coordinating with the Missouri Department of Transportation and other state agencies to learn more about requirements and processes to access the funds. This information-gathering phase will help determine any necessary tweaks to project plans and a proposed timeline for advertising the project for contractor bids.

"We are in regular communication with MoDOT and are working together to draw up an agreement that will allow us to access the funding," says Project Manager Nicholas Edelman.

The \$8 million approved through the state budget is earmarked specifically for rehabilitation of the historic bridge and cannot be used for improvements to the Footbridge Plaza space or other infrastructure. Public Works does not anticipate using any previously discussed funding for the bridge portion of the project.

There is currently no funding for the full design or construction of any updates to the Footbridge Plaza.



Project team members are assessing previously budgeted funds to determine what sources could qualify for future improvements to the Footbridge Plaza.

The City plans to host an informational public meeting later this fall to update Commercial Street stakeholders and the community on a path forward.

For more information, visit springfieldmo.gov/footbridge. To sign up to receive regular project update emails, visit <https://www.springfieldmo.gov/list.aspx?ListID=461> or subscribe to the "Commercial Street Historic District Project Updates" via the "Notify Me" tab on the City's Webpage at springfieldmo.gov.

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

Oct. 10 • Nov. 14 • Dec. 12 • Jan. 9: 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
joverton@springfieldmo.gov



Westport Elementary School
415 S. Golden Ave.

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

Westside neighbors picked up trash and weeded flower beds at Zagonyi Park in July.



The Springfield Fire Department cut the ribbon on the new Fire Station 13 on Aug. 8 at 1900 W. College St., along Historic Route 66.

Events

October – December 2023

Springfield-Greene County Library District Mobile Library:

The Mobile Library is a state-of-the-art bookmobile that delivers books, music and 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: 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 and shopping dates available at facebook.com/ThePTAClothingBank.

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.

Tradition Interrupted: Closes Nov. 12: 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. A traveling international group exhibition that explores the methods used by artists to conflate contemporary ideas with traditional art and craft in a range of media, from rugs and mosaics to metalwork and ceramics. Organized by Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/278/Tradition-Interrupted.

Blue on White: Closes Dec. 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. Collaborative exhibition guest curated by Missouri State University Museum Studies students utilizing objects from the museum's permanent collection that highlight the complex history of Chinese blue-white porcelain including its connection to Persia, the use of important Chinese symbols in its decoration, and its eventual cultural appropriation through imitative wares and exportation across Europe and North America. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/274/Missouri-State-University-Collaborations.

Jordan Eagles: ONE BLOOD: Through-Feb. 18, 2024: 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. A solo exhibition with New York-based artist Jordan Eagles. Eagles explores the "visual power, and cultural uses of blood" through a wide range of media. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/276/Jordan-Eagles-ONE-BLOOD.

Gigs in the Garden Concert Series: Sundays, Oct. 1-29: 2 p.m., Peace Through People Pavilion at the Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Bring you lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy local performers in an extraordinary setting at Springfield Botanical Gardens. Beer and wine available for purchase. Donations benefit projects in the park. Presented by Springfield Sister Cities Association and Hatch Foundation. Information and schedule at PeaceThroughPeople.org/gigs. Concerts will move inside the Botanical Center in the event of rain. All ages. *Fee: Free, \$10/suggested donation.*

Celebrate Springfield: Sun., Oct. 1: Noon-4 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Join in the free family-friendly art bash at the Springfield Art Museum. With live performances, arts activities for all ages, delicious eats from food trucks, tie-dying t-shirts, games, kite flying and more, get ready for one of the biggest arts celebrations in Springfield. Presented by the Hatch Foundation. Information at CelebrateSGF.com. All ages. *Free*

Harvest Fest Pumpkin Patch: Oct. 3-29, Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Also open Saturday and Sunday during Harvest Fest. Closed Mondays. Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146. Pick your jack-o-lantern from Rutledge-Wilson Farm's pumpkin patch. *Free Admission. Pumpkins: priced by weight.*

Harvest Fest: Oct. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29: Saturdays 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays Noon-6 p.m., Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146. A Midwest fall tradition, weekends in October at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Includes pumpkin patch, hayrides, cow train, inflatables, pony rides, farm animals, kettle corn and more! Meander through the 2.5-mile corn maze while playing a farm trivia game to help guide you in the right direction. All ages. *Fee: Free admission, some activities have a fee. Pumpkins: priced by weight. Corn Maze: \$4/Adult, \$3/5-11 yrs., Free/4 yrs. and under.*

Stand Together Springfield: Mon., Oct. 9: 7-8 p.m., 1357 S. Ingram Mill Rd. National Faith & Blue Weekend is Oct. 6-9. Stand Together Springfield celebrates National Faith & Blue Weekend. The event is free and open to the public. It is intended to be inclusive of many faith traditions to foster bridge building and community connections. Includes short prayers from a variety of faith traditions, performance by the Interfaith Choir, desserts and beverages. Featuring: Council of Churches, NAACP, Faith Voices, The Have Faith Initiative, Interfaith Alliance of the Ozarks, The American Indian Association, Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Muslim, Jewish, Bahá'í, The Brotherhood, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, New Hope International Ministries, and others. *Free.*

Timmons Hall Volunteer Day: Thurs., Oct. 12: 10:30-11:45 a.m., Timmons Hall, 1055 E. Webster St. Learn how you can be a part of Timmons Hall's educational history programs, outreach efforts and connect tours. Sign up to volunteer, host or collaborate. ParkBoard.org/Timmons. Ages 18 yrs. and up. *Free.*

Annular Eclipse Party on the Roof: Sat., Oct. 14: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Join the Springfield Astronomical Society and Springfield-Greene County Library District at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center to learn about the sun and moon, during the annular eclipse. Telescopes provided. All ages. *Free.*

Pumpkin Plunge: Sun., Oct. 22: 4-5 p.m., Doling Family Center, 301 E. Talmage. Swim in a pool full of pumpkins and pick out the perfect one! Take home a decorating kit with paints and stickers to decorate your pumpkin. Register by Oct. 21. Ages 2-14 yrs. *Fee: \$10/Family Center member, \$20/Non-member.*

Camp Roar and Score: Fossils, Caves and Tennis Galore: Mon., Nov. 6: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Doling Park, 301 E. Talmage St. A day of exploring inside Giboney Cave with Outdoor Initiatives at Doling Park! You'll also get to try your hand at tennis with our tennis staff in the afternoon on the courts! Bring a sack lunch. Registration required. ParkBoard.org/Events. Ages 5-10 yrs. *Fee: \$15/Camper.*

Veterans' Appreciation Day: Nov. 10-11: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Dickerson Park Zoo, 1401 W. Norton Rd. Free zoo admission for military veterans with ID and their immediate family. All ages. *Regular zoo admission: \$17/adults and teens, \$12/Children 3-12 yrs., \$14/Seniors 60 yrs. and up.*

Mayor's Tree Lighting Holiday Show: Sat., Nov. 18: Activities on Park Central Square 6-9 p.m., Holiday Show Broadcast 7-8 p.m., Downtown Springfield. Join us for the annual Mayor's Tree Lighting Holiday Show and the lighting of the Mayor's Tree just before 8 p.m. Watch the show on the Ozarks CW or join us on the square for fun and selfies with Santa! Catch the rebroadcast on KY3 Christmas week! More information at SGFFestivalofLights.com *Free.*

29th Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk: Thurs., Nov. 23: 8 a.m. Downtown Springfield. Springfield's Thanksgiving tradition and the largest Thanksgiving Day 5K in Missouri returns to downtown Springfield Thanksgiving morning, with four race categories: Elite, Runner, Walker and Family/Pet. Trophies for overall winners and medals for each age group. Build up your Thanksgiving appetite while benefiting the Park Board Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund and the Developmental Center of the Ozarks. Bring five items or five pounds of food to donate to Ozarks Food Harvest. Register online at ParkBoard.org/TurkeyTrot. All ages. *Fee: Early-bird registration by Fri., Nov. 17, 5 p.m.: \$25/Adult, \$20/Child. Full-price registration: \$35/Adult, \$30/Child.*

5th Annual Gardens Aglow: Nov. 24-26, Dec. 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 21-23, 26-31: 5-8:30 p.m. Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. A dazzling botanical-themed evening light festival at Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, presented in partnership with Friends of the Garden. Stroll beneath 200,000 colorful lights, accenting unique structures and landscaping and capturing nature's winter beauty. Gardens Aglow is the top annual fundraiser for garden development within Springfield Botanical Gardens. Tickets and information at FriendsOfTheGarden.org. All ages. *Fee: Advanced tickets: \$5/adult; \$3/3-12 yrs.; At the gate: \$7/adult; \$4/3-12 yrs., Free/2 yrs. and under.*

Candy Cane Lane: Dec. 1-3, 8-10, 15-17: Fridays-Sundays: 5-8 p.m. Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146. Turn on the holiday music and drive through the farm, enjoying dazzling farm-themed holiday displays and more than 10,000 lights. Friday-Sunday nights only. All ages. *Fee: \$5/Vehicle; \$2/3-D Glasses.*

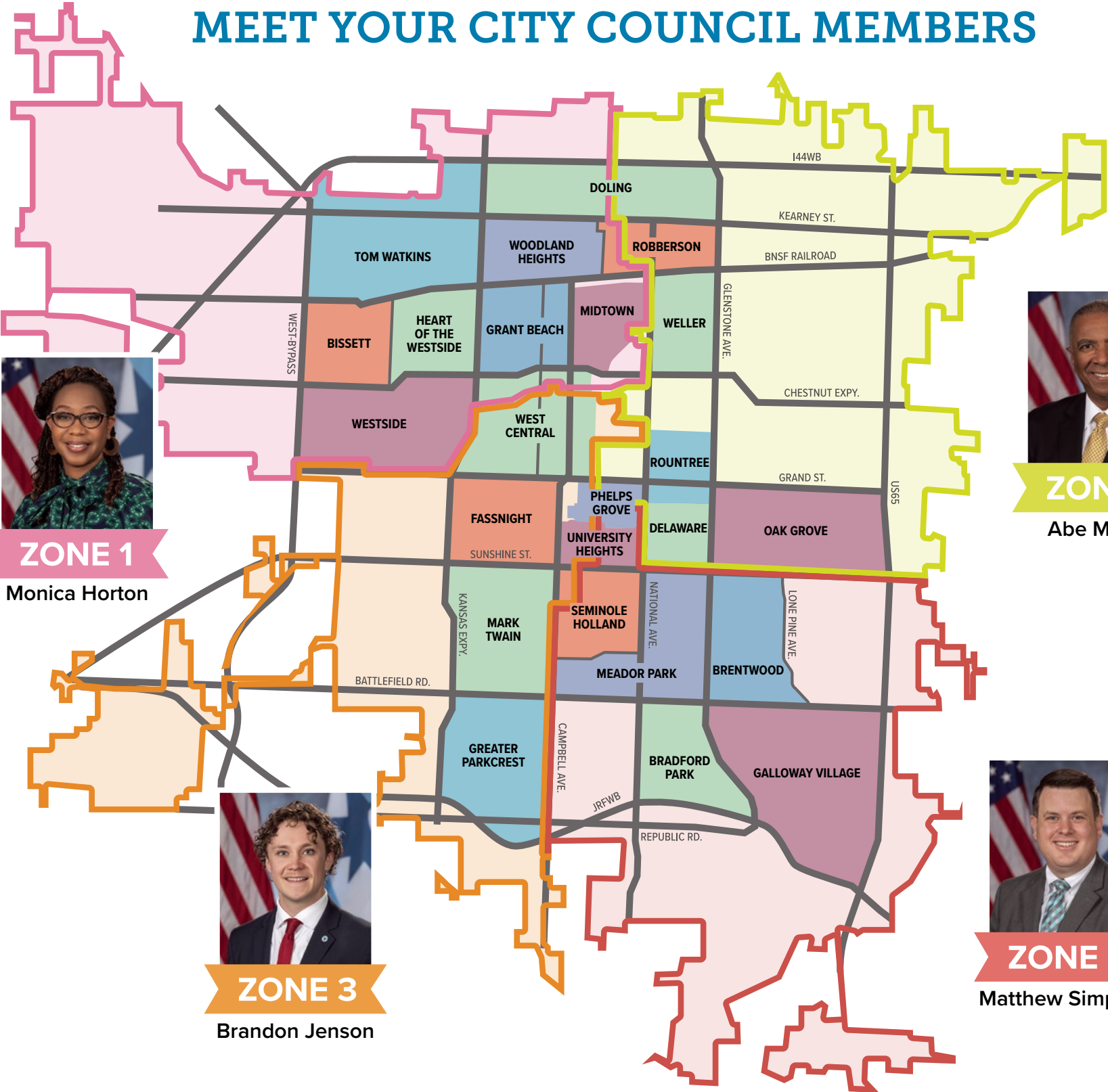
Christmas at the Farmstead: Dec. 1-2: Friday 5-8 p.m., Saturday 1-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Gray/Campbell Farmstead, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. An old-fashioned holiday celebration at Gray/Campbell Farmstead. New this year, we are open Friday and Saturday evening at Liberty Schoolhouse for a Christmas Bazaar and pictures with Santa. Saturday afternoon, enjoy cookies and cocoa, ornament making and music. All ages. *Free.*

Santa Dive: Sat., Dec. 16: 6-7 p.m. Chesterfield Family Center, 2511 W. Republic Rd. Swim with Santa and get your picture taken underwater or at the surface at Chesterfield Pool. Try out different poses and smile for the camera! Take home a craft kit to create your own holiday ornament. Ages 6 mos.-12 yrs. *Fee: \$10/Family Center member, \$20/Non-member.*

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

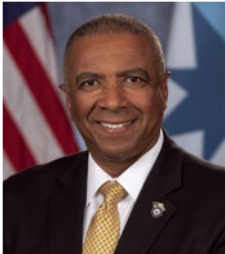
Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods

MEET YOUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



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Abe McGull



ZONE 3

Brandon Jenson



ZONE 4

Matthew Simpson

Ken McClure
Mayor



Heather Hardinger
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Craig Hosmer
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Callie Carroll
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THE Mayor's TREE LIGHTING HOLIDAY SHOW

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 • 6-9 P.M.

Lighting of the Mayor's Tree just before 8 p.m.!

Park Central Square | Downtown Springfield
Broadcast on The Ozarks CW 7-8 p.m.

Join us on Park Central Square in Downtown Springfield for the broadcast of the Mayor's Tree Lighting Holiday Show and the lighting of the Mayor's Tree!

Visit SGFFestivalofLights.com for the latest updates!

Watch the rebroadcast Christmas Week on KY3!



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