



17th annual NOVAs recognizes 23 neighbors, Galloway Baptist Church, MU Extension Office and kickball tourney

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Community Partnership of the Ozarks and sponsor Air Services Heating & Cooling hosted the 17th annual Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Awards (NOVA) ceremony, Dec. 4, 2023 at The Barley House at Moon Town Crossing to recognize and reward outstanding neighborhood volunteers who work tirelessly to improve and revitalize their communities.

A nova is a brightly shining star. CPO feels organizations and individuals who tirelessly work at making our community a better place to live should be recognized as stars. The annual NOVAs banquet allows us to reflect on the achievements and contributions made by dedicated people in our community. The NOVAs banquet is a highlight of our year, and we truly enjoy the opportunity to celebrate those who may go unnoticed for all they do in and for our neighborhoods.

REACHING FOR THE STARS AWARD

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

The 2023 Reaching for the Stars Award went to the University of Missouri Extension – Greene County for the Good Neighbor Week celebration in Springfield.

COLLABORATION AWARD

This year, CPO introduced a new award at the NOVAs – the Collaboration Award. This award went to SGF Kickball.



INDIVIDUAL NOVAs

- Bissett: Darin DeSilva
- Bradford Park: Rex Johnson
- Brentwood: Brent Rinker
- Delaware: Ray Burmood
- Doling: Noah Huskey
- Fassnight: Nathan Cook
- Galloway Village: Galloway Baptist Church
- Grant Beach: Quinten Kyle

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Marilyn Prosser, City of Springfield, Park Board and KY3 recognized for Top Acts of Neighboring

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The second annual Missouri Good Neighbor Week (Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2023) exceeded expectations. Organizers had a goal to document 15,000 acts of neighboring. Instead, Missourians reported 19,752 acts of neighboring during the week.

The sponsors of Missouri Good Neighbor Week – University of Missouri Extension and The Hopeful Neighborhood Project – recognize the most engaged neighbors and the best acts of neighboring during the week to encourage acts of neighboring all year.

According to David Burton, community development specialist with University of Missouri Extension and creator of Missouri Good Neighbor Week, 10 different reported acts of neighboring were selected as the best examples in Missouri this year.

"Whether you are an award winner or not, we want to encourage Missourians to keep learning the names of their immediate neighbors, finding ways to use their names, and planning fun neighborhood events to develop positive relationships and increase social capital," said Burton. "Your personal health and social capital improves, your

neighbors have an increased sense of belonging, and your community benefits from more civic engagement."

Each statewide award winner receives a signed certificate and a prize check by mail as a thanks for their efforts. Several participants this year marked their submission as wishing to remain anonymous and were not considered for these awards. One goal for 2024 is to do more of a random prize drawing from among these submissions to include all submissions.

TOP ACTS OF NEIGHBORING

The City of Springfield, KY3-TV, and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board worked with other community partners to organize four



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City announces retirements of longtime leaders in Parks and Planning, new staff members

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The City of Springfield announced the retirements of two longtime leaders in December. Springfield-Greene County Park Board Director Bob Belote and Interim Director of Planning & Development Brendan Griesemer will both retire in mid-January after 20 and 27 years of service, respectively.

BOB BELOTE RETIREMENT

Belote became the Park Board's director in April 2012, having previously served as assistant director and superintendent of recreation. Belote also managed parks departments in other communities.

"Our parks here are very personal for our residents, as they provide a real sense of renewal, hope and pride," he said. "I know this from the way our parks and outdoor spaces helped develop me as a kid growing up here in Springfield, as well as the continued impact they've had on my family, as our children have experienced them growing up. It's a really special park system, with a really special team in place to help manage it. It's truly been my honor and privilege to be a part of it for all these years."

Belote grew up playing in Sequiota Park, took part in youth sports programs and met his future wife, Deana, while they both worked as part-time Park Board employees. He said leading the Park Board in his hometown has been the pinnacle of his career, in part because of how the community responds to its parks.

"Speaking for the board, we've all been very impressed with Bob's professionalism and dedication, his passion for parks, and his relentless energy and ability to look ahead," said Randy Blackwood, Park Board chair. "Bob is leaving tremendously big shoes to fill, but our parks system has taken a positive trajectory during his tenure as parks director, and we are in a position to use that blueprint for even greater success."

City Manager Jason Gage will name an interim director as the search for a permanent replacement for Belote begins.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT STAFF CHANGES

In his nearly three-decade tenure, Brendan Griesemer contributed to both the City organization and the community through his planning work.

In 2022, Griesemer achieved the highest national honor in the planning profession and became only the

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- Greater Parkcrest: Libby Wiseman
- Heart of the Westside: Billy Cockrum
- Mark Twain: Samantha Spartan
- Midtown: Ranald Ives
- Oak Grove: David Ogan
- Phelps Grove: Fran and Jim Giglio
- Robberson: Mary Ann and Greg Bonetti
- Rountree: Haden Long
- Seminole Holland: David Siewert
- Tom Watkins: Marla Cantwell
- West Central: Patricia DeWitt
- Westside: Erica Robertson
- Woodland Heights: Natalie and Curtis Batchelor.



BASS PRO MARATHON NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGE AWARDS

Concluding the evening were the Great Neighborhoods grants to neighborhoods and the Bass Pro Marathon cheering section awards. Bass Pro awarded a total of \$11,000 this year.

"On behalf of Bass Pro, thank you to those who were able to participate in the cheering challenge. They report that they got great feedback from runners and having you all at the event cheering your hearts out was a true gift." – Brooke Ash

"On behalf of Bass Pro, thank you to those who were able to participate in the cheering challenge. They report that they got great feedback from runners and having you all at the event cheering your hearts out was a true gift," Ash said.

Delaware won first place and took home \$1,100 in the cheering section competition. Mark Twain and Woodland Heights tied for second and took home \$950. Galloway Village took third and \$900. Oak Grove came in fourth and took home \$750. Not far behind was Meador Park, which won fifth and \$700. Brentwood, Seminole Holland and Rountree tied for sixth and took home \$650. Placing seventh and taking home \$600 was Robberson. Westside and University Heights placed eighth and took home \$550. West Central, Bissett, Midtown and Weller tied for ninth and were awarded \$500.

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS GRANTS

The City's Planning & Development department awarded \$8,750 in Great Neighborhoods grants to

13 neighborhoods in recognition of their efforts in 2023.

Neighborhoods who earned 18 points and \$750 were:

- Brentwood Neighborhood Association
- West Central Neighborhood Association
- Galloway Village Neighborhood Association
- Robberson Neighborhood Association
- Bradford Park Neighborhood Association
- Phelps Neighborhood Association
- Bissett Neighborhood Association
- Meador Park Neighborhood Association
- Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association.

Those who earned nine points and \$500 were:

- Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association
- Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association
- Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association
- Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association.

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



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

- Residents must lead the process.
 - A long-term commitment is expected.
 - All neighbors interested in participating must be included.
 - Continual activities that engage everyone in the neighborhood.
- Neighborhoods can earn up to:
- \$500 – 9 points (at least 3 points in each category)
 - \$750 – 18 points (at least 6 points in each category)
 - \$1,000* – 18 points (at least 6 points in each category) *requires a \$250 match.

Visit [SGFNeighborhoodNews.com](https://www.sgfneighborhoodnews.com) to view a video recording of the NOVAS.

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neighborhood block parties in four different parks in Springfield. Each event was attended by hundreds of people and helped neighbors make new connections, grow the membership in neighborhood associations, and elevate the community conversation of what it means to be an engaged neighbor.



Good Neighbor Block Party at Fasnicht Park

Marilyn Prosser in Springfield recognized that neighbors on her street had a unique opportunity to celebrate their ethnic backgrounds with food. She organized an ethnic potluck dinner for residents of Warmwater Avenue (a small dead end road). Marilyn says her co-chair was Jane Cogdill and her neighbor Balwinder Dhanoie made most of the potluck possible.

Wanda McLane of Nixa used her abundant crop of cucumbers to make new connections during Missouri Good Neighbor Week. She began sharing them with neighbors, with strangers on street corners and at the local police department. Soon, neighbors reciprocated by bringing Wanda fresh eggs, green beans, pie, seedling trees and more. Word spread on the community Facebook page and by the end of the week Wanda had gifted over 500 cucumbers around her community. She hopes others embrace her message of kindness. "This world and our town needs more simple acts of kindness with no strings attached," wrote Wanda.



Good Neighbor Block Party at Chesterfield Park

Darla Noble of Rogersville worked closely with her neighborhood association to host a neighborhood cookout and deliver cookies to 99 houses in the neighborhood with a sticker reading: "Happy National Good Neighbor Day from Patriot Place HOA."

Cathy Baker of Republic planned ahead for Missouri Good Neighbor Week. She grew a large bed of flowers from seed and then used those various flowers to create vases for delivery to 25 neighbors. Each vase had a hand-painted card celebrating Missouri Good Neighbor Week.

Greene County led the state with over 6,000 reported acts of neighboring, followed by St. Louis County, Texas County and Boone County.

Sixty-one county MU Extension councils conducted a day of service during Missouri Good Neighbor Week that involved hundreds of volunteers and reached thousands of Missourians.

MOST ENGAGED NEIGHBORS

Twelve Missourians were chosen for statewide recognition as "Missouri's Most Engaged Neighbor."

Sixty-two people were nominated for recognition as one of Missouri's most engaged neighbors. Each of them received an acknowledgment letter and gift by mail.

"Honestly the plan was to honor 10, but we couldn't get to that number," said Jennifer Prophete, coordinator of The Hopeful Neighborhood Project. "I thought the nominations this year were great from one to 62."

"We were excited to see two Missouri towns, Seymour and Webster Groves, collect their own nominations and honor engaged neighbors during the week," said David Burton. "It would be great to see other cities do something similar next year. We must celebrate and recognize neighborly behavior."

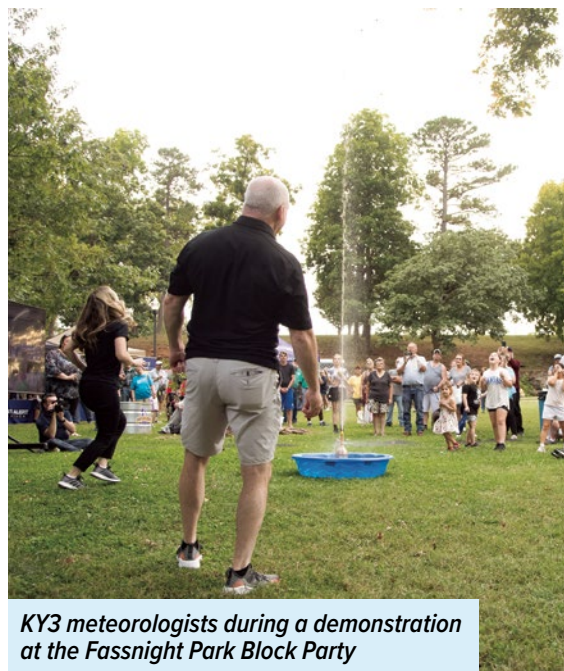
Rountree's Barbara Thurman was nominated for her "leadership and efforts to elevate the connectedness" of the Rountree Neighborhood Association. She has revived Welcome Wagon for new homeowners, organized and promoted a Chalk Your Walk event to celebrate Missouri Good Neighbor Week with 38 participants.

John and Cheryl Dabney of Lebanon were nominated by their neighbors who are handicapped. For the past three years, the Dabneys have done everything possible to care for them, mow their yard, make home repairs, install a chairlift, and even build a ramp. "We are so blessed to have them as our neighbors," wrote the nominator.

To read about all of the Top Acts of Neighboring and all of the Most Engaged Neighbors winners check out this story at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

ABOUT GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson signed legislation HB1738 on July 1, 2022, establishing Missouri Good Neighbor Week. The week begins on Sept. 28, also National Good Neighbor Day (first created in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter). Missouri Good Neighbor Week was also selected as the best neighboring program in the United States for 2023 by Neighborhoods USA.



KY3 meteorologists during a demonstration at the Fasnicht Park Block Party

Restore SGF seeks permanent executive director

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

On the heels of launching its first round of programming with the Block Challenge Grant Program and Down Payment Assistance Program, Restore SGF is seeking a permanent, full-time executive director. Restore SGF executive committee chair Richard Ollis said the board of directors hopes to begin interviewing candidates before the holidays and have the position filled by mid-January 2024.

"(Interim Executive Director) Dana Elwell has done a fantastic job with getting Restore SGF off the ground and will help us make the transition to a permanent director," Ollis said. "Dana's experience in lending and his interest in making Springfield better have been invaluable to our success thus far, and we wish him well."

Elwell has served as interim executive director since July.

ABOUT THE POSITION

The executive director provides visionary leadership and management in carrying out the purpose and policies of Restore SGF as established by the board of directors and guided by neighborhood revitalization plans. The executive director is responsible for overseeing the administration, programs, and strategic plan of the organization, as well as marketing and community outreach.

The ideal candidate will have an understanding of community/regional issues and a knowledge of philanthropy, fundraising, and strategic planning. They will also be successful in prospecting, cultivating and building collaborative partnerships along with strong organizational and excellent time management skills.

Those interested in applying for the position can view the full position description and apply at indeed.com or LinkedIn or send a cover letter and resume to HR@ollisaa.com.



Encouraging reinvestment in Springfield's historic neighborhoods.



Dana Elwell



fourth planner in Missouri to be inducted into the prestigious College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He previously served in various planning capacities for the City of Nixa, the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City, the City of Shawnee, Kansas and the Kansas Department of Transportation.

"I had the privilege and honor to work for the City for 27 years, and it's time to close this chapter as I look forward to writing the next chapter in my career," Griesemer said. "I am excited about Steve Childers taking over the leadership of the department and am disappointed that I will not have an opportunity to work with him. I wish him and the entire team the best of luck."

Childers became the City of Springfield's Planning & Development director Jan. 2 after serving as the city administrator of Ozark, a position he held since 2007. He was also Ozark's first planning director prior to his role as city administrator.

Childers has 25 years of experience leading various aspects of local government including the areas of administration, finance/budgeting, employee advancement, project management, land development, planning, zoning, development review, building code enforcement, and economic development.

Prior to his work at the City of Ozark, Childers served as a planning/zoning manager for American Tower Corporation in Chicago. He has a master's degree in public planning, geography and management from Missouri State University and a bachelor of science degree in organizational communication.

"I look forward to bringing my experience, insights, and educational background in planning to the City of Springfield. I look forward to advancing the goals of the City's newly adopted Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan. I look forward to serving in a leadership position responsible for moving Springfield forward." – Steve Childers

"I am extremely proud of the progress made in the City of Ozark during my time as city administrator. However, after nearly 20 years of serving this wonderful community, it is time for the next phase of my career," Childers said. "I look forward to bringing



Brendan Griesemer

my experience, insights, and educational background in planning to the City of Springfield. I look forward to advancing the goals of the City of Springfield's newly adopted Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan. I look forward to serving in a leadership position responsible for moving Springfield forward."

Childers will supervise a team of 25 Planning & Development employees and serve as a principal advisor to the City manager, as well as to other community stakeholders, and direct the preparation and maintenance of the City's Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan.

"Steve has the proven ability to effectively work and communicate with a diverse group of individuals including public officials, developers, design professionals and the community at large, as well as experience in establishing a vision for an organization. We are thrilled to have him join our team at the City of Springfield," said City Manager Jason Gage. "We also wish to thank Brendan Griesemer for serving as interim director while the search for a new director was underway. He has served the City well."

Hanna Knopf has been reassigned from Planning's development review team and promoted to senior planner, filling Alana Owen's vacant position. Owen was promoted to the role of principal planner and is taking on more duties with the Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan.

"Hanna has assumed Alana's responsibilities and will be the City's resident neighborhood planner and recognized neighborhood liaison to all registered neighborhood organizations," said Principal Planner Randall Whitman.



Hanna Knopf

"We are excited about Hanna's interest and ambition to see neighborhood revitalization in Springfield reach new heights." – Randall Whitman

Knopf will work closely with Becky Volz and the Neighborhood Advisory Council to schedule and plan upcoming NAC meetings, as well as administer all City neighborhood programs for the City.

"We are excited about Hanna's interest and ambition to see neighborhood revitalization in Springfield reach new heights. Hanna's contact information is hanna.knopf@springfieldmo.gov or 417-864-1188 for future reference," Whitman said.

NEW CITY ATTORNEY

Jordan L. Paul joined the City as City attorney effective Jan. 2. Most recently, Paul has served as the city attorney for Neosho and as assistant city attorney for Joplin. Prior to joining municipal government, Paul was in private civil practice in Joplin. He replaces Rhonda Lewsader, who retired.

"We are very excited to announce the hiring of Jordan. He is from southwest Missouri, is very bright and has solid municipal law experience. We are very excited for Jordan to become a part of our leadership team," City Manager Jason Gage said.

The City attorney assists City Council, City management and all City departments with matters of municipal law and represents the City

in all legal matters including civil actions brought by or against the City. Ordinances and resolutions that come before City Council are routinely written by the legal staff. The Law Department employs 20 people.

"I'm honored to have been selected to the position of great public trust and look forward to working with Jason and City Council on the important work of the City moving forward," Paul said.

Paul is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law and has been selected as a Missouri and Kansas Rising Star in the areas of civil litigation and real estate by Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters distinction that utilizes peer review and selects less than 2.5% of attorneys. He is a member of the International Municipal Lawyers Association and Missouri Municipal Attorneys Association.

NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FACILITATOR

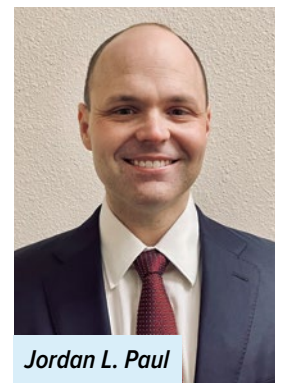
Samantha Payne joined the City as development project facilitator Nov. 6, 2023. She replaced Danny Perches, who became assistant director of Economic Vitality.

Payne oversees the progress of various development projects and collaborates directly with developers, designers and contractors to streamline the City's development review process.

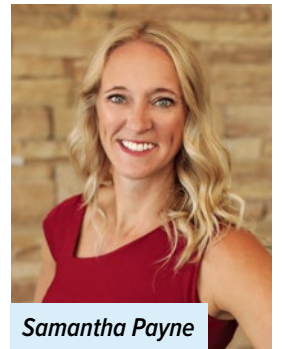
The development project facilitator position operates as an extension of the City Manager's Office. Payne brings a wealth of experience to this role, having previously served as the deputy city manager for the City of Ozark. In that capacity, she played a crucial role in facilitating and directing project management across various departments. Notable achievements include managing the Governor's Cost Share grant for the \$3.2 million McCracken Bridge Revitalization Project and overseeing Missouri's inaugural Community Forest Program grant from the U.S. Forest Service.

Prior to her deputy city manager role, Payne held positions as the public information officer and parks and recreation director for the City of Ozark. Her academic background includes a master of business administration from William Woods University and a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Evangel University.

"I am thrilled to embark on this role as the development project facilitator, an integral extension of the City Manager's Office. The opportunity to immerse myself in the dynamic world of development projects, collaborating directly with developers, designers, and contractors, fuels my excitement. Together, we will navigate the intricate landscape of the City's development review process, ensuring efficiency and progress at every turn. Let's build a future that reflects the vision and vibrancy of our community!"



Jordan L. Paul



Samantha Payne

SGF NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

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City updating development codes to align with Forward SGF

By Hanna Knopf, Planning & Development, for SGFNN

Following the November 2022 adoption of Forward SGF, the City of Springfield's Comprehensive Plan, the City is updating a series of city codes that guide and regulate the use, design and installation of public and private development improvements to meet the community-driven vision for the future of Springfield. This implementation phase of Forward SGF is planned to occur through spring 2025.

Specifically, the code update will target Chapter 36 Land Development Code (zoning code and subdivision regulations). Updates to the regulations include Article II: Subdivision Regulations, Article III: Zoning Regulations and coordination with Article V: Building Code. Review and coordination with other city codes that regulate the design of streets, stormwater, and other infrastructure will also occur to ensure that all codes related to new development are consistent and compatible.



The last comprehensive update of the City's development codes was in 1995, although various amendments have been made periodically.

This effort will focus on how to implement the key concepts of already established plans and policies in Forward SGF. It may look at a variety of regulatory strategies or may dive deeper into specific issues to verify and refine the community direction.

Forward SGF recognizes the following trends to consider when updating the City's development codes:

- Increased emphasis on quality of place – a more attractive, pet-friendly and amenity-rich experience.
- Increased emphasis on creating complete

neighborhoods with diverse housing close to amenities and services.

- Reduction in parking demand and expansion of delivery and pick-up services in the retail and restaurant sectors.
- The need to accommodate emerging consumer trends and preferences, such as expanded outdoor dining, drive-up and drive-thru services, parklets, food trucks and outdoor markets.
- A greater demand for environmentally conscious development.
- Greater emphasis on improving the retail and service experience.
- Increased emphasis on City corridors to be better integrated allowing more flexible permitting.
- Increased flexibility in permitted uses for expansion of home occupations
- Increased flexibility for commercial and business spaces, office-warehouses and logistical service providers.

LEARN MORE AND SHARE INPUT

Please mark your calendars for two engagement opportunities in January and February:

- **Community Development Code Update Initiative Open House**
5:30-7:30 p.m., Jan. 25
Springfield Art Museum
Come learn about how updating the City's development codes will help Springfield achieve the vision set forth in Forward SGF.
- **Forward SGF Speaker Series: Joe Minicozzi, AICP, presents The Economics of Community Design Part 2**
5:30-7:30 p.m., Feb. 29
Springfield Art Museum.

For more information about additional public engagement opportunities with various stakeholder groups, please contact Randall Whitman at rwhitman@springfieldmo.gov or at 417-864-2027. To learn more about Forward SGF, visit forwardsgf.com.

Community Development Code Update Initiative

Open House

Jan. 25 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Springfield Art Museum

Come provide input, feedback, and learn how updating the City of Springfield development codes will help Springfield achieve the vision set forth in the Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan.



Registered apprenticeship programs to expand in 2024

By Katherine Trombetta, Missouri Job Center, for SGFNN

To commemorate National Apprenticeship Week in November, the City's Department of Workforce Development hosted a Mayoral Proclamation on Nov. 13, 2023. Councilman Abe McGull presented the proclamation to a group of City employees and partner organizations at the Missouri Job Center.



City staff also gave an update on the early successes of the Apprenticeship Building America grant, a \$3 million grant awarded to the department in July 2022 from the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant aims to bolster enrollment into existing registered apprenticeships in a 10-country region and create new apprenticeship opportunities in a wide variety of career paths.

The Workforce Development Department reports that early numbers indicate exceeding the pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship enrollment goals by 162%. As of Oct. 31, 2023, 169 individuals were enrolled into registered apprenticeships and 64 into pre-apprenticeships. In addition, the department assisted in the creation of more than 12 new apprenticeship programs and four pre-apprenticeship programs as well as expanding 25 existing programs.

In 2024, the focus of the grant is expanding the registered apprenticeship programs. The department is looking to partner with organizations who already provide hands-on training and skills development or internship programs that can be easily transferred into a registered apprenticeship.

"Our second goal is to improve our information technology sector apprenticeship opportunities. Just under 10% of our applicants are interested in IT-related careers, and we're doing our best to refer them to traditional education and employment, but we are showing strong demand for these programs in our community," said Haley Jones-Sides, grant coordinator.

In addition to IT, apprenticeships can be created in health care, public safety, education, manufacturing, construction, renewable energy and transportation/logistics.

The program is available to residents in Greene, Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties. If you are interested in applying for a Registered Apprenticeship, visit springfieldmo.gov/apprenticeships.

Possibilities for Lake Springfield include expansion, trail connection, improved water access

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Following months of economic impact analysis, hydrological and water-quality assessments and a robust community visioning and outreach process, the City of Springfield and City Utilities in October 2023 presented some innovative possibilities for a reimagined Lake Springfield area at a community open house at the Springfield Art Museum and to City Council at a workshop streamed live to the community.

Lake Springfield was identified as a redevelopment opportunity area during the City's Forward SGF comprehensive planning process. With the plan, which was funded through an \$800,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), a donation from the Hatch Foundation and contributions from the City and CU, the entities hope to spark the interest of private developers.

DREDGING SEDIMENT TO BUILD WETLAND ECOLOGY 'ISLANDS' CONNECTED BY BOARDWALKS

Steve Prange with project manager Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, explained the components of the plan at the October open house.

"The eco island concept would be a huge water quality benefit for the whole area. It would be an awesome enhancement while also maintaining the integrity of the lake." – Steve Prange

The depth of the lake (less than four feet deep in certain areas due to sediment deposits) coupled with few access points to the water, especially those with disabilities, were identified as impediments to recreation at Lake Springfield during the public engagement phase. Prange said employing a specialized dredging technique to scrape the accumulated sediment into wetland ecology 'islands' connected by boardwalks would address these impediments while providing unique recreation opportunities.



"The eco island concept would be a huge water quality benefit for the whole area," Prange said. "It would be an awesome enhancement while also maintaining the integrity of the lake."

CONNECTION TO CHADWICK FLYER TRAIL

A pedestrian bridge connecting the park to Ozark Greenways' new Chadwick Flyer Trail is another component of the plan. The 12-mile Chadwick Flyer Trail is estimated to be complete in the next five to 10 years and will connect Springfield and Ozark.

POSSIBILITIES FOR FORMER POWER PLANT SITE

The former power plant site, decommissioned in 2021, has a couple of potential uses, Prange said. The first is to use the site as an entertainment district with restaurants, retail/office space and housing with riverfront recreation opportunities. A second concept would reuse the site as a water adventure facility that includes restaurants and conference space.

The area southeast of the former power plant site could become a "glamping" zone with cabins, campsites, RV parking and a mountain bike/adventure park.



BYPASSING THE DAM

Connecting the lake to the James River via a bypass could lengthen the James River Water Trail and create additional opportunities downriver, he said.

"This is more about embracing who we are in the Ozarks and attracting not only an amenity for our locals to enjoy but to attract other people to come to our community and spend some time, spend their money and really enjoy who we are and what we treasure," Prange said.

NEXT STEPS

The Lake Springfield Plan will go before the CU board and City Council for adoption with implementation to follow later this year.

To view the full presentation, visit lakesgfplan.com.

New Family Connects program offers in-home nurse visits to newborns, parents

By Whitney Mann, Health Department, for SGFNN

When families grow – through pregnancy and birth, foster care or adoption, or other ways – community and social support is crucial. This is especially true in the early years. Early support leads to better outcomes for the child and the rest of the family as they continue to expand and develop as a unit.

At Springfield-Greene County Health, we recognize this early phase of life is both special and vitally important for how we develop and who we become. This is why we have maternal-child health programs, which provide support and connection from a family's start. Our mission is to help ALL people live longer, healthier, happier lives.

One new program geared toward improving maternal child health is Springfield-Greene County Family Connects, which helps new families access reliable care and resources through home visits with trained nurses.

The primary goal of Family Connects is for all mothers, babies and families to have equitable access to care and social support. Simply put, we want all families to have everything they need to be healthy and happy. It will truly be unique to each family served.

Every Greene County resident who gives birth at CoxHealth or Mercy will have the opportunity to be visited by a Family Connects nurse once they have brought their new baby home. Families who choose to participate in Family Connects will receive a home visit from a trained nurse within their first 12 weeks after discharge. The program is both free and voluntary to all Greene County residents including foster parents, adoptive parents and families who already have other children.

The first few weeks as a new family can feel overwhelming and there is often uncertainty. Through home visits, parents will receive infant education, weight checks, breastfeeding education and support, mental health support and more. In addition to education and support, nurses are available to provide referrals to community resources that fit the family. The primary goal of Family Connects is for all mothers, babies and families to have equitable access to care and social support. Simply put, we want all families to have everything they need to be healthy and happy. It will truly be unique to each family served.

According to Family Connects International, participants of the program are more likely to utilize out-of-home child care and other community



resources and mothers are less likely to experience postpartum depression and anxiety. Additionally, participating families have 44% lower rates of investigations for suspected child abuse or neglect through age 2. These outcomes are hopeful signs that children and families can benefit from our launch in 2024. Family Connects provides support from the start, ensuring all families have the opportunity to thrive.

WIC

Another avenue of family support available to many in our community is the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. WIC improves the overall health of families by supporting the nutritional health of pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding people, as well as infants and children up to the age of 5.

WIC membership provides families with nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, supplemental food packages and referrals to healthcare and other community resources. For families who are WIC-eligible, this support can be the difference between surviving and thriving. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, people who enroll in WIC during their early months of pregnancy have fewer low birth weight babies, experience fewer infant deaths, see their doctor earlier in pregnancy and eat healthier.

In Greene County, and across the state of Missouri, WIC participation is lower than in other areas of the country, and many people may not know they are eligible for WIC membership. Residents of Greene County are encouraged to call the WIC office at 417-864-1540 to determine their eligibility. Our goal is for all eligible residents to receive the support WIC is ready and able to provide.

Both WIC and Family Connects serve families of all forms, including two-parent households, single parents including single dads, foster parents, grandparents caring for grandchildren, LGBTQIA+ parents and more. Migrant and refugee families are also eligible.

At Springfield-Greene County Health, our mission is to protect and improve community health. Between the efforts of these two programs, we hope that all families understand and utilize the support available to them, which can lead to significant positive impact across the lifespan.

Help keep Springfield safe by being a responsible gun owner

By Cris Swaters, Springfield Police Department, for SGFNN

In 2024, we're directing the community's attention to violent crime in Springfield and how we, as a collective community, can help reduce the impact of these crimes.

For several years, gun violence and shots fired have been and continue to be the top concern for the Springfield Police Department. Whether you own a legal firearm or are a citizen concerned about the safety of the community, there are steps you can take to help keep Springfield safe.

RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP

If you own a legal firearm, make a commitment now to be a responsible gun owner.

As a responsible gun owner, you should never leave your firearm in your vehicle's glove box, center console or under the front seat. Make it a best practice to always secure your firearm before you leave the house.

There are many options available for making your firearm secure at home. Invest in a gun locker for individual handguns or a large gun safe capable of securely storing multiple firearms. You want to ensure that children and untrained individuals can't find it and cause accidental harm to themselves or others. Gun locks are another safety precaution you can take to make a gun inoperable to someone other than yourself.



Finally, be prepared just in case your firearm is stolen. Make a list of the serial numbers of your firearms and store them in a safe place. Having this information readily available can help with the potential recovery of your firearm.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Trust your intuition. If you feel unsafe, remove yourself from the location and situation.

If you see or hear a crime occurring, help us by calling 911. Information from you is essential to finding the people responsible. If you see anything suspicious, call 911 so an officer can respond. If you think you hear gunshots, always call 911. Don't assume someone else will call.

By the way, if you have a security system or video doorbell, your cameras could help us solve crime. Scan the QR code to fill out a form at springfieldmo.gov. We can't access your cameras. If something happens near you, we'll call you to ask if we can review your footage for evidence.

Turning your vantage points into a partnership.

Scan to learn more.



I've always known I've wanted to be an officer. If it's on your heart to be an officer, there's a whole community who will back you. It's a bond and family that you can only find in this career.

OFFICER Hayden Henry



GOSPD.COM

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Get to know your neighborhood leaders – they represent you

By Becky Volz, for SGFNN

Neighborhood leaders who come to the quarterly Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) meetings represent you and the concerns and progress in your neighborhood. It is an avenue whereby we can request change and create a healthier community.

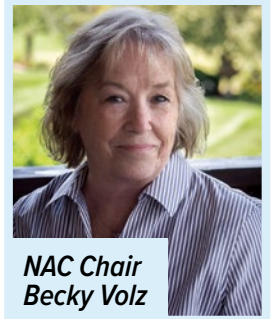
Neighborhood leaders are designated from the neighborhood association in each neighborhood. The volunteer board of directors for each NA are those who live in, or own property in, the boundaries of the neighborhood. Board members are voted in by neighbors who are members of the association, and they can be homeowners or renters. It doesn't matter if you rent or own. It just matters if you live in the neighborhood. Building friendships with those who live near you is vital to creating a safer and friendlier neighborhood.

"When the response to doing something different is, 'but that's the way we've always done it,' this indicates a sense of loss if there's a change." – Mara O. Shaw

There is work to be done in our neighborhoods. The Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan talks about "complete neighborhoods" (info at forwardsgf.com/core). Each neighborhood needs to start taking an inventory of the assets you already have and the development you want. We also need to start taking an inventory of where the problem properties are and identify the chronic nuisances and crimes you deal with in your neighborhood. With this information documented, we can start an action plan. We will set goals and remind each other to be realistic. Start a conversation with your neighbors and identify the "inventory-taking" volunteers.

I was recently at a conference where one of the

speakers, Mara O. Shaw, said, "When the response to doing something different is, 'but that's the way we've always done it,' this indicates a sense of loss if there's a change."



NAC Chair
Becky Volz

If that feeling of loss comes up when we talk about changes in our neighborhoods, we can sort it out. Because, it will be necessary to create some changes for our community to grow and thrive.

Mara Shaw also shared a quote by James Baldwin with us, "Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced."

Our city is nearly 60% rentals. This has created challenges on multiple levels. As they are the majority of our population, we need to work with our neighbors who rent (and occasionally their landlords). This is one of the areas where we need to make some changes and elevate the quality of life in our neighborhoods. The City's recent Housing Study and Building Development Services quarterly nuisance property reports to City Council confirm this.

Here's your homework, should you choose to accept it: meet with your neighborhood association and share your ideas and concerns. Discuss the inventory lists your volunteers created as mentioned above. Then, those leaders will meet with the NAC, and we will brainstorm solutions. Those brainstorming sessions will also come to each neighborhood so be sure you watch for the meeting schedule and connect on social media to stay informed. Feel free to email me your list of assets and list of problems as well at nac.sgf.658@gmail.com. This will help us create some priorities.

Remember, the way for you to be heard is to get involved. Share what you are dealing with and what you need. There is always a solution, even if it's on the horizon!

Drew Lewis Foundation's Blue House Project looking for more houses in Grant Beach

Provided by the Blue House Project

We purchase and renovate aging houses in the community with the intent of leasing them to members of the RISE program, who will then work to purchase the home.



Many of the homes we buy were loved by families for generations. Although they were no longer able to invest in the home, they did not want it to fall further into disrepair. These families chose to believe in our mission to invest in our community and rejuvenate their house for another family to love for generations to come.

The Blue House Project focuses on the Grant Beach

neighborhood in Springfield by providing low-to-moderate income families the tools to purchase affordable homes.

If you have a home in Grant Beach that you are looking to sell to the Blue House Project program, email bluehouse@drewlewis.org.



BISSETT NEIGHBORHOOD



Bissett Neighborhood Association Year in Review

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

In 2023, we held eight general membership meetings with speakers, great Q&A sessions with our PAR officer and potluck dinners. City Councilwoman Monica Horton graciously came to several of our meetings, and her insights have been most helpful to our residents. With Monica, we have a great advocate on City Council.

Our annual neighborhood cleanup was held in June with over 50 households served, tons of refuse removed and many curbside pickups. Our annual neighborhood-wide yard sale was held in July and had a great many participants.

Spearheaded by our new Eden Village 2 neighbors, for the first time, we had a cheering section at the Bass Pro Marathon held in early November. Participants dressed up as "Bissett Bobcats" as they cheered on the runners. The event was fun for all.

Another first this year was BNA's participation in the KY3/City Block Party at Nichols Park in September. The event had over 100 participants and featured most of the KY3 on-air personalities bringing their KY3 Weather School, book reading and poster signing. Free food was provided as were bicycle helmets and other fun toys. For our part, we staffed a table to bring more awareness of our association and all that it does.

Thanks to Neighborhood Works proposals authored by BNA, over \$200,000 was expended this



Good Neighbor Block Party at Nichols Park

year to improve the Nichols/Hillcrest intersection and widening Glenn Street. These are huge safety improvements for our neighborhood, especially for our kids and families getting to and from Bissett Elementary.

BNA purchased Pickleball equipment for any BNA member to borrow to use on the new Pickleball courts at L.A. Wise Park, which was also made possible by a successful BNA grant request.

BNA continued its strong participation in the Neighborhood Advisory Council. Joining with the other 20-plus registered Springfield neighborhood organizations helps us have a strong voice in helping guide and participate in the betterment of Springfield.

The year was capped off by our annual Christmas dinner.

We want to thank Walmart Neighborhood Market on Mt. Vernon Street and Little Caesar's Pizza for the generous food donations for some of our events.

Bissett celebrates NOVA with Eden Village 2 resident Darin DeSilva

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

Darin DeSilva has been a stalwart contributor to BNA at virtually all of our activities and meetings over the past year. He brings considerable energy to our group. But that's just part of his story. Darin was homeless just a few short years ago. Through his personal commitment to finding a better situation for himself facilitated by the great staff and many donors to Eden Village 2, Darin has not only become a stable resident in our neighborhood, but a contributor to it. Darin has overcome many challenges to be where he is today, and that is a great success story to celebrate. Congratulations, Darin!



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 9 • Feb. 13 • March 12 • April 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
joverton@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow Bissett on  

Bissett elects new board for 2024

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

Many thanks to each of our officers and board members from past years. Our officers for 2024 are

- President: Pete Radecki
- Vice President: Vickie Grinde
- Treasurer: Sheila Radecki
- Board Members: Cherie Cronie and Rob Sorbo



New Bissett board (L-R): Vickie Grinde, vice president; Pete Radecki, president; Rob Sorbo, board member; Cherie Cronie, board member; Sheila Radecki, treasurer

BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 9 • Feb. 13 • March 12 • April 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

Bradford Park's Rex Johnson recognized with NOVA for leadership, Back the Blue Rally

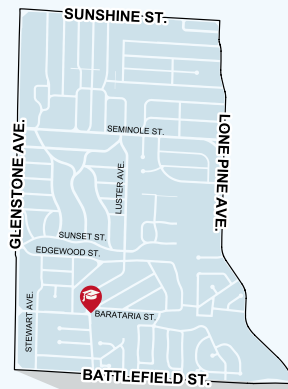
Bradford Park's Rex Johnson received a NOVA in recognition of his years of leadership as president of the Bradford Park Neighborhood Association. He initiated the neighborhood's "Back the Blue" efforts while opening his yard to the Garden Tours and assisting with years of cleanups, block parties, socials and more.



REX JOHNSON
Bradford Park's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD



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 Nathan Thieman: 417-874-1321
nthieman@springfieldmo.gov



Field Elementary School
2120 E. Barataria St.

Follow Brentwood on
brentwoodsgf.org

*The Brentwood, Galloway Village and Oak Grove
Neighborhood Cleanup served nearly
100 households on Oct. 14, 2023.*



BRENT RINKER
Brentwood's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 16 • Feb. 20 • March 19: 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 Trenton Herr: 417-864-1320
therr@springfieldmo.gov



Fremont Elementary School
2814 N. Fremont Ave.

Watkins Elementary School
732 W. Talmage St.

Follow Doling on

Mobile Library Stop

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

Wednesdays: 3:20-3:50 p.m.

Glenwood Manor (2540 N. Delaware Ave.)



NOAH HUSKEY
Doling's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD



Neighborhood association-school partnerships benefit all

By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

Schools are the hearts of neighborhoods, and Delaware Elementary is certainly the heart of ours. We know these students are the future of our neighborhood and our community, and DNA wants to support them and, by extension, their families. Therefore, right after our neighborhood association was formed, a partnership was forged to provide a small, regular funding stream and to participate in events at and with the school.

The events that DNA members organize or participate in include the school's spring Family Fun Night, the autumn Trunk or Treat, a back-to-school ice cream social and a popcorn bar during teacher appreciation days. DNA purchases a new U.S. flag for the school every year and helps cover funding needs as they arise, such as board games for indoor recess and products for food drives. We also provide gift cards to the school nurse in case staff become aware of emergency needs for a student, such as shoes or hygiene products.

Neighborhood association members have been known to adopt families on the school's Giving Tree during the holidays and pay off school lunch bills. Thinking long term, DNA has invested in certificates of deposit to start a scholarship fund that will eventually support neighborhood graduates going to local higher education institutions.

In turn, the school has provided meeting and event space, and the principal, Mrs. Young, and school staff support our efforts to engage the community and make our neighborhood an even better place to live!

Delaware encourages women from all neighborhoods to GET OUT with monthly get togethers

By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

Delaware invites women from ALL neighborhoods to bring friends, meet friends, make friends at our monthly get-togethers – DNA+ Women GET OUT. We use our time together to catch up on what's going on, solve the problems of the world (or at least Springfield) and to encourage each other in our individual activities. Dates and location vary, so watch Delaware's Facebook group for updates. Our December GET OUT was at the Brown Derby Wine Center.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 2 • Feb. 6 • March 5 • April 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 Nathan Thieman: 417-874-1321
nthieman@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow Delaware on  

Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!



RAY BURMOOD
Delaware's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD



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


Jan. 15 • Feb. 19 • March 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 Shelby Chaney: 417-874-2535
schaney@springfieldmo.gov



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

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

Follow Grant Beach on  

Own a home in Grant Beach that you're unable to maintain?

The Drew Lewis Foundation Blue House Project wants to buy it!
Learn more on page 8.



QUINTEN KYLE
Grant Beach's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

FASSNIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD



Grant Avenue closed to one-way southbound only traffic between Sunshine and University through February

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Grant Avenue closed to one-way southbound traffic only between Sunshine and University streets in early December 2023 for construction related to the Grant Avenue Parkway corridor improvement project. The roadway is expected to remain one-way in this segment of the parkway route for approximately three months (weather permitting).

“Upon completion of this segment, the final asphalt pavement can then be applied in all of section two of the Parkway Route, from Sunshine to Ildereen.” – Leree Reese

“We have completed acquisition of necessary right-of-way easements in this remaining southern segment of the Grant Avenue Parkway route, allowing our contractor crews to jump down and quickly construct GAP utility, roadway and pedestrian improvements,” explains Project Manager Leree Reese. “Upon completion of this segment, the final asphalt pavement can then be applied in all of section two of the Parkway Route, from Sunshine to Ildereen.”

Final asphalt application is expected to take place in the springtime when temperatures are more suited to asphalt application. Landscaping and tree planting along completed portions of the Grant Avenue Parkway is anticipated in spring or summer.

Northbound traffic between Sunshine and

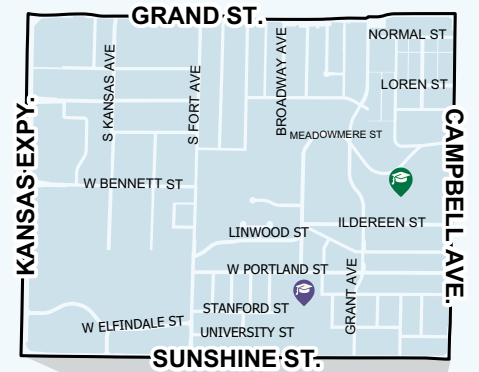
University is advised to follow the posted detour generally using Campbell Avenue.

GRANT AVENUE PARKWAY PROGRESS CONTINUES

Grant Avenue Parkway improvements have steadily progressed since construction began in May 2022 with the rapid construction of a new roundabout and parking lot modifications at Parkview High School. Planned transportation and infrastructure elements in sections one and two of the Parkway, between University and Catalpa streets, are now largely complete including a new 10-foot wide multi-use path, new sidewalk and pedestrian-friendly intersection and crosswalk upgrades. A new sidewalk was completed connecting the Parkway to the new Jarrett Middle School along Portland Avenue. Updates to gas, water, wastewater and sewer utilities are also complete in these sections, with electrical lines being installed underground to create more open, parklike space. Final landscaping and roadway pavement surfacing are anticipated when a greater portion of the Parkway route is complete.

Grant Avenue is currently one-way southbound only in sections three, four and five of the Parkway route (between Meadowmere and Walnut streets) through summer/fall. Northbound traffic is advised to follow the posted detour generally using Campbell Avenue.

For more information about the Grant Avenue Parkway and to subscribe to receive regular project updates, visit grantavenueparkway.com.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 2 • Feb. 6 • March 5 • April 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!



NATHAN COOK
Fassnight's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**





Hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) activities, crafts and games, all with a winter theme!

Northview Center • 305 E. Talmage St.

PARKBOARD.ORG

\$5/Child | Ages 5-12 yrs.

REGISTER NOW

GALLOWAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD



Galloway recognizes Galloway Baptist Church with NOVA

By Reva Crews, for SGFNN

Nestled in the heart of Galloway Village, Galloway Baptist Church stands as a symbol of the unwavering strength of faith and community. This fall, members of the church, friends, and neighbors, gathered together to honor the 100th anniversary of the church, sharing pictures, stories, and a sense of community. To add to the excitement, a time capsule that had been buried for almost 50 years was opened, revealing items dating back to the church's founding. Its centennial anniversary celebration was a time not only to commemorate the past but also to look ahead toward the future.

Founded in 1923, the church has been a steadfast presence in the Galloway community for an impressive 100 years. From its humble beginnings, this spiritual haven has evolved into a pillar of strength, offering solace, support, and a sense of belonging to generations of families. Welcoming individuals from all walks of life and backgrounds, Galloway Baptist Church greets everyone who steps through its doors with open arms and embraces them as part of a larger family.

During the construction of the new church building in 1959, a cornerstone was placed in the northwest corner of the front of the church. A flat stone was then placed in front of a time capsule and sealed with concrete for almost half a century. Opening the time capsule brought a rush of emotions and served as a reminder of the church's rich history in Galloway and the legacy it carries. Its contents revealed old photographs, letters, and church mottos, combining nostalgia for the past with anticipation for the future.

Galloway Baptist Church's two-story brick building's enduring charm remains a symbol of stability and strength in a small corner of Southeast Springfield. More than just a place of worship, Galloway Baptist Church has been a cornerstone of our community for generations; it is where families come together to celebrate milestones, where prayers and laughter are shared, where children's joyous voices echo in its halls, where community bonds are strong, and where people can find a sense of belonging. The church serves as the heart of the community, offering support in times of happiness and sorrow.

Throughout its history, Galloway Baptist Church

has been dedicated to serving the broader Springfield community, organizing food drives, participating in local charity events, and extending a helping hand to those in need. Their admirable dedication towards serving the community never goes unnoticed, and this year Galloway Village Neighborhood Association was proud to nominate them as our 2023 "Neighbor of the Year." They have generously provided a space for the Galloway Village Neighborhood Association's quarterly meetings, allowed us to plant a community Christmas tree on their property, and partnered with us for neighborhood garage sales and other community events.

As the church celebrates its 100th anniversary, there is a deep sense of pride in preserving traditions while simultaneously embracing the future. The church has adapted to the changing times, incorporating modern technology to connect with the congregation and the community at large. Virtual services, online events, and social media outreach have become integral parts of the church's mission to stay connected with its members and the surrounding community.

The 100th anniversary of Galloway Baptist Church was a momentous occasion celebrating the rich tapestry of history, the strength of enduring faith, and the unwavering commitment to community not only for the congregation but for the entire community. As the church looks toward the future, there's no doubt that the next 100 years will be marked by continued growth, service, and the deep sense of connection that has defined Galloway Baptist Church for the past century.

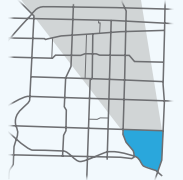


Original Galloway Baptist Church building with the new building in the background, 1959



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 16 • April 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.

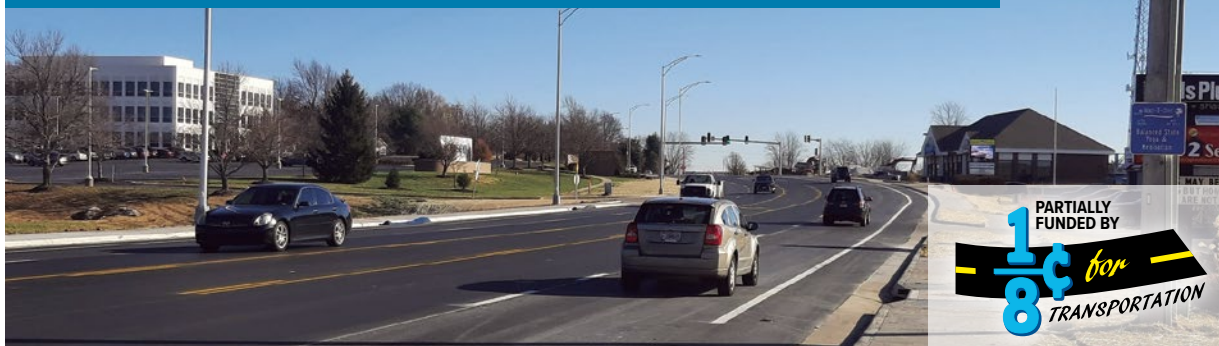
Follow Galloway Village on  [gallowayvillage.org](https://www.facebook.com/gallowayvillage)



GALLOWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
Galloway Village's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

NOVA 2023

GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD



Newly widened Republic Road now fully open to traffic east of Campbell Avenue

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

All lanes are now open on the newly widened portion of Republic Road just east of the Campbell Avenue intersection as construction of the Republic Road Widening Project continues to progress west.

The Republic Road Widening Phases 4 & 5 Project is the final and most complicated phase in the overall effort to widen Republic Road through Springfield. The project will expand the roadway to five lanes between the traffic signal at Chase through the Campbell Avenue intersection to Fairview Avenue. Improvements will include Americans with Disabilities Act compliant sidewalk upgrades, bike lanes and traffic signal upgrades. Construction will also extend north on Campbell to improve stormwater and utility infrastructure. Construction began in March and is expected to last through the end of winter.

Upon completion of the eastern portion of the project, crews are currently focused on the northwest quadrant of the intersection along Campbell. Contractor Capital Paving and Excavating will complete grading and construct concrete pavement, curbs, gutters and sidewalks over the next month before carrying construction

activity west on Republic Road to Fairview Avenue.

"We're also working on signal upgrades at Campbell and Republic Road and are slowly shifting operations from old signal poles to the new," explains Project Manager Nicholas Edelman. "We hope to have the signal fully operational by the first of the year."

Throughout the project, various lane closures have been limited to overnight hours in an effort to minimize traffic impacts during the day. Traffic flow in all directions has been maintained throughout.

"We don't expect traffic control needs to change, but with winter temperatures becoming a factor, there's always a chance we may need to shift pavement work to daytime hours," explains Edelman. "We are making every effort to minimize traffic impacts, but there may be some lane closure needs pop up."

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

For more information about the project, visit springfieldmo.gov/republicroad.

Temporary traffic calming in Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood removed, permanent installations coming soon

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Over the last two years, Public Works has worked to reduce cut-through traffic and speeding in the Greater Parkcrest neighborhood. In preparation for the start of the Republic Road Widening Project, temporary traffic calming devices were installed at multiple locations along Broadway and Westview in April 2022.

Traffic calming is a traffic engineering method designed to slow traffic, typically by using either horizontal or vertical elements in and around the roadway.

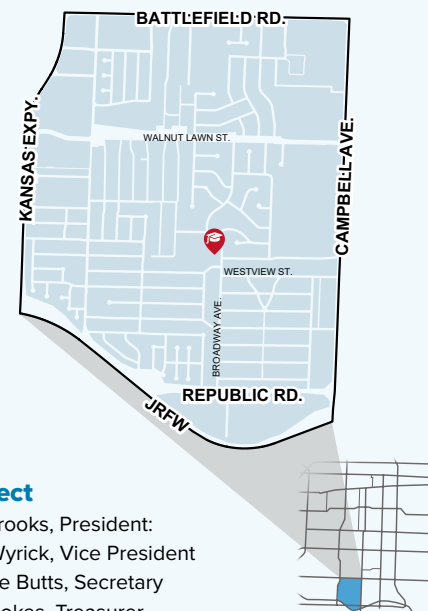
Throughout the program, Public Works collected traffic speed and volume data to determine the effectiveness of each traffic calming device. Findings were shared with neighbors as part of a survey. In March 2023 modifications were made in response to observation and citizen feedback.

As the Republic Road Widening Project began winding down, Public Works removed the traffic calming devices in December 2023. In the spring, when traffic patterns have normalized after removal



of the devices, further speed and volume data will be collected for comparison and final evaluation.

Based on data, lessons learned and citizen feedback, a permanent design proposal will be prepared and brought to area residents and the Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association for feedback. Permanent traffic calming features would reduce speed and vehicular cut-through traffic and provide greater aesthetic quality of place improvements to the neighborhood in comparison to the temporary measures previously in place.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

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  

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



LIBBY WISEMAN
Greater Parkcrest's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

SUSTAINABILITY RESOLUTIONS

NEW YEAR NEW YOU



The Department of Environmental Services protects the natural resources and public health of our City and region for current and future generations by providing effective and integrated management of stormwater, wastewater and solid waste.

Sign up for curbside recycling

Start planning garden with natives for spring!

Reminder: Don't flush anything but toilet paper!

Check out the Private Sewer Repair Program.

Make meal plan for the week!

2024 PLANNER

For the week of January 1-7

To do this week:

New year, New you!

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Sweep up extra salt on the sidewalk!

Take leaves to the recycling center TOMORROW!

Sign up for the Dish to Dirt home composting workshop!

Stop putting food down the garbage disposal!

Sign up for the Food Scraps Recycling Program.



Take one small step or a bigger step to change your habits for a more sustainable 2024!

NEW YEAR,

Make 2024 a year to take new steps toward sustainability

Waste less in the kitchen.

Baby Step:

Meal plan! Only buy what you need for the week and plan leftover nights. You will buy less and waste less.



Take it another step:

Sign up for the Dish to Dirt Food Scraps dropoff program at springfieldmo.gov/foodscraps. Collect those scraps and drop them off at one of our recycling sites to be made into compost for the benefit of the community. **Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/foodscraps.**



BONUS STEP:

Compost at home! Participate in the Dish to Dirt Home Composting class. You'll learn all about how it works and even get a free composter. **Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/dishtodirt.**

Make Springfield a more beautiful place!

Baby Step:

Don't litter! Avoid tossing trash out the window. Keep your curbside trash secure. Keep track of those cigarette butts.



Take it another step:

Get a group together and volunteer to clean up trash in our community through the Clean Green Springfield initiative or even adopt a section of roadway or stream through Adopt-A-Street or Adopt-A-Stream.

Learn more at cleangreensgf.com



Avoid costly plumbing surprises.

Baby Step:

Just Trash It! Avoid putting food, grease, dairy and other items down your kitchen drains. Also keep the toilet flushing by sticking to the 3 Ps (Pee, Poo and Paper!). Everything else goes in the trash to avoid grease, food and items that don't break down easily from congealing and clogging the sanitary sewer system.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/justtrashit.



Take it another step:

Call your local plumber to get an inspection of your home's lateral pipes. Knowing the condition of your plumbing will help you plan for maintenance and avoid backups and costly repairs. **Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/privatesewerrepair.**



BONUS STEP:

It doesn't all have to go in the trash! Most food waste that you might normally be putting down the kitchen drain can be composted.

Sign up for the Dish to Dirt Food Scraps dropoff program at springfieldmo.gov/foodscraps and put these scraps to good use in our community.

NEW YOU!

whether that's a baby step, big step or a bonus step.

Create less household trash!

Baby Step:

Buy less and avoid single-use convenience items. Purchase reusable items in place of those you throw away after one use. Spend a little more to purchase an item that will last longer.



Take it another step:

Recycle! 70% of the material in the landfill could have been recycled. Contact your trash hauler to sign up for curbside recycling service OR collect and sort it yourself and bring it to one of our recycling dropoff centers.



BONUS STEP

Not all items can be easily recycled, but visit our **Waste Wizard** online database at springfieldmo.gov/wastewizard and you can find a local source that will recycle, donate or repurpose most of what you're trying to clear out. Donating furniture, toys and other items can also help raise money for local non-profits.



Improve water quality in your neighborhood.

Baby Step:

Use less ice melt, fertilizer and other outdoor chemicals. If you must use them, follow directions on the packaging for the proper application and avoid washing them off your driveway and into the stormwater system.



Take it another step:

Plant natives! Landscaping with native Missouri plants helps improve water quality by naturally filtering pollutants that might wash off our yards and driveways. They also provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators.



BONUS STEP

Visit YardEthic.com to learn more about other tips and programs that you can do at home to help improve water quality. If you do enough of these, your home may even qualify for Yard Ethic silver or gold certification!



Learn more about sustainability in SAF

Baby Step:

Follow Environmental Services on Facebook or Instagram, or visit springfieldmo.gov/recycling to learn more about sustainability resources in Springfield.



Take it a step further:

Sign up for a class, program, or event with Environmental Services or any local sustainability partner. You can even reach out to schedule an educational tour of one of our facilities for your club, service group or classroom.

Don't know where to recycle an item?

Ask the Wizard at
springfieldmo.gov/wastewizard



Read about local and industry topics on the

ES BLOG

springfieldmo.gov/ESBlog

PET WASTE

It's not fertilizer. It's not compostable.
It belongs in the trash.

Pet waste is not part of the natural ecosystem and actually contains pollutants that are harmful to our waterways. **Learn more at** springfieldmo.gov/scoopthepoop



#SCOOPTHEPOOP

Bypass The Bowl. Just Trash It!

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/sewer



Learn about what
not to flush & why!

HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



New board, activities for Heart of the Westside

By Glenn Gohr, for SGFNN

Thanks to Anna Pageler for her years of service to Heart of the Westside.

Your new board for 2024 is Glenn Gohr, president; Billy Cockrum, vice president and Karen Carr, secretary/treasurer.

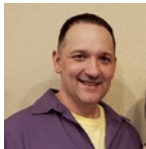
Fall was a busy time for us! On Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, Heart of the Westside hosted its fall cleanup with curbside pick-up. Volunteers loaded brush in trucks and trailers and hauled them to the Yardwaste Recycling Center. The City provided vouchers to cover the costs. Be sure to join us for our spring cleanup 8 a.m.-noon, April 13 at Nichols Park.

On Sept. 29, 2023, Heart of the Westside had a booth at the KY3 Good Neighbor Event at Nichols Park. It was a great time to interact with Springfield leaders and people in the community.

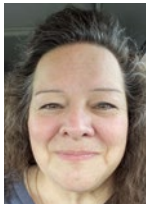
Passion Assembly Church hosted Light-N-the Night on Oct. 31, 2023 which included indoor games and activities for kids in the neighborhood.



Glenn Gohr



Billy Cockrum



Karen Carr



Connect

- Glenn Gohr, President:
- Billy Cockrum, Vice President
- Karen Carr, Secretary/Treasurer
- theheartofthewestside@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 9 • March 12: 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

Food Pantries

New Growth Food Pantry

Jan. 20 • Feb. 17 • March 16: 9 a.m.- Noon,
1351 N. Marion Ave.

Hope & Anchor Church Food Pantry

Jan. 20 • Feb. 17 • March 16: 10-11 a.m.,
2216 W. College St.



BILLY COCKRUM
Heart of the Westside's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

Daddy Daughter Dance



SAT., FEB. 24 | 6-9 p.m.

Age: 3 yrs. and up

Fee: \$40/Couple,
\$15/Additional Girl

Includes dinner and photo

**Northview
Center Ballroom**

PARKBOARD.ORG/DOLING



Good Jobs Challenge

Are you ready for a meaningful career but need the required training?

Training offered in 3 career pathways!

- Healthcare
- Education Services
- Transportation/Logistics

To enroll or find out more visit,
www.springfieldmo.gov/goodjobs



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.

MARK TWAIN NEIGHBORHOOD



Mark Twain Neighborhood Association steps up to help elderly neighbor after house fire

By Carolyn Goucher, for SGFNN

In November, elderly Mark Twain neighbor Barbra Pittman was awakened by an explosion in the garage of the home she had lived in for more than 50 years.

She got out of bed and tried to turn on her bedroom light, only to find that the power was out. By the time she grabbed a flashlight and woke her son, who was recovering from illness, smoke was enveloping the house. Before they knew it, flames were ripping through the kitchen and down the hallway.

They barely got out, grabbing their little dog on the way. Barbra's son suffered some pretty nasty burns on his face as he dodged the flames to make his way to safety.

Within a day or two, the Mark Twain Neighborhood Association's board members got word of the fire and started discussing how we could assist in our group text message. Seeing as Barbra's home was just around the corner from mine, I proposed that I drop by and check in on them.

I am so proud of the response from our neighborhood! We were able to raise several hundred dollars to help her cover immediate expenses, and a few neighbors offered to bring over gift cards for groceries and necessities. Some neighbors offered to bring food for the family as they worked to clear out the house.

I pulled into the driveway of the nearly gutted house just as Barbra emerged from the dark doorway with an armful of blouses from her closet that she was hoping to clean and save. She was splotched with soot and I could see the exhaustion in her eyes. I explained to her who I was and that her neighbors wanted to lend a hand in whatever way we could.

I listened as she fought back tears, telling me how she had moved into the home as a newlywed in her



20s, raised her and her late husband's kids there, and sent them to school across the street at Mark Twain Elementary. Now, she's in her 80s and having to start over from scratch. Even their vehicles were destroyed by the explosion in the garage. Her son was still in the hospital to control infection from his burns, but she told me that family had been helping her sort through what remains of her home and her memories every single day since the fire.

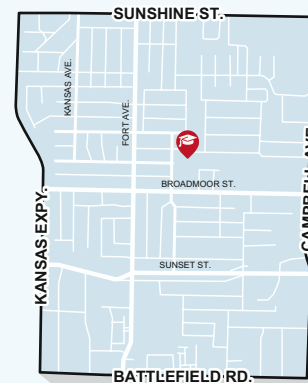
I asked if we could start a fundraiser for her, and I asked her specifically what she needed until her insurance came through. I asked for permission to snap a couple of photos to make a post and call to action in our Facebook group.

I am so proud of the response from our neighborhood! We were able to raise several hundred dollars to help her cover immediate expenses, and a few neighbors offered to bring over gift cards for groceries and necessities. Some neighbors offered to bring food for the family as they worked to clear out the house.

Last I spoke to her, Barbra was still trying to decide if she wants to rebuild. She is safe and staying with family.

It's a great thing to be involved with a neighborhood that cares, and I couldn't be more proud of the people who stepped up to help this sweet lady in her time of need. I hope that we can work on building the number of people who want to be involved and become an army of help in future moments of crisis.

Good job, neighbors!



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 9 • Feb. 13 • March 12 • April 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  



Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!



SAMANTHA SPARTAN
Mark Twain's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Meador gears up for cleanup and kickball in April

By Bobbi Ream, for SGFNN

We had an eventful 2023. Work on the 2024 calendar and budgets started in January. This should be ready for review by those attending our Sixth Birthday Observance at our regular resident/member meeting on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Cowden Elementary School. If you have ideas or suggestions, please get them to a board member via MeadorParkNA@gmail.com

A big event in 2024 will be the Neighborhood Cleanup, 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 6. This event can also be described as a dumpster day. The City was able to move this event back to a Saturday by combining it with other neighborhoods. Bradford Park and Seminole Holland neighborhoods will be joining us at Meador Park. MPNA would like to offer curbside pick-up but a tremendous amount of additional help is required. Additional information will be posted during February and early March.

The annual Citywide Kickball Tournament will be held at Meador Park Sports Fields on April 21 with a rain date of April 28. This event is open to everyone over the age of 8. If there is someone able to coach or manage a team, please contact a board member for full details. This is a real family event with plenty of things for younger children to enjoy!

As of publication closing date we are still in need of an additional board member. Please join us and help us make Meador Park Neighborhood the place people want to live!

Happy New Year to everyone and see you again soon!



Meador Park Neighborhood Association at the SGF Yields Lantern Walk on Oct. 7, 2023



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 25 • Feb. 22 • March 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 Cheering Section for the 2023 Bass Pro Shops Marathon, Nov. 5, 2023

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

Jan. 8 • Feb. 12 • March 11 • April 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 Shelby Chaney: 417-874-2535
schaney@springfieldmo.gov



 **Boyd Elementary School**
833 E. Division St.

 **Central High School**
423 E. Central St.

Follow Midtown on  



RANALD IVES
Midtown's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

Oak Grove Neighborhood Association remembers founding member, Gerald Clary

Provided by Greenlawn Funeral Home

Gerald W. Clary was born on March 27, 1932 in Glennville, Georgia to Curtis and Lura (Todd) Clary. On Nov. 16, 2023 he passed away peacefully with his wife, Shirley, and son, Kevin, by his side. He is survived by his wife Shirley, two sisters, four sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

His parents were sharecroppers, and his first nine years of life were often spent in the same fields of cotton and tobacco as his father and uncles. During World War II, his entire family moved to the Hampden-Woodberry district of Baltimore where his father worked in a factory. The oldest of five children, he had a number of odd jobs to support his family. During the 10th grade, he dropped out of high school entirely, and at the age of 17 he joined the United States Army.

"He kept and fought for our neighborhood to stay in the know, strong, together, and safe; and stayed a part of the very thing he created through to his final years."
– Oak Grove Neighborhood Association

While in the Army, Gerald, served his country as a forward observer for a field artillery unit with the 1st Cavalry Division in Korea. While in combat, he was one of the soldiers who was able to view the Chinese Army massing to cross the Yalu River. He served with distinction, earning a number of citations, including the Korean Service Medal with five Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart. He re-enlisted twice, living all over the U.S. and in Germany. He retired in 1961 as a Sgt. First Class while working in supply and logistics and remained highly decorated in his peacetime rolls.

Spurred by a hunger for an education he never received. He obtained his G.E.D. while in the Army. He also answered his call to Christ and enrolled in Baptist Bible College and was ordained in 1963. He

served as a pastor for a short time at First Baptist Church in Wentworth. Eventually, Gerald's

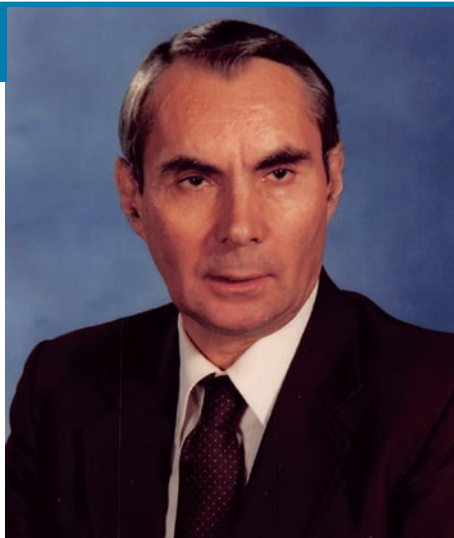
thirst for knowledge led him back to further his education by enrolling in Drury College at the age of 30 under the GI bill. It was there he discovered his love of education and teaching.

It was a final career path that would lead him to a 35-year career in the Springfield Public School System and 34 years at Glendale High School. He taught all areas of social studies but loved economics, history, and AP psychology most of all. His classes were tough, and his expectations were high. As a result, an entire generation of young leaders were made in his classroom over the years.

Gerald's passions were reading and politics. He adored his family and felt a true duty to his community. Over the years, he made countless donations to local and national charities, with a special focus on any who directly served children in need.

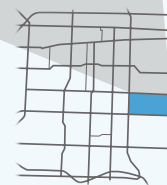
Gerald remained active in his community as well as a service to his profession. He was a staunch negotiator, and his leadership in the SNEA secured health insurance and other benefits for thousands of Springfield teachers and retirees. He was a longtime leader in the Ozark Trails Boy Scout Council and loved to share his knowledge of camping and leadership with his peers. In retirement, he became active in the Springfield Neighborhood Association, founding the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association where he served as President for several years.

"Gerald Clary is the reason our neighborhood has had a Neighborhood Association for so many years now," said the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association. "He kept and fought for our neighborhood to stay in the know, strong, together, and safe; and stayed a part of the very thing he created through to his final years. We cannot thank you enough Gerald for giving our neighborhood as much of the devotion that you have given."



Connect

- Lena Sample, President
- Wendell Royster, 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 Nathan Thieman: 417-874-1321
nthieman@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)



DAVID OGAN
Oak Grove's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

Oak Grove, Brentwood and Galloway Village serve nearly 100 household during fall cleanup

Provided by the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association

Oak Grove came together with Brentwood and Galloway Village for the 2023 Fall Neighborhood Cleanup on Oct. 14, 2023, and I cannot say enough wonderful things about it. Everyone worked together so diligently, and we were able to serve 98 unique households and 137 cars, not including all the metal James was able to haul off. I can't wait to see what we do for all of our neighbors next year!



Provided by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board

CPO approached the Park Board in 2022 about building a playground in Bentley's honor, who served on CPO's board of directors for over 20 years.

It took CPO less than a year to raise the funds needed for the playground through donations from the community, including a contribution from the five Rotary Clubs in Springfield.

ABOUT ROSEANN BENTLEY

Bentley's career began in classrooms, teaching kindergarten and first-grade students. She would later serve on the Springfield Public School Board of Education, the State Board of Education, the National Association of State Boards of Education and the Parents as Teachers Board of Directors.



- Dave Trippe, President:
d.trippe@mchsi.com
or 417-569-5759
- Michelle Harvey, Vice President
- Ester Bultas, Secretary/Treasurer

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.

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!*



FRAN & JIM GIGLIO

**NOVA
2023**

TURNER ST.

HIGH ST.

DALE ST.

ATLANTIC ST.

WASHINGTON AVE.

NATIONAL AVE.

PROSPECT AVE.

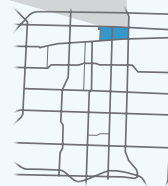
FREMONT AVE.

WELLER AVE.

DELAWARE AVE.

KEARNEY ST.

GLENSIDE AVE.



- Mary Ann Bonetti, President:
ladyemage@msn.com
- Dolly Vranka, Treasurer

Jan. 25 • Feb. 22 • March 28: 6:30-8 p.m. @ Pathways
United Methodist Church (1232 E. Dale St.)

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



 **Robberson Community School**
1100 E. Kearney St.

Follow Robberson on

Woodland Heights & Robberson

SAT., MARCH 30

Railroad Parking Lot
(304 W. Chase St.)



MARY ANN & GREG BONETTI
Robberson's NOVA
Volunteers of the Year

NOVA
2023

ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 16 • Feb. 20 • March 19: 7-8 p.m. @ University Heights Baptist Church (1010 S. National Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Nathan Thieman: 417-874-1321
nthieman@springfieldmo.gov



Rountree Elementary School
1333 Grand St.

Follow Rountree on

Rountree's Barbara Thurman recognized as one of state's Most Engaged Neighbors

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Rountree's Barbara Thurman was nominated for her "leadership and efforts to elevate the connectedness" of the Rountree Neighborhood Association. She has revived Welcome Wagon for new homeowners, organized and promoted a Chalk Your Walk event to celebrate Missouri Good Neighbor Week with 38 participants.

Read more about Missouri's 2023 Good Neighbor Week on page 1 or at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.



HADEN LONG
Rountree's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

SEMINOLE HOLLAND NEIGHBORHOOD



Seminole Holland offers new ways to engage with neighbors

By William Cooper, for SGFNN

The spirit of the neighborhood was alive and kicking at the Bass Pro Cheering Challenge event on Nov. 5, 2023, where members of the Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association had an absolute blast! But guess what? The excitement doesn't end there!

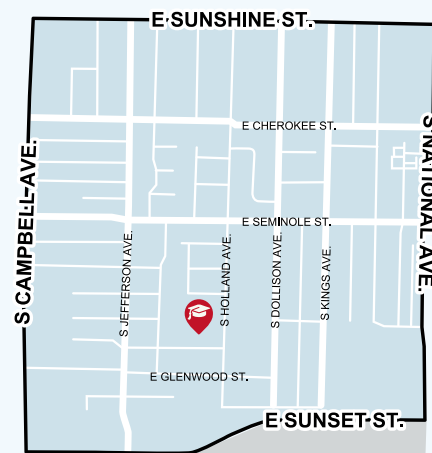
Hold onto your hats because the Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association is soaring into the digital age with the launch of our very own private Facebook Group! To join the party, all you need to do is hop onto Facebook and search for "Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association Group." This exclusive space is a hub for members and friends to dive into discussions about neighborhood events, share concerns and foster a sense of community like never before.

Have an idea, a concern, or just want to catch up on the latest neighborhood buzz? The private group is the place to be! Engage with your fellow community enthusiasts, share your thoughts, and stay in the loop about everything happening in Seminole Holland.

Mark your calendars because the next big thing is just around the corner! Our general membership event is set for 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 22 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 925 E. Seminole St. This is your chance to connect face to face, exchange ideas and be an integral part of the neighborhood's journey.

The excitement never stops, and neither does our commitment to keeping you in the know. Don't forget to keep an eye on our website at SeminoleHolland.com for the latest news, updates and exciting features coming your way.

Let's make Seminole Holland the place to be — online and offline!



Connect

- Bruce Adib-Yazdi, President
- Cody Hicks, Vice President
- William Cooper, Secretary
- Amy Shelburn-Zarins, Treasurer
- SeminoleHolland@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 22: 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.



DAVID SIEWERT
Seminole Holland's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

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.)



MARLA CANTWELL
Tom Watkins' NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 3 • Feb. 7 • March 6 • April 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 Nathan Thieman: 417-874-1321
nthieman@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow University Heights on  
universityheights-sgf.org



SGF Yields Lantern Walk Oct. 7, 2023
in Phelps Grove Park

WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 4 • Feb. 1 • March 7 • April 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 Shelby Chaney: 417-874-2535
schaney@springfieldmo.gov



 **Weller Elementary School**
1630 N. Weller Ave.

Follow Weller on  



Weller Neighborhood Association at the
17th annual NOVA banquet.

WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD



City completes downtown Jubilee Park safety and operational modifications

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Following a public comment period yielding no major concerns, the City of Springfield began construction of safety and operational modifications to Downtown Springfield's Jubilee Park (298 S. Jefferson Avenue) in late November.

The goal of the modifications is to provide a convenient green space for residents and visitors in an area of downtown Springfield that is otherwise developed. The project included the removal of stone walls, planters and patio spaces on the north and south portions of the park. An asphalt walkway was also removed and a new walkway constructed to connect sidewalk along the western perimeter to an existing music installation. Spaces where pavement was removed was regraded to provide flatter, more walkable and mowable green space. Several trees in poor condition were removed and replaced with new trees and landscaping in various locations.

The City began looking at potential modifications

to the park following a request from the Downtown Community Improvement District to assess safety, maintenance and overall usability of the space. A Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) study of the space was conducted over the summer by the Springfield Police Department. The City also conducted research on the history of the current contents of Jubilee Park and found no restrictions to its modification.

Crews began with the removal of approximately 10 trees from the site that are in poor health and condition. Workers returned the week of Dec. 11 to begin the removal of stone walls, planters and patio spaces on the north and south portions of the park. The modifications were completed near the end of the year, with replacement tree plantings and landscaping work planned for the spring.

Modifications were constructed by Public Works internal streets and grounds crews at a cost of less than \$5,000.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Alliance Meetings

Jan. 23 • Feb. 27 • March 26: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
@ Resurrection 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  

Mobile Library Stop

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

Tuesdays: 2:20-2:50 p.m.

Jenny Lind Hall Apts. (711 S. Jefferson Ave.)

To see a full list of Mobile Library Stops in West Central check out thelibrary.org/mobilelibrary.

Congrats to Patricia DeWitt, 2023 West Central NOVA recipient

Provided by the West Central Neighborhood Alliance

Congrats to Patricia DeWitt our NOVA award recipient for 2023!

This year, in partnership with Better Block SGF, West Central was proud to host the first community fridge and our nominee has nearly single handedly kept it full.



You might recognize our nominee peeking from behind a steering wheel in a car full of cabbage.

She personally stocked nearly 5,000 pounds of fresh produce in the fridge from June to November this year and personally managed the delivery of over 40,000 pounds of fresh produce to those in need.

Pat just figures out how to make it happen.

She's been working with local food banks, farmers, and farmers markets for years making sure food doesn't go to waste by getting food where it's needed.

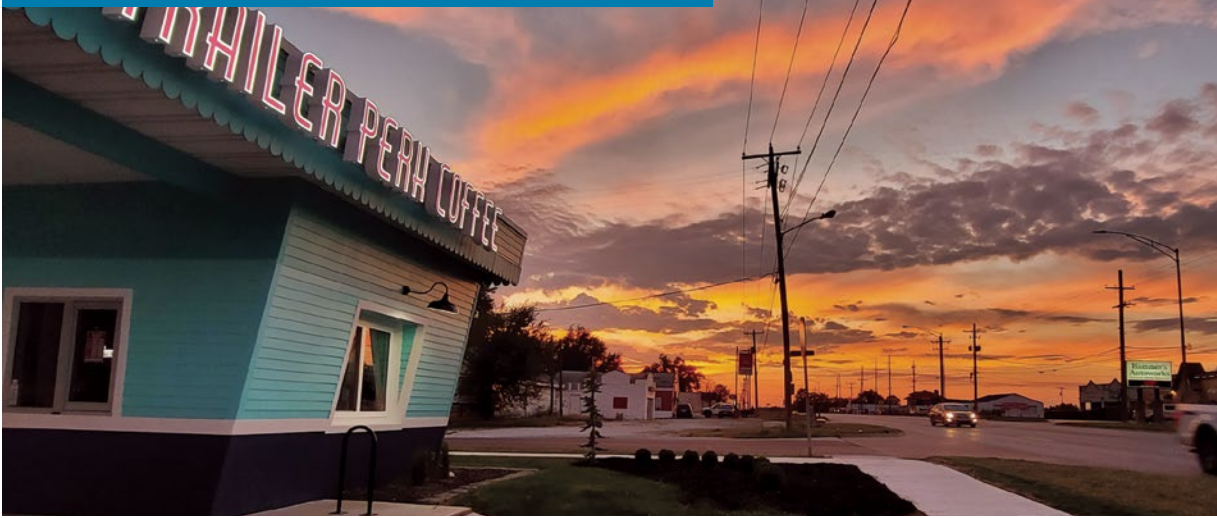
Thank you, Pat!



West Central Neighborhood Alliance at the Oct. 3, 2023 Good Neighbor Week Block Party at Fasnacht Park

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

Photo: Trailer Perk Coffee



Connect

- Sharon L. Brooks, President:
dcwms@mchsi.com
- Kenyon Woodson, Vice President
- Candy Smith, Treasurer
- Lydia Austin, Secretary



Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings

Jan. 9 • Feb. 13 • March 12 • April 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  

Trailer Perk Coffee now caffeinating Westside

By Sharon L. Brooks, for SGFNN

Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association would like to welcome our new business neighbor, Trailer Perk Coffee, which recently opened in a mint-green building with a pink flamingo at 2848 W. Chestnut Expressway at the site of the original Red's Giant Hamburg.



Owner Amber Ottoson was recently quoted in the Springfield Daily Citizen as saying "my 'white coffee' has a unique flavor by barely roasting the beans." White coffee is popular in the Pacific Northwest, where Amber is originally from, so Amber is "bringing a little bit of the Northwest to the Midwest." Check out trailerperkcoffee.com to



see the many different varieties of drinks and food. You can also follow Trailer Perk Coffee on Facebook at facebook.com/trailerperkcoffee.

Amber resides on the west side of Springfield. When looking for properties for Trailer Perk Coffee, she wanted to be close to home, and the old Red's site fit the bill.



Mobile Library Stop

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

Thursdays: 3:15-3:45 p.m.

Westport Park Apts. (250 N. Hilton Ave.)

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

Craigmont Place (740 S. Lafontaine Ave.)



ERICA ROBERTSON

Westside's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2023**



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New/Renewing Annual Memberships Family Center Membership

Jan. 2-14

ParkBoard.org/JoinNow







WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD



Woodland Heights celebrates Good Neighbor Week creatively with five nights of fun

By Chance Parish, for SGFNN

The state of Missouri celebrated Good Neighbor Week from Sept. 28 until Oct. 4. Never to be outdone — the Woodland Heights neighborhood celebrated our own version of Good Neighbor Week one week prior!

That is, due to scheduling conflicts experienced by some of our neighborhood leaders, and the desire to include those folks as part of our neighborhood celebration, Woodland Heights held our Good Neighbor Week festivities from Sept. 19-23. Thanks to the hard work of this event's primary organizer, Natalie Batchelor, historic Lafayette Park was home to five events for five consecutive nights!



The celebration began Sept. 19 with Race Car Night. Lafayette Park was transformed into a mini race track for eager children and remote-controlled cars. This was followed Sept. 20 by "Play in the Park Night," which consisted of children and adults donning their finest (or gaudiest) costumes and just enjoying the absurdity of playing in the



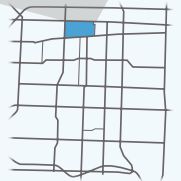
park together. Sept. 21 may have been the calmest night. This evening consisted of a lantern-making workshop where adults helped children craft artistic lanterns for use at the SGF Yields Lantern Walk. Sept. 22 turned into an epic adventure as Lafayette Park was flooded with knights and swordplay for Medieval Night. And, as if our volunteers weren't already exhausted enough(!) Saturday, Sept. 23 ended the weeklong celebration with our annual Neighborhood Night Out. There was music, dancing, food and the requisite bouncy house. And there were, of course, countless neighbors enjoying each other's company.

The five nights of Woodland Heights' Good Neighbor Week brought our community closer together by encouraging wonder and playfulness.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 16 • Feb. 20 • March 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  
woodlandheightsneighborhood.org

Spring Neighborhood Cleanup

Woodland Heights
& Robberson

SAT., MARCH 30

Railroad Parking Lot
(304 W. Chase St.)



**NATALIE & CURTIS
BATCHELOR**
Woodland Heights' NOVA
Volunteers of the Year

**NOVA
2023**

Jefferson Avenue Footbridge Rehabilitation Update: City Council approves Project Agreement with MoDOT to access \$8M in funding

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Following an \$8 million state budget appropriation for the rehabilitation of the historic Jefferson Avenue Footbridge announced this summer, Springfield Public Works has determined a plan with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) on the process to gain access to the funding. City Council approved the formal "Direct Appropriation Project Agreement" with MoDOT in November. Public Works anticipates advertising the project for contractor bids this winter.



The \$8 million approved through the state budget is designated specifically for rehabilitation of the historic bridge and cannot be used for improvements to the Footbridge Plaza space or other infrastructure.

In 2021, approximately \$15,000 was approved for funding through the C-Street TIF to complete a concept design of the Footbridge Plaza. However, there is currently no funding identified for the full design or construction of any updates to the Plaza. Project team members are assessing previously budgeted local funds and any other funding opportunities to determine what sources could qualify for future improvements to the Footbridge Plaza.

For more information, visit springfieldmo.gov/footbridge. To sign up to receive regular project update emails, subscribe to "Commercial Street Historic District Project Updates" via the "Notify Me" tab on the City's Webpage at springfieldmo.gov.

Reed Academy demolished in October to make way for replacement

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Heavy equipment operators brought down the walls of the 100-year-old Reed Academy, née Reed Middle School, née Reed Junior High School, 2000 N. Lyon Ave., in the fall. While Reed students attend classes in the former Jarrett Middle School on South Jefferson, a new bond-funded \$59 million, 128,900-square-foot school with 21 classrooms, six science labs and two collaboration spaces is being constructed over the next two years.



The new Reed Academy of Fine & Performing Arts will house 725 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. In the fall, Reed became one of Springfield Public Schools' Choice Programs, which have focused themes and aligned curriculum that provides students access to unique learning opportunities driven by their passion, inquiry, and community connections.



Events January – March 2024

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

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. Check facebook.com/ThePTAClothingBank for the most up-to-date information and shopping dates.

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.

Kids' Night: Chesterfield Family Center: Fri., Jan. 12 & Fri., Feb. 9: 5:30-8 p.m. Chesterfield Family Center, 2511 W. Republic Rd. Parents enjoy a night out while kids have supervised fun with friends, swimming, pizza, craft and a movie. Ages 5-12 yrs. ParkBoard.org/Chesterfield. Fee: \$15/Family Center Member, \$20/Non-member.

Fix-It Fair: Sat., Jan. 13: Noon-4 p.m., Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, Reading Room (20), 397 E. Central St. Get your fixable items repaired by volunteers at the Library's Fix-It Fair. Give your household appliances, mechanical items and even clothes a new lease on life and reduce waste. Volunteer fixers will help repair your fixable items. No oversized, gas-powered items or safety hazards. Presented with Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

NAACP MLK Day March 2024: Mon., Jan. 15: 7:30 a.m. March starts at Jordan Valley Ice Park, 635 E. Trafficway St. The NAACP would like you to join us for the annual MLK Day March and program that follows. The ice park opens at 7:30 a.m., and the march leaves at 8:30 a.m. As in past years the march heads north on Benton, left into the Jordan Valley Health Center parking lot and south on Jefferson to the Gillioz. The program begins at 9:45 a.m. at the Gillioz. For more information follow the NAACP of Springfield at facebook.com/NAACPSpringfieldMissouri.

Eagle Days: Sat., Jan. 20: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 21: 12:30-4:30 p.m. Lake Springfield Boathouse, 5324 S. Kissick Ave. Learn about eagles and other migratory birds visiting Lake Springfield this winter. Bring binoculars, telephoto cameras or small telescopes, or use equipment provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation at Lake Springfield Boathouse. Then take a hike around the park to spot birds on your own. Indoor eagle programs, crafts and activities also offered by MDC staff and Dickerson Park Zoo at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center. Free.

► EVENTS CONTINUE on page 26

Now offering Block Challenge Grants and Down Payment Assistance in the neighborhoods of ...

- Woodland Heights
- Doling Park (east of Robberson Ave.)
- Grant Beach
- Fassnight
- Meador Park (east of National Ave.)



Encouraging reinvestment in
Springfield's historic neighborhoods.

Learn more at RestoreSGF.com

▶ EVENTS CONTINUED from page 25

National Seed Swap Day: Sat., Jan. 27: 1-3 p.m., Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central St. Bring seeds of any type and swap with other gardeners. Don't have seeds to share? You're still welcome to participate in the swap. Kids can stop by the Teen Room to make a garden craft; materials will be provided. *Note: The elevator from the basement to the 2nd floor is not operational. Please contact us (417-862-0135) two weeks prior to a program if you need special accommodation.

Inside-Out at Doling Park: Sat., Feb. 3: 2-3:30 p.m. Doling Park, 301 E. Talmage. Kids and adults spend time inside and outside, learning about rocks and minerals! Inside Doling Family Center, we examine our favorite minerals and make our own fossils to take home. Outside in Doling Park, we go on a fossil hunt, learning about the rocks that make up Giboney Cave. Register by day of program. ParkBoard.org/Doling. Ages 4 yrs. and up (4-12 yrs. with an adult). *Fee: \$5/Family.*

Frosty Fun: Sat., Feb. 3: 10-11 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Northview Center, 305 E. Talmage St. Enjoy hands on STEAM activities, crafts, and games, all with a winter theme. Registration required. ParkBoard.org. Ages: 5-12 years. *Fee: \$5/Child.*

Digital Safety 101: For Parents & Caregivers of Kids and Teens: Sun., Feb. 4: 2-3 p.m. Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library, 2214 S. Brentwood Blvd. Charity Jordan, Harmony House Prevention Education Coordinator, will share stories and advice related to phones and online safety for tweens and teens. What's happening on your kid's phone? The relationships kids are having online are very real and sometimes dangerous. Jordan will answer questions and provide guidance for how young people can develop safe and healthy relationships online. Kids and teens age 8 and older are welcome to attend with their guardians and participate in the conversation.

Jordan Eagles: ONE BLOOD: Closes Feb. 18: 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.

Kids' Night: Dan Kinney Family Center: Fri., Feb. 23: 5:30-8 p.m. Dan Kinney Family Center, 2701 S. Blackman Rd. Parents enjoy a night out while kids have supervised fun with friends, pizza, craft and a movie. Ages 5-12 yrs. ParkBoard.org/DanKinney. *Fee: \$15/Family Center Member, \$20/Non-member.*

Daddy Daughter Dance: Sat., Feb. 24: 6-9 p.m. Northview Center Ballroom, 305 E. Talmage St. Girls, bring your dad, stepdad, grandpa, uncle, or special guy out for a night you'll always remember. This year's theme is "Pink Out" (Barbie)! Enjoy a catered dinner, music, dancing and special surprises. Event held in the Northview Center Ballroom, adjacent to Doling Family Center. Register early, space is limited. ParkBoard.org/Doling, 417-837-5900. Ages: 3 yrs. and up. *Fee: \$40/Couple, \$15/Additional Girl (includes dinner and photo).*

Willy Wonka's Factory Tour: Sun., Feb. 25: 2-4 p.m. Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell Ave. Come along for a tour of Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. Have you ever wondered what exploring Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory would be like? Join us for a tour

that visits different parts of the factory, completing activities and solving problems based on characters from the book. Be prepared to come with a sweet tooth and to make a few messes. Registration begins Feb. 11; call 417-616-0526.

Spirit of Independence: Kent Bicentennial Portfolio: Now through April 7: 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. What does "independence" mean to you? This was the question posed to 12 American artists by the Kent Bicentennial Program in 1976. Sponsored by the Lorillard Tobacco Company as a celebration of our country's bicentennial year, each artist was given the freedom to respond with their own interpretation of the question. The resulting portfolio presents twelve very different views of independence from the historical to the highly personal, and from the theoretical to the symbolic. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/275/Spirit-of-Independence-Kent-Bicentennial.

All School Exhibition: March 2-April 21: Wed.-Fri. Noon-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. Every March, the Springfield Art Museum invites student artists from across our community, in Kindergarten through 12th Grade, to exhibit outstanding artwork in the All School Exhibition. This highly anticipated show has been a staple of our exhibition schedule since 1932, making it our longest running exhibition initiative. The exhibit also reflects the work of the incredibly talented teachers in our community, many of whom are practicing artists themselves. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/239/All-School-Exhibition.

• **Middle & High School Student Showcase:**

Fri., March 1: 5:30-7 p.m.

• **Grades K-2 Showcase:** Sat., March 2: 2-3:30 p.m.

• **Grades 3-5 Showcase:** Sat., March 2: 3:30-5 p.m.

Collection Focus exhibitions: 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 series of collections pulled from the museum's permanent collection that is made up of over 10,000 individual objects. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/277/Collection-Focus-Exhibitions.

• **Collection Focus: Lithography:** Now through April 7. This exhibition focuses on the medium of lithography through a cross-section of work, including a wide range of artists, styles, eras, and nationalities.

• **Collection Focus: Glenna Goodacre:** Now through Sept. 1. This focus exhibitions features 11 paintings and sculptures by Goodacre.

• **Collection Focus: Bradi Barth:** Now through Sept. 1. This focus exhibition features all 13 of the museum's paintings by Barth ranging from scenes of Christian iconography to characters of the Italian Commedia dell'arte like Pierrot and Columbine.

Easter at the Farm: Sat., March 23: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Rd 146. A day of family-oriented activities celebrating spring, including arts and crafts, games and the Easter Bunny. We'll have 20,000 candy-filled eggs with kids' hunts throughout the day. Kids are limited to 15 eggs each, while supplies last. Bring your Easter basket, but please no cellophane basket filler — it's bad for farm animals. Ages: 12 yrs. and under. Event details maybe subject to change. Please check ParkBoard.org for the latest updates. *Free admission, some activities have a small fee.*

Cherry Blossom Kite and Piñata Festival: Sat., April 6: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Celebrate culture and spring with Springfield Sister Cities Association. Bring a kite to fly or build one with us. Whack a piñata nearby or make your own mini piñata. Enjoy Japanese and Mexican performances and children's activities, and free admission to Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden as it reopens for the season. All ages. Event details maybe subject to change. Please check ParkBoard.org for the latest updates. *Free Admission, \$5/Kite or mini piñata kit.*

Ancient Artifacts Abroad: Now through June 16. 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. The objects in this special exhibition are drawn from the museum's permanent collection, either from or were inspired by items from the ancient Mediterranean world. Ancient Artifacts Abroad considers how and why objects moved around in antiquity and also how they traversed social, cultural, and religious spaces over time. The exhibition's title seeks to 'flip the script' by reminding visitors that these artifacts are in fact "abroad," having been brought to Springfield from their original landscapes. This is the first time many of these artifacts have been on display at the museum. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/274/Missouri-State-University-Collaborations.

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

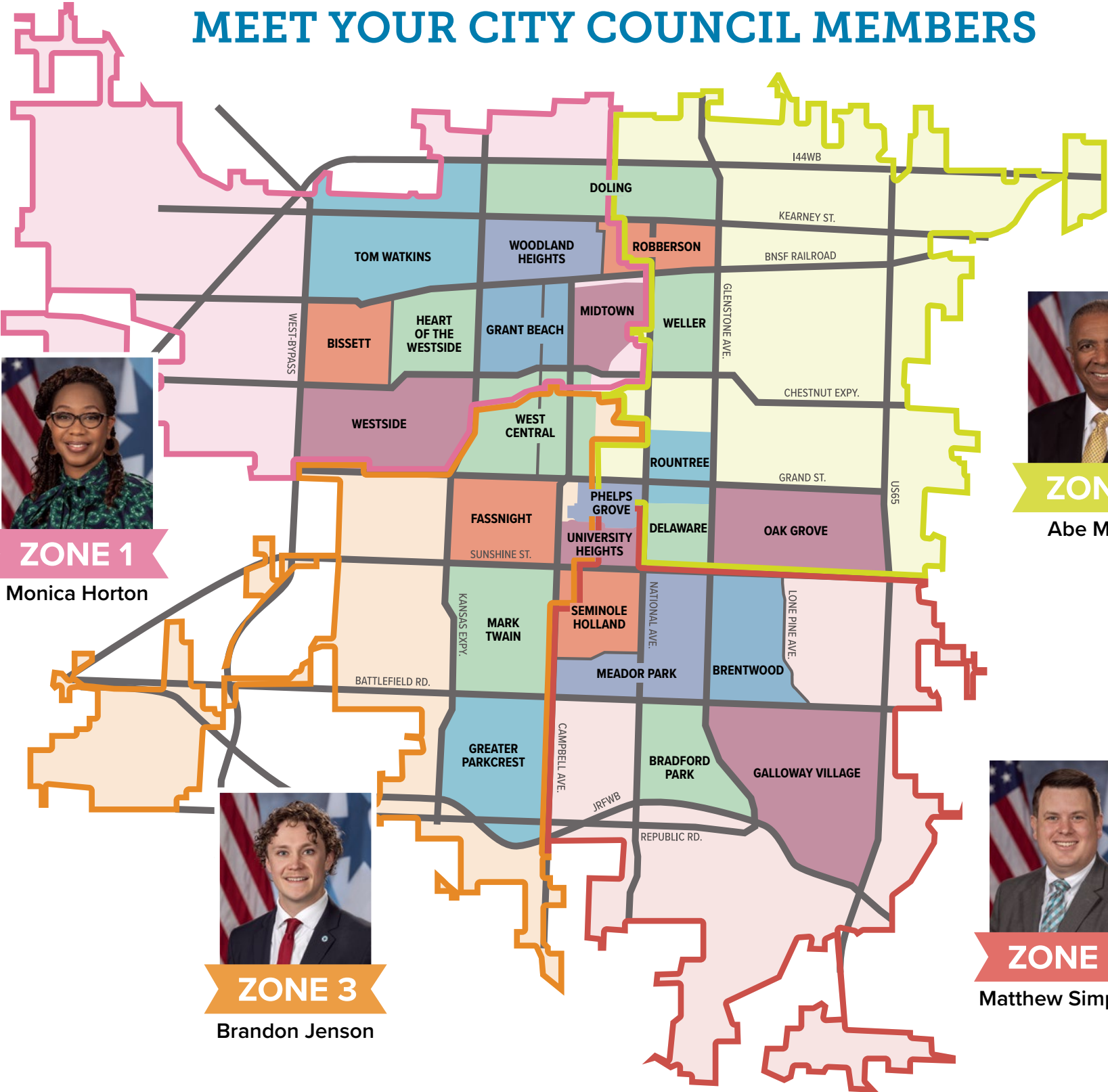
SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS

All Cleanups are 8 a.m.-Noon

- **Woodland Heights & Robberson**
March 30: Railroad Parking Lot (304 W. Chase St.)
- **Bradford Park, Meador Park & Seminole Holland**
April 6: Meador Park East Entrance (2600 S. Fremont Ave.)
- **Heart of the Westside, Westside & West Central**
April 13: Nichols Park (1900 W. Nichols St.)
- **Doling, Tom Watkins & Bissett:**
April 27: Springfield Dream Center (829 W. Atlantic St.)
- **Fassnight, Mark Twain & Greater Parkcrest**
May 4: Sunset Church of Christ (1222 W. Sunset St.)
- **University Heights, Phelps Grove, Rountree & Delaware:**
May 18: MSU Lot 22 (1004 E. Grand St.)

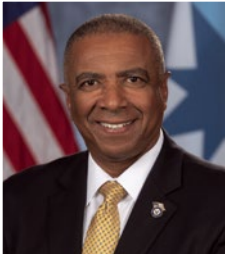
Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods

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Monica Horton



ZONE 2

Abe McGull



ZONE 3

Brandon Jenson



ZONE 4

Matthew Simpson

Ken McClure
Mayor



Heather Hardinger
General Seat A



Craig Hosmer
General Seat B



Callie Carroll
General Seat C



Derek Lee
General Seat D



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

@CityofSGF

springfieldmo.gov/CityCouncil
Council@springfieldmo.gov



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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routing & account number for direct deposit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1098T for college students | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VALID Photo ID for each taxpayer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1095-A if you received Affordable Care Act insurance | |

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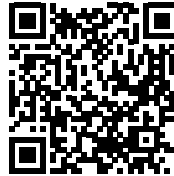
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