# SGF NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS.com

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



SPRING 2024
VOLUME 8 · ISSUE 2



#### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- Voters to decide on two proposed charter amendments in April
- 6 NAC advocates for cleanups, blight abatement and planning efforts

# **GET TO KNOW SGF NEIGHBORHOODS**

- 7 BISSETT
- 7 BRADFORD PARK
- 8 BRENTWOOD
- 9 DELAWARE
- 9 DOLING
- 10 FASSNIGHT
- 12 GALLOWAY VILLAGE
- 11 GRANT BEACH
- 13 GREATER PARKCREST
- 14 HEART OF THE WESTSIDE
- 15 MARK TWAIN
- 15 MEADOR PARK
- 16 MIDTOWN
- 17 OAK GROVE
- 17 PHELPS GROVE
- 18 ROBBERSON
- 19 ROUNTREE
- 19 SEMINOLE HOLLAND
- 20 TOM WATKINS
- 21 UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
- 21 WELLER
- 22 WEST CENTRAL
- 22 WESTSIDE
- 23 WOODLAND HEIGHTS

# Clean Green Springfield launches spring volunteer and disposal opportunities April 1

# Neat Neighborhoods competition new in 2024

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

After thousands of volunteer hours logged and tons of litter and trash collected since 2021, the Clean Green Springfield community cleanup initiative is back in 2024 with new opportunities and fresh challenges.

"As we dive into the new
Neat Neighborhoods
competition, the spirit of Clean
Green Springfield, born from
collaboration and a shared
commitment to positive change,
becomes a key player in our quest
for a tidy town." – Becky Volz

The City of Springfield and partner organizations are launching the 2024 Clean Green Springfield initiative with a fresh series of city-wide cleanup and disposal activities planned during April and May. Individuals, families, businesses, neighborhoods and service organizations are invited to roll up their



sleeves and participate in one or more opportunities including: roadside trash pickups, stream cleanups, neighborhood cleanups and more. Special disposal opportunities will also be offered for items that are difficult for residents to dispose of, including mattresses, tires and bulky items.

Registration for Clean Green 2024 volunteer opportunities will open Monday, April 1. Keep an eye on cleangreensgf.com for more details on special disposal events coming soon.

A new component of Clean Green Springfield, Neat Neighborhoods, will launch this spring and is patterned after the Tidy Towns tradition rooted in Ireland since 1958. This community challenge

→ See CLEAN GREEN on page 4

# Down Payment Assistance now available to first-time homebuyers in Restore SGF target neighborhoods

Provided by Restore SGF

Restore SGF's
Down Payment
Assistance Program
is now accepting
applications for
homes in its target
neighborhoods:
Grant Beach,
Woodland Heights,
Doling Park east



Encouraging reinvestment in Springfield's historic neighborhoods.

of Robberson Avenue, Fassnight and Meador Park east of National Avenue. The program provides a \$9,000 grant for down payment and closing costs to qualifying homebuyers. Borrowers must contribute at least \$1,500 of their own money.

#### TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE:

- The borrower's income cannot exceed 150% of AMI (Area Median Income). See the chart on the next page.
- The borrower must be a first-time homebuyer (have not owned a home in the last three years).

• The sales price of the home must not exceed \$250,000.

#### TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE:

- The borrower must provide to Restore SGF their most recent:
  - ➤ Federal income tax return
  - ➤ Past 30 days of payroll statements
  - ➤ Program documents upon submission of request:
    - · First-Time Home Buyer Certification
    - Household Income Certification

Once a house purchase contract is signed, the borrower must provide Restore SGF with the exact address of the house, to reserve funds and to determine if the property is located in one of our five selected neighborhoods.

When that is determined, the borrower will apply for a loan from a local lender of their choice. Only lenders that have a physical office in Greene County will be eligible. The loan must be a fixed-rate mortgage.

▶ See RESTORE SGF on page 2

# City Council votes to ban entertainment devices offering monetary prizes

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Springfield City Council unanimously approved a bill banning entertainment devices offering monetary prizes. "No-chance" games are proliferating in Springfield and the new ordinance will prohibit their operation due to reported negative impacts on neighborhoods.



Citizens provided nearly an hour-long testimony in reaction to the bill at the public hearing Jan. 22. Video of the testimony and meeting can be found at CityView.Springfieldmo.gov. The Mayor described the testimony as "disturbing" and "while it was not determinative, it was instructive."

"Entertainment devices offering monetary prizes can result in detrimental impacts to the players of such devices, including financial hardships and increased reliance on public assistance." – Mayor Ken McClure

The ordinance leaves undisturbed legitimate arcades that may offer toys and similar items as prizes as well as live games that may offer monetary prizes, such as games offered for fan entertainment during sporting events. These activities are not viewed as creating the same negative impacts on neighborhoods created by no-chance devices.

City officials started seeing these devices appear in locations throughout the community a couple of years ago, and Council members have received complaints about the impact this activity has on the surrounding neighborhoods.

"Entertainment devices offering monetary prizes can result in detrimental impacts to the players of such devices, including financial hardships and increased reliance on public assistance," said Mayor Ken McClure. "This action is necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare of our community."

#### ▶ RESTORE SGF from page 1

DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE INCOME SCHEDULE
City of Springfield, Missouri • Effective June 15, 2023

RESTORE-SGF

#### HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE

	1-PERSON	2-PERSON	3-PERSON	4-PERSON	5-PERSON	6-PERSON	7-PERSON	8-PERSON	9-PERSON	10-PERSON
MEDIAN	\$52,800	\$60,300	\$67,800	\$75,300	\$81,400	\$87,400	\$93,400	\$99,400	\$105,400	\$111,450
150% OF MEDIAN	\$79,200	\$90,450	\$101,700	\$112,950	\$122,100	\$131,100	\$140,100	\$149,100	\$158,100	\$167,175

Upon approval of the loan, the lender will notify Restore SGF of the closing date and the location of the closing agent, title company or bank so the check can be delivered.

Restore SGF will file a deed restriction on the title which will require repayment of the \$9,000 grant if the property is sold within the first five years. After five years have passed, no repayment is required.

# LONGTIME CITY PLANNER TAKES HELM AS DIRECTOR

The newly retired interim director of Planning and Development for the City of Springfield became Restore SGF's new executive director in January.

Brendan Griesemer assumed leadership of Restore SGF on Jan. 16, following his hiring by the Restore SGF board



of directors Jan. 11. He oversees the organization's mission to encourage reinvestment in Springfield's historic neighborhoods.

In his 27 years with the City of Springfield, Griesemer had a focus on housing and neighborhoods. He created the Springfield Community Land Trust for affordable homeownership and authored the \$2.1 million Neighborhood Stabilization grant to acquire and rehabilitate foreclosed houses. The City's first "boarded buildings" ordinance was cowritten by Griesemer as a means of encouraging housing redevelopment. Collaborating with four local nonprofits, he developed the Homeowner Emergency Loan Program (HELP).

Griesemer was inducted into the prestigious College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners in 2022. He holds a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Kansas and a bachelor's in community and regional planning from Missouri State University.

Joining City staff in 1996, Griesemer moved up to assistant director of the Planning and Development Department in 2017 and in May 2023 took the interim director vacancy. Besides Springfield, Griesemer worked in planning and economic development for the cities of Nixa, Kansas City and Shawnee, Kansas.

Dana Elwell, retired senior vice president of Guaranty Bank, helped Restore SGF get off the ground in June 2023.

Launched in 2021, Restore SGF is using innovative programs in selected Springfield neighborhoods to improve housing conditions, leading to higher property values.

# City of Springfield deploys new budgeting, transparency software

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The City of Springfield recently completed a two-phase implementation of its new cloud-based budgeting and transparency portal, OpenGov. The first phase was largely internal and was implemented with the 2023-2024 budget, resulting in a more streamlined, collaborative budgeting process for City staff and readily and publicly available reports and data. The second phase was completed Feb. 7, resulting in an online financial and transparency portal, available at springfieldmo. gov/opendata. The portal displays a variety of City data, including financial dashboards, reports, Springfield Police Department data, audits and videos explaining how to interpret the data. Also included is a list of frequently asked questions with illustrative charts.

"We think it's important to be able to share data quickly and effectively, both internally and with our citizenry." – Jason Gage

"We think it's important to be able to share data quickly and effectively, both internally and with our citizenry," said City Manager Jason Gage. "The transition to OpenGov has really brought our budgeting process into the 21st century. The transparency portal allows us to more effectively share our story with visually appealing dashboards and metrics with our stakeholders."



As the City continues to add to its performance metrics and tracks them accordingly, the data available in the portal will continue to expand.

#### **ABOUT OPENGOV**

According to its website, OpenGov is the leader in modern cloud software for cities, counties, state agencies, school districts, and special districts. With a mission to power more effective and accountable government, OpenGov serves thousands of public sector leaders and their organizations. Built exclusively for the unique budgeting and planning, accounting, permitting and licensing, procurement and asset management needs of the public sector, the OpenGov Cloud makes organizations more collaborative and efficient, enabling best-in-class communication with stakeholders and communities.

# SPD adds comfort K9 to support employee wellness, name selected

By Cris Swaters, Springfield Police Department, for SGFNN

The Springfield Police Department asked the public for their input in February to select the name for the department's new comfort K9, an 8-week-old chocolate lab. With more than 52% of the 4,167 votes cast, the winning name was Lt. Dan.

A portion of the \$35,000 grant from the Gary Sinise

Foundation was used to purchase a comfort K9 to serve the department and support officer wellness. The remainder of the grant will be used for future officer wellness initiatives.

'Engaging with a dog is proven to reduce stress and increase oxytocin. An officer or nonsworn employee who is in a good place both mentally and emotionally, is better able to serve Springfield." - Capt. Eric Reece

"Engaging with a dog is proven to reduce stress and increase oxytocin," Capt. Eric Reece said. "An officer or non-sworn employee who is in a good place both mentally and emotionally, is better able to serve Springfield." Capt. Reece was responsible for the research and implementation of SPD's comfort K9 program.

SPD's comfort K9 is intended to serve department employees, but there is the possibility of expanding the program in the future, and further engage the





Lt. Dan was sworn in Feb. 24 accompanied by Officer James Kinder and handler Forensic Evidence Technician Tonya Toner.

community as Lt. Dan gets settled in his new role.

Lt. Dan was sworn in by City Clerk Anita Cotter on Feb. 23. He was accompanied by Officer James Kinder, and Forensic Evidence Technician and Comfort K9 Handler Tonya Toner. Lt. Dan's oath reads, "I, Lieutenant Dan, do solemnly swear to

> with unwavering loyalty as a police comfort dog. I pledge to bring tail wags and smiles to all I encounter, offering comfort in times of distress and joy in moments of celebration. With every paw step, I vow to spread warmth and kindness in the face of adversity and serve as a beacon of comfort, my wagging tail a symbol of hope. So help me dog."

serve and comfort





#### Voters to decide on two proposed charter amendments in April

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Two City Charter amendments will come before Springfield voters on the April 2 ballot.



#### **AMENDMENT 1: CHANGING MAYOR'S TERM** FROM TWO YEARS TO FOUR YEARS

If approved, the change will take effect for the first general election of 2025.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Sections 2.1(1) and 2.6 of the Springfield City Charter be amended to provide for a fouryear term for the mayor instead of a two-year term, with the four-year term to first apply at the general municipal election to be held in 2025, and with the maximum consecutive years a mayor may serve to remain limited to eight vears?

#### **AMENDMENT 2: CODE OF ETHICS FOR ELECTED** OFFICIALS, APPOINTED OFFICERS, BOARD **MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY**

Recommended revisions include enacting a code of ethics policy applicable to all elected officials, appointed officers, board members, and employees of the City, adding an obligation for City Council to maintain and review the code of ethics policy at least every other year, revising language contained within Section 19.16 to address employee violation of Section 19.16 of the City Charter with disciplinary action up to and including termination, and adding a legal defense to forfeiture of office or termination of employment, if a prior, written advisory opinion from the City Attorney was obtained and relied upon in good faith.

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 19.16 of the Springfield City Charter be amended to require enactment of a code of ethics, to be reviewed by Council not less than every other year, revise provisions to address employee violations with disciplinary action up to and including termination, and add a legal defense to forfeiture of office or termination of employment if a prior, written advisory opinion from the City Attorney was obtained and relied upon in good faith?

An informational page is located at springfieldmo. gov/election.

#### For more information visit springfieldmo.gov/election



# SPD offers timely reminders about situational awareness

By Cris Swaters, Springfield Police Department, for SGFNN

The coming of spring and warmer weather means more opportunities to enjoy the sunshine and all the outdoor amenities Springfield has to offer. As you emerge from your winter hibernation, remember some basics of situational awareness while you're in public.

Situational awareness is being aware of your surroundings and any potential hazards or threats. Improving your situational awareness allows you to be more aware of what's going on around you, which means you're less likely to get accidentally hurt or become a victim of crime.

#### **PARKING LOT**

When you arrive somewhere, think ahead when you consider your parking space. Pick a spot that is highly visible and will be well-lit if you plan to return to your car after dark. Be sure your doors are locked, and you take your valuables with you.

As you approach your car after being gone, put your phone away and be looking at your surroundings. Keep your eyes and ears open. If you have an alarm button on your key fob, you can push that button to make noise if you're approached by someone who makes you uncomfortable.



#### **ON THE TRAIL**

Enjoying the sunshine on one of Springfield's many walking trails? Keep one earbud out so you can listen to music or a podcast while also staying aware of the sounds of your surroundings. The same goes for your cell phone. Try to minimize the distraction so you can stay aware of what's happening around you.

#### **AT HOME**

Leave your exterior lights on, both in the front and back of the home. If you don't have the lights on a motion sensor, leave them on during the dark hours. People with ill intent tend to avoid well-lit areas that don't have shadows in which to hide.

Install security cameras and a video doorbell. Live-feed video footage can be very helpful to you for staying aware of what is happening in and around your home. If you do install cameras, let us know at springfieldmo.gov/crime. Your footage could help us solve crime in your neighborhood.

#### → CLEAN GREEN from page 1

has found its way to Springfield, thanks to the Hatch Foundation, marking the start of an exciting competition aimed towards a cleaner, greener and happier city.

Erin Danastasio, executive director of the Hatch Foundation, noticed an unusually neat and clean environment in the towns and villages she visited during a recent trip to Ireland.

"I asked the locals, how do you keep your town so clean? Without hesitation, most mentioned Tidy Towns," she said. Intrigued because of the Hatch Foundation's ongoing support of Clean Green Springfield and other community improvement initiatives, Danastasio started researching Tidy Towns. She shared what she learned with Cora Scott, the City of Springfield's director of Public Information & Civic Engagement, who was excited to make it available in Springfield.

In Springfield, the competition will be organized across the four City Council zones. Registered neighborhoods within each zone will compete against one another, fostering a sense of friendly competition and camaraderie. The competition will award one neighborhood in each zone as a winner with a total of four winning neighborhoods each year.

This hands-on approach not only gets the community involved but also lets us take a personalized look at the special projects each neighborhood is diving into. The Hatch Foundation is donating \$10,000 to each of the four winning neighborhoods. First-place winning neighborhoods in each zone will win \$6,000, with second place winning \$3,000 and third place winning \$1,000, Scott said.

"As we dive into the new Neat Neighborhoods competition, the spirit of Clean Green Springfield, born from collaboration and a shared commitment to positive change, becomes a key player in our quest for a tidy town," said Becky Volz, president of the Neighborhood Advisory council. "It's not just about tidying up; it's about leaving a lasting



impression and being proud of your neighborhood."

The competition is divided into five categories, each contributing to a total possible score, with the score being a reflection of the collective efforts and achievements of participating neighborhoods. The categories cover a broad spectrum including community planning, public spaces, green spaces, streets, tidiness and more.

Since some neighborhoods are located in two Council zones, the Neat Neighborhoods committee created a list that placed each neighborhood into the competition zone that Volz and others felt most appropriate for the sake of even distribution of the neighborhoods.

More details about Neat Neighborhoods and other 2024 Clean Green Springfield opportunities is available at



cleangreensgf.com.

# As project cost estimates rise, City hopes to begin construction for Jordan Creek daylighting later this year

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Project cost estimates continue to rise on the Renew Jordan Creek phase one project, according to City stormwater engineers in a February update to City Council. The project is still in the permitting process with a target to bid the project this summer and begin construction in the fall.

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

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

"We've seen significant increases in costs due



to a variety of factors including market conditions, additional utility costs, railroad costs as well as additional scope," explained Principal Stormwater Engineer Chris Dunnaway. "In total the cost is estimated around \$38 million."

Dunnaway highlighted that this total is still an estimate and the true costs will not be known until the project is advertised for contractor bids. Construction management contractor Branco has been providing estimates throughout the design process and plans to conduct outreach to local,

▶ See JORDAN CREEK on page 6

# **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

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

> Volume 8 • Issue 2 • Spring 2024 SGFNeighborhoodNews.com

#### **PUBLISHER**

Jason Gage jgage@springfieldmo.gov

#### **EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

Cora Scott cscott@springfieldmo.gov

#### **MANAGING EDITOR**

Melissa Haase mhaase@springfieldmo.gov

#### **DESIGNER**

Rebecca Pfitzner rpfitzner@springfieldmo.gov

#### **PHOTOGRAPHER/WEB DESIGNER**

**Christopher Akins** cakins@springfieldmo.gov

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Melanie Bach Joshua Best Sharon L. Brooks William Cooper Rachel Douglas Jenny Fillmer Edwards Glenn Gohr Charity Keniley **Brandy Martin** Kristen Milam

Mark Montgomery Dellene Nelson Chance Parish Francine Pratt Bobbi Ream Cris Swaters Jamie Tatum Becky Volz Nancy Williams

#### **EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Bruce Adib-Yazdi Brooke Ash Melanie Bach Ken Brooks Sharon L. Brooks Mary Ann Bonetti Nathan Cook Ran Cummings Nancy Evans Glenn Gohr Carolyn Goucher Barbara Rae Hughes **Duane Keys** 

Hanna Knopf

Mark Maynard **Brian Miller** Dellene Nelson Pete Radecki Nick Robinson Lena Sample Mert Seaton Jamie Tatum Dave Trippe Becky Volz Colby Wallace Nancy Williams Peggy Wise

#### **SUBMISSIONS**

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

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

To receive SGF Neighborhood News FREE in your mailbox or to distribute copies at your place of business, church or community organization, please contact Melissa Haase or visit SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.

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

# **Destination Safe Streets to develop** plan to make streets safe for all users

By Francine Pratt, for SGFNN

Have you heard about "Destination Safe Streets" - the development of a Regional Safety Action Plan by the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO)? Last year, OTO was awarded a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The grant funds are used to **OTO Safety Action Plan** support the development of a comprehensive Regional Safety Action Plan. With this plan in place, OTO will be able to apply for implementation grant funding in future years.

OTO wants community input to help make streets in our region safer for all users. Last month, OTO kicked off the Safety Action Plan campaign to inform the community about the grant with outreach materials about some of the transportation safety issues in the region. The OTO planning area is Christian County, Greene County, Battlefield, Nixa, Ozark, Republic, Springfield, Strafford and Willard. An online survey was available earlier this year. Updates and information about the project are available on the OTO website: ozarkstransportation.org.

In working with many decision makers in the region, I listen to their discussions during and after community engagement sessions. I hear their sincerity after hearing lived experiences from community members. Many times, they want even more input when they do not see representation from all regional populations and intersectional groups. They find when extra effort is made to hear from smaller populations of people and groups, they hear ideas, thoughts and concerns they would not hear when the outreach focus is only designed towards larger populations and groups

OTO is focusing even harder to outreach in areas where voices are not well heard. Through community events and open house workshops, they are taking OTO to the people instead of expecting the people to come to OTO.

OTO is ensuring opportunities are provided for input with a variety of outreach tools to develop the Regional Safety Action Plan. The plan will be used to make the streets in the region safer for all users. OTO's approach is to meet people where they are and match their input and lived experiences for qualitative data, matched with quantitative data for a solid plan. OTO is focusing even harder to outreach in areas where voices are not well heard. Through community events and open house workshops, they are taking OTO to the people instead of expecting the people to come to OTO.

Public engagement is critical for infrastructure decision making to make sure what is developed will be used and supported. When a person has a

voice and know they have been heard, they are more likely to support the outcomes of different plans. OTO's approach to community engagement is designed to ensure the final safety plan aligns with the goals of the local community. The plan must be designed to safely move people who are walking, biking, using adaptive mobile equipment, taking public transportation and/or driving.

DESTINATION

SAFE STREETS

The plan is being developed with clear accountability to create a safety plan with key engagement goals, tasks, and an implementation schedule. The safeguard for community members to have access to information and provide input is to use in person and online outreach tools. OTO held community events during the day and evening with paper surveys, QR Codes, Facebook posts and online surveys. They created an advisory group and a website with educational information, data, charts, studies and other outreach tools.

OTO believes the community events and public stakeholder workshops will help them reach the widest populations of people with representation from all regional residents and visitors for inclusivity of all racial/ethnic populations with intersectional groups. With this type of input from young children to the elderly, they can work to identify important matters that may be overlooked by smaller populations of people. OTO has also designed a professional group of participants with members from emergency responders and post-crash care providers. These professional participants will contribute to an extensive and meaningful safety plan that is doable and supported by the community.

In the next few months, OTO plans to conduct needs assessment workshops with stakeholder groups to better understand safety concerns and issues. The outcome from the stakeholder workshops, with the community input, will lead to the development of a draft plan. During the summer, the community will have an opportunity to engage again and provide input. The OTO website has a map of the areas of concern and other educational information about the project. The use of a public engagement approach to enhance road safety is an effective way to hear the needs of community members and stakeholders.

I encourage readers to visit the OTO website to read the fact sheet for the project and to see upcoming engagement opportunities: ozarkstransportation.org/ss4a.

#### > JORDAN CREEK from page 4

regional and national contractors to get the best price to build the various elements of the project.

The project's expected funding will come from a variety of local sources combined with a number of outside grants. Local funding for the project will come from the City's Level Property Tax, ¼-cent and ½-cent sales taxes, and Environmental Services Green Infrastructure funds. External funding sources include Surface Transportation Block Grants, Local ARPA funds, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ARPA funds, a Department of Economic Development ARPA grant, and Environmental Protection Agency and DNR grants.

The project is currently undergoing environmental review and permitting processes through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and BNSF Railway.

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

A public open house and environmental information meeting is planned this spring. For event details and to find out more about the project, visit renewjordancreek.com.

### Mayor launches new podcast 'SGF Local Matters'

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Springfield
Mayor Ken
McClure has
launched a podcast
called "SGF Local
Matters" aimed
at shining a light
on the area's
fascinating people
and taking listeners



and viewers behind the scenes of the City's projects and initiatives. The podcast is available on Apple, Spotify and iHeart Radio platforms, with a video version also available on YouTube and at CityView. springfieldmo.gov.

The Mayor's co-host is Cora Scott, the Director of Public Information & Civic Engagement for the City of Springfield. McClure and Scott are excited about using a new platform to engage Springfieldians in learning more about the community and, in particular, the local government.

"I am excited about having meaningful and interesting conversations with some of our community's most interesting people, and in the ability to have an in-depth conversation about the many projects the City has underway," said Mayor McClure. "We hope people will tune in and maybe decide to engage further by joining a board or commission, or even participate in the civic process of making our city better."

The first episode features Mark Hecquet, president and CEO of Springfield Convention & Visitors' Bureau. Mark shares his journey across the pond to ultimately land in Springfield, Missouri as the chief marketer.

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE**

# NAC advocates for cleanups, blight abatement and planning efforts

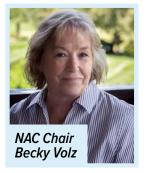
By Becky Volz, for SGFNN

Each year, the Neighborhood Advisory Council advocates to City leadership for resources to support Springfield's 24 registered neighborhoods. The focus areas for the upcoming 2024-25 budget include additional neighborhood cleanups, more staffing for Building Development Services to address blighted properties, and funding for the implementation of Forward SGF.

Annual neighborhood cleanups have proven over the past two decades to be one of the most effective forms of grassroots engagement throughout our community. The growth in registered neighborhoods (at 24 now, up from 16 a few years ago), combined with dramatically escalating labor costs, have resulted in much higher contractor bids from local waste haulers. NAC is requesting an additional \$90,000 per year to provide one cleanup for each neighborhood per year for these core clean, safe, and friendly services.

Assertively addressing residential blight will require more coordination. Adding two new management positions in Building Development Services (estimated to be an additional \$110,000) would provide much-needed capacity for the demands of balancing residential problem

properties and facilitating commercial development. Public safety is enhanced not only through police and fire, but through the enforcement of life-safety



violations. NAC believes ensuring safe housing is an appropriate allocation of the new marijuana sales tax funds.

NAC requests \$75,000 to support the implementation of the Forward SGF comprehensive plan by targeting resources for more strategic planning on two key corridors (Sunshine Street and Campbell Avenue and West Bypass and James River Freeway). Additionally, we support allocating discretionary funds to support public education on topics prioritized by Forward SGF. By proactively investing in planning neighborhoods can pay meaningful dividends in reducing the tension between development and neighborhoods as noted over the past four years.

Neighborhoods appreciate the strong relationship we have with City staff and City Council members as we all work together to enhance Springfield's quality of life through grassroots cleanups, blight abatement and planning.

# Police to resume crosswalk enforcement April 17

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City of Springfield is once again stepping up driver crosswalk compliance efforts. Beginning April 17, Springfield drivers who fail to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk may get pulled over.

The City's SGF Yields pedestrian safety program, in partnership with the Springfield Police Department, will resume weekly crosswalk "Yield Check" enforcement events this spring with the first event planned April 17 at the intersection of Bennett Street and Delaware Avenue, near Delaware Elementary School.

Funded through a \$21,120 grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation that funds overtime-based enforcement for hazardous moving violations, the Springfield Police Department, in partnership with SGF Yields, will conduct weekly driver Yield Checks at well-marked crosswalk locations. The goal of the exercise is to further increase our local yielding rate at crosswalks through education-focused high-visibility enforcement, making our community more pedestrian friendly.

"Every year, around 60-70 pedestrians get struck by a car in Springfield," explains Traffic Safety Professional Mandy Buettgen-Quinn. "In about half of these instances a driver struck the pedestrian while they were in a crosswalk or on a sidewalk crossing a driveway. If we want pedestrians to use our crosswalks instead of crossing mid-block, we first need to make sure our crosswalks are safe. We're thrilled the Springfield Police Department continues to partner

with SGF Yields to make pedestrian safety a priority."

The grant will fund three police officers



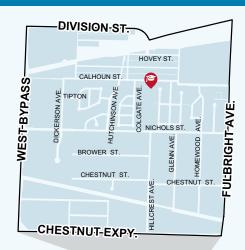
on overtime for one half-day of Yield Check work per week. The public will be notified of upcoming Crosswalk Yield Check locations in advance via news release and social media. Results of the exercise will also be reported to the public.

"Crosswalk Yield Checks are a way to give the community a friendly nudge to obey the rules," says Buettgen-Quinn. "For the first month, officers will hand out warnings and educational materials to those who don't comply. After that, citations will be issued."

According to quarterly crosswalk compliance assessments, Springfield drivers currently yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk approximately 51% of the time. National studies show that regular educational enforcement activities can result in 70% or more of drivers yielding at crosswalks.

For more information about Crosswalk Yield Checks and the SGF Yields pedestrian safety program, please visit springfieldmo.gov/sgfyields, follow SGF Yields on Facebook, or email traffic@springfieldmo.gov.

# **BISSETT**NEIGHBORHOOD



#### **Connect**

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



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 9 • May 14 • June 11 • July 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.





# Spring Neighborhood Cleanup

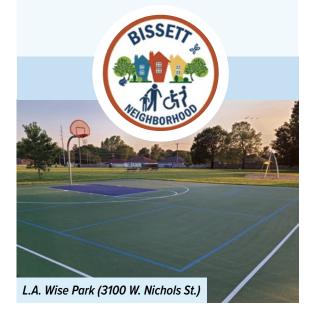
Bissett, Doling & Tom Watkins



### SAT., April 27

8 a.m.-Noon

Railroad Parking Lot (304 W. Chase St.)



#### **BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD**



# Heritage set to open in March

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

According to its website at heritageofspringfield. com, Heritage, the five-story multi-use development with luxury apartment homes and ground-floor retail space, was set to open in March at the site of the former Heritage Cafeteria.

The modern-style development will boast 95 luxury apartment homes professionally managed by TLC Properties and will also feature 6,350 square feet of retail space with Battlefield Road frontage. Amenities will include a saltwater pool and hot tub, rooftop fitness center and lounge, common spaces for residents to enjoy, a sports simulator, EV charging stations and bodega. Floor plans will range from micro studios to three-bedroom condos with a pet-friendly and smoke-free atmosphere.



"The Heritage Cafeteria was a mainstay in Springfield for so many generations and bringing this new development to life will provide the next generations another way to enjoy this iconic spot," TLC Properties owner Sam Coryell said. "It's only right to reignite this landmark and keep its legacy alive while offering modern apartment homes and a place for businesses to thrive."





#### Connect

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

#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 9 • May 14 • June 11 • July 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 🚹 🕥

# Spring Neighborhood

Cleanup

Bradford Park, Meador

Park & Seminole Holland

### SAT., April 6

8 a.m.-Noon

Meador Park - Sunset Street Entrance (2600 S. Fremont Ave.)

# New Bradford Park directory coming soon

By Dellene Nelson, for SGFNN

Please contact Janet Wall, 417-882-1241, if your phone number has changed. Updated directories will be available in April. Let Janet know if you would like to receive one.

# **Bradford Park January and February Great Neighbors**

Larry and Dellene Nelson and Dennis and Marilyn Kemper were the Great Neighbors for January. Larry Forza and Elizabeth Bell were February's. Contact Janet Wall, 417-882-1241 if you would like to recognize your neighbor as a Great Neighbor.





# Unity of Springfield to host 7th annual Earth Day celebration April 19-20

By Brandy Martin, for SGFNN

Partnering with Springfield Community Gardens, Unity of Springfield will host the 7th annual Planet Unity Earth Day Celebration. This event will be 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 19 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, April 20.

Friday evening will kick off with live music by George Hunt and The Blues Society of the Ozarks jam band. There will be food, beer, wine and games. Saturday is the main event and will have live music all day with a variety of local artists. There will also be a drumming circle, earth-friendly vendors, food, beer/wine, expert speakers and kids activities.



Dickerson Park Zoo will present "One Planet Many Animals" and have live animals on site. Springfield

Community Gardens will be on site all day Saturday and activities for all ages. The

is to come together as a

community and raise awareness about what each of us can do to better protect our planet. So, bring a lawn chair or a blanket to sit on and join us for a day filled with great music, great food, and great fun.



#### Connect · Mert Seaton, President • Brent Rinker, Vice President · Lisa Meeks, Secretary • Jane Augustine, Treasurer · brentwoodsgf@gmail.com

ENSTONE-AVE

뎡

#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

SUNSHINE ST.

SEMINOLE ST.

BATTLEFIELD ST.-

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 Stevin Cisneros: 417-864-1321 scisneros@springfieldmo.gov



2120 E. Barataria St.





# Bax named new principal of Field **Elementary School**

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

Adam Bax has been named the next principal of Field Elementary. Bax is the current principal of Wilder Elementary School, where he has served for four years. He follows Dr. Janell Bagwell, who is retiring from Field at the end of the school year after a 28-year career with SPS.

"I am honored to rejoin the Field family! ... I am eager to embrace the traditions and to continue building upon the great things happening at Field." - Adam Bax

Prior to his service at Wilder, Bax served two years as an assistant principal at Jeffries Elementary and as a third- and fifth-grade teacher at Field.

He completed his undergraduate work at Missouri State University, graduate studies in educational leadership at MSU, and a specialist degree from Lindenwood University.

"I am honored to rejoin the Field family! The

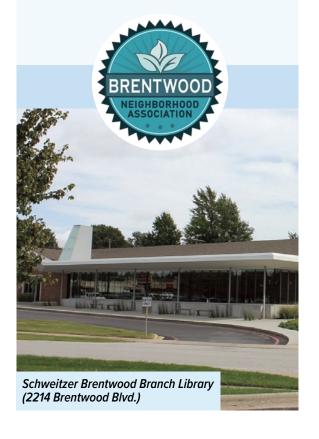
Field community is rooted in its Primary Years Programme, which strives to create students who are open-minded, life-long learners, and who have a respect for others," Bax said. "These are core values of my own, and I am eager to embrace the traditions and to continue



building upon the great things happening at Field."

New principals were also named at Williams Elementary School and Jarrett and Reed middle schools. "We are pleased to announce these outstanding individuals who are accepting new roles in our district," said Superintendent Grenita Lathan. "We are fortunate at SPS to have such an experienced group of dedicated employees we can rely upon to fill these key leadership positions."

Bax will begin his new responsibilities effective July 1.



#### **DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD**



### **Delaware neighbors** don't hesitate to get involved

By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

Delaware Neighborhood held its first holiday lights celebration in December to thank neighbors for the bright and creative decoration displays. It started out as a 'nominate or volunteer and have your lights judged' type of format but morphed into the judges just driving around ooh-ing and aah-ing. Snowflake awards and notes thanking neighbors for 'brightening up Delaware' were dropped off to some of the best. You truly don't appreciate the effect of the displays until you drive every street and get totally overwhelmed by the brightness and volume!

We appreciate the work under way this late winter to improve the walkability of our neighborhood for all residents. Through the Neighborhood Works program, City employees and contractors are hard at work to repair broken and rough sidewalks and add Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant curb ramps where needed. While the work itself is messy, the end result will be better sidewalks for us all. Now if we could just get people to remove their gumballs and other sidewalk obstructions, and not park across the sidewalks, we'd be in pedestrian heaven!

Appreciation and thanks go out to a Delaware resident who noticed a house break-in in progress during her midday run. She called SPD, and thanks to her and to their quick action, the man was stopped and arrested, albeit after doing damage to the front porch and window of the home (luckily the owner was not home). Thank you Delaware, for being a neighborhood where people do not hesitate to get involved and report issues.

#### **Delaware+ Women GET OUT!**

March 27 • April 24 • May 22 • June 26 5:30-6:30 p.m. • Brown Derby Wine Center (2023 S. Glenstone Ave.)

Bring friends, meet friends, make friends! Come join us for good food in a great atmosphere! All women, all neighborhoods invited. Just let me know who is coming so we can hold a seat the best that we can.

Contact Nancy Williams at 417-496-2187.



#### Connect

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



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 2 • May 7 • June 4 • July 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 Stevin Cisneros: 417-864-1321 scisneros@springfieldmo.gov



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





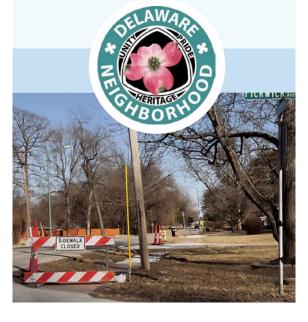
#### **Spring Neighborhood** Cleanup

Delaware, Phelps Grove, **Rountree & University Heights** 

**SAT., May 18** 

8 a.m.-Noon

MSU Parking Lot 22 (1004 E. Grand St.)



#### **DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD**



#### Connect

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



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 18 • May 16 • June 20: 6:30 p.m. @ Hillcrest Presbyterian Church (818 E. Norton Rd.)

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

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

Officer Justin Goings: 417-864-2537 jgoings@springfieldmo.gov





Fremont Elementary School 2814 N. Fremont Ave.



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

Follow Doling on 📢 🕥



# **Spring Neighborhood**

Doling, Bissett & Tom Watkins



### SAT., April 27

8 a.m.-Noon

Railroad Parking Lot (304 W. Chase St.)

#### 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.)





# **Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield** breaks ground for new teen center

Provided by Boys and Girls Clubs of Springfield

About 100 people joined Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield in February to break ground for its new teen center at 804 W. Catalpa, adjacent to the Grant Avenue Parkway.

The Risdal Family Teen Center for Great Futures will be a two-story facility dedicated to serving middle and high school youth with intentional after-school programming in six core program areas: education, workforce readiness, the arts, character & leadership, health & wellness, and sports & recreation.

The center will be a hub for local youth, featuring a gymnasium, dining space and kitchen, games room, innovation space, art room, technology center, esports lounge, dance & fitness studio and more. The center will also include a health clinic and a dedicated space for providing free mental health services.

Through this new project, BGCS anticipates doubling its current reach among middle and high school aged students, serving 1,000+ youth. As one of the only after-school providers in Springfield that intentionally serves teens, BGCS is dedicated to creating positive outcomes such as improved grades and attendance, improved social and emotional skills, and equitable access to opportunities.

"Serving the kids who need us most is our mission



and this community project does just that. There are so many middle and high school students that need safe, empowering spaces to go after school," said Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield CEO Brandy Harris. The Risdal Family Teen Center for Great Futures is being created with teens, for teens and I am so thankful to be a part of it."

The capital campaign goal for the teen center is \$12 million, which includes three years of operating reserve. BGCS received \$2 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the City of Springfield and \$2 million from Greene County. In addition, more than \$3 million in private donations has been raised. The center is anticipated to open in early 2025.

# Gosnell named new principal of Jarrett Middle School

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

Billy Gosnell has been named the next principal of Jarrett Middle School. He currently serves as assistant principal – secondary for Launch Virtual Learning at SPS. He will follow Dr. Kirk Slater, who is retiring at the end of the school year after a 23year career with SPS

Gosnell joined SPS in 2000 and has dedicated his efforts to supporting middle school students in their academic journey. Prior to serving at Launch, Gosnell was an assistant principal at Carver Middle School for 11 years. He has also worked as administrative liaison, summer school assistant principal and as a teacher and coach at Jarrett.

Gosnell earned a bachelor's in education and a master's in educational administration from Missouri State University, and a specialist degree in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Missouri at Columbia.

"I am thrilled to accept the principal position at Jarrett Middle School because it presents an incredible opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the lives of students, educators. and the broader school community," Gosnell said. Jarrett Middle School holds a



special place in my heart, having previously served as a teacher and coach here. I am excited to return to a place where I have witnessed firsthand the potential for growth and success in students."

Gosnell will begin his new responsibilities effective July 1.



#### Connect

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

#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 2 • May 7 • June 4 • July 2: 6:30 p.m. @ Parkview High School Cafeteria (516 W. Meadowmere St.)

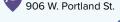
Please confirm neighborhood meeting dates and locations with your neighborhood representatives.

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

Officer Nathan Thieman: 417-874-1138 nthieman@springfieldmo.gov



Parkview High School 516 W. Meadowmere St. Jarrett Middle School







#### **Spring Neighborhood** Cleanup

Fassnight, Mark Twain & Greater Parkcrest

SAT., May 4

8 a.m.-Noon

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

#### **Nordic Landing nearing** completion in Fassnight

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Nordic Landing, a 41-unit, 40,000-square-foot affordable housing apartment complex at 810 W. Catalpa Street, will welcome its first residents soon, according to its Facebook page. The property is right off of the Grant Avenue Parkway corridor and will offer one- and two-bedroom apartments with vinyl plank flooring, fullsized kitchen appliances, open floor plans and washer/dryer hookups. The complex's amenities include a community room with programming, computer/media area and playground. Tenants' household incomes must be 30% to 60% below the U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD)defined Median Family Income.



#### Southern half of Grant **Avenue Parkway** expected to be nearing completion this spring

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The southern half of the ongoing Grant Avenue Parkway project from Sunshine Street to Grand Street is nearing completion this spring with the final asphalt roadway surfacing and landscaping expected to take place in April.

"After that last piece of the work is done on the south end of the project, contractors will lay the final asphalt paving surface along the entire southern half of the route. Once it's paved and striped, the roadway will reopen to two-way traffic." - Leree Reese

"We're excited to be wrapping things up in the small section of work between Sunshine and University in March," explains Public Works Project Manager Leree Reese. "After that last piece of the work is done on the south end of the project, contractors will lay the final asphalt paving surface along the entire southern half of the route. Once it's paved and striped, the roadway will reopen to twoway traffic."



Landscaping is also expected to be installed this spring including a mix of trees and low growing plants and shrubs.

Construction on the Parkway continues north of Grand Street where the roadway remains one-way southbound only. Property acquisitions and utility work continues between Grand and Walnut streets. The completion timeline of this portion of the route is dependent upon acquisition of necessary right-of-way.

The Downtown portion of the project will include improvements on Mill Street, including advisory bike lanes between Main and Boonville avenues, as well as roadway, sidewalk and lighting improvements between Main and Campbell. The remaining downtown loop improvements along College Street to Boonville will consist mainly of bike lane striping.

For more information and to sign up for project updates visit grantavenueparkway.com.

#### **GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD**



#### **Pocket neighborhood** planned for Grant **Beach**

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The Drew Lewis Foundation, the nonprofit behind The Fairbanks community hub and the Blue House Project in Grant Beach, plans to build 10-15 homes on 1.2 acres at Broadway Avenue and Poplar Street by the end of 2025 if all goes as planned, according to CEO Amy Blansit.

The homes will be two-story, three-bed, two-bath Craftsman style and will be around 1,800 square feet. Because one of the goals of the project is to increase Springfield's affordable housing stock, Blansit said at least half the homes will be priced around \$135,000 with the others sold at market prices. Donations, down payment assistance and other affordable housing financing options will be utilized to assist qualifying buyers purchase the homes. Next steps are to work with the City of Springfield's Planning and Development Department to begin the process for the development plan to go before City Council. She hopes to break ground this summer.

#### **Grant Beach soccer** season kicks off, summer baseball signup dates announced

By Jamie Tatum, for SGFNN

Grant Beach soccer kicks off April 6, and we are looking forward to another great season! We are now offering sponsorship opportunities for the soccer fields. Sponsorship includes one banner with your business name and logo. Banners will be displayed for a year, which is two full soccer seasons. This is a great opportunity to partner with Grant Beach Neighborhood Association and our local community to provide affordable sports to the children in our community! Being a sponsor allows great advertisement for local businesses. A banner for a whole year will be \$150.

Please contact Pauletta Dunn at paulettadunn@ gmail.com or Jamie Tatum at jtatumgbna@gmail. com for more information.

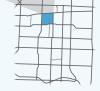
#### **BASEBALL SIGNUPS**

Baseball signups will be May 18, May 25 and June 1. Games will begin the second week of June. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page GBNA Grant Beach for updates.



#### **Connect**

- Jamie Tatum, President
- Pauletta Dunn, Vice President
- Joshua Wilmoth, Secretary
- Fred Ellison, Treasurer
- · Hovey House: 417-942-2456



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 15 • May 20 • June 17: 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 📢 🕥



#### **Community Dinner**

Join us for a free community dinner every Thursday evening.

5:15 p.m., The Fairbanks

(1126 N. Broadway Ave.)



# Cheers to 5 years in Galloway Village

**GALLOWAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD** 

By Melanie Bach, for SGFNN

Galloway Village celebrated our five-year anniversary as a registered neighborhood association with an awesome party! Paid members received elegant mailed invitations, and it was a fun, relaxing time with food, drinks, and live music. One of our business partners, Bambino's at Half A Hill, allowed us to use their community room, and the owner even popped in to make sure we were set with everything we needed. We had a slideshow running on the big screen, and had a fantastic time reminiscing about all our adventures and accomplishments. Celebrating this milestone with a fabulous gathering was a great way to say "thanks" for everything this neighborhood has done in pursuit of our mission to preserve, connect and protect this unique area we are thrilled to call home.

# **5TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST PLANNED FOR JUNE 15**

Even though we have not been as focused on fundraising lately, we are still actively "fun"-raising with one of our all-time favorite events. Thanks to the generosity of The Rock at Galloway — Food and Friends, Galloway will be hosting our fifth all you can eat pancake breakfast (and bacon too) 8-10 a.m. on Sat., June 15. The cost is \$15 per person and tickets can be purchased at gallowayvillage.org.

We plan to have our usual festivities including



live music and a raffle basket full of Galloway goodies and gift cards donated by local businesses. We have been thrilled to have neighbors from other associations join us in the past, so we hope to see some of you again! Please consider coming to Galloway for a fun time of food and fellowship.



# GILLING TONK E GALLOWAY ST. E REPUBLIC RD. JAMES RIVER FWY

#### Connect

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

#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 16 • July 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

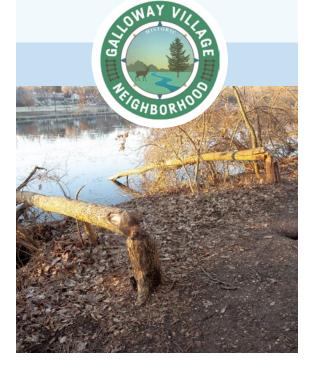
#### **Stream Cleanups**

April 6 and June 1: 10 a.m. Sequiota Park

#### **Pancake Breakfast**

June 15: 8-10 a.m.

The Rock (4018 S. Lone Pine Ave.)



# Beavers wreak havoc at Sequiota Park

By Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Park Board, for SGFNN

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board temporarily closed the trails and wooded area east of the lake and stream and Sequiota Park for about three weeks in February due to extensive damage caused by beavers.



Parks staff removed down heavily damaged trees, leveled sharp-pointed stumps, filled large holes in the trail and removed debris, including logs accumulating beneath the bridge. The rest of the park remained open, including all paved trails, the Galloway Creek Greenway, and soft-surface trails upstream near the cave, and downstream from the southern bridge.

Parks staff is also coordinating with the Missouri Department of Conservation for permits to trap and remove beavers from the park.

Miles Park, assistant director of Parks — Operations, said the beavers caused a significant amount of damage in a short amount of time, with an estimated 30-40 trees damaged or killed. Several damaged trees are still standing, with bark and chunks of the trunks missing. Dozens have already fallen, leaving sharp knee-high stumps along the trail.



"Beavers caused significant damage to the tree canopy on the east side of the lake — including right on the trail," said Park.

According to the Missouri Department of Conservation, in the winter, beavers eat mostly tree bark, bushes and woody vines. Several trees at Sequiota have been stripped of bark around the base of the trunk. Bark does not grow back, and these trees, although still standing, will likely die. Beavers are known for building wooden dams, although in Missouri, they often dig underground dens on the stream bank, explaining the holes in the trail.

"They've caused a lot of damage in a very popular and heavily used city park," Park said "If left unchecked, these animals will continue to destroy our trees and negatively impact the park's environment."

#### **Construction for Galloway Street widening** anticipated to begin this summer

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

A long-awaited project to widen Galloway Street is expected to begin this summer.

The Galloway Street Widening Project will widen Galloway Street to three lanes between Luster and Lone Pine avenues, improving safety for traffic and pedestrians along Galloway Street. Improvements will include a new center turn lane, traffic calming roundabout intersections at Luster Avenue and at Lone Pine Avenue and upgraded stormwater infrastructure and improved drainage along Luster Avenue. The project will provide improved connectivity for all roadway users to Sequiota Park, the Galloway Greenway Trail and Galloway-area businesses, with a new multi-use path along the north side of Galloway Street and new sidewalk on the south side of the roadway.

The City hosted an informational open house and construction preview meeting in March, which drew more than 165 attendees.



"This is an important improvement for the Springfield community as we continue efforts to safely integrate vehicles, bicycles and pedestrian users on our transportation network and connect them to vital parts of our city," explains Public Works Project Manager Nicholas Edelman. "Residents and visitors in the area will soon be able to more safely walk or ride their bike from the Galloway Village area to Luster Avenue and vice versa."

The project ranked as the No. 2 priority project in City-wide transportation surveys conducted in 2015 and 2018. The design and partial right-of-way phases were completed in the 2016 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax renewal cycle. Springfield voters again showed support by approving funding for the construction of the widening in the 2019 renewal cycle of the ¼-cent sales tax.

The widening will be funded through the City's 1/4cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax as well as \$1.5 million (30%) from the Governor's Transportation



Cost Share Program. The project is expected to be advertised for contractor bids in April with construction anticipated to begin this summer.

#### **CONSTRUCTION PHASING AND IMPACTS**

Construction on the widening project is expected to be divided into eight to 10 phases to maintain traffic flow and access throughout the project area. Work is expected to begin with the Lone Pine roundabout then continue west in phases. A detailed phasing plan and construction schedule will be determined once a contractor is selected.

"Access to all properties and residences in the project area will be maintained throughout construction," Edelman says. "However, traffic may be directed to access a property from a certain direction for a period of time."

Although local traffic will be maintained throughout construction, through traffic on Galloway is expected to be impacted for a significant portion of the project duration. North-south through traffic on Lone Pine and on Luster is also expected to be impacted for a period of several months during construction.

"It is the City's goal to coordinate project phasing to minimize impacts to the public as much as possible," explains Edelman. "We are also committed to keeping residents and businesses informed by providing regular project updates and providing a timeline so establishments can plan ahead in operations and communicate with customers and visitors.'

Visit the project webpage at springfieldmo.gov/ galloway to view meeting materials and to view a brief staff presentation video. Those interested in the project are also encouraged to subscribe to receive regular Galloway Widening Project update emails.

# GALA FUNDRAISER 1:30-4:00pm 6:30-9:30pm (early access for recipients 12:30p) Carnival games, aerial acrobats, balloon ar 80s costume contest, live DJ, & more! Advanced tickets only bit.ly/MMDcarnival

#### **GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD**



#### Connect

- Ken Brooks, President:
- Debbie Butts, Secretary
- Joe Stokes, Treasurer
- · GreaterParkcrest@gmail.com or 417-501-4699

#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 18 • July 18: 6:30-8 p.m. @ The Way Church (903 W. Katella St.) Meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday in January, April, July and October.

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

Officer Nathan Thieman: 417-874-1138 nthieman@springfieldmo.gov



Horace Mann Elementary School 3745 S. Broadway Ave.

Follow Greater Parkcrest on 🕝 👩 greaterparkcrest.org



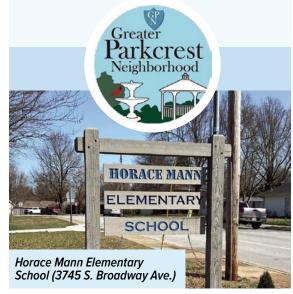
#### **Spring Neighborhood** Cleanup

Greater Parkcrest, Fassnight & Mark Twain

SAT., May 4

8 a.m.-Noon

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





**SUN., APRIL 21** 

**RAIN DATE: SUN., APRIL 28** 

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

**Meador Parks Sports Complex** (Fremont at Sunset)

**Team registration deadline** is Mon., April 15.

Official Rules and more information at Facebook.com/ groups/sgfkickball.





- SPARC day camps
- Ritter Springs
- · Farm Park camps

- Outdoor Adventures
- and Ice Hockey · Junior Golf

Figure Skating

- · Equestrian camps
- Skateboarding camps
   Zoo education camps



#### **HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD**



# **Park Board** replaces tree and marker in memory of Tammy Haynes

By Glenn Gohr, for SGFNN

The late Tammy Lou Haynes, longtime president of Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association, passed away in 2018 after battling cancer. She was 51. Haynes was involved in The Northwest Project and was a volunteer at The Fairbanks.

"If they needed a ride to the grocery, she'd load them into her van and haul them over there. She'd make food and take food to people. She just did what she needed to help people get by." - Phyllis Ferguson

"She was more than a person who would call the meeting to order and run it. She was a real neighborhood grassroots person," said former Zone 1 City Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson. Ferguson added that Haynes was also personally involved in her neighbors' lives. "If they needed a ride to the

grocery, she'd load them into her van and haul them over there. She'd make food and take food to people. She just did what she needed to help people get by."

A tree and a marker were both placed at Nichols Park in memory of Haynes in 2018, however the marker was damaged and the tree needed to be replaced. In 2023, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board planted a new tree and installed a new marker to honor Tammy.





#### **Connect**

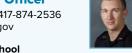
- Glenn Gohr, President: 417-507-4128 or archives\_guy@hotmail.com
- · Rev. Billy Cockrum, Vice President
- · Karen Carr, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer

#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

May 14 • July 9: 6 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 🚹 🕥



#### **Spring Neighborhood** Cleanup

Heart of the Westside, **Westside & West Central** 

#### SAT., April 13

8 a.m.-Noon Nichols Park (1900 W. Nichols St.)

#### **Food Pantries**

#### **Salvation Army Food Pantry**

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.-Noon & 1-2:30 p.m. 1707 W. Chestnut Expy.

#### **Crosslines Food Pantry**

Apr. 3 • May. 1 • June 5: 9:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. Nichols Park (1900 W. Nichols St.)

#### **New Growth Food Pantry**

Apr. 20 • May. 18 • June 15: 9 a.m.- Noon 351 N. Marion Ave.





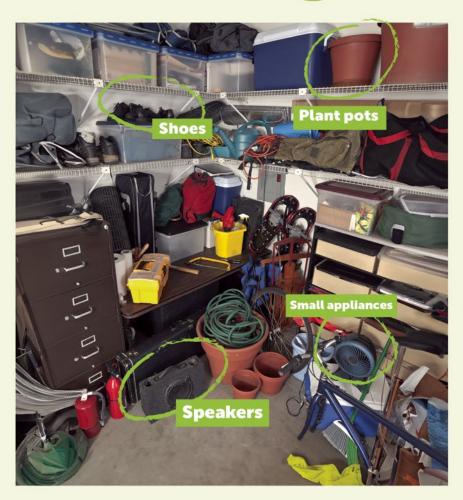
Home & Environment

# SPRING REFRESH GUIDE

Best practices for environmentally responsible home & yard care.



# Cleaning & Maintenance



# Spring clean your way to less clutter and more responsible disposal.

Remember, when you throw things "away," items in a trash can are headed to the landfill! Instead of sending things to the landfill, visit springfieldmo. gov/recycling and use the "Waste Wizard" tool to search for opportunities to recycle and safely dispose of materials.

Things like antifreeze, bug sprays and other household chemicals should be disposed of at the Household Chemical Collection



Center, keeping household chemicals out of the landfill and our region's water supply. Items like gently used clothes, toys, etc. can be donated and given a second life.



### **Sanitary Sewer Laterals**

Sanitary Sewer Laterals are the pipes that connect every home and business to the public sanitary sewer system. Wastewater from toilets, sinks and appliances goes down the drain and runs through the lateral, into the City's sewer line and toward a wastewater treatment plant.

Why is this important? The sewer lateral is actually the property owner's responsibility. When a lateral is broken or blocked, the owner is required to manage the repairs and maintenance. In fact, Environmental Services highly recommends that all homebuyers schedule a sewer lateral inspection.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/SewerLaterals.



### **Only Rain Down the Drain**

Don't forget that the storm drain nearby goes straight to our local streams. It is not intended to be a depository for oil and soap residue, excess fertilizers, leaves, grass clippings or yard debris! Report clogs or pollution in City storm drains by calling (417) 864.1010 or visiting springfieldmo.gov/environment.

# Lawn & Garden

# Be a food waste warrior!



In Springfield, food waste is the second largest component of our collective waste stream accounting for over 12% of the waste that makes it to the landfill every day. Dish-to-Dirt home composting program is one way that citizens can address this problem in their own backyards. Or for

those who don't have the space for a home composter, the Dish to Dirt Food Scraps Drop-Off Pilot program is FREE to participating community members with drop-off locations at each of the City's recycling centers. Organic matter collected through the pilot is taken to the Yardwaste Recycling Center and turned into good, clean compost. Learn more about both programs at springfieldmo.gov/ foodwaste.



## Ready to trim some trees this spring?

Gather all your twigs and branches and dispose of them at the Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC). These will be repurposed into our MOPost and MOMulch products for purchase at the YRC in bags or by the cubic yard and at the Lone Pine Recycling Center by the bag. Accepted brush must be 6 inches or less in diameter and 4 feet or less in length. For more info, go to springfieldmo.gov/recycling.

Brush Disposal Volume	Fee
Car/SUV/Pickup or Trailer (Under 8ft.)	\$9.50
Trailer (8-12 feet)	\$17.75
Trailer (13-16 feet)	\$23.50
Dump Truck	\$35.00
Large Volume fee/cubic yard	\$5.50

#### Local Compost & Mulch

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

#### **Yard Ethic**



Support a healthy community of people, wildlife and plants. Join the Yard Ethic community by

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

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

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



#### **Blooming Boulevards**

provides free installation of a rain garden in the right-ofway of suitable locations. Rain gardens are small, shallow

depressions planted with vegetation that collect the "first flush" of runoff after a rainstorm.

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



watering landscapes. Rainwater is soft and very good for plants and rainwater systems are simple and easy to install.



**The Pollinator Garden Grant Program** provides free native plants for qualifying applicants.
Locations must be highly visible to the public in City right-of-way or front yards.

Learn more about all of these programs and apply for Yard Ethic certification at YardEthic.com.

# CORINGFIELD SPRINGFIELD

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



One-time Roadway & Stream Cleanups
Clean Greeners can choose to do a one-time
cleanup of a street or stream in need. We'll
provide the trash bags, you tell us when and
where to pick them up when filled!

Assist with Neighborhood

- Cleanup Drop-off Event
  The City's registered Neighborhood Associations are teaming up to host trash and bulky item drop-off events throughout the spring. Sign up to help with a variety of activities.
- NEW! Neat Neighborhoods Competition
  Sign up to help one of the City's registered
  neighborhoods as they dive into a number of
  special projects in this friendly competition to win
  the title of Neat Neighborhood! The competition
  will be organized across our four City Zones
  with winning neighborhoods in each zone to
  be awarded prize money to help support their
  organization.

#### **Clean Green Drop-off Depot**

Here's your chance to get rid of your hard-todispose-of items! The City will accept tires, mattresses and other bulky items at this new citywide special disposal drop-off opportunity. Dates and item details coming soon!

Learn more and get registered beginning April 1 at **cleangreensgf.com** 





















#### **MARK TWAIN NEIGHBORHOOD**



#### Connect

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



April 9 • May 14 • June 11, July 9: 7 p.m. @ Sunset Church of Christ (1222 W. Sunset St.)

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

Officer Nathan Thieman: 417-874-1138 nthieman@sprinafieldmo.gov



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

Follow Mark Twain on 🚹 🕥



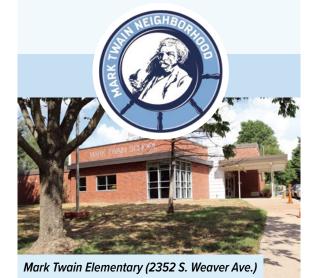
#### **Spring Neighborhood** Cleanup

Mark Twain, Fassnight 🗽 & Greater Parkcrest

SAT., May 4

8 a.m.-Noon

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



#### **MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD**



# Save the dates for spring cleanup and kickball

By Bobbi Ream, for SGFNN

Thanks to the City and the Neighborhood Works program for the additional lighting in Ray Kelly Park, and thanks to our president, Brian Miller, for preparing the application. Neighborhood Works



is a City program available on a bi-annual basis for improvements in registered neighborhoods toward a variety of neighborhood projects. The additional lighting and other work done by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board has been a well-received improvement by our residents and quests visiting the Southside Senior Center.

Meador Park's annual neighborhood cleanup (dumpster day) will be held April 6 at the park. Please use the Sunset Street entrance. This will be our first event working with our close by neighborhoods. Bradford Park and Seminole Holland. They will be joining us for a busy morning at the Meador Park Sports Fields. The opportunity to remove rubbish and bulky items is sponsored by the City of Springfield and coordinated by Community Partnership of the Ozarks. We will have arrangements for metal recycling. In case you need more information, email MeadorParkNA@gmail.com.

We are all very happy to have the cleanup event returning to a Saturday and need to thank the Community Partnership and CARDS for working through all the details to restart Saturday cleanups. The funding for this comes from the City and is one of the best things for neighborhood improvements.

Kickball will return to Meador Park Sports Fields on Sunday April 21, with a rain date of April 28. If you are interested in detailed information, please go to the public Facebook group SGFKickball or email Meador Park NA@gmail.com

MPNA residents east of National Avenue are eligible for Restore SGF grant funds to make improvements to your home. For additional information, please visit restoresqf.com.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at an event or one of our meetings!



#### Connect

- Brian Miller, President
- · Bobbi Ream, Vice President
- Cathy Fisher, Treasurer
- · meadorparkna@gmail.com



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

March 28 • April 25 • May 23 • June 27: 6 p.m. @ Cowden Elementary School (2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.) if school is in session. Other locations will be noted on the Meador Park Neighborhood Facebook page.

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

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



**Cowden Elementary School** 2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.

Follow Meador Park on 🚹 🕥



#### **Spring Neighborhood** Cleanup

Meador Park, Bradford Park & Seminole Holland

### SAT., April 6

8 a.m.-Noon

Meador Park - Sunset Street Entrance (2600 S. Fremont Ave.)

#### **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.





# **Boyd Lofts to open in late spring**

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Boyd Lofts, located in the 113-year-old former Boyd Elementary School building at 1409 N. Washington, will open with 17 one- and twobedroom loft-style apartments in late spring, according to developer Matt Blevins.

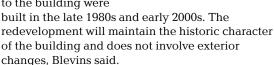
"We are on schedule to open in late May for the lofts. The project includes 17 loft style apartments with around 3,000 square feet of amenity-based commercial space," Blevins said. "We are working on our branding and marketing package now and should have more info on that in March."

The permitted uses for the commercial space include restaurant, fitness space, office, retail, daycare, community center and church.

The 26,000-square-foot building has been vacant since August 2021 when the school relocated to a newly constructed building at 833 E. Division. The former Boyd building was declared as surplus property by the school board in December 2021 and sold to Boyd School Redevelopment Corporation in November 2022 for \$200,000. City Council approved the redevelopment plan for the property in June 2023.

The first Boyd Elementary was a renovated

house opened in 1908 and named in honor of Mary Sophia Boyd, who taught for 41 years in Springfield. After that house burned, in 1911 a multi-story brick structure became Boyd elementary for the next 110 years. Additions to the building were



"I think that this type of mixed-use development, particularly when it involves adaptive reuse of an existing historic building is what we want in our community," said Mayor Pro Tem and Zone 4 Councilman Matthew Simpson at the April 17, 2023 City Council meeting. "It meets the goals of Forward SGF, promotes walkability, helps contribute to filling the housing shortage that we have in our community, promotes economic vitality, and I think adaptive use projects like this can strengthen neighborhoods."



# Midtown neighbor renovates home with HELP from City, businesses

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The City of Springfield was happy to help veteran Larry Rottmann with a Homeowner Emergency Loan Program (HELP) loan to fix up his property in Midtown recently. Larry received seven new windows, soffit and fascia work, a new garbage disposal and new kitchen faucet through the City's HELP program.

"We partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Springfield and RL Building and Remodeling for the HELP portion. Habitat applied for Owens Corning Roofing's Roof Deployment Project on Larry's behalf. The City initially planned to pay for the new gutters with the HELP program; however, during the roof replacement that was provided by Southern Roofing and Renovations Missouri, Gladiator Exteriors owner Troy Wisdom wanted to help as well and donated the gutters and installation, freeing up the HELP funds to do the additional windows, faucet and garbage disposal," said Lisa Gateley, a loan technician in the City's Planning & Development department.

Read more about the renovation at https://news.yahoo.com/vietnam-vet-author-larry-rottmann-093214084.html.





#### **Connect**

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



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 8 • May 13 • June 10 • July 8: 6 p.m. @ Central Christian Church (1475 N. Washington Ave.)

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

Officer Shelby Chaney: 417-874-2535 schaney@springfieldmo.gov



Boyd Elementary School 833 E. Division St.



Follow Midtown on 🚹 🕦





The City began soliciting bids from qualified contractors for the rehabilitation of the 122-year-old Jefferson Avenue Footbridge in early March. Read the story on page 24.

#### **OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD**



#### Connect

- · Lena Sample President
- Ben Vickers, Vice President
- · John Sample, Secretary
- · Cheryl Horton, Treasurer
- · oakgrove1538@gmail.com or 417-501-9135



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 30 • June 25: 6-7 p.m. @ Oak Grove Community Center (1538 S. Oak Grove Ave.) Meetings are held in February, April, June, August, and October every last Tuesday, unless there's a holiday and then the meeting will be the Tuesday prior. Watch for meeting announcements on Facebook and neighborhood signs.

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

Officer Stevin Cisneros: 417-864-1321 scisneros@springfieldmo.gov



**Pittman Elementary School** 2934 E. Bennett St.

ogna.weebly.com

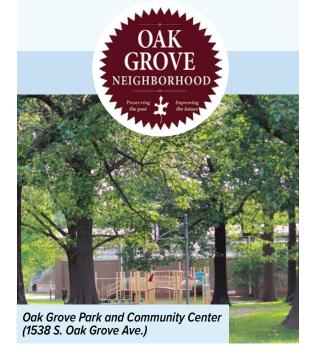


#### **Mobile Library Stop**

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)



#### **PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD**



#### **Springfield Art** Museum announces anticipated closure for construction

By Joshua Best, Springfield Art Museum, for SGFNN

The Springfield Art Museum celebrates 96 years of service to our community in 2024 with a schedule of 13 new and ongoing exhibitions that are packed with local, regional, and international interest. Presenting sponsorship of the museum's 2024 exhibition season is generously provided by the Friends of the Springfield Art Museum, Inc.

You can learn more about all of our current and upcoming exhibitions at sgfmuseum.org. Plan to join us for any, or all, of these exhibitions and enjoy installation pieces like Anne Lindberg's tilted sky and Dale Chihuly's Autumn Persian and Feather Chandelier through Sept. 1.

All museum exhibitions will end by Sept. 1 and the facility will close to the public in preparation for building construction as a part of the 2028 Campaign, a visionary comprehensive site plan for the museum building and grounds. Extensive grounds work, including the naturalization of Fassnight Creek, has already been completed. Facility renovation is the next step in achieving the goals of the transformational site plan by the museum's 100th anniversary in 2028.

The museum plans to continue delivering artmaking programs and other services during the closure period. The museum's collection will remain off view throughout the closure period. Construction is currently slated to begin in January 2025 and is expected to continue through 2027. The museum will announce more details about planned programs and other services prior to the Sept. 1 closure.

Patrons can request e-mail updates on the 2028 Campaign by signing up for notifications. Patrons interested in supporting the 2028 Campaign financially, or otherwise, should contact Kate Francis, museum affairs officer for fundraising and development at kate.francis@springfieldmo.gov. Naming opportunities are available.





#### **Connect**

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

#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

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

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

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



Follow Phelps Grove on 📢 🕥

# phelpsgrove.com

#### **Spring Neighborhood** Cleanup

Phelps Grove, Delaware, **Rountree & University Heights** 

### **SAT., May 18**

8 a.m.-Noon

MSU Parking Lot 22 (1004 E. Grand St.)





# SPRING 2024 BOOK SALE

# **April 24-28**

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

Wednesday-Friday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1-5 p.m.

# Friends Night Preview Sale: Tues., April 23: 4-8 p.m.

Members please make sure your dues are paid in advance.
Not a member? Join at the door.
Individual memberships are \$5.

Cash or Check Only.

Question? Email us at friends@thelibrary.org



thelibrary.org/booksale

#### **ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD**



# SPS board of education approves closure of Robberson and Pershing elementary schools

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

The SPS Board of Education held two public hearings Jan. 16, in accordance with board policy, to determine the future of Robberson Elementary and the K-5 portion of Pershing School. Following those hearings, the board approved the following actions:

- Closure of Robberson Elementary at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Beginning in August, Robberson students will attend the nearby Boyd Elementary, a brand-new school built two years ago.
- Closure of the K-5 portion of Pershing at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Beginning in August 2026, Pershing Elementary students will attend nearby Field or Wilder schools, depending on the address of residence. Plans for the extensive renovation and rebuild of Pershing Middle School (grades 6-8) will begin now that the scope of work has been defined for a middle school project. Groundbreaking will begin in 2026 with completion in 2028.

In November, the board received the results of a demographic study, which analyzed current and future population trends within the SPS attendance boundaries.

The study identified opportunities for improvement to help address the underutilization of some schools and a projected overall decline in enrollment. On Dec. 19, 2023 recommended changes were presented to the board of education, including the closing of Robberson Elementary and the K-5 portion of Pershing.

Robberson and Boyd elementary schools are both underutilized due to low enrollment, which is projected to continue declining over the next 10 years. The board's action combines the Robberson and Boyd attendance areas with all students attending the newly constructed Boyd campus, completed in 2021, 1.5 miles from Robberson.

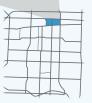
Currently, Pershing serves 151 students in grades kindergarten through 5, which is a very small elementary campus. By moving those students to nearby Field and Wilder, Pershing will be renovated/rebuilt as a middle school serving only grades 6-8. Now that the scope of work for the project has been determined, renovations will begin in 2026 for completion in 2028.

The decisions by the board will ensure that Pershing and Robberson students have an improved learning environment and enhanced academic support, both of which are key priorities of the SPS strategic plan. The actions also improve organizational and fiscal efficiency.



#### **Connect**

- · Mary Ann Bonetti, President
- Phyllis Evans, Secretary
- · Sarah Tinajero, Social Media
- RNASpringfieldMO@gmail.com or 417-893-0551



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 16 • May 21 • June 18: 5:30-6:30 p.m. @ Pathways United Methodist Church (1232 E. Dale St.)

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

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

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



Robberson Community School 1100 E. Kearney St.

Follow Robberson on RNASpringfieldMO.org

# Spring Neighborhood Cleanup

Robberson & Woodland Heights

### SAT., March 30

8 a.m.-Noon Railroad Parking Lot (304 W. Chase St.)



# Adopt-a-Street Cleanups

Saturdays: April 20, May 25, June 22, 9 a.m.-Noon Meet at Pathways United Methodist Church Parking Lot (1232 E. Dale).

# **ROUNTREE**NEIGHBORHOOD



#### **Connect**

- Peggy Wise, President: wise1peggy@gmail.com or 417-860-8990
- · Laurel Bryant, Vice President
- · Dusty O'Neal, Secretary
- Nick Harper, Treasurer



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 16 • May 21 • June 18: 7-8 p.m. @ University Heights Baptist Church (1010 S. National Ave.)

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

**Officer Stevin Cisneros:** 417-864-1321 scisneros@springfieldmo.gov

**Rountree Elementary School** 



1333 Grand St.

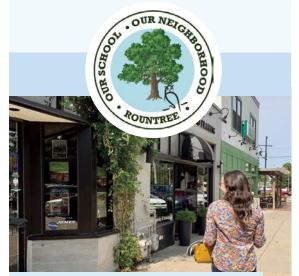


#### Spring Neighborhood Cleanup

Rountree, Phelps Grove, Delaware & University Heights

SAT., May 18 8 a.m.-Noon

MSU Parking Lot 22 (1004 E. Grand St.)



Be sure to check out the 'Exploring Rountree Neighborhood' blog entry by Sarah Jenkins at Springfieldmo.org/blog. Photo: Springfield CVB.

#### **SEMINOLE HOLLAND NEIGHBORHOOD**



#### Seminole Holland Winter Potluck a success; save the date for Summer Bash

By William Cooper, for SGFNN

Residents of the neighborhood enjoyed an unforgettable evening at the first Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association Winter Potluck Jan. 24. Delicious soups, appetizers and desserts were devoured as we came together to forge stronger bonds within our neighborhood.

Mark your calendars for the City-sponsored neighborhood cleanup event on April 6 at Meador Park, in collaboration with Meador Park and Bradford Park neighborhoods. Stay tuned for details at SeminoleHolland.com and our Facebook group: Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association Group.

Save the date for our upcoming neighborhood Summer Bash at McDaniel Moore Park on June 22! Remember all meetings are open to the public. Come and say hi to a neighbor!

#### Spring Neighborhood Cleanup

Seminole Holland, Meador.

### SAT., April 6

8 a.m.-Noon

Meador Park - Sunset Street Entrance (2600 S. Fremont Ave.)



#### Connect

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

#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 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







# **Eden Village 3 using 3D technology** to print tiny homes

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Springfield's third tiny home community to house the chronically homeless will hopefully begin moving residents in by end of the 2024, according to The Gathering Tree Inc. The nonprofit broke ground for Eden Village 3 in late 2022 at 2419 W. High in the Tom Watkins neighborhood and is using 3D technology to print the homes.

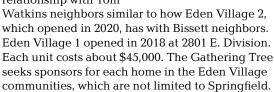
"Eden Village 3 will include 12 duplexes and a neighborhood clubhouse. The plan is to start printing these homes in the late spring," said Cheyenne Guzman, executive and administrative assistant for Eden Village and The Gathering Tree Inc.

Each duplex unit will have one bedroom and one bathroom. The community itself will be modeled after Eden Village 2 in the Bissett neighborhood, which is a gated community with security cameras, a community center, tornado shelter and a neighborhood council. Eden Village 2 is an active member of the Bissett Neighborhood Association and allows the association to use its community center for neighborhood association meetings and participates in the annual neighborhood cleanups.

The Gathering Tree has a waiting list of more than 200 people for the tiny homes. The organization has a multistep process for determining who gets a home in the communities. Precedence is given to the terminally ill and veterans, said Nate Schlueter, chief visionary officer.

"Our residents must have been homeless for a year and have the ability to pay rent," he said.

He noted that The Gathering Tree looks forward to building a relationship with Tom



Schlueter said the organization has "franchised" communities in Wilmington, North Carolina; Kansas City, Kansas; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Mountain Home, Arkansas; Excelsior Springs; Phoenix, Arizona; Richmond, Virginia; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Warrenton, Virginia.

"Our villages are now a proven model, so they have gotten easier and easier to bring forward,' Schlueter said. "We look forward to working with our neighbors in Tom Watkins."

# Nate Schlueter





# Ingle named new principal of Williams Elementary

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

Bret Ingle has been named the next principal of Williams Elementary. He is currently principal of Reed Academy and will replace Amanda Desa who is leaving the district.

Prior to joining Reed, Ingle worked for the Joplin School District, where he had 13 years of administrative experience as an elementary principal and a middle school assistant principal. He also served as an elementary school teacher.

Ingle completed undergraduate studies in education at Missouri Southern State University, graduate work in educational leadership at Pittsburg State University and an educational specialist degree from William Woods University.

"I am excited to join the team at Williams and am looking forward to being back in the elementary

world," Ingle said. "I am thankful for the opportunity and hope to continue the positive steps forward to make Williams the best school in the district

New principals were also named at Field Elementary School and Jarrett and Reed middle schools. "We are pleased to announce these outstanding individuals who are accepting new roles in our district," said Superintendent Grenita Lathan. "We are fortunate at SPS to have such an experienced group of dedicated employees we can rely upon to fill these key leadership positions."

Ingle will begin his new responsibilities effective July 1.



#### **Connect**

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



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

May 28 • Aug. 27: 6 p.m. @ Tom Watkins Community Center (2105 W. High St.) Meetings are held quarterly in February, May, August and November on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Check out the Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association Facebook page for updates.

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

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



Williams Elementary School 2205 W. Kearney St.

Follow Tom Watkins on 📢 🕥



#### **Spring Neighborhood** Cleanup

Tom Watkins, Doling & Bissett

## SAT., April 27

8 a.m.-Noon

Railroad Parking Lot (304 W. Chase St.)

#### **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.)



#### **UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD**



#### **Developer withdraws** request for rezoning at National and Sunshine

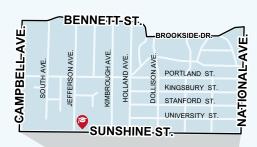
By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Developers of a proposed project at the corner of National and Sunshine have withdrawn their request for the rezoning of the property. According to representatives from BK&M, the developers of the project, are applying for a rezoning to a Planned Development. The proposal was to rezone property generally located at 1739, 1745 and 1755 S. National Avenue, 1138 E. University Street and 1111, 1119, 1133 and 1141 E. Sunshine Street from single-family residential district to general retail district, and to establish a new conditional overlay district No. 220.

A planned development differs from rezoning to a conventional zoning district because a site plan, and accompanying set of development standards, are used to direct development of the property. During the weeks following application deadline, City staff does an in-depth evaluation of the request, evaluating the request based on the impact on the community as a whole, and not on the special interests of the property owner, and how well the application addresses policies from the comprehensive plan and/or City ordinances. Based upon this evaluation, staff prepares a report and recommendation to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

#### **UHNA** launches **UH Herald** neighborhood newsletter

Find the latest issue and sign up to stay informed about neighborhood news and events at universityheights-sqf.org.



#### Connect

- Barbara Rae Hughes, President
- Jeff Carney, Vice President
- · Susan Robinson, Secretary
- Don Dunbar, Treasurer
- · uhnasgf@gmail.com



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 3 • May 1 • June 5 • July 3: 7 p.m. @ Sunshine Elementary School (421 E. Sunshine St.)

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

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

Officer Stevin Cisneros: 417-864-1321 scisneros@springfieldmo.gov





Follow University Heights on 📢 🕥 universityheights-sgf.org

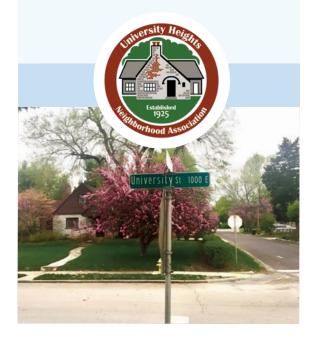
#### **Spring Neighborhood** Cleanup

University Heights, Rountree, Phelps Grove & Delaware

#### **SAT., May 18**

8 a.m.-Noon

MSU Parking Lot 22 (1004 E. Grand St.)



#### **WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD**



#### Connect

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



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 4 • May 2 • June 6: 6-7 p.m. @ Weller Community Church (1624 E. Blaine St.)

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

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

Officer Shelby Chaney: 417-874-2535 schaney@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow Weller on 📢 🕥



#### **Weller Community Garden Produce Distribution**

Wednesdays: 1-2 p.m.

Weller Community Church (1624 E. Blaine St.)



The Weller Community Church operates a community garden and weekly food distribution for families in need of nutrition assistance! The volunteers from Weller go above and beyond to help bring fresh, healthy food into the homes of our Springfield neighbors. In 2023, the community garden grew and harvested over 4,500 pounds. (Provided by Springfield Community Gardens)

#### **WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD**



#### **Connect**

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



#### **Neighborhood Alliance Meetings**

April 23 • May 28: 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Resurrection Church (545 S. Broadway Ave.) • June 25 (Social): 6-7 p.m. @ Mother's Brewing Company (215 S. Grant 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 🚹 🕦



#### **Spring Neighborhood** Cleanup

West Central, Westside & Heart of the Westside

### SAT., April 13

8 a.m.-Noon

Nichols Park (1900 W. Nichols St.)



#### **WCNA** launches new walking club

The West Central Neighborhood Alliance kicked off a new walking club on March 19. On the third Tuesday of every month they will meet at a different location in West Central, setting off at 6 p.m. for a leisurely stroll around the neighborhood. Each walk lasts about an hour. Check the WCNA Facebook page @WestCentralSGF for more information and each month's meeting location.

#### **WESTSIDE** NEIGHBORHOOD



### **Spring offers** outdoor opportunities in Westside

By Sharon L. Brooks, for SGFNN

Spring is in the air and on our doorstep. With spring quickly approaching, don't forget about our two neighborhood parks – Westport and Zagonyi. Both parks have tennis courts that can now double as tennis AND Pickleball. Our parks are also great places to play basketball, enjoy a picnic or sit and watch the world go by.

Other spring activities happening in our WNBA neighborhood involve spring cleaning. Our Adopt-A-Street cleanup will be Sat. April 6 at 8 a.m. Adopt-A-Street involves trash pickup on West Mt. Vernon from Park Avenue to Kansas Expressway. Meet us at Zagonyi Park. Also in April, the big event everyone has been waiting for is Westside's Neighborhood Cleanup. Be sure to watch our WNBA Springfield Facebook page and our Nextdoor page for times and dates for these wonderful, fun filled events.

Your Westside neighborhood Betterment Association (WNBA) hopes you and your family will be able to get out and enjoy our beautiful Westside Parks this spring. And maybe even take a walk on one of our beautiful new sidewalks!

Happy spring.

# CHESTNUT-EXPY WEST-BYPASS WALNUT ST. GRAND ST.

#### Connect

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

#### · Lydia Austin, Secretary **Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings**

April 9 • May 14 • June 11 • July 9: 6:30 p.m., @ Golden Avenue Baptist Church (558 S. Golden Ave.)

#### **Neighborhood PAR Officer**

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



Westport Elementary School 415 S. Golden Ave.

Follow Westside on 🚹 🕥



#### **Spring Neighborhood** Cleanup

Westside, West Central & Heart of the Westside

#### SAT., April 13

8 a.m.-Noon Nichols Park (1900 W. Nichols St.)

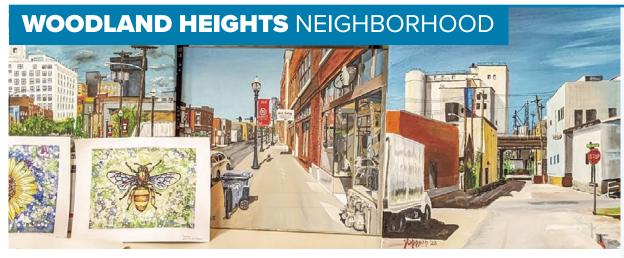




Concessions • Custodial • Customer Service & Front Desk • Drivers • Golf Courses • Parks & Facility Maintenance • Recreation & Sports • Special Events • Umpires • AND MORE!



PARKBOARD.ORG/JOBS



# **WHNA** launches Arts Committee

By Chance Parish, for SGFNN

At the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association's annual board retreat, WHNA board members discussed events and endeavors of the previous year. It struck the board members that the most popular events and projects from the previous year had been those centered around the idea of art as a means to bring community together (i.e. concerts, silent film series, mural projects, etc.). With this in mind, it was decided that WHNA should form its own Art Committee "to encourage and increase all forms of art—in order to enrich the quality of life within the Woodland Heights Neighborhood and the greater Springfield community."

On Jan. 26, the WHNA Art Committee met for the first time and discussed their ideas of how artistic endeavors could be used to further community connectivity. The committee discussed everything from fiber art to poetry, and decided that they would have no general focus other than "creativity." The question, though, was where and how to start the ball rolling? As many of you may know, a committee can sometimes be a slow meandering thing. The WHNA Art Committee wanted swiftness. They wanted a way to jump start the artistic spirit within the community. Before the Art Committee meeting had finished, an event was scheduled.



On Feb. 9 at 7 p.m., at the Charlie Norr Community Center at historic Lafayette Park, the WHNA Art Committee held its first Woodland Creatives Meet & Greet event. The purpose of the event was simple; the Art Committee wanted to assess the creative potential of the community. And they wanted creative types within the community to be able to meet and interact with each other in a space where their creativity could be discussed and praised. The advertisement for the event read (in part):

"Are you a Woodland Heights' visual artist? A poet? A sculptor? A potter? A singer? Do you make beautiful quilts? Do you craft



mosaics? Do you act? Or do you create lifesize statues out of macaroni? Whoever you are and whatever creative thing you do—we want to meet you, friend! Not sure you qualify as a Woodland Creative? Here's the test: Do you live in Woodland Heights? Do you do something creative that brings you joy? Do you often feel the need to share that creative thing with the public or (at least) with other people? Then come along. All are welcome. Let's grow creative vibes in this community together!"

When 7 p.m. approached that night members of the WHNA Art Committee were unsure as to what would happen. There was some fear that perhaps nothing would happen at all. Maybe no one would come. But at 6:45 p.m. a neighbor strolled in with a stack of paintings under his arm that depicted Springfield streetscapes in glorious detail. A fiber artist followed, then a bookmaker, a 3D printmaker, aspiring writers, and artists of all sorts. The small community center filled with echoing voices. The Meet & Greet was a success! When the night was winding down, one gentleman mentioned that he had wanted to bring an instrument and share music with the community, but he had refrained from doing so out of fear of being too "showy." The WHNA Art Committee shouted in unison, "next time bring it!"

The Meet & Greet was such a success that there will definitely be more such events to follow. The next Meet & Greet was scheduled for March 8, with more planned. We sincerely hope that we attract all of the weird and funky creatives from our area.

In Woodland Heights we believe that the way forward involves harnessing creative energy and using it for the greater good.



#### Connect

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



#### **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

April 16 • May 21 • June 18: 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 Academy (Under Construction) 2000 N. Lyon Ave.

Follow Woodland Heights on 📢 🕦 woodlandheightsneighborhood.org

# **Spring Neighborhood**

**Woodland Heights** & Robberson

#### SAT., March 30

8 a.m.-Noon

Railroad Parking Lot (304 W. Chase St.)

#### **Neighborhood Yard Sale**

June 22: 8-11 a.m.

#### **Free Community Dinners**

Wednesdays: 6-7 p.m.

Springfield Dream Center (829 W. Atlantic St.)



## Despite cold, Woodland Heights' large item disposal event a success

By Chance Parish, for SGFNN

On the morning of Saturday, Feb. 17, the temperature was well below freezing. The wind was brisk and cutting. There were snow flurries in the air. The Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association's volunteer crew had already made plans, though! And nothing keeps the Heights down.



Woodland Heights volunteers (and some very helpful friends from Missouri State University's Habitat for Humanity chapter) donned winter layers and faced the cold at 8 a.m. for a Large Item Cleanup event that was offered for free to members of our community.

Our fearless neighborhood association president, Becky Volz, led the way with a list of curbside pickups that had been requested. And neighbors from all corners of the neighborhood arrived with cars and trucks filled with large items that would otherwise have been cumbersome and/or expensive to dispose of themselves.

By 11:30 a.m. our near frozen volunteers had filled three dumpsters full of couches, mattresses, etc.

We are eternally grateful to our MSU volunteers for their help with all of those heavy items. It's always nice to have young energetic people around when there's a couch to be lifted.

Woodland Heights felt lighter the next day. And we think a cleaner neighborhood is a safer neighborhood.



# City solicits bids for rehabilitation of iconic Jefferson Avenue Footbridge

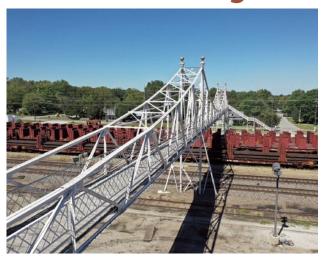
By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Shuttered to the public for eight years for safety concerns, north Springfield's historic Jefferson Avenue Footbridge will soon be given a second chance at a new chapter in history.

The City of Springfield is soliciting bids from qualified contractors for the rehabilitation of the 122-year-old cantilever truss bridge until April 9.

The solicited construction project will involve the complete rehabilitation of the existing steel bridge structure, involving the repair and replacement of existing deficient structural members, removal and replacement of wood decking, replacement of stairs, application of a new paint system and installation of lighting. Two elevators will be installed on the north and south approaches to bring the bridge into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide equitable access to all.

After an extensive public engagement and planning process involving multiple local, state and national agencies, the City originally attempted to bid the rehabilitation project in the fall of 2021. Due to a variety of industry factors, bid results were nearly double the cost of the City's roughly \$3



million dollar engineering estimate and approved budget at the time. The City continued pursuing options for additional funding necessary for potential rebidding of the project at a later date.

In June 2023, the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge

▶ See FOOTBRIDGE on page 25





#### ▶ FOOTBRIDGE from page 24

was given a second chance at rehabilitation through the approval of an \$8 million appropriation from the State of Missouri's fiscal year 2024 budget. A Direct Appropriation Project Agreement with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) required for the City to gain access to the allocated funds was approved by City Council in November of 2023.

"Since the approval of the Project Agreement in the fall, Public Works has been reaching back out to the BNSF railroad, MoDOT and other agencies to update all bid documents and prepare to bid the project as quickly as possible," explains Project Manager Nicholas Edelman. "We are excited to be moving forward once again and hopeful that qualified contractors will come forward to be a part of a new chapter in history for the bridge."

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. Upon the selection of a qualified contractor, the City is hopeful the rehabilitation project will be under construction by the end of the year.

"We would like to thank Governor Mike Parson, Senator Lincoln Hough and our state legislative delegation for approving the funding that is allowing this project to move forward," says Public Works Director Dan Smith.

Learn more about the effort to rehabilitate Springfield's Jefferson Avenue Footbridge, visit springfieldmo.gov/footbridge.

# Collins named new principal of Reed Academy

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

Robin Collins has been named the next principal of Reed Academy. She currently serves as assistant principal at Hillcrest High School.

Collins will follow Bret Ingle, who has accepted the position of principal at Williams Elementary School



Collins joined SPS

in 2001 and has served as assistant principal at Hillcrest for the past five years, during which time she was involved in the work related to the campus renovation made possible by Proposition S. Her prior experience includes working as an educator, coach and Explore principal.

She earned a bachelor's in physical education from Missouri State University, and a master's in athletics and activities administration and a specialist degree in educational administration from William Woods University.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to serve as the next leader of Reed Academy. I'm excited to continue working with the northside community and look forward to playing a role in its growth and success," Collins said.

New principals were also named at Jarrett Middle School and Field and Williams elementary schools.

Collins will begin her new responsibilities effective July 1.

# **Events**April – June 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.

National Walking Day: Wed., April 3: Enjoy a group walk, emphasizing the benefits of walking: reducing stress, improving cardiovascular health and boosting mental clarity. Several times/locations available: Chesterfield, Dan Kinney and Doling Parks: 30-minute group walks, 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

• Chesterfield and Dolng Pools: Water resistance walks, 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (no fee/membership required) • SPARC after-school programs: 30-minute group walks, parents invited! • Jordan Creek Greenway at Ewing Sports Complex: 2-mile group walk to Cruse Dog Park and back, 4-5 p.m. Dogs welcome! • Lost Hill Park: 45-minute twilight group hike and campfire, 8 p.m. Free for all ages. Registration required at ParkBoard.org/Events

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 at the Springfield Botanical Gardens. Bring a kite to fly or build one with us. Whack a piñata nearby. Enjoy Japanese and Mexican performances and children's activities and free admission to Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden as it reopens for the season. Details at PeaceThroughPeople.org/CherryBlossom. All ages. Free Admission, \$5/Kite kit.

Spirit of Independence: Kent Bicentennial Portfolio: Closes 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.

April Solar Eclipse: Mon., April 8: Noon-2 p.m., Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. While parts of Missouri experience a total solar eclipse, Springfield will reach 97% obscurity at about 1:54 p.m. Celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event with viewing and activities at Springfield Botanical Gardens, on the Great Lawn and Botanical Center roof. All ages. Free, \$2/Eclipse glasses.

**Astronomy Night on the Roof:** Fri., April 12: 5-9 p.m., Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Join the Springfield Astronomical Society on the Botanical Center roof, as we view the waxing crescent moon and Jupiter. All ages. *Free*.

Second Sunday Concert: Sun., April 14: 2-3 p.m., Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell Ave. April is National Jazz Appreciation Month, and who better to lead the celebration than the Springfield Community Jazz Ensemble? The 20-member band, under the direction of Bob Holden, will perform music made famous by well-known Broadway, pop and jazz artists. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Fix-It Fair: Sat., April 20: Noon-4 p.m., Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central St. 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.

All School Exhibition: Closes 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.

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: Closes 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

Breath, Light and Distance: April 20-Sept.1: Wed.-Fri. Noon-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. This special exhibition features cloudscapes from the museum's permanent collection in a range of media. These works were selected for their depictions of rolling clouds, wide expanses of bright light, and room

► EVENTS CONTINUE on page 26

#### → EVENTS CONTINUED from page 25

to breathe – from open vistas of big sky at elevations of great height to clear far-reaching horizons at sea level. Featured artists include: Alice Dalton Brown, Yvonne Jacquette, Robert Kipniss, Patrick Procktor, Dag Hol, Kenneth V. White, and work attributed to George Inness among others. Breath, Light and Distance is guest curated by Joshua Best, museum affairs officer for audience development. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/281/Breath-Light-and-Distance.

Master Gardener and Garden Society Plant Sale: Sat., April 27: 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Japanese Garden Pavilion, Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Presented by the Master Gardeners of Greene County and other garden societies. Held rain or shine, at Springfield Botanical Gardens' Japanese Garden Pavilion. Arrive early for best selection of trees, shrubs, grasses, perennials, bedding plants, herbs, bulbs and more. All ages. Free admission, prices vary per plant.

Artsfest on Historic Walnut Street: Sat. & Sun., May 4-5: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Historic Walnut Street. Springfield's springtime tradition! The largest fine arts festival in southwest Missouri, featuring original art from more than 100 juried artists from across the country. Enjoy live music, dance and theater on multiple stages, food vendors and art activities for all ages. Proceeds benefit Springfield Regional Arts Council. Schedule at SpringfieldArts.org/Artsfest. All ages. Fee: \$5/Person, Free/5 yrs. and under.

Dirt Day at Lafayette Park: Sat., May 4: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic St. Get your hands dirty at the 10th annual Dirt Day in historic Lafayette Park. The Woodland Heights Neighborhood presents this garden-themed event with activities and demonstrations from garden professionals and clubs, plant exchange, green living, interactive garden art, kids' dinosaur dig and birdhouse painting. All ages. *Free.* 

Heroes at the Farm: Sat., May 4: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (10-11 a.m. Sensory-friendly hour, for guests with sensory sensitivities), Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146. Meet your local first responders and emergency workers at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Check out police, fire and emergency vehicles. Play yard games and visit the farm's animals, fishing pond and playground. All ages. *Free*.

Gigs in the Garden: Sun., May 5, 12 & 19: 2-3 p.m., Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy local and regional musicians at the Peace Through People Pavilion in the Springfield Botanical Gardens. Beer and wine available for purchase. Donations benefit accessibility projects in the park. Presented by Springfield Sister Cities Association. PeaceThroughPeople.org/Gigs. All ages. Free, \$10 suggested donation.

Mother's Day at the Zoo: Sun., May 12: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Dickerson Park Zoo, 1401 W. Norton Rd. Free zoo admission for all moms. Fee: \$19/Adults 13-59 yrs.; \$14/Children 3-12 yrs.; \$16/Seniors 60 yrs. and up; Free/Kids 2 yrs. and under, and all moms.

Garden Day: Thurs., May 9: 3-7 p.m., Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. An event for garden enthusiasts, presented by Friends of the Garden in partnership with the Springfield Botanical Center. Visitors can meet with garden adopters and volunteers, learn about plant diversity, and more. The event includes Friends of the Garden's Annual Meeting, and kicks off National Public Gardens Week. Caterpillar Café

Dedication 3:30 p.m. Free admission to Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden all day. All ages. *Free*.

Bark in the Park: Sat., May 18: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Phelps Grove Park, 950 E. Bennett St. A fun and relaxing day in Phelps Grove Park with your family and your beloved dog. Enjoy music, crafts and activities at the Canine Vendor Village. Cruse Dog Park t-shirts and concessions available. Proceeds benefit Cruse Dog Park. All ages. *Free*.

43rd Annual Kids' Fishing Fun Day: Sat. June 1: 8, 9:30 or 11 a.m., Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146. Kids learn about different types of fish and how to cast and may catch and keep up to three fish. Takes place at the stocked pond at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Take photos at the First Catch station! Bring your own gear, limited fishing pole rentals available. Register by noon on May 31 at ParkBoard.org/Events. Rain date June 2. Ages 3-15 yrs. Fee: Free, \$5.50/Pole rental.

Tennis Under the Lights: Fri., June 7: 7-9 p.m., Lafayette Park, 202 E. Atlantic St. Come swing a racquet with your neighbors at night. Tennis courts are twinkling with lights and music, and participants shine with glow necklaces and bracelets. This free event includes all tennis equipment and snacks. A partnership with Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association. All ages. *Free*.

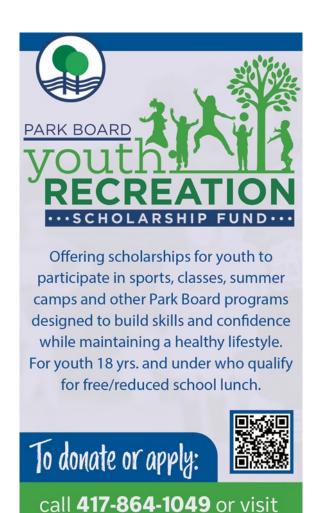
Butterfly Festival: Sat., June 8: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Celebrate pollinators and the Roston Native Butterfly House at this annual festival for all ages. Includes food, art and garden vendors, live music and dozens of community partners, with hands-on activities, including the Caterpillar Petting Zoo and nature crafts. Free admission to the Japanese Stroll Garden. Presented by Friends of the Garden, details at FriendsoftheGarden.org. Free.

Watercolor USA 2024: June 8-Sept.1: Wed.-Fri. Noon-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m., Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Dr. This is the 63rd exhibition of Watercolor USA, a national, annual juried exhibition recognizing contemporary American watermedia painting. The event is open to artists (ages 18+) from all 50 states and U.S. territories and judged for a variety of prizes and possible purchase by the museum. Approximately \$20,000 in cash awards and possible museum purchase awards are available; top awards are \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,500 cash. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/246/Watercolor-USA.

Father's Day at the Zoo: Sun., June 16: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Dickerson Park Zoo, 1401 W. Norton Rd. Free zoo admission for all dads. Fee: \$19/Adults 13-59 yrs.; \$14/Children 3-12 yrs.; \$16/Seniors 60 yrs. and up; Free/Kids 2 yrs. and under, and all dads.

Ancient Artifacts Abroad: Closes 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. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/274/Missouri-State-University-Collaborations.

**Go Skateboarding Day:** Fri., June 21: 3-9 p.m. Springfield Skate Park, 945 W. Meadowmere St. Grab



your board for Go Skateboarding Day, established in 2004 by the International Association of Skateboard Companies, celebrated all over the world. Free admission to all skateboarders, beginners to pros. Sorry no bikes, scooters, or rollerblades. Contests throughout the day, with prizes and all around shredding! All ages. *Free*.

ParkBoard.org/Scholarships

Racquet, White and Blue: Wed., July 3: 2-4 p.m., Grant Beach Park, 1401 N. Grant Ave. Try Tennis with your neighbors at Grant Beach Park. Bring your family and friends for a patriotic-themed celebration on the court, with coaches sharing basic skills. This free event includes music, snacks and all equipment. A partnership with the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association. All ages. *Free*.

Red, White and Zoo: Thurs., July 4: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Dickerson Park Zoo, 1401 N. Norton Rd. Free zoo admission for active military or veterans and their immediate family members. Must show military ID. Fee: \$19/Adults 13-59 yrs.; \$14/Children 3-12 yrs.; \$16/Seniors 60 yrs. and up; Free/Kids 2 yrs. and under, and active military and veterans families with ID.

National Teddy Bear Picnic: Wed., July 10: 10 a.m.-Noon, Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Bring your favorite stuffed bear or toy, and a picnic blanket, and celebrate National Teddy Bear Picnic Day! Pack a picnic, and enjoy crafts, games, story time, a teddy bear parade and frozen treat. Free, but register by July 9 at ParkBoard.org/ Events. Ages 2-10 yrs. Free.

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

# Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods



Ken McClure Mayor



Heather Hardinger General Seat A



Craig Hosmer General Seat B



Callie Carroll
General Seat C



**Derek Lee** General Seat D



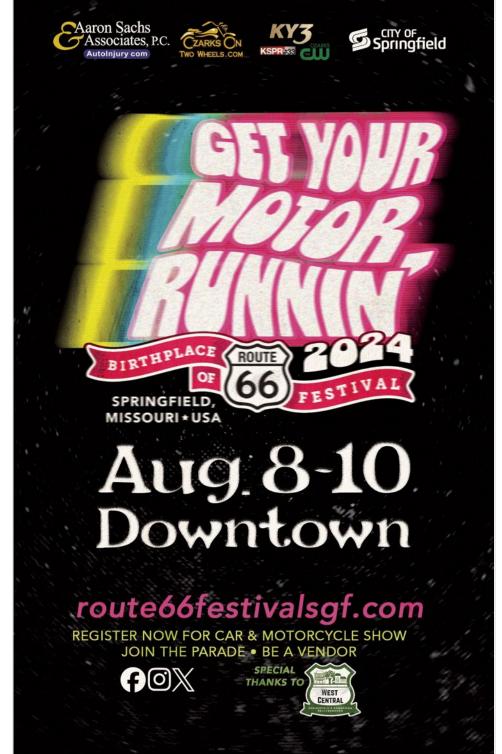
Watch City Council meetings on Facebook Live:

Mondays 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays 12 p.m.



springfieldmo.gov/CityCouncil Council@springfieldmo.gov

PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID SPRINGFIELD MO PERMIT #801





#### Want to receive a FREE edition of SGF Neighborhood News quarterly?

Let us know, and we'll have it delivered to your mailbox or your inbox.

#### **WAYS TO SIGN UP**

- Online at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com
- · Email mhaase@springfieldmo.gov
- Call 417-864-1003
- · Mail in your information

Name:					
Mailing address:					
City:	State:	Zip:			
E-mail address:					
MAIL TO: Attn: Melissa Haase, City of Springfield, P.O. Box 8368, Springfield, MO 65801					













