



Changes coming to C-Street: Read about plans for the Missouri Hotel on page 16 and the latest on the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge on page 25.



Sherwood Toe Jammers win fourth annual SGF Kickball Tournament

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The Sherwood Toe Jammers, a team made up Community Partnership of the Ozarks staff, Sherwood neighborhood residents and Sherwood Elementary School students, won the coveted "Bobbi" trophy in the fourth annual SGF Kickball tournament April 21 at Meador Park Sports Complex. Team members were:

- Jessica Bach, Sherwood Elementary School social worker and CPO employee
- TK Hemingway, CPO employee
- Danielle Inman, Sherwood neighborhood resident
- Alex Bach, Sherwood student
- Josh Fountain, Sherwood neighborhood resident
- Brady Floyd, Sherwood student
- Kaiden Floyd, Sherwood student
- Karter Floyd, Sherwood student
- Kynlea Floyd, Sherwood student
- Jourdan Guccione, Sherwood student
- Cash Lee, Sherwood student
- Camden Lair, Sherwood student.

Twelve neighborhood teams competed this year in the single elimination, one day tournament. Plans are already underway for the 2025 SGF Kickball Tournament.



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Clean Green Springfield volunteers pick up more than 10 tons of litter

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Springfield is more beautiful than ever, thanks to the volunteers and households who took part in the 2024 Clean Green Springfield initiative.

Nearly 1,000 individuals registered to volunteer in one or more volunteer cleanup or beautification opportunities in April and May. Volunteer opportunities included one-time street and stream cleanups, beautification projects, Point of Pride Cleanup events and provided volunteer support for the scheduled Neighborhood Cleanups hosted by Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

This season, approximately 930 individuals followed up on their registration, completing one or more of their volunteer commitments. Assuming an average of 2.5 hours of volunteer work per participant, it's estimated that Clean Green volunteers logged more than 2,325 volunteer hours through the spring initiative.

Clean Greeners collected approximately 865 bags of trash throughout the campaign, estimated at



more than 10 tons of litter removed from Springfield streets, neighborhoods and waterways.

▶ See **CLEAN GREEN** on page 2

Bench in memory of Officer Christopher Walsh, other victims of 2020 shooting placed in Jordan Valley Park

By Cris Swaters, Springfield Police Department, for SGFNN

SPD Wives has partnered with Jeff Twitty of Boulder Designs to create a memorial bench for the victims of a shooting at a Springfield Kum & Go in 2020.

The bench is to honor the lives of Officer Christopher Walsh, who gave his life in the line of duty that night; Shannon Perkins, Waste Corp employee; Troy Rapp, Kum & Go employee; and Matthew Hicks-Morris, Kum & Go customer.

The bench is located in Jordan Valley Park across the street from Hammons Tower.

SPD Wives hopes this will bring remembrance and honor for all those who lost their lives that tragic night.



Legal Services of Southern Missouri relocates to south side

Provided by Legal Services of Southern Missouri

Legal Services of Southern Missouri (LSSM) is thrilled to announce that we've begun our move to our new home at 3130 S. Delaware Ave. Our administrative team is already settled in and preparing for the rest of our team to join them soon.

We can't wait to welcome you to our new space, where we'll continue our mission of providing essential free legal aid to those in need.

Stay tuned for more details about an upcoming open house and building dedication! We're excited to celebrate this milestone with our community and continue serving you in our new facility.



CLEAN GREEN from page 1

New in 2024, Clean Green Springfield hosted two "Dropoff Depot" disposal opportunities, helping an estimated 1,000 households clean up their homes and dispose of tires, mattresses and general trash and bulky items. 1,332 tires and 407 mattresses in total were collected for recycling, and more than 18 roll-off dumpsters were filled with general trash and bulky items totaling up to an estimated 72 tons of trash.



WHY LITTER MATTERS

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

NEAT NEIGHBORHOODS COMPETITION CONTINUES THROUGH SEPT. 1

New to Clean Green in 2024 is the Neat Neighborhoods Competition, running through Sept. 1. Registered neighborhoods within each zone are competing against one another to clean up and improve their neighborhoods, fostering a sense of friendly competition and camaraderie. The competition will name one neighborhood in each zone a winner with a total of four winning neighborhoods each year.

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.

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.

To get involved in the competition, connect with the Neat Neighborhoods coordinator for your neighborhood listed below:

ZONE 1

- Bissett: Pete Radecki, ppradecki@gmail.com
- Heart of the Westside: Glenn Gohr, archives_guy@hotmail.com
- Westside: Sharon Brooks, dcwms@mchsi.com
- Woodland Heights: Jan Hutcherson, jananhutcherson@att.net

ZONE 2

- Rountree: Peggy Wise, wise1peggy@gmail.com

ZONE 3

- Greater Parkcrest: Michael Brittain, mikkbritt@gmail.com
- Phelps Grove: Vicky Trippe, d.trippe@mchsi.com
- West Central: Rusty Worley, rusty@itsalldowntown.com

ZONE 4

- Bradford Park: Janet Wall, fourwallsathome@aol.com
- Brentwood: Brent Rinker, b19rinker@yahoo.com
- Seminole-Holland: William Cooper, cooperwl@gmail.com



OPERATION: RECREATION RE-ENGAGE

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REGISTRATION REQUIRED PARKBOARD.ORG/EVENTS

Ron Schneider to succeed Bob Belote as Park Board director

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Ron Schneider has been named director of parks and recreation for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. Schneider replaces Bob Belote, who retired as director in January after a 20-year history with the parks department. Jim Fisher is currently serving as interim director. Schneider will begin work Monday, July 8.

Schneider earned his bachelor of science degree in recreation, parks and tourism administration from Western Illinois University, and is a certified park and recreation executive. With nearly 25 years of full-time management experience in the parks and recreation field, he most recently served as the executive director for the Freeport Park District in Freeport, Illinois.



Ron Schneider

Randall Blackwood, chair of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, said the board's decision was based, in part, on Schneider's experience leading a diverse parks district that spanned three counties, his enthusiasm and his eye to the future of parks and recreation.

"The board was very impressed with his energy and his interest, specifically, in our Parks system, and in recognizing that we're already a leader in the field," said Blackwood. "As he learned more about our department and the resources available here, he was more excited, and his energy was infectious. He has a lot of ideas on new trends in parks and trails. He is going to bring a great deal of vision, and continue the tradition of great parks leadership in our community."

Blackwood said the board also noted that Schneider's involvement in parks beyond his official capacity.

"He is an avid biker and runner himself, so he is not only going to be a parks director, he'll be a parks user too."

Schneider says he hopes to bring fresh ideas that will continue to make Springfield a great place to work, live, play and visit.

"I understand the importance of recreation and the value it brings to a community including quality of life outcomes and economic impact," he said. "I'm excited for the bright future of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and look to build upon the impressive level of service already offered."

"I understand the importance of recreation and the value it brings to a community including quality of life outcomes and economic impact. I'm excited for the bright future of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board." – Ron Schneider

"It is an honor to serve the Springfield-Greene County Park Board," said Schneider. "I look forward to providing the highest quality parks, recreation facilities and programs to residents and being a responsible steward of the Park Board's resources."

Schneider was selected after a nationwide search, led by Springfield-Greene County Park Board, with representation from City management. City Manager Jason Gage said he is the right person to lead the award-winning parks department into the future.

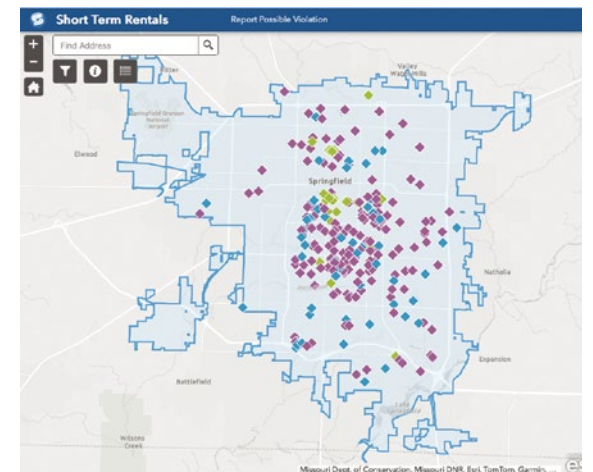
"Ron is a visionary with a track record of creating successful strategy and working with stakeholders to turn plans into reality," Gage said. "He is the right person at the right time to lead the parks and recreation efforts tied to our comprehensive plan, Forward SGF. We look forward to working with him."

Map of registered short-term rentals in SGF city limits now available online

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

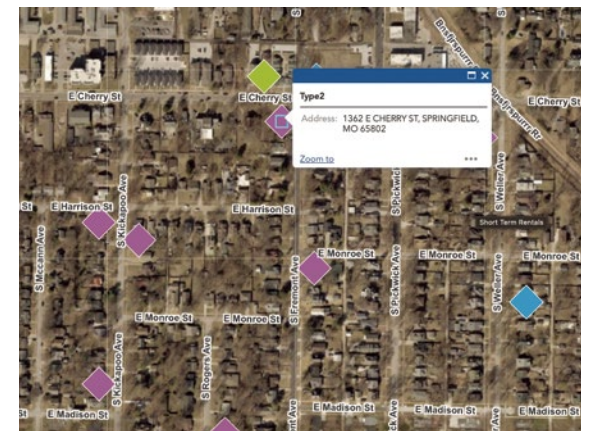
In response to a request from City Council, the City of Springfield's Geographic Information Systems has developed a map which depicts registered short-term rentals (STRs) in the city limits of Springfield. Users can view all STRs in the city limits or search for a specific address. The map is updated weekly as Planning staff review and approve applications. This map can also be used to report possible violations. The map and additional information about registered STRs in Springfield are available at springfieldmo.gov/shorttermrentals.

City Council passed an ordinance to begin regulating STRs in Springfield in 2019. Recently, the City has been stepping up enforcement of unregistered STRs via the software Rentalscape, which assists municipalities in enforcing short-term rentals ordinances, managing registrations and collecting transient occupancy tax payments.



In Springfield, STRs are now subject to the hotel-motel tax, which collects 5% of gross rental receipts of transient guests for sleeping accommodations. Proceeds from the tax are used to promote travel and tourism and to pay debt service for bonds issued under the prior license tax.

Regulation of STRS is also needed to establish a community standard for the integration of short-term rental units within existing neighborhoods while maintaining neighborhood and community character and to ensure health and safety of visitors and residents by re-affirming police, fire, and building safety guidelines for transient lodgers who may not be familiar with local laws.



Beyond the manicured lawn: a path to save the fireflies



By Teri Arceneaux, Environmental Services,
for SGFNN

My favorite part of the summer season starts each year in early June – right before the official start of summer. When the sun starts to set, you can find me sitting on my patio nearly every evening waiting for the light show to begin. I'm referring to the fireflies (or lightning bugs, depending on where you're from), our only flying and bioluminescent insects!

Many of us fondly reminisce about chasing the twinkling beetles with our friends on warm evenings or watching them flicker in the tall grasses while we hoped our parents didn't notice it was getting dark outside (because who wants to go home early when you're out on break from school?). As it turns out, the insects we chased were predominantly males, who outnumber the females (those sitting in the tall grasses) 50 to 1.



Seeing them each year is nostalgic, and I make it a point to mindfully set aside time to watch them while they're around, after all, it's good for us all to slow down sometimes. These fascinating insects aren't only special to me – they have cross-cultural significance! The Chinese once believed that fireflies were created by burning grasses. It was once believed by the Japanese that the souls of brave warriors felled in battle defending their homeland were harbored inside the beetles. Native Americans once smeared the bioluminescence on their faces for ornamentation. Europeans once thought that if a firefly entered a home through a window, it meant someone would soon die. Some African cultures tied cheesecloth bags of fireflies to their ankles to

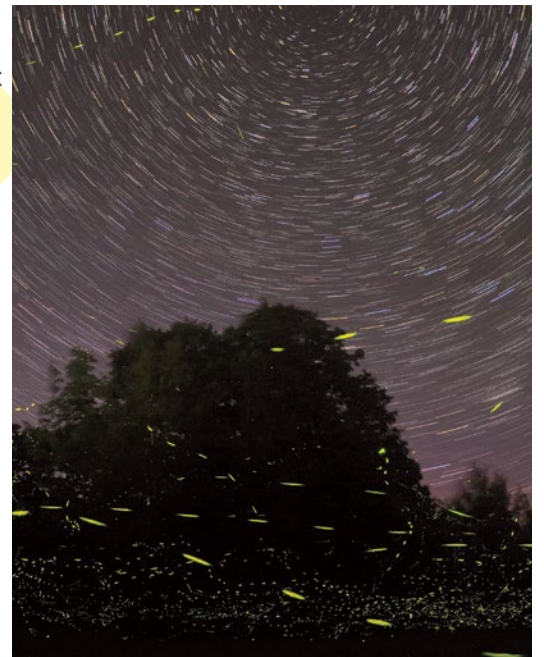
help light their way in the darkness. Additionally, the presence of fireflies is still sometimes used to indicate that it is time to plant tomatoes in North America.

While we were all bundled up for winter (although there wasn't much of one this year), the firefly larvae (glowworms) were preparing for their springtime metamorphoses into fully grown, flashy, adult beetles. In their juvenile stage, they feed on snails and slugs, doing their part to help your garden! If they make it all the way through this stage without becoming food for something, they're fairly safe from being ingested. The adults "taste bad" to predators and their flashing actually warns many would-be-predators away. Each species of firefly has a distinct flashing pattern that helps the females distinguish which males are good to mate with and some species even have periods of time where they blink in synchronicity!

Despite their inherent evolutionary protection, their population is declining rapidly across the globe, including in the United States and Missouri. The reasons are straightforward: light pollution, loss of habitat, and chemicals.

This raises an important question: how can we – as regular people – help our favorite bioluminescent friends? The good news is, there are several things we can do!

- Turn your outdoor lights off in the evenings or consider using motion-activated lights. Too much light creates too much "noise" for the beetles trying to find their mate. Don't use blue-light bug zappers! They kill beetles (fireflies) and nighttime pollinators!
- Give them somewhere to live – leave a wild space.
 - Let your grass grow – even if only in one designated part of your yard or around the edges. Many fireflies spend the majority of their daylight hours in grass, and most lay their eggs in grasses also. Refraining from mowing your grass too short and too often gives them a chance to survive.
 - Add a rain garden or water feature to your



yard (they love and need the moisture).

- Plant native trees and shrubbery. They will preferentially choose to visit your yard if you do. Keep an old woodpile and/or let your leaves lie! Dead leaves and other vegetative litter left on the ground provide the necessary habitat for our friends to survive.
- Don't use pesticides, including slug/snail poisons (let the fireflies do the work for you – this is their food source).
- If you catch them, let them go! Once you've examined your friends, set them free again.
- Spread the word! If no one knows how to save them, then no one will try! Be a leader in your community, and a voice for those who don't have one of their own.

For more information on how to create a pollinator-friendly yard, visit yardethic.com, a program to help citizens and businesses in the City of Springfield create ethical urban oases!

Teri Arceneaux is a stormwater technician with the City of Springfield's Environmental Services Department. This article originally appeared on the department's blog. Read more on the ES Blog at springfieldmo.gov/esblog.



The Springfield Community Land Trust offers down payment or closing cost assistance to eligible home buyers who want to purchase within Springfield City Limits. The grant provides up to \$9,000 to assist first-time homebuyers.



For more information
Contact LeeAnn Camey
417-631-4482
lcamey@springfieldclt.org

SPRINGFIELDCLT.ORG

- **Pre-Qualification Letter**
A pre-qualification letter from a mortgage lender located in Greene County (fixed-rate mortgage only)
- **First-Time Home Buyer**
Or have not owned a home in the previous three years
- **Springfield City Limits**
All properties must be in Springfield City Limits
- **Income Qualify**
Household income must be at or below 150% of Area Median Income
- **Purchase Price**
Home price up to \$250,000
- **Homebuyer Investment**
Minimum of \$1,500 investment from the buyer is required

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

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Jackson Thompson named director at Dickerson Park Zoo

By Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Park Board, for SGFNN

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board named Jackson Thompson as assistant director of parks and recreation – Dickerson Park Zoo, May 19. The position is informally known as zoo director.

Thompson, 39, has spent 20 years – his entire professional career – at Dickerson Park Zoo, starting in guest services staff in 2004. He has served in the zoo's Commissary/Missouri Habitat, as tropical Asia zookeeper, head zookeeper, elephant manager, education ambassador, collection manager, and superintendent of the zoo. Most recently, Thompson has served as interim zoo director, following the March 29 retirement of longtime Zoo Director Mike Crocker, who had trained Thompson to succeed him.

Jim Fisher, interim director of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, said Thompson's leadership and experience helped him earn the position.

"The staff at the zoo has been family to me for the last 20 years, and I'm excited to continue my career with them here at Dickerson Park Zoo." – Jackson Thompson

"Jackson's passion for wildlife conservation and education, coupled with his commitment to Dickerson Park Zoo and its staff, will serve the community well in his new role," said Fisher.

While Dickerson Park Zoo is a division of the Parks department, zoo operations, programming, funding, member and donor development and even some staff positions are coordinated with the nonprofit Friends of the Zoo (FOZ), which exists to support the zoo.

"The Friends of the Zoo staff and board and I are thrilled to have Jackson officially take on the role of zoo director/assistant director of parks," said Allyson Tuckness, executive director of FOZ. "He is an integral part of the relationship between FOZ and the Parks department. His passion for

Dickerson Park Zoo, specifically, is shown through his years of work in all areas of the park. I personally look forward to continuing to work alongside him as we make the zoo even better!"



Jackson Thompson

Thompson began working for Friends of the Zoo while in college, before earning a bachelor of science in biology, with a chemistry minor, from Evangel University in 2006. After graduation, he became a full time zoo employee.

Thompson is active in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), through which Dickerson Park Zoo has held accreditation since 1988. He is a member of the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group board and a past member of the national and local chapters of the American Association of Zookeepers. Career highlights include furthering the zoo's focus on animal training, enrichment and welfare, taking part in a two-year elephant welfare study with AZA, helping to start Keeper Chats and Elephant Baths education, reestablishing the ZooCrew teen intern program, and chairing the diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility committee at the zoo.

"It really is an honor to be named the next zoo director," said Thompson. "The future is bright at the zoo, with the traditions that Mike Crocker left in his 48-year tenure, and with our Park Board and Friends of the Zoo leadership we have set in place. Most importantly, the staff at the zoo has been family to me for the last 20 years, and I'm excited to continue my career with them here at Dickerson Park Zoo."

Thompson said the zoo is also at the center of his family. "My wife, Tallie, and I first met at Dickerson Park Zoo," he said. "We share the same interest in wildlife and wild places, and she is my biggest supporter. And we have three children who would like to spend every day either at the zoo or in the wilderness."

SATURDAY, JULY 27 9:30 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

SPRINGFIELD EXPO CENTER

Free to attend!

----- SPS.ORG/BASH -----

Check all the boxes to prevent burglaries

By Cris Swaters, Springfield Police Department, for SGFNN

Look around your home. Seriously look around your home right now. Can you check all the boxes below?

- When I'm gone and at night, all the windows in my home are closed and locked.
- Anytime I leave the house, I always ensure my home's front and back doors are locked.
- Before I drive away, I always double check that I closed the garage door.
- I never share on social media when I'm going to be gone for an extended period.

If you can't check all the boxes, you're leaving yourself vulnerable to a burglary.

A burglary occurs when someone enters a building or residence without permission with the intent of committing a crime. A burglary could happen anytime, night or day.



The best way to keep your home and belongings safe is to make these safety precautions a habit every day. If you're not home, your doors and windows need to be securely closed and locked. Always double check before you drive away that you closed your garage. Never share your vacation plans on social media and wait until you get home to share all your fun pictures.

While all the best precautions take away a lot of opportunity from criminals, sometimes burglaries still happen. There are some things you should do now to make sure you have a complete inventory of all your valuables. Here's a checklist to help you get prepared.

- Make a list of everything valuable you own and make a note where you store the item.
- Take pictures of each item on your list. Keep the list and photos somewhere safe.
- For all your electronics and devices, write down all the serial numbers.
- If you can, add a unique marking that is not easily removed to your devices and electronics that can help identify that the item is yours in case the serial number is removed.

With your help, we can prevent burglaries in Springfield. Let's keep Springfield safe!

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Proactive enforcement to help neighborhoods, City stay on top of code compliance

By Becky Volz, for SGFNN

RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO REACH OUT TO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS FOR HELP

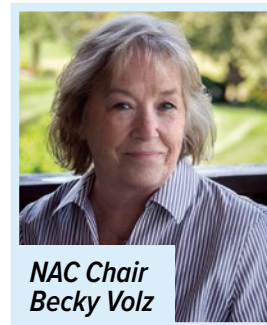
Enforcement of current codes is one of the first things mentioned when citizens are asked what is needed to bring improvements in our neighborhoods. We have been, for quite some time now, a complaint-based enforcement system. But that is changing.

In 2023, BDS (Building Development Services) had 8,021 service requests (complaints) called in. Out of those 8,021 calls, 4,096 were actual violations. That means our inspectors spent time and resources investigating 3,925 complaints that were not violations. That's 327 complaints a month – roughly 10 locations a day that had to be checked out only to find there was no actual violation. Unless we know the City's ordinances, we don't know for sure if concerns or eyesores in our neighborhoods are actually violations. Public education is key for us.

In April, the NAC (Neighborhood Advisory Council) hosted a workshop with BDS to educate us about code enforcement. At this workshop, we learned what legitimate code violations are in our residential neighborhoods when it comes to zoning, nuisance, blighted and dangerous buildings. View the recording of this workshop at cityview.springfieldmo.gov.

In addition to learning about code violations, we also learned that BDS is proposing to move from a complaint-based system to proactive code enforcement. Inspectors were assigned territories within their jurisdiction and have been patrolling neighborhoods and noting legitimate violations. The first 30 days of this approach going street by street in different neighborhoods, inspectors wrote up 420 cases with violations. While BDS is shifting to a proactive approach, neighbors are still encouraged to call the Citizen Resource Center at 417-864-1010 to report possible code violations.

If you watch the report to City Council by Director Brock Rowe on April 8, (springfieldmo.gov/nuisancepropertyreports) among his



NAC Chair
Becky Volz

recommendations are two items related to collaboration with neighborhoods:

Make an effort to facilitate Property Care Teams initiated by the neighborhoods

This program has been in discussion for a while now and often referred to as the "Mayberry approach," meaning neighbors helping neighbors. The establishment of a neighborhood Property Care Team will use proactive efforts to check in with neighbors who need help with their property due to disability, illness, resources, etc. The Property Care Team will also drive around their neighborhood to identify those in need of help. Once a neighborhood has set up a contact person for their Property Care Team, then BDS will be able to reach out to that person with information on a neighbor in need that they have identified.

Be a primary clearing house for community-based assistance to neighborhoods

There are several benefits to the proactive approach from the neighborhood and BDS. For example, if BDS has to end up mowing a lawn or an empty lot, after they have fulfilled the required legal communication to the property owner, it could cost that owner approximately \$200-\$700. And if this is not paid, it is then assessed to the property's taxes. For some of our neighbors who struggle with mowing their lawn in the first place, this is an additional burden and for some people it has been the catalyst to losing their home.

If you need help with your yard, reach out to your neighborhood association. You can find the contact information on your neighborhood's page in this issue of SGFNN; or you can reach out to BDS and ask for a contact. We are in the beginning stages of putting these programs together and would love to hear from you. Guidelines for these programs are forthcoming. Stay tuned and in the meantime, don't hesitate to knock on the door of a neighbor you can identify as needing some help. It's the neighborly thing to do.

3rd annual SPS Back to School Bash July 27

By Ren Luebbering, Springfield Public Schools, for SGFNN

It's a party to kick off the 2024-2025 school year! Springfield Public Schools invites SPS students and families to the third annual Back to School Bash, 9:30-a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, July 27 at the Springfield Expo Center, 635 E. St. Louis St.

Backpacks, hygiene kits, groceries, school supplies, sports physicals, immunizations and more will be provided while supplies last. Plus, connect with community partners and get resources to help your family succeed for the upcoming school year.

"We are excited to celebrate SPS families and our 24,500 students with resources that will make



beginning a new school year easier for them," said Dr. Ron Woodard, director of family support services. "This is our third year, and the event gets better every year."

Free parking is available nearby and lunch will be served. For more information, visit sps.org/backtoschoolbash.

BISSETT NEIGHBORHOOD



Eden Village 2 residents and Bissett neighbors collaborate for fun spring event

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

The Bissett Bash, launched by the Bissett Neighborhood Association and hosted by Eden Village 2 was held Saturday, May 18 and was a great success! The aim of this event was for our Eden Village residents and others throughout the neighborhood to meet each other and to help build lasting bonds as we grow together and work to improve our neighborhood. More than 100 neighbors participated in the event, enjoying free hamburgers along with live music, games, face painting, a bounce house and much more. Many thanks to the donors and volunteers who made this event possible, but above all, many thanks to the residents and staff of Eden Village 2, who were the true VIPs of this event.

Eden Village 2 opened its doors in November 2021. As of this writing EV2 is full, with 24 formerly homeless individuals now in permanent homes. Homelessness is traumatic and forces individuals to live in constant survival mode. Although



experiences vary, common challenges include inadequate rest, lack of safety and security, harsh weather conditions, having to carry all possessions, vulnerability to crime and a continuous search for food. Homeless individuals are the most vulnerable to dying on the streets. Since inception, the EV goal has been to create safe and friendly environments for our homeless friends, placing them in their own homes which they are required to care for. EV aspires for Springfield to become a place where no one sleeps outside.

Bissett Neighborhood Association news includes new business member, neighborhood yard sale, infrastructure needs discussion

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

QUEEN CITY GRAPHIX JOINS BNA

BNA welcomes Queen City Graphix, located at 1852 S. Stewart, as its newest business member. QCG has donated embroidered BNA polo shirts and is supporting other BNA activities with its products which include a full range of custom screen printed and embroidered apparel and other items. Proprietor Jeremy Boyts, who grew up in northwest Springfield, has a genuine interest in doing his part to help strengthen neighborhoods throughout the city. We look forward to building a stronger relationship with Jeremy and QCG.

BNA AND NEAT NEIGHBORHOODS

BNA has been making good on its mission to improve safety, cleanliness and beauty in our neighborhood. Our efforts have been guided and adjusted over the years by a series of surveys of Bissett residents to gain input about areas of concern within the neighborhood, including needs for improvements to streets, sidewalks, L.A. Wise Park and other areas. Our most recent survey was conducted in May with residents indicating the need to continue improving the only entrance into Bissett from the south, Hillcrest Avenue from Chestnut Expressway to Nichols, and to continue efforts to keep Nichols Street clean. A general membership meeting was held June 11 to present

and discuss findings. Results have been formulated into a plan that we anticipate will engage BNA members as well as Eden Village and a growing list of business members. Clean Green Springfield's newly launched Neat Neighborhoods competition is coming at the perfect time to help us build momentum and continuing success in accomplishing our mission.



NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE SATURDAY, JULY 20

This year's big sale is set for 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, July 20. Dubbed the YardZale, residents throughout the neighborhood will conduct their own yard sales, so buyers can come to our neighborhood and see many sales. Come out, have some fun and come away with some great buys! We'll have information available on Facebook and elsewhere, or just come to the neighborhood on the day of the sale and look for the many YardZale signs. If you stop at one of the sales, just ask for a free map of all the other participating homes. If you live in Bissett and would like to participate, call Sheila at 417-988-2840. She'll fill you in on how you can register your home for the sale and get one of those fancy YardZale signs put up in your yard for the event!



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Aug. 13 • Oct. 8 • Nov. 12: 6:30 p.m./Potluck at 6 p.m. @ Eden Village 2 (3155 W. Brower St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Bissett Elementary School
3014 W. Calhoun St.

Follow Bissett on

Spring cleanup a success for Tom Watkins, Bissett and Doling

By Colby Wallace, for SGFNN

On April 13, Tom Watkins neighbors filled 16 trash dumpsters and two brush dumpsters alongside Bissett and Doling. We were able to serve 191 households! Thanks to everyone who came out and helped.

- Bissett: 21 in-person
- Tom Watkins: 24 in-person and 26 curbside
- Doling: 76 in-person and 17 curbside.





FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

FALL 2024 BOOK SALE

SEPT. 11-15

*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., Sept. 10: 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

BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 9 • Aug. 13 • Sept. 10 • Oct. 8: 6:30 p.m.
@ Immaculate Conception Church
(3555 S. Fremont Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Brandon Locke: 417-864-1140
locke@springfieldmo.gov



Follow Bradford Park on

Amanda Belle's Farm featured on USDA's Farmers.gov blog

Provided by Springfield Community Gardens

In March, Farmers.gov, a United States Department of Agriculture resource, featured Amanda Belle's Farm at CoxHealth.

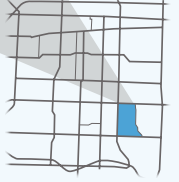
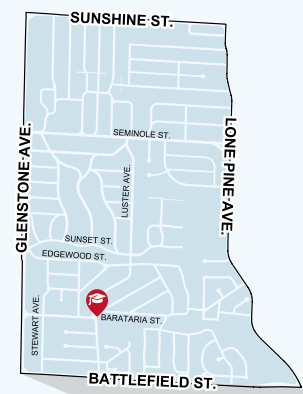
"Never did I imagine that I would be sitting in the middle of a hospital-based farm off Primrose Street," said Administrative Director for Food and Nutrition Services for CoxHealth Jesse Baedke. "This has been a special project for our team to help bridge the gap of food, nutrition and health for the community."

Amanda Belle's Farm is a part of the USDA People's Garden network. People's Gardens empower communities to participate in local food production and provide diversity and resiliency to the food supply chain.

You can find the article at Farmers.gov/Blog.



BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 29 • Aug. 26 • Sept. 30: 6:30 p.m.
@ Unity of Springfield (2214 E. Seminoe St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Wyatt Eubanks: 417-864-1321
wyatt.eubanks@springfieldmo.gov



Field Elementary School
2120 E. Barataria St.

Follow Brentwood on
brentwoodsgf.org

The second annual Brentwood Summer Kickoff Event May 30 at Kirkwood Park was a great success. The event consisted of a BBQ, live music, games, and many, many prizes donated by the vendors of the Brentwood Shopping Center.



*The Brentwood Ballers, Brentwood's SGF Kickball Tournament team April 21
Photo: Kevin Evans*

DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD



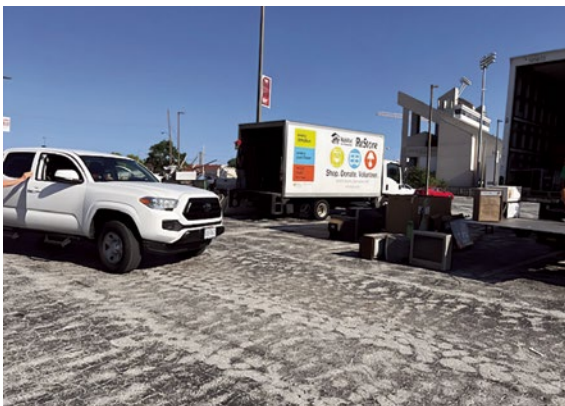
4-in-1 neighborhood cleanup successful for Rountree, Delaware, University Heights and Phelps Grove

By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

Four neighborhoods came together to tidy up on a beautiful, sunny May 18. Thirty-one people registered on site to volunteer, and we filled 12 dumpsters with trash and four with brush over four intense hours. The Computer Recycling Center and the Habitat for Humanity ReStore were there, as well as two metals recyclers.

One hundred fourteen individual households came in person, with many making multiple trips, and waiting for access to the dumpsters. Close to 100 households were served through curbside pick-ups including sweeps of alleys.

All in all, it was a lovely day of recycling, reuse, and cleaning up the neighborhoods.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 2 • Aug. 6 • Sept. 3 • Oct. 1: 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 Wyatt Eubanks: 417-864-1321
wyatt.eubanks@springfieldmo.gov



 Delaware Elementary School
1505 S. Delaware Ave.

Follow Delaware on  

Delaware Community Garden offers lovely outdoor space for meetings and more

By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

With the beautiful spring weather in abundance, Delaware is taking advantage of a jewel in our neighborhood – the Delaware Community Garden. Our May potluck meeting and our June catered meeting with live music were held there. The garden coordinators and volunteers do a fantastic job of involving our neighborhood and being great stewards of the space!



Bring your favorite stuffed bear or toy, pack a picnic and celebrate National Teddy Bear Picnic Day!



WED., JULY 10
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Peace Through People Pavilion at
Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park
2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield, MO 65807

FREE ADMISSION! (registration required)



ParkBoard.org/TeddyBearPicnic



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

AUG. 6 | 5-7 P.M.

MEADOR PARK
2500 S. FREMONT AVE.

National Night Out brings together police officers, firefighters, park rangers, friends and neighbors to build camaraderie in a positive environment.

Games, Food, Ice Cream!

Meet Law Enforcement officers

Police vs. Fire
Softball Game, 7 p.m.

DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD

Pedestrian improvements coming for Kearney Street

Provided by the Missouri Department of Transportation

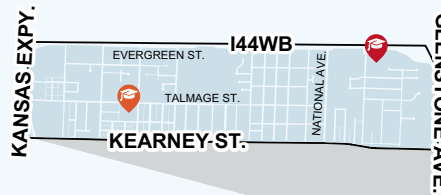
Drivers can expect lane closings, narrow lanes and traffic shifts on Kearney Street while contractor crews complete pedestrian safety improvements which began the week of June 3, the Missouri Department of Transportation said.

The majority of the Kearney Street sidewalk work will be done during daytime hours. Resurfacing work will be done during nighttime hours of 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Project improvements at various locations on Kearney Street include:

- Replace existing non-compliant sidewalk and curb ramps in accordance with ADA requirements
- Signal modifications at North Fulbright Avenue, North Barnes Avenue and North Neergard avenues
- Install new sidewalk and ADA curb ramps to fill in sidewalk gaps
- Replace existing push buttons with audible push buttons at signalized intersections
- Install HAWK (High Intensity Activated Crosswalk) signals on Kearney Street at Robberson Avenue, Summit Avenue and Broadway Avenue
- Replace existing non-compliant bus stop pads to meet ADA standards
- Replace existing driveways to meet ADA standards
- Update pavement marking to high visibility continental marking at crosswalks to enhance pedestrian safety.

Capital Paving & Construction of Columbia is doing the work for \$14.9 million. The project is to be complete by Dec. 31, 2025.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 16 • Aug. 20 • Sept. 17: 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 cleanup a success for Tom Watkins, Bissett and Doling

By Colby Wallace, for SGFNN

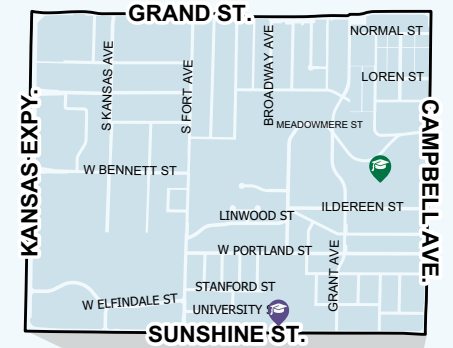
On April 13, Tom Watkins neighbors filled 16 trash dumpsters and two brush dumpsters alongside Bissett and Doling. We were able to serve 191 households! Thanks to everyone who came out and helped.

- Bissett: 21 in-person
- Tom Watkins: 24 in-person and 26 curbside
- Doling: 76 in-person and 17 curbside.



Doling's SGF Kickball Tournament team April 21
Photo: Savannah Renee' Hartje

FASSNIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each quarter at 6:30 p.m. Please contact a neighborhood officer or check the facebook group for exact dates and locations.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Juliann Torres: 417-874-1138
julinn.torres@springfieldmo.gov



Parkview High School
516 W. Meadowmere St.

Jarrett Middle School
906 W. Portland St.

Follow Fassnight on

Successful spring cleanup for Fassnight, Greater Parkcrest and Mark Twain

By Ken Brooks, for SGFNN

On May 4, Greater Parkcrest, along with Mark Twain and Fassnight neighborhoods, held our spring cleanup at Sunset Church of Christ. Thirty-five volunteers from the three neighborhoods along with volunteers from the Sunset Church of Christ participated in the event for a total of 142 volunteer hours. The event collected 14 dumpsters of general waste and four dumpsters of yard waste in addition to two trailers of scrap metal and a box truck of electronics for recycling.



GALLOWAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD



Galloway Village supports Falo family after devastating house fire

By Reva Koehn, for SGFNN

On a quiet early spring night in Galloway, tragedy struck the Falo family when a sudden house fire destroyed their home and took the lives of their beloved dogs, leaving them with nothing but the clothes on their backs. The devastating blaze not only consumed their belongings but also upended their lives. Yet, in the face of this overwhelming loss, the Galloway community demonstrated the true power of unity and compassion, rallying to support the Falos in their time of need.

The fire, which erupted without warning, left the family reeling. With their home reduced to ashes, the Falos found themselves grappling with the immediate challenge of finding shelter and the long-term task of rebuilding their lives. However, they were not alone. The outpouring of support from friends, neighbors, and even strangers was immediate and heartfelt. A pivotal moment came when a GoFundMe campaign was launched to aid the family. The campaign quickly gained traction, drawing donations from all corners of the community and beyond.

In the wake of this tragedy, Galloway has demonstrated what it means to come together and lift up those in need. As the Falo family continues to rebuild their lives, they carry with them the warmth and generosity of a community that refused to let them face their challenges alone.

The generosity displayed was nothing short of extraordinary, providing the Falos with a financial lifeline to begin the process of recovery, raising \$11,349 in just two days. Local businesses also stepped up in a significant way. One notable example is the local brewery, 4 by 4 Brewing Company, which organized a fundraiser to support the family, donating 10% of their earnings for the day. The event

saw an overwhelming turnout, with residents eager to contribute and show their solidarity. Local artist Ellis Ayres, who regularly plays at the brewery, also donated 50% of his gig earnings and 100% of his tips the weekend following the tragedy. The funds raised were crucial in helping the family navigate the immediate aftermath of the fire.

In addition to the efforts of local businesses, several churches and nonprofits in the area also played a critical role. These faith communities and local organizations not only provided financial assistance but also offered emotional and spiritual support. Both All Saints Anglican Church and Galloway Baptist Church took offerings from churchgoers, covering the families' move-in deposits and providing them with several gift cards. All Saints Church invited the family to services followed by a meal, and a member of Galloway Baptist donated several pieces of furniture. After being contacted by a Galloway neighbor who volunteers there, the PTA Clothing Bank opened up on an emergency basis for the family to replace clothing, and Springfield Public Schools made sure all the kids had food and new shoes.

Thanks to this collective effort, the Falos have since moved into their new homes. The transition, while fraught with challenges, has been made smoother by the unwavering support of the community. The family is now focused on rebuilding, taking it day by day as they work to recreate a sense of normalcy.

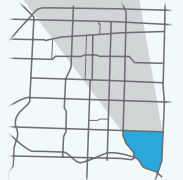
The story of the Falo family is a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit, as well as the incredible impact that a supportive community can have in times of crisis. The Falos have expressed their profound gratitude for the assistance they have received. They remain deeply touched by the kindness and generosity shown by so many.

In the wake of this tragedy, Galloway has demonstrated what it means to come together and lift up those in need. As the Falo family continues to rebuild their lives, they carry with them the warmth and generosity of a community that refused to let them face their challenges alone. Their story is a beacon of hope, showing that even in the face of profound loss, the strength of the community can help light the way forward.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 16 • Oct. 15: 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 Brandon Locke: 417-864-1140
blocke@springfieldmo.gov



 Sequoia Elementary School
3414 S. Mentor Ave.

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

Stream Cleanup
Saturday, Sept. 28: 10 a.m.
Sequoia Park



Sequoia Park (3500 S. Lone Pine Ave.) Photo by the Springfield Missouri Convention and Visitors' Bureau

Galloway to gain two roundabouts with widening project

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City's Public Works Department hopes to have a contractor in place for the Galloway Street Widening Project from Luster Avenue to Lone Pine Avenue this summer.

The project will involve the widening of Galloway Street to three lanes between Luster Avenue and Lone Pine Avenue, including the construction of a new left turn lane, traffic calming roundabout intersections at Luster and at Lone Pine, sidewalks on the south side of Galloway and a multi-use path on the north side. The project will also upgrade stormwater infrastructure and improve drainage along Luster Avenue and Galloway Street.

Once a bid is approved and a contractor selected, the City will work with them to determine a construction schedule and share details with the community in a public meeting prior to construction. The target for the project to begin is mid-late summer with an expected duration of 16-24 months.

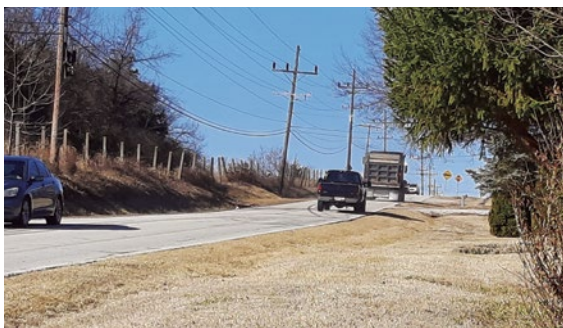


WHAT TO EXPECT

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

- Expect through traffic on Galloway to be impacted for a significant portion of the project duration.
- Expect north-south through traffic on Lone Pine and on Luster to be impacted for a months-long period of time during construction.
- Local traffic will maintain access throughout.

For more information on tentative construction phasing and other anticipated impacts and to sign up for regular email updates, visit springfieldmo.gov/Galloway.



GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD



Grant Beach remembers Ruth Cantrell

Provided by Greenlawn Funeral Home

Ruth Eileen Cantrell, age 62, of Springfield, passed away on May 19 at Mercy Hospital. Ruth was born to Gerald and Patricia (Leigh) Tirres on Nov. 29, 1961 in San Bernardino, California. Ruth was a member of the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association. She loved life and enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, Gerald and Patricia (Leigh). She is survived by her spouse Keith Cantrell; daughter Misty Lashley; son Ricky Lashley and his wife, Kristina; daughter Ruby Cooley, and her husband, Curtis; daughter Sapphire Cantrell and her husband Sammy; Jade Puckett; and Xeaver Davis; sister Terry Waits; brother Bill Tirres; brother Jake Tirres, six grandchildren, Sheldon, Dylan, Rylan, Alex, Idris, and Taliesin and three great-grandchildren, Hayden, Remi, and Olivia.

A celebration of life was held on May 24 at Greenlawn Funeral Home North.

Midtown Carnegie Branch Library closes for 10 months for renovations

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The Springfield-Greene County Library's Midtown Carnegie Branch closed May 6 for building renovations. The branch will be closed for approximately 10 months for much-needed upgrades.

All library services, including book returns in the library parking lot, will be closed during renovation. Story times and book discussions have moved to The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. The Computer Training Center moved to the Library Center. The Community Fridge temporarily relocated to the Library Station, 2535 N. Kansas Expressway, in June. The fridge has served nearly 3,000 patrons since it opened last September, according to Springfield Community Gardens.

Read the full story in the Midtown Neighborhood section on page 15 or online at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com



Connect

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

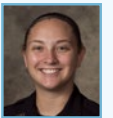


Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 15 • Aug. 19 • Sept. 16: 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



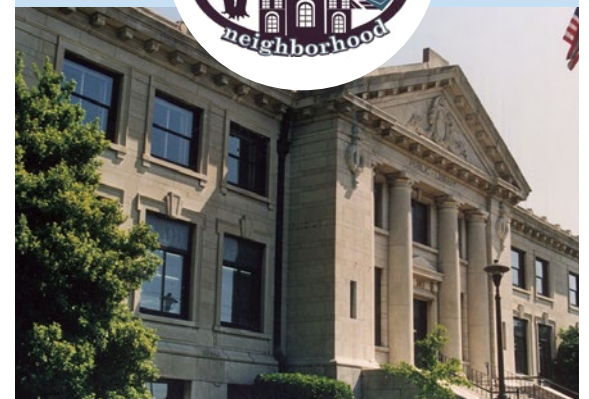
 **Weaver Elementary School**
 1461 W. Douglas Ave.

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

Follow Grant Beach on  

Community Dinners

Join us for a free community dinner every Thursday evening.
5:15 p.m., The Fairbanks
 (1126 N. Broadway Ave.)



Midtown Carnegie Branch Library (397 E. Central St.) is currently closed for renovations.

GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD



Neighborhood garage sale, spring cleanup offers Greater Parkcrest neighbors opportunities to clear clutter

By Ken Brooks, for SGFNN

Greater Parkcrest was very busy this spring. GreaterParkcrest.org allows us a way to connect neighbors with the projects for the Neat Neighborhoods contest and to City resources for new and existing neighbors.

In late April to early May, Greater Parkcrest neighbors joined together to promote a two-weekend garage sale allowing residents to repurpose items to new homes that were otherwise destined for the landfill.

On May 4, Greater Parkcrest, along with Mark Twain and Fassnacht neighborhoods, held our spring cleanup at Sunset Church of Christ. The neighborhood cleanup program is provided by the City of Springfield and coordinated by Community Partnership of the Ozarks. Thirty-five volunteers from the three neighborhoods along with volunteers from the Sunset Church of Christ participated in the event for a total of 142 volunteer hours. Not only did they bring items that will help clean and beautify their homes, but they also generously donated monies to help fund future events in each of the neighborhoods. The event collected 14 dumpsters of general waste and four dumpsters of yard waste in addition to two trailers of scrap metal and a box truck of electronics for recycling. We invite neighbors to volunteer by contacting us with more ideas for Clean Green and Neat Neighborhoods.



Some nice improvements to the Greater Parkcrest neighborhood are continuing at Horace Mann Park. The park is an approximately 150-foot strip along the north border of Horace Mann Elementary School. Many residents aren't aware that it is a city park. Recent improvements are the addition of a new pavilion adjacent to the tennis court, changes to the chain link fencing around the court to allow easier access to the court, and we are hopeful that the single tennis court will be permanently converted into two Pickleball courts to help facilitate the growing demand for more Pickleball courts in our city. These improvements are funded through grants available to the 24 registered neighborhood associations in our city.

Republic Road/Campbell Avenue project wrapping up

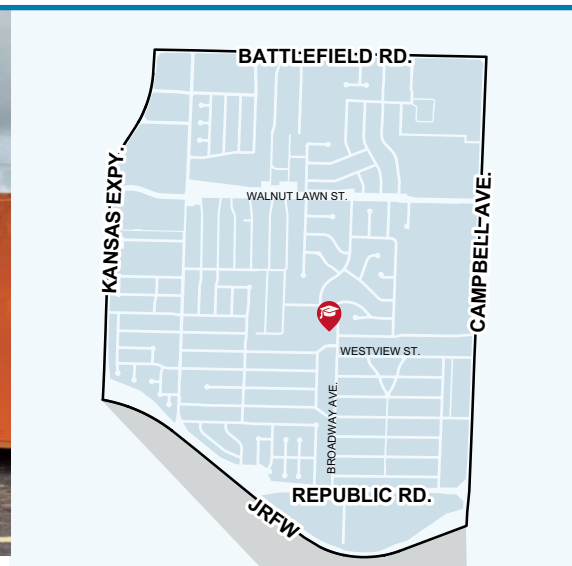
By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

After a wet spring, the contractor for the Republic Road Widening and Campbell Avenue Intersection Project was able to move forward with final paving operations for the project in late May, allowing for final work within the roadway to wrap up.

Following the paving, the intersection of Republic Road and Campbell Avenue will be restriped to a new lane alignment. Motorists traveling through the intersection are encouraged to pay attention to new markings as lanes may have shifted from the locations drivers were previously accustomed to.

The roadway portion of the project was expected to be complete with traffic returning to normal

driving conditions in early June. Some sidewalk construction on the northeast portion of the project and work outside the roadway is still anticipated to last into July due to subcontractor scheduling.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 18 • Oct. 17: 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 Juliann Torres: 417-874-1138
julinn.torres@springfieldmo.gov



 Horace Mann Elementary School
3745 S. Broadway Ave.

Follow Greater Parkcrest on  
greaterparkcrest.org

Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!



New median looking north on Campbell Avenue at the Republic Road intersection. The median features new pedestrian infrastructure and City Utilities lighting.

HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



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

July 9 • Sept. 10: 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

New Growth Food Pantry

July 20 • Aug. 17 • Sept. 21
9 a.m.- Noon • 1351 N. Marion Ave.

Crosslines Food Pantry

July 3 • Aug. 7 • Sept. 4 • Oct. 2
9:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. Nichols Park

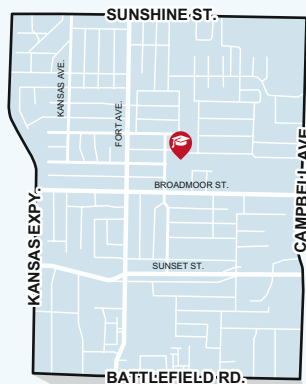
National Overdose Awareness Day

Sat., Aug. 31 • 11 a.m. - 5p.m.
1909 W. Chestnut Expy.



Heart of the Westside, Westside and West Central spring cleanup April 13

MARK TWAIN NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 9 • Aug. 13 • Sept. 10 • Oct. 8: 7 p.m. @ Sunset Church of Christ (1222 W. Sunset St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Juliann Torres: 417-874-1138
julinn.torres@springfieldmo.gov



Mark Twain Elementary
2352 S. Weaver Ave.

Follow Mark Twain on

Mark Twain Days Festival

Sept. 14 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Champion Park
(561 S. Grant Ave.)



The Mark Twain, Fassnacht and Greater Parkcrest neighborhood spring cleanup was held May 4. Read more about it in the Greater Parkcrest section on page 13.

MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

June 27 • July 25 • Aug. 22 • Sept. 26: 6:30 p.m.
@ Cowden Elementary School (2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.) if school is in session. Other locations will be noted on the Meador Park Neighborhood Facebook page.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Brandon Locke: 417-864-1140
blocke@springfieldmo.gov



Cowden Elementary School
2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.

Follow Meador Park on

Mobile Library Stop

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

Tuesdays: 1:20-2 p.m.

Battlefield Towers (1451 E. Woodland St.)

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

S. Dollison Ave. & E. Downing St.



The Meador Park Warriors, Meador Park's SGF Kickball Tournament team April 21
Photo: Brian Miller

HOME & ENVIRONMENT

SUMMER GUIDE

TIPS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE SUMMER



Plant natives and get Yard Ethic certified!
Learn more inside.



Hello Summer

Don't sweep grass clippings into the street! *Learn where to take them inside.*

Don't know where to get rid of plastic pots after planting? *Learn where inside.*





Follow us on social:



@sgfenvironmentalservices

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

Education

Our education team is available year round for outreach programs! Whether it's a neighborhood community group or a scout troop, our tours and presentations are available!

For more information, visit springfieldmo.gov/eseducation.



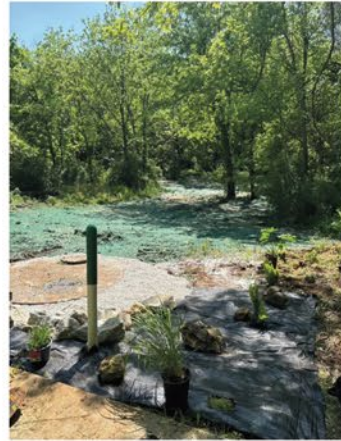
Take Care of Storm Drains!

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

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

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

A sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) is when wastewater or a mixture of wastewater and rain/groundwater escapes from the sanitary sewer collection system, typically at manholes, before reaching a wastewater treatment facility. Most SSOs happen during periods of heavy rainfall when groundwater or other sources of water seep into the collection system and temporarily exceed the capacity of the pipes. Some SSOs can also occur during dry weather periods, most often due to a blockage in the system, such as roots, "flushable" wipes, accumulated grease, vandalism or other improperly flushed debris.



City crews investigate areas prone to overflowing to identify if and where SSOs are occurring. Some overflows are first noticed by a member of the public, who then calls the city to report the overflow.

When city crews respond to an SSO, they may post warning signs near the source and perimeter of a sewer spill. These signs will remain in place while the SSO is monitored and until the area is cleaned. Cleanup can take several forms, depending on the nature of the overflow. Large capacity vacuum trucks can be deployed to remove pooled wastewater or to intercept the flow of wastewater before it spreads. Often a chemical element, such as hydrated lime, is applied to the area.



FAQs

What is the city doing to stop SSOs from occurring?

The city is continually working to maximize the capacity of the existing system. This includes routine maintenance of pipes and regular removal of accumulations of roots, grease, and other debris, including "flushable" wipes and other trash which are flushed or poured down drains instead of being disposed of properly. City crews also inspect the system with cameras and other technology to identify blockages, breaks, and other defects which need to be repaired. Finally, some sections of piping need to be replaced or upsized through construction projects. The city has committed to investing \$300 million over a 15-year period to reduce or eliminate the number and severity of SSOs.



How can I help?

Be mindful of what you contribute to the sanitary sewer system. Dispose of fats, oils, and grease through solid waste trash services. Don't dispose of wipes through flushing, even if they are labeled as "flushable," as most of these wipes do not disintegrate and can collect and form blockages in the sewer system. Remember the 3P's on toileting, only Pee, Poo, and Paper should be flushed! You should dispose of anything else through your household trash service.



How do I report an SSO event?

If you see a manhole discharging fluid, it is likely an SSO event in progress. The sooner it is reported, the sooner the event can be resolved. Remember, our combined efforts make one BIG impact. **If you see a manhole discharging fluid, please call the city sewer maintenance department at 417-864-1923 to report the event anytime day or night.**



Yard Ethic



With EIGHT NEW YARDS certified in the last year, 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 for pollinators
- Harvest the rain
- Plant a tree
- Build a rain garden
- Compost

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

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



Pollinator Garden Grant Program

Since beginning the installation of gardens last fall, we have added **FIVE NEW POLLINATOR GARDENS!**

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. Native plants are well adapted to the local

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

To apply, contact Clarissa Hatley at 417-864-2005.

Other Programs



Blooming Blvds

Partner with the City to add a rain garden near your home. This program provides free installation in the right-of-way of suitable locations.



Right as Rain currently offers a rain barrel rebate which pays up to 50 cents per gallon of storage capacity up to \$300.



Recycle Right Springfield

Due to rapid changes in markets and information, we recommend that you check the Waste Wizard for the most updated info as you recycle your items. **Visit springfieldmo.gov/wastewizard to search your items needing responsible disposal.** The Waste Wizard will tell you where you can recycle or dispose of your item and give you contact information for the facility so you can verify availability and details before you go! Here are a few regularly searched summer items:



Lawn Furniture

This item is not recyclable—but if it's still in good shape at the end of summer, consider repurposing by donating to a local thrift shop!



Wading Pools

Though you may have a plastic wading pool, these are not accepted at our recycling facilities. This item can be disposed of at the landfill, with your garbage!



Fireworks

We do not accept explosives at the landfill (including fireworks) or any city recycling centers.



Barbecue Grills

Metal and appliance recycling locations are listed in the Waste Wizard. Propane tanks must be recycled separately. Search the Waste Wizard for places to dispose of them.



Plastic Garden Pots

No plastic garden pots! Consider saving garden pots for next year's batch of seedlings!

clean green

SPRINGFIELD

LITTER PREVENTION TIPS

We are all responsible for keeping our city clean and beautiful. Litter can hurt the environment, it is ugly and costs millions of dollars to clean up. Stop litter at its source. Let's all do our part; help us preserve Springfield's natural beauty.



1. Secure Your Load

Secure loads before driving, keep a litter bag in your vehicle, recycle when possible.



2. Recycle, Recycle, Recycle

Talk to your family and friends about recycling to reduce the amount of litter you throw away.



3. Not Out Your Window

Don't throw trash out of your window. Keep a litter bag in your car and properly dispose of trash once you get to your destination.



4. No Trash Can

If there is not a handy trash can nearby, take your food wrappings, drink containers, newspapers, or other potential litter home with you and dispose of it in your own trash or recycling bins.



5. Keep Your Yard Clean

Keep your yard clean and free of things that could blow into the street and become litter.



6. Join Community Cleanup Programs

Join community cleanup programs like Clean Green Springfield in the Spring or stream cleanups, neighborhood cleanups, or adopt-a-street programs.



7. Educate Kids

Educate kids about the importance of disposing of trash properly. Give a hoot, don't pollute.



8. Bulky Household Waste Items

Properly dispose of bulky household waste items by taking them to the proper recycling businesses.



9. Tie Bags Securely

At home, make sure garbage and recycling are tied securely so that loose papers and other items can't fall out and become litter.

MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

Kingdom Coffee to caffeinate Midtown with new Boyd Lofts location

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Kingdom Coffee will add a third location this fall or winter in Boyd Lofts at 1409 N. Washington, according to Kingdom Coffee owner Jason Strother. The new location will operate in the former elementary school's library and will serve breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert items in addition to coffee. Kingdom Coffee also has a location downtown at 211 S. Market Ave. and in Galloway Village at 2896 S. Lone Pine Ave. near Lone Pine and Battlefield Road.

In the past, Kingdom Coffee has utilized the City of Springfield's Commercial Loan Program to add the second location and purchase new equipment, such as a coffee roaster, Strother said. The financing for the new Boyd Lofts location was also made possible with a City loan.

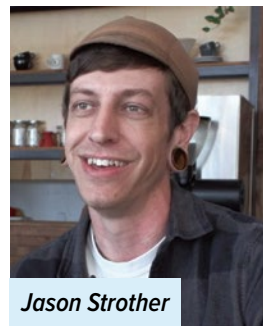
"The application process is really easy. We were excited to work with the City again when we decided to open this third location," he added. "I think the City is eager to see businesses get off the ground and grow."

Boyd Lofts is a redevelopment project featuring 17 loft style apartments with around 3,000 square feet of amenity-based commercial space, said developer Matt Blevins.

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 built in the late 1980s and early 2000s. The redevelopment will maintain the historic character of the building and does not involve exterior changes, Blevins said.



Jason Strother

"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 Carnegie Branch Library closes for 10 months for renovations

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The Springfield-Greene County Library's Midtown Carnegie Branch closed May 6 for building renovations. The branch will be closed for approximately 10 months for much-needed upgrades.



Renovations include the north entry, off the parking lot, which will be fully renovated to provide accessible ramps to the basement and main floors. The ramps will be enclosed inside a new addition, protecting them from the elements and providing direct access to the main floor and the library's lower-level Maker Space and Computer Training Center.

The branch's elevator, which runs between the lower level and the second floor, will be fully repaired to once again provide access to all of the library's meeting rooms, departments and services.

A new energy-efficient HVAC system will replace the existing boiler and chiller to provide reliable heating and cooling and distribute fresh air throughout the building. New water piping will be installed throughout the branch.

All library services, including book returns in the library parking lot, will be closed during renovation. Story times and book discussions have moved to The Fairbanks, 1126 N. Broadway Ave. The Computer Training Center moved to the

▶ See **LIBRARY RENOVATIONS** on page 16



Connect

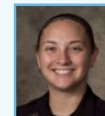
- Ran Cummings, President
- Brian Shipman, Vice President
- Brian Mattson, Secretary
- Marie Wood, Treasurer
- midtown.sgf@gmail.com
- 417-501-9732

Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 8 • Aug. 12 • Sept. 9 • Oct. 14: 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.

Central High School
423 E. Central St.

Follow Midtown on

Midtown Neighborhood Association's An Annual Old-Fashioned 4th of July Parade and Celebration

Thursday, July 4

Parade Starts at 10 a.m. at Benton & Central and concludes at Washington Park where the celebration continues with music, food and more!

This year's theme is Freedom and Motion.



Missouri Hotel and other blighted properties on C-Street to get new life

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Construction to transform more than seven acres of blighted property on and around Commercial Street may begin as early as this summer.

City Council in April approved the plan for developer Titus Williams' Commercial-Pacific Street Redevelopment Corp., which includes the Missouri Hotel and the 400 and 500 blocks of East Commercial Street, the 1700 block of North Washington Street, the 1600 and 1700 blocks of North Benton Avenue, the 1600 and 1700 blocks of North Jefferson Avenue and the 400 blocks of East Blaine and East Pacific streets. Nearly the entire redevelopment area consists of vacant and limited-use buildings (storage) and unimproved land.

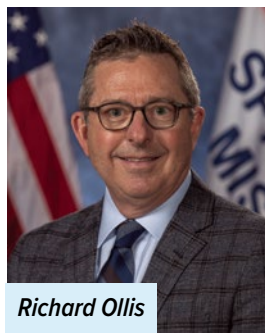
The Missouri Hotel has sat vacant since 2015, when The Kitchen Inc., a homeless services provider, ceased using it as an emergency shelter and transitional housing. Williams purchased the hotel in 2017 with the hope of returning it to its former glory.

The Missouri Hotel didn't become known as the Missouri Hotel until 1947.



Courtesy of The History Museum on the Square

"My great-grandfather and namesake, Richard A. Ollis, developed and built the Missouri Hotel as the Greene Tavern Hotel, which opened in 1930. It housed the headquarters of the Greene County Building and Loan Association, a home loan business he ran along with R.A. Ollis & Company (insurance) next door at 408 E. Commercial. Our family company, Ollis & Company, which he and



Richard Ollis

his brothers formed in 1885, remained at 408 E. Commercial until 1979," said Richard Ollis, who served on City Council for six years and owns Ollis/Akers/Arney Insurance & Business Advisors. "The Ollis family is ecstatic about the Missouri Hotel renovation project. We look forward to the reimagined future of this historic structure and the continued redevelopment of Commercial Street."

In 1936, the hotel became the Milner Hotel. The Milner family added a bowling alley in the basement, an automotive garage and a gas station on the south side of the building.

Eleven years later, it became the Missouri Hotel, which operated a grill on the ground floor. In its latter days, the Missouri Hotel became more blue-collar, nothing-fancy lodging. In 1985, The Kitchen, Inc., leased the building for use as an emergency shelter, transitional housing, soup kitchen and food pantry.

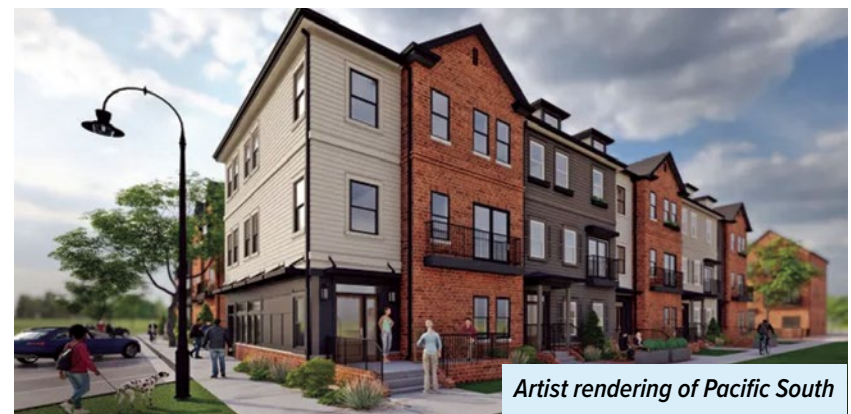
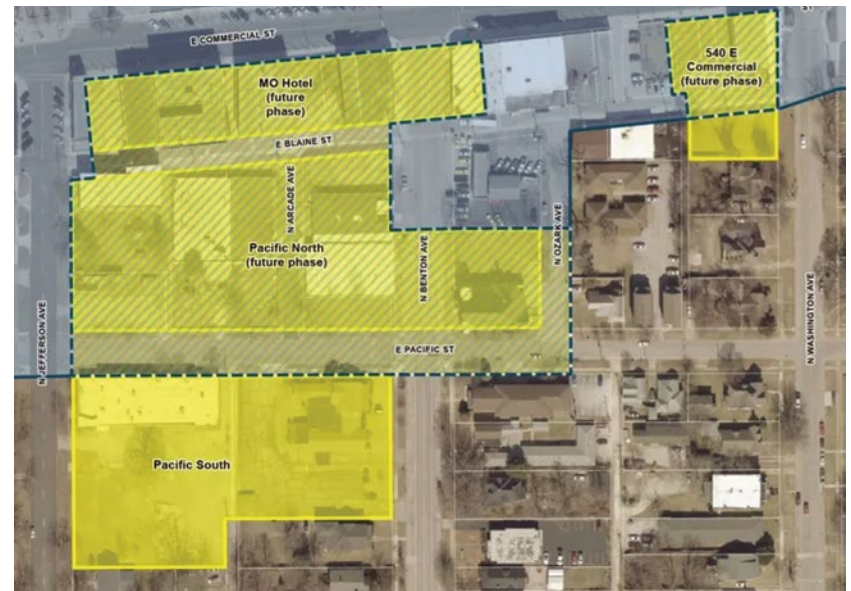
In 2015, The Kitchen announced plans to move Missouri Hotel residents into permanent housing at the new Beacon Village and in other housing units in Springfield.

According to the redevelopment plan, construction is slated to begin this fall. The new boutique Missouri Hotel will offer a restaurant and bar, spa and other amenities.

The rest of the parcels in the Commercial-Pacific Street Redevelopment are divided into three phases for redevelopment:

PACIFIC SOUTH

- 72-unit townhouse development at Benton Avenue and Pacific Street with garages, a recreation room, storage units for tenants, a dog



Artist rendering of Pacific South

park/picnic area

- Construction to begin immediately, with completion estimated by fall 2025.

PACIFIC NORTH

- North of Pacific Street between Jefferson and Benton avenues
- 200-unit multi-family apartment complex with ground-floor office and retail plus amenities such as a pool and fitness center
- Construction to begin in summer 2025.

540 E. COMMERCIAL ST.

- New construction mixed-use office/restaurant/retail/ plus one and two-bedroom apartment units
- Construction to begin this summer.

► LIBRARY RENOVATIONS from page 15

Library Center. The Community Fridge temporarily relocated to the Library Station, 2535 N. Kansas Expressway, in June. The fridge has served nearly 3,000 patrons since it opened last September, according to Springfield Community Gardens.

HISTORY

In 1901, 50 prominent Springfield businessmen and influential citizens met in the office of Mayor Ralph Walker and enthusiastically supported a plan to start a library. Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie agreed to give \$50,000 if the city provided \$5,000 annually for the purchase of books and the maintenance of the institution. In 1903, a site for the main library was purchased for \$3,250. The money was raised by popular subscription with the largest

individual donation only \$100. The cornerstone was laid and construction began on the stately structure at 397 E. Central.

On March 12, 1905, the Springfield Public Library opened with limited hours and one staff member. The library owned a total of 700 volumes and boasted a circulation of 8,657 during its first year. In 1937, thanks to a Works Progress Administration grant, the library was enlarged to its current size. The library became known as the Main Library with the opening of other branches throughout the city and county in the decades following, and was renovated to add a ramp and elevator in 1978. In 1999, the Main Library



Artist rendering showing the view from the parking lot for the proposed entrance addition to the library.

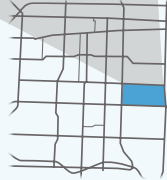
became known as the Midtown Carnegie Branch, and in 2005, the library district celebrated the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the Midtown Carnegie Branch.

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

Meetings are held 6-7 p.m. at Oak Grove Community Center (1538 S. Oak Grove Ave.) 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 Wyatt Eubanks: 417-864-1321
wyatt.eubanks@springfieldmo.gov



Pittman Elementary School
2934 E. Bennett St.

Follow Oak Grove on

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)

Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!



PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



Neighbors partner with Park Board, MSU to restore gardens at Phelps Grove Park

By Vicky Trippe, for SGFNN

For decades the gardens at Phelps Grove Park were beautiful. Over the years, though, a disease killed the roses at the south end of the garden area, and weeds overwhelmed the perennial gardens on the north.

This year, though, using money received at the 2023 Community Partnership of the Ozarks NOVA banquet, the Phelps Neighborhood Association is partnering with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and the Missouri State University Horticulture Club to restore the gardens to their former beauty.

The Parks Department is removing the weeds where the roses used to grow, installing a sprinkler system, and planning a color-coordinated garden for planting when the soil is ready.

The MSU Horticulture Club removed all that was growing in the center section of the garden area, where the raised beds and path to the rose garden were built. They saved flowers that had been growing there, but planted native perennials to host and feed the pollinators.

The Phelps Neighborhood Association is taking out the Bermuda grass and five-foot-tall plants that had overtaken the remaining seven gardens on the north side of the garden. Members of the association and others who have joined us saved and are replanting some of the perennials that had been put in those beds by gardeners in years past, and they are adding other pollinator-friendly native perennials.

This is a work in process, and the garden restoration will likely not be completed until next spring, but we invite you to come by and enjoy the gardens as they are worked on and restored.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 9 • Aug. 13 • Sept. 10 • Oct. 8: 7 p.m.

@ Fire Station 1 Community Room (720 E. Grand St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Follow Phelps Grove on
phelpsgrove.com

4-in-1 neighborhood cleanup successful for Rountree, Delaware, University Heights and Phelps Grove

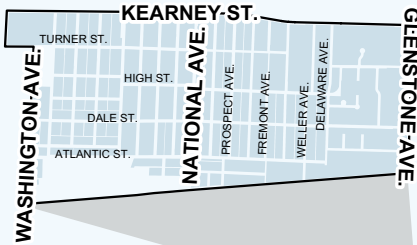
By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

Four neighborhoods came together to tidy up on a beautiful, sunny May 18. Thirty-one people registered on site to volunteer, and we filled 12 dumpsters with trash and four with brush over four intense hours. The Computer Recycling Center and the Habitat for Humanity ReStore were there, as well as two metals recyclers.

Read the full story in the Delaware section on page 9.

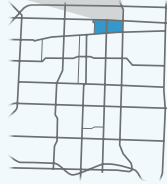


ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 25 • Aug. 22 • Sept. 26: 6:30 p.m. @ Pathways United Methodist Church (1232 E. Dale St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer John Taylor: 417-864-1320 john.taylor@springfieldmo.gov



Follow Robberson on

RNASpringfieldMO.org

Pedestrian improvements coming for Kearney Street

Provided by MoDot

Drivers can expect lane closings, narrow lanes and traffic shifts on Kearney Street while contractor crews complete pedestrian safety improvements which began the week of June 3, the Missouri Department of Transportation said.



The majority of the Kearney Street sidewalk work will be done during daytime hours. Resurfacing work will be done during nighttime hours of 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Read the full story in the Doling section on page 10.

Adopt-a-Street Cleanups

Saturdays: July 20, Aug. 24, Sept. 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Meet at Pathways United Methodist Church Parking Lot (1232 E. Dale).



ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD



Rountree hosts historic homes and garden tour, second annual street fair

By Sharon Gullett, for SGFNN

A heartfelt thank you to all who participated and attended Rountree Council for Historic Preservation's Historic Homes & Garden Tour and Sunset On The Lawn event. YOU are the reason it was a successful celebration of history, architecture, preservation, design and more.

For those of you who weren't able to attend the two-day event, we invite you to follow along on our Instagram page [instagram.com/rountreecouncilforpreservation](https://www.instagram.com/rountreecouncilforpreservation), where we are currently flooding our stories with captures and video content sent in by attendees. Thank you so much for sharing the love.

A Rountree Historical Walk & Talk Series will be coming soon. For information on future events, go to the Rountree Council for Preservation Facebook Group at [facebook.com/groups/919262939785876](https://www.facebook.com/groups/919262939785876). If you have house and garden tour event footage you'd like to share, feel free to send a DM on Instagram or via email at routreecouncilforpreservation@gmail.com. Thanks again, and we look forward to connecting with you in person again very soon!

The council for preservation was formed earlier this year by Amy Boyd and Sharon Gullett with the mission of advocating for a future for Rountree that honors and protects its places, culture and community.

PICKWICK STREET FAIR AGAIN BRINGS PLETHORA OF LOCAL TALENT

Rountree was proud to host this local artisan showcase June 8. With 70+ vendors including painters, photographers, ceramicists, live music, food and more, the event showcased a plethora of local talent. Art class sessions and specials and treats from our brick-and-mortar stores topped off the fun. We want to thank all of the amazing vendors, artists, and volunteers for making it happen. And a special shout out to the sponsors and coordinators. What a great day in Rountree. We'll see you next year!



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

July 16 • Aug. 20 • Sept. 17: 7-8 p.m. @ University Heights Baptist Church (1010 S. National Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Wyatt Eubanks: 417-864-1321 wyatt.eubanks@springfieldmo.gov



Rountree Elementary School
1333 Grand St.

Follow Rountree on

Rountree Historical Walk & Talk Series

Coming Soon

For information on future events, go to the Rountree Council for Preservation Facebook Group at [facebook.com/groups/919262939785876](https://www.facebook.com/groups/919262939785876).



The Rountree Owls, Rountree's SGF Kickball Tournament team April 21 (Photo: Peggy Wise)



4-in-1 neighborhood cleanup successful for Rountree, Delaware, University Heights and Phelps Grove

By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

Four neighborhoods came together to tidy up on a beautiful, sunny May 18. Thirty-one people registered on site to volunteer, and we filled 12 dumpsters with trash and four with brush over four intense hours. The Computer Recycling Center and the Habitat for Humanity ReStore were there, as well as two metals recyclers.

One hundred fourteen individual households came in person, with many making multiple trips, and waiting for access to the dumpsters. Close to 100 households were served through curbside pickups including sweeps of alleys.

All in all, it was a lovely day of recycling, reuse, and cleaning up the neighborhoods.



SEMINOLE HOLLAND NEIGHBORHOOD



Seminole Holland gearing up for fun fall events

By William Cooper, for SGFNN

Hold onto your hats, folks, because the Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association is on fire, and we're not slowing down anytime soon! We kicked things off in April with a joint neighborhood cleanup that had everyone rolling up their sleeves to make the community shine. Not content with just one event, we followed up with a litter pickup at McDaniel Park, showing our commitment to keeping our green spaces clean and beautiful. And we didn't stop there! In May, another litter pickup at McDaniel Park showed our dedication to keeping the momentum going. Plus, we hosted a pizza party along with valuable BDS (Building Development Services) information, proving we know how to mix fun with important community updates.

As summer heated up in June, we threw a Summer Bash at McDaniel Park, ensuring that everyone had a blast under the sun.

There's more excitement on the horizon: Mark your calendars for the Harvest Potluck and presentation on Aug. 28, where you can enjoy delicious food and learn about what's next for the neighborhood. On Sept. 7, we will help with the Messiah Lutheran Church Neighborhood Cleanup. Get ready for Lantern Walk, board member elections, and Halloween Trunk or Treat in October – a perfect opportunity to stroll under the stars, have your voice heard in shaping your neighborhood's future, and provide a safe Halloween alternative event. The Bass Pro Cheering Challenge is coming up in November, and the Dancing Pickles are gearing up for a rip-roaring good time!

And guess what? The Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association wants to hear from YOU! If you've got ideas for activities or events, don't hesitate to reach out to the Board at SeminoleHolland@gmail.com or attend one of their exciting board meetings, always open to the public. Get involved, get excited, say hi to a neighbor, and let's keep the energy going in Seminole Holland!



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 22 • Aug. 26 • Sept. 23: 6 p.m. @ Messiah Lutheran Church (925 E. Seminole St.) Meeting schedule can vary. Please check the website, Facebook page, or email us for the latest updates.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer **Brandon Locke**: 417-864-1140
locke@springfieldmo.gov



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

Follow **Seminole Holland** on  
seminoleholland.com

Harvest Potluck & Presentation Aug. 28

Time & Location to be announced

Messiah Lutheran Church Neighborhood Cleanup Sept. 7

More information coming soon.

Mobile Library Stop

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

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

S. Dollison Ave. & E. Downing St.



TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD



Spring cleanup a success for Tom Watkins, Bissett and Doling

By Colby Wallace, for SGFNN

On April 13, Tom Watkins neighbors filled 16 trash dumpsters and two brush dumpsters alongside Bissett and Doling. We were able to serve 191 households! Thanks to everyone who came out and helped.

- Bissett: 21 in-person
- Tom Watkins: 24 in-person and 26 curbside
- Doling: 76 in-person and 17 curbside.

Pedestrian improvements coming for Kearney Street

Provided by MoDot

Drivers can expect lane closings, narrow lanes and traffic shifts on Kearney Street while contractor crews complete pedestrian safety improvements which began the week of June 3, the Missouri Department of Transportation said.

The majority of the Kearney Street sidewalk work will be done during daytime hours. Resurfacing work will be done during nighttime hours of 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Capital Paving & Construction of Columbia is doing the work for \$14.9 million. The project is to be complete by Dec. 31, 2025.

Read the full story in the Doling section on page 10 or on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.



Connect

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


Neighborhood Association Meetings

Aug. 27 • Nov. 26: 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 John Taylor: 417-864-1320
john.taylor@springfieldmo.gov



 Williams Elementary School
2205 W. Kearney St.

Follow Tom Watkins on  



UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each quarter at 5:30 p.m. at Sunshine Elementary School (421 E. Sunshine St.) Please contact a neighborhood officer or check the Facebook group for exact dates.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Wyatt Eubanks: 417-864-1321
wyatt.eubanks@springfieldmo.gov



 Sunshine Elementary School
421 E. Sunshine St.

Follow University Heights on  
universityheights-sgf.org

4-in-1 neighborhood cleanup successful for Rountree, Delaware, University Heights and Phelps Grove

By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

Four neighborhoods came together to tidy up on a beautiful, sunny May 18. Thirty-one people registered on site to volunteer, and we filled 12 dumpsters with trash and four with brush over four intense hours. The Computer Recycling Center and the Habitat for Humanity ReStore were there, as well as two metals recyclers.

Read the full story in the Rountree section on page 19.



University Heights' SGF Kickball Tournament team April 21 (Photo: Kevin Evans)

SPARC

schools+parcs=fun

- SUMMER DAY CAMPS
- BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS
- SPORTS: VOLLEYBALL, SOCCER AND BASKETBALL
 - Register for Fall Soccer, Pre-K-Grade 6, by Aug. 5



DISCOVER MORE PARKBOARD.ORG/SPARC

WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD

Restaurant, retail development to open in 2025 at silos site

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The silos that have sat vacant near Chestnut Expressway and National Avenue for more than 50 years will be part of a new restaurant and retail development called Sisters Mill. City Council on May 20 approved the Sisters Mill Redevelopment Plan, which includes a two-story 4,603 square foot indoor/outdoor casual dining restaurant called The Table with accompanying retail shop and green space. Sheri Perkins and Renee Textor, who grew up in Springfield, are the sisters behind the project and are planning a fall 2025 opening.



The development will include an indoor/outdoor restaurant called The Table.

The property, which has commonly been referred to as the Springfield Flour Mill, has a colorful history. According to the Springfield-Greene County Library, the mill was built in 1901 by John F. Meyer & Sons Milling Company, which also owned Queen City Milling near Boonville Avenue and Phelps Street. The Meyers called the mill Model Mills and it produced Model Flour until 1935. At some point, Jack Blair purchased the mill from the Meyers, but retained the Model Mills name.

When operating, the mill produced more than 3,000 box car loads of flour each year at the rate of 35,000 pounds of flour each



Renee Textor, left, and Sheri Perkins, right, are the sisters behind the Sisters Mill Redevelopment Project.

day. Seven thousand bushels of wheat went through its milling processes every 24 hours. The flour was shipped to various parts of the globe, including France, England, Germany and South America.

The property changed hands at least three times over the years. Colorado Milling and Elevator Company acquired the mill in 1935 from Blair's estate after he died. MFA Milling Company purchased the mill in 1951 for feed manufacturing and storage. At some point in the early 1970s, MFA ceased production there and sold the property.

Intersection improvements at National Avenue and Division Street to begin this summer

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Roadway and signal improvements are coming soon to the intersection of National Avenue and Division Street as the City recently completed a contractor bid process for the project.

The National and Division Intersection Improvement Project will include geometric improvements in coordination with the railroad crossing, new traffic signals, pavement improvements, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant pedestrian facilities, as well as new sidewalk and multi-use path connections. BNSF Railway will complete railroad crossing improvements within the intersection and City Utilities will improve gas, water and electric utilities.

One lane of traffic flow through in each direction is expected to remain for a large part of construction duration. However, work on the railroad crossing and integration with the intersection will require the near full closure of the intersection for more



than a month sometime this fall. The City will communicate traffic impacts as a construction schedule and details become available.

The project is estimated to cost \$2.6 million and will be funded through a combination of the ¼-cent Capital Improvement and ⅛-cent Transportation sales taxes, reimbursements from City Utilities for the cost of utility improvements, as well as a \$750,000 Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission highway/rail crossing grant.

Completion is expected by late winter.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Aug. 1 • Sept. 5 • Oct. 3: 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.)



Intersection of Division Street and National Avenue

WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD



Meetings, walking club and Neighbors Helping Neighbors program keeping West Central busy

By Duane Keys, for SGFNN

In the heart of Springfield, West Central pulses with life and community spirit. With each passing month, our neighborhood blossoms with activity, driven by the dedication and unity of its residents. Every fourth Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., the West Central Neighborhood Alliance convenes, serving as a forum for residents to exchange ideas, address concerns, and foster connections. At these monthly meetings, residents have the unique opportunity to engage directly with our PAR officer and city council representative. This interaction allows residents to stay informed about local issues, voice concerns, and collaborate on solutions. It's a chance for the community to hear directly from those who serve them and to actively participate in shaping the future of West Central.

And what better way to foster community than with a Taco Tuesday potluck at our meetings? Bring your favorite dish and join us for a night of delicious food and lively conversation. It's a great opportunity to connect with your neighbors and strengthen the bonds that make West Central special.

West Central's walking clubs are also gaining traction, offering residents an opportunity to explore our neighborhood while forging meaningful connections. Whether it's the leisurely Thursday morning stroll starting at 10 a.m. from Cufflink Coffee or the monthly Tuesday evening walk, these outings provide not only exercise but also a platform for neighbors to engage, discuss common challenges, and promote neighborhood improvements. As we walk, we also make a difference by picking up trash, raising awareness around CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), and identifying neighbors who might be in need of a helping hand.

In response to the growing need for community support, West Central has launched the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" initiative. This initiative addresses various nuisance issues identified by city enforcement, such as overgrown yards or abandoned vehicles. Already, we've made significant progress. We've cleared fence lines, dealt with abandoned vehicles, and hauled away brush and trash. However, our project list is still growing, with requests for help ranging from minor repairs to building ramps for neighbors in need. We encourage anyone with skills and time to spare



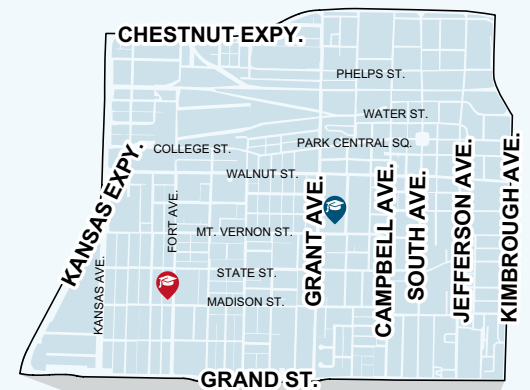
Join West Central neighbors for a stroll around the neighborhood. Learn the history of the area and share ideas for improving our community. Meet at Cufflink Coffee at 10 a.m. on Thursdays (corner of Grant and College), rain or shine.

to lend a hand. Together, we can tackle these challenges and make a meaningful difference in our community.

Excitement is building as West Central prepares to host the annual Route 66 Festival and Car Show. As a founding organization and host of the event, the West Central Neighborhood Alliance is rallying volunteers to ensure its success. Keep an eye out for volunteer sign-up opportunities and get ready to celebrate our community's rich heritage.

In addition to our monthly gatherings, don't forget to sign up for text updates by texting "WCNA" to 417-201-9789 or subscribe to our newsletter at westcentralspringfield.org. Stay informed and engaged with all the latest news and events happening in our neighborhood.

West Central is more than just a place to live; it's a thriving community where neighbors come together to make a difference. From community walks to volunteering opportunities, there's always something happening in West Central. Let's continue to build on the spirit of unity and cooperation that defines our neighborhood. Together, we can make West Central an even better place to call home.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Alliance Meetings

July 23 • Aug. 27 • Sept. 24: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
@ Resurrection Church (545 S. Broadway Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



 **McGregor Elementary School**
1221 W. Madison St.

 **Campbell Early Childhood Center**
506 S. Grant Ave.

Follow West Central on  



A big shout out to all the incredible volunteers from West Central, Westside, and Heart of the Westside who united for our neighborhood cleanup day! Thanks to your hard work, over 200 households were able to clear out bulky items, trash, and brush that had been cluttering our streets. Special appreciation goes out to the curbside truck volunteers and to CPO (Community Partnership of the Ozarks) for spearheading this initiative. Our neighborhoods are looking so much better because of your dedication and teamwork! (Courtesy Facebook.com/WestCentralSGF)

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

Smitty's Midwest Boxing Gym helps youth build confidence, life skills

By Sharon L. Brooks, for SGFNN

Hey Westside neighbors, did you know Smitty's Midwest Boxing Gym/Youth Center is in our neighborhood? It is located at 648 S. Scenic. Owner Darrell Smith (Smitty), won the Kansas City open division Golden Gloves at the age of 16 and the North Carolina Golden Gloves in 1987. Smitty served in the 82nd Airborne Division in the Gulf War. In 1982, he was the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year.



Smitty's Boxing Gym has become more than a place for boxers. It has volunteer tutors to help students in subjects like math and public speaking. Kids must maintain a B average in school to compete, and Thursdays are mandatory homework night. Coach Smitty wants everyone to know Smitty's Midwest Boxing Gym is not just about the boxing, but teaching kids to stand on their own two feet, build confidence and how to interact with others.

Smitty's has a variety of classes. They have an all-level class for women, a combination class, classes for kids, plus free classes for those with Parkinson's disease and autism. It also provides self-defense courses and free training for people with disabilities.

If you or your family is interested in boxing, getting in shape or building confidence, please check out Smitty's Midwest Boxing Gym. The number is 417-260-0941. The website is Smittysboxing.com and you can find them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/smittysmidwestboxing1135](https://www.facebook.com/smittysmidwestboxing1135).

Coach Smitty is a member of the Heart of the Ozarks Sertoma Club, which raises money for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield. Smitty's Midwest Boxing Gym is a 501(c)(3) offering youth training beyond boxing skills. Check out the PBS documentary on the life of Darrell Smith called "Fighter: A Boxing Story."

Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association welcomes Smitty's Midwest Boxing Gym to our neighborhood.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings

July 9 • Aug. 13 • Sept. 10 • Oct. 8: 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 [f](#) [n](#)



Westside's SGF Kickball Tournament team April 21

DOG SWIM

2024

The PARK
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD

REGISTRATION REQUIRED by Sept. 1

TUES., SEPT. 3

FASSNIGHT POOL

1305 S. Main Ave., Springfield, MO

TIME	FEE
4-7 p.m.	\$8/dog & human pair, (Limit 1 dog per person); \$3/additional human

ParkBoard.org/DogSwim

SGF LOCAL MATTERS

PODCAST

Go behind the scenes to meet the most fascinating people of the 417.

Hosted by Mayor Ken McClure and Cora Scott



Listen on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and iHeart Radio, or watch on Youtube.



Let's Go Swimming!

Fassnight, Grant Beach, Meador, Silver Springs, Westport and McGee-McGregor outdoor pools

Open select days, 1-6:30 p.m.
(McGee-McGregor Wading Pool is open 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.)

Admission Fee:
\$5/adult,
\$4/youth & seniors

Full Schedule at ParkBoard.org/Aquatics

WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

Unique partnership brings more art to C-Street

By Chance Parish, for SGFNN

The Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association's Art Committee has partnered with the Commercial Street CID (Community Improvement District) and the Springfield Police Officers Association to bring more art to Historic C-Street's core.

Strolling along Historic C-Street you may have noticed the blank window space at 233 E. Commercial St., at what was previously Drury on C-Street. The building now sees regular use from the Springfield Police Officers Association, but the public is presented with only a dark curtain to view from the street. For the moment, that has been remedied.

Thanks to the keen eye of CID President Irene Schaefer, who attended a Woodland Heights Creatives – Meet & Greet event, the works of Woodland Heights artist DuWayne Johnson are now bringing a spark of color to negative space on Historic C-Street.



Johnson's streetscapes celebrate the beauty of Springfield and surrounding areas and feel perfectly at home in the bustling center of C-Street.

"I think his work is vibrant and captivating. It captures the spirit of Springfield," Schaefer said.

Johnson says he is thrilled that his work is out in the world bringing joy to those who see it.

Do yourself a favor and take a stroll along Historic C-Street to see these wonderful paintings. The collection is rotated every two weeks to avoid sun damage.



Keep watching the windows at 233 E. Commercial St. for more upcoming collaborative efforts. In Woodland Heights, we're convinced that artistic energy can be harnessed to transform a community. And we're also pretty sure that community is the magic of C-Street.

The meet and greets will continue every second Friday at 7 p.m. at the Charlie Norr Community Center, 316 W. Atlantic St. The committee's mission is to find more talent to nurture for the greater good of the north side of Springfield.

Stay tuned to Woodland Heights' social media and website calendar for more upcoming arts events. "Porch Pickin' in Woodland Heights," returns every third Sunday until Oct. 20 to various porches throughout Woodland Heights. Silent Nights in Woodland Heights, an outdoor bi-weekly silent film series, returned in June. Watch social media and the calendar for the schedule.

For pricing information on any of Johnson's pieces on display at 233 E. Commercial St., or to discuss commission pieces, contact him at 417-298-5720.



DuWayne Johnson



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

July 16 (Ice Cream Social) • Aug. 20 • Sept. 17:
6:30 p.m. @ Woodland Heights Presbyterian
Church (722 W. Atlantic St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer John Taylor: 417-864-1320
john.taylor@springfieldmo.gov



 **Bowerman Elementary School**
2148 N. Douglas Ave.

 **Reed Middle School**
2000 N. Lyon Ave.

Follow Woodland Heights on   
woodlandheightsneighborhood.org

Pedestrian improvements coming for Kearney Street

Provided by MoDot

Drivers can expect lane closings, narrow lanes and traffic shifts on Kearney Street while contractor crews complete pedestrian safety improvements

which began the week of June 3, the Missouri Department of Transportation said.

Read the full story in the Doling section on page 10 or on SGFNeighborhoodNews.com



Woodland Heights' 10th annual Dirt Day magical as ever

By Chance Parish, for SGFNN

On Saturday, May 4th, the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association celebrated their 10th Annual Dirt Day event in Historic Lafayette Park.

For 10 years Dirt Day has served as Woodland



Heights' celebration of springtime and community. Neighbors gather together in the park to exchange plants and seeds, enjoy live music, food, and each other's company. There is no cost associated with Dirt Day. Nothing is for sale. Everything is free. And each "vendor" provides a free activity for children to participate in.

This year, rain threatened to disrupt the festivities. At 7 a.m. when our friends from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board arrived to help us set up for the event, rain had already started to fall. And it soon fell harder. But north siders are nothing if not persistent. There was fretting and talk of cancellation. But patience prevailed. At around 10 a.m., the skies completely cleared. The sun shone through and a gentle breeze blew down the

▶ See DIRT DAY on page 25



Woodland Heights' SGF Kickball Tournament team April 21

City to proceed with Jefferson Avenue Footbridge rehabilitation

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

City Council heard an update on the contractor bid process results for the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge rehabilitation project at the May 21 City Council Lunch Workshop. The City's recent effort to attract contractor bids resulted in one bid by local contracting company Branco. The bid provided a range of options with cost projections from \$8.5 million to \$10.8 million.

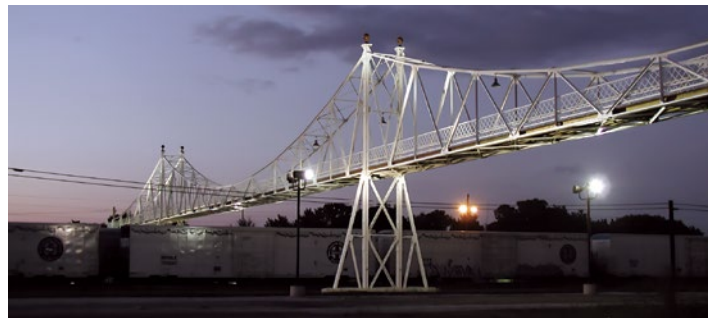
This was the second of two bid processes for the rehabilitation project over the past three years – the first of which yielded two bidders, but both were deemed unresponsive due to not meeting the eligibility requirements for use of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds.

The state of Missouri has included a proposed \$8 million in state funding for the restoration project, when combined with current identified funding from 1/8-cent and 1/4-cent sales taxes and \$50,000 from the Commercial Club, brings the total available to \$8.4 million.

The footbridge project was included in a measure taken to City Council in May to provide debt service required to bond a number of projects, with annual payments coming from the 1/4-cent and 1/8-cent sales tax revenues in the future. Including the bridge project allows City Council the flexibility to select whichever rehabilitation option available in the recent bid.

Public Works anticipates bringing a bill formally accepting the bid and \$10.8 million rehabilitation cost to City Council in June. Upon acceptance of the bid, Branco will be given a notice to proceed providing approximately six months for railroad permitting, supply and equipment ordering and general project planning. The City expects to provide a second notice to proceed for construction to begin in spring of 2025. Construction is expected to last approximately six months. The City is hopeful the rehabilitation will be complete near the end of 2025.

The solicited construction project will involve the complete rehabilitation of the existing steel bridge structure, 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.

Built in 1902, Springfield's Jefferson Avenue Footbridge is on the National Register of Historic Places. The 562-foot-long steel bridge allows pedestrians to cross 13 tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail yard between Chase Street and Commercial Street.

The Jefferson Avenue Footbridge was the first of its kind to be built in Missouri and is unique in engineering and historic significance. The footbridge was built at public expense by The American Bridge Company of Pennsylvania. Its innovative multi-arched cantilever design made it possible for workers to construct the bridge by spanning out over the railroad tracks, thereby minimizing impacts to the rail lines below. The bridge also represents the history of Springfield and North Springfield coming together in 1887 and the community's connection to the railroad and the commercial growth opportunities it provided.

Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003, the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge continues as a symbol of growth and opportunity today. Prior to its closure, the bridge served as a vital pedestrian and bicycle connection, linking the booming Commercial Street Historic District to the Woodland Heights Neighborhood and helping to spur growth of the Moon City Creative District across the tracks to the north.

The Jefferson Avenue Footbridge was closed March 1, 2016 after Public Works inspectors found corrosion and steel loss in the north support column. Due to safety concerns, it was deemed in the public's best interest to close the bridge to conduct a full evaluation and determine repair options.

To learn more about the project, view a video recording of a recent project public information session and sign up for regular project updates, visit springfieldmo.gov/footbridge.

Events July – September 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.

Free Family Pass to the History Museum

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

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.

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 Grant Beach Neighborhood Association. ParkBoard.org/Tennis. All ages. *Free.*

Independence Day Splash & Sizzle Swimming:

Thurs., July 4: 1-6:30 p.m., Fasnigh Pool, 1305 S. Main Ave., and Silver Springs Pool, 1100 N. Hampton Ave. Discount Swimming all day. Donations benefit Ozarks Food Harvest. ParkBoard.org/Aquatics. All ages. *Fee: \$1, or free with canned food donation.*

National Teddy Bear Picnic: Wed., July 10: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Bring your favorite stuffed bear or toy, and a picnic blanket, and celebrate National Teddy Bear Picnic! 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. Ages 2-10 yrs.

▶ DIRT DAY from page 24

promenade of Lafayette Park. All was well, and Dirt Day began, if only a few minutes late.

This year's Dirt Day was just as magical as ever. And, even with the early rainfall, the crowd kept coming. There were clowns, and bubbles, bouncy houses and smiling faces all around.

Special thanks to this year's Dirt Day sponsors: Habitat for Humanity, ESC Consulting Engineers, Quality Auto Works, Green Thumb 101, McAfee Real Estate Group, Sandy's Print Shop, Affordable Splendor Cakes, Miller Coach Company, and Arnie's Plumbing.

We hope to see everyone again next year for our 11th annual Dirt Day in Lafayette Park.



▶ EVENTS CONTINUE on page 26

▶ **EVENTS CONTINUED** from page 25

Family Fishing Night: Fri., July 12 & Aug. 9: 6-9 p.m., Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146. A relaxing evening of catch-and-release fishing, Cow Train, bounce house and a campfire at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Bring your own food to cook on the campfire. All ages. *Fee: \$10/Person, BYO fishing gear; \$15/Person, renting fishing gear.*

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: Glenna Goodacre:** Closes Sept. 1. This focus exhibitions features 11 paintings and sculptures by Goodacre.

• **Collection Focus: Bradi Barth:** Closes 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.

Operation: Recreation Re-Engage, Veterans at Ease: Sat., July 13: 9-11 a.m., Doling Family Center, 301 E. Talmage. Take part in an introductory event where you'll connect with other wounded vets from the Greater Springfield area. Enjoy a FREE catered lunch and healthy recreational activities, including: pickleball, tai chi, teambuilding/social games and MORE! Forge new friendships while we honor your service. Don't miss out on this opportunity to bond with fellow veterans, and provide valuable input on future Parks programming. Register online at ParkBoard.org/Events.

Breath, Light and Distance: Closes 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 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 educator. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/281/Breath-Light-and-Distance.

Watercolor USA 2024: Closes 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.

Movies in the Park: Fri., July 19 & Aug. 16: Movies begin around dusk (around 8:45 p.m. in July and 8:15 p.m. in August), Jordan Valley Park, 635 E. Trafficway. Enjoy free screenings of family

favorites and action thrillers under the stars in a NEW LOCATION: Jordan Valley Park! Themed Concessions and activities available, bring your own lawn chairs or blankets. Titles and details at ParkBoard.org/Movies. *Free.*

- July 19: Barbie
- Aug. 16: Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

Renaissance Works on Parchment and Paper: Closes 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 highlights the museum's collection of Renaissance manuscripts and prints, ranging from hand-lettered and letterpress Bible pages to finely engraved pieces by some of the traditions' most celebrated artists. Learn more at sgfmuseum.org/274/Missouri-State-University-Collaborations

Themed Public Skate Nights: Fri., July 26, Aug. 23 & Sept. 27: 6-8 p.m., Jordan Valley Ice Park, 635 E. Trafficway. Themed public skate nights, every fourth Friday, with a new theme every month! Includes activities, prizes, music and more. ParkBoard.org/IcePark. All ages. *Fee: \$7/Adult, \$6/Child/Student/Senior, FREE/Kids ages 3 yrs. and under; \$3/Skate rental or being your own.*

- July 26: Elf/Christmas in July
- Aug. 23: Back to School
- Sept. 27: Hunting/Camo

SPS Back to School Bash: Sat., July 27: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Springfield Expo Center, 635 E. St. Louis St. It's a party to kick off the 2024-2025 school year! Springfield Public Schools invites SPS students and families to the third annual Back to School Bash. Backpacks, hygiene kits, groceries, school supplies, sports physicals, immunizations and more will be provided while supplies last. Plus, connect with community partners and get resources to help your family succeed for the upcoming school year. Free parking is available nearby and lunch will be served. For more information, visit sps.org/backtoschoolbash.

Park Day Reunion: Aug. 2-4: Silver Springs Park, 1100 N. Hampton Ave. An annual reunion, bringing together family and friends for a parade, picnic, socials, sports competitions, music, swimming and more. Many activities take place at Silver Springs Park, including the Saturday parade and picnic. Sponsored by the Springfield Reunion Club. All ages. Look for event details on Facebook @SilverSpringsReunionClubInc. *Fee: Park events are free, off-site events and sports have a registration fee.*

Park Day Splash & Sizzle Swimming: Aug. 3 & 4, 1-6:30 p.m., Silver Springs Pool, 1100 N. Hampton Ave. All day discount swimming during the Park Day Reunion. Donations benefit Ozarks Food Harvest. ParkBoard.org/Aquatics. All ages. *Fee: \$1, or free with canned food donation.*

National Night Out: Tues., Aug. 6: 5-7 p.m., Meador Park, 2600 S. Fremont Ave. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie, making our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. Visit with local police officers, firefighters and park rangers, and enjoy Pickleball, swimming and special activities. A kick-off to individual Neighborhood Nights Out. All ages. *Free.*

National Night Out Pickleball: Tues., Aug. 6: 5-7 p.m., Meador Park, 2600 S. Fremont Ave. Play pickleball during National Night Out at Meador Park. All ages welcome. Bring the whole family and hit the courts with your neighbors! FREE event. Pickleball equipment provided, or bring your own. For more information, visit ParkBoard.org/Events or call 417-864-1332.

National Night Out Splash & Sizzle Swimming: Tues., Aug. 6: 5-7 p.m., Meador Pool, 2600 S. Fremont Ave. Splash & Sizzle outdoor pool discount admission during National Night Out. Donations benefit Ozarks Food Harvest. ParkBoard.org/Aquatics. All ages. *Fee: \$1, or free with canned food donation.*

Summer's Last Bash: Fri., Aug. 9: 6-8 p.m., Springfield Dream Center, 829 W. Atlantic St. We might be firmly in summer mode, but it's never too early to start thinking about Back-to-School time! Summer's Last Bash is going to be on Friday, Aug. 9, and to beat the heat this year we're going to be partying from 6-8 p.m. Registration IS required to participate in giveaways, so sign up at <https://northpointmo.wufoo.com/forms/r160hvv80ye6vkkx/> to get in on the fun. We can't wait to see you for games, food, haircuts, and some giveaways before school starts back

2024 Birthplace of Route 66 Festival: Thurs.-Sat., Aug. 8-10, Downtown Springfield. A free festival along Historic Route 66, includes classic cars, motorcycles, music, artists, authors, food and activities for the whole family. More information at route66festivalsgf.com.

Labor Day Splash & Sizzle Swimming: Mon., Sept. 2: 1-6:30 p.m., Fasnigh Pool, 1300 S. Main Ave. All-day outdoor pool discount admission. Donations benefit Ozarks Food Harvest. ParkBoard.org/Aquatics. All ages. *Fee: \$1, or free with canned food donation.*

Dog Swim: Tues., Sept. 3: 4-5:15 p.m. or 5:45-7 p.m., Fasnigh Pool, 1300 S. Main Ave. The canine aquatics event of the year! One dog per human, no humans allowed in the pool. All proceeds benefit Cruse Dog Park. Proof of current dog vaccinations required. ParkBoard.org/DogEvents. *Fee: \$8/Dog-human pair; \$3/additional human.*

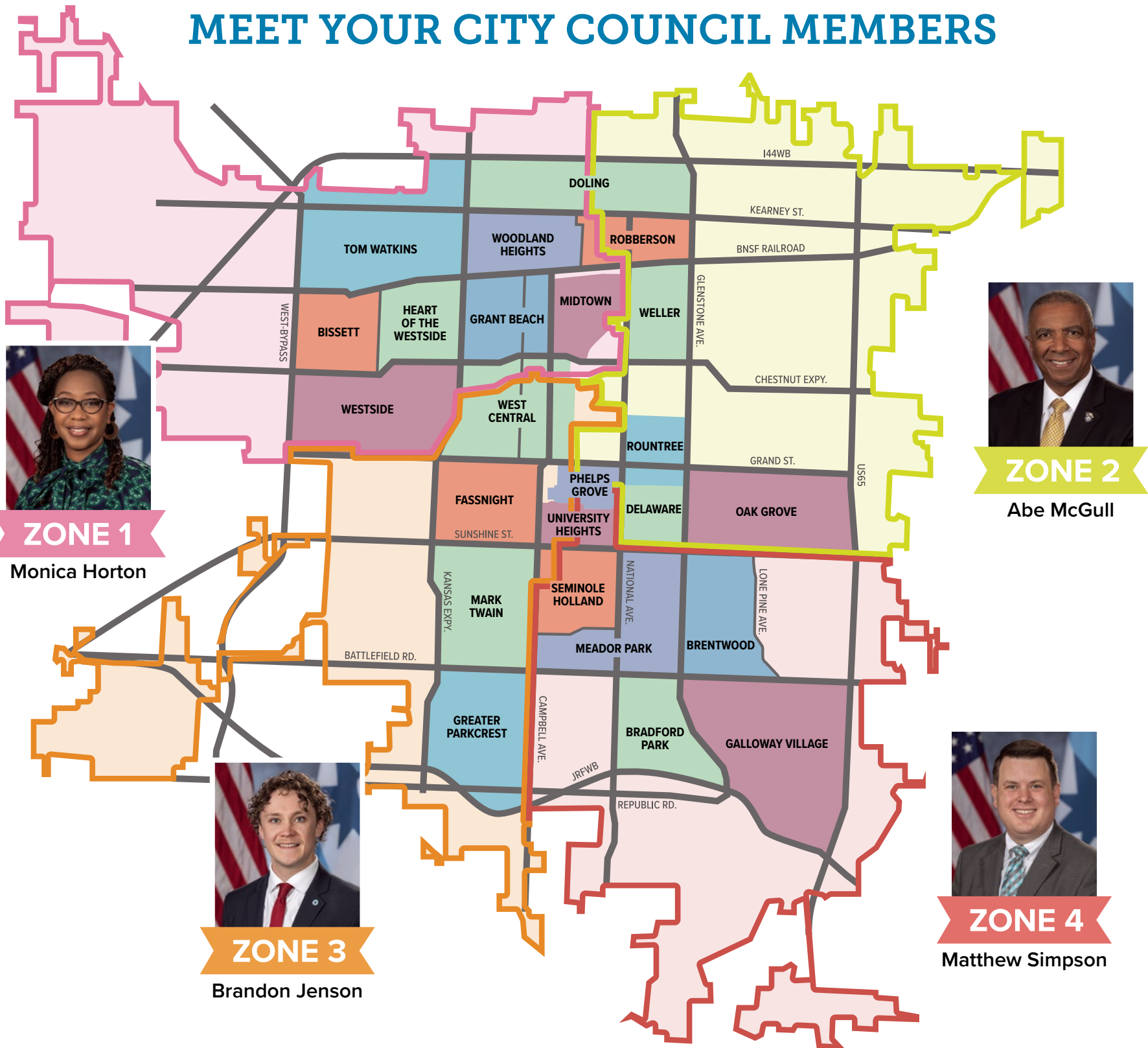
Japanese Fall Festival: Fri.-Sun., Sept. 6-8: Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. A three-day celebration of Japanese culture and Springfield's sister city, Isesaki, Japan, featuring performances, food, activities, vendors and more. Presented by Springfield Sisters Association. Details at PeaceThroughPeople.org.

20th Annual Kid'Athlon: Sat., Sept. 14: 8 a.m., Chesterfield Park and Family Center, 2511 W. Republic Rd. Kids swim, bike, and run their way to victory, taking home medals, T-shirts, goodies, and the pride of finishing a triathlon! Event distances are customized per age group. Register by Sept. 12. ParkBoard.org. Ages 5-12 yrs. *Fee: \$35/child, \$25/additional child (same household).*

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

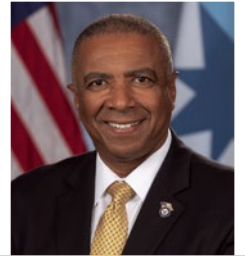
Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods

MEET YOUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



ZONE 1

Monica Horton



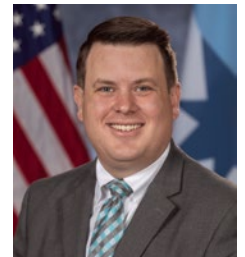
ZONE 2

Abe McGull



ZONE 3

Brandon Jenson



ZONE 4

Matthew Simpson

Ken McClure
Mayor



Heather Hardinger
General Seat A



Craig Hosmer
General Seat B



Callie Carroll
General Seat C



Derek Lee
General Seat D



Watch City Council meetings
on Facebook Live:

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

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FOOD VENDORS • WOMEN'S WORLD EXPO
ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATIONS, AUTHORS, ARTISTS & COLLECTIONS

route66festivalsgf.com



SPECIAL THANKS TO



City of Springfield, MO

**A Partnership to Enhance
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We develop and maintain our community forest by partnering with the citizens of Springfield to plant trees on City right-of-way.

Applicants are responsible for watering and maintaining the tree. Anyone with a City right-of-way can apply for a **FREE** tree.



Learn more about the program and apply at springfieldmo.gov/NeighborWoods.



Contact us at 417-874-2202 or NeighborWoods@Springfieldmo.gov

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