



Read more about the UnGap the Map project and efforts to connect Springfield's greenways on page. 4



Nominations open for 2024 Missouri Engaged Neighbors

By David Burton, for SGFNN

Sept. 28-Oct. 4 is Missouri Good Neighbor Week. Signed into law in 2022, Missouri Good Neighbor Week encourages citizens of Missouri to "participate in events and activities to establish connections with their neighbors." In 2023, our goal was to document 15,000 acts of neighboring, and we surpassed the goal! So, in 2024 our goal is 20,000 Acts of Neighboring being reported across Missouri. What will you do?

neighborliness to help us reach this goal and be entered for a prize. Prizes will be awarded in local counties and statewide.



David Burton

This year, your Acts of Neighboring could help your city be recognized as a Missouri Most Neighborly City!

During Missouri Good Neighbor Week, we want to honor those neighbors who go above and beyond, and we need your help! Individuals can nominate a person for the "Engaged Neighbor of the Year" award. Preference will be shown to nominees who are connected with others in their neighborhood through events, service, or social interaction. All nominees will receive a small gift and their nomination will be considered for state and county prizes during Missouri Good Neighbor Week.

▶ See **GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK** on page 2



Acts of neighborliness are simple gestures that lift others up and make our community a place we love. Acts of Neighboring include sharing small gifts or gestures with neighbors, hosting a gathering, or doing a service project. Register your act of

City updates Neighborhood Health Indicators reports

By Angela Duran, Planning & Development, for SGFNN

The City of Springfield's Department of Planning and Development's Neighborhoods division is changing the way it tracks and reports the health of Springfield's 34 neighborhood service areas.

In addition to redesigning the Neighborhood Health Indicators reports into a dashboard format, we've added several new indicators to offer a more nuanced and comprehensive view of neighborhood demographics and perceived health.

Previously, NHIs were presented quarterly in a "heat map" format comprised of police incident reports, foreclosures, owner occupancy rates and code enforcement cases. We've added neighborhood voting rates, vacant properties, poverty status and number of housing



units, which will allow us to better understand the diverse dynamics within each neighborhood. Also, NHIs will be updated annually instead of quarterly.

▶ See **NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH** on page 2

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ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA INCLUDE:

- Individual nominees must reside in the county that is honoring them and in the state of Missouri;
- Individuals may not self-nominate for this award;
- Nominees may not be compensated for the service described in the nominations; and
- Elected officials may not participate as nominees.



WHAT IS AN ENGAGED NEIGHBOR?

- An "engaged neighbor" makes their neighborhood better.
- They know and interact with their immediate neighbors.
- They try to make sure people in the neighborhood feel included.
- They attend and help at neighborhood activities.
- They devote time and talent in service to their neighbors or neighborhood.
- Their engagement as a neighbor makes the area better for everyone.

This year, your Acts of Neighboring could help your city be recognized as a Missouri Most Neighborly City! Report your Act of Neighboring and it will be credited to your city. The cities will be awarded based on the number of acts reported in their size category (small, medium, large and metro). Awards will be announced after all the reports have been received.

Visit MissouriGoodNeighborWeek.com to learn more, nominate a neighbor or report an act of neighboring.



Below is a key that explains how each figure was calculated, the sources of the data and the Springfield totals for each indicator.

VARIABLE	EXPLANATION	SOURCE	SPRINGFIELD TOTALS
1 Police Incident Reports (2023)	Police incident reports are calls requesting service for assault, auto theft – stolen vehicle, burglary.	Springfield Police Department	12,060
2a Population	The total number of people that live within an area.	U.S. Census Bureau	170,067
2b Housing Units (All Residential Types)	The total number of housing units within an area.	Greene County Assessor Office, U.S. Census Bureau	52,223
2c Vacant Housing Units (Single-Family)	The total number of vacant single-family housing units within an area.	Greene County Assessor Office, United States Postal Service	1,831
2d Voted in the Last 12 Months	The estimated number of adults that voted in federal, local or state elections in the last 12 months.	Greene County Clerk's Office	51%
2e Foreclosure Sales in the Last 5 Years	The number of homes that have been sold via foreclosure sale within the last five years.	Greene County Assessor Office	160
2f Number of Code Violations (in 2023)	The number of code enforcement violations issued within a year. Violations are comprised of nuisance, blight, overgrowth, zoning, and dangerous building issues.	Springfield Building Development Services Department	54,772
3 Number of Properties with Code Violations (2023)	The number of properties within an area that have been issued a code violation by the Springfield Building Development Services department.	Springfield Building Development Services Department	2,937
4 Median Home Value (Single-Family)	Average home value for a single-family home within a give area.	U.S. Census Bureau	\$196,248
5 Household Income (Single-Family)	The amount of income earned by a household in a year within a given area.	U.S. Census Bureau	\$45,400
6 Home Ownership (Single-Family)	The percentage of homeowners that are the principal resident of a residential property.	Greene County Assessor Office	58%
7 Poverty Status	The percentage of households in the given area that live under the poverty level.	U.S. Census Bureau	12.7%

Find your neighborhood's report by visiting the City's website at springfieldmo.gov/nhi and clicking on your neighborhood.

Springfield Fire Department cuts the ribbon for rebuilt Fire Station 7

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The Springfield Fire Department hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the rebuilt Fire Station 7 on July 16 at 2129 E. Sunshine. Fire Station 7 is located on the boundary of the Brentwood and Oak Grove neighborhoods. The old station, built in 1958, had long exceeded its usefulness.

Funding for the new station, which cost just over \$3.5 million, was provided by the voter-approved Level Property Tax. Features of the new station include a "hot zone" design concept with the health and safety of firefighters in mind, decontamination corridors, efficient design focused on expedient delivery of emergency services. Hot zones are spaces within fire stations that may be contaminated, while cold zones are free from risk. Warm zones are the transitional spaces in between.

"We are keeping our promise to Springfield voters," said Fire Chief David Pennington.



The rebuilt Fire Station 4 at 2423 N. Delaware, which became operational in September 2022.

The brand-new \$3 million Fire Station 13 in the 1900 block of West College in the Westside neighborhood. Fire Station 13 was placed into service in February 2023.



The brand-new Fire Station 14 at the northeast corner of West Chestnut Expressway and North Duke Avenue. Construction for station 14 is planned as part of a 2026 bond package made possible by the Level Property Tax.

"We are ecstatic to be able to replace these old stations with modern facilities and equipment, and equally excited to build two new stations in underserved areas of Springfield, both of which have high fire risk," Pennington said.



The tax, which generates about \$8.5 million per year, funded or is funding:

Improvements to Fire Station 10 at 2245 E. Galloway St., which was built in 1979. The newly renovated station became operational in 2022. The \$644,000 renovation included improvements to the station's kitchen, dining and living room spaces, physical fitness areas and sleeping quarters. The laundry area was updated to allow for the proper inspection, cleaning, drying and storage of turnout gear (firefighter protective clothing).

Missouri Job Center and City's Department of Economic Vitality and Workforce Development to relocate to Midtown

By Katherine Proctor, Missouri Job Center, for SGFNN

The Missouri Job Center will relocate to a three-story building at 1600 N. Boonville between the Midtown and Grant Beach neighborhoods this fall.



The Job Center, along with the City's Department of Workforce Development, is currently located in a leased facility at 2900 E. Sunshine. City Council in July approved the purchase of the North Boonville building, which has previously housed Convoy of Hope and Commerce Bank, for \$3.7 million. The new location's proximity to bus stops, Government Plaza and other public service offices should be more convenient for Job Center program participants and staff.

The move comes on the heels of the consolidation of the Workforce Development and Economic Vitality departments over the summer.

According to Economic Vitality Director Amanda Ohlensehler, the consolidation will help the City offer a higher level of service, increase staff capacity and integrate with partner agencies and organizations.

As renovations to the building are completed, a move date will be confirmed and shared with the public. Visit the Job Center's Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn pages for regular updates.



\$1M award to City's Brownfields Revolving Loan Program could benefit Fassnacht, Midtown, downtown and West Central

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 staff presented the City's Brownfields Revolving Loan Program with a \$1 million ceremonial check in August at Jordan Valley Park, itself a brownfields success story. The City's Economic Vitality and Workforce Development Department, which administers the brownfields programs, was notified of the competitive award in May. The grant is part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda to help states, tribal nations, local governments and non-profit organizations assess and clean up polluted brownfield sites across the country. These investments through EPA's Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) Grant Programs and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grant Programs will help transform once-polluted, vacant and abandoned properties into community assets, while helping to create good jobs and spur economic revitalization in overburdened communities.

Brownfields are properties whose redevelopment or reuse are complicated by potential contamination by lead, asbestos, petroleum or other hazardous substances. The City of Springfield's Brownfields Program works to assess, clean up, and facilitate the redevelopment and reuse of brownfields within the city limits of Springfield by providing incentives for qualifying properties, including free Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments, cleanup planning, technical assistance and low-to-no interest loans and subgrants for site remediation.

"The Pacific Community Garden parcels are .16 acres of contaminated soil that will be remediated, which not only improves the environmental health and welfare of a residential neighborhood, but can then be used to grow food for a low-income area and distribute produce throughout the neighborhood."
— Amanda Ohlensehlen

PRIORITY SITES IN SPRINGFIELD

Properties adjacent to the GAP

The City has identified several priority sites for the loan program, including 12 dilapidated properties along South Douglas Avenue adjacent to the Grant Avenue Parkway currently listed for sale. These sites are prioritized to realize the vision of Forward SGF, the GAP redevelopment plan, and begin to regenerate disinvested center city neighborhoods. The Brownfields Revolving Loan Program will be marketed as loans to potential developers for remediation of suspected asbestos, lead based paint, and surrounding soil contamination. Existing City HOME Investment Partnership funds and Community Development



Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) can be leveraged with the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund to target reinvestment in a variety of housing types, neighborhood commercial development and placemaking strategies that connect to the parkway and greenway trails. The properties are also within the GAP Redevelopment Area which will leverage real property tax abatement as an additional layer of incentive.

Pacific Community Garden projects

Another priority for the Brownfields Revolving Loan Program will be subgrants to the Pacific Community Garden projects at 813 and 819 E. Pacific St. Springfield Community Gardens received both lots through donation and are ready to move forward with a project that allows the community to grow food on the lots and then donate the produce back to the community. Lead and arsenic concentrations above acceptable levels have been identified in the soil that need to be addressed before moving forward. Future goals for the site are remediation of contaminated soils and a new market farm for production with a neighborhood processing pack shed and freezer.



Pacific Community Garden located in Midtown

Downtown commercial properties

The City has also identified two commercial properties in downtown Springfield.

The Newberry Building at 132 Park Central Square is currently for sale and is the final property on the square in need of rehabilitation. Multiple developers have shown interest in the property but based on rehab projects in surrounding properties and the age of the building there is likely to be lead based paint, asbestos, and mold within the structure. Leveraging of Brownfields Revolving Loan Funds, HOME and CDBG funding could provide potential developers an incentive package to redevelop the property as a mixed-use commercial and housing

project leading to job creation and be an economic stimulus for the downtown square.

The second commercial building is the former Remington's property at 201 S. Campbell. The current owner of the building has considered redevelopment but extensive rehab, likely asbestos, lead based paint and mold in the structure has prohibited the project from moving forward. Other developers have expressed interest in the building for use as a boutique bowling alley and entertainment venue. Leveraging of Brownfields RLF and commercial CDBG funding could be the catalyst for redevelopment that would lead to job creation and stimulate economic growth in the downtown area.

JOB CREATION AND EXPANDED TAX BASE

Anticipated outcomes from the EPA award include the creation of jobs through the redevelopment of the downtown properties that currently sit vacant but could be providing commercial spaces. Redevelopment of those sites will expand the tax base for Springfield, which relies heavily on sales tax for community services. The availability of brownfields loans and subgrants also allows the City to leverage other programs such as HOME and CDBG funds and Chapters 99, 353 and 100 tax abatement to create additional incentives to redevelopment of environmentally challenged properties, according to Amanda Ohlensehlen, the City's director of Economic Vitality

"The South Douglas Avenue properties cover more than two acres of land. These properties, in their current state, are detriments to the public health of the surrounding area. Their redevelopment and reuse represent an opportunity to create sustainable and equitable housing in a new urban district and solidify investment on the edge of the Grant Avenue Parkway. The Pacific Community Garden parcels are .16 acres of contaminated soil that will be remediated, which not only improves the environmental health and welfare of a residential neighborhood, but can then be used to grow food for a low-income area and distribute produce throughout the neighborhood. The remediation of this market garden will minimize exposure to lead and contribute to connecting community through urban agriculture," she added.

"Springfield has proven itself as a model community regarding its Brownfields Program and Integrated Plan. We have an extensive history of partnership with the EPA, which includes \$8.5 million previously awarded in grants for brownfields assessment, clean up, revolving loan fund and job training programs," said City Manager Jason Gage.

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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PUBLISHER

Jason Gage
jgage@springfieldmo.gov

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Cora Scott
cscott@springfieldmo.gov

MANAGING EDITOR

Melissa Haase
mhaase@springfieldmo.gov

DESIGNER

Rebecca Pfitzner
rpfitzner@springfieldmo.gov

PHOTOGRAPHER/WEB DESIGNER

Christopher Akins
cakins@springfieldmo.gov

CONTRIBUTORS

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Mary Ann Bonetti | Kristen Milam |
| Sharon L. Brooks | Mark Montgomery |
| David Burton | Dellene Nelson |
| Debbie Butts | Chance Parish |
| Angela Duran | Francine Pratt |
| Nancy Evans | Katherine Proctor |
| Glenn Gohr | Pete Radecki |
| Melissa Green | Cris Swaters |
| Jan Hutcherson | Vicky Trippe |
| Betty Johnson | Becky Volz |
| Charity Keniley | Jared Williard |
| Duane Keys | Nancy Williams |

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
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| Carolyn Goucher | Colby Wallace |
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| Hanna Knopf | Peggy Wise |
| Terry Kolaks | |

SUBMISSIONS

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

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SGF Yields hosting Lantern Walks Oct. 5 in several neighborhoods

By Melissa Haase,
Managing Editor



October is national Pedestrian Safety Month. In 2021, Springfield started holding annual Lantern Walks to draw attention to our most vulnerable road users in a fun and educational way. This year's Lantern Walks will take place in the Rountree, Delaware, West Central and Galloway Village neighborhoods, and along Commercial Street (hosted by the Woodland Heights and Robberson neighborhoods).

Organized through the pedestrian safety program SGF Yields, the City of Springfield partners with neighborhoods to organize the Lantern Walks. Neighbors, schools and families are encouraged to

build and decorate luminaries ahead of the event.

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

Lanterns can easily be crafted at home or at a free lantern-making workshop 5-7 p.m. Oct. 4 at the Creamery Art Center, 411 N. Sherman Parkway. For more information visit springfieldmo.gov/lanternwalk.



Construction nearing completion at several schools

By SPS Communications, for SGFNN

This fall, Mann, Pittman, Watkins and Wilder will open new storm shelter gymnasiums, and construction is underway at Cowden and Holland Elementary for their own storm shelter gymnasiums.

In addition, walls are going up at Reed Academy and work is underway for Pipkin Middle School and Pershing School.

On April 4, 2023, 77.67% of Springfield voters approved a request to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$220 million to fund critical school improvements prioritized by a citizen task force that will impact every school in the district. This no-tax rate increase to the debt service levy will fund multiple high-priority projects that include safety and security upgrades at all school facilities, new construction for Pipkin and Reed middle schools, renovation of Pershing School, and construction of storm shelters at Cowden, Holland, Mann, Pittman, Watkins, and Wilder elementaries.



The new storm shelter at Horace Mann Elementary School in the Greater Parkcrest neighborhood



Construction at Cowden Elementary School in the Meador Park neighborhood



The new storm shelter at Watkins Elementary School in the Doling neighborhood

Watch SPS's August Progress as Promised video at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com

City of Springfield awarded nearly \$25 million RAISE Grant for UnGap the Map project

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The City of Springfield was notified by the U.S. Department of Transportation June 26 that it was selected to receive a fiscal year 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant in the amount of \$24.8 million for the "UnGap the Map" project, one of the Top 10 initiatives of the Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan.

The "UnGap the Map" project will construct approximately 3.14 miles of greenway trails connecting neighborhoods on the west side of Springfield. The project will eliminate at-grade crossings, install approximately four pedestrian bridges, remove abandoned culverts, install traffic calming and green infrastructure, construct ADA-accessible sidewalks and provide dedicated bicycle paths.

RAISE grants are awarded on a competitive basis for planning or constructing surface transportation infrastructure projects that advance the program goals of improving safety; equity; environmental sustainability; quality of life; workforce development and job quality; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity for wealth creation. Grants are awarded to projects that proactively address environmental justice in neighborhoods most impacted by decades of underinvestment, have been overburdened by pollution and located in areas of persistent poverty.

"The project is intended to connect these severed trails and provide a fully connected trail system from westside neighborhoods to natural green space, regional parks, economic opportunities, downtown Springfield, and beyond." – Mayor Ken McClure

"City staff analyzed and prioritized critical gaps in the greenway system based on past community engagement and to target resources in historically impoverished neighborhoods. The project is intended to connect these severed trails and provide a fully connected trail system from westside neighborhoods to natural green space,



The National Historic Trail of Tears route runs through Springfield. Portions of the National Historic Trail of Tears have been preserved with the Trail of Tears greenway trail. The segment at Republic Road and Golden Avenue has been preserved with a primitive, natural surface trail. A half-mile paved segment, that parallels the Trail of Tears historical route, begins at Nathanael Greene Park and continues south to Battlefield Road.

regional parks, economic opportunities, downtown Springfield, and beyond," said Mayor Ken McClure.

The RAISE grant will construct three vital trail connections and fulfill goals in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2021), the College Street Corridor Plan (2012), the West Central Neighborhood Plan (1998, currently being updated), Ozark Transportation Organization's (OTO) Destination 2045 Plan and the OTO Trail Study (2017).

The connections and construction of the Jordan Creek, Wilson's Creek and Trail of Tears greenways will fill trail gaps in some of Springfield's most under-resourced neighborhoods, connect residents to Nathanael Greene and Rutledge-Wilson parks, the Grant Avenue Parkway, downtown Springfield, health care facilities, goods and services and the City Utilities Transit Center. The trails go beyond recreation – they provide a viable and equitable active transportation network for all residents of Springfield and the surrounding region.

"This project will provide transportation choices for the city's most vulnerable populations to connect residents to employment centers, training and education, and enhancing opportunities for social interaction, strengthening the social fabric of our neighborhoods, which are important predictors of well-being," said Director of Economic Vitality and Workforce Development Amanda Ohlensehlen.

Forward SGF emphasizes that infrastructure and resources must be allocated to Springfield's most under-resourced neighborhoods to elevate their standard of living to match other thriving areas. Poverty was one of the most cited issues during the Forward SGF community outreach process. Springfield's northern and western neighborhoods were also identified during outreach and in the Forward SGF Issues and Opportunities

Report to have the highest levels of disinvestment, aging infrastructure, poverty and unaffordable housing. The "UnGap the Map" project is intended to address the lack of transportation choices for the most vulnerable populations in Springfield while providing a safe and dedicated active transportation system.

The project will improve system-wide connectivity by providing 3.14 miles of dedicated trail that creates the critical mass of connected greenways in the city, amounting to more 25.2 miles of trail connectivity. The current longest continuous trail segment within the city is approximately six miles with the South Creek Trail that terminates at both ends and is utilized mostly for recreation.

These 3.14 miles are critical gaps that provide exponential connectivity to an area of the city that has been isolated by vehicle dominated transportation investments. These connections provide meaningful access to transit, provide micro-mobility, reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles, and expand transportation choices for residents. By providing a direct connection to the only mass transit station in the city the project will facilitate vital connections between different modes of transportation, making it easier for residents to access employment centers, educational institutions, health care facilities, and other essential destinations.

"This award builds on the City's success with the Grant Avenue Parkway and demonstrates our ability to leverage grant dollars to attract reinvestment in key neighborhoods. The project continues to implement Forward SGF by closing the gaps in the trail network and connecting people to nature," said City Manager Jason Gage.

Ohlensehlen added that matching funds for this grant are not required because all trail gaps and related infrastructure upgrades are primarily located in census tracts located within federally designated Areas of Persistent Poverty (APP) or Historically Disadvantaged Communities (HDC). U.S. Department of Transportation expects all RAISE funding to be obligated no later than Sept. 30, 2028 and expended by Sept. 30, 2033.



Replacement 3/4-cent tax to appear on Nov. 5 ballot

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

On Nov. 5, 2024, the City of Springfield, on the recommendation of the Citizens Commission on Community Investment, will submit to qualified voters the following question:

Shall the City of Springfield, Missouri, enact a city sales tax at the rate of three-quarters of one percent (¾-cent), one-quarter for the purpose of funding public safety initiatives, to include funding the remaining obligation of the Springfield Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and increasing police officer and firefighter pay, with said one-quarter to not sunset, and two-quarters for the purpose of funding projects consistent with the City's comprehensive plan, to include capital improvements, community and neighborhood initiatives, and park projects, with said two-quarters to sunset after a period of ten years? (Note: there will be no increase in the current sales tax level if the ¾-cent sales tax is approved.)

OVERVIEW

Springfield's ¾-cent sales tax is set to expire on March 31, 2025. The tax has been in place for 15 years and generates about \$45 million annually.

The ¾-cent sales tax is currently dedicated solely to funding the City's Police and Fire Pension Fund. It was first approved by voters in 2009 and has been renewed two times for five-year terms in 2014 and 2019. An earlier community task force deemed the sales tax necessary at a time when the pension system was underfunded by about \$200 million.

Revenues from the tax have shrunk that funding gap considerably. As of July 30, 2023, the system held 90.7% of the assets needed to pay accumulated benefits, according to the most recent actuarial valuation report. In addition to the revenue from the sales tax, the city contributes about \$5.4 million in general revenue annually to the retirement system. The pension plan funded by the sales tax was closed to new hires in 2006. Police officers and firefighters are now enrolled in the state LAGERS retirement plan.

Another five-year renewal of the tax would likely produce far more revenue than is necessary to meet the goal of fully funding the Police-Fire Pension. The City is still obligated, and is committed to, meeting the funding needs of paying out promised benefits, regardless of the existence or not of the sales tax. That contribution is estimated to be \$4-\$6 million a year for roughly the next 10 years.

In addition, if the tax is not replaced, the City's use tax, which matches the overall sales tax rate, would be reduced. The anticipated impact to the City would be about \$5.2 million annually: a \$2.6 million loss to the general fund and \$2.6 million loss to the transportation fund.

Mayor Ken McClure appointed a 30-member Citizens' Commission on Community Investment (CCCI), representing a variety of diverse backgrounds, sectors and opinions. In mid-2024, the CCCI recommended a replacement tax with pension system contributions, public safety and projects related to the Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan at the forefront.

SPRING Forward is the framework identified by the CCCI in their recommendation:

- Safety
- Public Initiatives

- Recreation
- Investing in the
- Next
- Generation

To accomplish this framework, the CCCI recommended allocating the current ¾ cent amount with ¼ cent to public safety and the remaining ½ cent to comprehensive plan initiatives.

The ¼ cent would produce approximately \$15 million a year initially which would cover the required remaining contributions to the Police-Fire Pension system and increase police and fire pay to a level competitive with peer cities. This portion of the tax would have no sunset as it covers police and fire personnel expenses which are an ongoing cost.

The ½ cent would produce approximately \$30 million a year initially which would allow for investments in neighborhood and community initiatives consistent with the comprehensive plan. This portion would have a 10-year sunset and strong accountability measures recommended by the CCCI including defined project considerations and an ongoing citizens' advisory committee to provide oversight and project recommendations.

Should voters approve the new ¾-cent sales tax to replace the expiring Police-Fire Pension Sales Tax, Springfield's overall sales tax rate will not increase. Shoppers would continue to pay ¾ cent for every \$1 spent.

While the current tax has been successful in addressing past issues with the Police-Fire Pension system it has not allowed for additional needed investments in the future of our community. This proposal would allow for improvements in public safety, quality of place, and economic growth with no increase to the current tax level.

City Council voted unanimously on Aug. 5 to adopt the recommendation of the CCCI and place the replacement sales tax on the November 2024 ballot. If approved, the new tax could take effect on April 1, 2025.

BREAKDOWN

The Citizens' Commission recommended allocating the current ¾-cent amount with ¼ cent to public safety and the remaining ½ cent to Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan initiatives.

¼: NO SUNSET

The ¼ cent would produce approximately \$15 million a year initially, which would cover the required remaining contributions to the Police-Fire Pension system and increase police and fire pay to a level competitive with peer cities. This portion of the tax would have no sunset as it covers police and fire personnel expenses which are an ongoing cost.

½: 10-YEAR SUNSET

The ½ cent would produce approximately \$30 million a year initially, which would allow for investments in neighborhood and community initiatives consistent with the Forward SGF Comprehensive Plan. This portion would have a 10-year sunset and strong accountability measures recommended by the Citizens' Commission on

QUESTION 1

SPRING
FORWARD SGF



A replacement ¾-cent sales tax will:

- NOT increase the current sales tax rate.
- Honor Police-Fire Pension obligation.
- Increase Police & Fire pay and benefits.
- Provide for neighborhood and community initiatives.
- Allow for investments in the future of our community.

Learn more at
SpringfieldMO.gov/Election.



Community Investment including defined project considerations and an ongoing citizens' advisory committee to provide project recommendations.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

While specific improvement projects would be selected based upon public feedback and recommendations by a citizens' advisory committee, examples of projects identified by Forward SGF include:

- Infrastructure investments intended to promote growth and improve Quality of Place for residents
- Restore SGF program intended to revitalize neighborhoods and promote home ownership
- Springfield's network of greenway trails (UnGap the Map) Park projects intended to improve outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and attract visitors
- Phased implementation of the Lake Springfield Plan improvements
- Completing the Springfield Art Museum Plan
- Corridor improvements to highly trafficked gateway routes.

As always, the City will follow the Completed as Promised model for identifying and prioritizing proposed funded projects. This will include public engagement and community awareness about proposed projects every four to five years, in conjunction with an ongoing citizens' advisory committee to provide project recommendations based on public feedback.

CPO purchases former Legal Services of Southern Missouri building for use as drop-in center

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

A building that formerly housed services for low-income people will continue in that capacity as a purpose-driven, drop-in day center to help people transition out of homelessness.

“We are grateful for the funding from the City and look forward to offering this new resource to our community.” – Janet Dankert

Using City of Springfield-allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) purchased 809 N. Campbell for \$1.7 million in July. The building formerly housed Legal Services of Southern Missouri, which relocated to 3130 S. Delaware in early summer.

The day center will connect those who are unsheltered with specialized case managers promoting mental health, health care, social, legal, and housing services in a safe and supportive environment using best practice trauma-informed care. The tentative opening date for the center is spring 2025.

“We are grateful for the funding from the City and look forward to offering this new resource to our community,” said Janet Dankert, CPO president/CEO.



Springfield-Greene County Health names new Communication and Outreach Coordinator

Provided by Springfield-Greene County Health

Springfield-Greene County Health is pleased to name Anna Kremer as Communication and Outreach Coordinator. Kremer joined the Health Department as a Health Policy Analyst in July 2023. In this role, Kremer developed communication about legislation and other health topics and educated the community, health leaders and policymakers about public health.

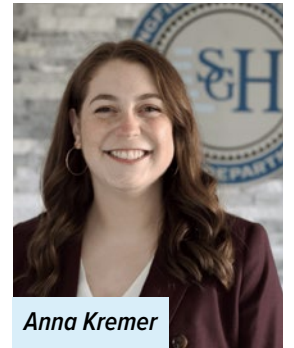
“I am grateful to Health Department leadership for this opportunity, and I am excited to continue working alongside the public and our partners to promote and protect community health.” – Anna Kremer

Kremer brings nine years of healthcare, public health policy and leadership experience to the Health Department. In her first year at SGCHD, she helped the new maternal-child health program, Family Connects, secure \$1 million in funding from

the state of Missouri. Kremer also managed the Health Department's activities within the Healthy Living Alliance of the Ozarks, helping to foster community partnerships and identify health priorities. She previously served as a Senior Learning Designer at Cerner Corporation and holds a Master of Public Health from St. Louis University.

As Coordinator of Communication and Outreach, Kremer joins the administrative team at the Health Department. Her primary responsibilities include development and implementation of the department's communication and outreach strategy, media relations, health promotion and health policy.

“In my time at the Health Department, I have enjoyed building relationships with our stakeholders and members of the community,” Kremer said. “I am grateful to Health Department leadership for this opportunity, and I am excited to continue working alongside the public and our partners to promote and protect community health.”



Anna Kremer

Shaquille O'Neal, Springfield Police team up for firearm safety

By Cris Swaters, Springfield Police Department for SGFNN

Shaquille O'Neal and police departments across the country are teaming up to ensure gun owners everywhere practice firearms security and safety at home.

In partnership with the Community Partnership of the Ozarks' Gun Safety Collaborative, which brings together numerous public safety and community agencies to address gun violence in Springfield, the Springfield Police Department is asking all legal gun owners to commit to the Right to Carry, Duty to Secure effort to encourage the safe storage of personal firearms.

According to the latest available data, most Americans, including gun owners, agree that firearm security by people who lawfully own guns is reasonable and necessary. Responsible gun owners in Springfield have a duty to always secure their firearms.

Responsible gun ownership means never leaving a firearm

unsecured and

unattended in a vehicle. When at home, a responsible gun owner always secures their firearm in a gun safe or a lock box or uses a gun lock to make the firearm inoperable for anyone other than the owner.

Each year nationwide, approximately 200,000 guns are stolen in private theft incidents. The leading source for stolen guns is from vehicles. Since 2020, 876 handguns have been stolen from vehicles in Springfield, including 88 in 2024. That's why this PSA is a “slam dunk” for families across America. Take it from Shaq, “You may have a right to carry, but you have a duty to secure your firearms.”

Watch the PSA at vimeo.com/1004295174.



Springfield POLICE

A promotional poster for the 2024 NOVAS event. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a large, faint star shape. The text "2024" is in white, "NOVAS" is in large red letters, and "6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3" is in white. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "The Old Glass Place • 521 East St. Louis Street" in white. Logos for "COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP" and "AIR SERVICES ALL SERVICE PROFESSIONAL PLUMBING" are at the bottom.

Gun Safety and Violence – We Can Do Something!

By Francine Pratt, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, for SGFNN

Sometimes there are topics that need to be discussed even though they can be emotional and sensitive. This is the case when it comes to gun safety and gun violence. However, awareness with facts and data are ways to guide the conversation to community action. Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) has been focusing on ways individuals and families can store firearms with home safety kits. The kits contain a lock box, a cable lock and several other resources.

Just having firearms secured can increase gun safety. CPO's website – cpozarks.org – offers the "Helping Everyone Learn Prevention" (HELP) video series to provide online prevention resources. The short videos share information about misuse of specific drugs, drug-related problems and violence prevention. SOS (Signs of Suicide) Prevention Program is a powerful mini video that includes information about the program and what to do if you notice signs of suicide in a friend or loved one.

"Safe firearm handling and storage can save lives and prevent harm." – Chad Davis

Last year, CPO started the Gun Safety and Gun Violence Reduction Collaborative to reduce suicide by gun and youth gun violence. A news conference took place in September to officially launch the collaborative's work. As a community, we can build strong communities and neighborhoods.

There are many discussions about guns with responsible owners versus guns used for criminal acts. Sometimes even responsible gun owners may not realize things they do that could lead to misuse of their firearm. For example, a upstanding community member, who takes their gun with them when they leave the house and then leaves the gun in their car. Suppose someone knows they leave their gun in their car, or someone breaks into their car and steals the gun. The stolen gun is then used to commit a crime and another person becomes the victim of gun violence. Could this situation have been prevented? Most likely if the gun had not been left in the car or if a gun safety lock has been used.

Another example is when someone uses a gun to end their life. I learned through the World Health Organization that a person makes approximately 20 attempts to take their own life before actual doing so. One of the things I admire about this city is that Springfield has never been afraid of addressing tough, difficult and sensitive matters from an approach of what can we do. We recognize the collaborative spirit of Springfield has tackled many challenging issues. According to research from the University of Michigan, a starting point for addressing gun safety and violence issues can start with community readiness to develop a plan to address them.

Several entities and organizations have focused on outreach and messaging about suicide, mental health, men's mental health and access to guns. However, the new CPO Gun Safety and Gun Violence Collaborative has a plan to address

these issues, determine the gaps and complete an ecosystem of community readiness to increase gun safety and reduce gun violence. The City of Springfield provided startup funding for this work this year and the Missouri Foundation for Health awarded CPO a three-year grant to help save lives and address issues that may contribute to gun violence.

According to the Every Town for Gun Safety organization, over half of the suicides in the United States are carried out using a gun.

The new Collaborative is finalizing a community approach with education and awareness about gun injury prevention such as other new initiatives like the suicide prevention hotline, which allows a person to call or text 988 to be connected with a trained mental health counselor. We also recognize the importance of involving parents and guardians of young people, ages 13 to 17, who are increasingly obtaining access to guns. According to a member of Moms Demand Action, nearly 700 children a year, ages 17 and under die by suicide with a gun. We want to gather data specific to Springfield and be in a better position to reduce the number of young people accessing guns. One tool this organization uses is the SMART acronym for outreach:

- **S**ecure all guns in your home and vehicles.
- **M**odel responsible behavior around guns.
- **A**sk about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes.
- **R**ecognize the role of guns in suicide.
- **T**ell your peers about SMART.

Local city and county law enforcement will continue to focus on the criminal aspects of gun violence while the community develops the most acceptable gun safety with proactive prevention concepts that include responsible gun safety and ways to reduce gun related suicides. These efforts include a focus on mental health related issues that can lead to suicide.

According to the Every Town for Gun Safety organization, over half of the suicides in the United States are carried out using a gun. For children and minors ages 10 to 17 years of age, that proportion is 43%. In January 2023, the Springfield News-Leader reported an increase in firearm injuries to kids. An Ozarks Department of Mental Health survey in 2022 reported that 6.7% of Greene County's 6-12th grade students reported attempting suicide in the last year and 10.1% reported planning suicide in the last year. According to Chris Davis vice president of prevention and youth support at CPO, "Safe firearm handling and storage can save lives and prevent harm."

For more information please contact Francine Pratt at fpratt@cpozarks.org. Clay Goddard with Burrell Behavioral Health and Francine Pratt with CPO Prosper Springfield are co-chairs of the CPO Gun Safety and Gun Violence Collaborative.



Nearly 700 children a year, ages 17 and under die by suicide with a gun.

– Moms Demand Action



S.M.A.R.T.

Secure all guns in your home and vehicles.

Model responsible behavior around guns.

Ask about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes.

Recognize the role of guns in suicide.

Tell your peers about S.M.A.R.T.

Deadline extended: Provide feedback via Community Development Needs Survey through Nov. 1

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The City of Springfield is administering a Community Development Needs Survey through Nov. 1 to City residents, neighborhood groups, businesses, developers and public and private sector service providers to assess community needs in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, public services, public and private improvements and infrastructure and public facilities.



Results of the survey will be used in an assessment of community development needs applied to the City's 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and will help the City program funding in each of the five areas listed above.

Each year, the City of Springfield receives federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) due to its population, demographics and available funding. Based on current funding levels, the City estimates it will receive approximately \$1.5 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and approximately \$1 million in HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds each of the next five years. These funds primarily benefit low to moderate-income households.

Take the survey by scanning the QR code above. Paper copies of the survey are available upon request by calling 417-864-1308.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Great things happen when neighbors work together

By Becky Volz, for SGFNN

We have just wrapped up another season of Clean Green SGF. It was very successful and made a huge impact in our neighborhoods for neighbors needing a little more time to toss unwanted clutter and items. Who knew that getting rid of tires, TVs and mattresses could be so exciting?! Then, in the midst of our Clean Green activities, we were challenged with a new competition between all of our registered neighborhoods.

This is our community. It is up to us to keep it beautiful and friendly. We have great partners with the City who help keep our neighborhoods clean and safe as well. This works best when all hands are on deck.

This competition, called Neat Neighborhoods, offered monetary prizes to be distributed among participating registered neighborhoods in each council zone. Volunteers were challenged to create beautification projects and collaborate with neighborhood stakeholders on improvements in public spaces. As a pilot program, sponsored by the Hatch Foundation, we have seen what dedicated neighbors can accomplish when given a timeline and an incentive. There is a lot of creativity sitting on front porches around our city. Tap into the possibilities!

I've seen a shift this year in neighbors wanting to connect and get more involved. Activities like Clean Green and Neat Neighborhoods open doors for things we can do together. Also, more opportunities to learn about good neighboring have become available to us through the MU Extension programs and the Good Neighbor Week activities. There is no lack for ideas. We just need to step over our shyness

and talk to a neighbor. Accept the challenge!

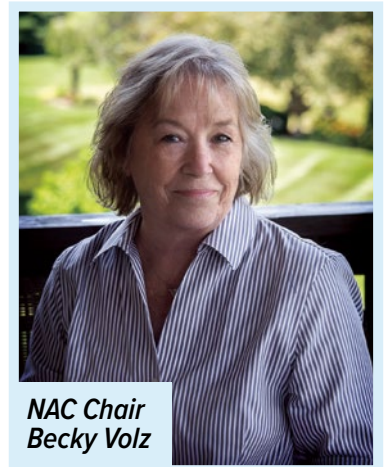
The new Property Care Team program is still in the formation stage. This

program will give some structure to neighborhoods who struggle with nuisance properties as well as some guidelines on dealing with these issues. Our goal is to partner with the City's Building Development Services Department (BDS) to keep our neighborhoods cleaner and safer. Please contact me if you would like to know more about this program by emailing nac.sgf.658@gmail.com.

Be on the lookout for neighborhood meeting signs around your neighborhood. The City's Planning & Development Department has been assisting us by creating yard signs announcing the time and location of neighborhood meetings. Another marketing effort several neighborhoods have used recently has been door hangers. These have pertinent information announcing meeting locations, activities and social media pages. If your neighborhood is ready to distribute door hangers, let us know. We will help you get them printed. This has been a successful effort to bring more people to meetings and events for those who have participated. Neighborhood association meetings and activities are not limited to homeowners. We are here and organized for ALL residents.

This is our community. It is up to us to keep it beautiful and friendly. We have great partners with the City who help keep our neighborhoods clean and safe as well. This works best when all hands are on deck.

Let's keep working together and reach out to those around us. Start with a smile and a wave!



NAC Chair
Becky Volz

NEIGHBOR WOODS



City of Springfield, MO

A Partnership
to Enhance
Springfield's
Community
Forest



Learn more springfieldmo.gov/NeighborWoods.

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



RUTLEDGE-WILSON FARM PARK

Harvest
FEST

2024

FREE
ADMISSION




OCT. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27
 Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. | Sun., 12-6 p.m.

ParkBoard.org/HarvestFest



BISSETT NEIGHBORHOOD



Bissett launches Trash Troopers to pick up litter

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

How about a program that requires no meetings, is good exercise and helps make our neighborhood cleaner, safer and friendlier?

Motivated in part by the Neat Neighborhoods Initiative, last spring, BNA was looking for such a program. We started connecting dots, and as a result the Bissett Trash Troopers was launched! We found that there are quite a few Bissett folks who take walks around the neighborhood and others who might want to, but have lacked motivation.

At the same time, it is all too frequent that litter gets thrown from cars or blows in and clutters up our roadways. We figured one way to help solve that problem is if the folks out walking take a bag along and pick up litter, and voila, the Bissett Trash Troopers program was born!

Our intrepid trekkers simply do that and keep track of the days they were a Trash Trooper. All Troopers who performed eight pickup walks or more by the end of August will be celebrated at

BNA's October general membership meeting with a free meal, a certificate and a chance at a prize! As of late August, we've had more than 100 trash pickup walks done by 16 Trash Troopers. We're really pleased with the start of this program and aim to grow it in the future.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

- Oct. 8 • Nov. 12 • Dec. 10 (Christmas Dinner & Party)
- Jan. 14: 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  

Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!

In memory of Georgia Burton, a light for all of us in Bissett

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

Georgia Queen Burton, a long-time resident of our neighborhood and member of BNA, passed away in August just a couple of months before her 100th birthday. Two guiding lights that Miss Georgia would say: First, she would tell you we all need to get along and love one another no matter who we are or what we look like, and second she was not one to say, "Not my problem."

It's no wonder, then, that she was largely responsible for getting lights installed in our neighborhood park. So for those of us who knew and loved Miss Georgia, every time we look up at those beautiful lights in our park, we'll be thinking of you and about your guiding lights that inspire us all. She brought a little light where there was darkness. May she rest in peace.

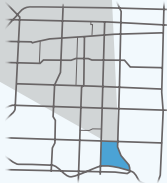


Read more about Miss Georgia at sgfneighborhoodnews.com/do-you-know-georgia-burton-bissett.



The walking track at Nichols Park in the nearby Heart of the Westside neighborhood got some much needed repair recently. Read more in the Heart of the Westside Neighborhood section on page 17.

BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 8 • Nov. 12 • Dec. 10 • Jan. 14: 6:30 p.m.

@ Immaculate Conception Church (3555 S. Fremont Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Follow Bradford Park on

Bradford Park neighbors participate in Neat Neighborhoods competition, recognize Great Neighbors

By Dellene Nelson, for SGFNN

Bradford Park neighbors glued 150 decals provided by James River Basin Partnership to neighborhood storm drains as part of our Neat Neighborhoods competition. The purpose of the decals is to remind folks that the storm drains drain directly to the James River, so please don't blow grass clippings or dump chemicals into them.



Bradford Park awarded several Great Neighbor awards over the summer. Muriel Becket and Steve and Cindy Morton were recognized in July. August recipients were Pat Bezdek and Cathy Mastrantuono. September's were Tony and Jennifer Wilson and Glenda Sours.

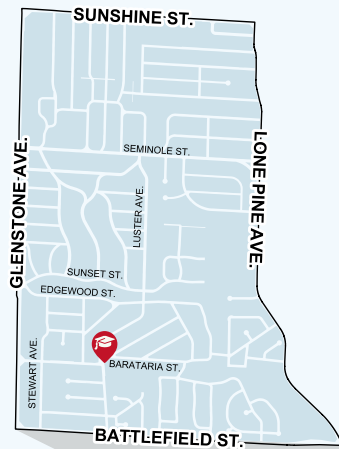
FALL CLEANUP SAT., OCT. 26

8 a.m.-Noon

Immaculate Conception Church (3555 S. Fremont Ave.)



BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Sept. 30 • Oct. 28 • Nov. 25 • Dec. 30: 6:30 p.m.

@ Unity of Springfield (2214 E. Seminole 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

FALL CLEANUP SAT., NOV. 2

8 a.m.-Noon

Enterprise Park Lanes (1625 S. Enterprise Ave.)



The Springfield Fire Department held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Fire Station 7 at 2129 E. Sunshine St. on July 16. Read the full story on page 3.

DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

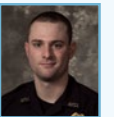
- Nancy Williams, President: delawareneighborhood@gmail.com or 417-496-2187
- Paris DePaepe, Treasurer
- Cynthia Yarbrough, Secretary

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 1 • Nov. 5 • Dec. 3 • Jan. 7: 6 p.m. @ Delaware Elementary Community Room (1505 S. Delaware Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Delaware Elementary School
1505 S. Delaware Ave.

Follow Delaware on

Delaware looks forward to Lantern Walk, fall cleanup in October

By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

Delaware held its annual Ice Cream Social / Neighborhood Night Out July 17, with a food tent by Caracas House and music by The Traveling Troubadours. The event was hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church. And, of course, there were free ice cream treats! Next up is Lantern Walk centered at Delaware Elementary on Oct. 5, and our neighborhood cleanup with Rountree Oct. 12.

FALL CLEANUP SAT., OCT. 12

8 a.m.-Noon

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



DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD



Doling participates in Midtown's July 4 parade

Provided by the Doling Neighborhood Association

Thanks to everyone who came out to the July 4 parade. We had a busy spring and summer with the spring cleanup and SGF Kickball Tournament.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 17 • Nov. 21 • Dec. 19: 6:30 p.m. @ Hillcrest Presbyterian Church (818 E. Norton Rd.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer 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

Mobile Library Stop

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

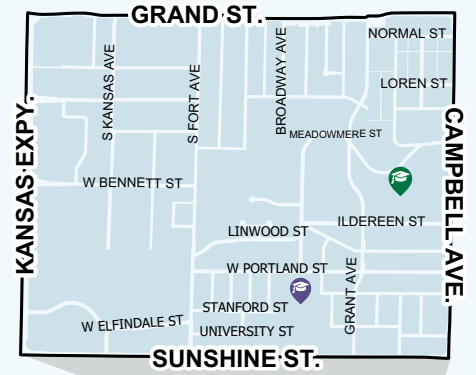
Wednesdays: 3:20-3:50 p.m.

Glenwood Manor (2540 N. Delaware Ave.)



Doling Park (301 E. Talmage St.) in the fall from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board

FASSNIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

- Nathan Cook, President:
fassnightneighbors@gmail.com
- Phillip Herzog, Vice President
- Jamie Moore, Secretary

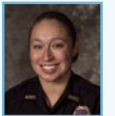


Neighborhood Association Meetings

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each quarter at 6:30 p.m. @ Restore SGF (1409 W. Sunshine St.) Please contact a neighborhood officer or check the Facebook group for exact dates.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

Officer Julinn 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



The completed Grant and Portland intersection features new traffic signals and intersection alignment, new raised crosswalks and pedestrian infrastructure. The intersection also connects school vehicle and pedestrian traffic to the new Jarrett Middle School to the west of the Grant Avenue Parkway via a newly constructed multi-use path.



GALLOWAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

Galloway Village spends summer sprucing up roadways, greenways and park

By Melissa Green, for SGFNN

It's been an exciting summer in Galloway Village as residents jumped into the Neat Neighborhoods contest and spent many hours brainstorming, implementing and participating in neighborhood beautification projects. The association covers a large and diverse area and residents have always taken a lot of care to maintain the neighborhood. When the leadership team began to plan specific beautification events, we turned to our association members to help identify areas of the community that needed a little extra love.



Association members identified multiple areas where litter accumulates. We organized several Tidy Tuesday cleanups on Gasconade near Highway 65; Mentor between Republic Road and Independence; Republic Road between Mentor and Luster; and, coordinating with an established road adopter, on Luster between Republic Road and Galloway Street. We collected more than 30 bags of trash in these areas.

To raise awareness of the problem of cigarette butts and miniature liquor bottles, we held a Butts and Bottles contest to award the individual who



collected the most with a prize. The contest was a huge success and, as a community, we collected more than 800 cigarette butts and 200 miniature liquor bottles!

Galloway's green spaces are especially important to residents and visitors alike. We held two stream cleanups, as well as a cleanup of the Ozarks Greenway trail through the entire length of the neighborhood. We also completed a Sequoia Park cave cleanup.

As a grand finale to the Neat Neighborhoods summer, we planned a renovation of the Sequoia Park pavilion. The pavilion was power washed, years of tape removed, and the structure repainted. The result will be enjoyed by park-goers for years to come!



To celebrate a successful summer of beautifying the neighborhood, a Picnic in the Park and Back to School Bash was held. As neighbors gathered to enjoy food and music, everyone looked back on all that was accomplished and felt thankful to live in such a great neighborhood.

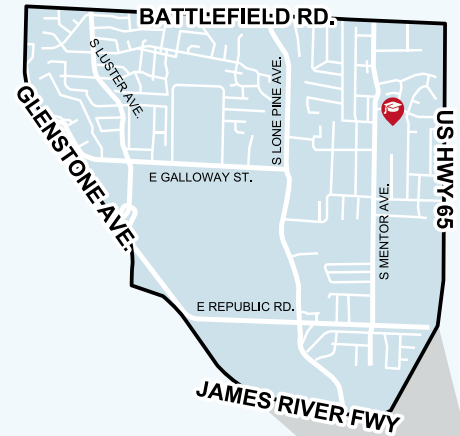


Lone Pine Avenue Recycling Center building improvements nearing completion

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

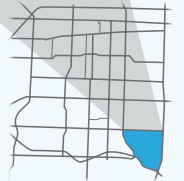
Improvements to an underutilized wastewater building located at the Lone Pine Avenue Recycling Center at 3020 S. Lone Pine Ave., are expected to wrap up in early fall. The project includes exterior maintenance to the building with a new roof, windows, doors and signage. A public restroom will be installed for recycling center customers, as well as a new office area. Additional fencing and gate improvements will be made as well as technology upgrades for security cameras and credit card payments at the mulch and compost sales area.

Improvements to the facility were funded through the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 15 • Jan. 21: 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

LANTERN WALK SAT., OCT. 5

Starts at Sunset

Read more about Lantern Walks on page 5 and visit SpringfieldMO.gov/LanternWalk for your neighborhood route map.

FALL CLEANUP SAT., OCT. 26

8 a.m.-Noon

Immaculate Conception Church
(3555 S. Fremont Ave.)



GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD



City to host Boo at the Bin trash or treat night at Franklin Avenue Recycling Center Oct. 24

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The City of Springfield invites residents to Boo at the Bin, a family-friendly night of fun and recycling 6-9 p.m., on Thursday, Oct. 24 at the Franklin Avenue Recycling Center, 731 N. Franklin Ave.

Staff from the City's Environmental Services and Public Works departments will be on hand with a variety of equipment, activities and treats to help families learn about recycling and other City resources and services. Staff will greet guests in full costume sharing trivia and a treat as attendees make their way around various stations. Families are encouraged to dress up in their favorite family-friendly costumes.



"The Franklin Avenue Recycling Center is a bustling, efficient facility that is familiar to many, but can be hard to find to new visitors," says Education Outreach Coordinator Laurie Davis. "We're excited to use a little Halloween fun to highlight the location of this 'hidden gem' and strengthen the facility's connection with the surrounding neighborhoods and the entire community."

The Franklin Avenue Recycling Center is one of three City-managed recycling drop-off facilities in Springfield and is conveniently located on the edge of the Phil Broyles Public Works Complex, the operational headquarters of Springfield Public Works and several Environmental Services divisions.

The recycling center will be closed to general recycling drop-off functions during this after-hours event to allow for safe parking and pedestrian access around the facility. To drop off recycling, please visit the facility during normal operating hours 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday.

For more information about recycling facilities and resources in Springfield, visit springfieldmo.gov/recycling.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 21 • Nov. 18 • Dec. 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

FALL CLEANUP SAT., OCT. 19 8 a.m.-Noon

Cox North Parking Lot
 (1423 N. Jefferson Ave.)



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.



Building Bridges TO MORE Inclusive Communities



STAND Together SPRINGFIELD

CELEBRATING NATIONAL FAITH & BLUE WEEKEND

INTERFAITH PRAYERS
 MEET & MINGLE WITH OFFICERS
 INTERFAITH CHOIR
 DESSERTS & KIDS ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 11 5:30-6:30 P.M.

1357 S. INGRAM MILL RD.



Springfield POLICE

HAVE Faith INITIATIVE



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Working Together to Build Strong Communities

GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD



Hundreds enjoy first Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Block Party in August

By Debbie Butts, for SGFNN

Residents in the Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood were able to meet and greet their neighbors at the first Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Block Party on Thursday, Aug. 15.

Ken Brooks, president, opened the event and thanked everyone for attending our first, and hopefully, annual block party. The free event was co-hosted by the Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association and The Way Church. Hundreds of hotdogs and hamburgers, fresh fruit, cookies, along with popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones were served.



Young and old enjoyed the numerous lawn games while listening to the live music provided by Denny Maples and Max Daer. The bounce house was a popular attraction for the kids in addition to face painting and the balloon animal creations. Kids received free bicycle helmets from Leigha McKinney of Mercy Hospital Accident Prevention Group and were able to experience a bicycle obstacle course.

Neighborhood PAR officer Julinn Torres from the Springfield Police Department was present and visited with neighborhood residents while providing cruiser tours.



Springfield Fire Department offered ladder truck tours and information about smoke alarms and HISD alarms with special giveaways for the kids. The event was also attended by Ronnie Bell with her team from Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management who showed off their mobile command post, Skylab. CERT provided a first aid trailer and information tent.



Angie Atwell, community health advocate for the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, staffed a booth to hand out information. Our guest speaker was David Burton with the University of Missouri Extension Office. David, who launched "The Engaged Neighbor" program, encouraged neighbors to participate in their neighborhood and the importance of connecting with your neighbors. He mentioned our success in promoting the Neat Neighborhood contest and commented that residents picked up trash on their way to the block party.

GPNA would like to give special thanks to The Way Church, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and all other contributors and volunteers to the event along with everyone who attended to make this block party a great success!



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 17 • Jan. 16: 6:30-8 p.m. @ The Way Church (903 W. Katella St.) Meetings are held quarterly on the third Thursday in January, April, July and October.

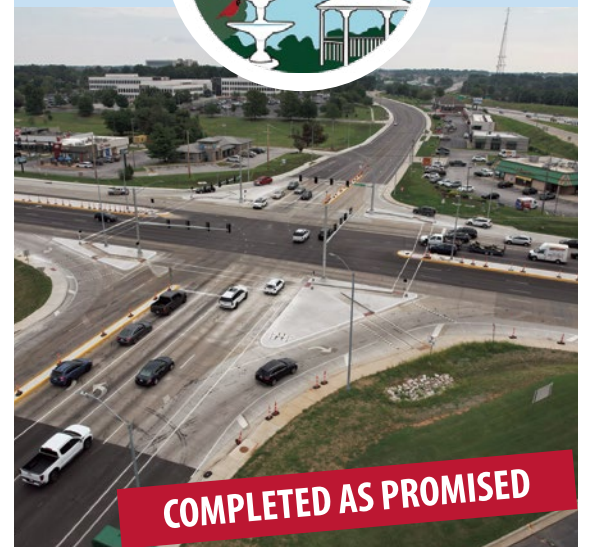
Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



 Horace Mann Elementary School
3745 S. Broadway Ave.

Follow Greater Parkcrest on  
greaterparkcrest.org



(View east) Traffic signals were upgraded at the intersection of Campbell Avenue and Republic Road with the addition of turn lanes to help increase capacity at this busy intersection. The project was a coordinated effort between the City of Springfield and the Missouri Department of Transportation and was designed to provide better integration between Campbell Avenue, Republic Road and James River Freeway.



CITY OF
Springfield
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES

HOME & ENVIRONMENT
**AUTUMN
GUIDE**

YARDWASTE

NATIVE PLANTINGS

LEAVES, LEAVES, & MORE LEAVES

FUN FAMILY EVENTS

GREASY DRAINS

...AND MORE!



**STORM
WATER**



**WASTE
WATER**



**SOLID
WASTE**

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



IT'S LEAF & YARDWASTE Season

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

WHAT, WHERE & WHY?

The landfill is not the place for yardwaste. In fact, it is against state law to dispose of yardwaste in the trash. The City's three dropoff recycling centers are conveniently located throughout the city for easy dropoff of a limited amount of leaves, grass clippings and brush. For a large haul of larger yardwaste items, the Yardwaste Recycling Center (YRC) is designed specifically for the disposal of yardwaste and organics. Visit springfieldmo.gov/yardwaste for current guidelines and fee information.

WHAT IS ACCEPTED?

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



WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED?

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

SOLID WASTE Fall Events

Fall Dish to Dirt Home COMPOSTING CLASSES

Virtual Class: **Sept. 28 | 9-11 a.m.**

In-person:

Tuesday, Oct. 1 | 9-11 a.m.

OR Thursday, Oct. 3 | 2-4 p.m.

Traffic Management Center
1107 W. Chestnut Expwy.

Email dishtodirt@springfieldmo.gov to register.



BOO AT THE BIN

October 24 | 6-9 p.m.

Franklin Ave. Recycling Center
731 N. Franklin Avenue



Pumpkin Smash

November 2 | 10 a.m.-noon

Yardwaste Recycling Center

3790 S. Farm Road 119, Brookline

America Recycles Day: Customer Appreciation

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

All City recycling centers

NATIVE PLANTING FALL MAINTENANCE

It may be tough to change your habits, but leave them BEE!

It's tempting to want to cut back and clean up your yard before huddling indoors for the winter, but do your best to hold off.

Keeping dead leaves, stems, and seed heads on native perennials and grasses throughout winter provides food and shelter for birds and beneficial insects.

Winter habitat is one of the most important factors for healthy bee populations.

Yards can still look tidy over the winter by

trimming back borders and mulching beds.

Mid-November to mid-March is the best time to prune most trees and shrubs. When March rolls around, the beneficial habitat left for winter can be cut back. Leaving cut stems at varying heights from 8 to 24 inches will provide nest cavities for bees in spring and new growth will hide the old stems.

BEST PRACTICES FOR PLANTING NEAR THE "RIGHT OF WAY"

The "right-of-way" is the area of your property along the street. If you are thinking about planting native plants in the right-of-way, following a few best practices can achieve a beautiful result:

- Select plants that have a maximum height of 18 inches if planting near a driveway or if your house is on a corner and you are planting near the street intersection. Shorter plants will avoid blocking the view at driveways and intersections.
- Provide a mowed buffer or other border at least 12 inches wide along the sidewalk and street edge to keep vegetation from growing into these areas.
- Keep the area weeded so plantings look tidy and intentional.



Rose verberna
Glandularia canadensis



Roundleaf groundsel
Packera obovata



Pennsylvania sedge
Carex pensylvanica



Wild petunia
Ruellia humilis



REMEMBER:
**Only Rain
Down the Drain!**

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

Though yardwaste is organic, it adds nutrients to streams that contribute to algae growth. It also impacts the water quality of our streams and can even clog storm drains – causing flooding in streets, intersections and neighborhoods.

Please bag up grass and leaves and take to any of the City's dropoff recycling sites.

Report clogs or pollution in the City's storm drains by calling 417.864.1010.

5 SIGNS YOU HAVE A WASTEWATER PROBLEM

Maybe your Uncle Joe is an amateur plumber, but not everyone is trained to recognize the early signs of a sewer issue in your home or neighborhood. Here are 5 signs to watch for and what to do if and when you come across a possible stinky situation.

1. Your toilet won't flush... obviously.

This is likely the most obvious sign that something is wrong with your plumbing. When a toilet won't flush, it could indicate a blockage in your pipes, preventing wastewater from flowing out. This might be an early sign of a bigger issue within your home's drainage system. Home remedies like Drain-o or a drain snake may resolve the problem temporarily, but if the issue persists, it's important to call a licensed plumber to diagnose the cause.

2. Water is coming out of the cleanout in your yard.

The cleanout is a pipe that provides direct access to the main sewer line. If you notice water bubbling up from it, this indicates that the sewer line is blocked or overwhelmed, causing wastewater to back up. If not addressed quickly, this could lead to more serious problems inside your home or even affect the City's sewer mains. It's wise to locate your cleanout in advance of any emergency, as



they can sometimes be damaged, buried by landscaping, or paved over. If you notice water coming from the cleanout, call the City immediately at 864-1923 to report the issue.

3. You smell sewage in your yard, basement or bathroom.

A sewage smell is a strong warning sign that wastewater isn't flowing properly through your pipes. This could be caused by a clog or a break in the sewer line, allowing gases and odors to escape where they shouldn't. If left unattended, this can pose health risks and cause further damage. Additionally, natural gas leaks

can sometimes smell like sewage. If you notice a rotten egg smell, call City Utilities or 911 immediately to test for natural gas. If no natural gas is detected, City Utilities will contact a sewer crew to investigate the issue.

4. Your toilet is bubbling while the shower is running.

All the pipes in your home's plumbing are connected. When one becomes backed up, it will look for another exit, which could cause wastewater to come out of nearby drains. A licensed plumber can diagnose the issue and ensure that the bubbling doesn't turn into a larger problem.

5. You have flooding in your basement...but it hasn't rained in a while.

If your basement is flooding and there hasn't been any rain, it could mean that your sewer system is backed up or you have a broken pipe. When water has nowhere to go, it can flood lower areas of your home, like the basement, potentially bringing contamination from wastewater.

If you notice a musty smell, unusually wet carpet, or mold on drywall, these could be early signs of a problem. In case of flooding, call your insurance company and a property restoration service to report the damage. Next, contact a licensed plumber to fix the issue, and finally, notify the City to check the City sewer main. Following this order ensures the problem is resolved with minimal damage to your home.

So there's a problem... WHAT DO YOU DO ABOUT IT?

Call 864-1010 to report sewer issues. You can also call the after-hours emergency line at 864-1923 after 5 p.m. and on weekends. An online service request form is also available at springfieldmo.gov/5566/Report-a-Concern. A sewer crew will be dispatched to inspect the sewer main located near your home. Crews may clean out the line and run a CCTV camera to visually identify a problem.

If the crews don't see a problem in the City's sewer main, the problem is most likely located in the lateral pipes connected to your home. City crews will recommend you call a licensed plumber to assess and service your privately owned plumbing.

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

Nov. 12 • Jan. 14: 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

Walking track at Nichols Park gets much-needed repair

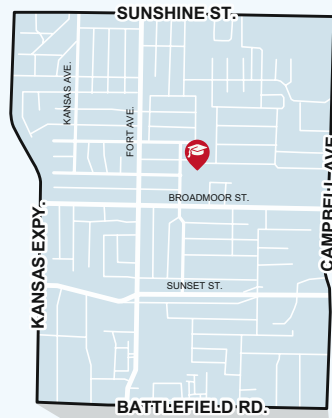
By Glenn Gohr, for SGFNN

Heart of the Westside is thankful for the update to the walking track at Nichols Park. The Springfield-Greene County Park Board has been working diligently to repair the sidewalk so that it is raised up enough so that water covering the sidewalk will no longer be an issue.



Walking track at Nichols Park (1900 W. Nichols St.)

MARK TWAIN NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 8 • Nov. 12 • Dec. 10 • Jan. 14: 7 p.m. @ Sunset Church of Christ (1222 W. Sunset St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Mark Twain Elementary
2352 S. Weaver Ave.

Follow Mark Twain on

Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!



MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 24: 6:30 p.m. @ Cowden Elementary School (2927 S. Kimbrough Ave.)

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.)

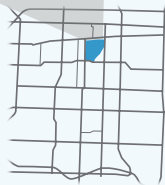
Wednesdays: 6:45-7:15 p.m.

S. Dollison Ave. & E. Downing St.



Construction at Cowden Elementary School
Read more on page 5.

MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 14 • Nov. 11 • Dec. 9 • Jan. 13: 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

FALL CLEANUP
SAT., OCT. 19
8 a.m.-Noon

Cox North Parking Lot
(1423 N. Jefferson Ave.)



The Missouri Job Center will relocate to the three-story building at 1600 N. Boonville this fall. Read more on page 3.

OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



The White Oak was planted in honor of all Oak Grove Neighborhood Association members who have passed away.

Oak Grove Neighborhood Association plants trees to honor Gerald Clary, other association members

By *Betty Johnson*, for SGFNN

This year we lost one of our own in our Oak Grove Neighborhood Association. Gerald Clary was one of the founders of the association, and we wanted to remember him with the consideration that he gave back year after year. To do this we decided to plant a tree in his honor. Not many know how hard it is to start and keep an association strong, but we admire what Gerald did along with so many others that have been in the association since the beginning. That is why we decided to donate another tree in honor of all the association members that have given so much over the years.

Both trees are planted next to each other near the center of Oak Grove Park. One is a younger booming Northern Red Oak that we planted in honor of Gerald, and the other, a larger flourishing White Oak, we planted in honor of all our Oak Grove Association Members that have passed. These trees resemble more than just part of our neighborhood name. They remind us of the strength shown by so many of our neighbors as well as the longevity of lasting long past our days. We hope everyone goes and sees our new neighborhood trees. Thank you to all who have given your time to the neighborhood.



The Northern Red Oak was planted in honor of longtime OGNA president and member Gerald Clary, who passed away in November 2023.



Connect

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

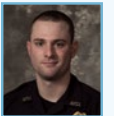


Neighborhood Association Meetings

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

FALL CLEANUP
SAT., NOV. 2
8 a.m.-Noon

Enterprise Park Lanes
(1625 S. Enterprise Ave.)



The Springfield Fire Department held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Fire Station 7 at 2129 E. Sunshine St. on July 16. Read the full story on page 3.

PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

Phelps Grove neighbors partner with Park Board to transform park's gardens

By Vicky Trippe, for SGFNN

In early March when members of the Phelps Grove Neighborhood Association and staff from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board agreed to a partnership to renovate the gardens on the east side of Phelps Grove Park, no one dreamed that we could transform seven beds of tangled weeds into beautiful and peaceful homes for vibrant flowers frequented by bees, butterflies and birds.



Sometimes, as when Connie Ryan and Andy Massoth put edging around a bed to keep the Bermuda grass away, we take home dirt that wasn't on us when we arrived.

Other times, as when Fran Giglio, Connie Ryan and Clifford Barret relax after planting the last flowers in a circular bed outlined with brick, we celebrate with one another the results of our work.



Occasionally, like the day I enjoyed the salvia and cleome I had transplanted from my home gardens, we experience the joy and peace we hope others feel when they wander through the gardens just to enjoy what they see.

But always, as we come to the gardens and see the flowers and pollinators, we are reminded that the commitment of individuals and organizations can make our community a better place to live.

This is still a work in progress, but come by often and say hello if we are there working. It's fun to meet our neighbors.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 8 • Nov. 12 • Dec. 10 • Jan. 14: 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

Downtown's Wilhoit Building to house Springfield Art Museum during 3-year renovation

By Melissa Haase, Managing Editor

The Springfield Art Museum at an Aug. 24 open house announced its temporary closure starting Sept. 3, reopening in February 2025 downtown at the Wilhoit Building, 431 S. Jefferson. The Wilhoit Building will serve as the museum's location for the next three years as the museum undergoes a renovation and expansion.

At the event, Mayor Ken McClure announced the museum has raised nearly \$38 million toward its \$50 million campaign goal. Having raised more than 75% of its total goal, the museum is slated to break ground on the first phase of construction in January 2025.

"It's been made possible by the commitment of our public and private interests that recognize the museum's impacts across our community and the region, and the economic impact and the driver that it has as a quality of life asset," McClure said.

NOT THE FIRST TIME THE WILHOIT BUILDING HAS HOUSED THE MUSEUM

"We're pleased to announce that the Springfield Art Museum will return to its roots – moving back into the Wilhoit Building at 431 S. Jefferson in downtown Springfield," said Museum Director Nick Nelson.

The museum was founded in 1928 by State Teachers College (now Missouri State University) art department chair Deborah Weisel and several other women in her Art Study Club. One of those women was Della Wilhoit, whose husband built



the E.M. Wilhoit Building on Pershing Street in downtown Springfield in 1926.

When the museum outgrew its first home in the Midtown Carnegie Library in 1929, the Wilhoits offered the museum six rooms in their building, rent free. For eight years, the museum hosted an annual loan exhibition, an annual competitive exhibition for Ozarks artists, and one and two-person exhibitions by local artists in the Wilhoit Building. In 1937, the museum moved into the basement of Historic City Hall and eventually became a department of the City in 1947 when the Art Study Club (now Southwest Missouri Museum Associates) deeded the museum and its collection to the citizens of Springfield.

The museum's Wilhoit Building location is currently being renovated. Nelson anticipates programs and classes will open to the public in the new space in February 2025.

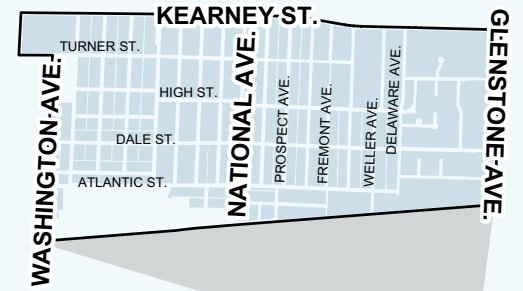
Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!



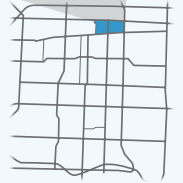
Garden in Phelps Grove Park

ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Robberson offers full lineup of fall events

By Mary Ann Bonetti, for SGFNN

Robberson Neighborhood Association's Senior Tax Credit Workshop in August was a resounding success! We were thrilled to assist many of our neighbors and community members in getting their paperwork ready to freeze their property taxes. It's a great relief for our homeowners, and we're proud to have played a part in making it happen. Special thanks to Sarah Tinajero, our dedicated Realtor and RNA board member, who was on hand to answer all the real estate-related questions. Jeff Johnson with UMortgage also joined us to help anyone with mortgage concern – thank you, Jeff!

But that's not all! We spiced things up with a fantastic raffle where participants had the chance to win tickets to see Barry Manilow live at the end of August! What a way to add a bit of fun to a day full of paperwork!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Robberson has a fantastic lineup of events planned for the fall, so please mark your calendars.

- **October Feast:** 5-7 p.m., Oct. 12, Pathways United Methodist Church, 1232 E. Dale. Join us for a potluck supper with live music. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a cozy evening with great food and even better company.
- **Trunk or Treat:** 4-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 26, Pathways United Methodist Church, 1232 E. Dale. Get ready for some Halloween fun! Decorate your car trunk and hand out treats to the kids in a safe, fun environment. Costumes are highly encouraged!



- **November Chili Supper and Live Music:** 6-8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, Pathways United Methodist Church, 1232 E. Dale. Show off your cooking skills or just come to enjoy some mouth-watering chili. The competition is fierce, but the camaraderie is even better.



- **Cocoa with Santa:** 5-8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, Pathways United Methodist Church, 1232 E. Dale. Kick off the holiday season with a festive gathering in December. Sip cocoa, meet Santa and make magical memories with the family.



There's always something happening in our neighborhood, and we want you to be part of it all! To stay up-to-date on all our events and news, check out our Facebook page, visit our website at RNASpringfieldMO.org, or join us at one of our monthly planning meetings. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at Pathways UMC on East Dale Street. Your input and participation help make our community stronger, so we hope to see you there!

Let's continue to build a vibrant, connected, and fun neighborhood together!

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 15 • Nov. 19 • Dec. 17: 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

LANTERN WALK

SAT., OCT. 5

Starts at Sunset

Read more about Lantern Walks on page 5 and visit SpringfieldMO.gov/LanternWalk for your neighborhood route map.



Robberson Neighborhood Association at National Night Out Aug. 6

ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD

Get ready for Rountree's much-anticipated Halloween Parade on Oct. 31 and the Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Challenge Nov. 3

By Nancy Evans, for SGFNN

HALLOWEEN PARADE-OCT. 31

It is almost spooky time! Planning has been underway for the Rountree Halloween Parade. We wanted to share a few tips for those that visit:

1. Parking: University Heights Baptist Church at 1010 S. National is one option. This year there will not be a food drive associated with parking. Thank you, UHBC! If you park on the street, be mindful not to block driveways or sidewalks. Weller Street has parking only on one side.
2. Trick-or-treating: Many neighbors have asked that we spread the love beyond Weller and Pickwick to Fremont, Kickapoo, and Delaware.
3. Please, no motorized vehicles or floats in the parade for the safety of our littles.
4. Halloween is on Thursday, Oct. 31, rain or shine, and so is the parade! Parade start time is 5:30 p.m., at the intersection of Weller Avenue and Delmar Street. Line-up starts around 5-5:15 p.m.
5. Be safe, be respectful, and have fun!

BASS PRO MARATHON-NOV. 3

Once again, the Bass Pro Marathon runs right through Rountree! Are you a runner? A volunteer? Either way, we've got you covered. Runners, what is your favorite marathon snack need? Pickle juice? Bananas? Something else? How can we help make your run great? Volunteers, we cannot do it without YOU. Every year we support the runners with a grand Halloween experience. Wear your costumes, bring your decorations and join the fun! The race starts at 7 a.m. Our assigned



A group of children lead the annual Rountree Halloween Parade by carrying a flag as they make their way up Weller Avenue on Thursday, Oct. 31, 2013.

station at the corner of Delmar Street and Pickwick Avenue is in between miles 20 and 21, so we should expect the very first runners after 8:30 a.m. Contact Peggy (wise1peggy@gmail.com) or Nancy (n.c.evans2014@gmail.com) if you have questions or want to help. Hope to see you there!



CHALK YOUR WALK-AUG. 16

What beautiful weather we had to create art for National Chalk Your Walk Day, on Aug. 16! This year, the annual Chalk the Walks competition produced beautiful sidewalk art throughout Rountree. Prizes were donated for first, second and third-place drawings that were voted on by the neighborhood. Encouraging messages, bright flowers, graphic designs were enjoyed by our neighbors. THANK YOU to our artists for making Rountree even more lovely.



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

Oct. 15 • Nov. 19 • Dec. 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

LANTERN WALK SAT., OCT. 5

Starts at Sunset

Read more about Lantern Walks on page 5 and visit SpringfieldMO.gov/LanternWalk for your neighborhood route map.

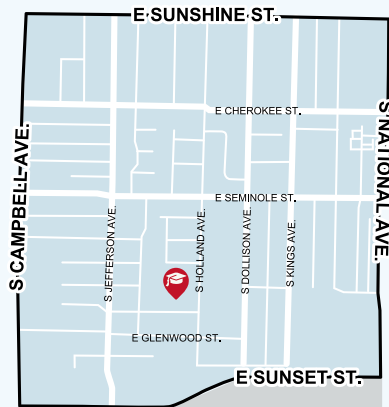
FALL CLEANUP SAT., OCT. 12

8 a.m.-Noon

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

Rountree cheered on Bass Pro Marathon runners with a Halloween themed cheering section in 2022.

SEMINOLE HOLLAND NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 28 • Jan. 27: 6 p.m. @ Messiah Lutheran Church (925 E. Seminole St.) Neighborhood meetings are the fourth Monday of the month in January, April, July and October.

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

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.



Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!

TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Nov. 26 • Feb. 25: 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 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

Mobile Library Stop

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

Tuesdays: 4:30-5 p.m.

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



Tom Watkins Park (2100 W. High St.)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

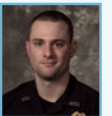
- Jeff Carney, President
- Rina Edge, Vice President
- Susan Robinson, Secretary
- Holly Acharya, Treasurer
- uhnasgf@gmail.com

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



WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Oct. 3 • Nov. 7 • Dec. 5 • Jan. 2: 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

FALL CLEANUP
SAT., OCT. 19
8 a.m.-Noon

Cox North Parking Lot
(1423 N. Jefferson Ave.)



Weller Neighborhood Cleanup October 2023

WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD



Fun West Central summer events culminate with Birthplace of Route 66 Festival

By Duane Keys, for SGFNN

This summer was packed with exciting events and community spirit in the West Central Neighborhood! We kicked things off in June with our Summer Social at Mother's Brewing Company's backyard. The event was a huge success, with delicious catering provided by El Paraiso, bringing neighbors together for an evening of fun and connection.

In July, we continued the summer vibes with our Ice Cream Social at the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park on College Street. It was a perfect day to cool off with some sweet treats while enjoying the company of friends and family.

Our Walking Club added a twist to the usual strolls by taking things underground, thanks to the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks. We had the unique opportunity to tour the Jordan Creek tunnel system under downtown, learning about the history of this important waterway and admiring some fascinating urban art along the way. We're excited about the Jordan Creek daylighting project that has just started, which will bring this historically significant creek back into the open right in our neighborhood.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival. With 550 registered cars and perfect weather, it was an event to remember! The streets were filled with entertainment, stunning show cars, and smiles all around. Our neighborhood and downtown truly came alive. A heartfelt thanks to all the West Central neighbors and O'Reilly Auto Parts team members who volunteered their time. Special thanks also go out to O'Reilly and State Farm for sponsoring the car show.

As we transition into fall, there's plenty to look forward to. Our monthly meetings resumed on Tuesday, Sept. 24, so mark your calendars.



Connect

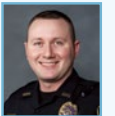
- Duane Keys, President:
duane.keys@gmail.com
- Rusty Worley, Treasurer:
rusty@itsalldowntown.com
- Kathleen Cowens, Secretary

Neighborhood Alliance Meetings

Sept. 24 • Oct. 22 • Nov. 26 • Dec. 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

LANTERN WALK
SAT., OCT. 5
Starts at Sunset

Read more about Lantern Walks on page 5 and visit SpringfieldMO.gov/LanternWalk for your neighborhood route map.



▶ See **SUMMER EVENTS** on page 24

▶ **SUMMER EVENTS** from page 23

These meetings are a great opportunity to stay informed and involved. We regularly receive updates from our City Council representative, our police area representative, and the fire department. Major issues we're working on and discussing include nuisance properties, our Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative, and advocating to the council to address the vehicle noise problem that plagues downtown, our neighborhood and the city at large.



Don't forget the weekly Farmers Market on the Square, every Saturday through October, where you can find fresh produce and local goods. Our Morning Mosey-ers Walking Club continues to meet every Thursday morning, and we're also gearing up for our monthly Third Thursday Trash Pickup (location to be announced on social media or our website).

Stay connected with all that's happening by visiting our website and Facebook page. You can sign up for our newsletter at westcentralspringfield.org or receive text notifications by texting "WCNA" to 417-201-9789.

Here's to a fantastic fall in West Central!



An estimated 74,700 people attended the 2024 Birthplace of Route 66 Festival.



Construction to begin this fall for first phase of Renew Jordan Creek project

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Construction is expected to begin this fall for the long-anticipated project to uncover Jordan Creek, a waterway that, since it was boxed in in 1929 to mitigate flooding, runs underneath downtown Springfield.

Renew Jordan Creek is the multi-phase effort to "daylight" the historic Jordan Creek by significantly modifying the existing Jordan Creek floodplain and floodway areas currently confined in concrete box culverts that run east to west through downtown Springfield. Phase I of the project will uncover 1,100 feet of the creek and restore it to a more natural state in an area roughly located north of Water Street between Boonville and Main avenues. Although the project is intended to reduce flooding, it is also anticipated to serve as an urban amenity and catalyst for redevelopment. Later phases of the community-developed Jordan Creek Masterplan envision improvements at Founders Park and the City-owned property at 404 N. Jefferson Ave.



impact through-traffic near the work site for a large portion of the project duration. The City is planning a public information session this fall to share details.

Funding for phase I will come from a variety of local sources combined with a number of outside grants. Local funding will come from the City's Level Property Tax, ¼-cent and ⅛-cent sales taxes, and Environmental Services Green Infrastructure funds. External funding sources include Federal Highway Administration Surface Transportation Block Grant funds, local American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ARPA grant, a Missouri Department of Economic Development ARPA funds, Environmental Protection Agency and DNR grants as well as Clean Water State Revolving Fund program assistance.

For more information on the project and to subscribe to receive regular project email updates, visit RenewJordanCreek.com.



Construction is scheduled to last approximately two years with a completion date estimated for late 2026. Local traffic and access to businesses, residences and parking will be maintained throughout construction, however, directional detours are expected. Construction is expected to

THE 30th ANNUAL TURKEY TROT 5K
RUN/WALK
 Presented by Hall Ansley PC
THANKSGIVING DAY
 DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD, MO

REGISTER NOW!

The PARK
 SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD

ParkBoard.org/TurkeyTrot

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

Mark your calendar for Westside's Neighborhood Cleanup Oct. 5

By Sharon L. Brooks, for SGFNN

What's going on in Westside? We meet at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at Golden Avenue Baptist Church at the corner of Mt. Vernon Street and Golden Avenue. We have been given yard signs with the meeting information. These will be placed around the neighborhood as a reminder the meeting is coming up. Remember to follow WNBA.SpringfieldMO on Facebook to keep up with what is going on in the neighborhood.

You may have seen some WNBA members walking down your street picking up trash. Maybe you noticed the winter creeper that had been choking the trees at Zagonyi Park is now cleared off the trees. This is making the trees look better, and healthier! Clean Green Springfield and Hatch Foundation hosted the Neat Neighborhoods friendly competition among the registered neighborhoods to clean up and improve neighborhoods, fostering a sense of friendly competition and camaraderie.



Westside will be hosting our fall Neighborhood Cleanup 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 5 at Study Alternative School parking lot, 2343 W. Olive. Be on the look out for your postcard in the mail. This is a great free resource to clean up brush and/or get rid of old furniture. You can toss anything except for hazardous materials. The postcard will give the details.

If you would like to volunteer to help unload our neighbors' vehicles, please reach out to Sharon Brooks at dcwms@mchsi.com or text 417-576-6983. The cleanup is strictly volunteer. Come join in the fun and meet your Westside neighbors. We could really use your help!



Connect

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



Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings

Oct. 8 • Nov. 12 • Dec. 10 • Jan. 14: 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  

Paul Mueller expansion to add 133 new jobs

By Paul Mueller Company, for SGFNN

Paul Mueller Company, a manufacturer of stainless steel tanks, components, and equipment that serves various industries, announced Aug. 26 that it will expand its Springfield campus at 1600 W. Phelps, investing \$22 million and creating 133 new jobs. This first phase of the company's expansion includes the establishment of a new facility that will increase its capacity for the assembly of large production modules.

"Paul Mueller Company's new facility is another example of the exciting growth happening across southwest Missouri," said Gov. Mike Parson. "Our investments to improve infrastructure and strengthen our workforce continue to produce results that are making a lasting difference for Missourians. Paul Mueller Company, as a world-class manufacturer that began right here in our state, is another quality employer we're excited to see succeeding in the Springfield area."

Paul Mueller Company's new production facility will add more than 100,000 square feet of space, including 60,000 square feet of clear-span, climate-controlled production area. The company's expansion will also double its R&D square footage, enhancing its ability to innovate while adding new production capabilities and capacity for increased operational flexibility.

"We are proud to break ground on this 100,000-square-foot facility in Springfield, Missouri," said David Moore, president and CEO. "It will provide a column-free open manufacturing space where we can assemble and test larger systems for our pharmaceutical, food, beverage,



and chemical customers. Our coworkers have made this possible by safely providing increased value to our customers, resulting in the largest backlog and highest profitability in our history. The facility will also expand product development and training capabilities to support our growth. We look forward to continuing to offer our customers the talents of our coworkers and the resources of Springfield when the facility opens next year."

Designed with energy efficiency in mind, Paul Mueller Company's new facility will also include enhanced amenities to ensure employee comfort in addition to advanced training opportunities that reinforce the company's commitment to excellence in manufacturing. The company held a groundbreaking event Aug. 27 near the corner of Phelps Street and LaFontaine Avenue in Springfield to commemorate its expansion.

"We're proud to continue to support Paul Mueller Company as it furthers its legacy of helping Missourians prosper in Springfield," said Michelle Hataway, director of the Missouri Department of

▶ See PAUL MUELLER on page 26

FALL CLEANUP SAT., OCT. 5 8 a.m.-Noon

Study Alternative School
(2343 W. Olive St.)



Tree in Zagonyi Park now free of winter creeper vines, thanks to WNBA members.

▶ **PAUL MUELLER** from page 25

Economic Development. "This expansion is the latest chapter of the company's long history of contributions to southwest Missouri and its vibrant manufacturing industry. We're grateful for Paul Mueller's ongoing commitment to our state and appreciate our partners who helped ensure its continued growth."

"We are excited to celebrate this significant milestone with the Paul Mueller Company. We are so fortunate to have a global company with such a positive local impact right here in Springfield. Since 1940, the Paul Mueller Company has helped Springfield become known as one of the world's leaders in stainless steel manufacturing. This expansion will help further that reputation." – Mayor Ken McClure

For this expansion, Paul Mueller Company will benefit from the Missouri Works program, a tool that helps companies expand and retain workers by providing access to capital through withholdings or tax credits for job creation. The company is also receiving assistance from Missouri One Start, a division of the Department of Economic Development. Missouri One Start assists eligible businesses with their recruitment and training needs.

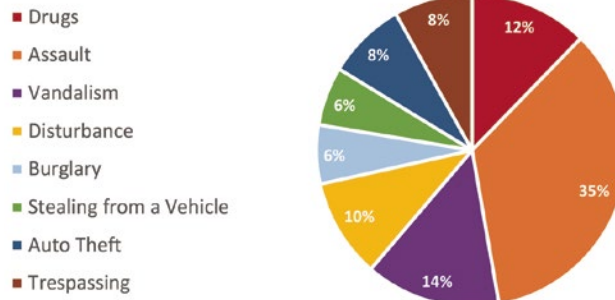
"We are excited to celebrate this significant milestone with the Paul Mueller Company," said Mayor Ken McClure. "We are so fortunate to have a global company with such a positive local impact right here in Springfield. Since 1940, the Paul Mueller Company has helped Springfield become known as one of the world's leaders in stainless steel manufacturing. This expansion will help further that reputation."

"The chamber is thrilled about this expansion," said Matt Morrow, president of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. "The growth of Paul Mueller has always had an incredible ripple effect on the local economy for over 80 years, and their reputation as a global leader in stainless steel manufacturing that started right here in Springfield is just one of the things that sets this community apart. Springfield grows its own, and Paul Mueller's continued investment and leading job creation is a great example of what we are capable of achieving."

"It is always a good thing to see manufacturers growing and expanding," said Michael Eaton, executive director of the Missouri Association of Manufacturers. "Manufacturing is a vital part of the economy and important to a community, providing jobs and opportunities. Paul Mueller Company has been one of those flagship manufacturing companies here in Springfield, establishing southwest Missouri as the stainless steel Tank capital of the world – spanning other manufacturing operations in the region and supporting this community. This expansion demonstrates how critical manufacturing growth is to economic growth."

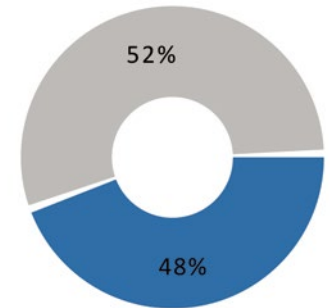
Below is a sample of the Westside Neighborhood Health Indicators Report.
Visit springfieldmo.gov/nhi to view the full report.

Police Reports (2023)



Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reports	839	688	694	572	575

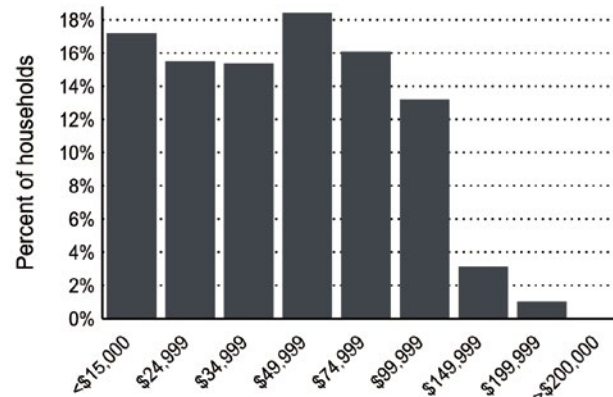
Home Ownership



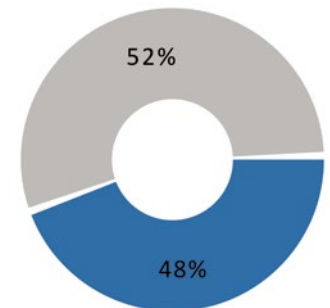
● Own ● Rent

This calculation was derived from data specifically pertaining to single-family homes. The single-family homeownership rate in Springfield, MO is 58%.

Household Income



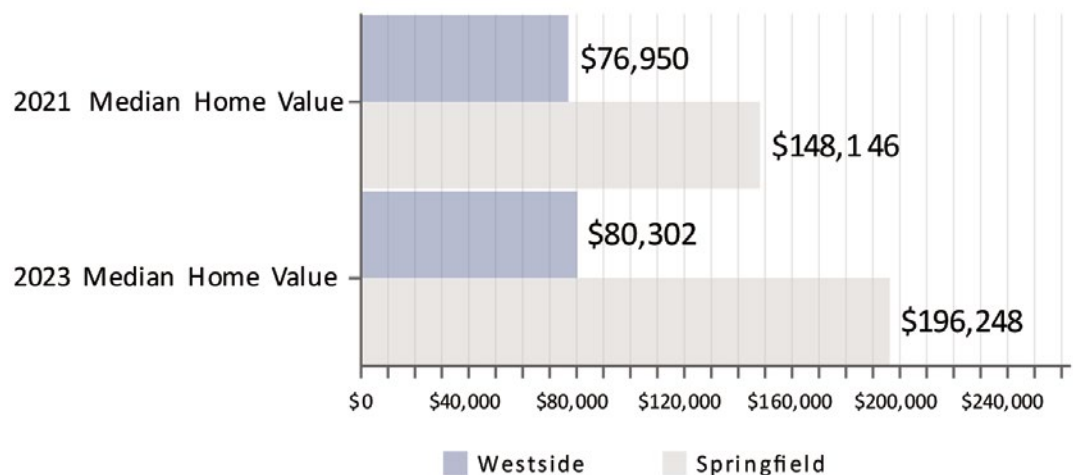
Poverty Status



● Own ● Rent

This calculation was derived from data specifically pertaining to single-family homes. The single-family homeownership rate in Springfield, MO is 58%.

Median Home Value (Single-Family Home)



To learn more about the Neighborhood Health Indicators Reports check out the full story on the front page or visit springfieldmo.gov/nhi.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD



Woodland Heights partners with Ozarks Lyric Opera to display resident's costume designs on C-Street

By Chance Parish, for SGFNN

The Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association's Art Committee has partnered with the Ozarks Lyric Opera, the Commercial Street CID (Community Improvement District), and the Springfield Police Officers Association to continue bringing eye-catching art to Springfield's north side.

Woodland Heights resident Kashena Starr Northrip began designing costumes for the Ozarks Lyric Opera in 2022. Kashena was the creative force behind the wonderfully vibrant and imaginative costumes that graced the Gillioz stage during OLO's April production of "Black Rider: The Casting of the Magic Bullets" (Music and lyrics by Tom Waits / text by William S. Burroughs).

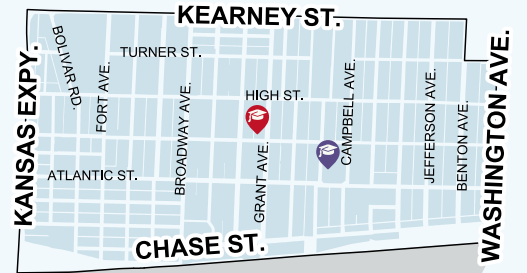
Once that production's run had ended, Kashena's amazing costumes were packed away. The Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association's Art Committee thought it a shame that these beautiful works of art could not be shared more openly.



Discussions began with Kashena, OLO, and the Commercial Street CID. It was eventually decided that these costumes would be put on display on C-Street to celebrate the creative vision of one of our most outstanding local artists – and to highlight the accessibility of opera as an art form to our north side residents.

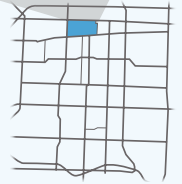
For three weeks, from July 19 until Aug. 9, Kashena's darkly whimsical costumes were displayed in the windows of 233 E Commercial St. to the delight of every C-Street stroller who happened to wander by and glance them unexpectedly.

We in Woodland Heights are forever appreciative of the partnerships that made this exhibit possible. It is a pleasure and a joy to help our artists shine – while also bringing positive attention to local artistic institutions and vital business districts.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings


Oct. 15 • Nov. 19 • Dec. 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



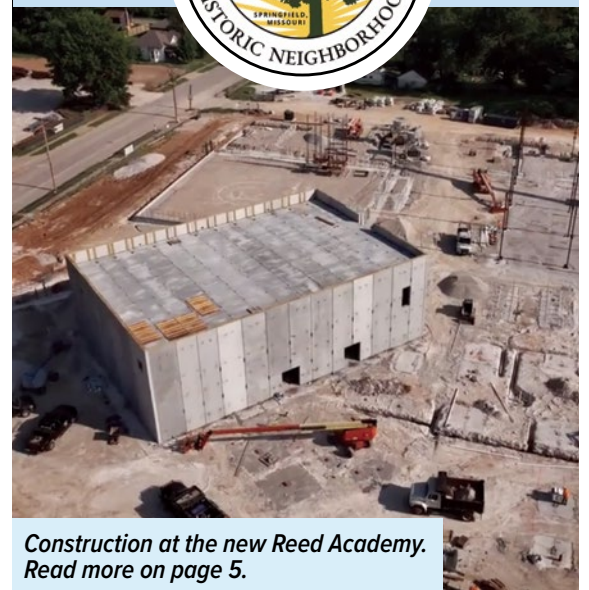
 **Bowerman Elementary School**
2148 N. Douglas Ave.

 **Reed Academy**
2000 N. Lyon Ave.

Follow Woodland Heights on   
woodlandheightsneighborhood.org

LANTERN WALK SAT., OCT. 5 Starts at Sunset

Read more about Lantern Walks on page 5 and visit SpringfieldMO.gov/LanternWalk for your neighborhood route map.



Construction at the new Reed Academy. Read more on page 5.

Woodland Heights catches the edged-curbs bug for Neat Neighborhoods

By Jan Hutcherson, for SGFNN

In May and June, prompted by the musings and observations of our fearless and inspiring leader, Becky Volz, Woodland Heights jumped headfirst into the Neat Neighborhoods competition.

We wanted, of course, to pick up as much trash from neighborhood streets as possible, but we also knew that we could do so much more. And Becky had recently mentioned during a neighborhood meeting, how wonderful she thought edged curbs and sidewalks looked and how she felt they truly epitomized a "neat neighborhood."



With a little bit of prompting, our group caught the bug of edging. It is so satisfying! A group of neighborhood volunteers has traveled multiple neighborhood streets edging curbs and sidewalks, bringing a crisp and clean look to our Woodland Heights streets.



The most satisfying part of tidying up the neighborhood has been forging new connections with neighbors. Neighbors, previously unknown to our group, have seen our volunteers out working and stopped (edging tools already in hand) to help.

Everyone wants to live in a tidy neighborhood. Serious progress is being made in Woodland Heights, and we have a lot of joyful work left to do to make this neighborhood as neat as it can be.

Events

October – December 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. The program is for students currently enrolled in Springfield Public Schools. Student ID number must be provided at check-in. Students can shop three times throughout the school year. Parents can shop for clothing without the student, but the student **MUST** be present for the shoe fitting. Winter coats will be available starting Oct. 10. *Check facebook.com/ThePTAClothingBank for the most up-to-date information and shopping dates. Clothing Bank hours are 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Kiwanis Shoe Bank hours are 1:30-4:30 p.m.*

- Thurs., Sept. 26
- Thurs., Oct. 10 & 24
- Thurs., Nov. 7 & 21
- Thurs., Dec. 5
- Thurs., Jan. 16 & 30
- Thurs., Feb. 13 & 27
- Thurs., March 27
- Thurs., April 10 & 24
- Thurs., May 8

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.

Northview Book Club: Second Friday of each month, 10:30 a.m., Northview Center (305 E. Talmage St.) Grab the book of the month and come ready for discussion, in partnership with the Springfield-Greene County Library District. Books listed in the monthly newsletter, "The Generator," at ParkBoard.org/Northview. Ages 55 yrs. and up. *Free.*

Themed Public Skate Nights: Fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 p.m., Brightspeed Ice Park (635 E.

Trafficway). Every fourth Friday of the month come enjoy a themed public skate. There's a different theme each month. Enjoy activities, prizes, music and more to celebrate that month's theme. Visit ParkBoard.org/IcePark for a full schedule and themes. All ages. *Fee: \$7/Adult, \$6/Child/Student/Senior, FREE/Kids ages 3 yrs. and under; \$3/Skate rental or bring your own.*

Training for the Trot: Oct. 1-Nov. 19: Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Get ready for the 30th Annual Turkey Trot 5K by training with a group at a different parks location each week. Includes eight training sessions, full Turkey Trot registration and a Training for the Trot T-shirt. Registration required at ParkBoard.org/TurkeyTrot. Ages 16 yrs. and up. *Fee: \$50/Runner.*

Meet the Library's New Executive Director: Tues., Oct. 1: 4-6 p.m. Library Center (4653 S. Campbell Ave.) Meet Ed Walton, the newly appointed Springfield-Greene County Library District Executive Director. Ed will be available to answer questions and share information and graphics on the current construction projects at the Library Center, Midtown Carnegie Branch Library and Republic Branch Library. For adults. *Free.*

Lantern Walk: Sat. Oct. 5: 6:30 p.m. Celebrate National Pedestrian Safety Month with an evening stroll with your neighbors. Bring a lantern, or learn how to build one, and join the planned one-mile walks in the Delaware, Galloway, Rountree, West Central and Woodland Heights neighborhoods, while learning about traffic safety, crosswalks and safe walking routes. Details at SpringfieldMO.gov/LanternWalk. All ages. *Free.*

Harvest Fest: Oct. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27: Saturdays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sundays Noon-6 p.m. Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park (3825 W. Farm Road 146). A Midwest fall tradition, weekends in October at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. Includes pumpkin patch, a 2.5-mile corn maze, hayrides, cow train, inflatables, pony rides, farm animals, kettle corn and more! All ages. ParkBoard.org/HarvestFest. *Free admission, most activities have a fee. Corn Maze: \$4/12 yrs. and up, \$3/5-11 yrs., Free/4 yrs. and under.*

- **Harvest Fest Pumpkin Patch:** Oct. 1-27: Tuesdays-Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Also open weekends during weekend Harvest Fest hours. Closed Mondays. Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park (3825 W. Farm Road 146). Pick a pumpkin for your jack-o-lantern at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park's pumpkin patch. All ages. *Free admission, pumpkins priced by weight.*

Gigs in the Garden Concert Series: Sundays, Oct. 6-27: 2 p.m., Peace Through People Pavilion, Springfield Botanical Gardens (2400 S. Scenic Ave.) Bring your lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy local performers in an extraordinary setting at the Springfield Botanical Gardens. Beer and wine available for purchase. Presented by Springfield Sister Cities Association and Hatch Foundation. Information at PeaceThroughPeople.org/gigs. All ages. *Free, \$10 suggested donation.*

- **Oct. 6:** Dallas Jones and Molly Healey (multi-instrumental singer/songwriters)
- **Oct. 13:** Johnnie Angelia King and the Anointed Voices (gospel)
- **Oct. 20:** Jin J. X (jazz guitarist and singer/songwriter)
- **Oct. 27:** Aaron Mayer (Americana singer/songwriter/guitarist)

Harvest Moon Float: Sun., Oct. 6: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Lake Springfield Park (5324 S. Kissick Ave.) Watch the sunset, then view the full moon rise, while

padding on Lake Springfield. We'll discuss the phases of the moon and star constellations. Bring a headlamp and bug repellent. Register by Oct. 5 at ParkBoard.org/Outdoor, includes boat. Ages 8 yrs. and up (8-17 with an adult). *Fee: \$30/Person.*

Giboney Cave Tours: Sat., Oct. 12: 1, 2, & 3 p.m., Doling Park (301 E. Talmage St.) Explore the history of Giboney Cave at Doling Park. Shoes will get muddy. Bring your own headlamp or flashlight. Dates as subject to weather and bat activity. Space is limited. Register online at ParkBoard.org/Outdoor, by phone at 417-833-8647 or in person on site. Ages 4 yrs. and up (4-17 yrs. with an adult). *Fee: \$5/Person, \$16/Family of 4.*

Planting for Pollinators: Thurs., Oct. 17: 6-7 p.m., Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center (2400 S. Scenic Ave.) Caroline Griesmer, Master Gardener teaches this class on supporting pollinators throughout the seasons. Ages 15 yrs. and up. *Free.*

Camp Roar and Score: Fossils, Caves, and Tennis Galore: Fri., Oct. 18: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Doling Park (301 E. Talmage St.) Explore fossils and cave creatures in Doling Park's Giboney Cave with Outdoor Initiatives, then learn tennis with Cooper Tennis staff. All equipment provided. Bring extra shoes for the cave and sack lunch. Register by Oct. 11 at ParkBoard.org/Events. Ages 7-10 yrs. *Fee: \$20/Camper.*

Collection Connection with the Springfield Art Museum: Roots and Reflections: Exploring Midwest Artworks: Sat., Oct. 19: 2-3 p.m. Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library (2214 S. Brentwood Blvd.) Artist Shauna Le Ann Smith will present a Collection Connection workshop, delving into the Springfield Art Museum's Permanent Collection. Explore Midwest artwork from the 1930s to 2000s, featuring regional paintings, abstract sculptures and contemporary photography. Reflect on pieces by Julie Blackmon, Thomas Hart Benton, Grant Wood, Trevor Doell, Beverly Hopkins and more as we connect personal experiences with these artistic expressions. For adults. *Free.*

Halloween Horror Pumpkin Extraction: Sat. Oct. 19: 2-3 p.m., Library Center (4653 S. Campbell Ave.) Want to know what pumpkin DNA looks like and how to find it? Look no further! Explore the fascinating world of pumpkin DNA and learn how to see it for yourself. For ages 10-14. *Free.*

Mother-Son Sports Night: Sat., Oct. 19: 5:30-8 p.m., Doling Family Center (301 E. Talmage St.) Boys, treat your mom, step-mom, aunt, grandma or special lady to a night together. Wear your favorite sport gear and team up for basketball skills, cornhole, carnival-style games and swimming. Includes dinner and door prizes. Register by Oct. 12 at ParkBoard.org. Ages 5-14 yrs. plus an adult. *Fee: \$20/Couple, \$5/Additional Child.*

History in our Parks Walk: 5:30-7 p.m. Sat., Oct. 19: Lost Hill Park (4705 N. Farm Road 151); Sat., Nov. 16: Ritter Springs Park (3683 W. Farm Road 92). A guided park tour, focused on history that makes each location special, and conservation efforts currently taking place. Meet in main parking lot of each park. No registration required. Ages 8 yrs. and up (8-17 yrs. with an adult). *Free.*

Pumpkin Plunge: Sun., Oct. 20: 4-5 p.m. Doling Family Center (301 E. Talmage St.) Swim in a pool full of pumpkins and pick out the perfect one! Take home a decorating kit with paints and stickers to decorate your pumpkin. Register by Oct. 17 at ParkBoard.org/Events. Ages 2-14 yrs. *Fee: \$15/Family Center member, \$25/Non-member.*

Springfield Art Museum Slow Viewing of Legacy: Celebrating the Art+Design Department: Thurs., Oct. 24: 6-7 p.m., The Robert & Margaret Carolla Arts Exhibition Center (326 N. Boonville Ave.) Slow Viewing is a supportive practice for anyone who wants to develop their skills of interpretation, observation, and discussing art. Participants spend an hour carefully observing and speaking about a work on view, resulting in a deeper understanding of how they and others relate to the artwork and to each other. Slow Viewing is free and open to the public. Space may be limited so pre-registration is required. Register at sgfmuseum.org/Activities/Activity/Detail/2024-Slow-Viewing-219.

Kids' Night: Oct. 25 & Nov. 22: 5:30-8 p.m., Dan Kinney Family Center (2701 S. Blackman Rd.) Drop off the kids for an evening of fun, with bounce house and gym time, plus pizza, movie and a snack! Ages 5-12 yrs. *Fee: \$15/Family Center member, \$20/Non-member.*

Wizards and Fantastic Beasts at the Zoo: Sat., Oct. 26: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (crafts and activities 10 a.m.-1 p.m.), Dickerson Park Zoo (1401 W. Norton Rd.) Harry Potter-inspired activities and animal enrichment at Dickerson Park Zoo. DickersonParkZoo.org. All ages. *Fee: \$19/Adults and teens, \$14/3-12 yrs., \$16/60 yrs. and up.*

Robberson Neighborhood Trunk or Treat: Sat., Oct. 26: 4-5 p.m., Pathways United Methodist Church (1232 E. Dale St.) Get ready for some Halloween fun! Decorate your car trunk and hand out treats to the kids in a safe, fun environment. Costumes are highly encouraged! All ages. *Free.*

Halloween Fest: Sat., Oct. 26: 1-3 p.m., Springfield Botanical Gardens (2400 S. Scenic Ave.) Celebrate the season with Halloween-themed activities at Springfield Botanical Gardens at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park! Wear a costume and join in the family scavenger hunt, games and crafts. Register by Oct. 24 at ParkBoard.org/Events. All ages. *Free.*

Ozarks Wintertime Tales and Yuletide Terrors: Tues., Oct. 29: 7-8 p.m. Library Center (4653 S. Campbell Ave.) Join us for an evening of ghostly tales, folk ballads and crankies presented by local artists. The chill change of air in the Ozarks each winter brings with it songs and tales of restless spirits, strange shapes seen in weird weather and the mischief of Yuletide creatures from folklore. Join local artists, including Sandi Green-Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Krampus, for a multi-media evening featuring ghostly tales, folk ballads and crankies — a century-old storytelling tradition using music, theatrics and art. This Oh, the Horror! event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For adults. *Free.*

What Scammers Don't Want You To Know: Thurs., Oct. 31: 10-11 a.m., Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library (2214 S. Brentwood Blvd.) Learn how to spot and avoid social media scams with Pamela Hernandez, regional director for the Springfield Better Business Bureau. New technology, changes in consumer behavior and world events are changing the way scams occur in the marketplace. Pamela Hernandez, regional director for the Springfield Better Business Bureau, will share how to spot and avoid common scams and what scams are popping up in our community. For adults. *Free.*

Rountree Halloween Parade: Thurs., Oct. 31: 5:30 p.m., Intersection of Weller and Delaware. Lineup starts at 5-5:15 p.m.

2024-2025 NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS

All Cleanups are 8 a.m.-Noon

FALL CLEANUPS

Doling & Tom Watkins

September 21

BNSF Parking Lot (304 W. Chase St.)

Westside

October 5

Study Alternative School (2343 W. Olive St.)

Rountree & Delaware

October 12

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

Midtown, Grant Beach, & Weller

October 19

Cox North Parking Lot
(1423 N. Jefferson Ave.)

Galloway Village & Bradford Park

October 26

Immaculate Conception Church
(3555 S. Fremont Ave.)

Oak Grove & Brentwood

November 2

Enterprise Park Lanes
(1625 S. Enterprise Ave.)

SPRING CLEANUPS

Meador Park & Seminole Holland

April 5, 2025

Meador Park (2600 S. Fremont Ave.)

Woodland Heights & Robberson

April 19, 2025

BNSF Parking Lot (304 W. Chase St.)

Greater Parkcrest & Mark Twain

May 3, 2025

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

Fasnigh & West Central

May 10, 2025

Fasnigh Park (1305 S. Maine Ave.)

Phelps Grove & University Heights

May 17, 2025

MSU Parking Lot #22 (1003 E. Normal St.)

Bissett & Heat of the Westside

May 31, 2025

Complete Electronics Recycling Lot
(2935 W. Chestnut Expy.)

Information is subject to change. Check SGFNeighborhoodNews.com for the latest.

▶ **EVENTS CONTINUE on page 30**

National Family Literacy Day Read-In: Sat. Nov. 2: 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Library Center (4653 S. Campbell Ave.) Celebrate National Family Literacy Day (Nov. 1) by reading together! Find a new book to read, bring pillows and blankets to get comfy, and create a bookmark for your newly borrowed books. For families with kids of all ages. *Free.*

Fall into Fun: Mon., Nov. 4: 1-1:45 p.m. or 2-2:45 p.m., Doling Family Center (301 E. Talmage St.) Hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) activities, crafts and games with a fall theme! Register by Nov. 1 at ParkBoard.org/Events. Ages. 5-12 yrs. *Fee: \$7/Child.*

Veterans' Appreciation Day: Nov. 10-11: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Dickerson Park Zoo (1401 W. Norton Rd.) Free zoo admission for military veterans with ID, and their immediate family. All ages. *Free for military veterans (with ID) and immediate family, \$19/Adults and teens, \$14/3-12 yrs., \$16/60 yrs. and up.*

Springfield Art Museum Slow Viewing of Untitled by Josh Mitchell: Wed., Nov. 13: 6-7 p.m., The Fairbanks Community Hub's Community Classroom (1126 N. Broadway Ave.) Slow Viewing is a supportive practice for anyone who wants to develop their skills of interpretation, observation, and discussing art. Participants spend an hour carefully observing and speaking about a work on view, resulting in a deeper understanding of how they and others relate to the artwork and to each other. Slow Viewing is free and open to the public. Space may be limited so pre-registration is required. Register at sgfmuseum.org/Activities/Activity/Detail/2024-Slow-Viewing-219.

Community Volunteer Fair: Sat., Nov. 16: 10 a.m.-Noon, Library Center (4653 S. Campbell Ave.) Browse dozens of local volunteer opportunities, grab some great swag and connect with organizations who would be grateful to find a volunteer just like you to help them meet their goals. For adults. *Free.*

Collection Connection with the Springfield Art Museum: Meaning in Materiality: Exploring Found Objects in Art: Sat., Nov. 16: 2-3 p.m., Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library (2214 S. Brentwood Blvd.) Artist Shauna Le Ann Smith will present a Collection Connection workshop, delving into the Springfield Art Museum's Permanent Collection. Dive into artworks that incorporate found objects and depict everyday items by Nick Cave, Glyneisha Johnson, Blake Willis Tiggemann and more, exploring the profound truth behind these assemblages. Discover how each object carries history, emotion and context, encouraging participants to explore their own narratives. For adults. *Free.*

Sequoiata Cave Boat Tours: Nov. 23-24: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. both days, Sequiota Park (3500 S. Lone Pine Ave.) A guided johnboat tour or Sequiota Cave, sharing its myths, facts and history. Bring your own headlamp or flashlight. Dates subject to weather and bat activity. Space is limited, so register early, by the day before the tour at ParkBoard.org/Outdoor. No on-site registration. Ages 4 yrs. and up (4-12 yrs. with an adult). *Fee: \$10/Adult, \$8/youth 4-15 yrs.*

Mayor's Tree Lighting Holiday Show: Sat., Nov. 23: 6-8:30 p.m., Park Central Square, Downtown Springfield. Join us for the annual – and Mayor McClure's final – Mayor's Tree Lighting Holiday Show, and the lighting of the Mayor's Tree just before 8 p.m. Join us on the square for fun and selfies with Santa or watch from home! Keep an eye

on SGFFestivalofLights.com or the City's Facebook and Instagram pages @CityofSGF for broadcast information. All ages. *Free.*

Mayor's Tree Lighting at Park Central Branch Library: Sat., Nov. 23: 6-9 p.m., Park Central Branch Library (128 Park Central Square). Come downtown and enjoy all the holiday festivities during the Mayor's Tree Lighting Holiday Show. Come in to warm up during the event, and we'll have ornament coloring sheets, a LEGO block floor and a take-home holiday craft. Hot chocolate and candy canes will be available while supplies last. All ages. *Free.*

Festival of Lights Free Ice Skating: Nov. 23: 5-8:30 p.m.; Nov. 29: 6-9:30 p.m.; Dec. 14: 5-8:30 p.m.; Dec. 24: 1:30-5 p.m. (Last Chance Skate w/ Santa), Brightspeed Ice Park (635 E. Trafficway). Join us at Brightspeed Ice Park for FREE ice skating during the annual Festival of Lights display! Rent skates for \$3 or bring your own. More information at ParkBoard.org/IcePark. All ages. *Free, \$3/Skate Rental or bring your own.*

30th Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot 5K: Thurs., Nov. 28: 8 a.m., Downtown Springfield. Springfield's Thanksgiving tradition and the largest Thanksgiving Day 5K in Missouri returns to downtown Springfield Thanksgiving morning, with four race categories: Elite, Runner, Walker and Family/Pet. Trophies for overall winners and medals for each age group. Build up your Thanksgiving appetite while benefiting the Park Board Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund and the Developmental Center of the Ozarks. Bring five items or five pounds of food to donate to Ozarks Food Harvest. Register at ParkBoard.org/TurkeyTrot or in person at the event. All ages. *Fee: Early-bird registration by Fri., Nov. 17, 5 p.m.: \$25/Adult, \$20/Child. Full-price registration: \$35/Adult, \$30/Child.*

6th Annual Gardens Aglow: Nov. 29-Dec. 1, Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 18-23, 26-29: 5-8:30 p.m., Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden (2400 S. Scenic Ave.) A dazzling botanical-themed evening light festival at Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, presented in partnership with Friends of the Garden. Stroll beneath 225,000 colorful lights, accenting unique structures and landscaping and capturing nature's winter beauty. Tickets and info at FriendsoftheGarden.org. All ages. *Fee: Advanced tickets: \$6/Adult; \$4/3-12 yrs. At the gate: \$8/Adult, \$5/3-12 yrs. Free/2 yrs. and under.*

History Keeper Birthday Lunch: Nov. 30: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Timmons Hall (1055 E. Webster St.) Honor local History Keepers, the elders in your church or community, by signing them up for quarterly birthday lunches served either at Timmons Hall or delivered. Produced in partnership with Springfield Community Gardens and participating local churches. Register via email at cpeoples@springfieldmo.gov. Ages 65 yrs. and up. *Free.*

Sip and Stroll at Gardens Aglow: Thurs., Dec. 5: 6-8 p.m., Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden (2400 S. Scenic Ave.) Enjoy this adults-only opportunity to stroll through Gardens Aglow. Includes charcuterie and cocoa. Additional beverages for purchase. No kids, no dogs, please. Register by Nov. 30 at FriendsoftheGarden.org. Ages 21 yrs. and up. *Fee: \$30/person.*

Christmas at the Farmstead: Dec. 6-7: Fri. 5-8 p.m., Sat. 1-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m., Gray/Campbell Farmstead (2400 S. Scenic Ave.) An old-fashioned holiday celebration at Gray/Campbell Farmstead. Open Friday and Saturday evening at Liberty Schoolhouse for a Christmas bazaar and pictures with Santa.

On Saturday afternoon, enjoy cookies and cocoa, ornament making and music. All ages. *Free.*

Candy Cane Lane: Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 20-22: 5-8 p.m., Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park (3825 W. Farm Road 146). Turn on the holiday music and drive through the farm, enjoying dazzling farm-themed holiday displays and more than 10,000 lights. Friday-Sunday nights only. All ages. *Fee: \$5/Vehicle; \$2/3D Glasses.*

Breakfast with Santa: Sat., Dec. 7: 9-11 a.m., Northview Center (305 E. Talmage St.) A magical morning with Santa at Northview Center! Enjoy delicious breakfast snacks, create crafts and meet Santa, available for photos. Bring your own camera for this festive fun! Register by Dec. 4 at ParkBoard.org/Events. Ages 5-12 yrs. *Fee: \$7/Person.*

Whiskers and Wishes: Sat., Dec. 7: 1-3 p.m., Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park (3825 W. Farm Road 146). Snap a photo of your dog with Santa, at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park! Bring your own camera. Proof of dog vaccination required. Proceeds benefit Cruse Dog Park. Register by Dec. 5 at ParkBoard.org/Events. All ages. *Fee: \$5/Dog.*

Winter Nature Walk and Craft: Sat., Dec. 14: 1-3 p.m., Lake Springfield Park (5324 S. Kissick Ave.) Enjoy the winter landscape of Lake Springfield Park on this easy 2-mile nature walk, then get cozy inside Lake Springfield Boathouse while you create homemade holiday crafts while enjoying a hot chocolate bar. Register by Dec. 14 at ParkBoard.org/Outdoor. Ages 5 yrs. and up (5-17 yrs. with an adult). *Fee: \$5/Person.*

Santa Dive: Sat., Dec. 14: 6-7 p.m., Chesterfield Family Center (2511 W. Republic Rd.) Swim with Santa and get your picture taken underwater or at the surface at Chesterfield Pool Try out different poses and smile for the camera! Take home a craft kit to create your own holiday ornament. Register by Dec. 11 at ParkBoard.org/Events. Ages 6 mos.-12 yrs. *Fee: \$15/Family Center member, \$25/Non-member.*

Eagles Days: Jan. 18-19, 2025: Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday Noon-4:30 p.m., Lake Springfield Boathouse (5324 S. Kissick Ave.) Learn about eagles and other migratory birds visiting Lake Springfield this winter. Bring binoculars, telephoto cameras or use equipment provided at Lake Springfield Boathouse. Then hike around the park to spot birds on your own. Indoor eagle programs, crafts and activities also offered by Missouri Department of Conservation staff and Dickerson Park Zoo at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center. All ages. *Free.*

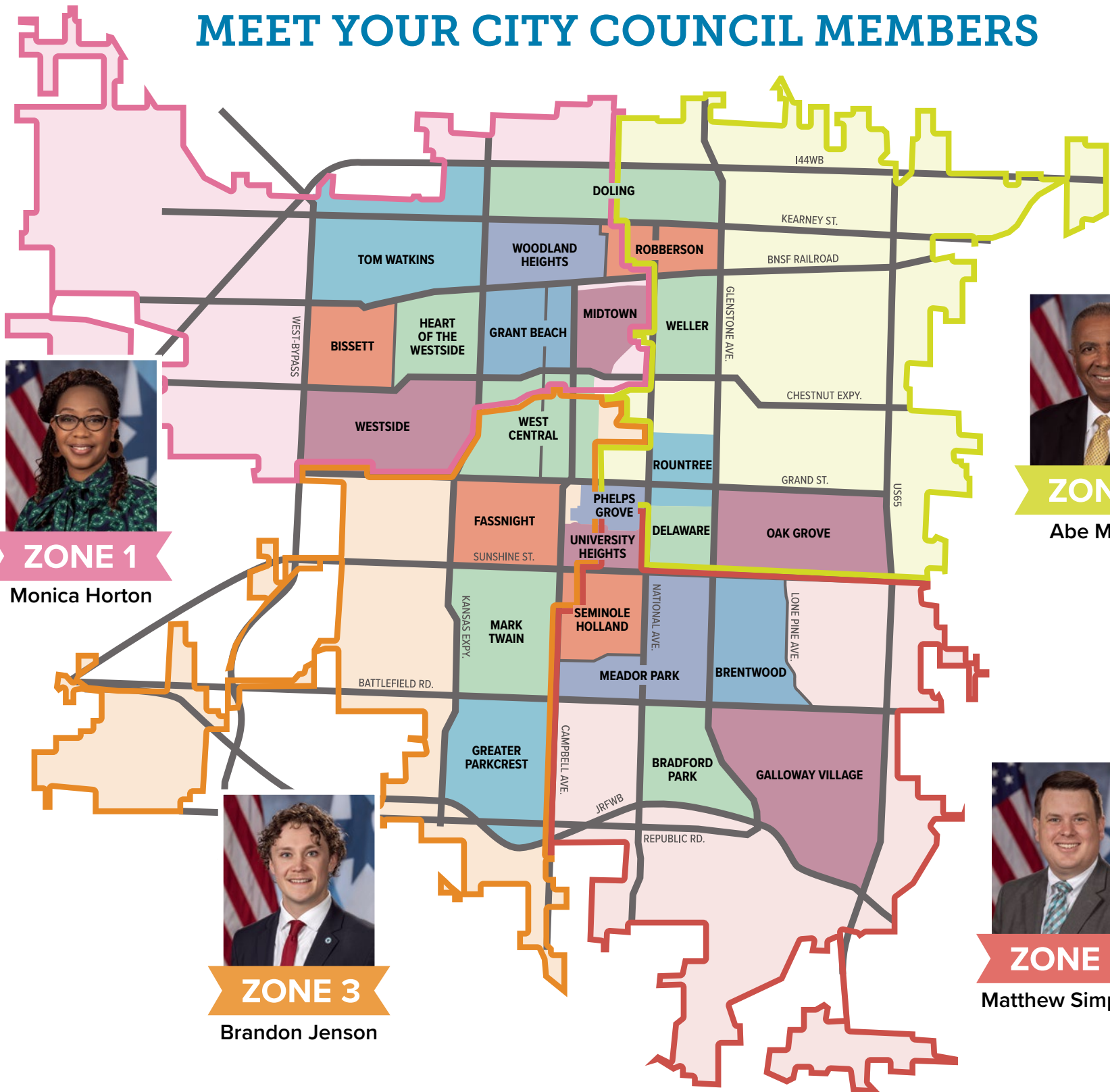
Winter Twilight Hike: Sat., Jan. 18, 2025: 5-7:30 p.m., Lake Springfield Park (5324 S. Kissick Ave.) A staff-guided hike at Lake Springfield Park. Enjoy the subtle beauty of a winter landscape, listen for owls and early spring peepers. Hot chocolate and treats afterward in Lake Springfield Boathouse. All ages. *Fee: \$5/Person, Free/4 yrs. and under.*

Owl Prowl at Lake Springfield: Fri., Jan. 24, 2025: 5:30-6:30 p.m. or 7-8 p.m., Lake Springfield Park (5324 S. Kissick Ave.) A night all about owls at the Boathouse, including a presentation from Dickerson Park Zoo staff and a visit from species examples. We'll take a stroll through the park to listen for owls. Afterwards, enjoy a hot chocolate bar. All ages. *Fee: \$5/Person, Free/4 yrs. and under.*

More events at
SGFNeighborhoodNews.com/Events
and ParkBoard.org/Events.

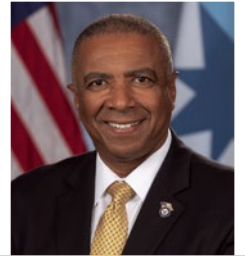
Springfield Zone Boundaries & Registered Neighborhoods

MEET YOUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



ZONE 1

Monica Horton



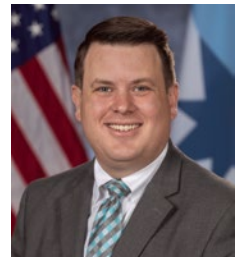
ZONE 2

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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Save the Date!

THE **Mayor's**
TREE LIGHTING
HOLIDAY SHOW

*Join us for Mayor McClure's
final Mayor's Tree Lighting!*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
Park Central Square | Downtown Springfield

Stay tuned to **SGFFestivalofLights.com** and follow the City on Facebook and Instagram @CityofSGF for the latest updates including broadcast information!



QUESTION 1

SPRING 
FORWARD SGF

Springfield voters asked to consider replacement 3/4-cent sales tax on Nov. 5 ballot

Check out this story on page 7 or visit springfieldmo.gov/election.





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