



The interior of Historic City Hall as seen in 1900 when it served as the post office. Read more about the renovations to the 130-year-old building on page 4.

18th annual NOVAs banquet celebrates 24 neighborhood volunteers, Immaculate Conception Church and Hatch Foundation for contributions to community

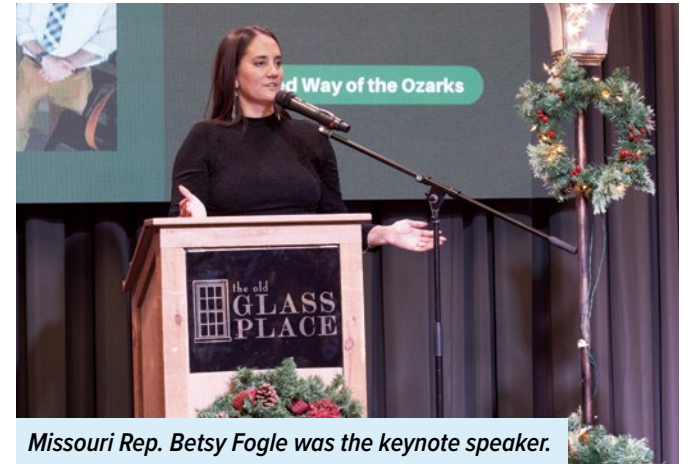
By Melissa Hart, Managing Editor

Community Partnership of the Ozarks and sponsor Air Services Heating & Cooling hosted the 18th annual Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Awards (NOVA) ceremony, Dec. 3, 2024 at The Old Glass Place to recognize and reward outstanding neighborhood volunteers who work tirelessly to improve and revitalize their communities. The theme of this year's banquet was "A New Chapter: Creating the Change We Want to See in Our Community." Missouri Rep. Betsy Fogle (District 135) was the keynote speaker.

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

REACHING FOR THE STARS AWARD

The Reaching for the Stars Award is an annual



Missouri Rep. Betsy Fogle was the keynote speaker.

award given to a person, organization, or partner that has had a particularly large and profound impact on the neighborhoods throughout the past year.

The 2024 Reaching for the Stars Award went to the Hatch Foundation for their contributions to the community, specifically their sponsorship of the Neat Neighborhoods competition, which awarded \$40,000 in first, second and third-place prizes.

► See NOVA BANQUET on page 2

Woodland Heights, Rountree, Greater Parkcrest and Galloway Village take home top honors in first Neat Neighborhoods competition

By Cora Scott, Executive Editor

Four Springfield neighborhoods were awarded the Neat Neighborhood title at the annual Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Awards (NOVAs) hosted Dec. 3, 2024 by Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

TITLE WINNERS WERE:

- Zone 1 First Place: Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association
- Zone 2 First Place: Rountree Neighborhood Association
- Zone 3 First Place: Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association
- Zone 4 First Place: Galloway Village Neighborhood Association.

Title winners received \$6,000 from the Hatch Foundation for the purpose of neighborhood improvement. In addition to the title winners, second and third-place honors were selected in each of the four City Council zones, with \$3,000



Galloway Village

and \$1,000 donated to each of the registered neighborhood organizations placing in those categories. CPO provided \$500 to neighborhoods participating, but not placing.

► See NEAT NEIGHBORHOODS on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 All but two 2019-2024 Neighborhood Works projects complete
- 22 Construction begins for Renew Jordan Creek

GET TO KNOW SGF NEIGHBORHOODS

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

▶ NOVA BANQUET from page 1



RISING STAR AWARDS

This year, CPO awarded two \$500 Rising Star awards to Seminole Holland and Grant Beach for their efforts in the Neat Neighborhoods competition.

INDIVIDUAL NOVAS

- Bissett: Vickie Grinde
- Bradford Park: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
- Brentwood: Mert Seaton
- Delaware: Marianne Jones
- Doling: Nedra Blue Chasar
- Fassnight: Jamie Moore
- Galloway Village: Brian and Ciree Jones
- Grant Beach: Jamie Tatum
- Greater Parkcrest: Ken Brooks
- Heart of the Westside: Vince and Sherian Aragon
- Mark Twain: Kathy Meyer
- Midtown: Susan Mann
- Oak Grove: Matt Peterson
- Phelps Grove: Ester and Bill Bultas
- Robberson: Sarah Tinajero
- Rountree: Barbara Thurman
- Seminole Holland: Will Cooper
- Tom Watkins: Jean and Tom DeGeere
- West Central: Oren Redus
- Westside: Kenyon Woodson
- Woodland Heights: Sue Wood.

BASS PRO MARATHON NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGE AWARDS

Concluding the evening were the Great Neighborhoods grants to neighborhoods and the Bass Pro Marathon cheering sections awards.



Bass Pro awarded a total of \$11,000 this year.

- Woodland Heights and Galloway Village tied for first place and each took home \$800.
- Bradford Park, Delaware, Greater Parkcrest, Mark Twain and Oak Grove tied for second and took home \$700.
- Seminole Holland and Westside tied for third and took home \$650.
- Midtown placed fourth and took home \$550.
- Robberson, Rountree, West Central and University Heights tied for fifth and each took home \$500.
- Brentwood placed sixth and took home \$450.
- Weller, Meador Park, Doling and Tom Watkins placed seventh and each took home \$400.

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS GRANTS

The City's Planning & Development department awarded \$5,500 in Great Neighborhoods grants to nine neighborhoods in recognition of their efforts in 2023 and 2024.

Neighborhoods who earned a minimum of 18 points and \$750 were:

- Delaware Neighborhood Association
- Rountree Neighborhood Association
- Oak Grove Neighborhood Association
- University Heights Neighborhood Association.

Those who earned a minimum of nine points and \$500 were:

- Heart of the Westside Neighborhood Association
- Fassnight Neighborhood Association
- Doling Neighborhood Association
- Grant Beach Neighborhood Association
- Mark Twain Neighborhood Association.

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



Effective in 2025, the Great Neighborhoods program will no longer be an every-other-year reimbursement, but rather will be an annual grant opportunity for all registered neighborhood organizations. This change was inspired by the number of growing neighborhood organizations that have an interest in hosting neighborhood events or beginning neighborhood projects but may



not have the funds to kickstart them.

With the recognition program being a two-year designation, board officer rotations have made it difficult for neighborhoods to track their participation. In hopes of minimizing that issue, every calendar year, registered neighborhood organizations will be eligible to apply for Great Neighborhoods grant dollars. The application period will open the first quarter of each year with the goal of encouraging neighborhoods to be thinking about the year ahead.

For more information about the program visit springfieldmo.gov/greatneighborhoods.

Read more about the individual NOVA winners in the neighborhood sections or at SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.



All but two 2019-2024 Neighborhood Works projects complete

IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKS IN ROUNTREE AND WEST CENTRAL ANTICIPATED FOR COMPLETION IN SPRING

By Melissa Hart,
Managing Editor

The City's Public Works and Parks departments have completed all but two of the 2019-2024 Neighborhood Works projects in 11 registered neighborhoods. Stay tuned for the application deadline for the next project cycle.

Funded through the 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax, the Neighborhood Works program is intended to fund small-scale capital improvements within the City's registered neighborhoods. The program gives residents the opportunity to identify projects they believe will offer the greatest benefit to their area including small-scale stormwater drainage improvements, sidewalk and trail connections, public parking and alleyway improvements and updates to parks. Individual projects are limited to \$100,000 or less and must take place on City-owned property or right-of-way.

BISSETT

Glenn Street safety and accessibility improvements: \$99,896

Widening of Glenn Avenue between Calhoun and Hovey streets with curb and a crosswalk.

DELAWARE

Walkability and accessibility improvements: \$72,718

Sidewalk repair and ADA ramp improvements on multiple streets.

DOLING

Sidewalk improvements: \$6,703

Sidewalk and ADA ramp repairs along Fremont Avenue where it intersects with Livingston, North and Nora streets.

GREATER PARKCREST

Sidewalk and park improvements: \$78,524

Installation of picnic tables and benches in the existing gazebo in the park at Horace Mann Elementary, construction of a pavilion, picnic tables and benches on the east side of the tennis court. A sidewalk connection from Danbury Avenue to Stanford Park was also completed.

MEADOR PARK

Ray Kelly Park lighting: \$18,700

GALLOWAY VILLAGE

Crosswalk improvement project: \$27,368

Lone Pine Galloway greenway trail crosswalk enhancements with curbs and rectangular rapid flashing beacons. These beacons are the only



Zone 1 Councilwoman Monica Horton spoke at a July 2024 event celebrating the completion of two crosswalk improvement projects located at Grant Avenue and Chase Street and at Chase and Lyon Avenue in Woodland Heights.



ones in Springfield that use thermal imaging for activation, which works well for trail users because joggers or bicyclers are less likely to come to a full stop at the street edge to push the button to manually activate the flashing lights. This technology alerts drivers to a trail user's presence before they reach the crosswalk.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS

Crosswalk improvement projects: \$98,824

Curb extensions for the crosswalk at Chase Street and Lyon Avenue and a new crosswalk with rectangular rapid-flashing beacons at Chase Street and Grant Avenue.

FASSNIGHT

Fassnight Park safety and accessibility improvements and playground equipment: \$96,500

Park signage and sidewalk repair and installation of a play structure for children ages 2-5.

WESTSIDE

Conversion of tennis to pickle ball court Westport School/Park and lights for the pickleball court at Zagonyi Park: \$49,900

WEST CENTRAL

Hawthorn Park improvements: \$22,500

The fence was removed and the courts have been updated. A park sign and a butterfly garden are anticipated for completion in the spring.

ROUNTREE

Pocket park at Fairway Avenue and Cherry Street: \$79,208

This project converted a City-owned lot with a sinkhole into a public greenspace. Sidewalk work, including pads for art installations, landscaping and a frost-free hydrant have been completed. Only minor items remain.

▶ NEAT NEIGHBORHOODS from page 1

ZONE 1

- Second Place: Bissett Neighborhood Association
- Third Place: Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association
- Shining Star Award: (provided by CPO): Grant Beach Neighborhood Association

ZONE 2

- Second Place: Oak Grove Neighborhood Association
- Third Place: Delaware Neighborhood Association

ZONE 3

- Second Place: Phelps Grove Neighborhood Association
- Third Place: West Central Neighborhood Alliance

ZONE 4

- Second Place: Bradford Park Neighborhood Association
- Third Place: Brentwood Neighborhood Association
- Shining Star Award (provided by CPO): Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association



Judges included representatives from registered neighborhoods and the Hatch Foundation. Registration opened May 1, 2024, but judges considered projects and enhancements that took place between Jan. 1 and Sept. 1. Judging categories included: planning and involvement, public places/roads, streets and alleys, green spaces and tidiness and litter control.

The Hatch Foundation, in partnership with the City of Springfield and the Neighborhood Advisory Council, launched the friendly neighborhood competition in 2024 to incentivize and recognize neighborhoods who go above and beyond in the areas of civic engagement, tidiness and beautification. The program is patterned after Tidy Towns, a tradition rooted in Ireland since 1958. This community challenge found its way to Springfield, thanks to community mobilizer Erin Danastasio and the Hatch Foundation.

Looking back at early 2021, the City of Springfield and community partners faced a challenge—comments and complaints were flooding in about the increasing amount of trash along roads and in neighborhoods.

"Maybe it was the pandemic or a collective surge of community spirit, but there was an unmistakable energy—a shared eagerness to get involved, be active, and create a positive impact," said Cora Scott, the City's director of Public Information and Civic Engagement. "As we launched the new Neat Neighborhoods competition, the spirit of Clean Green Springfield, born from collaboration and a shared commitment to positive change, became a key player in our quest for a tidy town. It's not just about tidying up; it's about leaving a lasting impression and being proud of your neighborhood."

Renovations to Historic City Hall to modernize, rehabilitate 130-year-old building

By Melissa Hart, Managing Editor

Springfield's Historic City Hall has stood tall at the corner of Chestnut Expressway and Boonville Avenue for more than a century. Now, the historic building is undergoing renovations meant to preserve its usefulness for decades to come.

The building was designed by U.S. Treasury architect Willoughby James Edbrooke as a U.S. Customhouse and Post Office in the Richardson Romanesque Revival style of architecture, named for 19th-century architect Henry Hobson Richardson. The exterior was constructed of limestone quarried in Stinesville, Indiana and features a turret with gargoyles at each corner that serve as water spouts and a campanile-like tower. It was opened for public inspection in June 1894. Approximately 5,000 citizens toured the new facility throughout the day and evening.



The interior of the building as seen in 1914.

The first and second floors housed the post office, offices and support staff. The federal courtroom and offices were housed on the third floor. In 1914, a major addition was designed and constructed on the north end of the building and wrapped the east side of the building. Small turrets were removed from the northwest and northeast corners of the building to accommodate the expansion. Two additional small wood framed expansions were completed by 1932. A mailing vestibule addition was designed and constructed in 1927 onto the south elevation of the 1913 addition. It was enlarged in 1932, adding



The building features a turret with gargoyles at each corner that serve as water spouts, and a campanile-like tower.

four loading docks on both the south and east elevations. Until recently, this wood-framed portion of the first floor housed office space for the Springfield Fire Department. An elevator was added in 1932 in the center of the rotunda stairs located at the southwest corner of the original building and is still used today.

On May 16, 1922, a fire broke out on the second floor, causing \$35,000 in damage. Walls and furniture on all three floors were damaged.

The building served the United States government until 1937, when a new post office and federal building was constructed directly to the north. The post office, federal courts and other government offices moved into the new building and the City of Springfield acquired the U.S. Customhouse and Post Office. Springfield City Council held its first meeting in the new facility on October 10, 1938, just one day after it became City Hall.

The building was home to the Springfield Art Museum from 1937 to 1955. The Springfield History Museum occupied the third floor until 2011. In 1973, City Council designated the facility as a site on the Springfield Historic Register. Six years later, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 27, 1979. Because of these designations, certain aspects of the building, in particular the exterior, must be preserved during the rehabilitation.

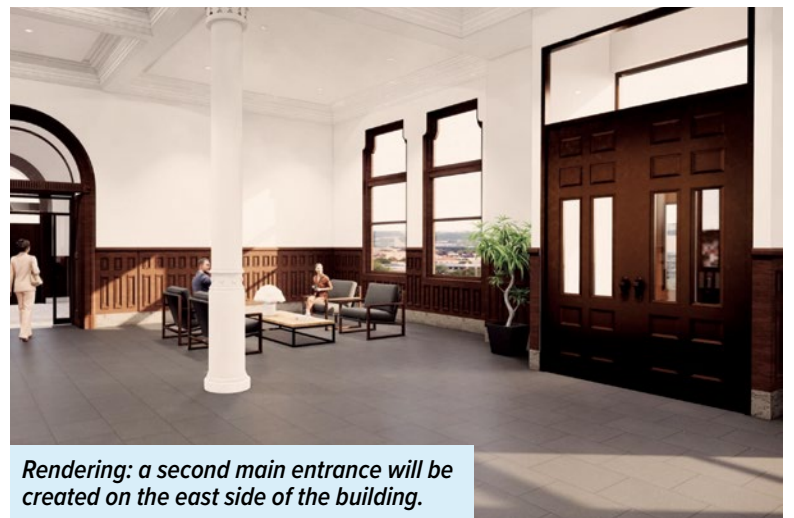
In November 1992, a new post office was built at 500 W. Chestnut Expressway. As in 1938, the City purchased the federal government's old building and

renamed it the Busch Municipal Building after Don Busch, who was Springfield's city manager from 1971 until 1990. City offices relocated to the Busch Municipal Building and City Hall became known as Historic City Hall. Since then, the building has provided office space for various City departments in addition to serving as public meeting space for the City Council and Planning & Zoning Commission.

The primary goals of the Historic City Hall



Rehabilitation are to provide a new vertical core to house an internal fire stair, an elevator large enough for a gurney and restroom facilities on each floor, code compliant mechanical and electrical systems, modern office space for City departments, improvements to City Council Chambers and supporting spaces, window and roof replacement and making the building accessible to all. Another important aspect of the rehabilitation is the abatement of hazardous materials such as lead and asbestos.



Rendering: a second main entrance will be created on the east side of the building.

A second main entrance will be created on the east side of the building. Other exterior rehabilitation will include the removal of the fire escape and cleaning of the stone.

One of the most noticeable changes will be made in the lobby. The designs for the lobby showcase the building's historic elements, including tile floors, portions of which were uncovered beneath layers of floors put in over the years, and original columns.

The rehabilitated Historic City Hall is estimated to be complete in early 2026. The rehabilitation cost is expected to be approximately \$16.5 million, funded through the City's Level Property Tax, local American Rescue Plan Act funding and City General Fund Carryover Funds.

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

Volume 9 • Issue 1 • Winter 2025

SGFNeighborhoodNews.com

PUBLISHER

Jason Gage
jgage@springfieldmo.gov

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Cora Scott
cscott@springfieldmo.gov

MANAGING EDITOR

Melissa Hart
melissa.hart@springfieldmo.gov

DESIGNER

Rebecca Pfizner
rpfizner@springfieldmo.gov

PHOTOGRAPHER/WEB DESIGNER

Christopher Akins
cakins@springfieldmo.gov

CONTRIBUTORS

Fred Ackley	Kristen Milam
Michael Brittain	Brian Miller
Sharon L. Brooks	Mark Montgomery
Debbie Butts	Chance Parish
William Cooper	Francine Pratt
Kevin Evans	Pete Radecki
Phyllis Evans	Melody Shuck
Glenn Gohr	Vicky Trippe
Melissa Green	Becky Volz
Jenny Hill	Colby Wallace
Amy Hunsaker-Williams	Nancy Williams
Charity Keniley	Peggy Wise
Hanna Knopf	

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Bruce Adib-Yazdi	Terry Kolaks
Brooke Ash	Mark Maynard
Melanie Bach	Brian Miller
Ken Brooks	Jamie Moore
Sharon L. Brooks	Dellene Nelson
Mary Ann Bonetti	Pete Radecki
Jeff Carney	Brent Rinker
Nathan Cook	Nick Robinson
Kathleen Cowens	Lena Sample
Ran Cummings	Jamie Tatum
Nancy Evans	Dave Trippe
Glenn Gohr	Becky Volz
Carolyn Goucher	Colby Wallace
Barbara Rae Hughes	Nancy Williams
Duane Keys	Peggy Wise
Hanna Knopf	

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your submissions!
Please send them to Melissa Hart
at melissa.hart@springfieldmo.gov
or 417-864-1003.

DISTRIBUTION

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

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

Be SMART and save lives

By Jenny Hill with Francine Pratt, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, for SGFNN

We all know that children are curious. They like to explore big and small spaces. Typically, they aren't concerned with being safe or cautious and telling them "don't do that" just makes them want to try it more. Unfortunately, that means unexpected and unsafe moments can happen. One such issue is gun safety. Since firearms are now the leading cause of death among children in the United States, it's of utmost importance for parents, family members, caregivers and the parents of your children's friends to know how to safely store firearms and medications. Owning a gun is a personal decision, but secure firearm storage is an important part of keeping your family and others safe. One easy way to make sure we are doing it right is to "Be SMART."



WHAT IS BE SMART?

In 2015, the Be SMART campaign was launched to promote secure gun storage and responsible gun ownership. Community Partnership of the Ozarks advocates for responsible gun ownership to reduce the number of child gun deaths and suicide by gun. Everyone can and needs to have a part in the conversation about safe gun storage. You may be a gun owner or know someone who owns a gun. The guidelines around Be SMART can aid in keeping our youth, young adults and Springfield community safe. We can help prevent access to firearms by storing them securely and encouraging others to do the same.

HERE'S HOW TO BE SMART:

- Secure all guns in your home and vehicles.
- Model responsible behavior around guns.
- Ask about unsecured guns in other homes.
- Recognize the role of guns in suicide.
- Tell your peers to Be SMART.

We surveyed youth and young adults and asked how Springfield can reduce gun violence. Their top two responses were: "Parents need to teach their kids about guns and take gun safety courses" and "Parents need to be more responsible with guns, but some parents don't care."

If you are a gun owner, this is a great time to research the best way to safely store your firearm(s). There are many options including gun cases, safes, lock boxes and gun locks. Taking the time to find the best type of gun storage for your home is the gift of safety you can give to youth, young adults and loved ones in your life and for youth and young adults who visit your home.

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 SMART.

EAGLE DAYS

2025

JAN. 18-19

LAKE SPRINGFIELD PARK AND BOATHOUSE

PARKBOARD.ORG/LAKESPRINGFIELD
MDC.MO.GOV/EVENTS/EAGLE-DAYS

Positive changes to City's Great Neighborhoods program coming in 2025

By Hanna Knopf, Planning & Development, for SGFNN

In 2013, Springfield City Council adopted the Great Neighborhoods philosophy. The philosophy used four principles to define great neighborhood organizations as being resident-led, committed long-term, inclusive of all and involved in engaging activities.

Out of this philosophy, the Great Neighborhoods Recognition Program was formed. For many dedicated years, the recognition program has awarded funds to registered neighborhood organizations that accomplish the four principles through Clean, Safe and Friendly initiatives. Keeping the Great Neighborhoods philosophy in mind, a few changes to the program will become effective in 2025.

- The program will no longer be an every-other-year reimbursement, but rather will be an annual grant opportunity for all registered neighborhood organizations. This change was inspired by the number of growing neighborhood organizations that have an interest in hosting neighborhood events or beginning neighborhood projects but may not have the funds to kickstart them.
- With the recognition program being a two-year designation, board officer rotations have made it difficult for neighborhoods to track their participation. In hopes of minimizing that issue, every calendar year, registered neighborhood organizations will be eligible to apply for Great Neighborhoods grant dollars. The application period is to be open the first quarter of each year with the goal of encouraging neighborhoods to be thinking about the year ahead.

For more information about the program visit springfieldmo.gov/greatneighborhoods.

If you have ideas for projects or events that you'd like to see your neighborhood pursue, get involved with your neighborhood association today!



Hanna Knopf



CPO renames Tool Library after beloved volunteer

By Melody Shuck, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, for SGFNN

Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) has renamed its Springfield Tool Library, the Laverne Schell Tool Library in honor of the late Laverne Schell, a beloved and dedicated volunteer who was committed to CPO and its mission to create resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities. CPO hosted a renaming dedication with Laverne's family on Nov. 26, 2024 at the O'Reilly Center for Hope, 1518 E. Dale.

The Tool Library, located at the Center for Hope, works like a traditional library but lends tools instead of books. It's a great resource for people who need home repair or gardening tools but can't afford them or don't have the storage space.

"Laverne was special. He fell in love with the work we do at CPO and took our mission to heart. He spent countless hours volunteering his time and his talents and became a part of our CPO family. He made a difference and will be missed by many." – Janet Dankert

Schell, who retired from AmeriPride Services after 43 years, discovered CPO through Springfield's Give 5 program, a free "civic matchmaking" program that connects retirees with meaningful volunteer opportunities. Schell immediately connected with CPO as a trusted leader for solving issues and devoted much of his time to volunteering. This included building the much-needed original Tool Library shed that was used to store tools and equipment for the program.

After Schell's passing in July 2024, CPO wanted to honor the time, commitment and passion that Laverne gave to CPO.

"Laverne was special. He fell in love with the work we do at CPO and took our mission to heart. He spent countless hours volunteering his time and his talents and became a part of our CPO family. He made a difference and will be missed by many. This is just a small way to honor his exemplary commitment to making our community better," said CPO President/CEO Janet Dankert.

AMPROD PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to a partnership with Stafford company AMPROD, the Tool Library now has someone to inspect and repair its equipment.

AMPROD provides complete engineered enclosure, shelter and cabinet solutions for the



telecommunications, data storage and electrical utilities industries.

Darren Jungwirth, AMPROD's maintenance manager and a U.S. Navy veteran, has a natural knack for fixing things. So, when the opportunity arose to volunteer at CPO's Laverne Schell Tool Library, it was a perfect fit.

Tiffani Claussen, president and CEO of AMPROD, saw an opportunity to connect the skills and resources of the AMPROD team with CPO's mission. She facilitated Darren's volunteer work at the Tool Library, where he now dedicates time each month to inspect and repair the equipment. He ensures everything is in working order, replacing spark plugs, fixing power tools, and making any necessary repairs.

When Darren came across two old push mowers in need of serious repair, he realized they were beyond saving. Instead of simply discarding them, he decided to go above and beyond: he purchased two new mowers for the library and donated the old ones to a local man with disabilities who repairs old mowers for income.

"I spent 25 years of my life (in the Navy) seeing a lot of human tragedy. I just want to help where I can and to give back when I'm able," Jungwirth said.



AMPROD actively supports community engagement, offering employees the opportunity to volunteer during work hours.

"I'm incredibly proud of Darren and our whole team. This is exactly what we are trying to accomplish – going outside our walls to make connections and to give back. So, when I see these things happen, it's very rewarding," Claussen said.

To learn more about the Tool Library, visit CPOzarks.org. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit the Get Involved section of the website.



Laverne Schell

NAC chair wants to see neighborhoods thrive in 2025

By Becky Volz, for SGFNN

Welcome to the neighborhood!! I was recently in a conversation with someone who said, "Springfield is a city of neighborhoods." That comment stuck to me like velcro, and I think about it a lot. I also often reflect on how diverse our neighborhoods are, and I truly believe we should celebrate our diversity. My goal this year is to see our neighborhoods thrive in '25! There have been so many things to fix and changes to be made that we have had our heads down focusing on what's wrong. But I am challenging our neighborhoods this year to look up and celebrate the assets in your neighborhood. You may have schools and organizations, businesses, churches, parks and green spaces, streams, bridges, caves, lakes and certainly awesome neighbors. Now, if you haven't met those awesome neighbors yet, this can be your year!



Neighborhood association gatherings, events and meetings are a very good place to start. You can find your neighborhood information in this newsletter, or on the City's website at springfieldmo.gov/neighborhoods and by attending a meeting or visit the Facebook page or website for your neighborhood. Whatever helps you connect, take that step and connect. You can always contact me at nac.sgf.658@gmail.com with any questions as well.

We have just completed our first Neat Neighborhoods competition for 2024. These activities alone brought neighbors together to share

Restore SGF to launch essential home repair grant program to eligible seniors in 2025

By Melissa Hart, Managing Editor

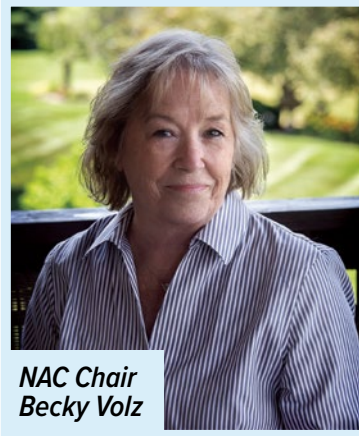
Restore SGF is excited to announce a \$100,000 grant from the Greene County Citizens' Service Fund to launch a program supporting homeowners aged 60 and older with essential home repairs. This program is available to residents in the Doling Park East, Fassnight, Grant Beach, Meador Park East and Woodland Heights neighborhoods. Visit restoresgf.com/wherewework to see if you qualify.

In partnership with the Greene County Citizens' Service Fund, eligible seniors can receive up to 50% of repair costs, capped at \$5,000, for vital improvements such as:

- Roof repairs
- Replacement doors and windows
- Accessibility upgrades
- HVAC repairs and more.

"We are grateful for this partnership and the

our desire to be proud of where we live. This was a fabulous experience and helped us connect with those who have an interest in our neighborhoods.



NAC Chair
Becky Volz

Think about who your stakeholders are. A stakeholder is a person, group or organization with a vested interest, or stake, in the decision-making and activities of a business, organization or project. We don't have to do everything by ourselves. We don't have to be limited to the faithful few who do everything. NAC will be offering opportunities to learn how to grow our neighborhood associations. Stay positive about what's Clean, Safe & Friendly in your neighborhood.

I found some good tips on the website of Albuquerque, New Mexico. If you need some ideas, take a look at these: cabq.gov/office-of-neighborhood-coordination/neighborhood-toolbox/tips-for-recruiting-volunteers. We are building strong, stable neighborhoods in SGF. Yes, it is a process and takes time and effort, but we can help each other do that by sharing our successes.

With a renewed focus on growing our neighborhood associations, the City's Planning and Development Department has made some changes with our Great Neighborhoods program. We are about to launch into the next Neighborhood Works grant program season, which is an opportunity to bring capital improvements to targeted areas of our neighborhoods. There are a number of good things on the horizon. Keep your eye on the goal. Don't focus on the hurdles we are jumping along the way. We are making progress and our voices are being heard by our City leadership. I am encouraged!



opportunity to help seniors in our neighborhoods live safer, healthier, and more comfortable lives," said Restore SGF Executive Director Brendan Griesemer.

More details on how to apply coming in early 2025. Stay tuned to Restore SGF's website: restoresgf.com.

Gather your friends for 2025 SGF Kickball Tournament

By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

One day two old friends, Bobbi Ream (Meador Park) and Kevin Evans (formerly Delaware, now University Heights) were discussing how to get their neighbors to interact more. Bobbi challenged Kevin and his neighborhood to a kickball match and SGF Kickball was born.

With the support of Springfield-Greene County Parks, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, and dozens of faithful volunteers, the annual tournament is family fun for all ages 8 and up. Hundreds of Springfieldians gather each spring in Meador Park to compete for the coveted trophy that we call "The Bobbi," and yes, it is her old jogging shoe, bronzed!

The 2025 tournament will be Sunday, April 27 starting at noon. The rain date is May 4.

Gather your team today. It's free, but the tournament size is limited.

For more information and updates, Follow us on Facebook at: facebook.com/groups/SGFKickball.



NEIGHBOR WOODS

City of Springfield, MO

A Partnership to Enhance Springfield's Community Forest

Visit springfieldmo.gov/NeighborWoods to learn more.

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

BISSETT NEIGHBORHOOD



2025 BNA Board: Vickie Grinde (Vice President), Pete Radecki (President), Rob Sorbo (Board Member), Cherie Cronie (Board Member), Sheila Radecki (Treasurer). Not shown: Pat Norberg

2025 looking to be a banner year for Bissett

By Pete Radecki, for SGFNN

In 2024, Bissett Neighborhood Association launched two highly successful new events.

In May and in partnership with Eden Village 2, we held our first-ever Bissett Bash! Live entertainment, games, a bounce house, prizes and free food for about 100 attendees. We're planning it again this year, so stay tuned for an announcement early in the year.

With the transformational gift from the Hatch Foundation Neat Neighborhoods Program, another new round of grants via the Neighborhood Works program, and our strategic initiative to improve Hillcrest Avenue, we have the opportunity to do something special for and in our neighborhood.

Starting in April and through August, we launched our Neat Neighborhoods program. This effort included two neighborhood-wide cleanups, the launch of our Trash Troopers litter patrol, our Clean Up and Clear Out awareness and education initiative that focuses on how to manage all our stuff so we can avoid the pitfalls of hoarding and the unhealthy and unsafe conditions caused by clutter and vegetation overgrowth. Our efforts were rewarded with Bissett garnering a second place prize in the city-wide Neat Neighborhoods competition, which includes a \$3,000 prize courtesy of the Hatch Foundation. That money will be invested in continuing to improve our neighborhood. If you want to share your thoughts on worthwhile uses, come to our January or February general membership meetings.

BNA also held its annual neighborhood-wide yard sale in July. We held seven general membership meetings with speakers, great Q&A sessions with our PAR officer, and potluck dinners. The year was capped off by our annual Christmas dinner.

BNA continued its participation in the

Neighborhood Advisory Council. Joining with the other 20-plus Springfield neighborhood associations helps us have a strong voice in helping guide and participate in the betterment of Springfield.

On a more somber note, we witnessed the passing of long-time Bissett resident and BNA member Georgia Burton. We also learned of the passing of former BNA president Carl Porras, who died from COVID in New Mexico where he and his family have lived for several years. May Georgia and Carl rest in peace.



We want to thank Walmart Neighborhood Market on Mt. Vernon Street and Little Caesar's Pizza for generous food donations for some of our events, and special thanks to David Kramer and Complete Electronics Recycling for hosting our September cleanup. We also want to thank Queen City Graphix for special pricing on our BNA T-shirts and donation of polos.

2025 BOARD

Many thanks to each of our officers and board members from past years. Our officers for 2025 are:

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

It's looking like 2025 will be a banner year for BNA. With the transformational gift from the Hatch Foundation Neat Neighborhoods Program, another new round of grants via the Neighborhood Works program, and our strategic initiative to improve Hillcrest Avenue, we have the opportunity to do something special for and in our neighborhood. If you read this and live or work in Bissett, consider joining our group to make a difference in our neighborhood.



Connect

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

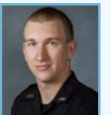


Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 14 • Feb. 15 • March 15 • April 8: 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  



VICKIE GRINDE
Bissett's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

Vickie has been an officer of Bissett Neighborhood Association for several years, and we can always count on her to participate in virtually all our activities and bring her infectious optimism! And most recently she stepped up and is leading the charge with our Neat Neighborhoods Trash Troopers!

BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

Brentwood Neighborhood shares 2024 highlights

By Amy Hunsaker-Williams, for SGFNN

Since last summer, Brentwood Neighborhood has organized and participated in several community events to foster connection among neighbors.

JUNE: SUMMER KICKOFF AT KIRKWOOD PARK

The neighborhood association hosted a vibrant Summer Kickoff at the new Kirkwood Park playground. The event featured live music by Brian Pitts, a cookout by Jeremy and Ali Ennis, prizes donated by Brentwood Shopping Center businesses (coordinated by Mark Hayman), a membership drive led by former president Mert Seaton, and games donated by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and transported by Amy Hunsaker-Williams. Setup was managed by Amy, Mert, Brent Rinker, Zack Miller, and Dave and Pam Buhr. The event was a resounding success and will return in summer 2025.

AUGUST: NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP & LIBRARY LANDSCAPING

On Aug. 10, neighbors cleaned Luster Avenue, the Field Elementary School lawn, and Eugene Field Park, including sweeping playground equipment. Board members also helped spread mulch around the Brentwood Library's flower beds. Additionally, Dave and Pam Buhr restored the neighborhood sign at Glenstone and Sunset, while Michael Harned and his neighbors worked on the Brentwood South sign at Battlefield and Barnes.

GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK (SEPT. 28-OCT. 5)

- **Lantern Making Party (Sept. 27):** Hosted at the Brentwood Library by Brent Rinker, Lisa Meeks, and Amy Hunsaker-Williams, the event provided crafts, snacks, and games. Despite lower attendance, plans are underway to increase participation in 2025.
- **Pizza Party & Ice Cream Social Membership Drive (Sept. 29):** This well-attended event welcomed new members. Pizza was donated by Godfather's Pizza, through Lisa Meeks, and ice cream by Amy Hunsaker-Williams' real estate team EA Group of Keller Williams. Attendees included Mert Seaton, Brent Rinker, Lisa Meeks, Chris Schulze, Jane Augustine, Jeremy and Ali Ennis, Zack Miller, Karen Johnson, Dave and Pam Buhr, Mark Hayman, Joel Boyd, Mike Gugliotta, Brandy Babcock, and Robin Foster and her father, among others.
- **Lantern Walk (Oct. 5):** Participants brought lanterns for a parade through the neighborhood, promoting pedestrian safety. Stations with safety activities and snacks were managed by Mert Seaton, Brent Rinker, Lisa Meeks, Jane Augustine, Amy Hunsaker-Williams, Mark Hayman, Joel Boyd, and Brandy Babcock. Setup assistance was provided by Ryan Williams.

NOVEMBER: COMMUNITY SERVICE & EVENTS

- **Citywide Cleanup (Nov. 2):** Brentwood partnered with Galloway and Oak Grove neighborhoods for a successful cleanup at Enterprise Park Lanes. Board member Brent Rinker coordinated with the City to organize



dumpsters for trash, electronics, and lawn debris.

- **Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Table (Nov. 5):**

Brentwood's "Nightmare Before Christmas" theme was a hit with runners, and the table was staffed by Brent Rinker, Amy Hunsaker-Williams, Karen Johnson, Jane Augustine, Traci Phelps, Zack Miller, Mike Gugliotta, Chris Schulze, and Mert Seaton. Two Drury Baseball players volunteered, and Mark Hayman ensured supplies didn't run out.



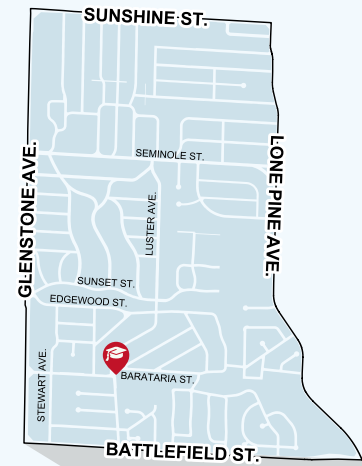
- **Backpack Packing Night (Nov. 7):** Lisa Meeks, Chris Schulze, and his daughter helped pack food bags for Field Elementary families through the PTA and Care to Learn program, chaired by Amy Hunsaker-Williams. This monthly event brings together Field families, local church members, and the Brentwood neighborhood. If you would like to participate in future packing nights, please reach out to Amy.

These events highlight Brentwood's dedication to building community, maintaining the neighborhood, and fostering a welcoming environment. We welcome you to join us!

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR 2025-26

In October, the following board members were elected:

- President: Brent Rinker
- Vice President: Chris Schulze
- Secretary: Lisa Meeks
- Treasurer: Amy Hunsaker-Williams
- Board Members at Large: Jane Augustine, Mike Gugliotta, and Traci Phelps.



Connect

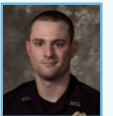
- Brent Rinker, President
- Chris Schulze, Vice President
- Lisa Meeks, Secretary
- Amy Hunsaker-Williams, Treasurer
- brentwoodsgf@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 27 • Feb. 24 • March 31: 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



MERT SEATON
Brentwood's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

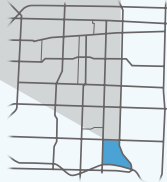
Mert has served two full terms as president (four years). During this time, he has provided leadership and helped organize several social and business events.

BRADFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 14 • Feb. 11 • March 11 • April 8: 6:30 p.m.
@ Immaculate Conception Church
(3555 S. Fremont Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Follow Bradford Park on



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH Bradford Park's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

NOVA 2024

Immaculate Conception opened its doors to the newly formed Bradford Park neighborhood 16 years ago and has been the reason we have been successful at organizing our neighborhood. Without the wonderful meeting place, where would we be? I.C. allowed us to land a Black Hawk helicopter in their playground and the neighbors knew we were for real. The church has been our hub for having fun and getting down to business. Bradford Park is so lucky to work with office personnel as well as the clergy to form a nice partnership. For that we are most grateful. The most recent favor Immaculate Conception granted us was the ability to use their big parking lot for our cleanup with the Galloway neighborhood. Thank you, Immaculate Conception. You are a great neighbor!

DELAWARE NEIGHBORHOOD



Fall festivities highlight of 2024 for Delaware

By Nancy Williams, for SGFNN

Late summer and autumn were a busy time in Delaware with the Lemonade Crawl, Neat Neighborhoods competition wrapping up, Lantern Walk, Halloween decoration judging and Trunk or Treat, Bass Pro Marathon, and finally the Delaware/Rountree Neighborhood Cleanup in November.



The highlight of August was the 5th Annual Lemonade Crawl, for which six stands won awards including lemon-themed swag and certificates with a cash prize (to buy more lemons next year!) The lemonade stands get more inspired and delicious every year, and we're happy to see new people participate.

2024 saw the first Halloween Decorating Awards and some homes knocked it out of the graveyard with the volume and variety of decorations. To properly honor the most creative decorators, the awards were spooky skeletons and neighborhood swag.

The Delaware Pyrats & Pixies 'Ahoy Matey' d' their way through the Bass Pro Marathon cheering section again. The pickle juice was twice as popular this year – maybe because of the dreary, damp but warm morning?

Much trash, yard waste, electronics, and 3,280 pounds of metals left the Delaware/Rountree cleanup in November, also on a damp day that had residents wondering whether we would be there. But of course we were, and what a good feeling to slam that last dumpster door at noon!



Connect

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

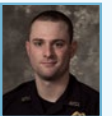


Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 7 • Feb. 4 • March 4 • April 1: 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



MARIANNE JONES Delaware's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

NOVA 2024

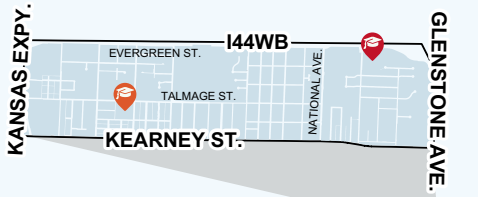
Marianne Jones has been an integral part of the Delaware Neighborhood Association since its founding in 2017. There is not an event or activity that she has not been an engaged and active part of in those seven years – neighborhood cleanups, marathon cheering, lemonade crawl, family fun night, ice cream social, lantern walk, etc. Anything the neighborhood does – she joins in and makes it better. As a creative, she has built props for events and has been a driver for the utility pole painting, curb painting, and the Portland Street 'Welcome to Delaware' mural. We look forward to seeing what she comes up with next!

DOLING NEIGHBORHOOD



Doling neighbors have fun at cleanup, Neighborhood Night Out and Lantern Walk, brave the rain at Bass Pro Marathon

Provided by Fred Ackley, for SGFNN



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 16 • Feb. 20 • March 20: 6:30 p.m. @ Hillcrest Presbyterian Church (818 E. Norton Rd.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Fremont Elementary School
2814 N. Fremont Ave.

Watkins Elementary School
732 W. Talmage St.

Follow Doling on

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.)



NEDRA BLUE CHASAR

Doling's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

NOVA 2024

Nedra was a driving force for good within the Doling neighborhood. Whether driving the bus for The Well Church or her many different volunteer efforts for Victory Mission, she played a large role in making our neighborhood a better place.

Editor's note: Nedra passed away in September 2024 and was awarded the NOVA posthumously.

FASSNIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

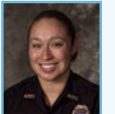


Neighborhood Association Meetings

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



JAMIE MOORE

Fassnight's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

NOVA 2024

Jamie has been the heartbeat of the Fassnight Neighborhood Association since the beginning. She has done a remarkable job coordinating, corresponding, and helping to facilitate conversations with neighbors in order to build us up for the better. She has regularly served as the secretary of our organization and has been vital to establishing our association.

GALLOWAY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD



As infrastructure improves with Galloway Widening Project, remember to patronize businesses

By Melissa Green, for SGFNN

There are a lot of clanging, beeping, and pounding noises in Galloway Village these days as construction crews make quick progress on the long-awaited Galloway Street Widening Project. Crews began clearing land south of Galloway Street in mid-October to make way for the improved road. By early November, the primary focus was preparing the area for a future roundabout at the junction of Galloway Street and Lone Pine.

The Galloway Street Widening Project was ranked as the No. 2 priority project in City-wide transportation surveys conducted in both 2015 and 2018. The project includes a whole host of safety improvements including wider lanes and the addition of a center turn lane for motorists accessing neighborhoods to the north. The current street, although frequently used by pedestrians and bicyclists, lacks even a shoulder, creating a dangerous tension between motorists and non-motorists. The planned improvements include both a sidewalk on the south side of the street and a 10-foot-wide multi-use path on the north side that will tie in to the existing greenway trail system.

A defining feature of the project is the inclusion of two new roundabouts; one at the junction of Galloway Street and Luster, and a second at the junction with Lone Pine. These new roundabouts will improve safety in all directions, allow traffic to flow more freely, and help avoid the back-ups that often occur during high-use times.

Native landscaping will be added where possible and appropriate, particularly to the north of the widened street and in the roundabouts. Galloway residents are excited about these beautification plans and look forward to hearing place making ideas.

Neighborhood drivers should expect continued and increased impact on Galloway Street and Lone Pine, including the reduction of Galloway Street to a single east-bound lane for much of the project duration. Project Manager Nicholas Edelman has



Galloway board members clown around at the Bass Pro Marathon.

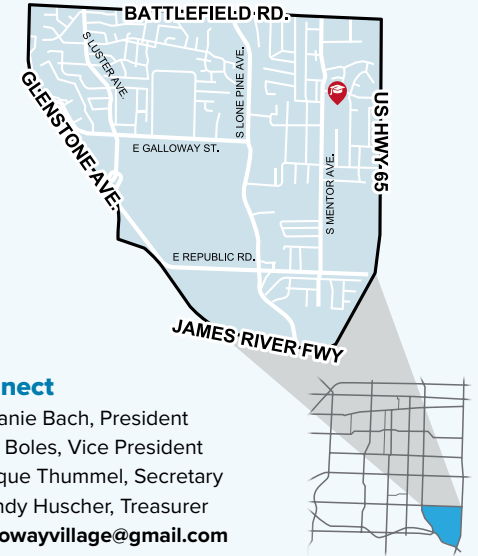
made an ongoing effort to communicate these impacts to residents in a clear and timely manner via email, public meetings, and signage. To learn the latest information about the project and sign up to receive regular project update emails, visit springfieldmo.gov/galloway.

A Neighborhood Works project recently completed in Galloway Village was the addition of crossing lights on Lone Pine near Barton where the greenway crosses Lone Pine. The trail in this area is heavily used and the new crossing light increases the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

All City updates are shared on Facebook. Residents even used the opportunity presented by the Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Challenge to shine a light on the situation with a neighborhood theme of "Clowning A Roundabout Galloway."

"Construction in Galloway is no joke," said Melanie Bach, president of the Galloway Village Neighborhood Association, "so we are doing everything we can to increase awareness."

Road construction in the neighborhood is expected to last through summer. As it continues and detours become necessary, we encourage both residents and visitors not to forget the unique restaurants, shops and service providers of Galloway. It may take a few extra minutes to reach them, but community support will be vital for their continued success as road improvements are made.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 21 • April 15: 6:30 p.m. @ Galloway Baptist Church (2816 E. Republic Rd.) Meetings are quarterly. Special meetings may be called as needed.

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Sequiota Elementary School
3414 S. Mentor Ave.

Follow Galloway Village on gallowayvillage.org



BRIAN & CIREE JONES Galloway Village's NOVA Volunteers of the Year

NOVA
2024

Brian and Ciree Jones have been active members of GVNA since our inception in 2019. They attend every meeting and event, and have been generous when fundraising has been a priority. Brian and Ciree are also extremely generous with their energy. Ciree always dons an adorable costume of her own creation for the Bass Pro Marathon cheering challenge, and they both step in to assist with the heavy lifting at events like the neighborhood cleanups, garage sales, and the pavilion restoration at Sequiota Park. Involvement of neighbors like the Joneses is what keeps our neighborhoods active and healthy. Their generosity is what provides the members of our board the support we need to accomplish our mission to preserve, connect, and protect the place we call home. Neighbors like the Joneses don't come along every day. We're thankful to have this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to them.

GREATER PARKCREST NEIGHBORHOOD

Greater Parkcrest neighbors embrace Neat Neighborhoods, making a difference one street at a time

By Michael Brittain, for SGFNN

In a dedicated push to keep Greater Parkcrest looking its best, neighbors have taken on both litter cleanup and beautification projects through the Neat Neighborhoods initiative. From picking up trash to planting fresh flowers, these volunteers are setting a strong example for everyone in the community.

One neighbor making a difference is Joe Stokes, a familiar face around the community. Over the past few months, Joe has covered stretches of Kansas Avenue from Walnut Lawn to Republic Road, picking up everything from fast food cups to car parts — and even pitching in with graffiti removal. Rain or shine, Joe's commitment has left a cleaner, more inviting path for everyone who passes through.

Joe isn't alone in these efforts. Bill Butts has taken to neighborhood walks, covering up to two miles at a time and keeping an eye out for litter along streets like Broadway, Riverside, and Fairview.



Meanwhile, I have focused on Walnut Lawn, scouring for those infamous mini liquor bottles that litter the area. With over 100 bottles collected in recent months, we can really see the impact of careless littering. Together, we've been making a noticeable difference, one street at a time.

Beautification has also been at the heart of Neat Neighborhoods. Carol McCarthy and her "worker bees" — Jane Brooks, Debbie Butts, Evelyn Hutsell, Carol Hutcheson, Judy Wyrick, and Dave McCarthy — added mums and seasonal plants to key spots around Greater Parkcrest, including the Shyanne Estates entrance and the columns at Broadway and Walnut Lawn. These small, colorful touches remind us all how a little care can have a lasting, uplifting effect.

The Neat Neighborhoods effort has truly inspired lasting change here.

Even after Neat Neighborhoods has concluded, I'm still seeing an ongoing effort to keep things clean. Our recent challenge has been tackling illegal advertisement signs on utility poles and right-of-ways, but neighbors have come together to educate and clear up these eyesores too. The project's impact continues to resonate, fostering pride and shared responsibility for a cleaner, more welcoming neighborhood.

These projects are just some of the ways Greater Parkcrest residents are contributing to the area's upkeep and charm. With more volunteers stepping up, Greater Parkcrest aims to expand these efforts, from stormwater education projects to even more beautification work led by the worker bees. A cleaner, greener Greater Parkcrest is within reach, thanks to the neighbors who lead by example.



Busy fall for Greater Parkcrest neighbors

By Debbie Butts, for SGFNN

The Greater Parkcrest Neighborhood Association (GPNA) enjoyed a busy fall this year participating in several activities. Even though the month of September culminated the "Clean Green Neat Neighborhood Contest," the "clean green" mission continues to be promoted with frequent Facebook posts of individuals picking up trash during their daily walks and participating in other activities that make our neighborhood a great place to live. Additionally, for our GPNA January meeting, a guest speaker from James River Basin Partnership will present ways to protect our area streams which start in neighborhoods.



In October, GPNA hosted a photo booth at the Horace Mann Elementary Fall Festival. Several hundred families attended the festival and were able to capture the event for their family at our booth decorated with pumpkins, mums and other fall decor. Also in October, GPNA, along with Fasnights and Seminole Holland, met to enjoy a taco bar and hear from representatives from the City present information about the Spring Forward SGF ballot initiative.



GPNA participated in the Bass Pro Marathon Cheering Challenge in November. With the theme of "Team USA-GPNA," team members donned patriotic clothing, waved U.S. flags and played a variety of fun music provided by DJ Will Cropper. Despite the inclement weather, the runners enjoyed the enthusiastic support provided by GPNA "cheerleaders" and the invigorating tunes.



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 16 • April 17: 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



KEN BROOKS

Greater Parkcrest's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

NOVA 2024

Ken is currently serving a two-year term as president of GPNA. He has worked tirelessly since being elected to build stability in our leadership team, arranging program speakers for our quarterly membership meetings, leading meaningful and helpful activities and fund raising efforts. Additionally, he has collaborated with several other neighborhood associations to share ideas and offer support to fledgling groups, and served on an important NAC committee. The time and effort he has invested for the good of GPNA and other neighborhoods, communicating and encouraging, is quite amazing and inspiring, active and healthy.

GRANT BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 20 • Feb. 17 • March 17: 6:30-7:30 p.m./6 p.m.
optional potluck @ St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall (1115 N. Campbell Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Weaver Elementary School
1461 W. Douglas Ave.

Pipkin Middle School
1215 N. Boonville Ave.

Follow Grant Beach on



JAMIE TATUM Grant Beach's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

Under the dedicated leadership of our neighborhood president, Jamie, we've seen incredible strides in strengthening community bonds, fostering positive neighborly connections, and enhancing our shared spaces — the Hovey House. Through her commitment, the Hovey House has been beautifully updated, providing us all with a welcoming place to gather and grow. Jamie has a heartfelt vision for creating a safe, friendly, and clean environment for our families. Her love for the Grant Beach Neighborhood and its residents shines through in everything she does. She works tirelessly to bridge together all those making a difference, fostering collaboration to uplift our community. Jamie knows how to work as a team and isn't afraid to put in the hard work. Her efforts have truly helped transform our neighborhood in just one year into a more united, vibrant group.

HEART OF THE WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



VINCENT & SHERIAN ARAGON

Heart of the Westside's NOVA
Volunteers of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

Cofounders of American Indian Center honored at NOVA banquet

By Glenn Gohr, for SGFNN

Vincent and Sherian Aragon have been longtime members of the Heart of the Westside Neighborhood. Sheri has attended neighborhood meetings, and Vince has volunteered at annual cleanups. Even when he was past 90 years old, he loaned out his trailer and helped out with curbside pick-ups. He also donated his trailer to be used in future cleanups.

The Aragons are also significant to Springfield because Vince (who passed away in February 2024) is full-blooded Native American, of the Taos tribe. In January 2020, local Native Americans realized that there were community needs in the Springfield area that were not being met.

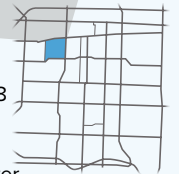


Glenn Gohr presents Heart of the Westside's NOVA to Sherian Aragon at the Dec. 3 banquet

They put together a grassroots movement, meeting in the Aragons' home. The group began working toward reactivating what is now the American Indian Center of Springfield (AICS). They partnered with the Drew Lewis Foundation and received guidance and direction to receive nonprofit status and grants, and they now have an office and host events at The Fairbanks.

Today, AICS draws support through gatherings from Natives in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. AICS has grown tremendously, holding numerous classes, educational programs, craft classes and cultural events for Springfield and surrounding communities to partake in. They also have a food pantry and a neighborhood garden.

Recently, Sheri donated a Naja silver necklace with a crescent-shaped pendant to AICS that had belonged in her husband's family. She continues to be a strong supporter of AICS.



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

Jan. 14 • March 11: 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

More than 1,500 attend Overdose Awareness Day

By Glenn Gohr, for SGFNN

The biggest event of the year for Heart of the Westside Neighborhood was "Neighbor Day," also called Overdose Awareness Day 2024. The event was held Aug. 31, 2024 on the grounds of 1909 W. Chestnut Expy., which is the future home of Passion Assembly of God.

Volunteers helped with parking, booths, grocery line, a snow cone machine and popcorn machine (both provided by Community Partnership of the Ozarks), a prayer tent, and a food tent. In addition to the grocery line, there was a clothing tent, as well as free Narcan and some training materials for overdose awareness.

Read the full story at
SGFNeighborhoodNews.com.



COUNTDOWN TO A CLEANER, GREENER



2025

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



Check out 10 helpful tips & resources for your home and neighborhood!



9 Pipe dreams or pipe nightmares? **SPOT SEWER ISSUES EARLY!**

10 **KNOW YOUR LATERALS** *the unsung hero of your plumbing*

A sewer lateral is an important but often overlooked part of your home's plumbing system. It's the underground pipe that connects your home's plumbing to the public sewer system. Although hidden from view, this pipe plays an essential role in moving wastewater safely and efficiently away from your home.

What Is a Sewer Lateral?

Think of your sewer lateral as an on-ramp to the underground wastewater highway that spans Springfield. All the water from your sinks, toilets, showers, and washing machines travels through this pipe. Depending on when your home was built, sewer laterals may be made of PVC or clay. They run underground from your house to the main sewer line beneath the street, where the wastewater merges with other sewer lines and flows to one of Springfield's two wastewater treatment plants.

Why Are Sewer Laterals Important?

A healthy sewer lateral ensures wastewater flows properly from your home into the City's sewer system. If it becomes blocked or damaged, it can cause backups in your home or yard—messy and expensive problems no one wants to face. The City maintains the public sewer system but any issue that occurs in the lateral on your property is your responsibility. Common issues include:

- Tree roots growing into the pipes.
- Grease buildup from pouring food or cooking oils down the drain.
- Flushing non-flushables, like wipes, diapers, or hygiene products.
- Aging materials that crack, collapse, or corrode over time.

8 **PIPE DOWN!**

Keep your sewer lateral flowing smoothly.

Your sewer lateral works hard to carry waste away from your home. You can extend its life by:

- Avoiding blockages: Don't flush non-flushables or put grease and food down drains.
- Protecting your pipes: Avoid planting trees near underground sewer lines.

How to Care for Your Sewer Lateral

Taking care of your sewer lateral can prevent costly problems. Here's how:

- 1. Watch What Goes Down the Drain**
 - Only flush the "three P's": (toilet) paper, pee, and poop.
 - Avoid using "flushable" wipes. These products don't break down in the sewer system and can cause blockages.
 - Dispose of grease in the trash instead of pouring it down the drain.
 - Looking for an alternative to trashing your leftovers? Check out our food scraps programs at springfieldmo.gov/foodwaste.
- 2. Schedule Regular Inspections**
 - Hire a plumber every few years to inspect your sewer lateral with a camera, especially if your home is older or surrounded by large trees.

Signs of a Sewer Lateral Problem

Watch for these warning signs of trouble:

- Drains in your home are slow or make gurgling noises.
- Wet spots or unpleasant odors appear in your yard.
- Plumbing backups or overflows occur frequently.

What to Do If You Suspect a Problem

If you think there's a blockage in your lateral:

1. Take note of where the problem is and how it is affecting your home. Does the issue affect your entire house or one drain?
2. Contact the City to see if the public sewer main or connection point is blocked. Ensure all manholes on your property are easy to access and not covered by landscaping or other obstacles.
3. Hire a licensed plumber to inspect and repair your lateral if necessary.

Sanitary Sewer Lateral Loan Program

To help homeowners manage repairs, SGF Environmental Services offers the Sanitary Sewer Lateral Loan Program. This program assists with the cost of maintaining or replacing privately owned sewer laterals. By understanding and maintaining your sewer lateral, you can avoid costly repairs, protect the environment, and keep your plumbing working smoothly for years to come.

For more information, visit springfieldmo.gov/lateralloan.

- If you are buying a house or plan to, ensure you get a lateral inspection as a part of the initial home buying process.
- 3. Fix Problems Quickly**
If you notice slow drains, strange gurgling sounds, or wet spots in your yard, call a professional to inspect for blockages or damage.
 - 4. Replace Old Pipes**
Older materials like clay may need to be replaced with durable PVC. While this is a significant investment, it can save money in the long run.
 - 5. Know Your Home and Responsibilities**
Familiarize yourself with your home's sewer system. Know the location of your lateral, when it was last inspected, and where cleanouts and manholes are on your property. Keep these areas accessible and free from landscaping or other obstacles.

7 De-Ice RESPONSIBLY

Adding lots of salt doesn't mean you'll have less ice or snow. Follow de-icing product directions carefully to reduce the amount used. Just remember, all of that salt or de-icing chemicals can flow into our stormwater drains and straight into our local waterways. Less salt means less potential harm to plants and fish and healthier waterways.



6 Winter Litter Challenge

Litter really piles up in our community during the wintertime and is a source of pollution that impacts water quality, fish and other wildlife. Based on local stream assessments, it is estimated that there are over 600,000 pieces of trash in Springfield streams, 60% of which is plastic. Cigarette butts are also a commonly littered item with an estimated 50,000 butts in local streams. On those occasional sunny, warmer days this winter, get outside and pick up litter in your neighborhood. Consider joining the Adopt-A-Stream or Adopt-A-Street programs or doing a one-time stream cleanup.

Learn more at springfieldmo.gov/adoptastream or springfieldmo.gov/adoptastreet.



5 Add a pollinator garden to your yard!

The Pollinator Garden Grant program is open to all person(s), neighborhoods, community gardens, schools, cities, and parks that would like to learn how to plant and maintain native plants in their landscapes. If your application is approved, native plants and mulch with a value of up to \$500 per garden will be purchased by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Community benefits:

- Added wildlife habitat and food
- More pollinators in the area
- Neighborhood/City beautification
- Water quality improvement

Pollinator Garden Grant Program

- Applications are now open through March 1, for spring garden installations.
- Locations must be within Springfield city limits and highly visible to the public in yards or City right-of-way.
- Site preparation and maintenance must be provided by the applicant.

Contact Clarissa Hatley at chatley@springfieldmo.gov or 417-864-2005.



Follow us on social:

 @SGFEnvironmentalServices

 @sgfenvironmentalservices

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

Upcoming Events

Catch us out and about!



Lawn and Garden Show

February 21-23

Ozark Empire Fairgrounds

Come by our booth and say hey! Grab some of the educational info about our programs and tips we'll have and make sure to pick up some freebies too!



Seuss Science Day

March 1

Pat Jones YMCA

Seuss Science Day provides kids with opportunities to learn through Seuss-themed science demonstrations, get creative with special activities, hear popular Dr. Seuss stories, and meet their favorite Seuss characters.



Home Compost Workshops

Spring dates to be announced soon

In-person classes

This program provides citizens with FREE compost training and the materials to get started in their own backyards. Classes are offered in the spring and fall, in person. Upon class completion, participants will receive:

- Resources and tips for year-round composting.
- FREE backyard composter
- FREE compost turner
- FREE kitchen collector

Classes are available to residents in the Waste District O region (Greene, Christian, Webster, Polk, and Dallas counties).

To learn more about this program and sign up to get our email newsletter to be notified when our class dates are announced, visit springfieldmo.gov/homecomposting.



4 PEEL, COLLECT, DROP OFF, Repeat

Collect your own compostable food waste like peels and scraps and bring it to one of the City food scraps drop-off locations. The Dish to Dirt Food Scraps Recycling program is FREE to participating community members with drop-off locations at each of the City's recycling centers. To learn more and to sign up for the program, visit springfieldmo.gov/foodscraps.

2 POST HOLIDAY cleanout?

The Waste Wizard can help you find places for your gently used items. Get help in knowing what things can go where in our community. This searchable, online database is kept current so you can easily get up to date information about resources for repurposing and responsibly disposing of your items!

Visit springfieldmo.gov/wastewizard to search your items!



3 NEED A GUEST SPEAKER?

Contact us to speak at your church, club, or neighborhood meeting

Our Education Outreach Team is available for presentations. There is no cost to have one of our team members come and speak with your group. A variety of topics are available. Some of our most popular presentation topics include:

- Recycle Right
- Sustainability
- Plastics 101
- Compost
- Food Waste is the World's Dumbest Problem
- Only Rain Down the Storm Drain
- Care about the Air
- Yard Ethic
- Go with the Flow

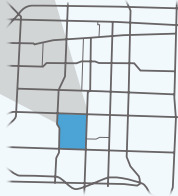
Additional topics and information about touring a City facility such as the landfill or wastewater treatment plant are listed on our website at springfieldmo.gov/eseducation.



1 STOCK UP mulch earlier

It may be winter, but spring is on the horizon! There's no need to wait until spring to stock up on mulch! Mulch is available year round at our Yardwaste Recycling Center!

MARK TWAIN NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 14 • Feb. 11 • March 11 • April 8: 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

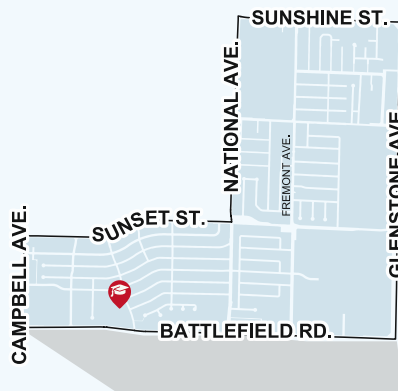


KATHY MEYER
Mark Twain's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

Kathy is an excellent neighborhood liaison from Southhaven Church, and she has volunteered countless hours to Mark Twain neighborhood. We can always count on her to rally other volunteers when we need them, and she organizes the free food and bounce houses for our neighborhood festival every year. She also brings treats to all of our meetings.

MEADOR PARK NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 23 • Feb. 27 • April 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.

Green Way Village Apts. (722 E. Glenwood St.)



Meador Park braved the weather to cheer on runners during the Bass Pro Marathon on Nov. 3, 2024. Photo: Brian Miller

MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 13 • Feb. 10 • March 10 • April 14: 6 p.m.
@ Central Christian Church (1475 N. Washington Ave.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Boyd Elementary School
833 E. Division St.

Central High School
423 E. Central St.

Follow Midtown on



SUSAN MANN
Midtown's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

Susan is an indefatigable member of the Midtown neighborhood. She has spearheaded or been a huge part of major events in Midtown for years. She makes the Midtown neighborhood a better place.

PHELPS GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

Pride in neighborhood encourages neighbors to help neighbors

By Vicky Trippe, for SGFNN

When residents of Phelps Grove help their neighbors, improve the neighborhood park, participate in city government and enjoy sharing time and ideas, those of us who live here know we're living in a good place.

Earlier this summer Michelle Harvey, vice president of the Phelps Neighborhood Association (PNA), and Patrick Niedermeyer, a PNA executive committee member, learned that two of their neighbors needed help. One needed two gates and part of a fence replaced, and the other needed a new fence installed.



Patrick Niedermeyer and Francie Wolff work on replacing a gate in Francie's back yard.

Michelle, Patrick, Patrick's son Cooper, and neighbors Ginger Tarrasch and Al and Marissa Minta quickly drafted a plan, procured materials, tore out Francie Wolff's old gates and some unwanted fence, set new posts, built two new gates and took the trash to the dump, while Marissa prepared homemade lunches for everyone.



Cooper and Patrick Niedermeyer, Claudette Sheets and her daughter Alicia, and Michelle Harvey.

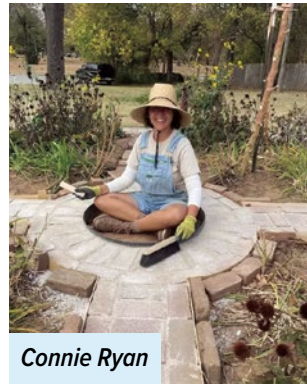
Later another neighbor, Claudette Sheets, asked for help installing a new fence system she had already purchased. Patrick, Cooper and Michelle responded immediately. They, with the help of Claudette and her daughter Alicia, rented an auger, purchased materials, and drilled holes for the fence posts (after Utility Locates were called). The posts were set in concrete, and the fence will soon be completed. Then Claudette's new puppy can go into the back yard and be safe.

We see neighborhood commitment in the garden renovation project at Phelps Grove Park. A recent milestone was replacement of bricks in a garden bed which, in March, had been totally covered with dirt and Bermuda grass. Many volunteers had removed weeds and tree sprouts, planted new flowers, and put in the edging. Recently, however, the Parks



PNA members Pat Monday and Ginger Tarrasch enjoy time with neighbors at the yearly PNA picnic and business meeting.

Department put down a gravel base, and PNA executive committee member Connie Ryan and Andy Massoth, a Woodland Heights volunteer, restored the brick pathways to their former beauty. Soon a trellis donated by other neighbors will be installed, and one part of the garden restoration project will be complete.



Connie Ryan

PNA executive committee members have also been active in committees that partner neighborhood residents with city staff. Eric Pauly, the former president of the Phelps Neighborhood Association, coordinated the 2024 four-neighborhood spring cleanup, is a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, and was part of the Citizens' Commission on Community Investment, which helped to craft Question 1, the continuation of a ¼-cent sales tax which will support the Fire and Police pension fund and provide \$30 million a year for projects like the expansion and renovation of the Springfield Art Museum, which is in our neighborhood.

Other executive committee members attend Neighborhood Advisory Council meetings and were members of committees that worked with City staff to bring current city codes in line with Forward SGF concepts.

Finally, on Sept. 22, 2024, PNA members met at the pavilion at Phelps Grove Park to share a meal and conversation with neighbors, exchange plants, tour the gardens and elect new officers and executive committee and board members. A presentation on the benefits of Question 1 followed these elections.

"Pride in our neighborhood encourages neighbors to help neighbors, and the result is increased pride in our neighborhood. This is a great cycle for our future," said Dave Trippe, president.



Mayor Ken McClure, left, gives Eric Pauly a hand at the spring cleanup.



Connect

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



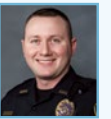
Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 14 • Feb. 11 • March 11 • April 8: 7 p.m.

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Follow Phelps Grove on

phelpsgrove.com



ESTER & BILL BULTAS Phelps Grove's NOVA Volunteers of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

Ester and Bill Bultas have been active in the Phelps Grove Neighborhood Association since it was organized in the early 1980s. They walked the alleys and picked up trash, and they volunteered with the yearly trash cleanup. They prepared food for the yearly picnic and business meeting and always stayed to help with cleanup. Bill and Ester were always there to help neighbors with projects they could not do themselves. Ester was one of the first and most loyal volunteers for the garden renovations at Phelps Grove Park. Bill and Ester made such a powerful difference to our neighborhood because they were a team who helped one another help the neighborhood. When the pandemic hit, Ester and Bill distributed 1,000 free masks to neighbors when they were in short supply. Thank you, Ester, for all you and Bill have done for the neighborhood.

ROBBERSON NEIGHBORHOOD

Robberson neighbors connect by working to clean up neighborhood, enjoying social events

By Phyllis Evans, for SGFNN

October was a busy month full of fun activities! We had a potluck dinner, Make A Difference Day, and Trunk or Treat. Robberson Neighborhood Association and Evangel University student volunteers helped clean up a lot of trash from our streets. The potluck dinner and Trunk or Treat were a big success, with neighbors getting to know each other better. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

November was just as exciting! On Nov. 3, 2024, the RNA Bass Pro Marathon cheering section brought smiles and laughs as our "Old Time Joggers" handed out water and snacks. On Nov. 16, 2024 RNA and Evangel student volunteers teamed up again to clean the parkways in our neighborhood. Those yellow "NO MORE" Trash bags you saw on the streets? That's all the trash we cleared away! We also held elections for officers and started planning activities for 2025. Have ideas for events or improvements? Contact an officer or reach out by email or through our website, or the old fashion way at our next meeting.

Getting to know just one neighbor better can create positive change. We're all busy, but taking a moment to connect can strengthen our community. Be kind, and you'll see kindness grow. Together, we can accomplish amazing things.

The recent election season has ended, and now it's time for us to come together as Americans. Let's be part of the solution and work toward a stronger, better future for our families and community.

The City's Building Development Services (BDS) team is working hard to improve our neighborhood. If you have concerns, call the Citizen Resource Center at 417-864-1010. BDS addresses unsafe and blighted buildings and helps make our area safer and cleaner. Remember, they need your reports to fix problems – if they don't know, they can't act. They're here to help, not to cause trouble. By working together, we've already seen big improvements. Let's keep it up!

Our Police Area Representative (PAR) officer is John Taylor. When possible, report non-emergency crimes and issues through the Springfield Police Department's online tool at springfieldmo.gov/spdsupplementalreport.

If you need to speak with our PAR officer, he prefers email but can also take phone calls. Please remember he doesn't work 24/7, and it may be a day or two before he can respond. You can contact him at jtaylor@springfieldmo.gov or 417-864-1320. If you see something suspicious, try to note details like car license plates, vehicle descriptions, or what



people look like. Always report emergencies like gunshots or criminal activity to 911 immediately. Reporting thefts and vandalism is also important – it helps police track down stolen items and connect crimes that might otherwise go unnoticed. Let's be proactive and keep our neighborhood safe.

Dumping in alleys and along parkways has been a problem. Please keep an eye out and report anything you see. This summer, the Clean Green Neat Neighborhoods project cleared many alleys, but we all need to help keep them clean. Please maintain the area around your property by mowing and trimming weeds or brush. A clean alley reduces hiding places for crime and wildlife. The City maintains alleys, but with so many to cover, they need our help to keep things safe and tidy.

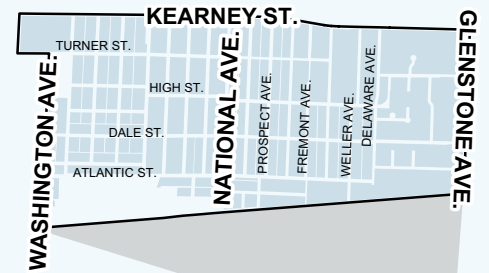
RNA is one of only a handful of neighborhoods in Springfield that also supports the Adopt-A-Street program by cleaning streets and parkways. Join us every third Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. at Pathways UMC (1232 E. Dale St). We work for two to three hours, and the City provides yellow trash bags and picks up the collected trash. Volunteers get gloves, bags and tools. Show up and help make a difference! Our streets include:

- National Avenue (Commercial Street to Kearney Street)
- Dale Street (Glenstone Avenue to National Avenue and National Avenue to Washington Avenue)
- Atlantic Street (National Avenue to Washington Avenue).

Do you know your neighbors? Have you welcomed new ones? A friendly wave or a quick hello can make a big difference. Do you have senior neighbors? Check in on them or offer a helping hand. Getting to know just one neighbor better can create positive change. We're all busy, but taking a moment to connect can strengthen our community. Be kind, and you'll see kindness grow. Together, we can accomplish amazing things.

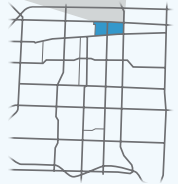
UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 21: Neighborhood association meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 - Feb. 18: Neighborhood association meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 - Feb. 22: RNA Chili Supper 5-6:30 p.m.
 - March 18: Neighborhood association meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- All events at Pathways UMC, 1232 E. Dale St.



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 21 • Feb. 18 • March 18: 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

Chili Supper

Feb. 22 • 5-6:30 p.m.
Pathways United Methodist Church (1232 E. Dale St.)



SARAH TINAJERO Robberson's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

NOVA
2024

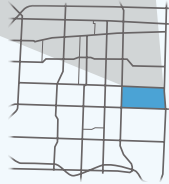
Sarah has taken control of Robberson Neighborhood Association's social media needs, created the website, and maintains all this while jumping in totally to do whatever is needed. She is full of creative ideas and a joy to work with. She is there hands-on when RNA needs her and is constantly putting her association out there, drawing others in, giving back, and paying forward. Her neighborhood is very lucky to have her.

OAK GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Pittman Elementary School
2934 E. Bennett St.

Follow Oak Grove on

Correction

In the Fall 2024 issue of this publication the article titled "Oak Grove Neighborhood Association plants trees to honor Gerald Clary, other association members" was incorrectly credited to Betty Johnson. It was written by Lena Sample and has been corrected online.



MATT PETERSON
Oak Grove's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD



Rountree enjoys partnerships, camaraderie and community throughout fall season

By Peggy Wise, for SGFNN

It's been a busy fall in Rountree this year! Our activities included hosting the neighborhood Lantern Walk, supporting Rountree Elementary's Owlpalooza fundraiser, enjoying the festivities of the Halloween parade, cheering on the amazing marathon runners in the Bass Pro Marathon and cleaning up the neighborhood in a joint cleanup with Delaware Neighborhood Association. In December, we hosted the first Light Up Rountree Light Display Competition! The winner will receive a gift basket with goodies from neighborhood businesses. In addition, all of the proceeds will be donated to a charity of the winner's choice.



Connect

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

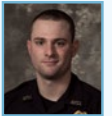


Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 21 • Feb. 18 • March 18: 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



BARBARA THURMAN
Rountree's NOVA
Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

Barb leads the Welcome Wagon in the neighborhood and is instrumental in so many of our activities such as Chalk Your Walk, Lemonade Wars, and gathering together the Alley Cats who did so much work in the Neat Neighborhoods competition. Barb is to the community what every neighborhood wishes they had, and aren't we lucky she lives here! Thank you, Barb!

SEMINOLE HOLLAND NEIGHBORHOOD



Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association planning a souper 2025

By William Cooper, for SGFNN

The Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association (SHNA) is gearing up for an exciting start to the year with events aimed at fostering community and improving the neighborhood.

First up is the Soup & Sides Potluck at 6 p.m. Jan. 29 at 925 E. Seminole Street. Soups will be provided, and attendees are encouraged to bring appetizers, sides or desserts to share. We will be making an important announcement at this event.

In the spring, SHNA will host a City-funded neighborhood cleanup on April 12. Neighbors interested in playing or watching kickball on April 27 should email SeminoleHolland@gmail.com for details. Players must be at least 8 years old.

Additionally, plans are under way for enhancements at McDaniel Park, and more information will be shared in the coming months.

Residents are encouraged to visit SeminoleHolland.com to stay updated, join the neighborhood email list, or connect via Facebook. Activities are open to all Seminole Holland residents.

The SHNA Board invites everyone to participate and wishes the neighborhood a great year ahead!

Soup & Sides Potluck

Wed., Jan. 29 • 6 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church
(925 E. Seminole St.)



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 27 • April 28: 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
blocke@springfieldmo.gov



Holland Elementary School
2403 S. Holland Ave.

Follow Seminole Holland on
seminoleholland.com



WILL COOPER

Seminole Holland's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

NOVA 2024

Will has been a steadfast member of the Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association and board of directors — doing everything from maintaining the website and social media, creating flyers, organizing events and applications for funding, filling out a non-profit application, tracking memberships — you name it, and Will has done it. Without Will our organization would not be operating in any capacity.

Daddy Daughter Dance



SAT., FEB. 22 | 6-9 p.m.

Age: 3 yrs. and up

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

Includes dinner and photo

**Northview
Center Ballroom**

ParkBoard.org/Events



**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.



TOM WATKINS NEIGHBORHOOD



Despite rain, Tom Watkins neighbors enjoy cleanup, Bass Pro Marathon activities

By Colby Wallace, for SGFNN

Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association continued to gain new neighbors and members through 2024. We had a fun time at our neighborhood block party planned alongside Freshwater Church. All attending enjoyed activities, watched model trains run, played volleyball and ate great food.



We had a successful fall cleanup day in partnership with Doling Neighborhood. The rain added a challenge to the day, but we were successful.

Members of TWNA participated in cheering activities at the Bass Pro Fall Marathon. Again more rain, but again we had a great time cheering for and encouraging the runners.

Our board is learning how to better support TWNA and keep our community informed and involved. We are looking forward to a 2025 with great ideas.



Connect

- Denver Tindell, President
- Jean Degeere, Vice President
- Maria Tindell, Treasurer
- twna.sgf.mo@gmail.com




Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 25 • May 27: 6 p.m. @ Tom Watkins Community Center (2105 W. High St.) Meetings are held quarterly in February, May, August and November on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Check 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  



JEAN & TOM DEGEERE
Tom Watkins' NOVA
Volunteers of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

Tom and Jean are cornerstones of Tom Watkins. Tom and Jean have a passion for making our neighborhood safer and more beautiful. As they have learned how much agency they have over their neighborhood, they have shared their new knowledge lovingly and intelligently with neighbors. On top of that, they bring a trailer filled with model railroad cars and figurines to our twice a year block parties. Tom and Jean will help guide TWNA into the future as they step into Board member at-large and VP roles, respectively, in 2025.



FROSTY 2025

SAT., FEB. 1 FUN

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

Northview Center • 305 E. Talmage St.



\$7/Child | Ages 5-12 yrs.

REGISTER NOW

PARKBOARD.ORG/EVENTS

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD



University Heights planning centennial celebration

By Kevin Evans, for SGFNN

2025 marks 100 years for University Heights Neighborhood. We are planning to party like it's, well, 2025. Preparation for the centennial celebration is in progress with discussions of a street party and an organized neighborhood bicycle ride. Cynthia Bylander is the UHNA events and entertainment coordinator. Follow us on Facebook for more information. Please, make a point to come visit our little oasis in the heart of central Springfield in the upcoming year!

The UHNA Cowboy Crew was out in force at the corner of Clay Avenue and Bennett Street, cheering on runners in the 2024 Bass Pro Shops Conservation Marathon. It was a good day for rustling leaves but not so much rustling cattle!

In the above photo, cowhands Sarah Wiggin, Donna Farr Hemann, and Jeff Carney, UHNA president, were all smiles at the Bass Pro Conservation Marathon. Photo by Sue Robinson.

On Oct. 5, 2024, local Realtor and historian Richard Crabtree led a neighborhood "walk and talk" for Phelps Grove Park, pointing out the location of the zoo and architectural nuances of the pavilion and nearby Springfield Art Museum columns, stage, and former lake and swimming hole. The event was attended by about 30 folks from Phelps Grove, University Heights and nearby neighborhoods.



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](https://www.facebook.com/universityheights-sgf.org)



Want to submit an article about your neighborhood?

Let your neighborhood president or other representative know!

Attend neighborhood association meetings to learn more about what's going on in your area, neighborhood projects, programs offered, and more!

WELLER NEIGHBORHOOD



Connect

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

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Feb. 6 • March 6 • April 3: 6-7 p.m. @ Weller Community Church (1624 E. Blaine St.)

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

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



Weller Elementary School
1630 N. Weller Ave.

Follow Weller on



Crews pouring concrete during the roadway construction at the National Avenue and Division Street intersection in October 2024. The intersection reopened on Nov. 22, 2024 after a 45-day closure due to railroad crossing and roadway construction to improve the layout and flow of the intersection.

WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD

Artist's rendering of how the daylighted Jordan Creek could look in part of downtown Springfield



Construction begins for Renew Jordan Creek

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

Springfield City Council approved the final plans and specifications for phase I of the Renew Jordan Creek project and awarded the construction contract to Branco Enterprises, Inc. at a special City Council meeting Dec. 3, 2024. The approved contract sets a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) of \$26.8 million for construction of the creek-daylighting effort.

Renew Jordan Creek is a transformative project to restore the historic Jordan Creek as it flows through the heart of downtown Springfield. The phase I project area consists of two large blocks in the urbanized center of Jordan Valley Park, bordered on the east by Boonville Avenue, Water Street on the south, Main Avenue on the west, and Mill Street on the north.

The overall project goals include flood reduction and water quality improvements, in addition to pedestrian and connectivity enhancements, sustainable greenspaces integration, comfort and safety improvements and sense of place development. Later phases of the community-developed Jordan Creek Master Plan envision improvements at Founders Park and the City-owned property at 404 N. Jefferson Ave.

Funding for construction of phase I will come from a variety of sources, including the City's Level Property Tax, ¼-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax, City Department of Environmental Services Green Infrastructure and Clean Water funds, local and state American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and federal and state grants and loans.

"Awarding the contract to Branco and securing our financing will allow us to proceed to construction after many years of community-directed design and funding development," explained Public Works Project Manager Kirkland Preston. "There is still opportunity, however, for philanthropic support to help enhance the daylighted creek as an amenity for events and activities downtown."

ANTICIPATED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND IMPACTS

Construction of the first phase of the project is scheduled to last approximately two years with a completion date anticipated for late 2026.

Local traffic and access to businesses, residences and parking will be maintained throughout

construction. However, the public may be directed to access a property nearby the work zone from a certain direction for a period of time. Construction is expected to impact through traffic nearby the work site for a large portion of the project duration.



Artist's rendering

ANTICIPATED MAJOR ROAD CLOSURE PHASES INCLUDE:

Water Street closure—Now through March

Water Street will close to through traffic in two sections between Campbell and Boonville avenues, and between Boonville and Jefferson avenues — to facilitate construction staging and utility work.

Campbell Street closure—Early 2025 through early 2026

Campbell Avenue will close to traffic for approximately one year between Water and Mill streets. Work will include the demolition and reconstruction of the Campbell Avenue culvert bridge and construction of elements for temporary diversion of the flow of Jordan Creek.

Boonville Avenue closure—Late 2025 through late 2026

Anticipated to begin in late 2025, Boonville Avenue will close to traffic between Water Street and Mill Street for the demolition of Boonville Avenue and the Missouri State University east parking lot and installation of a new box culvert, sanitary sewer system extension and creek diversion.

Additional roadway closure details will be communicated as scheduling information becomes available.

For more information on upcoming construction and traffic impacts and to sign up to receive regular project email updates, visit renewjordancreek.com/construction.



Connect

- Duane Keys, President: duane.keys@gmail.com
- Oren Redus, Vice President
- Rusty Worley, Treasurer: rusty@itsalldowntown.com
- Jesse Bergman, Secretary



Neighborhood Alliance Meetings

Jan. 28 • Feb. 25 • March 25: 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  
westcentralspringfield.org



OREN REDUS West Central's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

Oren Redus has been honored as the Volunteer of the Year for the West Central Neighborhood Alliance, serving as Vice President, playing a vital role in the Community Garden and new orchard, and continually dedicating his time to help others. Oren makes West Central neighborhood a better place to live.

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



Fun fall events bring 2024 to a close for Westside

By Sharon L. Brooks, for SGFNN

The WNBA members have been having fun the last couple of months. Neighborhood Night Out was a great September event at Westport Park. We were able to meet neighbors and had a time of fellowship. Everyone enjoyed Domino's pizza. The snow cone and popcorn machines were a big hit with the kids!! It was a beautiful day and the weather could not have been better.



The neighborhood cleanup was one of the October projects for the Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association. Three trash dumpsters and three brush dumpsters were filled. We served 91 households. Plus, we even had two teams drive around picking up trash, mattresses and furniture.

The Westport Elementary trunk or treat was a fun ending to October. Our "trunk" was a jack 'o' lantern. It was great fun to see all those smiling faces of the Westport students.

In November, we participated in the Bass Pro



Marathon Neighborhood Cheering teams. The Great Outdoors was our theme. Our station was decorated with hunting blinds, a log cabin and campfire, a boat and a fishing pole. We even went a little prehistoric with a dinosaur, since they were once part of the great outdoors. It was a little rainy, but it was a great and fun time cheering for the marathon runners.

December brought our Holiday Basket project with WNBA neighbors knocking on doors with small baskets of goodies for homes decorated for the holiday season.

Come join in the fun and help us make our neighborhood better. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Golden Avenue Baptist Church, (558 S. Golden Ave.) We invite you to come to a meeting. It's a great way to meet new people. We welcome new ideas to make our neighborhood better.

Don't forget to follow us on our Facebook page at Facebook.com/WNBA.SpringfieldMO.



Connect

- Sharon L. Brooks, President: dcwms@mchsi.com
- Adam Day, Vice President
- Candy Smith, Treasurer
- Angela Smith, Secretary



Neighborhood Betterment Association Meetings

Jan. 14 • Feb. 11 • March 11: 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  

Mobile Library Stop

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

Thursdays: 6:45-7:15 p.m.
Craigmont Place (740 S. Lafontaine Ave.)



KENYON WOODSON
Westside's NOVA Volunteer of the Year

NOVA 2024

Kenyon has been the vice president of Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association for the past year. He has valuable ideas and insights. He is always willing to help and makes Westside a better place to live.



More than a Gym

Discover classes and amenities for every generation at Park Board Family Centers.





ParkBoard.org/JoinNow



WOODLAND HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

Woodland Heights thankful for community engagement

By Chance Parish, for SGFNN

On Nov. 19, 2024, the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association hosted its annual Thanksgiving potluck at Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church. This was a night for neighborhood citizens to come together, enjoy each other's company and reflect on things from the previous year that they were thankful for as a community.



The list of everything that we are thankful for this year is too long to list here, but it includes the funding of repairs for our beloved Jefferson Avenue Footbridge; pedestrian safety improvements in the form of crosswalks and curb extensions at several of our most traveled intersections; our working partnerships with Restore SGF, Habitat for Humanity, and the Springfield Dream Center; increased neighborhood volunteer involvement as a result of the Neat Neighborhoods initiative; collaborations with Historic C-Street for events and for helping to showcase our neighborhood artists; the continued construction of the new Reed Academy; and the continued love and support of our community.

Keeping a neighborhood on track is hard work. Countless hours go into planning events and cleanups, hosting meetings, planning future projects, educating the public, and keeping the



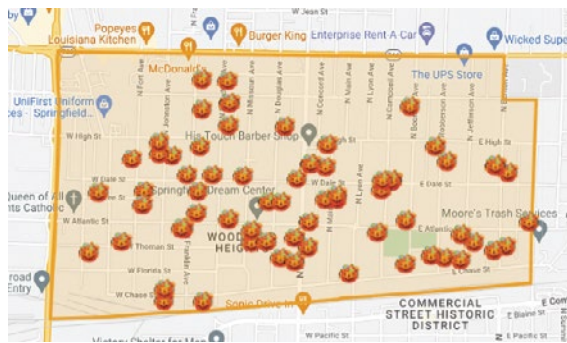
community safe and tidy. Our volunteers and board members can often find themselves exhausted and stretched thin, but as the end of the year approaches and we can turn and see what lies behind us, we find the exhaustion to be worthwhile. No one ever said progress would be easy. We are thankful for all of the hard work too.

NEIGHBORHOOD VOLUNTEERS AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MAKE QUICK WORK OF FALL CLEANUP

On Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, Woodland Heights partnered with Habitat for Humanity to host a neighborhood cleanup in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity's Rock the Block initiative. Thanks to the help of volunteers from Habitat for Humanity and volunteers from our neighborhood we were able to dispose of multiple dumpsters full of refuse.

Our volunteers spent hours driving over neighborhood streets and picking up couches and mattresses, chipping up large pieces of wood from brush piles, and helping neighbors who were able to transport their own items to the dumpster site to unload. In true Woodland Heights fashion, we also found time to eat a few pastries, drink a few cups of coffee and laugh together. Community is, after all, about the connections that you make.

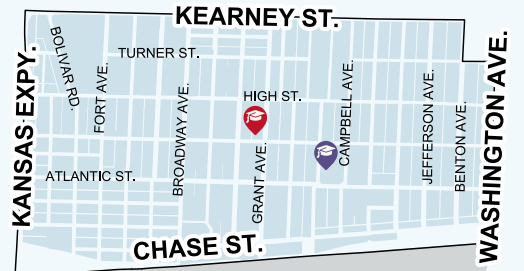
Woodland Heights is so thankful for our special partnership with Habitat for Humanity. And we look forward to future neighborhood cleanups.



NEIGHBORHOOD HALLOWEEN MAP RESULTS IN BUSY HALLOWEEN NIGHT IN WOODLAND HEIGHTS

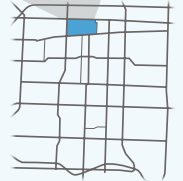
In 2021, Woodland Heights neighbors began a serious conversation about Halloween. The neighborhood was attempting efforts at increasing safety and walkability. Neighbors found it troubling that on Halloween night, the streets of Woodland Heights were empty. Many neighborhood residents had fond memories of roaming the neighborhood streets and trick-or-treating on Halloween night, and they were nostalgic for those carefree days.

▶ See **COMMUNITY** on page 25



Connect

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



Neighborhood Association Meetings

Jan. 21 • Feb. 18 • March 18: 6:30 p.m. @ Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church (722 W. Atlantic St.)

Neighborhood PAR Officer

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



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

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

Follow Woodland Heights on   

woodlandheightsneighborhood.org



SUE WOOD

Woodland Heights' NOVA Volunteer of the Year

**NOVA
2024**

Sue's leadership in Art in the Alley, Light the Heights, Adopt-A-Street cleanups, Festival of Lights contest, and Woodland Creatives Art Committee have been invaluable to the Woodland Heights neighborhood. Sue has been an involved board member for Woodland Heights and encouraging Neighborhood Watch to those living around and near her.

There was an acknowledgment that the world had changed, but also a feeling that Woodland Heights could do better. There had to be a way to attract little ghosts and goblins to roam the neighborhood on Halloween. In 2021, the neighborhood began organizing their own trick-or-treat map to let trick-or-treaters know where treats could be found. Woodland Heights is, after all, a large neighborhood. It can be daunting to just roam blindly. In 2021, about 25 residences signed up to be included on the trick-or-treat map. The trend continued, though.

Springfield does have several Halloween destinations, and Woodland Heights doesn't necessarily want to compete with those other locales, but we would like to complement. We want to be the little neighborhood where trick-or-treaters can roam until the porch lights go off. This year we're happy to report that 70 households signed up to be included on the trick-or-treat map, and we had one of the busiest Halloween nights in years! Follow us on Facebook or visit our website. The digital Halloween map will be available at both of those locations next year.

LANTERN WALK OFFERS CHANCE TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS

On Oct. 5, 2024, Woodland Heights was thrilled to partner with the Doling Neighborhood Association, the Robberson Neighborhood Association, and Historic C-Street for the SGF Yield's Lantern Walk. For the second year, we were able to collaborate with friends from all over the north side of Springfield to shine a light on issues of pedestrian safety. The walking route began at Historic Lafayette Park and took pedestrians on a 1.5 mile moonlit tour of C-Street. We were thrilled to see so many smiling faces roaming the streets of the north side. Nothing makes us happier than being able to partner with all of our nearby friends. We in Woodland Heights hold on to a belief that we're walking towards a brighter future, and that the way forward is together.



Jefferson Avenue Footbridge rehabilitation on track to begin construction in spring

By Kristen Milam, Public Information, for SGFNN

The contractor for the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge Rehabilitation Project, Branco Enterprises, continues to make progress with the first phase of the historic bridge rehabilitation, which involves determining a process for conducting the work, ordering needed equipment and supplies and securing the necessary permits with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway. At this time, the project team is on track to begin construction activities in the spring.



This fall, BNSF contacted Public Works about the possibility of raising the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge 3-4 feet as a part of the upcoming rehabilitation project. Raising the historic bridge would bring the structure closer to Federal Railroad Association height compliance above the tracks and allow for BNSF to provide future track maintenance.

In discussing this potential modification with Branco, it is apparent raising the bridge would add complexity, time and cost in the delivery of the rehabilitation, but there are still many unknowns.



At the Dec. 16, 2024 Springfield City Council Meeting, a bill was brought forward seeking authorization for the City to enter into an agreement with BNSF to accept funds to conduct an engineering evaluation of the feasibility of their request. The evaluation will also help determine what additional construction services may be needed if raising the bridge were to be added to the project scope.

Related to this request and as part of the City's current contract, workers with Great River Engineering are beginning preliminary boring tests at several locations surrounding the footbridge. This will help assess what type of soil or rock may be encountered if excavation is needed.

For more information on the rehabilitation project and to sign up for project updates, visit springfieldmo.gov/footbridge.

Events
January – March 2025

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. *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., 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/

▶ EVENTS CONTINUED from page 25

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. Wear a themed outfit for a free skate rental.*

Eagle 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. ParkBoard.org/Events. All ages. *Free.*

Winter Twilight Hike: Sat., Jan. 18 or Feb. 22: 5-6:30 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. Register at ParkBoard.org/Outdoor. All ages. *Fee: \$5/Person, Free/4 yrs. and under.*

2025 NAACP Springfield MLK March: Mon., Jan. 20: 7:30 a.m.-Noon, March starts at Brightspeed Ice Park, 635 E. Trafficway St. The NAACP would like you to join them for the annual MLK Day March and program that follows. Brightspeed Ice Parks opens at 7:30 a.m., and the march leaves at 8:30 a.m. As in past years the march heads north on Benton, left into the Jordan Valley Health Center parking lot and south on Jefferson to the Gillioz. The program begins at 9:45 a.m. at the Gillioz. For more information follow the NAACP of Springfield at facebook.com/NAACPSpringfieldMissouri.

Slow Viewing of Work by Meganne Rosen: Thurs., Jan. 23: 6 p.m., Obelisk Home-Main Gallery (214 W. Phelps St. #101). Slow Viewing is a supportive practice for anyone who wants to develop their skills of interpretation, observation, and discussing art. Guests spend an hour carefully observing and speaking about the works on view, resulting in a deeper understanding of how they and others relate to the artwork and to each other. This program is facilitated by artist Shauna LeAnn Smith. This program is free, but space may be limited so pre-registration is required at sgfmuseum.org/Activities/Activity/Detail/Slow-Viewing-2025-237.

Owl Prowl at Lake Springfield: Fri., Jan. 24 or Feb. 21: 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. Register at ParkBoard.org/Outdoor. All ages. *Fee: \$5/Person, Free/4 yrs. and under.*

Frosty Fun: Sat., Feb. 1: 10-11 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Northview Center (305 E. Talmage St.) Hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) activities, crafts and games with a winter theme. Register by Jan. 30 at ParkBoard.org/Events. Ages 5-12 yrs. *Fee: \$7/Child.*

Gross Science: Sat., Feb. 1: 2-3 p.m., The Library Center Story Hour Room (4653 S. Campbell Ave.) Are you a curious kid with a strong stomach? Observe and complete experiments that include disgusting topics such as bodily functions, rotting food, slime and more. Ages 7-12.

Freedom Classroom 101: In Our Own Words

Fri., Feb. 7: 11 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Timmons Hall, (1055 E. Webster St.) Join a Freedom Classroom 101 double feature with Vivian Gibson, author of "The Last Children of Mill Creek," a memoir of growing up in a St. Louis neighborhood that was razed in 1959; and actor, producer and director Zachary Scott Clark, from award winning short films, "Honorable" and "Hope Lives Here." Seating is limited. Register by emailing cpeoples@springfieldmo.gov. All ages. *Free.*

Inside-Out at Doling Park: Sat., Feb. 8: 2-4 p.m., Doling Park (301 E. Talmage St.) Inside Doling Family Center, examine our favorite minerals and make our own fossils to take home. Outside in Doling Park, go on a fossil hunt, learning about the rocks and make up Giboney Cave. Register by Feb. 7. ParkBoard.org/Outdoor. Ages 4 yrs. and up (4-12 yrs. with an adult). *Fee: \$5/Family.*

Second Sunday Concert: Sun., Feb. 9: 2-3 p.m., Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library (2214 S. Brentwood Blvd.) Let the Paper Moons captivate you with timeless tunes, sultry swoons and midnight croons. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Slow Viewing of Work by Dana Neuenschwander: Thurs., Feb. 20: 6 p.m., Drury University Pool Art Center (940 N. Clay Ave.) Guests spend an hour carefully observing and speaking about the works on view, resulting in a deeper understanding of how they and others relate to the artwork and to each other. This program is facilitated by artist Shauna LeAnn Smith. This program is free, but space may be limited so pre-registration is required at sgfmuseum.org/Activities/Activity/Detail/Slow-Viewing-2025-237.

Paws on Parade: Sat., Feb. 22: 10-11 a.m., Cruse Dog Park (1069 S. Wabash Ave.) Celebrate National Walk the Dog Day with free entry for you and your dog at Cruse Dog Park, no membership required. Meet new friends, enjoy treats and learn all about Springfield's first off-leash park. Must show proof of dog vaccination at the gate. Register at ParkBoard.org/Events. All ages. *Free.*

Daddy Daughter Dance: Sat., Feb. 22: 6-9 p.m., Northview Center Ballroom (305 E. Talmage St.) Girls, bring your dad, stepdad, grandpa, uncle, or special guy out for a night you'll always remember. Enjoy a catered dinner, music, dancing and special surprises. Event held in the Northview Center Ballroom, adjacent to Doling Family Center. Register early, space is limited. ParkBoard.org/Events, 417-837-5900. Ages: 3 yrs. and up. *Fee: \$40/Couple, \$15/Additional Girl (includes dinner and photo).*

All School Exhibition: Feb. 28-April 6: Monday-Friday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday: noon-4 p.m., Missouri State University-Brick City Gallery (215 W. Mill St.) Every March, the Springfield Art Museum invites student artists from across our community, in Kindergarten through 12th Grade, to exhibit outstanding artwork in the All School Exhibition. A celebration of Youth Art Month, this highly anticipated show has been a staple of our exhibition schedule since 1932, making it our longest running exhibition initiative. The exhibit also reflects the work of the incredibly talented teachers in our community, many of whom are practicing artists themselves. Faculty members from public, private, parochial schools, and home school cooperatives select the artwork for exhibition each year, and a dedicated team of teachers and students from Springfield Public Schools installs the artwork with assistance from our curatorial staff.

• **Student Showcases (Brick City Gallery):** Student Showcases are special times for families and

SPRING 2025 NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS

All Cleanups are 8 a.m.-Noon

SPRING CLEANUPS

Meador Park & Seminole Holland April 5

Meador Park (2600 S. Fremont Ave.)

Woodland Heights & Robberson April 19

BNSF Parking Lot (304 W. Chase St.)

Greater Parkcrest & Mark Twain May 3

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

Fassnacht & West Central May 10

Fassnacht Park (1305 S. Maine Ave.)

Phelps Grove & University Heights May 17

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

Bissett & Heart of the Westside May 31

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

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

friends of student artists to see their artwork and meet art teachers from across the community. These events are free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

- Middle & High School: Fri., Feb. 28: 5:30-7 p.m.
- Elementary Grades K-2: Sat., March 1: noon-1:30 p.m.
- Elementary Grades 3-5: Sat., March 1: 1:30-3 p.m.

6th Annual Police vs. Fire Charity Ice Hockey Game: Sat., March 8: 5:30 p.m., Brightspeed Ice Park (635 E. Trafficway). Proceeds benefit Greene County 100 Club. *Fee: \$10/Ticket, purchase at Brightspeed Ice Park.*

Slow Viewing of The Lost Cherub by Rose O'Neill: Thurs., March 27: 6 p.m., Drury University-Rose O'Neill House (1126 N. Summit Ave.) Guests spend an hour carefully observing and speaking about the works on view. This program is facilitated by artist Shauna LeAnn Smith. This program is free, but space may be limited so pre-registration is required at sgfmuseum.org/Activities/Activity/Detail/Slow-Viewing-2025-237.

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



VITA TAX PREP SERVICE

Each year CPO joins with Drury University and Missouri State University to offer **FREE INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARATION** for low to moderate income families/individuals. You may get a refund even if you had no taxes withheld.

FIVE clinic locations Monday-Saturday. CALL 417-720-2000 STARTING JAN. 2 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!

WHAT YOU NEED TO PREPARE:

- All W-2/1099s and 1098 received in mail
- Social Security card for all taxpayers & dependents
- Landlord's name, address, phone (if applying for rent rebate)
- Routing & account number for direct deposit
- 1098T for college students
- 1095-A if you received Affordable Care Act insurance
- VALID Photo ID for each taxpayer

Those with household incomes less than \$67,000 may be eligible*
No rental property • No farm income • No bankruptcy
No self employment with loss

DO IT YOURSELF

IF YOU MADE \$73,000 OR LESS
FILE YOUR FEDERAL
AND STATE TAXES FREE!
cpozarks.org/myfreetaxes



DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Email kolson@CPOzarks.org to help at a tax clinic.

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
SPRINGFIELD MO
PERMIT #801

Find your *game.*

Something for Everyone
ARCHERY • BASKETBALL • FLAG FOOTBALL • HOCKEY • SOCCER
VOLLEYBALL • TENNIS • AND MORE!

ParkBoard.org/Sports

Want to receive a **FREE** edition of *SGF Neighborhood News* quarterly?
Let us know, and we'll have it delivered to your mailbox or your inbox.

WAYS TO SIGN UP

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

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

MAIL TO: Attn: Melissa Hart, City of Springfield, P.O. Box 8368, Springfield, MO 65801

