



The Front Porch

The Newsletter of the City of Springfield,
Planning and Development Department's
Neighborhood Conservation Office
Spring/Summer 2004 Issue

Mission:

Neighborhoods are the building blocks of our community. Springfield must strive to promote strong neighborhoods that instill pride in their residents. Therefore, the Neighborhood Conservation Office is committed to working with the Community to ensure strong viable neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Assessment Workshops Give Residents A Voice



When residents of the Doling Park neighborhood gathered in the Doling Family Center, they kicked off the seventh installment of the City's Neighborhood Assessment Workshops. These residents were the latest to meet with City of Springfield officials to discuss issues of concern and formulate strategies to improve their neighborhoods.



Residents of the Doling Park Neighborhood Assessment area met at the new Doling Family Center to discuss possible improvements to their neighborhood.



This crosswalk was installed on Division Street as a result of the Weller Neighborhood Assessment meeting.

2004 marks the second full year of the program and a strong start in implementing Neighborhood Assessment results. Success from the program can be measured by various neighborhood improvements taking place in the areas where assessments were completed. Examples of Assessment Projects include:

- New bus shelters in the Heart of the Westside neighborhood.
- Pedestrian lighting at railroad underpasses leading to the Woodland Heights neighborhood.
- A new turn lane to be installed at the intersection of Chestnut Expressway and West Avenue.
- Three new neighborhood organizations.
- A crosswalk on Division Street connecting the Weller Neighborhood to Smith Park.

All of these actions and more have taken place only because city residents took advantage of their opportunity to become neighborhood assessment participants. Within 5 years, all residents will have had the same opportunity. For more information on the Neighborhood Assessment Program or when a workshop will be taking place in your part of the city, contact 864-1031.

Fp



Ozark Greenways Trail Update - Feb. 2004

Frisco Highline Trail

Ozark Greenways is currently coordinating the completion of three out of five of the remaining bridges on the 18-mile trail section from Walnut Grove to Bolivar. They are hopeful to begin surface construction on this section in March and have the trail completed to Bolivar this summer!! This will provide 35 miles of trail for pedestrians and bicyclists from Springfield to Bolivar, including the existing 11-mile section for equestrians from Willard to Walnut Grove.

South Creek Greenway

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board will use its construction crew to begin work this February on the trail-gap from the trailhead at National Avenue and Sunset Street west to Jefferson Avenue. The trail will be gravel through the winter and then become asphalt in spring.

Construction of trail from Jefferson Avenue to Campbell Avenue will begin once Public Works completes the culvert replacement underneath Campbell Avenue at Sunset Street. The culvert work (a.k.a. trail underpass) is tentatively scheduled to begin this year.

These improvements will provide significantly more access to the trail, a connection to a terrific trailhead on the east end of the trail, and will make crossing Campbell safer and much more enjoyable for non-motorized travelers!

James River Greenway

Join us on Saturday, June 5, for a National Trails Day celebration and dedication of the first mile of this new trail that connects to Galloway near the Old Iron Bridge. We also will designate the first mile of this trail as the Tal Wooten Memorial Mile, in honor of a longtime supporter of greenway development in Springfield. The trail will eventually head up the James River.



A family taking a walk on one of the city's trails.



Father and child riding one of the trails together.

Valley Water Mill Hiking Trail

This new footpath developing around the lake at Valley Water Mill in cooperation with the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks.

Galloway Creek Greenway

Currently, there are more than 5 miles of trail from Pershing Middle School on Seminole near Lone Pine, heading south to the Springfield Conservation Nature Center and over to the Old Iron Bridge where the James River runs into Lake Springfield.

Ward Branch Greenway

A contract has been awarded to Ball Paving to construct one mile of trail in southwest Springfield from Wanda Gray School to Rivercut, near the James River. They will begin this spring and finish in the summer. In the future this new section will connect to the one mile segment of existing trail that starts at Twin Oaks Substation and heads southwest toward the Library Center.

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CITY of SPRINGFIELD



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Vision 20/20 Affordable Housing Plan

The Vision 20/20 Affordable Housing Plan is one of seven elements that are being added or revised as a part of the update to the Springfield/Greene County Comprehensive Plan. Draft recommendations from the Vision 20/20 planning groups are now being developed into the five-year strategic plan. Key recommendations for the affordable housing element are outlined in the draft below.

Affordable housing recommendations:

- Support existing home repair programs
- Enforce existing health and building codes
- Establish a city-county office to coordinate all housing needs
- Investigate the pros and cons and possible incentives to encourage private developers to include low-moderate income units in their market-rate developments.

Committee Chair Patty VanWeelden helps lead a group discussion on housing issues.



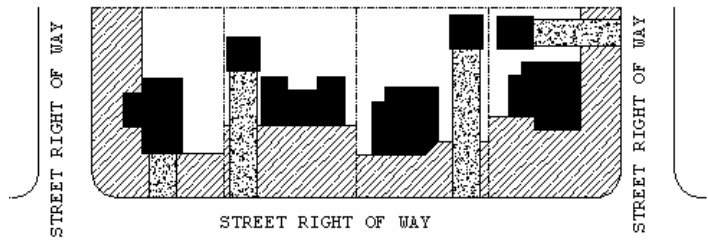
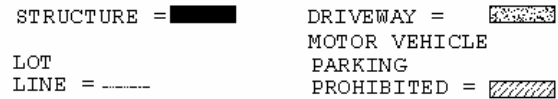
Members of the Affordable Housing Planning group included both public and private housing providers. The group met on a weekly basis from June through October 2003 to discuss affordable housing issues and strategies for the future. The Planning Group created the following statement to direct their visioning process . . . *“How do we ensure an ample supply of quality affordable housing units in Springfield and Greene County over the next ten years?”* Look for the final plan to be available for public input this spring. **Fp**



Planning Groups met in the newly renovated Vision 20/20 building on South Street in downtown Springfield.

City to Reinstate Pro-Active Enforcement of Front Yard Parking

Following recent zoning ordinance revisions by City Council, the City of Springfield will reinstate pro-active front yard parking enforcement. Beginning on Monday, June 28, The Springfield Police Department’s Parking Services and Community Services officers are directed to abate obvious instances of front yard parking violations regardless of whether or not the officer has already received a citizen complaint regarding the infraction. Initial responses to a property where front yard parking is present will result in a warning ticket. Subsequent violations will result in \$25.00 citations. Pro-active front yard parking enforcement will only be initiated at each officer’s discretion and will therefore not interfere with emergency response or the completion of other priorities. As a result, you are still encouraged to call 911 if you wish to have front yard parking abated that is occurring at that specific time; or, call the City’s service request hotline at 864-1011 if front yard parking is occurring on a recurring basis.



Per City Ordinance, front yard parking is prohibited between the front of a house and the street unless the vehicle is parked in a legally established driveway. On corner lots, both sides of the lot which face the street are considered front yards. If you have questions regarding your residential parking arrangement and whether or not you are in compliance with the city’s parking regulations, please call the Building Development Services Department at 864-1059.

Front yard parking is identified by the *Springfield Neighborhoods Plan* as one of a number of nuisances that has a negative affect on neighborhoods. The parking of vehicles in yards can increase ruts and cause soil erosion; or, in drier weather contributes to dust problems. In addition, tree roots can be damaged by soil compaction. Finally, when front yard parking is combined with inoperable vehicles, weeds, trash, etc. the combined nuisances can lead to the aesthetic deterioration of a neighborhood. **Fp**



New Family Centers Provide Recreation Opportunities

The Chesterfield and Doling Family Centers are now open! Springfield residents can now enjoy a variety of amenities such as state-of-the-art exercise equipment, walking and jogging track, an aquatics center, game rooms, and a variety of classes for all ages and skill levels offered at these new facilities. The family centers are a product of the Vision 20/20 Springfield-Greene County Park Plan, designed *to enhance the quality of life and physical well being of members of the community.*

Memberships are now available. Options include:

- Family
- Individual
- Youth
- Senior
- College Student
- Corporate Packages

Chesterfield Family Center

2511 West Republic Road



Doling Family Center

301 East Talmage

Call today to purchase a membership and enjoy the many benefits it has to offer. Chesterfield @ 891-1616, Doling @ 837-5900. www.parkboard.org

MISSION STATEMENT

...to provide a family oriented resource whose purpose is to promote healthy lifestyles by investing, equipping and encouraging those in pursuit of lifelong educational, recreational, and leisure activities.

