



The Front Porch

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

Mission:

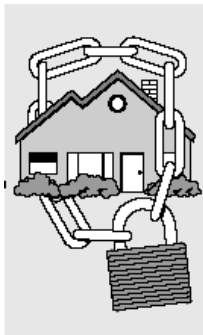
Neighborhoods are the building blocks of our community. Springfield must strive to promote strong neighborhoods that instill pride in their residents. Therefore, the Neighborhood Conservation Office is committed to working with the Community to ensure strong viable neighborhoods.

Residential Security

Springfield is a great place to live and raise a family. As Crime Prevention Officer for the Springfield Police Department, I know that as residents we often have concerns about our safety and that of our families in our homes.

There are things we can do that could greatly reduce our chances of being the victims of home burglary.

First, take a look at the exterior doors. Make sure that they all have a good deadbolt lock, which has at least a 1-1/2 inch throw. A lock-in-handle system is not adequate and can be easily defeated. Make sure that all locks are in good working order. Take out one of the two screws, which secure the strike plate to the door facing. Most will be 1/4-inch screws, which should be replaced with 3-inch screws, which will go through the soft wood of the door facing and into the stud. This will make it much more difficult to force the door and also will create noise, which will deter the burglar.



Next, we want to make sure that windows that slide up and down and have only a thumb slide lock above the lower window—such as ones found in most older homes—are fixed so that they can only be opened about 10 inches or so. This can be accomplished by measuring up the sides above the closed window about 10 inches and putting a wood screw on both sides, leaving them sticking out far enough that when the window is raised, it will hit the screws and not go up any further.

Sliding patio doors are usually secured by placing a stick in the track not allowing it to slide open. This will not keep the door from being forced straight up, which will allow it to swing free from the bottom track. The door should have a hole drilled through the top track and into the door. A pin can be placed in the hole, so the door will not move back and forth or up into the track. Sliding windows should be secured in the same fashion.

Make sure there is good outdoor lighting and that the lighting is in good working order.

Most burglars won't take more than about 2 minutes attempting a random residential burglary. Any of the above target hardening suggestions could be just enough to deter the burglar from getting in your home.

Lastly, take away every possible opportunity by not leaving things out such as bikes, lawn mowers. Making sure that you keep the garage door closed. If you don't keep your vehicle in the garage, make sure to remove the garage door opener; it is a key to your home.

If you would like a free security survey of your home please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 874-2113. **EP**

*Officer Rick Bookout, Crime Prevention Officer,
Springfield Police Department.*



2004 Landscape Award Winner!

Every year the City of Springfield recognizes the hard work and artistry put into the yards, neighborhood entrances, and businesses with the annual landscape awards. This year's winner of the single-family residence went to the Fesperman residence at 2355 E. Gallaway.

Many neighborhoods also put a great deal of thought and effort into the landscaping throughout the common areas of their subdivision. The Millwood Subdivision won the award for best residential subdivision/neighborhood.



Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's awards and submitted nominations. This extra attention to landscaping by all of our residents makes our city and our homes a beautiful place for all to enjoy. **FP**

Taking a Walk Through Your Neighborhood

As fall approaches there are numerous opportunities to take part in outdoor activities. One of the easiest and most beneficial of these activities is walking. Through the simple act of walking in your neighborhood you can reduce your risk for heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Other benefits include improving sleep; maintaining a healthy weight; reducing stress and tension and lowering blood pressure. But the benefits do not stop there, your community benefits too; walking in your neighborhood provides the opportunity to develop new friendships, increase the safety of the neighborhood, and deepen the sense of community among neighbors. There is no better time to start than now. For more information on what is happening in and around Springfield, check out your local library, the weekend section of the Springfield News—Leader or contact the Springfield—Greene County Parks Department. **FP**



Neighborhood Night Out

For the past 12 years, Springfield residents have been celebrating neighborhood pride with a community-police event, Neighborhood Night Out, in which neighbors join together to raise awareness against drugs and crime. It has been proven that people getting to know each other and working together creates a safer environment.

This year, Caring Communities, the Springfield Police Department, local churches and several neighborhood associations sponsored 12 Neighborhood Night Out events on Friday, Aug 20th. More than 2,000 people attended and enjoyed good food, music, face painting and games for kids. There was even a visit from McGruff, the Crime Dog. The Springfield Fire Department also participated by giving kids a chance to meet their firefighters and paramedics and to explore a real fire engine and ambulance.



Thanks to everyone who helped make Neighborhood Night Out such a success. By working together, we can build stronger, safer, and healthier neighborhoods! **FP**

Janet Dankert, Caring Communities., a state funded, neighborhood-based initiative that works to build stronger neighborhoods and families. Caring Communities is a program of Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

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CITY of
SPRINGFIELD



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Quick Tips: Hosting A Successful Block Party

Fall is a wonderful time to have a block party to get to know your neighbors by using the street for a festive function free of regular traffic. Block Parties can range from a simple picnic or potluck to an extravagant event with cook-offs, live music, and entertainment. Here are some tips to help get you started.

- **Have a Planning Party.** Invite a few neighbors over to plan the party.
- **Choose a location.** Plan to use a lightly traveled street that is visible to many residents. Your neighborhood PAR officer can help you get a permit for street closing and barricades, or you can apply yourself with the Traffic Department at City Hall.
- **Choose a date.** Try to pick a date 4-6 weeks in advance to allow time for planning, and don't forget to have a rain date just in case.
- **Decide on food and activities.** Some ideas might be:
 - o Ask neighbors to bring a dish to share.
 - o Contact the Fire Department to arrange a fire truck, or the Police Department for a squad car.
 - o Organize children's games, live music, a raffle, or other entertainment.
- **Deliver invitations.** Personally delivered invitations are most effective, or you may want to mail invitations or put them under people's doormats a week or two before the party.
- **Have fun!!!**



It's Fall Clean-Up Time!!

Time to rake leaves, rejuvenate your lawn, and clean out the garage!

With Fall comes extra chores and extra opportunities around the house and yard.

A handy checklist of seasonal activities and resources to make the job easier is available on the City's Web Site:

www.springfieldmogov.org/recycling

With the shorter nights, our urban forest will soon be ablaze with color and leaf clean-up will soon

follow. A Reminder: dumping leaves or grass clippings in streets, ditches, storm drains is prohibited by City ordinance. There are much better alternatives for leaf disposal!

As cold weather settles in, some tender plants can benefit from a layer of mulch for protection from changing temperatures. The City is offering woodchip landscaping mulch **FREE** of charge at the Yardwaste Recycling Center.

Fall is the best time to renovate lawns and prepare gardens and planting beds for spring planting. Working organic matter into the soil is essential for healthy plant growth. The City offers quality compost for sale at the Yardwaste Recycling Center.

Leftover lawn chemicals, paint and other home improvement supplies can be disposed of safely and properly at the City's Household Chemical Collection Center - available to Springfield/Greene County residents free of charge.

Check the Recycling Hotline (864-1904) or consult the City's Web Site for up-to-the-minute compost availability and for information about the services and products listed above.

For more tips on maintaining your lawn and getting it ready for winter, call Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods at 864-2006 to request a printed copy or see "Cool-Season Grasses Lawn Care and Maintenance Calendar" available on the Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods Web Site:



www.springfieldmogov.org/community/cee_showme.html



*Barbara Lucks
Materials Recovery/Education Coordinator
Springfield Public Works Department*



Notice

You Can Join The Citizens Police Academy!

The Springfield Police Department holds a Citizens Police Academy approximately every six months. Citizens attending the academy have the opportunity to learn some of what a police officer must know and do on a daily basis. There is no cost for the class. Enrollment is limited to 25 in each academy. If you're interested in attending the academy, please complete the online form and the Citizens Police Academy Coordinator will contact you. Forms are available online at www.ci.springfield.mo.us/spd/JoinUs/cpa.html If you have questions, you may contact the Police Coordinator at 417-837-5891.



Publication Spotlight

Neighborhood Assessment Program Brochure

As many of you already know, the Neighborhood Assessment Program is used to create strategic neighborhood action plans. As part of our efforts to boost awareness and enthusiasm for the program we have published this informational brochure. The brochure explains how your participation can make a real difference in your neighborhood. Inside you will also find a step-by-step outline of exactly what you will be doing at the Assessment workshop and how your input can help guide future improvements in your neighborhood. Call the Neighborhood Conservation Office today for your free brochure.



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