

August 09, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Miss Silver Springs Beauty Pageant Moved Indoors

With more rain in the forecast, Park Day Reunion organizers have decided to hold Saturday's Miss Silver Springs Beauty Pageant indoors.

The pageant will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the nearby O'Reilly –Tefft Gymnasium, 1408 E. Pythian St., Springfield.

The community is also invited to enjoy a day of fellowship at the Silver Springs Park pavilion, 1100 N. Hampton, starting at 10 a.m. Saturday. Picnic foods will be for sale to help raise money for next year's event. Silver Springs Pool will be open during regular hours. The day of fellowship was rescheduled after Park Day Reunion events were rained out last weekend.

The Park Day Reunion takes place at Silver Springs Park every year on first weekend of August, bringing together friends and family from Springfield and around the country. The event name dates back to 1952, when Gerald Brooks, a teacher at Springfield's Lincoln School, started a day of games and sports for young black residents at Silver Springs.

Silver Springs Park is one of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board's 10 Historic Parks. It was established in 1918 on land known as the old Fairbanks pasture, and later named for a spring on site, flowing into Jordan Creek. During segregation, Silver Springs was the city's only public park designated for black residents and accompanying sports leagues, including semi-pro baseball. The WPA built fieldstone retaining walls and the first Silver Springs Pool, and lined the creek channel with rock in the 1930s.

For more information about the Park Day Reunion, visit parkdayreunion.com or contact event organizer Jane Pike at 417-869-8091.

For media inquiries, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.