July 16, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

Mayor Declares July "Smart Irrigation Month"

On July 1, Mayor James O’Neal declared July as “Smart Irrigation Month” in Springfield. The proclamation will be presented at a related training event to be held at 11 a.m., July 20, at Ewing Irrigation, 1841 W. Sunset St. in Springfield.

Smart Irrigation Month was created by the Irrigation Association (www.irrigation.org) as a public awareness campaign to promote efficient use of water in irrigation. Using water wisely saves money on utility bills, nurtures green spaces that deliver real environmental benefits, protects our community’s water supply for generations to come, and minimizes added investments in infrastructure to store and carry water. Automatic watering, sprinkler, and irrigation systems can deliver exactly the right amount of water at the right time. Efficient irrigation systems minimize overwatering while keeping lawns and gardens beautiful and healthy by adjusting water levels automatically to account for rain and other contributing conditions. This puts every drop of water to work by minimizing evaporation and waste, and makes maintaining landscapes more convenient and cost effective.

For information about Smart Irrigation Month, contact Joe Payne, (417) 864-1954, or go to www.smartirrigationmonth.org.

In Springfield, summer water usage can increase by as much as 50 percent due to irrigation. In an effort to even the load this increased consumption creates, City Utilities has implemented the “Odd or Even?” program where property owners are asked to water on specific days depending on whether they reside at an address with an odd or even house number.

For more information on City Utilities’ “Odd or Even?” landscape watering guidelines, contact Mark Viguet at (417) 831-8686, or go to www.cityutilities.net/resident/pgms/waterevenodd.htm

Many property owners unintentionally over-water lawns and landscapes, sometimes by as much as 40 percent. Since irrigation can be one of the largest uses of water, tremendous potential exists for water savings through proven water-saving technologies and effective irrigation management practices. The July 20 training event will focus on realizing these potential savings through implementing best management practices and cutting-edge irrigation products, as well as other means of conserving water. While the intended audience for this training is area irrigation contractors, it is also open to the public as the information provided will be very beneficial to homeowners and property managers.

For more information about the July 20 training event, contact Scott Shadwick at Ewing Irrigation, (417) 891-9876.

Organizations supporting the “Smart Irrigation Month” observance include: City of Springfield Public Works, City Utilities of Springfield, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Springfield/Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence, Show-Me Yards &

For more information from the Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods program on smart water management of lawns and landscapes, contact Barbara Lucks, (417) 864-2005. More information on Smart Irrigation Month cooperating organizations can be found in the “Resources” section at www.OzarksEnvironment.com.