

April 22, 2011

News Release

For Immediate Release

Regional Police-Fire Training Center Groundbreaking

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held at 4 p.m., Monday, April 25, for the Springfield Regional Police-Fire Training Center.

The training center will be built as an addition to the City of Springfield's joint South District Police Station/Fire Station No. 6 facility located at 2620 W. Battlefield Road. The ceremony will take place on the south side of the existing building. Those who wish to attend should enter on Clifton Avenue by the fire station and drive around to the rear of the building.

The \$4.5 million project will provide modern training facilities not only for the City of Springfield's public safety forces, but it also will be accessible to public safety departments around the region. Springfield's police and firefighting forces have lacked adequate training facilities for decades.

The new training center will provide classroom equipped with the latest technology and equipment for both classroom learning and practical application. The Police Department will be able to simulate domestic situations and other environments in which police officers may find themselves. Firefighters will be able to use practical props for hands-on fire training. For the first time, all of these facilities will be in one place and located next to classrooms, so that academy recruits and current employees can move quickly from classroom to practical training. Until now, these facilities and classrooms have been scattered across the city in whatever space has been available.

Speakers at the groundbreaking will include Police Chief Paul Williams and Fire Chief David Hall, who will each detail some of the many uses and enhancements the new training center will provide.

The project is expected to be complete by June 2012. Funding comes from the voter-approved Level Property Tax.

Please note: A rain date of 10 a.m., Thursday, May 5 has been set in case of severe weather.

For more information, contact: Assistant City Manager Collin Quigley, (417) 864-1008; or Mike Brothers, Department of Public Information, (417) 864-1119.



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