Parks unveils 2011 events & upgrades

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board has announced a number of significant sports-related events for 2011, including the addition of the NCAA Division I Missouri Valley Softball Championship, a lineup of more than 50 district, state, regional, national and professional/international sports tournaments and more. At a news conference, Park Board officials also updated the community on several facility developments currently in the works.

Sports Development and Improvements

The Rotary Club of Springfield North continues its capital campaign to raise funds for a "Miracle Field," which will be built in Dan Kinney Park on Springfield’s east side, offering an accessible ball field to players who have a variety of disabilities. The accessible field will be built next to the park’s existing accessible playground, which was dedicated last year. Under the guidelines established by the Miracle League Association, the field will have a special playing surface allowing easy access for wheelchairs, individuals using walkers or anyone who finds it difficult to walk due to health issues.

FY 2012 budget process underway

The Finance Department began working with other City departments in January to prepare the Fiscal Year 2012 budget. Each department submitted their top budget requests, and nearly all departments have met with the City Manager to discuss those requests.

During this time, Finance has also been working on revenue estimates for FY12. The department’s analysts are finalizing those estimates now. Overall, the revenue picture looks more positive than last year.

The three most significant drivers of General Fund revenue are:

- PILOTS (payments in lieu of taxes) from City Utilities – Likely to increase, mostly as a result of an electric rate increase.
- Sales tax – Projected as flat for the current fiscal year and showing modest growth despite the often wild monthly fluctuations.
- Fee income – Currently about the same as last year, but because it is largely business-driven, it is often one of the last areas to show recovery.

All departments have requested budget increases. This is not surprising since the City has been in a budget reduction mode for three years. Finance Director Mary Mannix Decker acknowledged that increases are very likely needed in many areas.

"The challenge is to balance the budget increases that are needed with the need to control growth in expenses," she said. "The economic climate is still fairly stagnant overall, though we are hopeful things will continue to tilt in generally positive direction, however slight."

The City Manager will have a proposed budget for City Council’s consideration by the last week in April. Finance and the City Manager’s Office will further communicate with employees as we approach that time. Look for "everyone” e-mails and employee budget meetings in April.

As always, City Council will then get a chance to suggest changes before it goes to a first reading, which will likely be in late May. Council must pass the final budget before the new Fiscal Year begins July 1.

Ozark Greenways turns 20

Ozark Greenways’ 20th anniversary celebration will be held from 1-5 p.m., Sunday, April 3, at Galloway Station, 4211 S. Lone Pine Ave. Use the Galloway Creek Greenway before or after, get a bite to eat, and meet OG friends. OG has a goal of adding 200 new members during this 20th year, so bring your friends!

For more information, go to www.ozarkgreenways.org.

See the Wolfpack

Springfield Wolfpack indoor professional football team is offering ticket discounts to City employees for its 2011 season April 9 - June 25. Find out more about this and other employee discounts on CityShare.

Character Education

word of the month: Trustworthy

To be reliable, to follow through with your responsibilities, and to inspire others to believe in you.
Learn from the master gardeners

University of Missouri Extension Master Gardeners will partner with Springfield-Greene County Park Board locations, Rutledge-Wilson Farm Community Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146, and Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic, to offer several new classes that will enhance gardening knowledge and skills.

The Farm Park series is titled “Growing Knowledge at the Farm.” All classes are held from 6-7 p.m. on Thursdays. Pre-registration is required at 887-5049.

Series topics include: April 28 - Growing Tomatoes ($5); May 19 - Meet The Three Sisters ($5); June 16 - Manage Insects and Diseases in Your Garden ($5); July 21 - Plan Now for a Fall Harvest ($5).

Botanical Center’s classes are titled “Into Gardening Series.” All classes are held from 9-11 a.m. on Saturdays. Pre-registration is required at 891-1516 and each session has a fee of $10. Series topics include: May 7 - Spring Into Gardening; Oct. 8 - Fall Into Gardening; Jan. 21, 2012 - Getting Beyond the Garden.

Registration for both locations and series can also be made online at: www.swmogardens.com/fogcalendar.

Hints from the Help Desk

New Additional Training is Now Available ... 

From the employee survey results, it was pointed out that more training was needed than what was being offered. Information Systems has contracted with Lynda.com to provide that additional training.

This is an “online” class setting where you can log in during a designated week and take as many classes as you see fit for your needs. Your week-long account can be tracked as well as provide many levels of knowledge. If you know nothing about Adobe, for instance, you can start at the very beginning or choose to try a more intermediate level and pick up from that point, or if you just need to know a couple of “how-tos,” you can select that segment only to get your answers; totally, up to each individual. You can access this site from your workstation, or we will have the computer training lab available (Busch L46) with headphones one day each week for a quiet place to learn. This training is also available anywhere that you have Internet access.

Our pilot program received rave reviews. The best comments were that you can fit in 30 minutes here or 60 minutes on another day, or whatever works with your schedule to fully take advantage without a big chunk of your day designated to training.

This service is free to City employees and the departments and will assist in those areas of knowledge weaknesses that exist. This is effective immediately so to sign up, simply contact Judy Stangl at jstangl@springfieldmo.gov with your requested date. You will receive an e-mail acknowledgement. (Limit of nine per class.)
Future amenities will include a 50-meter competitive pool, slide and splash features, locker rooms, family changing rooms and new filtration equipment. Doling’s outdoor pool will remain open throughout the 2011 summer pool season.

Upcoming Tournaments and Events

A list of 52 events, ranging from district to professional-level play are coming in 2011. For a full list go to parkboard.org. Some highlights include:

- The National Christian Homeschool Association Championships in basketball, soccer and golf return to Springfield.
- NCAA Division I Missouri Valley Conference Softball Championships return to Springfield after 17 years, and will be played at the new Killian Softball Stadium at Killian Sports Complex May 12-14.
- Evangel University will host the Heart of America Athletic Conference Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regional Team Tournament April 29-30 at Cooper Tennis Complex.
- The Park Board also will work with Southwest Baptist University this year to host two new tournaments in softball and tennis.

The Park Board will again work with district, state, regional and national level organizations and governing bodies to host the events, including the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Springfield Sports Commission.

“The activities coming into Springfield and Greene County continue to have significant economic and quality of life impacts,” said Director of Parks Jodie Adams. In 2009, 20 major athletic events were calculated by the Park Board to have had a direct economic impact of more than $4 million.

“These are families and tournament participants who are eating, lodging, shopping and recreating while in the area. Sporting events provide a big boost to the area’s businesses, along with tax dollars that come directly back to our local governments to fund essential services.”

Adams points to collaborative efforts with the Sports Commission, the CVB, local universities, hotels, businesses and more than 290 volunteer groups as a key element of the successes experienced with major sporting events over the past decade.

“It takes commitment and cooperation to successfully secure these events, which ultimately have shown tremendous economic gain for the community,” she said.

City sets philosophy on development process

Following meetings with more than 75 architects, engineers, developers, contractors and trade associations, the City of Springfield has modified its development/re-development process. The changes became effective March 7, 2011.

To assist developers in moving projects through design, plan approval and construction, the City has established a Collaborative Community Development (CCD) philosophy that underpins the process. The CCD philosophy, and an informative video explaining its key features, can be found on the City’s website at www.springfieldmo.gov/developer.

Deputy City Manager Fred Marty, appointed as ombudsman for the development process, explained what is different about the CCD initiative: “We understand there are many ‘Springfields’ out there. The City’s intent is to encourage and work with developers to accomplish their development here, in this Springfield,” Marty says. “What’s new about CCD is greater communication between developers and the City’s plan review team, plus our commitment to consistency between development phases and a pledge of ‘no surprises.’”

The Collaborative Community Development philosophy incorporates three phases in the project development or re-development process: Project Design, Plan Review and Approval, and Project Construction.

In the project design phase, the City requests that the developer’s entire project design team participate in a pre-application meeting with City staff. At that meeting, the City will introduce its plan review team and will listen carefully to understand the developer’s concept and preliminary plan. The City will identify the applicable statutes, ordinances, code, zoning facts and site-based information pertaining to the project described by the developer. Staff will share ideas, point-out relevant facts that the developer will need to know and answer the design team’s questions.

The second phase depends upon the developer submitting as complete a set of plans as is professionally feasible for the City team to review. During this phase, the City plan review team will assure compliance with community standards contained in statutes, ordinances and codes.

Finally, the City is committed to holding itself accountable to deadlines. The City is pledging to return plans to developers within 10 business days for initial submissions and within five days for a re-submittal. The timelines are exclusive of the day of submission, and apply to projects that have a legal lot of record and require no public improvements.

For more information: www.springfieldmo.gov/developer
MILESTONES

Service Anniversaries

15 years

Eric Wester
Aaron Wood
Fire Captains
Fire – 04/15/96

James Sandbothe
Truck Company Captain
Fire – 04/15/96

Kevin Trogdon
Battalion Chief
Fire – 04/15/96

William Spence
Fire Marshal
Fire – 04/15/96

Derek Kelly
Joseph Myers
Aaron Roy
Firefighters
Fire – 04/15/96

Patrick Davis
Steven Phillips
Fire Equipment Operators
Fire – 04/15/96

Patrick Colvard
Parks Caretaker
Parks – 04/10/96

Mikael Irvine
Golf Course Worker
Parks – 04/14/96

10 years

Becky Jungmann
Director of Emergency Communications
Emergency Communications – 04/09/01

Matthew Coats
Park Ranger Supervisor
Parks – 04/30/01

Harold Milliron
Christopher Rasmussen
Marcus Walker
Jerry Wine
Police Officers
Police – 04/02/01

Linda Westerman
Police Services Representative
Police – 04/23/01

5 years

Susan Provance
Community Recreation Services Administrator
Parks – 04/17/06

David Rigg
Community Recreation Services Administrator
Parks – 04/16/06

Linda Paxton
Workforce Development Specialist
Workforce Development – 04/04/06

Christopher Coffman
911 Telecommunicator
Emergency Communications – 04/17/06

Cynthia Pantoja
911 Telecommunicator
Emergency Communications – 04/24/06

Amy Harris
Police Services Representative
Police – 04/11/06

Brenda Miller
Staff Assistant
Law – 04/24/06

Ronald White
Utility Worker
Parks – 04/02/06

Welcome

Leah Kidwell
Community Health Nurse – Health
Andrea Jackson
Community Sports Coordinator – Parks
Sally Mubarak
Workforce Development Specialist – Workforce Development
Gregory Anderson
Blake Beasley
Chris Bersted
Andrew Bolin
Huston Brady
Daniel Conkin
Anthony Cunis
Mark Cunningham
Casey Davis
Nathan Davis
Phillip Depinto
Christopher Dockins
Benjamin Gaddy
Brandon Gonzales
Jermiah Lockett
Robert Mallow
Robert Montgomery
Joshua Morrow
Frankie Starks
Caleb Taylor
Jason Ward
Todd Waterman
Police Officers (Academy) – Police

Kelly Patton
Police Officer (Lateral) – Police

Donna Rivers
Staff Assistant – Health

Janet Howard
Office Assistant – Workforce Development

Promotions

Rickey Helton
Accounting Clerk II – Health

Russell Wright
Police Officer (Lateral) – Police

Retirements

Amanda Iannelli
Firefighter
Fire – 04/15/96

James Landolt
Fleet Systems Coordinator
Public Works – 10 years

Donald Mihalevich
Fleet Administrator
Public Works – 12 years

Toby Morris
Police Services Representative
Police – 27 years

Patricia Pendleton
Senior Workforce Development Specialist
Workforce Development – 21 years

Charles Smith
Laborer
Public Works – 40 years

Virgil Wolliver
Workforce Development Specialist
Workforce Development – 12 years

The City
M A R K E T P L A C E

FOR SALE

Porcelain doll collection; beautifully costumed dolls in pristine condition, most dolls are 14” tall. Will take $5 for each individual doll or buy the whole collection with best offer. I have a 1980s Horrace Mann collector’s doll (originally cost $80) for $5. Call Kathy at 619-5511 or leave a message at 881-2591.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Visioneer flatbed scanner, model 9420USB. Driver and Software disk included $25,
Newcomb 4-harness weaving loom, 45” wide $700. Call Phil 864-1871

Need work done around the house? Small projects to major remodels, no job too big or small. 10 years experience, references available. Contact Patrick at 268-5633.
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Paul Blees PW
Chris Hanks PRK
Olivia Hough PDV
David Johnson 911
Patricia Rader PRK

2 James Calhoon POL
Lisa Jump 911
Sarah Limb HL
Brandon Manczuk PW
Stacey Parton POL
Jamey Thomas POL

3 Deborah Fraley PW

4 Juan Abonce HL
Terry Allen PW
Wesley Archer PRK
Ronald Cole PRK
Sandra Freeman PRK
Rachelle Huett PRK
Kayla McGregor PRK
Eric Morgan PW
Jason Rust POL
Melody Saul AIR
James Schudy AIR
Jeron Tauai PRK
Jackson Thompson PRK
Lee Tiehen PW

5 Bobby Berry PW
Tracy Campbell PRK
John Erwin PW
Susan Potter ART

6 Richard David PRK
Timothy Gerkey FR
Terry Moore FN
Jeanie Priebe POL
Jonathan Shuck POL

7 Gary Campbell PW
Lawrence Demster PW
Aubrey Hart PRK
Darrell Rader POL
Todd Thornhill MC
Greg Wheelen POL

8 Alex Belote PRK
Bannus Chaudoin PRK
Kelby Dickensheet POL
Kenneth Edmonds PW
Kathleen Hufford POL
Eric Partenheimer PRK
Kristina Webster 911
Chester Wheeler PW

9 Betsy Beck POL
Sally Payne WD

10 Marla Miller POL

11 Lori Chafin PW
Stanley Horton AIR
Thomas Breashears PW
Lisa Moore HL
Loryn Radford PRK
Nathan Tiller PW

12 James Abbott FN
Brandi Bourey PRK
Daniel Gammill PRK
Roger Moore POL
Troy Smith POL

13 Rebecca Anders HL
Melissa Carter FN
Crystal Dorser BDS
Jon Freeman PW
Julie Gilmin PW
Aaron Hicks PRK
Christine Rodgers POL
Jason Ward POL
Justin Wilson PRK

14 Ryan Barnhart IS
Mike McKnelly PRK
Morris Moore FR
Mark Schindler POL
Robert Uckele PRK

15 Lisa Harley CC
David Hightower FR
Shawn McClure POL
Barry Routh POL
Adria Woods PW

16 Judy Cano WD
Robert Felber ART
Jaclyn Labby PRK
Richard Mayer PRK
Lori Stubbsman FN

17 Kelly Ash FR
Shannon Kinney PRK
Eric Reece POL
Tina Sides MC

18 Stewart Acosta AIR
Kirk Broberg POL
Bethany Gates PRK
Amanda Leckrone PRK
Christopher Roush FR
Jenny Turner PW

19 Alford Berry AIR
Jason Bisby POL
Phillip Depinto POL
Grant Holmes PRK
Regina Riddle PRK
Jason Wells FR

20 Tina Beard POL
Stephanie Gott PW
Lavena Pilgrim HL

21 Curtis Cantrell FR
Kurt Priebe FR
Mike Stafford PW

22 Alexander Cayer PRK
Amy Davis 911
Jeremy Garten PRK
Brandon Gonzales POL
Thomas Hosmer PDV
Linda McKaig WD
Kesha Schreiber PRK
Holly Tucker POL

23 Warren Bagwell PRK
Brian Crum POL
Tanner Westerfield POL

24 Bradley Shaffer PW
Myron Walton PW
Matthew Farmer POL

25 Robert Cantrell PRK
Kevin Dill IS
Marty Thomas PW

26 Chris Barb POL
Chris Mumm AIR
Jeremy Parr PRK
Samantha Peterson PRK

27 Gary Birum IS
Martin Gugel PW
Aaron Lile FR
Scott Menzer FN
Justin Merritt FR
William Snider PRK
Arolin Thomas PW

28 Alan Cummins PRK
Karen Prescott HL
Thomas Gottman PRK

29 Mary Mannix Decker FN

30 Ben Basham FR
Betty Browning PW
Michelle Ivey 911
Fred McConkey PRK
Donald Mitchell POL
Alexander Montgomery FR
Robert Montgomery POL
Chadwick White POL

Abbreviations
911 Emergency Comm.
AIR Airport
ART Art Museum
BDS Building Dev.
CC City Clerk
CM City Manager
EM Emergency Mgt.
FN Finance
FR Fire
HL Health
HR Human Resources
IS Info. Systems
LAW Law
MC Municipal Court
OG Ozark Greenways
PRK Parks
PDV Planning & Dev.
DPI Public Information
POL Police
PW Public Works
WD Workforce Dev.
Keep your beneficiary designations updated

Have you had a change in your life such as the birth or adoption of a child, a change in marital status, or set up a trust? If so, you may need to update your beneficiary designations for your City benefits.

If you wish to verify your current beneficiaries for any of the benefits mentioned above, you may come to Human Resources and ask to review your Personnel File. All current designation forms are in your individual file.

Forms to make changes to your current beneficiary designation for life insurance, deferred compensation plan or LAGERS retirement benefits are available in Human Resources. You may also change your deferred compensation plan beneficiary designation by accessing your account online at http://icmarc.org. The LAGERS beneficiary change form may be printed from the LAGERS website at http://molagers.org. The completed LAGERS form must have a witness signature and should be submitted to Human Resources.

SPOA and IAFF members should contact their union representative to make changes to their life insurance beneficiary.

Another very important document that all employees should have in their personnel file is the final paycheck Designation of Beneficiary. This document identifies the person that you want to receive your last paycheck in the event of your death. If you die while working for the City of Springfield and do not have this designation on file, your family must obtain a court order for the City to release your final pay check.

The final paycheck Designation of Beneficiary Form is available electronically on CityShare. On the left side in the Documents section, click on forms, then on Human Resources, then on Designation of Beneficiary. You may also obtain this form from the Human Resources Department by calling 864-1607 or stopping by the HR front desk in the Busch Building. Keep in mind that this beneficiary designation must be notarized.

Contact Peggy Thompson, Senior Human Resources Specialist, at 864-1608 or via the City’s e-mail for questions related to your benefits.

Deferred Comp

Appointments are available on March 29, 30, 31 and April 1.

Call 864-1607 to schedule an appointment. Appointment times are filled on first call, first scheduled basis.

Now is a good time to review your deferred compensation plan account with Paula Schoebelen and make sure your retirement savings plan is on target. Paula is also available to assist employees with the initial enrollment process, to evaluate your investment fund choices or to change your investment allocation.

Remember the City contributes $10 per pay period when the employee contributes $10 per pay period. Everyone who is eligible to participate should take advantage of this opportunity!

Lasers blast into 2011

The Springfield Lasers drafted new players in the second and third rounds of the World Team Tennis Pro League’s player draft for its 36th season.

“Our Springfield Lasers did very well at this year’s WTT Player Draft,” said team owner John Cooper. “We’re particularly excited about bringing in Australian Paul Hanley to play doubles with both Carly Gullickson and Rik de Voest, which should excel us in both mixed and men’s doubles. Team roster bios are as follows:

Women


2nd Round Pick (Roster Draft): Lila Osterloh – Returning for her fourth season of WTT and first season with the Lasers, she is a veteran with two WTA Tour doubles titles, 10 ITF doubles titles and three ITF singles titles. She is a 32-year-old American.

Men

3rd Round Pick (Roster Draft): Paul Hanley – Will play his first season of WTT with the Springfield Lasers. He is one of the most accomplished doubles players on the Men’s ATP Tour. He has 25 career ATP doubles titles and was a mixed doubles finalist at the Australian Open.

4th Round Pick (Roster Draft): Rik De Voest (protected in the draft) - Returning for his third season with the Lasers, WTT Rookie of the Year in 2005, and is also the top player for Coach de Jager’s South African Davis Cup Team. He is a 30-year-old South African native.

As WTT Western Conference semifinalist, the Lasers are coming off of a 11-4 season in 2010. Nine pro teams will compete for the 2011 King Trophy over the duration of the upcoming WTT season, which is scheduled for July 4 – 24. All seven Lasers home matches are played in the Mediacom Tennis Stadium at Cooper Tennis Complex, 2831 E. Pythian St.

For more information and updates on the Springfield Lasers, visit www.springfieldlasers.com.

‘The Directory’ now available from the Library

The 2011-2012 edition of The Directory produced by the Springfield-Greene County Library District is on sale now. Cost is $10. The Directory, printed by the library district for more than 20 years, is an alphabetical listing of Springfield-area nonprofit clubs, agencies and organizations. It includes mailing addresses, phone, fax, toll-free, hotline and TTY numbers, e-mail and web addresses for more than 800 listings.

Copies of this valuable resource can be purchased at any library branch, and at Between Friends gift shops in the Library Center and Library Station. A Directory can also be mailed for an additional $3 shipping and handling fee for each book ordered.

To order, call 616-0567, or mail a check to, and make it payable to, Springfield-Greene County Library District, Attn: Community Relations, 4653 S. Campbell Ave., Springfield, Mo., 65810.

New this year: Individuals or agencies may purchase an Excel spreadsheet of The Directory listings for $25. Call 616-0567 for more information or to place an order.
Green room

In March, work began to turn the former WIC (Women Infants and Children) building at the corner of Central Street and Robberson Avenue into the new Environmental Resource Center. The new facility will house a community meeting room, Resource Center, Solid Waste Management Division staff and Sanitary Services Education staff.

The Public Works Solid Waste Division’s current offices upstairs will become the new home for Solid Waste Management, Sanitary Services, and Storm Water Services, as well as the Water Quality Section of Storm Water Services and the services of Ozark Greenways, all under one roof – making it much more convenient for the many constituents these groups all serve.

In addition, the remaining Solid Waste Management staff will also be in the building. There will be three meeting areas, fully equipped for A/V, Internet, etc., that can be used by staff or community groups. A resource area with Internet access, printed materials for businesses, educators and kids’ activities is included, along with a check-out area for educational “kits” and materials.

Something in the air

The laboratory services division of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department began collecting and posting pollen data for this season on Feb. 28. Pollen count information will be available by 10:30 a.m. daily on the website www.springfieldmo.gov/health/database/pollen/Default.aspx.

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department is designated as a certified pollen counting station and joins major metropolitan areas throughout the United States in providing the highest standard of collection and analysis in pollen reporting.

High-speed pursuit

The Law Enforcement Battle of the Badges Racing Series will be held May through September 2011 at the various race tracks throughout the area. Proceeds from each race helps benefit a different cause.

- Race 1 – May 21, Springfield Raceway, 2110 N Farm Road 129; benefit for Special Olympics of Missouri. Call 865-0097.
- Race 3 – July 30, lake Ozark Speedway in Eldon; benefit for Special Olympics. Call (573) 392-9977.
- Race 4 – Sept. 10, I-55 Speedway in Pevely; benefit for Backstoppers. Call (856) 479-8919.

Sales tax update

The City of Springfield’s March 2011 one percent sales tax check from the Missouri Department of Revenue is down 18.15 percent compared to March 2010. Revenue collected totaled $2,601,157 compared to $3,177,811 in March 2010.

Year-to-date, sales tax revenue for Fiscal Year 2011 is 0.84 percent above the previous year. Year-to-date collections total $26,682,286 compared to $26,459,880 in 2010 — a difference of about $222,400.

Medicine Drop

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department will host Operation Medicine Drop from 3-6 p.m., March 22, at Westside Public Health Center, 660 S. Scenic Ave. This provides an opportunity for people to properly dispose of unused and expired medications. In addition, information on accidental poisoning, proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and medical “sharps,” recycling, and the City’s household chemical collection center will be available.

The process is anonymous. Any and all pills or capsules will be accepted. No “sharps” or liquids will be accepted, however. Disposal of collected medicine will be coordinated by the Springfield Police Department and the Greene County Sheriff’s office.

For more information, call 864-1676.

Do You Know…?

A Q & A of City of Springfield employees. To suggest a colleague for a “Do You Know…?” profile, email thescene@springfieldmo.gov.

Diane Showerman

Administrative Assistant, Planning
Diane has been with the City for 1 year.

What are you most proud of? My son in college who I home educated. I’m very thankful I was able to have a huge input in his education and to have spent that time with him. Now that he’s off to college on almost a full-ride with academic and music scholarships, I’m even more thankful for the quality and quantity of time well spent. It’s pretty cool!

What might people not know about you? I love to boogie board in the Pacific Ocean and mentor high school and young adult ladies.

What do you like most about your job? I enjoy the diverse group we have here in Development Review. I really love being a part of my daytime dysfunctional family!

What would you put on your own gravestone? I would like to be buried in a graduation gown. My tombstone could read “She Graduated with Honors!”

Who do you admire? My friend Stephanie who is a mid-wife in Sudan through Indeed and Truth Ministries. She’s a cool and crazy chick.

From the SCENE archives

20 Years Ago - April 1991
- The Missouri Conservation Commission voted to fund half of a Missouri Habitats exhibit at Dickerson Park Zoo, with Friends of the Zoo raising the rest of the needed amount.
- The United Way recognized the Law and Human Resources departments with top awards for giving during the previous year.

10 Years Ago - April 2001
- Reflecting the growing regional nature of the Airport, citizens voted to change the City Charter to expand the Airport Board from nine to 11 members and allow for three of the 11 board members to reside outside of Springfield in Greene, Stone or Taney counties.
To: Police Chief Paul Williams

My house was robbed in broad daylight. We called to make a police report. My grandmother’s brass bell was stolen. The thief walked up to our house, dumped the flowers/dirt out in my front yard and a dragged the 250 lbs. brass bell to a scrap yard. It was sold for $200 and the thief went on his way. We were told to call all the local scrap yards the following day. I called six or seven and every year we plant pansies in our front yard and a dragged the 250 lbs. brass bell to a scrap yard. It was sold for $200 and the thief walked up to our house, dumped the flowers/dirt out in my front yard and a dragged the 250 lbs. brass bell to a scrap yard. It was sold for $200 and the thief went on his way. We were told to call all the local scrap yards the following day. I called six or seven and made an arrest and got a confession from the person stealing the bell. The thief was identified as a bulldog and he wasn’t going to give up. We were told to call all the local scrap yards the following day. I called six or seven and the officer kept all parties calm and took pictures and made sure we received our property back. My Grandmother passed away a few years ago and she loved bells and pansies. So every year we plant pansies in the bell. We are so greatful to get the bell back and I feel that officer Shook helped provide justice!

Wendy Calhoun

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

Met with Sgt. Mark Deeds regarding my infant granddaughter brought to Cox South in respiratory arrest and coma. He, along with Detective Eric Reece, made an arrest and got a confession from the person who injured my granddaughter. Both officers were very friendly and compassionate with me, my daughter and my family. They kept us informed of case status, and were very easy to work with. Their treatment of my daughter on the initial and follow-up visits went above and beyond merely investigating the case. They are the right people for the job with a great attitude and good sense of dealing with people who are having a difficult time. I appreciate their efforts.

David Howard

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

Police Services Representative Julie White called stating Judith Mear spoke with her in reference to a stolen vehicle. PSR White stated Ms. Mear said, “Officer Tom Savard was like a bulldog and he wasn’t going to give up. He was relentless after the suspect. He was knee deep in the mud trying to catch the suspect. She likes this kind of community service.”

Francene Marchant
Executive Secretary, SPD

The Planning & Development Department was recently honored with the Golden Hammer Award from Habitat for Humanity of Springfield. Specifically mentioned were employees Brendan Grisemer, Bob Jones and Cheri Hagler and their work with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The program made it possible for Habitat to purchase and rehab seven homes last year, creating safe and affordable housing for seven families in 2010.

The Finance Department won the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers’ Association for the Fiscal Year 2011 budget document. This award is given to governmental agencies that satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for their budgets. The guidelines assess how well the budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. Not only is this the fifth year in a row that the Finance Department has won this award, but there are several areas in which they received improved marks.

The Missouri State High School Activities Association presented Distinguished Service Awards to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Springfield Sports Commission and Director of Parks Jodie Adams. These awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made lifelong contributions to the ideals of interscholastic activities. MSHSAA leaders were extremely complimentary of our local team, saying Springfield’s facilities are “top-notch” and calling our service “above and beyond the ordinary.”

Send your notes of Appreciation and Recognition to Mike Brothers at mbrothers@springfieldmo.gov for consideration in the SCENE.