Health Department marks 140 years of service

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department marked 140 years of service to the community last month. On July 14, 1873, the City of Springfield established what was then known as the Department of Health. City of Springfield and Greene County health departments were combined about a century later in 1976.

Over the years, the health department has been at the center of various health and safety issues in the community. Many, such as the Spanish influenza pandemic of 1918, were serious threats to lives.

Some, like aiding in the infamous search for loose cobras in 1953, were more about addressing panic than pandemics.

From the 1940s through 2005, when the Jordan Valley Community Health Center took over the duties of the “City Clinic,” the department focused in part on providing direct medical care for the indigent and uninsured.

Today, the department’s full-time staff of about 100 serves a combined population of approximately 277,000 people throughout Greene County.

The department carries out its mission of helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives through programs like immunizations, communicable disease tracking and an STD clinic; environmental programs such as restaurant inspections and animal control; and a nursing staff that aids high-risk infants and their families. The department’s Women, Infants & Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition program is one of the largest in the state.

The department has also placed

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Police Department promotes 4 with ceremony

The Springfield Police Department held a promotion ceremony on Wednesday, July 17, at the Springfield Regional Police and Fire Training Center.

The SPD promoted three sworn officers and one civilian employee.

Captain Jim McCulloch was promoted to the rank of Major and has been with the department since 1992. Major McCulloch is now assuming the responsibilities of the Investigative and Support Services Bureau.

Lt. Greg Higdon was promoted to the rank of Captain. He has been with the department since 1995 and is currently assigned to the Uniform Operations Bureau.

Cpl. Eric Wahlquist was promoted to the rank of police department promotes 4 with ceremony

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Support for Regal-Beloit Workforce Development helps those who lost their jobs.

Follow the Goose! See who has received the Golden Goose Award this month.

Do you know? Get to know Justin Wilson, Parks ranger.

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Are you certified in CPR/AED?

The City is nearing the end of a year-long campaign to get all employees trained in CPR/AED. As of the end of July, we are at 81 percent. Want to get trained on how to save a life? Visit http://sharepoint/fireservices/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx or call Brian Athen at 864-1521 to sign up for the half-day class.

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Labor Day Splash-n-Sizzle, Sept. 2

Pool admission is $1 or a canned food item all day (1-6:30 p.m.) All food collected goes to Ozarks Food Harvest.

Dog Swim X Sept. 3, 4-7 p.m.

Labor Day is the last day for humans to swim. Canines, however, are invited to dog paddle in Fassnight Pool Tuesday. Proof of vaccination is required and preregistration is strongly recommended. Registration is $8 per dog and dog owner; additional humans are $3. All proceeds benefit Cruse Dog Park, Springfield’s first off-leash dog park.

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See Health on page 2.

See Police on page 3.
Health from page 1.

a renewed focus on chronic disease prevention to help the community address issues such as diabetes, obesity, smoking and heart disease.

Throughout the coming weeks, the department’s Web site health.springfieldmo.gov, will be updated with a timeline looking back at various episodes of public health history in Springfield and Greene County.

What is Public Health?

Public health encompasses a variety of functions and services that protect the health of the community and help citizens live longer, healthier, happier lives.

This includes connecting citizens to community health services; developing policies to promote a healthy community; educating our community about public health issues; enforcing city ordinances; evaluating current community health programs; monitoring, identifying, and investigating potential health threats; and partnering with other community organizations to address local health issues.

Organization

The department is organized into five divisions: Administration; Community Health & Epidemiology; Environmental Services; Maternal, Child, & Family Health; and Planning.

Windows 7 – Advanced Calculator

Microsoft added some pretty nifty features to the Calculator program in Windows 7, but not many people know about them. You can utilize the calculator in several new ways to figure out date calculations or even a mortgage payment. You can find the Calculator program by going to the Windows 7 start button in the bottom left of your desktop and typing “calc” in the search box.

Hints from the Help Desk

The “Big Latch-On” event held Aug. 2 by the Health Department’s WIC program was a success, with 40 moms and babies attending. The Big Latch-On is a worldwide event in which groups of breastfeeding women come together in celebration of World Breastfeeding Month and nurse their child for at least one minute.

Taken in late 1966 or early 1967, then-Lab Director Harold Bengsch and analyst Bob Stone test milk samples. “At the time this picture was taken, we were routinely testing milk from over 1,300 dairy herds in southwest Missouri,” Bengsch said.

The SCENE is published monthly by the City of Springfield, 840 Boonville, P.O. Box 8368, Springfield, MO, 65801.

Comments and articles which appear in The SCENE do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of City administration or any employee thereof, but are for information only. Permission to reprint material may be obtained from the Department of Public Information, (417) 864-1010.

Additional City info is available on our Web site at www.springfieldmo.gov. Videos may be viewed on CityView on the Web or on Mediacom channels 15.1 and 80 and AT&T U-verse channel 99.

SCENE Deadline
Aug. 16, 2013

Please direct your submissions to the Department of Public Information. Submissions and ads via e-mail are preferred: thescene@springfieldmo.gov

taken in late 1966 or early 1967, then-Lab Director Harold Bengsch and analyst Bob Stone test milk samples. “At the time this picture was taken, we were routinely testing milk from over 1,300 dairy herds in southwest Missouri,” Bengsch said.
Workforce Development helps former Regal-Beloit employees

Workforce Development staff are assisting Regal-Beloit employees affected by the scheduled closure of the plant in 2014.

The department offers a variety of services for dislocated workers through the Missouri Career Center – a one-stop shop for job hunters and employers looking for workers. In the event of a company closure, the Missouri Career Center offers a variety of rapid response services.

Types of services include re-training, assistance with filing for unemployment benefits and workshops to assist with money management due to job loss, job preparation, resume development, counseling and online application assistance.

Director Mary Ann Rojas says she is working with Regal-Beloit for on-site job fairs, education sessions and other activities to help with the transition in employment.

Community leaders plan celebration of 50th anniversary of ‘I Have a Dream’

The Greater Springfield Faith & Race Collaborative invites the community to come together Wednesday, Aug. 28 for a celebration honoring the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech.

The celebration will begin with a unity march to Park Central Square, beginning at 7:30 p.m. on the north side of the Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge.

Parking is available at Jordan Valley Community Health Center and the Municipal Court Building. The march will travel south on Benton Avenue to St. Louis Street, then west on St. Louis to Park Central Square.

At the Square, Mayor Bob Stephens and local faith leaders will offer their respect and perspective of Dr. King’s social justice work and share how it affects Springfieldians today.

The evening’s program will include the viewing of the iconic speech on a large canvas screen in the Square, and a time capsule will be placed under a monument on the southeast corner of the Square. The monument memorializes three African-American men – Horace Duncan, Fred Coker and Will Allen – who were lynched there in 1906.

“The ramifications, the repercussions of it still exist today,” said Mayor Bob Stephens. “There is a tremendous opportunity in Springfield but, in part, we’ve got to deal with what happened, understand it and make sure nothing like this ever happens again,” he added.

Despite the painful reminder, organizers see the event as one to promote understanding and celebrate the messages of Dr. King. They also hope to encourage more diversity in work and educational environments.

The event is hosted by the Greater Springfield Faith & Race Collaborative, along with support from the City; CoxHealth; Council of Churches of the Ozarks; Drury University; Evangel University; ideaXfactory; Mercy; NAACP Springfield; Oke-Thomas & Associates; OTC; Russ RuBert; Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce; Springfield-Greene County Libraries; MSU and DNK Studios.

To volunteer, contact Director of Public Information & Civic Engagement Cora Scott at 417-864-1009 or cscott@springfieldmo.gov.
MILESTONES

35 years
Michael Leffler
Grounds Maintenance
Crew Leader
Public Works - 8/21/78

20 years
April Marler
Animal Health Technician
Parks - 8/22/93
James Blair
Equipment Operator
Environmental Services - 8/23/98

15 years
Jerry Brymer
Craftsworker
Parks - 8/15/98
Crystal Higdon
Police Services Administrator
Police - 8/24/98
Matthew Engel
Truck Company Captain
Fire - 8/24/98
Andrew Rues
Rescue & Salvage Specialist
Fire - 8/24/98
James Hattan
Andy Iorg
Firefighter
Fire - 8/24/98
Christopher Barb
James Calhoon
Kevin Cantrell

Tatem Dewitt
Police Corporal
Police - 8/31/98
Robert Baker
Erik Brown
Brian Reeves
Police Officer
Police - 8/31/98
Jason Laub
Charles Vienhage
Police Sergeant
Police - 8/31/98
Everett Kelley
Maintenance Supervisor
Public Works - 8/31/98

10 years
Karen Dowdy
Supervisor
Workforce Development - 8/11/03
Dustin Keyes
Craftsworker
Public Works - 8/23/03
Kelly Green
Plant Superintendent
Environmental Services - 8/25/03
DeAnn Reynolds
Admin. Assistant
Public Works - 8/26/03

5 years
Catherine Harper
Accounting Clerk
Parks - 8/3/08
Alford Berry
Police Officer

Welcome
Jan Bruner
Human Resources Assistant - HR
Tyler Burks
Maintenance Worker
Public Works - 8/23/08
Jennifer Cole
Farm Park Supervisor - Parks
Mark Craft
Maintenance Worker - Environmental Services

Thomas Dean
Plant Operator - Environmental Services
Angélique Garner
Ashley House
Cristina Postlethwait
Sean Robison
Arthur Schoen
911 Telecommunicator - Emergency Communications
Abby Glenn
Community Recreation Specialist - Parks
Mary Ann Rojas
Director - Workforce Development

Promotions
Thomas Breashears
Equipment Operator - Public Works
Steven Webb
Community Recreation Coordinator - Parks

Melanie Williams
Senior HR Specialist - HR

Retirements
Joyce Black
Street & Sewer Inspector
Public Works - 11 years
Robert Davidson
Rescue & Salvage Specialist
Fire - 25 years
Carolyn Haldorf
Revenue Technician
Environmental Services - 15 years
Jan Harmon
Utility Worker
Parks - 11 years
William Odom
Fire Captain
Fire - 18 years
Judy Woods
Custodian
Health - 16 years

FOR SALE

White 24” built-in under the counter GE dishwasher, very good condition for $75. I have just upgraded to stainless steel. New in 2008 when I bought my house. Call Bonnie @ 818-3070.

2003 Corvette Z-06 (black), 5.7L-V8 LS6/405 HP; 50th yr. anniversary edition; less than 38,000 miles; 6-speed manual; case aluminum wheels; Bose sound system; heads up display. $28,500. Call Manuel at 851-7681.

REAL ESTATE

House for rent: 2 Bedroom/2 bath large basement and fenced yard. Close to Evangel/OTC. No pets. $600 per month + deposit. Call 830-3203.

SERVICES

Stephanie Chase Cleaning Service
“Professional House Cleaning”
Licensed and Insured
299-9034 | stephaniechase18@gmail.com
References upon request.

Smart responsible 14 yr old female. Experienced, CPR trained. Babysitting in your home evenings and weekends. 1 to 3 children. Call 885-1371 ask for Noel
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Trey Metzelthin
   Steven Sweeney
   Lori Vandersnick
   Michael Wester
   Jake Williams

2 Rylee Ackerman
   Dorian Bernet
   Cynthia Collins
   Christopher Connell
   Kevin Cross
   Rhonda Jeffery
   Kyle Knierim
   Philip Krebs
   Dennis Shook
   Christopher Smith
   Scott Steck
   Kathy Vilas
   Jerry Wilson
   Russell Wright

3 Dennis Alday
   Kenneth Carlisle
   Doug Hinkle
   Mark Riggin

4 Brandy Attnip
   Robert Graham
   Annie Routh
   Tom Tyler

5 Anthony Barber
   Wilma Eubanks
   Corey Fitzpatrick
   Klynt Geiger
   Jonathan Gugel
   Carolyn Hunt
   Tim McCrea
   Gregory Sly
   Bennie Smith
   Lonnie Stockdale
   Kristopher Tate

6 John Lumb
   Allison Magnan
   Melissa Ruiz
   Miranda Thomas

7 Jerome Coonis
   Sharon Felton
   Joshua Flynn
   Adam Kriegshauser
   David Mills
   David Moore
   Thomas Moore
   Melissa Morrison
   Aaron Pearson
   Diane Raxter
   Zachary Schmidt
   Michael Wade
   Jessica Worthy

8 Ashlee Bradam
   Jill Carr
   Bradley Dutoit
   Scott Hall
   Vance Holland
   Jane Pike

9 Russell Wright
   Kristopher Ta
   Bennie Smith
   Tim McCrea
   Carol
   Jona
   Ja
   Mic
   Diane R
   Aa
   Melissa Mor
   Thomas Moore
   David Moore
   David Mills
   Joshua
   Flynn
   Mic
   Loni
   Thomas Dutoit
   Trey Metzelthin
   Trence Holland
   ron Pearson
   Anthony Barber
   John Lumb
   Ben Benjamin Houston
   Mark Hunt
   Aa
   Inbox

10 Barney Christian
    Jeffrey Elliott
    Brayden Hutfless
    Cindy Joe
    Katrina Otagan
    Keith Thompson

11 Teresa Allen
   Samuel Engler
   Shelby Harris
   Dan Jessen
   Kathy Marlar
   William Mullings
   Christy Phillips
   Ora Phillips
   Andrew Rowes
   Bradley Stulce
   Rose Watson

12 Sean Dronick
    Ricky Dunaway
    Brandie Fisher
    Cory Johnson
    Roger Lile
    Sharon Matlock
    Debbie Moore
    Heather Swearingin

13 Brooke Lawlow
   Gabriel McLaughlin

14 Kari Arington
   Jason Booher
   Carol Dunn
   Jordan Fielding
   Benjamin Houston

15 Lisa Addington
   Mark Brann
   Carol Daniel
   Daniel Grzenia
   Bill Knuckles
   Diana Lung
   Jason McCulley
   David Scheiderer
   Jourdon Springston

16 Evelyn Bell
   Brian Chura
   Anthony Davis
   James Hattan
   Timothy Manuel
   Ricky Swearingin

17 Jacob Boomgaard
   POL
   Jeremy Davis
   Sheri Davis
   Jenny Edwards
   Sterling Forsyth

18 Mary Anderson
   Linda Annalud
   Falig
   Wendy Gouty
   Dee Hawkins
   Jan Millington
   John Rainford
   Bill Spence

19 Brianna Nichols
   Jeffrey Nygaard
   Jeffrey Prior
   Krystal Ray
   Marc Thompson
   Tiffany Worthing
   Ragan Wright

20 Adam Carter
    Bill Engemi
    Benjamin Armstrong
    Julie Boswell
    Jason Marcom
    Richard O’Connor
    Diana Powell
    Marilyn Saab

21 Orel Baker
   McKinley Hedrick
   Amber Jones

22 Tristan Bates
   Tammy Casey
   Daniel Conlee
   Eric Dayringer
   Brittany Gill
   Steven Hartman
   Paula Leggett
   Brooke Obrey
   Craig Schmucker
   Victor Shelton
   Cameron Wolf

23 Daniel Bischof
   Brittany Braucher
   Brian Dodson
   Brandon Flood
   Bruce Gorman
   Brandon Greene
   Kevin Holle
   Cheryl Jones
   Kirk Juranas

24 Melissa Dickson
    Jack Dill
    Andrew Furedy
    Karissa Gingell
    Melissa Hase
    Willis King
   Theresa McClanahan
   Jeremy Ogden
   Christopher Wells

25 Jodi Caruthers
   Mike Crocker
   Karen Dowdy
   Wendy Graves
   Robert Hawkins
   Sheila Miller
   Michael Pavia
   Kevin Rhoten
   Jacy Shaw
   Jimmie Stokes

26 Elizabeth Coley
   Steven Licis
   Troy Phillips
   Kenneth Roberts

27 Dustin Donaldson
   Dawn Gardner
   Pepper Jackson
   Pierson Kellogg
   Chelsea Maslowksy
   Kelby Stuckey
   Law Christopher Welsh

28 David Bartels
   Kayla Baur
   Kathryr Burks
   Autumn Faulkner
   Nancy Hoeman
   Devin Keyney
   911
   Jack Matthias
   Kristina Nagrich
   Dierich Stackelbeck

29 Jason Carter
   Anita Cotter
   CC
   Chad Davis
   Elizabeth Duncan
   Kenneth Franck
   Danielle Lowrance
   Lisa Miller
   Kevin Patton
   911
   Taylor Rutledge
   Charles Vienhage
   Paul Williams

30 Rosa Aviles Gonzalez
   Beverly Brackett
   Dakota Hurst
   David Illig
   Brenda Lewellen
   Artie Monier
   ES
   Samantha Olive
   Mark Ryan
   ES

31 John Green
   Patricia Haenni
   Polly Higgins
   Randy Lyman
   Regina Maldonado
   Daniel Neal
   PDV
   Katherine Roberts
   Kenny Scott
   FR
   Jennifer Thomas
   PRK
The Importance of Inclusion

It is no longer enough to do the right thing, but we must also ensure that we are doing things right. It is no longer sufficient to be a place where people work – the workplace itself must be built around the people and give them the support they need.

– Mel Cappe

To be successful, all organizations, including municipalities, are going to realize the critical value of ensuring that their workforces mirror their ever-evolving public. As we consider where we are in embracing inclusion, here are some thoughts that may help us look at our organization and how we can plan for the future:

• Individuals who were formerly viewed as minorities are quickly growing in number. The new majority is the old minority.

If 10 people are sitting around a conference table trying to solve a difficult problem, and all of those people look the same, act the same and have the same basic educational and career background, each will probably have the same idea for a solution – one that any of them could have figured out on their own. Maybe it would be the right solution, maybe not.

Now, if those 10 people each brought to that table differing experiences and circumstances, they’ll likely arrive at a solution that not one of them could have

Interested in continuing your education?

Are you interested in furthering your education? Whether you are interested in pursuing a degree or just want to take a few classes, the City encourages continued education and career development through the Tuition Reimbursement Program.

The City is committed to the development of employees and the belief that education is a life-long process which improves self-esteem, enhances work performance and increases career mobility within the organization.

The Tuition Reimbursement Program is available to all regular, full-time employees who have passed their probationary period and are in good-standing. This program provides tuition reimbursement (tuition costs only) for classes taken at regionally accredited colleges and universities. There are no parameters on the type of classes you can take, as long as they are taken through a regionally accredited institution. Employees may receive up to $2,500 per fiscal year in reimbursements for eligible classes.

If you are interested in this program, you need to complete the Tuition Reimbursement Application, which can be found on City Share or obtained by contacting the Human Resources Department.

Once you have completed the application and have obtained your department director’s signature, the application needs to be returned to Human Resources at least seven days prior to when your class is scheduled to begin. Applications for reimbursement are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. As long as funding for the fiscal year is available and you meet the program requirements, your application will be approved.

When you finish your class, you will need to provide Human Resources with a copy of your grades and tuition receipt for reimbursement.

For complete information on the Tuition Reimbursement Program, please read the policy (located on the Tuition Reimbursement Application) or contact Krystal Ray at 864-1914.
Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant replaces four ozone generators

Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant staff recently completed an ozone disinfection improvement project.

“This project replaced four Emery Ozone generators that were installed in 1987,” said Plant Supervisor Kelly Green. “These generators were capable of producing 500 pounds per day of ozone each, at a concentration up to 3 percent ozone. We replaced them with two state-of-the-art Mitsubishi ozone generators capable of producing 2,800 pounds per day of ozone each, at concentrations up to 12 percent ozone.”

Green added that the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant is the largest totally ozone-disinfected treatment plant in the U.S., and the new generators are the largest Mitsubishi ozone generators currently available in the U.S.

First study session held for Field Guide 2030 strategic plan

At a July 30 meeting, City Manager Greg Burris and other City leaders presented the first three of 13 chapters of Field Guide 2030, a strategic planning guide to improving the Springfield/Greene County community as a whole.

Chapters presented were on Early Childhood Development, Economic Development and Transportation. Additional chapters will be presented during upcoming study sessions at 6 p.m. Aug. 20, Sept. 3 and Sept. 24 in City Council Chambers at Historic City Hall. View the Field Guide draft online at www.springfieldmo.gov/fieldguidereview.

From the SCENE archives

10 years ago – August 2003

Springfield officially established its second Sister City relationship with Tlaquepaque, Mexico, located near Guadalajara, with a population of about 525,000. A delegation from Springfield traveled to a signing ceremony on June 27, 2003. Tlaquepaque is a center for arts and crafts, and is known as the “Soul of Mexico.” The Springfield Sister Cities Association has pursued a Spanish-speaking community because of the growth of the Hispanic population in the Ozarks, and the opportunities for business and cultural development.

20 years ago – August 1993

The Springfield Police Department developed and hosted the S.H.A.R.E. Conference June 3, 1993. S.H.A.R.E. stands for Solving Homicides and Reviewing Evidence. Approximately 150 law enforcement officers from seven states attended to learn more about unsolved homicide cases, serial killers, their behavior and use of psychological profiling. This highly successful conference was planned and conducted by Sgt. Dave Asher, Cpl. Doug Thomas, Officer Gerald Dove, Ms. Julie Licis, and Ms. Terry Thomas.

Airport to add third Florida destination

If you’re already thinking about a winter getaway, as of Halloween, you’ll have one more Florida destination to fly to via the Springfield-Branson National Airport: Punta Gorda (about a snowball’s throw north of Fort Meyers).

Allegiant already offers direct service to Orlando and Tampa. The new flights to Punta Gorda will operate twice weekly on a seasonal basis, beginning Thursday, Oct. 31, through April 2014. Allegiant will introduce the new service with fares as low as $89.99 one-way.

In addition to the three Florida destinations, the airport offers non-stop flights to Atlanta, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Las Vegas and Phoenix. Visit flyspringfield.com to book your flight.

Do You Know...?

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

Justin Wilson

Parks Ranger

What do you feel is the most important thing for people to know about you?

I would be in trouble at home if I didn’t say the most important thing for people to know is I will be getting married on Sept. 21.

What is your earliest memory?

My earliest memory is locking my mother out of her car and putting it in neutral, rolling down the drive, across the street and getting the car stuck in the ditch, at 3 years old.

What did you want to “be” when you grew up?

The President or a lumberjack.

What word would you use to describe yourself?

Stubborn.

Where would you like to spend tomorrow?

In a canoe floating down the river catching perch for a fish fry.

What won’t you eat?

Olives.

The SCENIC Route

Planning Director Ralph Rognstad plans to start a crowd-funding campaign to build his own personal bike lane throughout Route 66.

Tim Roth of SRC Electric discusses the importance of early childhood development at the July 30 meeting. SRC Electric is the “adopting” organization for Field Guide’s Early Childhood Development chapter. The adopting organizations will hold the community accountable and grade progress annually.
To: Human Resources Director Sheila Maerz

When I think of greatness in an HR professional, you are one of the first people that come to mind. The City is fortunate to have someone of your competence, leadership, excellence, vision, intelligence and ethics leading the City’s HR department into the future. You are an inspiration to all of us to zealously pursue excellence in all we do. I’m honored and grateful that our paths crossed several years ago. I wish you continued success and many professional and personal achievements in the years ahead.

With kindest regards,
Perry Epperly, SPHR
Greene County Family Court Administrator/Chief Juvenile Officer

To: Barbara Lucks and the Department of Solid Waste Management
Habitat for Humanity would like to thank you for your assistance in the donation of fiberglass insulation that will go towards the construction of local Habitat homes. Your support through this donation means a great deal to us. Donations of building materials directly to our construction program allows us to stretch our budgets and build more homes for families in need. Your program is much appreciated and has been the largest single donation of insulation in our 25-year history in Springfield. From the staff and our Habitat owners past, present and future, we thank you.

Sincerely,
Chris Houghton
Operations Director, Habitat for Humanity, Springfield

To: Tana Pulles, Environmental Services
Thank you so much for donating time to our classes. Your presentations were awesome and your interaction with the kids rocked!

Willard Middle School Science Dept.

To: Police Officer Kelly Castenada
I had to report a stolen a/c unit and tried online, but the dispatcher said I needed to meet with a police officer at the location. Officer Castenada was there when I arrived, and I admired his professionalism in spite of the extreme heat, pesky bugs, and curious neighbors. I know he has more important things to do, but I was thankful he helped us, and the neighbors were glad to see him around. May God bless all our police officers and emergency workers.

Kristin Coleman

Diversity from page 6.

determined individually. And more often than not, that solution would be stronger. Put simply, America’s economic success requires us to capitalize on the talents of all segments of the population, and the responsibility for making that happen must be shared. Often the best solution is one that represents an amalgam of opinions and insights rather than the one that approaches the problem from only one angle. That’s because an inclusive workforce is a stronger workforce. And it is an essential step toward developing a stronger organization, one where every person has opportunity to participate in idea sharing and continuing improvement.
inBalance News and Updates

Health Risk Assessment Results
47% of eligible employees participated in the 2013 HRAs (up from 44% last year)! Way to go everyone and thank you for participating!

HRA Prize Drawing Winners
HRA participants were entered in a drawing for a $30 Parks Department Gift Certificate, with one winner drawn at each of the 17 HRA dates. The winners are listed below! If your name is on the list and you haven’t received your gift certificate, please contact Emily Hegg at 864-2077.

Winners: John Stowe (Police), Brian Thompson (Fire Station #10), Doug Chadwell (Fire Station #7), Jefferson Wood (Health), Devin Danwart (Public Works), Aaron Roy (Fire Station #8), Barney Christian (Environmental Services), Kaylee Friend (Police), David Tscherny (Fire Station #1), Pam Long (Finance), Patrice Hanes (Workforce Development), Kesha Schreiber (Parks), Uli Gulje (Fire Station #2), Sean Kennedy (Police), Ryan Bowling (Fire Station #10), Julie Vaughan (Law), Matt Robinson (Police).

inBalance Day at the Cardinals
609 City of Springfield employees recently attended the special inBalance Day at the Springfield Cardinals! Fun was had by all, especially our lucky first pitch winners Eric Reece (Police) and Jim Cox (Environmental Services), and by our skilled trike racers: Zim Schwartze (911), Brian Weiler (Airport), Vince Crunk (PIO), Chelsea Kimzey (Purchasing), Chris Yankey (Airport), and Josh Oldham (son of Terri Oldham, Health).

*Check out the inBalance website’s wellness calendar for another City of Springfield Cardinals promotion!

inBalance United Way Fundraiser
inBalance will be sponsoring a team walking challenge during the month of September to raise money for the United Way. More details will be available in the upcoming weeks – stay tuned!

inBalance Website
Looking to find out what your HRA results mean? Want to know what kind of wellness events are coming up? Make sure to frequent www.springfieldmo.gov/inbalance to find out!

Quick Health Fact

• In the 2012 Annual Health Report, the state of Missouri is ranked 42nd in terms of general overall health.
What Is A 457 Deferred Compensation Plan and How Does It Work?

A 457 Deferred Compensation Plan is a supplemental retirement savings program that allows you to make contributions on a pre-tax basis. Federal and state income taxes are deferred until money is withdrawn, usually during retirement when you may be in a lower tax bracket.

What are the benefits of participating in a 457 plan?

- You reduce your current income taxes while regularly investing for retirement.
- Your earnings accumulate tax-deferred.
- The City of Springfield will contribute $10 each pay period when the employee contributes $10.
- You may be allowed to make additional “catch-up” contributions if you are 50 (or older) or within three years of your normal retirement age and already are contributing the maximum to your plan.
- If you change jobs, you have the flexibility to transfer your account balance into your new employer’s retirement plan.
- If you retire or leave employment with the City early, there is no penalty for early withdrawals. However, you will pay taxes on the amount you withdraw from your account.

Other advantages of the City of Springfield 457 Plan that is administered by ICMA-RC:

- You can increase, decrease, stop and restart contributions as often as you wish without fees or penalties.
- You may choose a wide range of investment options. There are no minimum investment requirements.
- There is no time period in which to vest in this plan. The money you invest plus the City contribution on your behalf is your money from the date of deposit.
- Your designated beneficiaries are entitled to receive all remaining funds in your account in the event of your death.
- You have very flexible withdrawal payment options available. You determine the payment schedule that is right for you.
- You control the investment allocation now and during your retirement years.

*(See back for more details and contact information!)*
Keep in Mind:

- There are strict IRS code limits on the amount you may contribute each year. For 2013, the annual maximum is $17,500. However, if you are age 50 or older in 2013, you may contribute an additional $5,500 for a total 2013 maximum contribution amount of $23,000. This is known as the “Age 50 Catch-Up. The one time 3-year Catch Up prior to retirement, currently allows an annual maximum contribution of $35,000 and requires an enrollment application.

- *It’s easy to enroll.* Packets are available at the HR front desk in the Busch Building.

- If you are already participating in the Deferred Compensation Plan, *it’s easy to increase your contributions by completing a change form* in the HR Department. You may also print the change form on CityShare (click on Human Resources at the top of the page, then on Human Resources, then Forms, then ICMA Change Form). Just complete the form and send it to Human Resources.

ICMA-RC’s website offers a wide range of detailed information. Just point your browser to [http://www.icmarc.org](http://www.icmarc.org). If you are currently a 457 Plan participant, you may wish to access your account on-line at the ICMA website. There are planning and forecasting tools available including access to Morningstar Advisor. This is a benefit available to ICMA plan participants that others pay a fee to access.

If you have questions about this benefit, you may contact Peggy Thompson, Senior Human Resources Specialist, at 864-1608 or via the City’s e-mail. In addition, watch your e-mail for notice about future dates when Paula Schnoebelen, ICMA Retirement Plans Specialist, is available for individual consultation on site at City locations. You may also contact Paula directly at 866.328.4676.

It’s never too late to enroll or increase your retirement savings! Remember, a little saved from each paycheck over a long period of time can have big results!