Mayor kicks off Festival of Lights

Nearly 3,000 people attended the Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony in Jordan Valley Park Nov. 17. The free public event also included live music, a kid’s craft, an appearance by Santa Claus and fireworks at Hammons Field.

Several City departments helped with the festivities, including Public Information, Parks, Public Works, Police and Fire. The ceremony served as a kickoff for Festival of Lights, Springfield’s six-week calendar of holiday activities. For the full schedule, visit itsalldowntown.com.

City saves spruce for one more use

The Mayor’s tree isn’t the only official holiday tree in Springfield. A 25-foot blue spruce tree, adorned with 15,000 colored lights, serves as Park Central Square’s holiday centerpiece. The tree was donated by a Center City business owner and relocated to the City’s Public Works tree coop nursery for nurturing, before its big move to the square in mid-November. The tree was slated to be uprooted due to utility improvements, says Casey Jo Kellner, the City’s urban forester. “We were happy to give the tree one more use,” Kellner said. The tree will be up until after the first of the new year.

History Museum Celebrates Parks

In cooperation with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, the History Museum’s exhibit Sun, Sports, and Summer Fun: a Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board will run Dec. 2 through March 15. It will be open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 155 Park Central Square. Admission is $5 for adults and $3 for children 12 and under. History Museum members are free. Group rates are available.

Numerous incredible photographs, other archival materials, and artifacts will be on display. While a number of parks will be included, the exhibit will especially focus on the ten pre-WWII parks in the system: Fassnight, Smith, Washington, Lafayette, Silver Springs, Dickerson, Phelps, Sequiota, Grant Beach, and Doling. The Park Board was created in 1913.

Sports, picnics, boating, playgrounds, wild animals, camps, caves, springs, ice skating, lakes, swimming, amusement rides, a skating rink, fireworks and pools, as well as family, church, organizational, school and corporate gatherings, are just some of the amenities visitors have enjoyed over the years. Take a step back in time and see how our parks have contributed to the community and its people for more than 100 years.

Courthouse Chorale to perform

The Greene County Courthouse Chorale will perform Christmas music at the Busch building Dec. 18. Join them at approximately 3:20 for a little holiday cheer.

Upcoming Festival of Lights Events

First Friday ArtWalk - 6-10 p.m., Dec. 7, in Downtown Springfield.

Downtown Springfield Christmas Parade - 2 p.m. Dec. 8, in Downtown Springfield.

First Night Springfield - 5:30 p.m. - Midnight, Dec. 31, in Downtown Springfield.

SFD Recruit Graduation

Please join the Fire Department for a Recruit Graduation ceremony, 6 - 8 p.m., Dec. 28, at the O’Reilly Cancer Center located at 2055 S. Fremont.

Please RSVP to Sherree Sanders at 864-1524 by Dec. 21.
Turkey Trot participation sets record

An estimated 8,500 people took part in Thanksgiving morning’s 18th Annual Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk, setting a new record for Springfield’s largest annual 5K and the largest Thanksgiving Day 5K in Missouri.

Final numbers will be tallied next week, but race officials estimate at least 8,500 registrations were taken between October and race day morning, exceeding last year’s tally of 8,036.

Turkey Trot attendance has steadily grown since the first race in 1994, when 117 people ran in 17-degree weather. Attendance has nearly doubled since 2007.

Awards were presented to the overall winners after the race. The best overall female runner was Lauren Collette, 20, at 18:46, and the best overall male runner was Adrian Todd, 20, at 15:38.

In the Master’s Division (over 40), the best overall female was Rosie Laughlin, 47, at 20:24, and the best overall male was Brian Schmidt, 48, at 16:51. By coincidence, Collette, Todd and Schmidt are all graduates of Springfield’s Kickapoo High School.

Full race results are now available at parkboard.org.

Proceeds from Turkey Trot benefit the Developmental Center of the Ozarks and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board Scholarship Fund. Participants also donated thousands of pounds of non-perishable food items to Ozarks Food Harvest. Turkey Trot is one of the organization’s largest single-day food drives.

Hints from the Help Desk

Create a unique Internet Explorer icon on your desktop

The easiest way to do this is to simply go to the web page where you want the shortcut to point to and then drag the little icon that is directly to the left of the URL to your desktop. You do this by left-clicking on the icon and holding it until you have dragged the icon all the way over to your desktop. It is that easy!

Unfortunately not all web designers include a unique icon on their website so sometimes you will still be stuck with the plain Internet Explorer “e” icon.
Employee AED, CPR training reaching goals

Springfield Fire Department is leading an initiative to train City of Springfield employees on CPR and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). An AED is an electronic device designed to deliver an electric shock to a victim of sudden cardiac arrest. Many heart-related deaths occur each year outside of the hospital or emergency room due to the sudden loss of heart function or sudden cardiac death. It is estimated that up to 60 percent might have been saved if AEDs were immediately available. Chances of survival from sudden cardiac death diminish by 7 – 10 percent for each minute without immediate CPR or defibrillation. After 10 minutes, resuscitation rarely succeeds.

The City has met the 2012 goal of having 50% of employees either trained or signed up to train by the end of the year. The goal for 2013 is to get 100% of employees trained and to launch a community-wide program encouraging the use of AEDs and training for both CPR and AED use.

Registration is still open for employees to attend CPR/AED classes Dec. 7 or 21, from 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the new Police-Fire Training Center. It takes less than four hours to learn life-saving skills to protect your co-workers and others. Classes are casual and fun.

With supervisor approval, employees may sign up on CityShare for the CPR/AED classes. Click on “calendar” at the left side of this link to see the scheduled classes and to register: http://sharepoint.springfieldmo.gov/fireservices/SitePages/Home.aspx

How to register:
- On the CityShare page, click on “Fire Services” in the top menu
- On the left drop-down, click on “CPR Class,” a calendar should appear
- Click on the class you would like to enroll for
- Click on the registration link
- Fill out the information; be sure to select the correct class in the ‘active class’ drop down
- Save and close

SPD urging new ways citizens can fight crime

Springfield Police Department is encouraging a “common sense” approach to thwarting the efforts of thieves, especially this holiday season. Vehicle break ins often occur because they simply are not locked and enticing items such as purses or even wrapped gifts are left in plain sight.

“Simple things can mean the difference,” said Sgt. Dave Snider. “Conceal your packages in the trunk or out of sight. Try not to leave valuables such as purses, wallets, GPS devices, and other items out in the open. If at all possible, make a trip to your home and leave your packages and items there if you can before going to the next shopping outlet. Be aware of your surroundings and report anything suspicious such as a person looking into vehicles or someone trying to open the doors on different vehicles.”

Text-A-Tip

SPD has also worked together with the Greater Springfield Area Crime Stoppers to initiate a new way to securely submit anonymous tips to Crime Stoppers. Using the program, called “Text-A-Tip,” citizens now have the option to text confidential tips rather than calling them in.

“Creating another option for citizens to provide us with important crime information is a benefit for all,” said Chief Paul Williams. “We recognize that a text can be more convenient than a phone call, and utilizing whatever method we can to help solve crimes will enhance our public safety mission.”

Anyone with text messaging can simply text “417SPD plus your message” to 274637 (CRIMES). Upon reception of a tipster’s first incoming message, the system will auto-reply with a confirmation containing their unique Tip ID number. To submit follow-up information, the tipster simply replies to the confirmation text or they can send a new text with their Tip ID number within the text. Nothing else is needed. To cancel a tip, text STOP into the system at any time.

For more information, go to www.SMCrimeTips.com or the Springfield Police Department’s website at www.springfieldmo.gov/spd/GeneralInfo/crimestoppers.html.
**MILESTONES**

**25 years**
- David Felton: Equipment Operator III
- Public Works – 12/07/87
- Timothy Whitman: Equipment Operator III
- Environmental Services – 12/13/87

**20 years**
- Philip Krebs: Computer System Administrator
- Municipal Court – 12/07/92

**15 years**
- Hank Hopkins: Parks Caretaker
- Parks – 12/16/97
- Terri Oldham: Accounting Clerk II
- Health – 12/22/97

**10 years**
- Matthew Crouch: Utility Worker
- Parks – 12/01/02
- Kevin Dill: Network Technician
- Information Systems – 12/07/07
- Morgan White: Community Recreation Specialist
- Parks – 12/09/07
- Charles Cullen: Maintenance Worker
- Environmental Services – 12/10/07
- Kevin Nystrøm: Senior Inflow & Infiltration Technician
- Environmental Services – 12/10/07
- Ruth Clayton: Signal Project Coordinator
- Public Works – 12/17/07
- Nicole Fowler: Senior Animal Control Officer
- Health – 12/17/07
- Beth Jones: Accounting Services Representative
- Municipal Court – 12/17/07
- Sandy Goss: Municipal Court Bailiff
- Municipal Court – 12/23/07

**5 years**
- Hank Hopkins: Parks Caretaker
- Parks – 12/16/97
- Terri Oldham: Accounting Clerk II
- Health – 12/22/97

**Welcome**
- Rebecca Sigrest: Staff Nurse – Health
- Kennon Ellison: Community Recreation Supervisor – Parks
- Audra Schubach: Community Recreation Coordinator – Parks
- Jordan Kirby: Tyler O’Banion
- Fitness & Wellness
- Supervisors – Parks

**For Sale**
- Ipod Touch (8GB) for sale. Like new! $125
- Call Peggy 880-5602

- The Springfield Queen City LIONS club is having our annual Pecan fundraiser. New crop pecan halves and pecan pieces, $10/lb.
- Gift wrapped chocolate covered and cinnamon glazed, $10/lb.
- Help us to sell more so we can do more! Call Phil at 848-8450.

- Upright piano. Needs tuning, but otherwise in great shape. $300 OBO, you move it. Call 425-7842

SE location so much charm in nicely updated 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom ranch. Notable updates include roof, extensive stone & brick work inside and out, gorgeous hardwood floors, & stone fireplace. Really a nice place for the price $79,000!! For more information call Zach at 207-2333.

Everyone deserves legal protection. With Legal Shield you have it. Everyone living under your roof is covered. For traffic tickets and accidents, Legal Shield will represent you in court and achieve the best options available to you. It’s included. You, your spouse and teen drivers are all covered. Welcome to peace of mind. Visit www.legalsield.com for more information. For City of Springfield employees it is only $15.95/mo.

Contact John for more information or to sign up. 861-0523.

Stephanie Chase Cleaning Service
“Professional House Cleaning”
License and Insured 299-0034 | stephaniechase18@gmail.com
References upon request.

Unique Christmas gifts personalized with your photo memories. Contact Jennifer at unique_crafts@hotmail.com for details.
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Chris Ackley  Daron Evans
Andrew Lewin
Terry McConnell
Miles Park

2 Fred Beck
Courtnee Kettering
Kassi Kingsland
Kerry Kramer
Edward Turley
Beverly Walker
Steffi Weaver
Katie Wiskur

3 Megan Adams
James Anderson
Suzanne Blackburn
Kent Boyd
James Colson
Ronald Cook
Kathleen Davis
Steve Hutton
Ashley Klika
Randy Rossner
Jeffrey Schwerdt
Daniel Sexton

4 Nolan Bright
Anthony Cunis
Michael Ramsey
Thomas Spence
Brian Stark

5 James Edwards
Holly Reaves
Brandi Richmond

6 Richard Anderson
Joshua Chambers
Bradley Eden
James Hall
Kenneth Hufford
Kris Inman
Teresa Mills
David Millsap
Jerry Mitchell
Nicholas Mittag
Christi Raphael

7 Devin Banwart
Abbey Belote
Kendrick Campbell
Lucinda Hodges
Robert Schroeder
Grant Selvey
Jody Vernon
Todd Wagner
Travis Worden

8 Jan Bruner
Kim Cody
Chris Straw
William Vanloozen

9 Jeffrey Gilmore
Nathan Huggins
Marcus McKinley
Aaron Roy

10 Aaron Cassity
William Evans
Randi Houston
Chad McIntyre
Matthew Sipe
Mike Watson
Theresa Williams

11 Wendell Farrand
Ruth Gill
Cara Keith-Kerr
James Rushing

12 Andrea Coble
Ray Gideon
Asia Hulse
Tamarra Kashinsky
Kevin Shirley

13 Cynthia Nelson
Carol Newton

14 Shawn Andrews
Patty Armstrong
David Bilderback
Lyndsey Brooks
Anne Decker
Russell Fisher
Kindal Huett
Catherine Robinson

15 Russell Darnell
Linda Paxton
Taylor Penland
Robert Slavens
Vanessa Wyrick

16 Michael Bolli
Jeffrey Butler
Vince Crunk
Janice Greenwalt
Donald Miller
Tonya Price
Erich Rogge
Marilyn Rogge
Jarred Schmidt
Carl Shaw

17 Coty Demster
Alberto Estrada
Ron Hardt
David Renkoski

18 Kelly Cardin
Shawn Clawson
Curtis Collins
Bruce Hinkston
Clinton Hoffman
Melinda Martin
Brad Musick
Matthew Ridenhour
Cassia Schmeecle

19 Larry Barnts
Phil Broyles
Michael Chamberlin
Britt Davis
Pattie Davis
James Dougherty
Whitney Hargus
Jennifer Loehr
Todd Mitchell
Eric Pinegar
Robert Reeves
Timothy Spoon
Holly Timmermon
Delray Warren

20 Marc Baker
David Brannon
Heather Dang
Justin Moore
Cynthia Pantoja
Linda Patterson
Brian Pesek
Margaret Quinn
Zachary Sawyer
Charles Smith
Kevin Sweckard

21 Andrew Barksdale
Daniel Daily
Ernest Glenn
Scott Guccione
Mark Lawrence
Tina Saunders
Alexandra Schmidt
Damon Wasson
Dennis Williams

22 Jana Dickens
Steve Mincks
Randi Morland
William Smillie
Courtney Williams
Jessica Young

23 Timothy Boram
Kenneth Lindsay
Larry Murphy
Jesse Rollhaus
Christine Smith

24 Marianne Banks
Paul Collins
Lester Hilton
Jack Hunter
Christine Myers
Mark Onder
David Pilkinton
George Reynolds
Mary Lilly Smith

25 Charity Brashears
Mike Brown
Brian Cook

26 Jennifer Biri
Erin Bosch
Jennifer Charleston
Garrett Dollins
John Forrester
Aaron Goddard
Nicole Gonzales
William Gosnell
Amanda Jones
Joseph Myers
Lisa Orr
Michael Pinkley
Brandi Silvey
Cory Sutherland

27 Alexander Clark
Maria Johnston
Stan Murrell
Tyler O’Banion
Sam Smith
John Webb

28 Glenda Freise
Michael Lamkin

29 Raven Brown
Cody Marshall
Tina Treat

30 Rhiza Adams
Megan Basnett
Regina Cook
Andrew Davis
Amanda Franca
Reginald Lamb
Heather Morrison
Rob Rem

31 Huston Brady
Buddy Hubbard
James McCulloch
Austin Nystrom
Julie Schnurbusch
Danny Simmons

SCENE 5
City gathering ideas for College Street Corridor

About 20 developers and builders joined City leaders at a special event Nov. 13 that included a tour of an area near downtown Springfield the City is hoping will get revitalized. Planners have worked with community stakeholders the past 18 months to create ideas for the College Street Corridor, an area located between Grant and Kansas Expressway.

The corridor is well positioned for revitalization due to its proximity to the future West Meadows and downtown. It has a rich and varied history in the settlement and development of Springfield. William Fulbright established one of the first homesteads in the vicinity, and the corridor supported Civil War Fort Number 2, the first Springfield Brewery and Route 66.

“We’re trying something new by hosting events like this to try to encourage discussion and ideas,” said City Manager Greg Burris. “A follow-up public engagement meeting Nov. 29 invited participants to provide input on the look and feel of the area’s proposed streetscape, Route 66 Roadside Park and gateway elements.

Did you know…..?

As the holiday season approaches, families prepare for their own traditional celebrations. Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Eve get the most attention in this part of the country this time of year—but some Americans celebrate additional or different holidays as well, such as Hanukkah, Las Posadas and Kwanzaa.

Hanukkah is a Jewish celebration that goes on for eight days and nights. It is celebrated to commemorate the victory of Jewish army over the Greek soldiers and the re dedication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. One candle is lit on the first night of Hanukkah, two on the second, and so on, until all eight candles are lit on the Menorah. For each night the candles are lit, and after the lighting of the candles, songs are sung and blessings are recited.

Las Posadas is a traditional Mexican holiday that is celebrated each evening from Dec. 16 - 24. The celebration consists of a procession making its way to a particular home each night (a different home is chosen for each night) asking for shelter. Inside the house, a short Bible reading and prayer is often said and then the host gives the guests food such as tamales and ponche with candy for the children.

Kwanzaa was started in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga and is observed for seven days from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1st. Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday that celebrates family, community and culture. It has seven basic symbols and two supplemental ones. Each symbol represents the values and concepts reflective of the African culture.

After the holidays have ended, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year as we contemplate our blessings of the present and preparing for the future. Many of us do this by developing a New Year’s resolution. This year we challenge you to change the common New Year’s Resolutions to include goals like trying out a different type of food you would never imagine trying, learning a new language or maybe even signing up for a dance class. The possibilities are endless and we have 365 days to diversify our daily routines.

Happy New Year!

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Thanks for your support!

The need for United Way agency services has never been greater in our community, but you probably already knew that. In fact, that community need was recognized by enough of you that the City’s contribution to United Way increased by more than our 15% goal this year!

I want to thank all of you who contributed to our United Way campaign this year and helped us reach our “stretch goal.” We were one of many organizations throughout our community that stepped up to the challenge and came through for those in need.

This year, as Chairman of the United Way Board of Directors, I received a unique look into both our community’s needs and our community’s collective response to those needs. All I can say is that both – the needs and the response – have been overwhelming.

It’s always dangerous to start listing people to thank, especially when you’re talking about the hundreds on our team who contributed their time and efforts (as well as their dollars) to make this campaign so successful. And at the risk of leaving some off the list, I do want to recognize Rose Watson, Steve Meyer, Barbara Lucks, and Clay Goddard for their leadership and dedication in coordinating the campaign.

At press time, we are still awaiting the results of our three-way competition with Greene County and City Utilities. We hope to have the results soon.

Thank you all, again, for your support of United Way. Once again, the City is leading the pack and walking the talk.
Kiwanis Club donation makes Jenny Lincoln Park possible

The Kiwanis Club of Downtown Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board dedicated a new playground at Jenny Lincoln Park Nov. 8.

The new universal playground, located at 300 E. Harrison, includes swings, slides, ramps, platforms and climbing areas and features full accessibility to children of all abilities.

The new playground was made possible through a generous $100,000 donation from the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Springfield, following the club’s two-year fundraising campaign.

Park Board funds augmented the $110,000 project.

Ozarks Kennel Club donates funds for new SPD K-9

Jim Freeman, with Ozarks Kennel Club, attended the Nov. 19 City Council meeting to make a $4000 donation to the Springfield Police Department. The donation will go towards the purchase of a new K-9 for the Springfield Police Department’s Police Service Dog Unit. Officer Chris Snipes’ dog (Raider) is expected to retire this year and the department is faced with purchasing a replacement dog – a cost of roughly $8,500.

New Coffee kiosk offers City Employee Discount

Big Momma’s Coffee & Espresso Bar on Commercial Street has opened a kiosk at the Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, 397 E. Central. Hours are 7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Big Momma’s offers a 10% discount on orders from City, County and CU employees.

Allegiant suspends air service from Springfield to LAX

Springfield-Branson National Airport received word Nov. 10 from Allegiant that the Los Angeles service will be suspended in mid-January. The airline says it’s having many operational issues with LAX airport, and that it’s actively working to find a way to make the route successful long term.

The suspension of the SGF/LAX service has nothing to do with route performance; it has been, and remains, profitable. The issue is with operations at LAX. Allegiant is looking to do business with another LA airport.

Fire Department Receives Smoke Alarms

The Springfield Fire Department has received 84 smoke alarms with the help of a grant from the Walmart Neighborhood Market on Mount Vernon Street and CODE 3 Sertoma Club. Springfield firefighters will distribute the smoke alarms as part of their smoke alarm campaign. Through the campaign, each Springfield homeowner is eligible for one free smoke alarm.

In addition, the Springfield Fire Department will receive 10 smoke alarms for hearing-impaired residents. These smoke alarms are louder than traditional alarms and also have a strobe light to help awaken sleeping homeowners.

Lowe’s and Champion Safety are providing the smoke alarms at a discounted price to maximize the grant dollars.

From the SCENE archives

10 years ago – December 2002

Bat Van Comes to Springfield

The new Breath Alcohol Testing Unit was dedicated on Oct. 28, by the Springfield Police Department and Governor Bob Holden. The Unit, nicknamed the “Bat Van” was purchased through a grant from the Missouri Department of Public Safety. The SPD has been recognized statewide in recent years for an increased number of proactive DWI arrests, leading Missouri in its efforts.

20 years ago – December 1992

A Moving Experience

The Grand Opening of the Busch Municipal Building was celebrated with balloons and cake for everyone! City administrative employees emptied out their desks Friday night, and were back to work in a new location Monday morning, with no interruption of service to the community. At the same time City Hall workers were moving to the newly renovated Busch Municipal Building, members of the Fire Department administrative staff were moving into City Hall.

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.

Lt. Greg Higdon
Springfield Police Dept.
Greg has worked for the City for 17 years.

What did you want to be when you grew up?
As I’m sure a lot of police officers would say, I always wanted to be a police officer when I grew up. Though my parents wanted me to be a lawyer or doctor, I can’t remember a time when I didn’t want to be a police officer. I truly enjoy this profession.

What are you compulsive about?
Pretty much everything. Just ask my wife, kids, coworkers, etc.

If you could ask one question of anyone in history, who would it be and what would it be?
I am a huge Wild Bill Hickok enthusiast and would have loved the chance to talk to him about his life. I would have asked, “Was the shot that killed Dave Tutt in the Springfield Square a lucky shot or did you know you were going to prevail?”

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The SCENIC Route

Due to the anticipated bump in holiday travel, the Airport is increasing its fleet of paper airplanes in the logo.

Airport Director Brian Weiler unveils a new promotional strategy.
SPD was granted reaccreditation and received “meritorious” recognition for achieving 15 continuous years of accreditation.

SPD remains committed to this voluntary accreditation process, achieved by about 5% of all law enforcement agencies, and to CALEA, the only national organization available that provides this type of oversight.

To: Police Chief
Paul Williams

inBalance would like to send out a special THANK YOU to the police officers who dedicated so much of their time, expertise, and encouragement to the first class of CODE 3 Boot Camp! This class was more than a success and inBalance could not have done it without the help of Tim Goonas, Mark Schindler, Shawn Clawson, Chris Johns, and Flint Roufs!

Another special thank you goes to Chief Paul Williams for providing the stellar staff and convenient location to help make this program possible!

Thank you!
inBalance Employee Wellness Committee

To: Police Chief
Paul Williams

Officer Starks was one of the nicest officers I have met. This was the third break in I have had, and the first time an officer has ever came to help. I work at a bar and understand that it is rare for an officer to come for an auto break in. I know that there are much bigger problems than my car getting broke into and my backpack and computer being stolen, so I truly, truly appreciate him coming, doing what he could to help, and not treating me like a burden. I really am very grateful and appreciate the help very much. It renewed my faith and trust after very unpleasant experiences I have had filing reports in the past.

Thank you!
Hilary

To: Casey Jo Kellner,
Public Works Urban Forester

Thank you so much for your hard work and educational programs you have represented to our members about trees. These classes are extremely informative and our members talk about them often. They have learned a great deal and get so excited the days Troy is scheduled to be here. I know it takes a lot of work, resources, staff, and time to present these programs and we deeply appreciate all you have done. All your guest speakers are outstanding, and the displays (visuals) are something members won’t forget.

All this and Troy brings in a tree climber. What a treat for everyone. I have good pictures of Mr. Boyer if you want copies.

Education is so important for us all, and we all learned a great deal from you. Thanks for your patience, program, and all you do for our kids. By the way, Troy is great with kids, and a joy to work with.

Connie Crawford
Stalnaker Education Director
Boys and Girls Club of Springfield

To: Springfield Fire Department

Last night I smelled smoke but couldn’t figure out where it was coming from. My neighbor’s house on Grant St. was on fire but not yet visibly so from outside. There were 3 kids asleep upstairs. Everyone got out, the fire was contained, and 2 of your boys took time out to get me a smoke detector battery and install another detector on my lower floor. My house is less than 10 feet from the neighbor with adjoining fences. Both are over 100 years old. This could have been so much worse. So thank you from the bottom of my freaked out little heart, for doing what you do.

Most sincerely,
Becky Pronia