Mayor’s Tree Lighting kicks off Festival of Lights

Springfield’s annual Festival of Lights, presented this year by Mercy and co-hosted by KY3’s Jerry Jacob and City PIO Cora Scott, kicked off Saturday, Nov. 23 at Jordan Valley Park with the Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Hundreds of school-aged children and their parents attended the event, which included live Christmas music from Children’s Choirs of Southwest Missouri and Abbie Benton and the Eskimo Girls.

Springfield Postmaster Chris Adams brought a special mailbox for guests to mail their letters to Santa. With help from the crowd making holiday noise, Mayor Bob Stephens waved his magic wand (created by Public Works) to light up the 33-foot Norway spruce.

Thanks to the sound of the crowd ringing their jingle bells, Santa and Mrs. Claus then arrived in a tricked-out golf cart designed by Public Works to look like a sleigh.

The Clauses led the Jingle Bell Parade through Jordan Valley Park to Hammons Field, where the Springfield Cardinals hosted a Cardinals Christmas. Children visited with Santa and enjoyed hot chocolate and candy canes.

The Cardinals event ended with a big bang: a fireworks show set to holiday music.

Festival of Lights is a six-week celebration containing a flurry of holiday activities in Springfield’s Center City from Nov. 23 through New Year’s Day.

Major events, in addition to the Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony, include:

• Candyland at the Footbridge, Noon, Sat., Dec. 7 at the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge on Commercial Street.

• Downtown Springfield Christmas Parade, 2 p.m., Sat., Dec. 14 in Downtown Springfield. Parade floats, marching bands, Santa and more!

• First Night Springfield, 5:30 p.m.-midnight, Tues., Dec. 31 at multiple Downtown venues and Jordan Valley Park. Admission in advance: $8, $30 family 4-pack. Kids under 3 free!

City employees assist at CPO’s HOPE Connection

Community Partnership of the Ozarks and more than 40 partner agencies teamed up for the fifth annual HOPE Connection event for the community’s homeless Nov. 20 at the Springfield Expo Center.

More than 300 volunteers from organizations, businesses, universities and faith communities – including City departments Workforce Development, Municipal Court, Springfield-Greene County Health Department and Springfield Police Department – welcomed around 500 homeless individuals.

Held each year during National Homeless Awareness Week, HOPE Connection is a one-day, one-stop service site for the community’s homeless population to gain access to vital services including health care, hygiene and haircuts, housing, legal services, employment, veterans’ services and more.

Due to barriers like transportation and the weather,
Springfield named a Digital Cities Survey winner by Center for Digital Government

E.Republic’s Center for Digital Government and the Digital Communities Program Nov. 7 announced the top-ranked cities in the 2013 Digital Cities Survey. Springfield, Mo. ranked 10th among cities with populations of 125,000 to 249,000.

“Nationally the number of tech-savvy digital cities is increasing, particularly among the larger jurisdictions responding to the survey,” said Todd Sander, executive director of the Center for Digital Government. “The top digital cities are leaders in open data and transparency efforts, as well as innovators in deploying mobile applications to citizens while conforming to fiscal standards.”

Top-ranked cities improved transparency with open government initiatives and access to city services via mobile apps. They eliminated waste and enhanced service levels using agile project management, and reduced costs and improved services through advanced analytics and performance measures, according to E.Republic.

“Over the last year, the City of Springfield has made significant improvements to the digital services we offer citizens,” said Jeff Coiner, Information Systems director for the City. “From our e-Plans electronic plan review initiative to providing a shared records management system for law enforcement agencies to our interactive maps and aerial photography partnerships with other local government agencies, what sets us apart from other communities is our willingness to work together and partner on initiatives that cross agency boundaries and political issues.”

Coiner added that City leadership’s culture of cooperation lends itself to building great things in the community.

“The digital city designation is just an extension of what we are doing collectively to meet our challenges and prepare for the future … we are truly creating a foundation for explosive growth in the region on many fronts,” he said. Future plans include revamping the City’s websites and adding more interactive capabilities for citizens to communicate directly with local government.

In its 13th year, the annual survey is a part of the Digital Communities Program and is open to all U.S. cities. The survey criteria focused on results achieved by cities—via the use of technology—in operating efficiencies, realizing strategic objectives, innovative or creative solutions or approaches, effective collaboration and transparency measures, among others.

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government. The Center is a division of E.Republic, the nation’s only media and research company focused exclusively on the state and local government market and education.

Hints from the Help Desk

Beware of Phishing e-mails

Phishing is the practice of sending out a malicious e-mail that attempts to trick you into clicking on a link that leads to a malicious website or by prompting you to open up an attachment that could infect your computer with a nasty virus.

These e-mails are usually disguised to look like they come from legitimate sources. Protect yourself from becoming a victim of this type of e-mail fraud by following these tips.

Pay attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar. Most (but not all) phishing e-mails are poorly written and contain multiple errors.

Look closely at the sender’s e-mail address. Does the e-mail address match the sender’s domain name?

Look for generic references. Would you expect a reputable company to address you with a generic greeting or your e-mail address?

Look for urgent wording and scare tactics. Many phishing e-mails will have a sense of urgency in the wording and threats of negative consequences.

Never click on links in unsolicited e-mails and always use caution when clicking on any link in an e-mail message. Hovering over a link (do not click) will cause pop-up that previews where the link leads. Most phishing e-mails will spoof the link name of a real Web address, but the actual destination will lead you to a different site where they will attempt to steal personal account information or infect your computer.

If you receive an e-mail that you want to verify by calling that institution directly, (e.g. your bank or credit card company) then make sure that you verify the phone number on their official site or a previous billing statement. Some of the more advanced phishing e-mails include a bogus number that will connect you to a voice mail recording that instructs you to leave personal account information or the call might even be answered by someone impersonating a customer service representative.

Look in the TO: and FROM: fields in the e-mail headers. Is the e-mail addressed to multiple people? Is your e-mail address listed in both fields? Both are red flags for fraudulent e-mail. Consider the content in the e-mail message and ask yourself if it makes sense.

Never open attachments in unsolicited e-mails and always use caution when opening attachments. It is always safest to scan all e-mail attachments with your anti-virus before opening them.

Never reply to e-mails requesting personal information. You should always be suspicious of anyone that requests personal information by e-mail.

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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.
City mourns the loss of former Deputy City Manager General Fred Marty

City Manager Greg Burris and the staff of the City of Springfield express sincere condolences to the family of General Fred Marty, recently retired Deputy City Manager. City officials were notified of his passing Wednesday evening. He was diagnosed with cancer in 2012.

Marty officially retired from the City in November, 2013, after a career providing more than 50 years of public service. A public memorial service was held Nov. 22.

Marty, a retired major general in the U.S. Army, also had served as vice president of administration at Missouri State University, chancellor of the university’s West Plains campus and executive director of the Wonders of Wildlife museum.

Marty had been a part of the city’s leadership team since 2010, participating in the development of plans to meet environmental standards, the direction of building development services, public works, human resources and more.

“I can think of no other person who has had a more profound impact on the City’s operations than Fred Marty,” said Burris. “Fred’s work here will leave an indelible mark on our community for decades to come. He will be greatly missed by all of us who have come to know him as a colleague, mentor and friend.”

When Marty was hired, Burris asked him to improve the City’s development processes and serve as an ombudsman to the development community.

Perhaps his biggest legacy at the City will be his work on Collaborative Community Development (CCD) – the City’s philosophy for working with private developers and designers in developing the community.

“His work in this arena has improved relations with our development community greatly and improved our reputation both within and outside our city limits,” Burris said.

After interviewing more than 75 local developers, architects, engineers, and contractors, he subsequently led the implementation of ePlans – the first electronic development review process in the state.

“Fred’s leadership in fixing the development process at the City of Springfield has been so important to the economic growth of this community, and he has left a lasting legacy in this regard,” said Jim Anderson, president, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

“He was the City’s ombudsman – in the truest sense of the word. He listened to the concerns of all parties, he objectively sought solutions, and he made them happen.

The result of Fred’s dedicated efforts is a development process that is welcoming to business and growth. We are sincerely going to miss working with Fred,” said Anderson.

General Marty was born in St. Louis and attended Missouri State University in Springfield, where he earned a bachelor of science degree and participated in Army ROTC. He entered active duty in June 1963, upon being commissioned a second lieutenant in field artillery.

While on active duty with the Army, General Marty served extensively in command and troop leadership assignments in combined arms units located throughout the world. During two tours of duty in Vietnam and four tours in Germany, he soldiered predominantly with field artillery units supporting cavalry and armored forces.

General Marty commanded field artillery units at every echelon, from battery through corps artillery, and directed operations of the United States Field Artillery School.

In addition, he was assigned in key operations, logistics, and resource management staff leadership positions from battalion through corps level, culminating as Commanding General of Fort Sill, Okla., during two tours of duty in the Middle East. He also served as a battalion commander with the 312th Artillery and the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Armored Division.

Immediately prior to his retirement from active duty following 30 years of distinguished service, he was assigned as the Commanding General of Fort Sill, Okla., which under his leadership was named “The Best-Managed Installation in the Army.” General Marty received the Army’s highest peacetime award, the Distinguished Service Medal.

In July 1999, General Marty commenced a second career in public service as vice president for administrative services at Missouri State University. Two years later, the university’s Board of Governors selected him as chancellor of the West Plains campus.

General Marty relocated to Springfield in 2001 to serve as executive director and oversee the opening of the new American National Fish and Wildlife Museum. Two years later, he returned to MSU as associate vice president for administrative services.

In 1989, General Marty was selected by MSU as an Outstanding Alumnus and later earned the university’s prestigious Staff Excellence in Service Award. He was inducted into the MSU Wall of Fame in October.

“It is with great sadness that I learned of Fred Marty’s passing. I know he touched many, many lives in our community and in the world. He leaves a legacy of public service with huge successes in each field – military, higher education, and most recently, local government. We send our love and sympathy to Fred’s family and to his extended families in the U.S. Army, at Missouri State University and at the City of Springfield. Fred was a leader and one we cannot forget,” said Mayor Bob Stephens.

“Fred’s work here will leave an indelible mark on our community for decades to come. He will be greatly missed by all of us who have come to know him as a colleague, mentor and friend.”

- City Manager Greg Burris

Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

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Remembering Fred Marty

A video tribute was shown at General Fred Marty’s memorial service Nov. 22 at Mercy’s Hammons Heart Institute. More than 200 people attended.

Watch the tribute at springfieldmo.gov.
30 years
Ernest Glenn
Public Grounds
Maintenance Supervisor
Public Works – 12/5/1983

20 years
Paul Williams
Equipment Maintenance Supervisor
Public Works – 12/13/1993
Patsy Gardner
Office Administrator
Environmental Services – 12/20/1993

15 years
John Green
Admin. Systems Analyst
Clint Hoffman
Electrical Inspector

10 years
Jessica Sobiersalski
Crime Research Analyst
Police – 12/1/2003
Kathy Vilas
Receptionist
Public Information – 12/2/2003

5 years
Bryan Woldford
Aircraft Line Services Technician
Airport – 12/1/2008
Veronica Zeigler
Crime Research Analyst
Police – 12/8/2008
Susan McLeod
Community Recreation Coordinator
Parks – 12/28/2003

Larry McKnight
Building Maintenance Craftsman
Public Works – 12/29/2003
Suzanne Blackburn
Senior Court Services Representative
Municipal Court – 12/29/2003

Welcome
Justin Dement
Mary Jo Kerringer
Financial Analysts – Finance

Dustin Medlam
Aircraft Line Services Technician
Airport – 12/16/2008
Jamie Williams
Zoo Keeper
Parks – 12/21/2008
Christopher Smith
Aircraft Line Services Technician
Airport – 12/29/2008
Judy Cano
Workforce Development Specialist
Workforce Development – 12/29/2008

Kathryn Padgett
Financial Analyst – Health
Jacinta Tolinos
Community Recreation Supervisor – Parks
Christopher Brunnett
Kelan Macy
Taylor Page
Workforce Development Specialist – Workforce Development
Jonathan Allen
Senior Database Administrator – Information Systems
Taylor Richards
Natalie Vaughan
Community Recreation Specialists – Parks
Danielle Allen
Samuel Brakebill

Cinnamon Fuller
James Stater
911 Telecommunicators – Emergency Communications
Jerry Reese
Maintenance Worker – Public Works

Promotions
Sarah Limb
Pre-treatment Inspector – Environmental Services
Terry Lutz
Craftsworker – Public Works
Rebecca Sigrest
Community Health Nurse – Health

White loveseat in very good condition $200.
Large sofa and matching loveseat-brown in color in good condition $250 for both items.
Call Joe at 543-3117.

Traditional French Dining Room Set; eight chairs (including two captain chairs), rectangular table and three section China hutch. Chairs are covered with cream colored satin in pristine condition. Dining set is darker wood with curved legs. Originally cost $2,200, asking $500 for all. Would make a great Christmas or wedding gift.
Call Kathy at 619-5511 days or 881-2591 evenings.

When was the last time you saw a Tupperware catalog? Check out my website www.my.tupperware.com/lisawoods6 for everything Tupperware and convenient online shopping. Like my Facebook page www.facebook.com/TupperwareByLisaW for amazing deals and giveaways! Contact me at 838-0334 for a current catalog or to host a catalog or online party.

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.
For Sale 1992 Spirit 16 X 70 manufactured home. One owner, 2-bedroom & 2-bathroom open floor plan, non-smoking & no pets plus 12x14 shed & 2-car carport enclosed on 3 sides. Home has lots of updates. Asking $18,500. Must see to appreciate, pictures if interested. Silver Bell Mobile Home Park between Springfield & Rogersville. Call or text Karen at 417-899-5716.

SERVICES
Stephanie Chase Cleaning Service “Professional House Cleaning” Licensed and Insured 299-9034 | Stephaniechase18@gmail.com References upon request.
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it could take a homeless person months to reach all of the services HOPE Connection provides in one day.

Below are the wishes inBalance will begin working on first:
- Yoga Classes – submitted by Carol Daniel and Rebecca Husney (Health Department), and Environmental Services.
- 5k walk/run at the Zoo – Sheila Samek (Parks).
- Classes that will offer “How to” information and will feature different topical experts – Karen McKinnis (Health Department).
- Discount to the Zoo – Lisa Schlientz and Jennifer Rice (Health Department).

Please take a few minutes of your time to complete the Wellness Needs and Interests Survey at http://inbalance.questionpro.com/. This survey is a great way to voice your opinion and make inBalance work for you. Please contact Emily Hegg at 417-864-2077 for a paper version of the survey.

CODE 3 Boot Camp Class No. 3
Class No. 3 is complete and we could not be any more proud of them! Below are the rough percentages of improvement by most of the class based on the fitness test that was administered on the first day and a final fitness test on the last day of the boot camp. The fitness test consisted of a 1 minute push up, a 1 minute sit up, a wall sit (timed), and either a .5 mile or 1 mile run:

Body fat % overall reduction/improvement of 8%
- Push up 42%
- Sit up 31%
- Wall Sit 23%
- .5 or 1 M Run 8%

Here are a few more interesting facts about this group:
- 12 different City departments represented
- Prior to CODE 3, 27 out of the 30 class participants reported getting regular movement in their day, which speaks volumes about why they were there and what their goals were individually.
- Two participants gained so much strength, they were able to hold a wall-sit for six to seven minutes.

If you missed out on this class and want to get in on the next one, mark your calendar for CODE 3 Boot Camp in April!
Construction under way at Busch Building for Citizen Resource Center

By the end of December, the lobby of the Busch Municipal Building will look a little different.

Construction began for the new Citizen Resource Center, a highly accessible, one-stop information shop and call center.

Resource Coordinator Claudia Crighton and Administrative Assistant Anita Eddy will be housed in the center, where citizens will have opportunities to apply for jobs, register to vote, file a complaint, pick up brochures and other materials, watch videos produced by the Public Information department and utilize an information kiosk.

“Creating a one-stop resource center for citizens is something I’ve wanted to do for a long time,” Crighton says. “We want to be as accessible and as visible as possible so we can serve our citizens even better than we do now.”

Crighton and Eddy average 75-100 citizen service request calls per day. They also communicate with citizens via the online citizen service request page at SpringfieldMo.gov.

A mobile citizen service request app is in the works and will appear on a redesigned SpringfieldMo.gov in the spring.

From the SCENE archives

10 years ago – December 2003
Parks Opens Doors to Three New Public Facilities

On December 5 – 7, the Springfield community will welcome the addition of modernized public recreation centers with a weekend of dedications and open-house tours. The Northview Center is a 18,500-square-foot facility that is home to the Parks’ programs for disabled individuals and programs that are designed for individuals 50 and over. The Doling Family Center boasts 25,500 square feet of space, which includes a large community room, party room, game room, and full gymnasium with basketball courts. The Chesterfield Aquatics Center is a 6,000 sq. ft. indoor facility connected to the family center, that features an enclosed indoor/outdoor tube water slide, swimming pool, lap pool with lanes, zero-degree entry pool, and a hot tub. A cardiovascular equipment area has been added to the second floor of the facility.

20 years ago – December 1993

The Tenth Annual Police Department Christmas Crusade for Kids is in full swing. Last year over 1,200 children received a gift through this project, and we anticipate the need will be even greater this year. In addition to the obvious benefit of helping needy children, the Christmas Crusade provides an opportunity for police officers to be seen in a positive light.

Do You Know...?

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

Roger Lile
Professional Engineer
Roger has worked for the City for 22 years.

What are you most proud of? My family. My wife Jean, my son Steve and his wife Kristen, my daughter Amanda and my grandchildren Morgan and Wyatt.

What do you like most about your job? Working with the young engineers and technicians. They are not as smart as they think, somebody has to keep them in line. :)

Who do you quote? Jim Tice a good friend of mine. His favorite quote and one that I use often is “…don’t put new wine in old skins.” It means that old skins are inflexible and unfermented wine expands which will cause the skins to crack and you will lose your wine. Jim was a great educator and champion of distance learning technology.

What did you want to “be” when you grew up? 100-plus years old. I’m sorry, I thought you said “What do I want to be when I grow up?”

The SCENIC Route

City Finance Director Mary Mannix Decker finds the perfect holiday gift - at a Springfield retail establishment of course!
Each week, the Golden Goose is presented from one City employee to another as a way to say “thank you” and recognize fellow employees for a job well done.

Rules of the Goose:

1. Present the Golden Goose to a fellow City employee in a different department.
2. You can only keep the Goose for one week.
3. It is highly encouraged that you present the Goose in a way that recognizes them publicly.
4. The Goose must be displayed in your work area for everyone to see. Accompanying the Goose will be a pin that you can wear all week.
5. A log book will document the travels of the Goose. When you give the Goose trophy, please send an e-mail to GooseShepherd@springfieldmo.gov stating to whom you are presenting the Goose and why.

Diversity@Work

A Season of Gratitude

As we approach the end of 2013, many of us from a variety of cultures and religions make plans to spend time with family and friends for traditional holidays. Unfortunately, a time intended for joy and celebration can become a difficult time for some and a stressful time for many.

This year during the holiday season, if life gets hectic and you begin to feel overwhelmed, take a moment to focus on the people and things you are grateful for in life. Research shows that grateful people have higher reported levels of the positive states of alertness, enthusiasm, determination, attentiveness and energy. Being grateful is an energizing way to start your day and a relaxing way to end it.

Even if you personally don’t feel negatively impacted by the potential strain of this holiday season, you may have a coworker who lost a loved one this year, or experienced some personal struggle or tragedy. Look around and see where your encouragement might be appreciated. You may even look outside of your immediate daily interactions and see what opportunities for helpfulness are available to you in the greater Springfield area. One such opportunity is the local United Way.

The City of Springfield is in the process of wrapping up its 2013 United Way fundraising campaign. The United Way supports many local agencies whose sole mission is to assist others in their times of need. If you are considering offering some of your personal time to help others, this link will take you to the United Way 211 database for human service agencies in the immediate area. www.211.org

You can also call 211 or 800-427-4626 for services or to inquire about volunteer opportunities.

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” – John F. Kennedy
To: Claudia Crighton, Citizen Service Coordinator

Thank you for your efforts to resolve this matter. You have in the past helped to address several issues in our community and we really appreciate your efforts. It is great to have a person like you showing a concern towards our community. This is one of the reasons that Springfield is a great place to live. Your title as Citizen Service Coordinator is very appropriate as you do truly provide a service to all of us taxpayers.

Keep up the great work,
Phil Rinkoski

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

In the past few months the C-Street community has seen a grand change in our Pavilion and Footbridge Plaza. Daily, our merchants and residents strive to make our neighborhood a better place. We have really appreciated the support and back-up that you and your force has given us. There is no price that we put on the value of having officer Harold Millirons on our side. He and Officer Chris Welsh have been so proactive and responsive to our needs. Thank you so much for helping make our sweet little street just that much sweeter.

Kailey York, President
Sa’dia Luallen, Vice President
Commercial Club of Springfield

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

I thought I would e-mail you and let you know about the ride along experience I had this past weekend. I rode with Officer Bolton from the station on Chestnut. From start to finish, he was so great with talking with me through things and explaining things to me. On a couple of calls I had the opportunity to chat with a few other officers and they were awesome. I also met a Sgt. Beck I believe his name was and I love the way he handled a call he was assisting Officer Bolton on. He was making jokes with me while at the same time keeping his professionalism with the person they were dealing with. It was a great sight to see that the relationship between all the officers was so strong. I never knew the extent to what kind of things they have to deal with and the range of things they deal with. They handle themselves with the highest professionalism and I truly admire that. I really enjoyed Officer Bolton, as he was great in integrating me with the calls and keeping me back if he thought it was too dangerous. It was also great talking to him and finding out more about him and his journey to becoming a police officer. You truly have a great group of officers that I can say I admire a lot. After this experience a career in law enforcement is something I am really considering, because I had such a different view of it this weekend.

Thanks,
Marissa Patterson

To: Fire Chief David Hall

On Sunday, Aug. 11, my son had his birthday party at Fire Station No. 1. All of the firemen were wonderful. There’s a particular fireman – Rosie Grier – who we have met several times. Every time we’ve met him, he’s been excited about his job and goes out of his way to interact with the kids. I scheduled a party for my oldest son at Fire Station No. 1 for Sept. 15. There was a different crew (C-shift) who structured the tour differently, but it was still a huge hit, and this crew was also professional and great with the kids. I just wanted to let you know how great your guys are and how wonderful it is that you offer the community rooms at the fire stations.

Colleen McGuane

911 ECD: First in-house certification!

The 911 Emergency Communications Department announces a 'first'! The process of attaining certification to become a Communications Training Officer (CTO) at 911 is vital – but cost and dependency on other agencies for certification often make it a challenge. For the first time in its history, the Springfield-Greene County 911 has answered that challenge with establishing its own in-house CTO Certification Program.

Pictured at left (from left to right) are CTO's Sean Robison, Joel Holdman and Jenny Ryker who were certified by Administrative Services Manager Kris Inman in October, becoming the department's first to be trained in-house. Inman completed certification as a CTO instructor through APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officials) in June, 2013. The 911 ECD now currently have 28 total CTO's on staff.