CAmP graduates inaugural class

Graduating its first class, the City Ambassadors Program (CAmP) wrapped up the class of 2012 with a graduation ceremony June 13.

The program, which began September 2011, was created to provide an opportunity for City employees to learn more about the City’s internal operations.

“Most of us are not aware of the size and diversity of the City’s departments,” says CAmP coordinator, Sharon Smith. “This program just gives us a better understanding of how our own department, as well as our individual position, fits into the overall picture.”

During the year, the class of 2012 spent 10 days touring City departments and taking part in hands-on activities. They played Mayor and Council for a day, investigated crime scenes, learned to operate dump trucks, and became deputized food inspectors.

“CAmP expanded my existing City network,” graduate Melanie Williams (HR) said. “I have a much better understanding and increased respect for the work done in certain areas within our organization.”

The employee interest in CAmP is apparent in the 25% rise in applicants for the program’s second class, out of which only half could be accepted.

1/8-cent transportation tax up for renewal

City voters will decide Aug. 7 whether to renew the 1/8-cent sales tax to fund a new slate of traffic and transportation projects.

The sales tax was first approved in 1996, and has repeatedly received strong support.

With a four-year sunset, the renewal ensures the completion of key projects, including those identified as priorities by citizens participating in surveys and through other feedback opportunities. Since it is a renewal, there is no tax increase.

The revenue has allowed the City to partner with the Missouri Department of Transportation to accelerate improvements by extending MoDOT’s cost-sharing program to additional high-priority projects in the Springfield metro area.

Funds from the tax over the past four years have totalled $16 million in local funding, and have...
Jan Fisk steps into General Seat A

Jan Fisk was chosen as City Council’s newest member at a special Council meeting June 12. She took her oath of office June 19 as General Seat A Councilwoman. She joins Cindy Rushefsky as Council’s second female member.

Jan and her husband Howard Fisk moved to Springfield from Lebanon about 35 years ago. They started a small business here and raised two children while also serving at a leadership level for many civic organizations.

“We moved here to the ‘big city’ to attend school years ago and we fell in love with Springfield,” said Fisk. “We were raised with a strong work ethic and a belief that if you have integrity in business, your customers will keep coming back. That attitude certainly helped us along the way but equally important has been our original choice to live in Springfield.”

Fisk said her family and business have been the direct beneficiaries of the strong quality of life here. “When our leaders have listened to the citizens and incorporated our input, they’ve invested in infrastructure, created a business environment without obstacles to quality job creation, and strengthened law enforcement to keep our neighborhoods and families safe – all within budget. That kind of partnership and decision-making made Springfield a vibrant place in which people wanted to live and do business. If we don’t have that kind of focus and commitment on Council, especially under these economic conditions, we risk a timely recovery and a stable economy which ultimately translates into more police on patrol, improved streets and business expansion resulting in new jobs.”

Fisk believes the managerial and financial skills she’s developed over three decades as a small business person have prepared her well to serve on Council. Before she and her husband started their transportation business in the mid-1980s, she worked as a secretary for a construction company and then an architect firm. She also managed special events and catering for a local hotel.

Fisk also has a proven track record of community service and leadership. She has served as a volunteer leader for public television, Junior League of Springfield, the History Museum, Boys and Girls Town, American Heart Association and American Cancer Society, among others. She is also an active member of her church, First and Calvary Presbyterian Church.

“I am looking forward to serving. I have the full support of my family and many friends. I am willing to invest the time and focus I know this job will take,” said Fisk.

Hints from the Help Desk

Setup procedures for new City staff members

Department heads need to send in 2 forms:

1) Network Account Request Form
   Found under CityShare/Help Desk (left column) New Network Account
   This will get filled out and sent to “IS / NOC”. Please allow a few days prior to the person’s “Start Date” so that on day one, the person can log into the Network.

2) CityLink Authorization Form – New CityLink Account
   Found under CityShare/Help Desk (left column) New CityLink Account
   After filling out and signing the form, you will forward it to the Finance Department who will in turn forward onto HR. Upon their completion of entering, they will forward on to Information Systems where usernames and passwords for CityLink will be assigned and the user notified. Due to how CityLink works, a new hire cannot be entered into the system until payroll is completed for the prior pay period. Nothing can be done by anyone until all 3 departments have completed their “New Hire” tasks for all the systems.

Please allow several days for the City Link Account to be fully operational.

Don’t forget about FREE online training through Lynda.com
Contact the Help Desk to find out more: 864-1111
Although it won’t open officially until August, City employees are invited to come over for a sneak peek tour of the Springfield-Greene County Public Safety Center anytime between 1 and 5 p.m., July 25. The center is located at 330 Scott St., just north on Boonville from the Busch Municipal Building. The public ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 6.

When fully occupied, the Public Safety Center will house Springfield-Greene County 911 and the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management. The building will also include an Emergency Operations Center, from which more than 70 federal, state and local response agencies may coordinate and sustain 24/7 operations during a disaster event.

The building will also serve as a Multi-Agency Coordination Center for Region D, which covers 18 counties in southwest Missouri. The director for Missouri State Emergency Management Agency has also designated the center as the back-up for the State of Missouri.

The three-story, 56,000 square-foot building is built to withstand an EF-5 tornado (the size and strength of the 2011 Joplin tornado) and utility interruptions, providing secure workspace for emergency responders and state-of-the-art emergency communications technology used during disaster events. The energy-efficient building is designed to obtain LEED certification.

The $19.7 million building is funded by a variety of sources, including:
- $1 million FEMA grant, secured by Congressman Roy Blunt
- $1.1 million in COPS Technology grants, secured by Congressman Roy Blunt
- $450,000 Department of Energy grant, secured by Congressman Roy Blunt
- $300,000 Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant
- Up to $1 million a year in voter-approved 911 Sales Tax funds
- $550,000 Emergency Management Performance Grant
- $1.1 million per year of Greene County general revenue beginning in 2016 when bonds for other projects are retired.

The Greene County Office on Emergency Management is responsible for emergency management issues within the City of Springfield and unincorporated Greene County, and serves the public in each of the four phases of emergency management. 

Mitigation: Lessening the impact of, or potential for, disaster occurrence.

Preparedness: Providing training and drafting disaster plans.

Response: Coordinating multi-agency response to current and impending disasters.

Recovery: Providing for the welfare of the community and guiding it to a safer situation than before the disaster.

The Springfield/Greene County 911 Center is the hub of emergency communications throughout both the city and county. Acting as the central base of incoming 911 emergency calls from the public, as well as outgoing communications to personnel in the field, the facility is the true “nerve center,” incorporating a cooperative interaction of cutting edge technology and a highly-trained work force.

**Proposed 1/8 cent Tax Renewal Projects 2013-2017**

- Diverging Diamond Intersection at Battlefield and US 65
- Intersection and roadway improvements at Mt. Vernon and Orchard Crest. This intersection has the highest crash rate in the city.
- Building a bridge over railroad crossings at Chestnut Expressway, West of US 65.
- Enhanced bicycle, pedestrian and bus transit mobility.

**2008 tax renewal key projects completed as promised:**
- Diverging Diamond Intersections at National Avenue and James River Freeway and Kansas Expressway and I-44
- Mustang Walkway over Kearney Street
- Six-laning of US 65

The choice of projects was influenced by long-standing priorities reflected in citizen surveys. About 1,600 citizens participated in transportation surveys asking which projects were deemed most important. In the 2011 community survey, traffic flow was identified as the top concern.
MILESTONES

Service Anniversaries

25 years
- Melissa Dickson
  Zoo Keeper
  Parks - 07/01/87

20 years
- Sean Dronick
  Maintenance Worker
  Public Works - 07/27/92
- Michael Groves
  Systems Administrator
  Workforce Development - 07/31/92

15 years
- Culley Wilson
  Police Sergeants
  Police - 07/07/97
- Tad Peters
  Police Officer
  Police - 07/07/97

10 years
- David Shanholtzer
  Police Corporals
  Police - 07/07/97
- Kevin Sweeney
  Police Corporals
  Police - 07/07/97
- Norma Ehrhardt
  Police Services Shift Leader
  Police - 07/07/97
- Libby Harris
  Administrative Assistant
  Police - 07/28/97

5 years
- Miles Park
  Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
  Parks - 07/22/02
- Randy Dunlap
  Registered Architect
  Public Works - 07/01/02
- David Holtmann
  Accounting Manager
  Finance - 07/08/02
- Paul Buescher
  Airport Police Officer
  Airport - 07/15/02

Eric Hawkins
Kynct Geiger
Benjamin Rauch
Police Officers
Police - 07/08/02

Gregory Roeder
Police Officer
Police - 07/29/02

Jody Tindale
Craftsworker
Parks - 07/07/02

Eric Sanders
Aircraft Services Specialist
Airport - 07/29/02

Promotions

Bob Belette
Director of Parks and Recreation - Parks

Anthony Coble
Grounds Maintenance Crew Leader - Public Works

Matthew Engel
Truck Company Captain - Fire

Sarah Kerner
Assistant City Attorney III - Law

Retirements

Charles Blackwell
Building Maintenance Craftsworker

Alan Brul
Animal Control Officer

Scott Leven
Police Lieutenant

Paul Mitchell
Equipment Technician

Public Works - 07/29/02

Airport - 07/29/02

Police - 07/07/97

Police – 07/01/87

Zoo Keeper

Parks – 07/01/02

Assistant City Attorney III

Public Works – 07/20/07

Community Recreation Director of Parks and Recreation

Communication – 911 Telecommunicator Emergency Communications - 07/09/07

Cynthia Wyman
Community Health Nurse – Health

Welcome

Welcome

Cynthia Wyman
Community Health Nurse – Health

Matthew Morris
Plant Operator II – Environmental Services

Mark Bennett
Tony Leckrone
Joshua Quessenberry
Airfield Maintenance Workers – Airport

Do you love candles? Check out www.417scents.com for Wickless Candles by Scentsy, which are a safe, wickless alternative to scented candles. Great gift ideas for holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries. Contact David or Anita Climer at 831-9124 or 838-3710 for more details.

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.legalsheild.com for more information.

For City of Springfield employees it is only $15.95/mo. Contact John for more information or to sign up. 861-0820.
**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

1. Julie Greer
   - Ralph Hurley
   - Jerry Johnson
   - Ken Shaw
   - Michael Vasso

2. John Copelin
   - Jan Harmon
   - Catherine Hoover
   - Chint Hunt
   - Sabrina McFadden
   - Bradley Nelson

3. Ronnie Box
   - Beau Fore
   - Joseph Gatiba
   - Kevin Grundy
   - Hilary Montgomery
   - Allen Neal
   - Julie White

4. John Albert
   - Peter Longley
   - Gary Lumley
   - Leah Marquart
   - Jessica Whittington

5. Ruth Brown
   - Roger Chaffin
   - Marilyn Day
   - Cara Hackmann
   - Catherine Harper
   - Jourdain Johns

6. Philip Costa
   - Matthew Dwyer
   - Kelly Green
   - Randy Woods

7. Michael Diouhy
   - Lee Hart
   - Michael Harter
   - Heather Kellogg
   - William Miletello
   - Bill Weaver

8. Travis Altic
   - Michael Binder
   - David Tucker
   - Louis Witte
   - Christopher Woods

9. Jeremy Anderson
   - Jonathan Conklin
   - Steven Farmer
   - Steven Phillips
   - Chad Sullivan

10. Alva Arnold
    - Ryan Campbell
    - Rick Crismas
    - Joshua Dungan
    - William Hateley
    - Gary Kellogg
    - Tony Parent
    - Jason Saliba

11. William Fitzgerald
    - Mark Foos
    - Tyler Hummer
    - Charles Jackson
    - Betty Maples
    - Christian Nemmers
    - Janet Smith

12. Jude Griesemer
    - Thomas Highfill
    - Hannah Reeth
    - Chasity King
    - David Riggs

13. Douglas Chadwell
    - Bradly Karr
    - John Langley
    - Lindsay Logan
    - Marleen Maupin
    - Donald mayabb
    - Robert McPhail
    - Ann Rude

14. Anna Algeo
    - Kaci Burns
    - James Closer
    - David Davis
    - Kendra Findley
    - Angela Foster
    - Shawn Freeman
    - Ally Goshoy
    - Jordan Kirby
    - Clinton Pratte
    - Brett Quesenberry
    - Logan Schwalm
    - Doug Simmons
    - Paul Tyler

15. David Alday
    - Benjamin Kellner
    - Michael Lampe
    - Angela Owings
    - Bryan Sanders
    - Emily Sharp
    - Kelly Sisco

16. Christie Desmond
    - Leonard Henry
    - Chad Immenks
    - Allyson Mason
    - Eric Wahlquist

17. Christina Flood
    - Glenn Kimberlin
    - Tom Shaw
    - Dianne Wolf

18. Richard Dutcher
    - Brittany Eppright
    - Sara Garretson
    - Kevin Gipson
    - Nicholas Goodin
    - Melissa Jennings
    - Jason Laub
    - Mark Roy
    - Lauren Stansell
    - Emily Wagner
    - Connie Wells

    - Robert Chaney
    - Scott Deckard
    - Jason Emory
    - Wendy Jenkins
    - Thomas Kelley
    - Jordan Shelton
    - Kayla Smith
    - Ronnie Smith
    - Mark Stroud

20. Justin Caldwell
    - Tyler Follis
    - Amy Harris
    - Crystal Higdon
    - David Hudson
    - Karen McKinnis
    - Seward Meintsma
    - Brian Olle
    - Ted Peters
    - James Ray
    - Vina Smith
    - Dorothy Vizant
    - Jeffrey White

21. Dillon Brown
    - Kim Brown
    - Jordan Dickson
    - Jacob Echardt
    - Joshua Malone
    - John Marcum
    - Stephanie Pool
    - Gary Shatto
    - Cyrus Taylor

22. Anthony Coble
    - Philip Curtis
    - Cynthia Daniels
    - Justin Hollingsworth
    - Tyra Knox
    - Katie Shipe
    - Kevin Shiple
    - David Smith
    - Richard Stonehouse
    - Joshua Strong

23. Ryan Fitzpatrick
    - Kevin Kuse
    - John Peine
    - Jamie Roth

24. Erin Rountree

25. Jack Ellis
    - Michael Groves
    - Kevin Houseman
    - Richard Kennehan
    - Daryl Lane

26. Taylor Bolton
    - Hannah Grubbs
    - Bryan Lundquist
    - Clare Rivers
    - Rachel Savage
    - Sheila Schenbri

27. Michael Burger
    - Emily Chamberlin
    - Donald Chaoe
    - Benjamin Fiedler
    - Timothy Fleener
    - Samantha Harper
    - Karyn Highfill
    - Brandon Penrose
    - Mark Phillips
    - John Rippe
    - Flint Rous
    - Jayne Vanneter

28. Jessica Hashagen
    - Justin Lloyd
    - Julie Putman
    - Rachel Stuck
    - Kenneth Taylor
    - Scott Umbarger
    - Sherryl Willhoit
    - Marcus Winstead

29. Randy Barnts
    - Tyler Dill
    - James Frieze
    - Justin Gargus
    - Ryan Jackson
    - Bobby Rawson
    - Casey Wallace
    - Jerry Weatherman
    - Steven Webb
    - Derrick Wond

30. Lisa Brenneman
    - Harvey Bright
    - Benjamin Hall
    - Christopher Laughlin
    - Christopher Skalicky

31. Jessica Bricker
    - Joseph Curry
    - Mike Irvine
    - Alisha Vogt

**Abbreviations**

- 911 Emergency Comm.
- AIR Airport
- ART Art Museum
- BDS Building Dev.
- CC City Clerk
- CM City Manager
- DDI Public Information
- EM Emergency Mgt.
- ES Environmental Ser.
- FN Finance
- FR Fire
- HL Health
- HR Human Resources
- IA Internal Audit
- IS Info. Systems
- LAW Law
- MC Municipal Court
- OG Ozark Greenways
- PRK Parks
- PPD Planning & Dev.
- POL Police
- PW Public Works
- WD Workforce Dev.
The incoming class of 2013 will see a few changes to the program, including an additional day added to the schedule to allow CAmPers adequate time to learn within each Department.

"Take advantage of it!" Williams offered as advice to the new class. "It’s a privilege and an amazing opportunity to make new friends, have fun and truly grasp the expansiveness of this large and diverse City of Springfield organization."

The incoming class of 2013: Charles Jackson (Airport); Chuck Cowan (Airport); Lisa Harley (City Clerk’s Office); Kenneth Edmonds (Env. Services); Drew Gateley (Health); Karen McKinnis (Health); Katie Chambers (911); Brandi Atnip (Finance); Carl Schwartze (General Services); Rick Edmonds (E-911); Brandi Atnip (Finance); Matthew Engel (Fire); Sherree Sanders (Fire); Eric Marcel (Health); Karen McKinnis (Health); Katie McClure (HR); Julie Vaughan (Law); Lana Woolsey (Law - Parks); Floyd Griffin (Parks); Randall Whitman (Planning); Jason Gabathuler (Public Works); Rena Rippe (Public Works); Paul Bles (Public Works); Cora Scott (PIO); Claudia Crighton (PIO); Melody Saul (Police); Carl Schwartz (Police); Todd King (Police); Tammy Casey (Workforce Dev).

The first day of CAmP will be September 12, 2012.

The inBalance health risk assessments are complete and were a huge success in terms of the number of employees who participated. More than 800 City employees stepped up to find out more about their own health and discover new ways to improve it - and there’s much more to come.

The inBalance committee had hoped to sign up 800 employees, or about half of the City workforce, for HRAs. We saw about 43 percent participate. While this was a bit short of the goal, it is a huge number in the world of employee wellness programs. It’s really encouraging to see so many people taking this step towards better health. This was the first time in a few years that HRAs were available on-site and free of charge to our workforce and the excitement surrounding the return was evident with the high participation.

But this is just the first step. Coming soon, the inBalance committee will offer an “HRA 101” class to help better explain and make good use of all the information that came back to you based on your HRA.

“There’s a lot of information in those packets so we’ll have some communication on what those mean and what people can do with their results,” said Emily Hegg, health education specialist in the Health Department and a member of the inBalance team.

In addition to going more in-depth about what the test results mean, the HRA 101 class may include specific strategies for improving your health based on your personal results. So - stay tuned!

It’s still not too late to make the right move and sign up for an HRA. Employees will need to contact the City’s HRA provider, CoxHealth, directly to schedule an appointment by the end of June. Call Cox at 269-9140 to do so. If you have any other questions about HRAs, contact Emily at 864-2077.

Finally, congratulations to the winners of the random drawing of those who filled out the follow-up survey. They won a choice of $20 gift certificate to either Price Cutter, Mama Jean’s or The Starting Block – Ken Scott, Robert Davidson, Russell Hargrave, Andy Iorg and Clint Hunt (Fire); Linda McKaig, Janet Smith, Evelyn McCullough (Workforce Development); Kris Inman (911); Brandy Atnip (Finance); Dawne Gardner (Public Works); Amanda Bennett (Health); Judy Bell (Police); Angela Turpin (Airport); Lori Chafin (Environmental Services); Chris Akins (Public Information); and Gary Smith (Information Systems).

Diversity@Work

Share your successes

In many parts of our world, diversity may not mean very much, or may even be hard to translate in a particular language, because it may not seem very important at all. In America, Canada, Australia, and some European countries, where ethnic groups chose to settle and make a new life, diversity means a lot.

A critical and often overlooked aspect of diversity is that diversity is synonymous with a variety that includes not only differences but similarities as well. As we ponder the world of diversity, organizations should value and acknowledge all areas of diversity including but not limited to race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, learning styles, age, and religion. Diversity does not only represent challenges in society and in particular in the workplace, it provides benefits that many do not realize until they directly benefit from it.

When we talk about diversity in an organization, mainly the focus is on the variety of human resources that shape the organization. It is extremely important to explore the talents and uniqueness of individuals which may have been hidden for a long time. Not many people are comfortable with presenting themselves. It is up to the leadership team to recognize their unique resources and value them continuously. Are we doing a good job as an organization tapping into our individual differences?

If anyone would like to share successes their work group has experienced by taking input and valuing ideas from a “diverse” source, we would love to hear about it! This could look like implementing a suggestion made by a college intern or organizing a deliberately diverse group or committee so that idea generation could come from a wide range of perspectives.

Of particular interest to this Diversity @ Work section is to bring our organization closer, by getting to know our diverse range of employees better.

Send your thoughts or stories to Human Resources, ATTN: DIVERSITY.
In Brief

City Council approves Annual City Budget

Springfield City Council approved a 1.5% employee raise as part of a $310 million dollar City of Springfield budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. For the third year in a row, the City was able to present a balanced budget, without using one-time money, grant money, and without borrowing or dipping into reserves.

“Tightening our belt in previous years has paid off,” said City Manager Greg Burris. “Springfield is emerging from the recession in a far better position than many other cities and Springfield is poised for the future.”

Gift of Time Awards Presentation

The Council of Churches and City of Springfield recognized 10 local volunteers at the annual Gift of Time Awards, the original volunteer recognition event in the Ozarks. Those recognized included Jerry Clark, Doris Woodard, Shaynna Shoemaker, Stephanie Montgomery, Linda Bossi, Richard Nichols, John Price, John Spradling, Sarah Mahaffey, and Darren Mahaffey.
Since 1991, more than 200 volunteers, donating thousands of hours of service, have been recognized. Their combined contributions make our community a better place to live.
Portraits of Gift of Time Award recipients will be displayed on the Rosanna Bradshaw Memorial Wall of Fame in the Busch Municipal Building throughout the year. The Wall of Fame’s namesake was an active volunteer in the Ozarks for many years and helped to create the Gift of Time program.

Two finalists for Art Museum Director announced

The City of Springfield is pleased to announce the selection of two finalists for the position of director of the Springfield Art Museum.
The Candidates are Connie Gibbons, currently the executive director of an art museum in Wyoming, and Nick Nelson, the executive director of the Albany Museum of Art in Albany, Georgia.
The candidates will be in Springfield for interviews with the Art Museum Board. The candidates will also meet with the City Manager, the City of Springfield’s Leadership Team and will participate in a meet-and-greet session with the public 5-6 p.m., Monday, June 25 in the lobby of the Springfield Art Museum.
The Art Museum Board will make the final selection, as required by the City Charter.
“As with previous searches for the Police Chief and the Director of Aviation, we have been deliberate about gathering community input during this search,” said City Manager Greg Burris. “I am committed to an open and transparent process when it comes to hiring those who lead some of our community’s most vital institutions.”

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.

Amy Werland
Administrative Assistant
Planning & Development
Amy has worked for the city for 8 years.

What are you most proud of?
My two boys.

What do you like most about your job?
The opportunity to learn new techniques.

What would you like to tell the President?
Save the environment and spay & neuter all pets.

What one word would your friends or family use to describe you?
AnimalLOVER

What will St. Peter say when you reach heaven?
No more cats.

The SCENIC Route

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT LARGE TASKS ARE BEST DIPPED IN CHOCOLATE AND EATEN ONE BITE AT A TIME!

Director of Public Information Cora Scott shares her recipe for success.

From the SCENE archives

10 Years Ago - July 2002
City Hall Renovation Project Begins

Plans to renovate Historic City Hall were announced by Mayor Tom Carlson and Assistant Public Works Director Phil Broyles on June 14.
The improvements include exterior cleaning of the limestone, roof replacement, tuckpointing and waterproofing, new windows on the south and east sides, painting previously replaced windows, new exterior lighting and lightning protection, a new elevator, and a new entry ramp and handrails.

20 Years Ago - July 1992
What a Ball!

More than 400 people attended the third annual Police Community Ball held at the Howard Johnson’s Exhibition Hall on May 30.
The Bill Pierson Band from Joplin provided the music. A shooting star ice sculpture highlighted the superb display of food catered by Howard Johnson’s. Those who attended had a wonderful time and suggest that if you did not attend, you should make plans to come to next year’s event.
To: Police Chief Paul Williams

I just wanted to drop the SMPD a note of appreciation for Officer Rust’s Neighborhood Watch training. I have been an educator (secondary school teacher and then a professor) for over 20 years now, and I can attest that he did an excellent job teaching these classes. Not only were his classes very informative, but he was personable, and he struck a great balance between keeping on track with the class but also answering questions and making everyone feel welcome and comfortable. He really did a great job. I was impressed. He’s an excellent choice for the person to be teaching these classes!

Billie Follensbee

To: Parks Director Bob Belote

Mr. Belote, I wanted to take a moment and convey how impressed we were with the staff at Rutledge Wilson Farm Park. We had our wedding there on Saturday, June 9th and cannot say enough good things about Nick Breithaupt, the Manager, and his ability and desire to assist us in making sure our day went smoothly. It is rare to find such helpful and genuinely kind people these days but I must say you have a true leader and devoted staff at that facility. The staff and Nick went out of their way to make sure our setup went smoothly and assisted our vendors in the placement of tents and rental equipment. Not only did they make sure the classroom was clean, but assisted in making sure the area was not disturbed by the other park guests.

Once again I want to convey my thanks and appreciation of your staff and Nick for allowing our day to be perfect!

Sincerely,
Mary Carter-Nichols

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

Today was the most exciting day Jefferson Street has seen in a while ... just wanted thank the men who were here today, in the blazing heat, to protect my friends and neighbors from a suspected armed and dangerous man. Their professionalism and courtesy were beyond reproach. After the crisis was over, they were all very approachable and willing to set our minds at ease on what had transpired. Thank you, SPFD & PD, for protecting my neighborhood.

Kimberly Dampier

To: Parks Director Bob Belote

On behalf of the MSHSAA Board of Directors and Staff we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help with the 2012 State High School Baseball Championships in Springfield. You and your staff welcomed the MSHSAA with a sincere willingness to assist us in any and every way possible. Your personal attention to detail in the planning and execution of the event makes everyone comfortable and confident that everything will go smoothly and the teams and followers will have a positive experience while visiting Springfield. Thank you for all you do for the MSHSAA and the students of Missouri.

Sincerely,
Tim Thompson