Public Works creates lasting impression

While Springfield sleeps, professionals from the City’s Public Works Department are busy salting and plowing in winter weather. Sometimes taken for granted, one of the City’s largest and most diverse departments, Public Works is responsible for nearly every public facility, roadway and public space that a citizen sees and uses in his or her daily life.

“From the time you get up in the morning and leave your home, to the time you return, you are encountering the work of Public Works,” said Phil Broyles, Director.

The department employs 220 people responsible for street design, construction and maintenance, traffic engineering, storm water management and maintaining publicly-owned trees and grounds.

Springfield Public Works professionals maintain 1,935 lane miles of streets, 138 traffic signals and 38,000 traffic and street signs, 100 public buildings (nearly 1,200,000 square feet), and 70 bridges and waterways.

If that’s not enough, they also run Hazelwood Cemetery, and 

See PHIL BROYLES on page 3.

Smoking ordinance back up for vote June 5

Springfieldians will have the chance to voice their opinion again at the polls June 5, on the issue of smoking in public places.

City Council amended the Smokefree Air Act of 2011, an ordinance passed by voters last April to make all businesses in Springfield smoke free, allowing for smoking in more places, including existing tobacco shops, cigar bars and certain defined private clubs. Bingo halls also gained an exemption under certain circumstances, and electronic cigarettes and theatrical performances no longer are covered by the ban.

The issue will still go to voters, however. This comes after the group Live Free Springfield collected the needed 1,181 signatures on an initiative petition to overturn the current ban.

What a Yes Vote June 5 Means:

A “yes” vote repeals the current smoking ban (Smokefree Air Act of 2011 and its May 7, 2012 amended version). A “yes” vote would allow smoking in bars and restaurants if alcohol is at least 50 percent of a business’s profits or if alcohol sales total $200,000 or more a year. Restaurants that sell alcohol will also be able to allow smoking in a separately ventilated area.

What a No Vote June 5 Means:

A “no” vote keeps the current ban in place, but with the Council amendments passed May 7, 2012, that exempt existing Springfield tobacco shops, cigar bars and certain defined private clubs. Bingo halls also gained an exemption under certain circumstances, and electronic cigarettes and theatrical performances no longer are covered by the ban.
Mayor Bob Stephens steps up to the plate

Bob Stephens was sworn in May 8, 2012 as Springfield’s Mayor, following the resignation of former Mayor Jim O’Neal. Stephens was elected as an at-large City Council member in April 2009 and selected by his fellow council members as Mayor Pro Tem in 2011. He currently serves as a member of the Council Plans and Policies Committee and the Community Involvement Committee.

Stephens announced in January he would run for Mayor next year, receiving an endorsement from O’Neal, who had previously announced he would not run for a third term. Stephens also received endorsements from the local police and fire associations and the Springfield Good Government Committee, a political action committee started in 2008 by the local Home Builders Association and Chamber of Commerce.

“Bob Stephens has already shown himself as a leader” says former Mayor Jim O’Neal. “He has the experience, the temperament and the time. I wish him the best and know he will continue to do a great job for the people of Springfield.”

He says one of his top priorities has been to keep the city fiscally solvent during the economic downturn.

“We’ve been able to pay down our debt. We’ve been able to put some additional money into some reserve funds. We have restored full employment to police and fire protection for citizens and public safety.” He also plans to focus on job creation.

As a life-long resident of Springfield, Stephens’ professional career includes more than thirty-five years in human resources management for Litton Industries and 3M Company. In 1998, he founded his own business, Cascade M3, as a human resource consulting organization – providing resources for smaller businesses. He has presented numerous training courses and workshops through Ozarks Technical Community College and served as an Adjunct Instructor for Drury University from 2002-2010.

Stephens is committed to giving back to the community. Being a part of City Council brings its own rewards, he explains. Stephens’ civic involvement includes service on the Springfield Art Museum Board and the City of Springfield Personnel Board. In addition, he serves as a member of Sus Derechos, a committee of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association dealing with Hispanic issues and education, and was nominated by the Missouri House of Representatives for the Missouri Hispanic Business, Trade, and Culture Commission. He has served on the boards for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Ozarks, Campfire Boys and Girls, and the Springfield Family Y. He chaired the Missouri Employers’ Committee, a public-private partnership of small employers and the Division of Workforce Development, and has been a member of the Wal-Mart Scholarship Selection Committee for high school seniors.

Stephens received his Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Southwest Missouri State University, his Master of Arts in Communications from Drury University, and a Specialist’s Degree in Technical and Professional Communications from California State University.

City Council voted to select Jeff Seifried, Zone 1 Councilman, as Mayor Pro Tem at the May 21 Council meeting. Three candidates applied for the General Seat vacated by Stephens. An interview process will follow.

Hints from the Help Desk

System Updates and McAfee Virus Scans

If your system is running slow in the morning and when you came into work you had to power up your system, the reason for the slowness is this:

When you left work the day before, the system updates ran and upon completion, it powers down your computer. All McAfee virus scans are run at night in the background so this is all completed the next working day. If your computer is powered off from the system updates running, your computer begins the McAfee virus scan as soon as it gets powered up, thus making your system run very slowly. During the work hours, this scan could take 2-4 hours making your system response time very slow.

To avoid this slow down, try to run your system updates 20 minutes prior to leaving so that you can power back up before adjourning for the day. The virus scan will then run in the evening hours and be back to normal the next working day.

Don’t forget about the free online training with Lynda.com. To find out more, contact the Help Desk at 864-1111.
service 800 City vehicles.

It is work that has drawn national and international attention, both for innovative project design and leadership in the field of public service.

Director Broyles was recognized this week, National Public Works Week, by the American Public Works Association (APWA) as one of the Top Ten Public Works Leaders in America, at a reception, held prior to City Council meeting, on Monday, May 21. APWA annually recognizes ten of the most outstanding public works professionals from across the U.S. and Canada for their career-long dedication and service, professionalism, and expertise in public works infrastructure. He will be recognized again at the APWA 2012 International Public Works Congress & Exposition in Anaheim, California August 26-29, 2012.

Broyles has served the people of the state of Missouri in local, regional and statewide roles for over 40 years. He began serving a 30-year career in the Missouri Department of Transportation, where he directed all the operations and maintenance staff for the state as the Director of Operations. Retiring 11 years ago, he resumed service to the people of Springfield as the Assistant Director of Public Works, and he replaced the retiring Director of Public Works on an interim basis two years ago. Broyles was confirmed in the position permanently last year.

Broyles oversaw the emergence of the newly created Environmental Services department, managed by Director Steve Meyer. The new department maintains more than 1,200 miles of sanitary sewers with 28,000 manholes, two waste water treatment plants processing an average of 40 million gallons of sewage each day and manages Springfield’s solid waste management and recycling programs, including disposal of household chemicals and operation of the Springfield Municipal Landfill.

The department’s ongoing investment in the City’s sewer collection and waste water treatment system recently received praise by the Missouri Attorney General’s Office as the City signed an agreement with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to make $50 million in improvements.

“Clean water comes at a price, but with years of proactive updates, planning for anticipated new federal regulations and a lot of hard work, the bill has been reduced by tens of millions,” explains Councilman John Rush.

Broyles also facilitated the reorganization of the Public Works Department, consolidating responsibilities for capital projects and maintenance into single work groups.

“In a two-year period (2010-2011) he effected a complete reorganization of one of the largest departments in the City and continued a tradition of award-winning excellence,” said President of the APWA Missouri Chapter, William L. Schwer, P.E.

Broyles also sanctioned and supported the creation of Neighborhood Traffic Committees to work with neighborhood associations and area stakeholders to solve small scale traffic problems that might not otherwise merit attention from traffic engineers. He placed engineers and neighbors into a cooperative committee, and they all worked together to go beyond the textbook in creating workable, maintainable, and effective solutions to satisfy the needs of the neighborhood.

“Public Works activities touch our citizens’ lives every day in many ways they may not even realize,” Broyles said. “The vital infrastructure, services, and programs that our employees provide 365 days a year range from where the water goes when you brush your teeth in the morning, to the sidewalks and streets you travel on.”

Steve Meyer, director of Environmental Services, said the wide range of activities, from preservation of open space and floodplain management, and protecting the air we breathe, to important environmental services and education efforts are essential to protecting and enhancing Springfield’s quality of life.

From the desk of the City Manager:

To All City Employees:

It is hard to believe it has already been a year since the horrific devastation experienced in Joplin as a result of the tornadoes that struck on May 22, 2011. I want to take this opportunity to once again thank all of you who were involved in our community’s response. This anniversary gives us a reason to pause, remember, and be thankful.

As you may remember, it was Springfield-Greene County Emergency Management, Emergency Communications, and the Springfield Fire Department that were the “tip of the spear” responders ... the first help on the scene. Then came Police, Public Works, Health, Parks, and others. Then came workforce development to help get Joplin residents back to work. Our teams on the front lines in Joplin experienced something most had never seen before and may never see again. And they all performed admirably.

PHIL BROYLES from page 1.

Director Phil Broyles thanks his wife and family in attendance after accepting his award for being a Top 10 Public Works Leader in America.

View the Joplin response PowerPoint presentation available at: www.springfieldmo.gov/images/joplinResponse.ppsx

While many of you were in Joplin working on the front lines, just as important were our team members back in Springfield filling in as needed to maintain Springfield’s service levels. Springfield’s citizens did not suffer due to our presence in Joplin, and I thank everyone who stepped up to fill in when asked. You made our response possible.

Once again, I thank you all for the character and integrity you exhibited in the heart of our neighbor’s crisis.

Greg Burris,
City Manager
MILESTONES

Service Anniversaries

25 years
Mike Brown
Financial Officer
Public Works – 06/15/87

Darren Whisnant
Police Sergeant
Police – 06/22/87

Chris Thompson
Firefighter
Fire – 06/22/87

20 years
James Rushing
Building Maintenance
Craftsworker
Public Works – 06/29/92

15 years
Phyllis Opperman
Financial Analyst
Public Works – 06/09/97

Gregory Wiley
Aircraft Services Specialist
Airport – 06/10/97

James Hall
Equipment Operator III
Environmental Services – 06/22/97

Lawrence Demster
Equipment Operator III
Environmental Services – 06/22/97

Pat Sullivan
Assistant City Attorney III
Law – 06/28/97

10 years
Denise Ruble
911 Telecommunicator
Emergency Communications – 06/03/02

Christopher Connell
Firefighter
Fire – 06/10/02

Olan Morelan
Fire Training Captain
Fire – 06/10/02

Jason Williams
Fire Equipment Operator
Fire – 06/10/02

Michael Cook
Firefighter
Fire – 06/10/02

Damon Wasson
Craftsworker
Public Works – 06/16/02

Arlie Becker
Airport Police Officer
Airport – 06/24/02

James Morehouse
Utility Worker
Airport – 06/30/02

Michael Pavia
Signal Technician
Public Works – 06/30/02

5 years
Dana Brandt
911 Telecommunicator
Emergency Communications – 06/04/07

Jackson Thompson
Zoo Keeper
Parks – 06/10/07

John Forrester
Aircraft Line Services Technician
Airport – 06/10/07

Rhizza Adams
Lab Scientist
Health – 06/11/07

Jessica Martin
Lab Scientist
Health – 06/11/07

Mavis Jackson
Licensing Representative
Finance – 06/18/07

Clinton Ryan
Maintenance Worker
Public Works – 06/22/07

Karen Stewart
Executive Secretary
Public Works – 06/25/07

Promotions
Benjamin Armstrong
Grounds Maintenance Crew Leader – Parks

Kara Daniel
Buyer – Finance

Tanner Westerfield
Firefighter – Fire

Retirements
Kenneth Carr
Senior Designer
Public Works – 58 years

James Chandler
Senior Engineering Technician
Public Works – 59 years

Alan Lawson
Fire Captain
Fire – 25 years

Craig Noblit
Maintenance Supervisor
Public Works – 59 years

Kevin Routh
Police Major
Police – 26 years

Jason Ward
Police Officer (Academy)
Police – 1 year

Welcome
Wendy Graves
Keith Jordan
Workforce Development Specialists – Workforce Development

Bradley Brookshire
Cody Stice
Street & Sewer
Construction Inspectors – Public Works

Clifford Ketchum
Traffic Data Collector – Public Works

Scott Hartford
Police Officer – Police

Michael Burger
Jeffrey Butler
William Gregory
Michael Ruas
Kody Rein
Eric Shroyer
Michael Ussery
Firefighters – Fire

Stacia Portis
Accounting Services Representative – Parks

Kari Arington
William Evans
Ashley Rose
Amanda Smith
Police Services Representatives – Police

Jessica Whittington
Purchasing Assistant – Finance

Lauren Henderson
Executive Secretary – Finance

James Stewart
Service Technician – Public Works

The City MARKETPLACE

WANTED

Need extra cash? I am looking to purchase a gently used banjo and violin. Also would like to purchase used sound equipment for small band such as miles, speakers, sound board & etc. Call Kathy 619-6511, or leave a message 881-8591

FOR SALE


Double wide mobile home on 1 acre. 1.5 miles north of Kansas Expressway and I-44. 3 Bedrooms, 2 baths, fireplace, jetted tub in master bath. Stove, dishwasher and refrigerator are included. Central heat and air. $65,000. Call Don at 839-6182. Thank you!

SERVICES

iPhone won’t work? Call me at Springfield iPhone Repair where we fix Apple small devices with original parts and fast service with a warranty. If you call me directly, I can give you a $5 discount off of any hardware repair, screens, batteries, backs, mics and speakers, cameras, liquid damage, and more! Most repairs completed within the hour (except for some iPod Touch and iPad repairs). Call or text me (Ronnie) at 697-8949 directly or ask for me on the main line 268-6911.

Do you love candles? Check out www.417cents.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 838-8710 for more details.

Everyone deserves legal protection. With Legal Shield, everyone can access it. No matter how traumatic. No matter how trivial. Whatever your situation is, Legal Shield is here to help. From real estate to divorce advice, identity theft and beyond your rights are covered. Welcome to peace of mind. Visit www.legalshield.com for more information. For City of Springfield employees it is only $15.95/mo. Contact John for more information or to sign up. 861-0323

I find the odor of the garbage to be objectionable.

See City Attorney Dan Wichmer in his television debut!

Visit cityview.springfieldmo.gov/media/trash-talk

The SCENIC Route
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Initials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Erin Dowdy</td>
<td>POL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kris Heinrichs</td>
<td>PDV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lauren McLarry</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Julie Williams</td>
<td>FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Marc Becker</td>
<td>FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cheryl Blevins</td>
<td>HL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rick Bookout</td>
<td>AIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>John Brewer</td>
<td>POL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jeremy Campbell</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lindsay Coats</td>
<td>HL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Thomas Cordova</td>
<td>PW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Larry Decker</td>
<td>PW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Larry Haugness</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Matthew Lyon</td>
<td>FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Daniel Rowles</td>
<td>POL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Heather Anderson</td>
<td>POL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Scott Leven</td>
<td>MC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Colette Long</td>
<td>MC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nicole Burke</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Linda Charles</td>
<td>HL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Virgil Dake</td>
<td>PW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Betty Dowdy</td>
<td>PW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Melissa Dudley</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Everett Kelley</td>
<td>PW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Randy Bookout</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Tammy Beeman</td>
<td>WD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Deb Gillenwaters</td>
<td>HL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Daniel Grant</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Susan Matney</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Andrew Meyer</td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Kathryn Steinhoff</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Melanie Williams</td>
<td>HR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Deena Woolsey</td>
<td>BDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>David Burrell</td>
<td>ES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Joshua Henson</td>
<td>FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Jennifer Penning</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Kevin Pierce</td>
<td>BDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Jody Smith</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Brenda Toler</td>
<td>CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>James Sandbothe</td>
<td>FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Anne-Mary McGrath</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Philip Noah</td>
<td>FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Richard Tettenhorst</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Kenneth Barstead</td>
<td>PW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Kristi Bolli</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Tim Gunn</td>
<td>POL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Sherryl Lewellen</td>
<td>HL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Zackery Russell</td>
<td>FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Sarah Buhr</td>
<td>ART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Mason Rohr</td>
<td>PRK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>John Vangorkom</td>
<td>FR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

1. Erin Dowdy
2. Kris Heinrichs
3. Lauren McLarry
4. Julie Williams
5. Marc Becker
6. Cheryl Blevins
7. Rick Bookout
8. John Brewer
9. Jeremy Campbell
10. Lindsay Coats
11. Thomas Cordova
12. Larry Decker
13. Larry Haugness
14. Matthew Lyon
15. Daniel Rowles
16. Heather Anderson
17. Scott Leven
18. Colette Long
19. Nicole Burke
20. Linda Charles
21. Virgil Dake
22. Betty Dowdy
23. Melissa Dudley
24. Everett Kelley
25. Randy Bookout
26. Tammy Beeman
27. Deb Gillenwaters
28. Daniel Grant
29. Susan Matney
30. Andrew Meyer
31. Kathryn Steinhoff
32. Melanie Williams
33. Deena Woolsey
34. David Burrell
35. Joshua Henson
36. Jennifer Penning
37. Kevin Pierce
38. Jody Smith
39. Brenda Toler
40. James Sandbothe
41. Anne-Mary McGrath
42. Philip Noah
43. Richard Tettenhorst
44. Kenneth Barstead
45. Kristi Bolli
46. Tim Gunn
47. Sherryl Lewellen
48. Zackery Russell
49. Sarah Buhr
50. Mason Rohr
51. John Vangorkom

**Abbreviations**
- 911: Emergency Comm.
- AIR: Airport
- ART: Art Museum
- BDS: Building Dev.
- CC: City Clerk
- CM: City Manager
- DPI: 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
- PDV: Planning & Dev.
- POL: Police
- PW: Public Works
- WD: Workforce Dev.
Extending the Welcome Mat

A great way to build workplace relationships is to extend exceptional customer service to our co-workers – especially the new ones!

A new co-worker is always going to bring a change in dynamics to the work group, but as a professional organization, it’s important that we ensure all new co-workers are made to feel at home – even though it will take everyone a while to adjust. Long-term employees tend to get comfortable in a routine and may inadvertently leave the new employee to feel isolated.

A few tips to ensure everyone gets the Welcome Mat treatment include:

1. Take a little time to get to know the new person – it helps to initiate conversation when casual and informal introductions can be made.

2. Beyond the supervisor taking steps to provide helpful information, co-workers can invite the new employee to lunch and give ideas for places to eat nearby.

3. The initial tour is helpful, but navigating the work environment can still be tricky – offer to fill in the knowledge gaps anytime they have a question. (Avoiding gossip at all costs!)

4. Be patient! New employees have lots of questions – and it’s an opportunity to provide good customer service to educate them about our processes when answering general questions.

5. Don’t think the supervisor is doing it all when it comes to new employee orientation. Employees typically don’t decide to leave a job because of the work – it’s usually the work environment. Take an opportunity to do a self/work area check and ensure your team is doing everything reasonable to make the new member feel good about joining our organization.

Remember, as in the past, and perhaps many more times in the future, each of us may be the “newbie” somewhere again – so let’s do our individual part in ensuring the “treat others as you would have them treat you” message extends to our City of Springfield New Employee Welcome Mat. And let’s make it a fun place to work while we’re at it!

---

Watercolor U.S.A. opens at Springfield Art Museum


A reception hosted by the Southwest Missouri Museum Associates will be held June 8, 2012 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. The public is invited.

The annual exhibition attracts entries from across the United States. The competition this year received 666 entries by 571 artists from 42 states.

Artists from Missouri that received awards include Kent Addison from Wildwood and Karla Breeding Trammell from Springfield.

---

Changes to health insurance premiums

The City of Springfield Health Plan has a mechanism for periodic premium rate increases that allows the plan to slowly build reserve balances to a satisfactory level. This provision was implemented several years ago due to the fact that health care inflation is predicted to continue during the foreseeable future and contributions to the plan must keep pace with inflation. In addition, these planned increases provide a mechanism by which the Plan can gradually over time reach the recommended level of six months of reserve funding.

The philosophy of implementing planned, periodic premium increases allows employees, retirees and the City to budget accordingly and on a more consistent basis. In addition, it allows the health plan to incrementally build the reserve fund balance. Premium rate increases impact the employee premium rate that is 100% City paid, as well as dependent coverage and COBRA rates.

The amendment approved by City Council on May 15, 2006, requires the City Manager to administratively increase the monthly July coverage rate up to 3% each year. This authority continues until the fund balance reserve reaches a 6-month average of Plan claims.

At the end of March 2011, the fund balance was $4,201,557 or equivalent to 4.3 months of total expenses. As of March 31, 2012, the Health Plan fund balance was $5,019,183, which is equivalent to 5.8 months of total expenses. Even though the current balance shows significant progress toward the 6 month reserve level and is quite close to reaching this goal, it does not meet the level required to stop the 5% increase. Therefore, the following rates will be effective for premium payments for July 2012 coverage:

- **Employee coverage**: Change from $452 to $466 per month (100% City paid)
- **Family Coverage**: Change from $435 to $449 per month (deduction of $224.50 from first and second checks of each month)

Employees who have dependent health insurance coverage will see a deduction change on the June 2012 paychecks, which pay for July 2012 coverage.

Comments or questions may be directed to any of the following members of the Health Insurance Committee:

- Pat Carey, Police
- Jerry Mitchell, Parks
- Kevin Gipson, Health
- Bob Monier, Fire
- Kenny Hufford, Public Works
- Bob Schaefer, Retiree
- Joe Jones, Fire
- Chris Straw, Building
- Development Services
- Randall Latch, Retiree
- Peggy Thompson, Human Resources
- Sheila Maier, Chair, Human Resources
- Kathryn Towns-Jeter, Health/Wellness Committee
- Mary Mannix Decker, Finance
- Dan Wichmer, Law
- Andrew McPherson, Police
- Chris Miller, Airport
City of Springfield night at the Plaid Door

Thursday, June 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. is City of Springfield night at The Plaid Door Resale Boutique. All employees, retirees, and immediate family members are allowed to shop at this designated time with access to the entire store during this time period.

The Plaid Door is conveniently located one block east of Glenstone at 1920 East Sunshine (417) 890-1144.

Springfield-Greene County receives national accreditation

The Office of Emergency Management has received notification that Springfield-Greene County’s emergency management program has been certified as fully compliant with the standards of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) by the National EMAP commission.

This program is a voluntary standard-based assessment and peer review accreditation process for state and local emergency management programs. While there are numerous EMAP accredited programs in the nation, most of these are state-level. With this recognition, Springfield-Greene County becomes one of the first 13 local-level jurisdictions in the nation to meet EMAP accreditation standards. The Springfield-Greene County program was found fully compliant on its first EMAP review, with no conditions placed upon its accreditation. Such an accomplishment was noted to be rare.

In Brief

Denim Day Success for Health Department

A total of 68 pairs of denim were collected during April to promote Denim Day! A big thank you to those who donated denim, wore the pin, or distributed the book marks. The denim was hung from the roof of the Harold K. Bengsch Building to increase awareness of rape.

Mock interviews provide OTC students valuable experience

The OTC Career Employment Services Department recently coordinated employer mock interviews for Occupational Seminar Students. Area employers, including the City of Springfield, participated in one or more of the six sessions that benefited more than 200 Ozarks Technical Community College students.

Several of the participating students were encouraged to apply at these companies and one student has already been hired, though the company did not have a current opening. This kind of validation of the students’ worth is invaluable.

In addition, regardless of employer interest in them as future employees, all of the students commented positively on the value of getting feedback from professionals whose candor and expertise will undoubtedly benefit them as they enter the workforce.

From the SCENE archives

10 Years Ago - June 2002
Crime Free Multi-Housing program

The Springfield Police Department hosted a three-day seminar on the Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH) Program. The CFMH program was presented to 53 apartment landlords/property managers responsible for more than 3,500 rental houses or units in order to reduce drug and criminal activity in rental housing.

20 Years Ago - June 1992
Routine physicals offered as a new benefit

Effective January 1, 1992, the City of Springfield health care plan began a new benefit for City employees and retired City employees, routine physical exams. The health care plan will pay either 75% or $150, whichever is the lesser amount, on charges pertaining to routine physical exams. The balance of those charges will then be applied to the deductible of $250. So far, 29 health care plan participants have taken advantage of this benefit.

Do You Know…?

Charles Parrott
Northwest Treatment Plant Supervisor
Environmental Services
Charles has worked for the city for 37 years.

What has been your greatest achievement?
Making sure the water was the cleanest possible, at the lowest cost to the people of Springfield, and done safely (with no time lost accidents in over 10 years). Well I guess wife, kids, and grand kids are my best non-work related achievements.

Who were your childhood heroes?
My dad and the other guys that fought and died so I could be a kid & not have to think about the kids of war (I liked playing army).

If they made a movie about your life, who would play you? Clint Eastwood

Who do you admire? My wife, she puts up with me every day.

Tonya Toner
Forensic Evidence Technician
Springfield Police Department
Tonya has been with the City for 12 years.

What was your first job?
Working summers at a charcoal manufacturing plant to earn college tuition – it was a difficult, dirty & dangerous job, but the pay was good.

Where would you like to spend tomorrow?
Hiking & taking photos in Rocky Mountain National Park.

What is your favorite cartoon?
The original Underdog.

What is your favorite thing to make in the kitchen?
Homemade bread (only by hand - it’s a great stress reliever)
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an agency of the Department of Defense, has honored Sergeant Andrew Barksdale, Patrol Sergeant, Springfield Police Department, with a Patriot Award in recognition of extraordinary support of employees and family members of those that serve in the National Guard and Reserve. Andrew Barksdale was nominated for being highly supportive of the military Reserve Component members and their families by officer Dawn Davis. Davis is a Sergeant with the 1107th TASMG in Springfield. Sergeant Barksdale will be recognized for the support, respect, and encouragement he demonstrated to his employees, and especially those in the military. A “Patriot Award” ceremony was held May 23 at SPD Headquarters.

To: Police Chief Paul Williams
Thanks to all that supported Battle of the Badges this year. For those that don’t know, we defeated the GCSO 85-53. More importantly, both agencies were able to raise over $12,700 for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Ozarks. This is a very worthwhile agency that will put that money to good use. Thanks again for your continued support of your brothers in blue.

David Meyer

To: Springfield-Greene County Health Department

Donations received during Denim Day

Thank you so much for thinking of us! We couldn’t do what we do without people like all of you.

Residents and Staff of Harmony House

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

Officer Daniel Rankey showed up at my accident scene and was very professional and courteous. Being that I was from out of town and the car I was driving was not drivable he helped in working with the rental car agency to get a replacement car to me as they were not really seeming to help. He also transported me to my hotel as I obviously had no way to get there on my own.

I was just very impressed with the way he handled the situation and helped me out. It was truly appreciated! He is a professional in every sense of the word. Thanks officer Rankey.

Robert Bishop

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

Regarding Charity Football game against Joplin

Another close one but we pulled it out....won 8-7. Joplin tried a last second field goal against the wind that was no good. More importantly no new injuries.

There was a touching moment at the end of the game and every player on our team lined-up and hugged Mrs. Nielson and shook Mr. Nielson’s hand thanking him and giving our respect for the loss of their son. Mrs. Nielson was in tears and JPD Chief Roberts later commented in his remarks while addressing those in attendance at the FOP banquet that the Springfield Police Department and the Guns Football Team are a “class act” and thanked us for participating in the event. He later contacted me at the banquet and commented on how moved the Nielsons were at the gesture of each player paying their respects to them. It was definitely one of those “feel good” moments.

Scott Steck

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated the way Officer B. Steen handled the situation with a superior level of professionalism and responsiveness. Being in a wreck is extremely stressful and it is very comforting to know we have such amazing Officers who provide excellent customer service within the Springfield Police Department.

Lisa Robertson
Springfield

To: City of Springfield Employees

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated in Bike to Work Week! We not only met, but surpassed our City goals! Our goal was to have at least 50 employees participate with 150 alternative transportation routes! inBalance is proud to announce that we had 53 participants with 258 alternative transportation routes! Way to go everyone!

As promised, one lucky participant’s name was drawn for a 4-hour block of Paid Leave! And the winner is... Becky Hollis from the Police Department! Becky biked 6.5 miles for 4 days! Congratulations to Becky and everyone who participated!

The inBalance Team