Several City of Springfield departments worked together to help find and then honor the memory of Hailey Owens, a little girl taken far too soon.

First, Springfield-Greene County Emergency 911 Communications staff dispatched police to the scene of the abduction within 28 seconds of processing the initial 911 call. The abduction occurred just before 5 p.m., Feb. 18. SPD had the suspect in custody by 8:30 p.m. and worked through the night to gather evidence at the suspect’s home and a second location.

The community rallied around Hailey Owens’ family, planning a candlelight vigil in her honor on Commercial Street for Saturday, Feb. 22.

Recognizing that the event could draw as many as 10,000, Public Information Officer Cora Scott brought together event coordinator Joe Bridges with City staff, the Urban Districts Alliance, the Commercial Club, Mercy, CoxHealth, the Assemblies of God and Convoy of Hope to ensure the event went smoothly.

Public Works staff quickly engineered a solution to make the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge appear illuminated in purple, which was Hailey’s favorite color.

Mayor Bob Stephens offered these words of support and encouragement to the community following the tragedy:

“So, as we move from considering ourselves living in a large small town to living in a small city, we will have to change some of our assumptions. Springfield is not Mayberry.”

- Mayor Bob Stephens

Family Fun Day at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park April 5

Love the farm? Come to family fun day 9:30 a.m.-noon April 5. Enjoy some of your favorite activities free of charge, like the cow train, bounce house, fishing and an inflatable slide. You’ll also learn about gardening opportunities through the Urban Garden Program.

Community comes together for Hailey

SPARC 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament March 22

Third-graders through eighth-graders are invited to participate in the SPARC 3-on-3 basketball tournament March 22 at Parkview High School. Cost is $45 per team and registration is due by March 14. Proceeds benefit the Park Board Scholarship Fund.

Benchmark City
Read about the City’s surveying history.

Do You Know?
Get to know Bob Jones in Planning.

Golden Goose
See who received the award last month.

SPRINGFIELD CITY EMPLOYEE NEWS EXTRA
March 2014
Changes to City health plan effective March 1

The City’s employee and non-Medicare health plans lost “grandfathered” status effective March 1. Grandfathered status allowed the City to preserve certain basic health coverage that was in effect when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was enacted in 2010.

Being grandfathered meant the City’s health plans did not have to include certain consumer protections of the ACA that applied to other plans such as the requirement for the provision of preventative health services without any cost-sharing.

Although the City retained grandfathered status until March 1, it still proactively chose to incorporate many of the consumer protections of the ACA, including the preventative health services without cost-sharing as mentioned above.

In order to comply with the ACA, at the time the City lost grandfathered status, several changes to the health plans were required which includes the following:

- Access to emergency care without a differentiation of in-network or out-of-network for “emergent” services.
- Changes to the appeal process, including an additional review option beyond the City’s health plan appeals subcommittee.
- Covered charges now include certain approved clinical trials.

While these changes may not affect your day-to-day use of the City’s health plans, they do provide you with additional options and protections. If you would like to view either of the City’s health plans in their entirety, the plan documents can be accessed electronically on CityShare (Employee Plan) or via the Internet at springfieldmo.gov/retirees/(non-Medicare Plan) or you may request a hard copy from the Human Resources department.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Krystal Ray at 417-864-1608.

Hints from the Help Desk

How to Disable Outlook 2007 Desktop E-mail Notifications

Outlook 2007 enables the “New Mail Desktop Alert” feature by default but if you receive hundreds of e-mails a day this can be quite distracting. You can easily disable this feature by completing the following steps:

2. Left-click to select Tools.
3. Left-click to select Options.
4. Left-click to select the E-mail Options button.
5. Left-click to select the Advanced E-mail Options button.
6. Left-click to uncheck the box next to Display a New Mail Desktop Alert.
7. Left-click on the OK button to apply the change.
8. Left-click on the OK button to close the E-mail Options window.
9. Left-click on the OK button to close the Options window.

SCENE Deadline
March 20, 2014

Please direct your submissions to the Department of Public Information. Submissions and ads via e-mail are preferred: thescene@springfieldmo.gov
was created at the place where Hailey was kidnapped with people leaving notes and mementoes. A grassroots effort to organize a candlelight vigil on Commercial Street began and grew into a huge event.

And a worldwide movement to turn porch lights on for Hailey rapidly circled around the globe through social media. I know my daughters in Kansas and Colorado had their porch lights on, as did my sister who lives in Europe – all mourning for Hailey Owens, her family, and for what their hometown was going through.

“The candlelight vigil truly provided an opportunity for our community to experience a need for catharsis. Because of how rapidly the events unfolded, our community really did not have the opportunity to move through the stages of grief. Many of us have been stuck at the second level of anger, and this march in honor of Hailey Owens gave us the chance to dissipate that anger and grief and begin thinking about how to move forward. With upwards of 10,000 people walking and lighting candles to show support for Hailey’s family, this speaks volumes about the kind of city we are. Springfield is a community of 160,000 people and, if 99 ½ percent of us are good people – and I sincerely believe we are – that still leaves 800 bad people out there. Sadly, Hailey Owens encountered one of those. So, as we move from considering ourselves living in a large small town to living in a small city, we will have to change some of our assumptions. Springfield is not Mayberry.

“I want to thank Police Chief Paul Williams and his entire department for the quick reaction time and the professional investigation of this crime. Within three and a half hours of the 911 call, a suspect was in custody. That was not, unfortunately, in time for Hailey Owens.

“The witnesses who obtained the license numbers and the color and make of the vehicle were a tremendous asset to the investigation. They have set the bar for personal involvement at a new level and we very much thank them.

“A huge thank you must be extended from the community to the folks on C-Street who hosted the candlelight vigil and kept it reverent and civil. C-Street today is not the same as the Commercial Street of 15-20 years ago and a lot of our own local people learned that Saturday evening.

“And I also want to say something that you don’t often hear from people in the political realm. I want to sincerely thank our local reporters and editors for the professional and respectful way in which they have covered this very difficult story.

Positive, positive, positive stuff just happened in Springfield over the past 24 hours, so don’t let anyone take that pat on the back away from you all and don’t listen to the woulda, coulda, shoulda because it won’t do any good at this point. No one could have worked any faster to find this guy and no private citizen could have managed to chase him down at the onset. My heart goes out to all of you and Hailey’s family.

Sue Mills

To: 911 Emergency Communications Telecommunicators

The following post was placed on Facebook after the Hailey Owens tragedy.

They are seldom foremost in the thoughts of most – but the dispatchers and call takers I work with deeply personalize tragedies involving children. 911 workers develop tough outer shells of protection early on in the job, but calls like the one involving little Hailey are particularly difficult, even for the most seasoned among them. It was pretty quiet in our Ops room today as our folks wrestled with the aftermath of this horrific event. I just want to take a quick moment to personally salute all the amazing people on the front line at Springfield-Greene County 911. I sit in an office and am moved, daily, by the many extraordinary things that I hear them do that no one ever hears or sees. I am honored by their efforts. If you live in Greene County, be assured that you are well served by their 24/7/365 vigilance, compassion and relentless determination to get help where it is needed every time their phones ring.

Kris Inman
Administrative Services Manager
MILESTONES

30 years
Michael Wester
Plant Operator III
Environmental Services – 3/19/1984

20 years
Dennis Alday
Equipment Operator II
Tina Saunders
911 Telecommunicator
Nancy Lucas
Custodial Team Leader
Gary Hilton
Senior Inspector

15 years
Kevin Stephens
Traffic Controls Worker II
Public Works – 3/22/1999

FOR SALE


195/60R15 Falken Ziex ZE-512 tire, new from 2007, never mounted $40; used Aiwa car CD player $20; Offers would be considered. Christopher at 862-7716.

When was the last time you saw a Tupperware catalog? Check out my website www.facebook.com/TupperwareByLisaW for amazing deals and giveaways! Contact me at Stephaniechase18@gmail.com for a current catalog or to host a catalog or online party.

REAL ESTATE

Updated, chic walk-out basement home in Ozark. Over 1,700 sq ft with two living areas counting the unfinished basement; large master bedroom; galley kitchen; formal dining room; attached garage; good schools all on bus route (elementary within walking distance). Professionally landscaped front yard with brick pathway. The backyard with a 10 by 20 concrete covered patio and landscaped brick entertainment patio area. Fenced dog pen. New water heater and ac/heater motor; attic fan. 1 yr. old stove with matching microwave, large refrigerator, & dishwasher. Laundry room downstairs, with electric or gas hookup for dryer.

SERVICES

Stephanie Chase Cleaning Service
“Professional House Cleaning”
Licensed and Insured
299-9034 | Stephaniechase18@gmail.com
References upon request
315x727 5

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Dennis Budd  MC
Libby Harris  POL
Richard Mansel  MC
Jon Mooney  PW
David Pennington  POL
Matthew Shackelford  PDV
Lyle Smith  ES
Eric Werbitzky  PDV

2 Brendan Griesemer  IS
Derrick Hall  FR
Tyler Shipley  PW
Richard Tracy  WD

3 Jacquylynn Adams  PDV
Stephen Miller  IS
Karen Stewart  FR
Emily Tull  FR

4 Kendra Banks  FR
Allison Carson  FR
Daniel Jones  PRK
Alana Owen  FR
Cade Price  FR
Travis Scudder  WD

5 Andrew Bath  WD
Jason Copley  FR
Dakota Messenger  FR
Jennie Smith  FR
James Thomas  FR
Lake Tilley  FR
Diana Young  FR

6 Frank Long  FR
Thomas Shaw  FR
Helen Wilson  FR

7 Jeffery Eagleburger  FR
Barbara Lucks  FR
Jose Martinez  FR
Brian Powers  FR
Kevin Swearengin  FR
Chris Thompson  FR

8 Colton Barber  PDV
Moriah Cox  FR
Cathie Lehman  FR
Kari Reynolds  FR
Jacob Scruggs  FR
Joshua Steele  FR

9 Karen Chandler  FR
John Dunlap  FR
Brook Frazier  FR
Mavis Jackson  FR
Michael Karnes  FR

10 Randy Greer  FR
Janet Hicks  FR
James Miranda  FR
David Park  FR
John Swanson  FR

11 Philip Yarnell  FR
Brandon Bowling  FR
Jeramie Cooper  FR
Nicole Hays  FR
Danny Perches  FR
Lexus Weekley  FR
Keisha Woodside  FR

12 Mark Bennett  PRK
David Minnehan  PRK
Angel Obert  PRK
Janelle Turner  PRK

13 Howard Curtis  PRK
Annelise Dixon  PRK
Amanda Dodge  PRK
Steven King  PRK
Olan Morelan  PRK
Bryan Nelson  PRK

14 Heith Aldridge  PRK
James Andela  PRK
Tanner Counts  PRK
Amber Howard  PRK
Angela Merritt  PRK
Stuart Rutledge  PRK
Spencer Thompson  PRK

15 Sherlyn Hume  PRK
Roger McCormack  PRK
Darin Miller  PRK

16 Elizabeth Langley  PRK
Rick Miller  PRK
Justin Ray  PRK

17 Nathan Billings  PRK
Bryan DiSylvestre  PRK
Clay Farrell  PRK
Joel Grieshaber  PRK
Lauren Henderson  PRK
Nicholas Masterson  PRK
Steven McMurray  PRK
Sue Schofield  PRK
Michael Walker  PRK
Kyle Williams  PRK

18 Dorrell Duquette  PRK
Ralph Rognstad  PRK
Laura Gutierrez Barajas  PRK
Brian Weiler  PRK

19 Meredith Hazeldrig  PRK
Joshua Hyde  PRK
Brian Lamkin  PRK
Ashley Little  PRK
Ronald Moskalski  PRK
Coy Spurlock  PRK
Lee Walker  PRK
Diana Wilkeson  PRK

20 Dean Bogart  PRK
Michael Foster  PRK

21 Colten Harris  PRK
Emily Hegg  PRK
Sarah Kerner  PRK
Colton Kunding  PRK
Hannah Larino  PRK
Duke McDonald  PRK
Carson McKemurry  PRK
Collin Quigley  PRK
Jonn Strahl  PRK

22 Sandra Fanning  PRK
Kristen Milam  PRK
Julie Randolph  PRK
Bruce Scheiderer  PRK
Pat Sullivan  PRK

23 David Hall  PRK
Devin Pool  PRK
Earl Wallace  PRK

24 Belinda Gonzalez  PRK
Robert Johnson  PRK
Dallas Leeper  PRK
Benjamin Norman  PRK

25 Amanda Ashworth  PRK
Dennis Bright  PRK
Kevin Cantrell  PRK
Burton Guion  PRK
Ferrell Moore  PRK
Shawn Schroeder  PRK

26 Vicki Dekker  PRK
Krystian Doucette  PRK
Ethan Harmon  PRK
David Raine  PRK
David Shanoltzler  PRK
Brian Webb  PRK

27 Dakota Bennett  PRK
Kristy Bork  PRK
Tri Nguyen  PW
Jordan Tate  PW
Caleb Taylor  PW
Stacey Watson  PW

28 Amanda Becker  PRK
Clinton Coyan  PRK

29 Stephen Bohmer  PRK
Emily Browning  PRK
Jeff Comer  PRK
Chad Eutsler  PRK
Bobby Hoaglin  PRK
Bradley Jones  PRK
Jason McCormick  PRK
Brad O’Neal  PRK
Barry Rowell  PRK
John West  PRK

30 Ida Buske  PRK
Cale Murphy  PRK
Stephen Osborn  PRK

31 Matthew Daily  PRK
David Essary  PRK

Welcome to the City

Bottom Row: Jessica Torres, Health; Rachel Johnson, Art Museum; Heather Hoggard, E.S.; Christina Allison, Municipal Court; Clinton Burns, E.S.
2nd Row: L-R: Ben Hunt, Health; Amanda Hodge, PD; Michelle Leterman, WFD; Kara Remington, Airport. 3rd Row: L-R: Andrea Swearengen, HR; Heather Swearengen, IS.; Della Miller, Health. Back Row: Chastity Willers, Health; Leslie Forrester, Parks; Morgan McDonald, Health; Jacki Gilstrap, WFD
Springfield a benchmark city in more ways than one

By Jack Dill, PLS
Operations Supervisor, Survey Section
Public Works

Many of our unique accomplishments are shown in the “No Other City” brochure published and distributed by the City of Springfield. Obviously, every accomplishment can’t be included but there are other notable achievements.

One example is the City of Springfield’s benchmark system. From the moment the City began building streets and sanitary sewer systems, way back in the 1800s, it also needed a network of consistent elevation monuments. A system of consistent elevations or heights is called a vertical datum.

The first known datum used by the City of Springfield was based on the top of a bolt embedded in the center of the “pie” (a circular brick structure in the center of the public square). The top of the bolt had an assumed elevation of 100 feet. Everything built in the City that had a vertical component (streets, sewers, storm drainage, and trolleys) was tied to the bolt using a surveyor’s level. The earliest record of the bolt in the records of the City Survey Section is from 1892, but it was probably in use before then.

The National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 1929) was brought to Springfield by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey in the mid-1930s. This new vertical system was generally based on sea level and the old City datum was tied into it.

However, old habits die hard and the original City Datum was used until about 1965. Some construction projects show elevations in both systems.

During the 1960s, the supervisor of Survey Operations, Don Biggers, converted all the city benchmarks to the 1929 datum but also discovered some problems. Many of the old benchmark monuments (bolts in curbs, fire hydrants, spikes in power poles, etc.) had inconsistent elevations. The leveling work had been done by many people over the years and some work had been done poorly.

Don continued to improve the system until he retired in early 1994, but problems remained. By that time a new national datum was available, the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88). We decided to start over and create a completely new system based on NAVD 88.

In 1995, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the City Survey Section entered into an agreement in which DNR would supply one surveyor, Bruce Carter, and a state of the art, bar code reading level. We would supply the survey personnel to run several large, high precision level circuits in Springfield.

When that was done, we began setting concrete monuments at about half a mile spacing throughout the City. All of our new monuments are three feet deep and one foot in diameter with an aluminum cap embedded in the center. The first 300 or 400 were dug and poured by hand. It took three years to set the monuments within the City limits.

The Survey Section did most of this work during lulls in other surveying or when a few people could be spared from their survey crews. In 1998 we began doing the leveling work to tie the new benchmarks to the high precision level circuits. It took another two years to finish running those level loops and by 2000 we informally published our results and distributed it to surveyors, engineers, and architects throughout the area.

Almost immediately, we were tasked with extending the system two or three miles outside the City limits, into the Urban Service area.

From 2000 to 2004 we continued to set concrete monuments outside the city limits and had elevations established by the Spring of 2005. We formally published the first edition of our benchmark book that year. We reset a number of destroyed benchmarks and published a second edition in 2007. It was during this period (2000 to 2004) the City began to fully implement an internal computer network and use the Internet to keep citizens informed.

Also, the City’s GIS was beginning to become a staple for information distribution, planning, and analysis. The GIS is also the perfect platform for disseminating infrastructure data and information to the development and engineering community in Springfield.

We began working with the City GIS department with the goal of having all our data in an interactive map on the City’s Web site. By 2005, we had accomplished this together and we remain the only city in Missouri with such a system.

In 2011, we did an inventory of our benchmarks and discovered 55 had been destroyed by construction activities and utility trenching.

We enlisted the help of the Street Department to drill the holes and pour the concrete for all of those monuments.

That same year the Survey Section purchased a Javad Triumph1 network receiver and obtained a position on all the monuments using the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) virtual reference network. One of our criteria for establishing a benchmark in a particular place was having an open view of the sky. All the way back in 1995, we knew that someday we’d want to use GPS to establish accurate locations on the monuments. It just wasn’t practical until we could use a network receiver.

In 2013, we scanned all our field book sketches with the reference ties as PDFs, added those to the database, and our GIS partners linked them to the map symbols to make the descriptions more meaningful.

Some of those sketches are ugly; they were never intended to be on public display. One of the advantages of digital data and GIS is that we can make a new sketch to replace the old one and put it on the Web anytime. Monuments set by other agencies (NGS, DNR, USGS, etc.) have data sheets from other sources, but eventually we will make our own new reference ties for them. On Jan. 28, the newest version of our system went live on the City Web site.

Mike Fonner, GIS Manager, and Tom Dyer, GIS Analyst, placed the benchmark map on ArcGIS Online, which makes it available to anyone with an Apple or Android device (a smart phone) utilizing a free ESRI app. If you go to the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and do a search for ESRI you will find a free app called “ArcGIS.”

Once you install it, you can do a map search for “Springfield Elevation” and find the benchmark map. It’s a great map of the city even if you don’t need benchmarks and, with GPS turned on, shows you where you are.

As a land surveyor, I dwell on the past a lot. At times like this, we get have a positive impact on the future. Below is a link to our vision of the future of data management and delivery.

 maps.springfieldmo.gov/gisviewer12/

Click “Table of Contents, then click “Land Base,” then click “Land Base,” then click the gray box beside “Benchmarks” to display the current version of our database of benchmarks.
inBalance: Health Risk Assessments to be held in May and June

It’s Health Risk Assessment time again, and this year, inBalance has some great new benefits to offer. Assessments will take place in May and June, but get a kick-start on your HRA knowledge by attending your department’s scheduled HRA presentation in March. Learn more about the new online registration process along with other great opportunities new to you this year. Stay tuned for a presentation coming to your department soon!

Police promotions celebrated with Feb. 19 ceremony

The Springfield Police Department held a promotion ceremony Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the Special Response Team Building, 216 W. Central to promote 11 sworn officers.

Sergeants Eric Reece, Todd Revell, Stacey Parton, Culley Wilson and Scott Kamykowski were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Corporals Flint Roufs, Jon Shuck, Tonya Price, Ronnie Long, David Stone, and Officer Casey Wilkerson, were promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

City exceeds first Route 66 fund-raising goal

Thanks to a donation of $1,000 from Councilman Craig Fishel, the City of Springfield not only reached its first fund-raising goal for the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park, it exceeded it by $126. The $15,126 raised through local crowd-funding company CrowdIt.com (crowdit.com/route66gf/) will cover construction costs for a re-creation of the iconic Red’s Giant Hamburg sign, a major landmark along the Historic Route 66 Highway. Ground will be broken in April for the initial development of the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park.

Fire Department honors personnel and citizens at annual awards ceremony

The Springfield Fire Department was proud to honor many of its own, along with several citizens, during its annual awards ceremony Feb. 11. Members from nine crews and 11 civilians were honored with Medical Life Save Awards. Two additional civilians were honored with Fire Life Save Awards. Geoffrey Hammer was named as Firefighter of the Year and Olan Morelan as Fire Officer of the Year.

From the SCENE archives

10 years ago – February 2004

Vaccinations Enter Phase II – Second Responders Prepare

Early last year, the Bush administration’s smallpox vaccination plan was launched nationwide to serve in preparing and responding to the threat of bio-terrorism. In the spring of 2003, Phase I focused on recruiting hospital and health-care professionals who could provide an initial response to a case of smallpox. The goal of Phase II is not to actively recruit participants, but to offer smallpox vaccine to responders who deal with the public health risks on a daily basis. The vaccination is actually a live “vaccinia” virus, not the smallpox (variola) virus. The vaccine will provide immunity for at least five years.

20 years ago – February 1994

Why the Emphasis on Economic Development?

The City Council set priorities in the City’s Long Range Strategic Planning Process dealing with Economic Development that includes encouraging better jobs. This is consistent with a recent community needs assessment in which a sample of Springfield residents noted health care and better paying jobs as their two biggest concerns. Skilled manufacturing jobs certainly are in this category. The Chamber of Commerce identified the need for a shell/spec manufacturing building as its top priority and CU identified the need to increase its load capacities to generate revenue instead of increasing rates. The perfect match for each of these needs is an Industrial Park focused on attracting manufacturing business. A unanimous decision was made to purchase land along I-44 in order to focus on manufacturing development.

Do You Know...?

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

Bob Jones

Commodity Development Loan Officer, Planning & Development

Bob Jones has worked for the City for 4 1/2 years.

Who had the greatest influence on you as a child? My dad and mom. They taught my brother and me to help around the house. And they supported us in school activities.

What’s one word that would describe you? Friendly.

What’s the one thing people don’t know about you? My age. And they still don’t know.

What do you like most about your job? My co-workers all care about doing things well. And the positive outlook for accomplishing the right things through what we do at the City.

What was your first job? Mowing lawns for $2 per week.

What would you say to someone who is down? God can pick you up if you will let Him.

The Springfield News-Leader’s Amos Bridges gained the title of “Watchdog Reporter” charged with digging up juicy public sector stories.
**Summer junior golf membership available for $99**

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board is offering unlimited weekday golf this summer to Junior golfers ages 17 and younger for $99.

Junior Golf Summer Membership allows unlimited play Monday-Friday, after 12 p.m., at Horton Smith and Bill & Payne Stewart Golf Courses, as well as unlimited Monday play at Rivercut Golf Course after noon. Membership is valid May 15-Aug. 15.

Junior golfers must attend an orientation clinic to gain membership. The clinic costs $35 and is offered at Rivercut Golf Course:

- 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 26.
- 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 3.
- 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 10.

Enrollment in any 2014 Rick Grayson Day Camp may substitute as an orientation clinic. Additional dates may be added based on demand.

Members check in by name and no fee will be charged for that round. Membership does not include range balls, riding carts, or pull carts, but member and parents may add money to members’ accounts to cover these items as well as snack bar usage.

Proper etiquette and playing pace will be monitored. Any actions deemed detrimental to program goals will be dealt with accordingly and could result in individual suspension of privileges. Golf course staff will make every effort to accommodate all skill levels and provide additional player education when needed.

Scholarships may be available for students enrolled in free and reduced lunch programs.

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**CAmPers learn about food safety at Health Dept.**

CAmPers started the day at the Health Department, learning about what epidemiologists do to track and prevent community outbreaks. We also toured the lab and learned how local milk and well water are tested.

Before a quick tour of the Jordan Valley Community Health Center, Hy-Vee’s Chef Chadwick prepared a salad with homemade dressings for lunch.

After lunch, we headed to the Animal Shelter, where we learned about the intake process there. Our day ended with CamPers learning about food inspection and proper food preparation practices.

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**Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE**

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.

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I have decided to pass the Golden Goose award to Nathan Billings in Human Resources. Over the past year I have had the opportunity to work with Nathan almost daily on the Oracle project. Though juggling many responsibilities, Nathan always makes time to discuss issues. I appreciate his calm and thoughtful approach to situations. Thanks for your assistance and patience. It’s a pleasure to work with you.

Nicole Hays, IS

I presented the Golden Goose award to Gary Birum. Gary works tirelessly behind the scenes in IS to keep our Oracle instances up and running, including monitoring in the middle of the night. During recent testing for the Oracle upgrade Gary created a separate testing instance for us to test benefit enrollments and he was instrumental in setting up our external applicant testing instance. He also has a great sense of humor!

Nathan Billings, HR
To: Police Chief Paul Williams

Officer Deserae Stevens assisted me with a routine matter over the phone in a truly cordial and professional manner. Just wanted you to know that this citizen appreciates service with a pleasant attitude and voice.

David Hockensmith

To: Chrissy Postlethwait and Jillian Wokurka, 911 Emergency Communications Telecommunicators and Officer Brian Reeves, Springfield Police Department

I do not have a specific officer to commend, but rather SPD and 911 Emergency Communications as a team. Late Sunday night I called in to report an erratic and dangerous driver, the 911 responder who took my call immediately put out the notice to all responders in the area. He was very professional and handled my concern as if it were his own. Not two miles down the road I noticed the driver was pulled over, and later saw that he was arrested for DWI. I very seldom call in such behavior, this only being the second time I’ve done so, but it’s very relieving to know that I fully trust my call will be taken with serious consideration when/if I need to. I just want to thank the department for taking our calls seriously and responding to them quickly and appropriately.

Jordan Wright

To: Kit Baumgartner, Animal Control

On Feb. 17, my dog and I were attacked by two huskies in Phelps Grove Park. I called 911 on the way to the nearest vet. Within minutes of reaching the vet, I was contacted by Mr. Baumgartner who told me he was securing the attacking dogs. He came to the vet’s office while my dog was in surgery to complete a bite report. He photographed my injuries and explained the reporting process. I can’t express strongly enough how professional and reassuring his actions were at a very traumatic time. I want to thank Animal Control and especially Mr. Baumgartner for their commitment and amazing response in protecting citizens of Springfield in this type of situation. Mr. Baumgartner is an example of excellence in your department and I will be forever grateful for his assistance.

Rose Barks

To: Sean Robison, 911 Emergency Communications Telecommunicator

On Feb. 1, at approximately 4 p.m., Officer Steve Pratt contacted 911 Telecommunicator Sean Robison to check an area’s call history. Sean was able to research calls and located information regarding the recovery of a stolen computer. Officer Pratt wrote saying “Thank you so very much. The item in this found property belonged to one of my victims today! Great help in determining time frame.”

Steve Pratt, Officer
Springfield Police Department

To: Jessica Tidwell, 911 Emergency Communications Telecommunicator

On Feb. 3, during second shift, Firefighter John House thanked 911 Telecommunicator Jessica Tidwell for her dispatching abilities reference the fire calls that were being dispatched. He indicated her dispatching assisted them with in knowing if it was their call and their turnout times. He also called to let her know she was doing a good job.

John House, Captain
Springfield Fire Department

MORE RECOGNITION on page 10.
Important Merit Rule Updates

In preparation for the City’s “go-live” event with the Oracle R12 payroll module, staff members of the Human Resources Department, in conjunction with key members of the City’s Relink Project Team, were tasked with identifying and eliminating customizations in order to reduce the need for technical resources required to implement and maintain data in the Oracle ERP system.

Several changes to the City’s Merit Rules were approved by City Council on February 10, 2014 and will become effective with the payroll go-live event scheduled for March 23, 2014. The changes are viewed as positives for employees and include a few updates to clarify current practice and policy.

Merit Rule 8.5, Temporary Appointment, provides language to ensure a consistent policy and practice is established throughout the City regarding the time limit and the pay for temporary promotional appointments.

This process change was identified by the City Relink Project Team. Efficiency gains can be achieved by standardizing the time limit and the processing of the additional ten percent (10%) of base pay for temporary promotional assignments. The policy will allow for deviation, if approved by the City Manager.

This change does NOT modify or replace the current Out of Title policy.

Merit Rule 20.1, Compensation for Absence on Holidays, clarifies the current practice of pro-rating holiday leave for employees who work less than a forty (40) hour work week. In addition, it clarifies the current policy that provides the fourth (4th) floating holiday for employees on the Professional, Administrative and Technical (PAT); Crafts, Trades and Labor (CTL); and Department Head (DHS) pay schedules, as previously negotiated and approved by City Council.

This amendment provides for the immediate awarding of floating holidays during an employee’s first year of employment, when eligible. Previously, new employees were required to work ninety (90) days prior to earning floating holidays.

The language authorizing a Pin Day was repositioned to the end of Merit Rule 20.1 and amended to clarify the City's current policy and practice in situations where a Pin Day is not used prior to leaving employment and that said hours are not eligible for payout. This was not a change, just clarification of the policy and practice.

Merit Rule 21.1, Vacation Leave, currently employees are not eligible to use any vacation until after six (6) months of employment.

The City’s Relink Project Team identified the customization that this policy currently requires within the payroll module; therefore, this change was recommended to allow vacation leave to be available, as earned, for all employees. This change does not increase or decrease the amount of vacation leave for employees, but rather eliminates the six month restriction before vacation leave is available.

Merit Rule 21.2, Sick Leave, currently provides for the separation of hours for family sick leave from an employee’s personal sick leave accrual and allows for a maximum of forty (40) hours each calendar year to be used for family sick leave.

The City’s Relink Project Team identified the customization that this current policy requires and proposed the elimination of the separation of family sick leave hours and in lieu thereof, a sick leave program combining the leave time for an employee and their respective family member(s).

Effective March 23, 2014 employees may use their sick leave balance for an employee’s personal illness or injury or that of a designated family member. This amendment does not increase or decrease the amount of sick leave hours an employee earns each year, but rather provides a sick leave program allowing the leave to be used for an employee and/or their respective family members without a maximum for family use. The change does not affect the definition of a family member or when sick leave can be utilized.

Effective March 23, 2014, employees will code all sick leave taken as “SICK TKN”. Employees will no longer have an option available to code leave for “Family Sick”. It will be necessary to continue to use the comment section to note if the leave taken is for a family member; and if so, record the name and relationship of the family member in the comment section. Supervisors are responsible for reviewing the timesheet to ensure compliance with the Merit Rule regarding eligible family members.

Please visit Cityshare and select “Council Bills and Ordinances” to retrieve ordinance 6101 that contains the changes to the Merit Rules in their entirety. Please contact Sheila Maerz via email or ext. 1601 if you have questions about these changes.

**School Community Awards & Recognition**

**To: Travis Altic, 911 Emergency Communications Telecommunicator**

On Feb. 8, at approximately 2 p.m., a pursuit occurred in Greene County involving several deputies, law enforcement agencies and surrounding counties. 911 Telecommunicator Travis Altic was able to assist them during this pursuit which ultimately resulted in the arrest of one suspect. Deputy Saylor wrote

“Tell Travis thanks for being my eyes in the sky.”

Jeff Saylor, Deputy
Greene County Sheriff’s Office

**To: Phil Broyles, Jonathan Gano and the Public Works crews**

Thank you for the wonderful new restrooms, kitchen counter and mop sink. Really awesome that you got it all functional in time for the First Friday ArtWalk and a nice follow-up, too.

Best Regards Always,
IdeaXFactory

**To: Public Works Department**

I want to thank Dennis and crew in the Public Works department for going above and beyond to restore our garden area after they had performed sewer repairs in our back yard. The guys removed rocks, filled holes and backfilled topsoil to get us ready for spring and the garden is better now than before the repair. Thank you Dennis, crew, and City of Springfield for the quality work you do!

Philip Arnold