Fire gets burn building, SAFER grant

The Springfield Fire Department recently received two pieces of good news: its burn building training facility is once again ready for use, and a federal grant will provide funding to hire 13 new firefighters.

On April 5, the City Council approved a resolution to accept $1.3 million federal grant to hire 13 new firefighters for a two-year period. The SAFER grant is designed for communities that have had to freeze or lay off public safety positions during the economic recession and does not require any local matching funds. With this grant funding now available, the City will go ahead and set aside that amount of General Fund revenue in the fiscal year 2011 and 2012 budget to use for one-time expenses, such as capital equipment, in order to make sure there is funding available to continue the positions in the third year and beyond.

Firefighters began using the burn building again on April 8 thanks to some generous donations from the community's private sector. Not only does this help the City and the Fire Department maintain a key rating, it also will help keep Springfield's firefighters safer because training will be more readily available. Plus, it will be available for other fire agencies.

Ditching his car and staying active

Springfield’s City Leadership Team is reading the book, “$20 Per Gallon,” by Christopher Steiner. In discussing the book with Director of Planning Ralph Rognstad, one employee decided to change his lifestyle because of the book’s message. He’s ditched his car to get from home to work at City Hall, while joining the 10,000 Steps per day program.

Since early February, Principal City Planner Mike MacPherson took the book’s message to heart: the importance of alternative transportation to communities’ economics and health. It started as an experiment to combine taking the bus and walking to get to work instead of driving every day, but once he realized how easy and fun it was for him, he’s keeping it up. According to his pedometer, he

State of the Parks
Parks Department releases its first-ever annual report.

Health care reform
A committee is examining how the recent reform bill might affect City benefits.

Do You Know?
Meet James Williams and Julia Snyder of Public Works.

Bus, Bike, Walk to Work Week on May 17-21 is your chance to support a more bicycle-friendly Springfield! Register at OzarkGreenways.org to help the City rack up miles that you bike, walk, bus, carpool or any combination thereof and receive a free breakfast from Panera Bread Co.

City Planner Mike MacPherson saves money on gas and improves his health by busing and walking to work each day.

To be consistent in your actions and behavior, and to be steadfast in doing what is needed or expected of you.

Ed
Character Education word of the month:
Dependable

Employee information is available online at CityShare and on CityView at springfieldmo.gov/CityView or on Mediacom 80

May 2010
Lasers 2010 season schedule set

The Springfield Lasers pro tennis team will host seven home matches this 2010 World TeamTennis Pro League season, with special Springfield visits by former Women’s World No. 1 players Lindsay Davenport on Monday, July 5 (home opener) and Martina Hingis on Saturday, July 17.

Tickets for both the Davenport and Hingis home matches are now ONLY available by buying 2010 Lasers season tickets. The Individual Tickets go on sale May 24 at Cooper Tennis Complex. Season tickets are $65 for grandstand and $135 for chair-back, and can be purchased online now at www.springfieldlasers.com.
Three longtime directors mark end of service

Three members of the Leadership Team parted ways with the City in April. Marc Thornberry, Director of Public Works, retired in April after 40 years of local government service. Thornberry is retiring after 18 years with the City of Springfield – all as Public Works Director. Before joining the City in 1992, he had worked for Cole County and the City of Jefferson City. He has accepted a position as Traffic Safety Engineer for the Federal Highway Administration in Jefferson City beginning April 26.

Thornberry has received a number of honors during his career in Springfield, including being named one of the Top 10 Public Works Leaders by the American Public Works Association and being inducted into the Academy of Civil Engineers at his alma mater, the Missouri University of Science & Technology. Thornberry’s position will not be filled because of the ongoing hiring freeze.

Honea

Assistant Public Works Directors Phil Broyles and Steve Meyer have been named co-interim department directors in the meantime.

Deputy City Manager Evelyn Honea will retire May 1, following 28 years of service with the City of Springfield.

She has served as Deputy City Manager since August 2007 where she has been responsible for supervising several City departments, working on specific issues with City Council committees and overseeing projects assigned by the City Manager that involve multiple departments.

Honea joined the City in 1982 in the Finance Department and served as the Assistant Director of Finance until 1999. She then served as the Director of Information Systems before joining the City Manager’s Office in 2005 as the Assistant City Manager.

Honea’s position will not be filled because of the ongoing hiring freeze. Instead, her duties will be divided among several other members of the Leadership Team.

City Public Information Director Louise Whall Knauer will leave April 30 in order to accept a new position at the Community Foundation of the Ozarks as Senior Vice President of Communications/Marketing.

She has served as Director of Public Information since January 2001 after working in Springfield media since 1983.

Whall

The Department of Public Information is responsible for media and community relations; the Citizen Service Request Office; content coordination of the City Web site; CityView video services and government-access channel; special event coordination; multi-media design and production; and the Busch Building reception desk.

Whall’s position will not be filled because of the ongoing hiring freeze. Instead, her duties will be divided among other employees in the Public Information Department.

State of the Parks: Vibrant, with room to grow

In its first-ever “State of the Parks” address on March 30, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board released findings from a number of studies conducted over the last year.

The Park Board continued to see growing numbers throughout its parks system, with 2,257,855 county residents and visitors passing through its gates and doors, through family center usage, School-Park usage, pools and a number of programs – 21 areas in total in 2009. An estimated 4,000,000 passive park users are not included in the figure, which include passive or walk-up use of departmental parks, facilities or other related park system amenities.

In 2009, 20 major athletic events were studied and their economic impact information was calculated for those participants and/or attendees who do not reside within the Springfield-Greene County area. Through just the 20 athletic events analyzed using Park Board facilities, $4,059,800 was conservatively estimated to have been spent within the community on hotels, meals, shopping and more.

Additionally, Ron Vine with Leisure Vision ETC Institute presented results from a national study that looked at topics including: number of parks; personnel; fee policies; operating budget; capital budgets; environmental issues; and historical information. Cities included in the study averaged a local population of 264,000 citizens. The Park Board serves approximately 280,000 citizens.

The study showed that the Park Board manages fewer parks per 1,000 residents and had a higher number of undeveloped acres than the average benchmarked agency. Its acreage of 10.87 acres per 1,000 residents is significantly lower than the benchmarking average of 19.52. The study also showed the Park Board employs a fewer number of full-time employees, a higher number of seasonal and part-time employees, and benefits from a higher level of volunteers.

The Park Board far surpassed others surveyed who indicated they have a written policy for fees for programs and facilities. The Park Board has a written policy for all major programs and facilities. Other agencies also had a significantly higher amount of money budgeted for various operating divisions/services for the last fiscal year per 1,000 residents.

Over the past five years, the average benchmarked agency has funded more capital projects than the Park Board. The Park Board’s capital improvement program is significantly longer (20 years) than the average benchmarked agency, and has significantly less funds to allocate over the length of its program.

MILESTONES

Service Anniversaries

30 years
Edie Groves
Staff Assistant
Health – 05/31/80

25 years
Beverly Schmitz
General Aviation
Customer Service
Coordinator
Airport – 05/06/85

20 years
David Cash
Police Corporal
Police – 05/07/90
Robert Reed
Associate City Planner
Planning and
Development – 05/29/90

15 years
Greg Higdon
Kevin Grizzell
Police Lieutenants
Police – 05/29/95

Chad Eutsler
Jason Bisby
Justin Gargus
Police Sergeants
Police – 05/29/95
Christopher Welsh
Kevin Holle
Mark Schindler
Pepper Jackson
Robert Reeves
Police Officers
Police – 05/29/95
Christopher Wells
Daron Wilkins
David Stone
Police Corporals
Police – 05/29/95
Robert Turan
Police Services
Representative
Police – 05/17/95

10 years
Marjorie Brown
Administrative Assistant
Police – 05/30/00
David Illig
Senior Keeper
Parks – 05/09/00

Travis Morrissey
Firefighter
Fire – 05/12/00

5 years
Ramona Clemens
Air Quality Specialist
Health – 05/15/05
Valerie Haigh
Administrative Assistant
Parks – 05/02/05
Terry Moore
Financial Analyst
Finance – 05/09/05
Randall Whitman
Senior City Planner
Planning and
Development – 05/02/05
Dan Wichmer
City Attorney
Law – 05/02/05

Welcome
Joy Douglas
Steven Greene
911 Telecommunicators
Emergency
Communications –
03/01/10
Jeffrey Eagleburger
Plant Maintenance
Mechanic I
Public Works – 02/28/10

Promotions
Daron Evans
Fire Equipment Operator
– Fire
Richard Keil
Maintenance Worker
– Public Works
Christopher Marsh
Randall Stevens
Equipment Operators II
– Public Works

Retirements
Leon Henderson
Park Operations
Supervisor
Parks – 44 years
Bob Koumiss
Risk Management
Administrator
Human Resources –
22 years
Joseph Medina
Police Corporal
Police – 23 years
John Routh
Fire Equipment Operator
Fire – 20 years

The City
MARKETPLACE

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cleanup. Free estimates. Call John at
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a baby quilt made? How about a t-shirt quilt
for a special grad? Call Carolyn at
850-6801, or e-mail ltorsrtr@netscape.net for quotes.

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projects to major remodels, no job too big
or small. 10 years experience, references
available. Contact Patrick at 269-5683.

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backup, consultation and installation of new
hardware and software; and Wi-Fi for your
personal computer. Call Jason Hicks at
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your financial future. Ask for Jeff
Burnett, John Truman or Mike Truman
at Truman & Associates, 881-9700,
1992 W. Chesterfield Blvd., #110.

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Service grooming for your dog or cat.
Ten-percent discount on first grooming
visit. Located in Rogersville.
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Do you have something to sell or a
service to offer? Advertise it for free in
the SCENE. Call Mike Brothers at
864-1119 or send an e-mail to
thescene@springfieldmo.gov.
## MAY BIRTHDAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Erin Elliott</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Hannah Eastman</td>
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<td>Pamela Wells</td>
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### Important Dates

- **April 22 - Earth Day**
- **May 18 – Police/Fire retirees meeting:** 6:30 p.m., Heritage Cafeteria, 1364 E. Battlefield Road
- **May 22 - Battle of the Badges charity basketball game**
- **May 31 - Memorial Day** (City offices closed)

### Abbreviations

- **911** Emergency Comm.
- **AIR** Airport
- **ART** Art Museum
- **BDS** Building Dev.
- **CC** City Clerk
- **CM** City Manager
- **EM** Emergency Mgt.
- **FN** Finance
- **FR** Fire
- **HL** Health
- **HR** Human Resources
- **IS** Info. Systems
- **LAW** Law
- **MC** Municipal Court
- **OG** Ozark Greenways
- **PRK** Parks
- **PDV** Planning & Dev.
- **DPI** Public Information
- **POL** Police
- **PW** Public Works
- **WD** Workforce Dev.
What health care reform could mean to you

As everyone knows, Congress recently passed legislation related to health care reform. This new law has significant implications for employers who offer health care benefits and the employees and families covered by those plans.

It is expected that employees will have a lot of questions and concerns about health care reform and how the legislation will impact their benefits. Since this recent legislation has so many complex provisions, it will take some time to understand exactly what it means for the City of Springfield Health Plans. While some changes will take effect within a few months, many of the major provisions will not take effect for several years. Employees should know that the City’s Health Insurance Committee, the City’s Health Plan consultant and Human Resources staff are reviewing the legislation in detail to understand the new law and its implications related to the City of Springfield Health Plans.

Employees will be updated as more is learned about the details of this new law. Any changes to the City of Springfield Health Plan will be communicated to employees prior to the effective date of the change.

For now, employees should focus on what they can do today to get the most from their health plan benefits. Employees are encouraged to take advantage of the annual physical exam benefit and schedule their appointment for 2010 if they have not already done so. The first $400 for an employee’s annual exam is paid at 100 percent when using a St. John’s provider.

For your convenience and to provide easy access to Plan information, the City’s current Health Plan Document and the complete Health Plan Document are available on CityShare at sharepoint.springfieldmo.gov/default.aspx and on the City’s Web site at www.springfieldmo.gov/jobs/benefits.html.

Questions related to benefits should be directed to Peggy Thompson, Senior Human Resources Specialist at 866-1608 or via City e-mail.

 Soldiers help debris cleanup

Soldiers with the U.S. Army, 1st Battalion, 48th Infantry Regiment stationed at Fort Leonard Wood conducted a major trash and debris cleanup effort in the Jordan Valley West Meadows area on April 10.

The group cleared away debris such as scrap metal, tires, mattresses and more from within West Meadows, the Fort Avenue right of way, and Jordan Creek. The West Meadows is a designated “brownfield” area, and has been the focus of ongoing cleanup efforts for several years. The City of Springfield’s Brownfields Program works to assess, clean up, and facilitate the redevelopment/reuse of potentially contaminated properties within the city.

The program is coordinated through the Economic Development Office in the Department of Planning and Development and works in cooperation with Region 7 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Natural Resources.

An EPA grant will allow for environmental cleanup in the West Meadows area beginning this summer. That work will include soil grading and temporary seeding of the site. Debris cleanup such as Saturday’s project is necessary before grading can begin this summer. The project also helps fulfill the stream cleanup goals of the City’s Adopt-A-Stream program coordinated by the Storm Water Services Division of Public Works.

Students give vision for 2030

Evangel University students won the first-ever Excellence in Community Visioning Challenge award presented by the Springfield City Council and Greene County Commission on April 12. Evangel was one of four teams to participate in the first Community Visioning Challenge for Springfield high-school and college students.

The project, part of the long-range strategic planning process, was designed to engage younger citizens to envision Springfield’s future by addressing the question: “What city characteristics, features and amenities would make you want to live in Springfield for the next 20 years?”

The other three teams were from Drury University, Ozarks Technical Community College and Springfield Public Schools.

Each team submitted a written report and then made a 10-minute presentation to the Council and Commission members today at Council Chambers in Historic City Hall.

The topics most commonly mentioned by the student groups were: job/career opportunities, education, sustainability, infrastructure, alternative transportation, center city development and activities for young adults.

Other awards presented were: Top Written Proposal: Evangel University; Methodology Award: Ozarks Technical Community College; Feasibility Award: Drury University; Excellence in Engagement: Evangel University; Most Visionary: Springfield Public Schools.
Revenue update

The City’s 1 percent general sales tax revenue for March was up 2.41 percent compared to the same month last year. The positive movement was welcome news after a month in which the comparison was down nearly 18 percent. That large number was due at least in part to timing issues during the short month of February. Tax revenues are down 7.96 percent for the year-to-date.

Once the Finance Department and City Manager Greg Burris examine other revenue streams such as license fees and payments in lieu of taxes from CU, Burris will determine how to address the budget if necessary before the end of the current fiscal year on June 30.

Become a fan

The City of Springfield’s Facebook page has broken the 1,000 fan mark. If you’re on Facebook, please consider becoming a fan. As a City employee, you know what’s happening in the organization and your input as both an employee and Facebook user would be much appreciated. If you have any ideas how to improve the City’s page or what kinds of information would most benefit local citizens who use Facebook, contact Mike Brothers at mbrothers@springfieldmo.gov or at 864-1119.

Survey coming

An internal committee of employees called the Progressive Management Planning Committee will be surveying employees in the coming weeks about a variety of City issues. The surveys will be handed out with the April 29 paychecks and cover topics such as operations, customer service, pay and benefits. Please be on the lookout for the surveys and informational meetings.

Battle of the Badges

The Springfield Police Department will play the Greene County Sheriff’s Office in a charity basketball game benefiting Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Ozarks at 6 p.m., May 22 at Kickapoo High School. Tickets are $5; children 5 and under are free.

There will be a raffle with some great prizes and concessions at the game. For tickets, contact Annette Riley at 864-1759, or David Meyer at 874-2105.

‘Gift of Time’ open

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2010 Gift of Time Awards. Ten nominees will be selected as the Volunteers of the Year. Announcement of the award recipients will remain a secret to everyone, including the winners, until the Gift of Time Luncheon on June 17. The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m., Friday, May 14, 2010. Nominations can be submitted online by going to www.springfieldmo.gov/giftoftime. Rules and further information are also available on the nomination Web page. The Gift of Time Awards are sponsored by the Council of Churches of the Ozarks. The City is a longtime partner sponsor.

2010 Senior Games

The Southwest Missouri Senior Games will be held June 2-6. Hosted by The Springfield-Greene County Park Board with presenting sponsor St. John’s Senior Services, the Games provide positive lifetime sports competition, socialization and recreational activities for athletes ages 50 and up.

The Games serve as preparation for the 2010 Missouri State Senior Games in Columbia, which are qualifying events for the 2011 National Senior Games in Houston. For registration information, contact Southwest Missouri Senior Games Headquarters at Northview Center at 857-5808 or go to www.parkboard.org.

Don’t risk it …

Risk Management Services is pleased to announce that the April issue of the quarterly newsletter, the Safety & Wellness News, is now available online via CityShare. To access the newsletter via CityShare’s homepage, click on the Human Resources Services tab at the top of your screen, then click on Risk Management Services on the left side of the page, then access the Safety & Wellness News folder.

Do You Know…?

A Q & A of City of Springfield employees. To suggest a colleague for a “Do You Know...?” profile, email mbrothers@springfieldmo.gov.

James Williams

Arborist/tree trimmer, Public Works
James has worked for the City for 4 years.

What is your earliest memory?
When my mom and step-dad got married. They did it at the courthouse in Phoenix, Ariz.

What are you most proud of?
I’m most proud of my son for getting his grades up in school, and for becoming more of a man than a boy.

What might people not know about you?
I used to have long hair and piercings.

Who had the greatest influence on you?
During my life it was Grandpa John. He put me on the right track. He made me a gentleman.

Julia Snyder

Administrative Assistant, Public Works.
Julia has worked for the City for two years.

What was your favorite TV show as a child?
“American Bandstand.”

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

What is your favorite cliche?
What goes around comes around.

What makes you smile/cry?
Family.

What would you put on your own gravestone?
Love is what makes the world go around.

Who do you admire?
My Aunt Eva – she always has a kind word about everyone.

What could you never do? Noodling.
To: Louise Bigley, Public Health Nurse

Congratulations on your recent grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) through the Health Literacy and Tobacco Prevention & Cessation program. It is my understanding the grant the Health Department is receiving will be used to provide health education sessions to reach low-income families.

The Department’s dedicated work and involvement is invaluable to the citizens of Springfield and Greene County. I want to personally thank you for your continued efforts to serve the most vulnerable in our community.

Sincerely,
Charlie Norr, State Representative, 137th District

To: Kevin Gipson, Director of Health

As we are winding down our H1N1 influenza vaccination program at St. John’s, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize Karen McKinnis for the outstanding job she has done in coordinating the vaccination process.

We have a very good understanding of the challenges of Karen’s role within the Health Department and the Springfield-Greene County community during this unusual flu season. St. John’s plays a role in providing health services in Southwest Missouri for thousands of patients and co-workers. We appreciate Karen’s efforts to provide us with H1N1 vaccine to serve the needs of these individuals. Karen worked hard to distribute vaccine to individuals most at need, which at times was not an easy task. Karen communicated with us frequently to keep us informed of vaccine distribution as well as being receptive to our needs. This was not an easy job!

We appreciate the work of Karen and all the staff at the Springfield-Greene County Health Department and look forward to continuing our positive and collaborative relationships.

Sincerely,
Dr. William Sistrunk, Judy Walker RN, C.W. Powell and Sandi Moore
St. John’s Hospital

A rose is extended to the City’s Department of Public Works and especially Carl Shaw, Sewer Repair Working Leader, and his crew. When the city’s sewer line on our property needed considerable repair, Mr. Shaw approached us with professionalism and politeness (and created one heck of a necessary backyard mess). In the end, the job was done with the least amount of hassle to us and the yard was restored better than the crew found it. Mr. Shaw was our point-person throughout and was great to work with. Thanks for the most positive experience available given the circumstances.

Sincerely,
David & Maryelen Dixon

Congratulations to several recent retirees for their longtime service to the City! Building Maintenance Craftworker George Gartin has retired from Public Works after 33 years. Public Health Planner J.D. Slaughter has retired from Health after 33 years.

To: Interim Police Chief Ron Hartman

My extended family experienced the death of my mother-in-law. Police were dispatched and your Cpl. David Shanholtzer was the officer in charge. I can’t tell you how much he meant to our family. His kind words and quiet command of the situation are to be commended. When we were trying to find a priest to administer last rites, he went above and beyond the call. He pulled his cell phone out to call relatives to see if they had phone numbers of known priests within his parish. His thoughtfulness and caring will always be remembered by my family.

Please give Officer Shanholtzer our heartfelt thanks for a job well done from all of us in the Farrar/Berger family.

Regards,
Jeff Berger

To: Cpl. Al Estrada, Officer Eric Morgan, Cpl. Robert Schroder

I recently received a letter from Greene County Assistant Prosecutor Stephanie Wan concerning your involvement in the case of State v. Panfillo Lopez.

Domestic violence is a serious offense that physically and mentally injures many people in our society. Ms. Wan makes it very clear that your preparation, commitment, and your actions in this case made the difference for a successful prosecution. Your assistance to the prosecutor’s office in this case gave the suspect no choice but to plead guilty and he will spend the next 10 years of his life in the Dept. of Corrections.

I want to commend each of you for your continued dedication and commitment to serving the public and your efforts in working with the prosecutor’s office on this case.

Thank you again,
Ron Hartman, Interim Police Chief