Employees share spirit of giving over holidays

The spirit of giving was evident in departments across the City throughout 2014, most notably with Day of Caring activities and the month-long fundraising drive for the United Way of the Ozarks in the fall.

Several departments also participated in fundraisers or other activities over the holidays.

Public Works again held a toy drive for the Candyland on Commercial Street event. For each donation of a toy or $5 to the drive, employees were entered into a drawing for four hours of paid leave. This year’s winner was Southwest Treatment Plant’s Jeff Nygaard.

SPD participated in a fundraiser for the Special Olympics at Incredible Pizza Dec. 18. Five SPD employees volunteered with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots ride on Dec. 7.

Several employees also served as volunteer bell-ringers for The Salvation Army this year.

Planning & Development chose a family from KTTS’ Christmas Crusade for the third year in a row. The department donated and shopped for gifts for the family’s three children and delivered them before Christmas.

A Note from Greg: Looking Back on 2014

The end of the year is always a great time to stop and look back at all of the things we have accomplished throughout the year. It also gives us a chance to look forward to what the next year might bring.

You continue to rise to the challenge of delivering high-quality services to our citizens. I am thankful for your commitment and recognize that it is sometimes a thankless job.

Facing us in 2015 is a host of both challenges and opportunities that we face together, both internally and with partners, such as Greene County.

A Joint City-County Planning Task Force recently issued its report after 18 months of research, study and discussion. Springfield is the major hub of Greene County. We have learned that now, more than ever, it is important for...
Care Leave Policy offers employees chance to help co-workers in need

You probably know of a co-worker that has had to cope with a life threatening or catastrophic health issue. Now, consider this hardship magnified by not having any remaining paid leave time. These factors contribute to an even more stressful and perhaps dire situation for the employee. Fortunately, Care Leave was created to help employees cope with these various dilemmas by offering an additional paid leave option.

When approved, the City’s Care Leave Policy provides regular employees additional paid leave when they have exhausted their own paid leave because of a personal life threatening or catastrophic illness or injury. Care Leave exists because employees, like you, have donated their sick and personal paid leave to help their co-workers in need. The minimum donation is four (4) hours of sick leave with one (1) hour of other personal paid time (i.e. vacation, floating holiday, continuous operation holiday, compensatory time).

If you are interested in donating to the Care Leave pool or have questions about the Care Leave application or approval process, please contact Krystal Ray at 864-1608 or kray@springfieldmo.gov. Information on Care Leave can also be found on City Share at Human Resources Services – Benefits.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated!

Floating Holidays: Remember to use by last full pay period of the calendar year

In 2014, Merit Rule 20.1, Compensation for Absence on Holidays, was amended to change the deadline for using your Floating Holiday hours during a calendar year. Eligible employees must take (enter on their timesheet) Floating Holiday hours by the end of the last full pay period of the calendar year.

During 2015, you must use your Floating Holiday hours on or before Dec. 26, 2015.

However, you are encouraged to use your Floating Holiday hours throughout the year so you will not lose them if they are not used prior to Dec. 26, 2015.

If you have any questions about your Floating Holiday hours or your other leave balances, contact Karen Garrison, payroll specialist, in Human Resources at 417-864-1562 or by email at kgarrison@springfieldmo.gov.

Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE

I’m passing the Golden Goose to Carl Shaw. Whenever the plant needs a piece of equipment or help getting things dug up, all I would have to do is call Carl and Carl would ask “What do you need? Do we need to bring it to you or are you coming after it? Do you need our help? Do we need to do it for you?” Whatever you need from Carl, he has always had that “let’s get it done” attitude. Carl has always helped me in getting the job done in a timely matter.

Dwight Cook
Environmental Services, Southwest Treatment Plant

The SCENE is published monthly by the City of Springfield, 840 Boonville, P.O. Box 8368, Springfield, MO, 65801. Comments and articles which appear in the SCENE do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of City administration or any employee thereof, but are for information only. Permission to reprint material may be obtained from the Department of Public Information, (417) 864-1010.

The City of Springfield Mission
We are committed to working with the community to provide ethical and responsible local government so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of living and working in Springfield.

Additional City info is available on our Web site at www.springfieldmo.gov. Videos may be viewed on CityView on the Web or on Mediacom channels 15.1 and 80 and AT&T U-verse channel 99.

SCENE Deadline
Jan. 23, 2015
Please direct your submissions to the Department of Public Information. Submissions and ads via e-mail are preferred: thescene@springfieldmo.gov

printed on recycled paper
us to work together to address the issues facing our entire community now and into the future.

You will learn more about these, and other issues, as we move further into study sessions and make plans to address these challenges. Many of you will be asked to participate in work associated with them.

The task force grouped issues into the following major categories: law enforcement and the criminal justice system; unfunded state and federal mandates; and the City and County’s financial stability.

We also further identified three pressing issues that members suggest need immediate attention. Those include: insufficient jail space and criminal justice system capacity; lack of stormwater funding for mandated improvements; and the County’s unsustainable financial situation.

The report lays out the complicated and inter-related problem of having an overstressed regional criminal justice system, including why that is important to the citizens of Springfield. Troubling crime statistics, inadequate court facilities and staffing shortages in the prosecuting attorney and public defenders’ offices are creating a set of conditions that officials are examining.

Overall, the largest dollar impact on the community over the next 10-20 years is looming unfunded environmental mandates, required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The task force report also touches on the precarious position of the County’s financial situation, which includes an outlook showing anticipated declines in the general fund and a series of indicators showing capital and repair needs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, with no funding source. Neither the City nor the County has a regular budget for lifecycle replacements of vehicles and equipment.

Yet, along with these challenges are some great successes. I hope that you realize our successes are due in large part to the work you and your fellow employees do every day. Stay tuned for a complete year-in-review communication that takes us back to some of the celebrations and successes of 2014.

I encourage you to learn more. Find out what our City and County leaders are facing in 2015. Visit www.springfieldmo.gov/jointcitycountytaskforce.
FOR SALE

For Sale: Comfort Glow vent-free natural gas thermostatic control space heater. Heats up to 1000 square feet. Lowest setting 15,000 BTU, highest setting 30,000. Model CGN30TB. Comes with Comfort Glow Heater Base for floor mounting installation GA4510 Earthtone. Never been used or installed, been out of box one time to look at. Price asking $60. Call Karen 417-839-5716.

Full-length black fox coat and hip-length black fox coat purchased at McDaniel’s. Asking $200 for the full length and $150 for the hip length. All coats kept in air-conditioning, in excellent condition. Call Kathy at 619-5511.

2-1953 Ford Crown Victorias – one is a parts car and the other is to rebuild. This comes with a rebuilt motor, transmission, manuals etc., all for $3,000 or best offer. Call 417-872-7636 for more information.

2 three seater sea-dos with covers & trailer – very very low hours $4,000. All in very good condition and garaged! Call 417-872-7636 for more information.
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Charles Johnson  PRK
   Roy Roberson  ES
   Jillian Wokurka  911

2 Taylor Brown  POL
   Tatem Dewitt  PW
   David Messenger  POL
   Tommy Nguyen  POL
   Brian Smith

3 Keith Ball  PW
   Steven Bintz  ES
   Angela Keith  POL
   Larry McKnight  PW
   Jozie Pak

4 Mary Ellison  HL
   Lydia Hedden  PRK
   Randolph Lacey  PRK
   Whitney Nixon  IS
   Mackenzie Stubbsman

5 Jeffrey Henson  PW
   Joshua Johnson  PRK
   Michael Leffler  PW
   Kevin Smart  FR
   James Stacy

6 Caleb Basile  PRK
   Hannah Casertano  PRK
   James Deckard  PRK
   Ashley Fears  PRK
   Sauda Goss  PRK
   Karen Herron  PRK
   Alex Meinders

7 Matthew Fields  FR
   Laura Gaughan  PRK
   Robert Scott  PRK
   Gregory Slentz  PRK
   Stephanie Vochatzer  PRK
   Donna Whitfield

8 Kara Daniel  FR
   Jason Holland  PRK
   Beth Jones  PRK
   Scott Jones  PRK
   Jason Trusler  FR
   Terry Whaley

9 Robin Beck  MC
   Daniel Dulany  PRK
   Heather Ferrier  FR
   Lloyd Marshall  PW
   Seth Miller  PW
   Nick Nelson  PW
   Steven Ramey  PW
   Pam Thompson

10 Timothy Pack  PRK

11 Renee Evans  FR
   Andrew Houser  PRK
   Megan Jolley  PRK
   April Marler  PRK
   Katherine Perryman  PRK
   Daniel Rankey  PRK
   Randall Whitman  PRK

12 John Ackerman  PRK
   Thomas Dean  PRK
   Ethan Evans  PRK
   Cathy Gaw  PRK
   Kevin Kane  PRK
   Christopher Sharp  PRK
   Bradley Shryer  PRK
   Clayton Smith Miller  PRK
   Amy Torcasso  PRK

13 Bob Belote  PW
   Carolyn Cantrell  PW
   Steve Eggers  PW
   Heather Hardinger  PW
   Shelby Hendrix  PW
   Julie Henley  PW

14 Sophronia Bradford  PW
   Jeffrey Burnett  PW
   Mark Epps  PW
   David Hall  PW
   James Montgomery  PW
   Melissa Ruggles  PW
   Kenneth Smith  PW
   Jeffrey Weeks  PW

15 Mary Collier  MC
   Joshua Curnutt  MC
   Deborah Karnes  MC
   Darran Kinney  MC
   David White  MC

16 Gower Anderson  MC
   Gena Cecil  MC
   Pam Cummings  IS
   Mark Delozier  IS
   Kay Greenlee  IS
   Cindy Leven  IS
   Garett Olson  IS
   Austin Perry  IS
   Kevin Turner  IS

17 Harrison Anderson
   Andrew Buffenberger
   Gilbert Correa
   Christopher Dockins
   cinnamon fuller
   Daniel Tindle
   Jacob Wells

18 Gabrielle Barton
   Eric Claussen
   Scott Kanykowsky
   Thomas Luellen
   Luz Melendez
   Wesley Wren
   Jordan Young

19 Wade McElfresh
   Angela Patterson
   Jeff Ruth
   Cody Stice
   Albert Valdivia
   Kimberly White

20 Meaghan Bell
   Joyce Brake
   Brock Johnson
   Dennis Nowels
   Kim Talbot

21 Wesley Anderson
   Michael Batson
   Dorothy Conroy
   Christopher Drew
   Rex Frieze
   Michael Snider

22 Bradley Maxey
   Brenda Sanders
   Madison Stark
   Julia Villines
   Brian Waltz

23 Shasta Beckers
   Floyd Harville
   Vicki Hilton
   Richard Keil
   Darla Morrison
   Kenan Rosenau
   Tim Sisco

24 Jody Austin
   Jonathan Bartel
   Kimberly Castillo

25 Arlie Becker  AIR
   Kelly Evans  HL
   Matthew Morris  ES
   Caleb St. Clair  POL

26 Kenneth Champlin
   Jeffrey Clemens  POL
   Karen Jones  AIR
   Candace Ramage  WD
   Annette Riley  POL
   Steve Schwind  POL

27 Kaitlin Beshoner
   Matthew Engel  FR
   Alex Hodge  FR
   Shane Lumley  AIR
   Kara Remington  AIR
   Connor Staponski  PRK

28 Kathrine Leriche  PRK

29 Howard Bankson  PRK
   Darrell Bergeson  POL
   Jeff Cumley  PRK
   Mark Pribe  PRK
   Robert Richardson  PW

30 Amanda Brawley
   Bonnie Douglas  PRK
   Chlo Jo Hadley  PRK
   Steve Matthews  PRK
   Clydie McCormans  PRK
   Michael Peskar  PRK
   Heather West  HL

31 Bryan Loughridge
   Harold Millarios  PW
   Christopher Peak  PRK
   Brian Ponder  PW
   Aubrey Reece  WD
   Dave Shalla  PW
   Wayne Zelenik  PRK
HRAs moved up! Annual inBalance Health Risk Assessments to begin in February

Starting in 2015, annual inBalance Health Risk Assessments will be offered February through March. Online registration will once again be conducted through the CoxHealth Express Web portal. A full calendar of dates and locations will be available when online registration opens in January.

Why move up HRAs?
1. By having HRAs earlier in the year, inBalance staff can now analyze the aggregate results and better plan for future programs before the start of the fiscal year.
2. The earlier time slot better aligns with health resolutions commonly made at the start of a new year.

Why participate?
Annual health risk assessments are a valuable tool to monitor and improve your health and quality of life. inBalance HRAs are confidential and free to full-time City of Springfield employees. Taking part also makes you eligible for other discounted employee benefits like Parks Family Center and Zoo memberships.

Questions?
inBalance encourages you to attend one of the HRA informational/registration sessions to be held in the Busch L46 Computer Lab on the following dates:
- Jan. 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Jan. 27, 3-5 p.m.

15 minute power workout begins Jan. 5

inBalance is proud to announce the start of a new power workout lasting only 15 minutes.

The new program, called The WORKS, specifically targets City employees with 30 minute lunch breaks. The abbreviated workout allows ample time for participants to workout and change before getting back on the job.

Maximize every second of your workout time by performing specialized exercises that impact multiple muscle groups simultaneously. Instructor Ally McCall will lead each class and challenge your core, chest, back, arms and shoulders.

Classes are 11:07 - 11:22 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Jan. 5 in the Building S Garage in the Public Works Compound (111 W. Chestnut). All City employees are welcome to attend. No registration is necessary, but please sign in so inBalance can track the participation of the class. If successful, this program may expand to other facilities.

For more information, contact Ben Hunt at 864-1685 or email inbalance@springfieldmo.gov.
Career Center needs donations of professional clothing items to provide to job seekers

The Missouri Career Center is now providing a “career closet” to job seekers in our community. The Career Closet provides professional clothing free of charge to any job seeker who needs outfits and accessories for a job interview or first days on the job. The Career Center has received many donations and has been able to immediately serve many individuals in our county who are in need of professional clothing.

Right now, the closet is in desperate need of several items. If you or members of your staff have the below professional clothing items in your closet or are able to donate new items, we would be very grateful.

Items should be gently used or new and used clothing washed prior to donation:
- Women’s separates, including tops and pants (size 16–24, XL – 4XL)
- Women’s flats (shoes), all sizes. Particularly sizes 8–11.
- Men’s dress shoes or loafers, all sizes
- Collared shirts for both men and women, all sizes
- Black, non-athletic shoes (such as Keds, Skechers, etc.) for women and men, all sizes
- NEW, unused dress socks for women and men, all sizes (black, brown, navy, printed, etc.)

If you are able to donate any of the above items, you may drop them off at the Missouri Career Center during our business hours. Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. and Fridays, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thank you! Your donation makes a huge difference to those in the Ozarks looking for meaningful employment. Questions? Contact Heather Hardinger at 417-841-3386.

Order SPD Back the Blue shirts by Feb. 2

This classic SPD T-Shirt benefits the Springfield Police Cadet Unit in purchasing their equipment and other program expenses. It’s also a great way for you to show your support for the Police Department! You can add your DSN (SPD staff only) for an additional $3 per item ordered.

- $12 for dry-fit short sleeve.
- $15 for short sleeve.
- $15 for long sleeve.
- $25 for “hoodies.”

To place an order, e-mail Sandrews@springfieldmo.gov with quantity, sizes and your phone number.

Please send your cash or check payment to Officer Shawn Andrews via inter-office mail or deliver to the Springfield Regional Police & Fire Training Center at 2620 W. Battlefield, Springfield MO 65810 c/o Ofc. Shawn Andrews. Make checks payable to the SPD Cadet Unit.

Please have all orders turned in no later than Feb. 2 at 5 p.m.

Everett Kelly attends LAGERS Board annual meeting in November

City of Springfield LAGERS employee representative Everett Kelly attended the annual LAGERS board meeting Nov. 3 and would like to pass this information on to City employees.

Two board vacancies were up for election at the meeting. Barry McCullough was elected as an employer trustee from the City of Gladstone and Joan Jadali from the City of Webster Groves was elected as a member trustee. Both trustees will begin serving their first term on the LAGERS board in January.

The Plan’s assets are up $984 million for a total of $6.3 billion as of June 30. This amount does not include the Plan’s rainy day fund. The Plan’s funding ratio is 91.7%, with an employer contribution rate of 11.9%.

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found box at the Busch Municipal Building front desk is starting to fill up with winter clothing items. If you’ve lost anything, please check with Kathy Vilas at the front desk.

- Reading glasses
- Jewelry-shell w/pearl, necklace.
- Food container
- Orange sock hat
- Ladies light-colored sweater
- Black shawl/scarf
- 2 pair black gloves
- 2 odd black gloves
- "little orange sock cap"
- Ladies light-colored sweater
- Black shawl/scarf
- 2 pair black gloves
- 2 odd black gloves.

Cheri Meyer
City Clerk

Cheri has worked for the City for 2 months.

What one word would you use to describe yourself?
Happy.

What was your parents’ best advice?
Treat other people how you want to be treated.

What is your favorite book?
“The Mountain Between Us,” by Charles Martin.

How would you change your name?
I’d change it to something people spell and pronounce correctly.

What won’t you eat?
Cottage cheese. I just don’t know how people do it!

Where would you like to spend tomorrow?
The beach.

If you could ask one question of anyone in history, who would it be and what would it be?
Noah. I can’t imagine being in an Ark with animals and creatures of every kind in rough waters with no known end in sight. How did he do it?
The smells alone ...

In Brief

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- Food container
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- Ladies light-colored sweater
- Black shawl/scarf
- 2 pair black gloves
- 2 odd black gloves.

Do You Know...?

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

Cheri Meyer
City Clerk

Cheri has worked for the City for 2 months.

What one word would you use to describe yourself?
Happy.

What was your parents’ best advice?
Treat other people how you want to be treated.

What is your favorite book?
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The beach.

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Noah. I can’t imagine being in an Ark with animals and creatures of every kind in rough waters with no known end in sight. How did he do it?
The smells alone ...
To: Officer Clinton Laws, SPD  
I just want to say thank you to Officer Clinton Laws who helped me out of the ditch tonight personally, because I had slippery shoes on. He called a tow service for me and calmed me down and told me everything would be alright. He checked my car to the best of his ability and made sure I got back onto the road safely. Thank you so much for being there for me in my first accidental off-road experience.”  

Brittany

To: Officer Mark Stewart, SPD  
I just wanted to take a moment out of my crazy busy day to say thank you to Officer Mark Stewart and his partner. I have frequent contact with the police having close to 1000 rental properties in the Springfield area and in the past two days, Officer Stewart has gone above and beyond to try to help me solve our problem where an unauthorized tenant is stealing power from the vacant unit next door. What stood out in this interaction from others was Officer Stewart’s willingness to listen and coordinate with me; and even though this is a small thing in the grand scheme of things, he treated it like an important case. I am truly grateful that he was the officer assigned to our call. Thank you so very much!

Michelle

To: Corporal Chris McPhail, Corporal Harold Milliorns and Officer Tommy Nguyen  
I would like to thank the Springfield Police Department and all officers pertaining to this investigation. It involved my truck being stolen along with all of my business equipment, daily heart health medicine and some personal items, such as electronics. The suspect had no right to steal my truck and business tools. This caused many problems for me. We can now get back to my work, business goals, and our life and feel great. I didn’t realize how stressed I was until I received the phone call that the truck was found and remained in one piece. The only thing wrong with my truck — a flat tire and a bunch of leaves had fallen on the windshield. I can live with that for sure! I want to thank the SPD and all others that may have been behind the scenes for acting quickly and efficiently. The condition of the vehicle could have been a lot worse and if the truck was left at the recovery scene for any longer, I feel it could have been gone forever or damaged in some way. Thanks again, be careful, stay safe, and God bless.

Sincerely,  
Scott

To: City of Springfield and Lorenz Plumbing  
Thank you for your timely and efficient workmanship to make necessary improvements on our rental property in Springfield, as assisted by inspectors from the City of Springfield. We appreciate these concerns on the part of the City. I also appreciated the informative letter that I received from the contractor.

Sincerely,  
GW Snow  
Seattle

Rick Crismas, operations manager, Springfield-Greene County 911 Emergency Communications, attended Willard Fire Chief Gary Wirth’s funeral. He also commented on what an excellent job Kristina Scott did on the “Last Alarm” broadcast. He stated many people started crying during the “Last Alarm.” He also had members of several departments come up to him afterward and comment what a good job Kristina did. This type of broadcast is one of the most difficult for a dispatcher to announce.

To: Jen Meloy, Tracy Whipple, R. J. Woolard, Justin Garrett, James Stater and Ellen Herrmann, 911 Telecommunicators  
On Dec. 12, Justin Garrett received information from Christian County via Polk County regarding a suicidal female who was reported to be at an address in Greene County. Tracy Whipple dispatched a Greene County deputy who reported there was no one at said address. After further checking, the female was located inside Springfield city limits. Jen Meloy dispatched Springfield Police who located the female hiding in the bathroom of a convenience store. The female was taken into custody without incident and the officers found two loaded guns in her vehicle. Lieutenant Stacey Parton called in to say that dispatch did a good job on this incident. He was very appreciative of his dispatcher, Jen Meloy. He also thanked R. J. Woolard, James Stater and Ellen Herrmann who assisted with this incident.

Sincerely,  
Mark Lowe  
Republic Police Department

To: Jen Meloy, Tracy Whipple, R. J. Woolard, Justin Garrett, James Stater and Ellen Herrmann, 911 Telecommunicators  
On Dec. 8, James Stater answered a 911 call from a male who “accidently” shot his girlfriend in the face in Republic city limits. Republic Police Chief Mark Lowe wanted to pass on his appreciation for the good job James Stater did as the call-taker on this call.

Chief Mark Lowe  
Republic Police Department

To: Mike Vasso, 911 Supervisor  
On Dec. 22, Deputy Ryan Hutton initiated a vehicle pursuit while Mike Vasso was the Greene County dispatcher. During the pursuit, Mike Vasso was able to decipher Deputy Hutton’s direction of travel when Deputy Hutton gave the direction of a southbound on an east and west road. Mike Vasso also warned Deputy Hutton of upcoming curves as well as construction zones which assisted in pursuing the vehicle safely and ultimately led to the apprehension of the suspect. Deputy Hutton was highly impressed with Mike Vasso’s communication skills during the vehicle pursuit, as was Deputy Hutton’s supervisor.

Deputy Ryan Hutton  
Greene County Sheriff’s Office

To: Joel Holdman, 911 Telecommunicator and Officer Ethan Ramsey, Springfield Police Department  
On Nov. 15, the Springfield Police Department received this message from a grateful citizen: “I would like to thank the dispatcher who was taking directions from me, while I was following the guy who stole my son’s vehicle. The officer who responded not only recovered the vehicle, but also arrested the guy who stole it. My son and his family are very grateful.” Joel Holdman answered the 911 call and Officer Ethan Ramsey was the involved officer.

Rodney