Community leaders host series of meetings in Zone 1 neighborhoods

Led by City Manager Greg Burris, City and community leaders are hosting a series of meetings in Zone 1 neighborhoods through May 21 to listen to residents’ concerns about the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

“We have studied multi-year trends in our community, and in your neighborhood, and while there have been tremendous strides in improving the quality of life in Springfield, it has become clear that we still have many challenges,” said City Manager Greg Burris, in a letter to residents of the Bissett, Doling, Westside, Tom Watkins, West Central, Woodland Heights, Midtown, Grant Beach and Heart of the Westside neighborhoods in Springfield.

“We need your help. We need your ideas. Please join us for Community Listen, a tour through Springfield’s neighborhoods where we hope citizens will come and share their thoughts. We have an

Employee wage increase and competitive pay addressed in proposed budget

By Greg Burris

The City Manager’s proposed fiscal year 2016 budget was given to Council April 28, and I want to share the same information with all employees. As promised, the budget submitted to City Council today included a proposed employee wage increase (the equivalent of 3.5% increase to include merit steps and an across-the-board component). The budget also includes a plan to address City positions that are paid significantly below market. These priorities reveal the vital importance of you, our employees. Competitive pay continues to be an issue that challenges us as we recruit for specific positions and I responded to City Council’s request to develop a plan to address this, setting aside $300,000 to address several positions in the City that are paid significantly below market. There are positions in the City that are paid 20% or more below market, which causes us difficulty in recruiting for these positions. This impacts our ability to provide quality services for our community. The proposed budget limits the number of new positions added, in favor of increasing the competitiveness of pay for current employees.

Other highlights of the 2016 budget include addressing public safety and preparing for anticipated costs for environmental compliance.

Public Safety

Funding for public safety continues to be a high priority. Including wage increases, 54% of all new revenue in the FY 16 budget is proposed to be

See LISTEN on page 3.
City bids outgoing Council members farewell, swears in 5 new members

The City hosted a special reception honoring the service of the five outgoing City Council members April 13 in the Busch Municipal Building.

Four new members were sworn in at the City Council meeting following the reception.

Justin Burnett, Kristi Fulnecky, Ken McClure and Mike Schilling replaced Doug Burlison, Mike Carroll, Jerry Compton and Cindy Rushefsky.

A video about the reception, including interviews with some of the outgoing Councilmembers is available on the City homepage at springfieldmo.gov.

Phyllis Ferguson was selected as the new Zone 1 representative at a special Council meeting April 21 and was sworn in at the April 27 regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

Phyllis is chief operating officer and treasurer for Mexican Villa Food Products, Inc. and has previously worked for Mercy and Heer’s department store. She has lived in the Springfield city limits for 38 years.

Zone 1 is located in the northwest quadrant of the City of Springfield. The seat was previously occupied by Jeff Seifried.

Phyllis has a bachelor of arts degree from Missouri State University, and is currently a member of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. She has also served on the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Commercial Street Task Force and the Sign Ordinance Review Task Force.

Other community activities and offices held include the Neighborhood Advisory Council as the chair of its Positive Action Committee; the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association as a board member and president; Moon City Creative District developer; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteer, board member and co-director; and Missouri Preservation southwest Missouri representative.

Outgoing councilman Mike Carroll is honored with a key to the city April 13.

Acting City Clerk Anita Cotter swears in Zone 1 Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson April 27.
appropriated to public safety departments. The FY 16 budget also includes funds to purchase police vehicles and a required grant match to begin absorbing an additional 10 new police officer positions, initially covered by a Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) grant. These 10 officers will start their police academy training this summer and complete field training in the last quarter of the upcoming fiscal year. We will need to continue to absorb one-third of this cost over each of the next two fiscal years as the three-year grant expires. The FY 2016 budget also proposes funding for two additional police service representatives (PSRs) to support these 10 new officers.

Environmental Compliance
The long-term Overflow Control Plan submitted to regulatory authorities will require significant investment in the City’s sanitary sewer infrastructure over the coming years. Eleven new positions in the Clean Water Services division of the City’s Environmental Services Department are funded in the proposed FY 2016 budget, as recommended in the Council-approved Early Action Plan. These positions are required to meet unfunded environmental mandates and are being funded via the Council-approved sewer rate increases.

The FY 16 budget also includes funding for needs anticipated to maintain compliance with the existing stormwater permit. The new stormwater permit could have additional requirements that are not funded in the FY 16 budget. Due to the sunset of the Parks/Stormwater Sales Tax, there is no ongoing funding source for these anticipated additional stormwater requirements.

What is the budget?
The budget is a plan - a financial proposal that annually directs the provision of public services and facilities. Once finalized and adopted, this plan represents the City Manager’s and City Council’s commitment to provide for the most important citizen needs within the boundaries of available revenue (funds).

The money collected by the city from taxes, grants, fees, and many other sources to pay for this plan is called revenue. The money spent on salaries, materials, and equipment to provide these planned services and facilities is called appropriations (planned expenditures). By city law, revenues and expenditures must be equal in the Annual Budget. This is what is meant by a balanced budget.

How is the budget prepared?
The budget is prepared with extensive input from departments. A series of budget workshops allow City Council time to discuss and consider the budget in detail and put forth any suggested changes. The public is invited to the workshops, which are scheduled for noon on Tuesdays, May 5, 12 and 19 at the Busch Municipal Building fourth floor conference room.

Council must approve a final budget before the new fiscal year begins on July 1 each year.

Community Listen
upcoming meetings:

Westside
May 7, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Westport Elementary

Tom Watkins Neighborhood
May 11, 5-6 p.m.
Williams Elementary

West Central
May 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
McGregor Elementary

Woodland Heights
May 14, 6-7 p.m.
Bowerman Elementary

Midtown
May 18, 7-8 p.m.
Boyd Elementary

Grant Beach
May 19, 4:3-5:30 p.m.
Weaver Elementary

Heart of the Westside
May 21, 6-7 p.m.
York Elementary

Cora Scott jots down what Bissett residents would like to see happen in their neighborhood.
New Honor Walk program seeks to honor employees

The City of Springfield CAmP Class of 2014 proudly presents its class legacy project: The City of Springfield Employee Honor Walk. The Honor Walk is a commemorative walkway which will soon be installed at the main entrance to the Busch Municipal Building in City Government Plaza. It is established to honor City Employees for their dedication and service to the City.

“When it came time to brainstorm an idea for our Legacy Project, our CAmP Class looked back on 2014 and remembered those we’d lost,” said class member Kristen Milam. “Several high-profile leaders within the City had passed away. Others retired or moved on to other jobs. We chose to find a way to remember these employees forever and honor them for their dedication and service to the City.”

Customized engraved brick pavers are available to City employees, retirees, and their family members for a $100 donation. Engraved bricks are great for retirement gifts, honoring a departing employee, or memorializing the life of a current or past employee.

Proceeds will be used to give back to employees through the Employee Crisis Fund.

How to honor someone with a brick in the Honor Walk:

• Download an Honor Walk Brick Dedication Form found on Sharepoint. Fill out all necessary contact info and specify what information should be engraved on the brick.
• Submit the Dedication Form and $100 donation to the Public Information Office on the 4th floor of the Busch Municipal Building. Donations will be accepted in the form of cash or check, either in-person or via U.S. Mail. All donations must be private funds and cannot be from departmental accounts.
• Forms and donations will be collected year-round, with a single yearly on-site bulk engraving occurring each year in time for the Employee Picnic.

Need something to give your honoree now?
Certificates of Induction into the Honor Walk are available for your honoree showing a mock-up of what their brick will look like. Certificates are available within 2 weeks of order submission.

For more information, contact Kristen Milam at kmilam@springfieldmo.gov or 864-1402.

Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE

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.

I am honored to present Mr. David Hogan with the admirable Golden Goose Award. David has been an amazing hard worker and always vigilant from day one. David has boosted morale and has made our crews work days more efficient and fun. Thank you, David, for the comraderie and for being an exemplary friend.

Thomas Breashears
Public Works - Streets

I’m presenting the Golden Goose Award to Brian Mcleod because the day I had to crawl a waterway he volunteered to help me and I was very appreciative. It was a long haul. Thanks for your help!

David Hogan,
Public Works - Bridges & Waterways
FOR SALE

Farm fresh eggs for sale at $3.00 per 18. Please call Bonnie at 402-650-7614 or email at redplaidgirl@hotmail.com.

Queen Bedroom Suite-Mission style bed (headboard, footboard, side rails) with box spring ($150.00); 5 drawer chest ($150.00); Dresser and mirror ($200.00); night stand ($50.00) or $400 for the entire set. Contact Joe at 343-3117. Photos available upon request!

Matching cloth sofa ($200.00) and loveseat ($150.00) or $250.00 for both. Beautiful bone white French style loveseat with matching pillows ($200.00). Large L-shaped simulated cherry office desk with beautiful matching hutch from office depot ($250.00). Contact Joe at 343-3117.

Solid oak entertainment center with pull-out swivel television holder and lots of cabinet space and built to last a life time ($250.00). Nice stylish light pink chair w dark hardwood legs ($50.00). Full sized mattress with cover, box spring and metal frame ($50.00). Contact Joe at 343-3117.

Piano - needs tuning and some work ($50). Contact Joe at 343-3117.

2004 Mercury Grand Marquis, 4.6L V8, motor is strong, transmission is smooth. Rides like a cloud. Had collision with very large buck deer – has damage to front of car. Could be repaired for a solid driver. Asking $1,500. Call Nancy @ 417-425-6557.

3 chandeliers for sale that have never been out of box. 6 light specialty bronze finish chandelier orig. over $300, selling for $150 OBO. 9-light chandelier, brushed nickel finish, white marbleized glass. Orig. $289+, selling for $100 OBO. 5-light chandelier, brushed nickel finish, 24 in x 23.63 in., selling for $50 417-551-2924 after 5; 417-841-1897.

Never been opened - Full Motion TV Wall Mount for 32”-65” LED LCD Plasma TVs up to 165 lbs; adjustable tilt & swivel side-to-side; Dual Arm pulls out up to 25”, with Leveling Adj., Bonus 10 ft. List price: $299.95 Call 417-551-2924 after 5; 417-841-1897.
In January 1992, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibited discrimination in state and local government programs and activities and defined an individual with a disability as a person who:

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities – such as, hearing, seeing, speaking, breathing, walking, learning, caring for one’s self, etc.
- Has a record of such impairment.
- Is regarded as having such an impairment.

The ADA protects qualified individuals with disabilities from employment discrimination such as recruitment, pay, hiring, firing, promotion, job assignments, training, leave, lay-off, benefits and all other employment related activities.

While applicants with disabilities are protected, they are still required to meet the job requirements for all essential education; experience and licensures required for the position and be able to perform the essential job requirements with or without reasonable accommodation.

Reasonable accommodation is any change or adjustment to a job or work environment that allows a qualified applicant or employee with a disability to actively participate in the application and interview process, perform the essential functions of the job, or to enjoy the same benefits as those employees without disabilities.

ADA protects qualified people with disabilities from employment discrimination

By Ben Hunt

Congratulations to all for completing the 2015 City-wide Walking Challenge!

With 43 teams and 277 participants, the City raised $1,295, which will be split between the American Heart Association and Ozark Greenways!

Totals
Together, City employees walked 32,973.6 miles - exceeding the goal by 12,973.6 miles. How far is 32,973 miles? The equatorial circumference of Earth is 24,901 miles, meaning we collectively walked around the world. Way to go, everyone!!

The City also had 30% of participants rank in the 10K Step Club by logging an average of 10,000 steps per day throughout the competition.

Winners
We had some great competition in both the desk and field divisions. For the Desk Division, first place goes to Busch Walkers, with an average of 393,066 steps, followed by Giggity Giggity Goo with 370,630 average steps.

The Field Division winner is The Clean Team, with 448,342 average steps, followed by Kicking Asphalt, with 431,017. Congratulations! Winners will be contacted soon regarding their prizes.
Why do you do what you do?
I’ve always had an interest in computers, software, and information systems. I think it’s really interesting to work with the talented folks that protect vital data and keep the City’s computers and networks running.

What’s the hardest part of your job?
Troubleshooting issues that involve programs I don’t use on a daily basis.

What’s the best part of your job?
The instant positive feedback I receive when a computer or printer issue is resolved.

What’s the hardest thing you’ve done in your career?
Transition from 23 years of law enforcement service to information technology work.

What do you admire about this organization?
I admire the teamwork and problem-solving skills shared within the Information Systems Department. Everyone is willing to pitch in and resolve technical issues as soon as possible.

Russell Wright
Computer Support Assistant
Information Systems
Russell has worked for the City for 9 months.

A Q&A of City of Springfield employees. To suggest a colleague for “Do You Know...?” e-mail thescene@springfieldmo.gov.
To: Andrew Hoover, 911
Telecommunicator

On March 19, there was a domestic disturbance where the suspect fled the scene. Andrew Hoover was dispatching north side police and set up a perimeter with a K9 tracking the suspect. The suspect was eventually apprehended. Afterwards Acting Sergeant Jason Marcum, Springfield Police Department, sent a message saying a good job was done by all.

Acting Sergeant Jason Marcum
Springfield Police Department

To: Municipal Court Judge Thornhill

This evening, you presided over my son in a court hearing. I am writing this letter, unbeknownst to him, to express my deep gratitude for your words. It meant a lot to hear you supporting me in such a way. I am often told that he is disrespectful toward me; I suppose there are times that I either do not see it, or do not want to. Standing up for him and supporting him comes naturally, despite my somewhat flawed motherly instinct. I do want to apologize for his behavior in court. I know that he was nervous and afraid, however that is no excuse and I am sorry. I attempted to convey the gravity of the situation to him, but I presume at a certain age that a mother’s words only go so far. I alluded to the challenges that our small family has faced. You see, we have met before, you and I. I am quite certain that you were my judge on more than one occasion. Like my son, I got caught in the trap of drugs and addiction. I was blessed enough to get out, to get away. I have been in recovery for a number of years now, clawing my way out of that old life and into a new one, working hard to be a responsible member of my community, performing volunteer work and outreach to other addicts. This is perhaps irrelevant, because I know that we do not learn from the sins of our fathers, but I just wanted to let you know that there are true success stories, and I owe a great deal of my own success to the Greene County court system, and I am grateful.

I do not know what it is like to be a teenage boy, but I do know what it is like to have overcome hardship, addiction and loss. I try to do my best with and for this child, and I pray that this is what turns him around. I do not want him to end up like I did. I love him too much to lose him, and will do whatever it takes to support him through this, ensuring that he completes his sentence.

I have nothing but respect for the law and those that uphold it, and if no one has told you today, I respect you and I appreciate you. I found your words to be very kind (my son may not have seen it this way) and very true. If you ever have any questions or even need someone to speak to teens about addiction and overcoming, please feel free to contact me. It would be an honor to serve, to even help change one life.

Name withheld

To: Greg Burris

I am a small-business owner and have lots of contact with government officials. Some was good, some indifferent and some incredibly poor. I wanted to take a moment to write you about your city business license department. They have exceptional service and went above and beyond in answering my phone call and providing information even beyond their scope. When I arrived they were very efficient. I received my business license promptly and with no hitches or repeat visits. I want you to know the work done by these ladies was fabulous and they should be commended for their efforts to make a difficult process easier. Kudos to them.

Sincerely,
Genny Evans
Co-owner, Heavy Heads Records

To: Captain Frienze & the Crew of Station 5, A-shift

The other day we were dispatched out to a 19 year old who had lost control of his motorcycle in a residential area. When we arrived, your crew was assessing the patient and keeping him calm. The patient had a partial amputation of his lower right leg, a closed fracture of his right femur, and was in shock. The crew was absolutely amazing at helping to stabilize the leg (upper and lower), strip the patient down and secure him to a spineboard.

While we were securing the patient, I requested to have someone ride with me to help stabilize the patient en route to the hospital. Your firefighter (I apologize that his name slipped my mind) was able to help keep the patient still and as calm as could be throughout transport. He was extremely professional, knowledgeable, and willing to do whatever needed to be done to help the patient.

One of the reasons I am writing to you is that I appreciate professionalism and hard work when I see it. I have been a MEDIC in the military for the past 10 years, and am responsible for training and teaching 30 Medics in my command. I understand the pride and discipline that it takes to have a crew that is highly skilled and trained to handle any situation they may come across... and to do it with ease.

Thank you!! Thank you for having your crews trained to the standard and level that they are. I will do anything and everything to help my patient have the best outcome possible. Your crew was extremely instrumental in making that happen. They knew the significance of the injury and that it was a life threat. They were able to have everything ready to go as soon as I asked for it. Their training and their skills allowed us to have a 6 minute scene time and a 15 minute transport across town. This allowed the patient to make it into surgery within 45 minutes of the accident. I usually make it a point to thank the crews and make sure that they know how grateful I am of their assistance. Unfortunately, in this situation I was unable to. Please let your crew know that their promptness and training saved this patient’s life. Thank you for all that your crews do to help our community. I want you to know that it does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Meg McIlquham
Cox EMS Paramedic
U.S. Army Combat Medic