One of SPD’s first female police officers retires from the City

Ever since the first police departments in the U.S. were formed in the mid-19th century, policing has been viewed by most as a traditionally male career path.

In 1970, only about 2 percent of all police officers in the United States were women, as compared to 13-14 percent today.

In 1974, 27-year-old Sandy Goss, along with two other female recruits, graduated from the Springfield Police Department’s police academy. Before 1974, women were not accepted into SPD’s academy.

“I spent two years trying to get into the academy ... finally, the city manager at the time told the police department that they had to accept women,” Goss said.

Upon graduation from the academy, Goss worked for the Springfield-Branson National Airport as an airport police officer for 16 years. While serving at the Springfield Police Department’s patrol division and was specially assigned to SPD’s mounted patrol in 1992 and 1993.

Goss, pictured front right on the paint horse, served in SPD’s patrol division and

Volunteers are still needed to work the first-ever Birthplace of Route 66 Parade Aug. 14.

In addition to the parade, Birthplace of Route 66 Festival events will include a two-day car and motorcycle show, two nights of concerts at the Gillioz Theatre, a drive-in movie, a vendor village, a 6.6 mile run and a gathering of Route 66 authors, artists, collectors and associations at The Old Glass Place (501 E. St. Louis St.) where Route 66 aficionados from all over the country will have displays and products for sale.

Visit route66festivalsgf.com to learn more about the festival. If you’re interested in volunteering at the parade, please contact City Clerk Anita Cotter at 417-864-1651.

A Sunday Afternoon at the Springfield Art Museum

1-4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 9, Springfield Art Museum. Join us for fun art activities, performances by Springfield Little Theatre and Conservatory of the Ozarks and the Chewbaru art car.

Fun Family Fishing Night

6-9 p.m., Aug. 7, Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park. $5 per person, 2 and under are free. Fee includes bait and tackle, access to bounce house, cow train and bonfire. To register, please call 417-837-5949.

National Night Out

6 p.m.-sundown, Aug. 4, Meador Park. Meet your heroes at National Night Out and tour police, fire and safety vehicles, browse through safety information, and eat free hot dogs and ice cream. There will also be games, informational booths and a prescription drug take-back area.

Volunteers are still needed to work the first-ever Birthplace of Route 66 Parade Aug. 14.

1/4-cent and 1/8-cent Public works seeking input on projects for tax renewals.

Farmer’s Market Order fresh produce through inBalance.

Do You Know?

Get to know Park Board SPARC counselor Kristy Stacy.
City seeking input on projects for next 1/4-cent and 1/8-cent tax cycles

In April 2016, Springfield voters will be asked to approve the renewal of the 1/8-cent transportation sales tax (with no tax increase) and the 1/4-cent capital improvements sales tax (with no tax increase) to fund high-priority capital improvement and transportation improvement projects in Springfield.

The revenue from both taxes is reviewed and monitored by the Citizens’ Sales Tax Oversight Committee.

The City is seeking feedback from citizens in the form of a survey on the proposed list of new roadway construction projects to be included in the next cycles of the 1/4-cent and 1/8-cent sales tax programs. An online survey is available at springfieldmo.gov/election.

Paper copies of the survey will be available at the Citizen Resource Center, which is inside the Busch Municipal Building lobby.

The survey includes short descriptions of the full list of projects. It asks citizens to prioritize the projects and programs they think are most beneficial to the community and to offer any additional comments they might have. The survey is open to anyone who lives, works or visits Springfield and frequents City roadways.

Public Works engineers identified more than 25 proposed projects and 11 programs designed to not only make streets safer, but also more user-friendly for all modes of transportation.

The list was created using the following criteria:

- Increased safety for all users.
- Support of economic development.
- Protection and enhancement of the environment and quality of life.
- Intermodal connectivity.
- Condition of the infrastructure.
- Opportunity for public and private partnerships.
- Efficiency & effectiveness of the system.
- Neighborhood Health Indicators.

The results from the survey will help guide the city as it sets priorities for projects funded by the 1/4-cent and 1/8-cent sales taxes.

About the 1/4-cent tax


The current 1/4-cent capital improvement sales tax, renewed by Springfield voters for the eighth time in 2013, is estimated to generate approximately $30 million, which is being invested in high-priority projects such as intersection improvements, school sidewalks and traffic signals.

When possible, funding is leveraged with other partners including county, state, federal, and developer funding to increase the investment return to the citizens of Springfield.

About the 1/8-cent tax

The 1/8-cent transportation sales tax has a four-year sunset, was first approved in 1996 and renewed in 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012.

The current 1/8-cent transportation sales tax, renewed by Springfield voters for the fourth time in 2012, is estimated to generate approximately $20 million, which is being invested in high-priority projects such as intersection improvements, street and bridge widening, signal system improvements, turn lane improvements, alternative transportation projects such as sidewalks and trails and street resurfacing.

When possible, funding is leveraged with other partners including county, state, federal, and developer funding to increase the investment return to the citizens of Springfield. Projects that have been completed with revenues collected from the 1/8-cent and 1/4-cent taxes include:

- Republic Road & National Avenue intersection improvements.
- South Glenstone & Independence intersection improvements.
- Republic Road and James River Freeway bridge and LINK connection.
- I-44 and Kansas Expressway diverging diamond intersection.
- James River Freeway at National Avenue diverging diamond intersection.
- James River Freeway at Campbell Avenue intersection improvement.
- National Avenue at Kearney Street intersection improvement.
- Widening of U.S. Route 65 to 6 lanes, in 2 phases, from Chestnut Expressway to Sunshine Street, and from Sunshine to Battlefield Road.
- Turn lane improvements for safety and capacity at various locations, such as Glenstone at Battlefield and Chestnut Expressway at Sherman Avenue.
- Bridge and pavement preservation, including bridge rehabilitation on Kansas Expressway viaduct.
- Design priority intermodal connectivity improvements to enhance pedestrian, bicycle and transit mobility.
- Construct pedestrian connections to transit stops along Glenstone Avenue.
- Enhancements to the Ozarks Traffic Intelligent Transportation System including variable message signs.
- Cost-share projects for economic development working with MoDOT, Greene County and private developers.
City Council at its July 27 meeting unanimously approved a bill that City staff thinks is the next step in addressing chronic nuisance properties in Springfield.

At a series of nine listening meetings in Springfield’s northwest quadrant in May, Zone 1 residents made it clear that they are concerned about chronic nuisance properties (vacant or poorly maintained properties with overgrown yards, trash and abandoned cars).

“What became very apparent as a result of these Community Listen meetings, is that we need more teeth in our City ordinances when it comes to nuisance properties,” said Planning & Development Manager Brendan Grisemer.

At its May 26 meeting, City Council took the first step in dealing with problem properties by unanimously passing an ordinance to create a series of penalties for property owners that continue to fail to maintain their property, to make clarifying changes concerning special tax bills and additions to real-estate tax bills, and to codify due-process-of-law provisions for enforcement actions.

Sponsored by Zone 1 Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson, Council Bill 2015-177, replaced the existing Chapter 74 Nuisance and Housing Code with code that is more clear, better aligns with state law, holds property owners responsible for compliance and allows for better and more timely enforcement and abatement.

According to the new code, property owners will be notified (by mail or in person and by a notice posted on the property) of nuisances on their property. The property owner will then have 15 business days to respond to the notice or improve the condition of the property. After 15 business days, if the property owner has not responded to the nuisance notice, the City can then abate the nuisance at the owner’s expense.

Costs of abatement will be recovered through assessments, real estate taxes and property liens.

The proposed code removes the tenant from the equation, as well as the requirement to hold a hearing each time a nuisance property needs to be abated, i.e., mowing tall grass or removing trash or abandoned vehicles from a property.

Nuisance properties bill to help City improve housing conditions

inBalance offers On-Site Farmer’s Market at Busch Building

City of Springfield employees now have the opportunity to receive fresh organically grown produce from a local grower! Morning Glory Farm is giving you the opportunity to place produce orders each week, and then pick up your delivered order on Friday afternoons at the Busch Building’s south loading dock. A new order form will be sent out each week. Forms will also be available on CityShare>inBalance.

How to Place an Order
- Forms are available on CityShare>inBalance and emailed each week. Fill out your order form and email the document to inbalance@springfieldmo.gov. Orders must be submitted each week by Wednesday at noon.
- Morning Glory Farm will deliver orders each Friday from 11:30-2:00 at the south side loading dock of the Busch Building.
  - You must pay for your order upon pick up using cash or check. If you cannot pick up your order, please arrange for someone else to do so. (Failure to pick up or pay for an order will result in you being unable to participate again in the future.)

About the Grower
Morning Glory Farm was started in 2008 in Springfield, Missouri with the vision of providing organically grown food for our local community. All produce from the farm is picked and delivered at very precise times in order to provide a product that is of the best quality and as fresh as possible. The farm is located at 2501 W. Norton Road. Visitors are welcome to stop by any time and see where their produce comes from!
The story of my involvement in the GOCAPS program began back in the spring with an email from my building principal. He asked if any teachers would be willing to participate in a one-week externship experience with a variety of businesses in Springfield. I was interested and began to look into the program. “The Greater Ozarks Centers for Advanced Professional Studies (GOCAPS) immerses high school students in professional environments through engaging curriculum that is driven by passionate industry leaders and delivered by visionary instructors” (Springfield Chamber GOCAPS).

The Springfield Chamber of Commerce was looking to place teachers in a pilot program for GOCAPS in order to create connections between the worlds of business and education, as well as provide hands-on experience for the educators to serve as program-literate ambassadors.

Through my participation in this program, I hoped to gain insight on what skills I could impart to my students that would benefit them as they enter the workforce. As a high school English teacher, my students seem to question my motives when I assign them a reading or writing project (“Mrs. V, when am I EVER going to use this outside of high school?”).

Honestly, I am sometimes unsure of how to respond. Why am I giving this assignment? Is it truly useful to them in some way? Will it prepare them for what they will face in the “real world”? I wanted to compare our curriculum to the skills being used in business and industry and see if they lined up and if so, to what extent.

Throughout the four days I spent with the City of Springfield, I visited six different departments including Public Information and Civic Engagement, Information Systems, and the Police Department. I noticed several common themes as I talked to individuals about what they look for in employees and colleagues. Technical knowledge of the subject matter, ability to adapt to change, creativity, and communication skills were common to all areas. Several supervisors/managers addressed the issue of hard (technical) v. soft (communication/personal) skills. It seems that the ability to work well with others was at the top of the list of desired employee skills (which, I am sure, no one finds surprising).

Next on the list was the ability to communicate, both verbally and on paper/electronically.

As I assessed how I address these skills in the classroom, I realized one major gap in my instruction: audience. I was not teaching students how to differentiate between audiences (who they are working with or who they are writing to) and how audience directly influences how they behave and how they communicate. When we understand who we are speaking or writing to, we can adjust our behavior and language to fit that particular situation.

If a person is unable to do this, it creates immense issues in communication, which can have an effect on work productivity, individual perceptions, and personal relationships. By addressing the issue of determining audience with my students in the classroom, I feel I can give them one of the tools they will need to communicate effectively in the work place.

My participation in the GOCAPS program and partnership with the City of Springfield was an extremely fulfilling experience. I am grateful for the experience and the time that was put forth to accommodate my externship with the city. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting every individual and gaining insight on how to not only become a better professional myself, but also how to help my students become professionals in their future careers.

Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE

Thank you Mavis for keeping us Springfield garage sellers in line. Who would have known we could get ourselves into so much trouble? “A permit ... what permit?” Thanks to you we are served with the “how to’s” and “how not to’s” keeping us on the right side of the law! This is only one of the many aspects of your job, but of great significance in keeping Springfield neighborhoods cleaned up. You may work quietly, but you work hard reaching out to residents as well as illicit business owners. You know how to get the job done right.

Rose Watson
Environmental Services

I am presenting the Golden Goose award to Samantha Griffith. She has been very helpful not just to me, but to everyone in the licensing department. When we send over the Zoning Approval forms to her she gets them back to us in just a day or two! Her timely attention to this step in the process, means the citizen gets his answer from us much quicker about whether or not his business license is approved. This is only a part of her job but one that impacts our department greatly. I thank you, Samantha, for a job well done.

Mavis Jackson
Finance

I am presenting the Golden Goose to Rosa Aviles in Public Works because she has done the most beautiful job with the flowers and maintenance. Everytime I see her she is really working hard no matter if it’s moving, using the leaf blower or planting flowers and never hear her complain once about the heat or anything. I really want her to know that her lovely work is not going unnoticed or unappreciated. Thank you for all that you do.

Samantha Griffith
BDS
OEM awarded $39,639 grant to expand recycling program

The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (GCOEM) was recently awarded a $39,639 recycling grant by Missouri Solid Waste District O, for the purpose of expanding the current recycling program in place at the Public Safety Center, 330 W. Scott St., Springfield. Each year, Missouri Solid Waste District O awards grants for Solid Waste Reduction in the district’s five-county service region (Christian, Dallas, Greene, Polk and Webster counties). Solid Waste Reduction includes recycling, public education, and other programs that reduce solid waste generation. Individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations and government entities may apply.

The award of this grant is based on a competitive process facilitated through Missouri’s Department of Natural Resources. GCOEM successfully competed against dozens of other applicants for its original District O recycling grant and awarded for the 2013 fiscal year grant cycle in the amount of $9,000. This allowed for initial start-up activities of a recycling program, focused primarily on physical recycling and educational outreach. This original 2013 grant allowed OEM to keep over 2,000 pounds of recyclable materials out of the landfill and area waterways.

The recent award of a $39,639 District O grant for the 2015 fiscal year grant cycle will allow for the expansion of the recycling program to include two additional Greene County government facilities (locations to be determined). It will also enable the recycling of electronic waste (monitors, keyboards, etc.) in addition to the current recyclable materials of glass, aluminum, white paper and plastic. The expanded grant will also allow for increased hours of operations, the purchase of needed equipment to collect, store, transport and deliver materials to designated recycling centers and the continuation of educational outreach efforts to Greene County government campus visitors and personnel.

“The Office of Emergency Management understands the importance of contributing to the preservation of our environment. This grant money will allow us to expand our current recycling program, enhance our focus on public education and ensure that as many items as possible are recycled.” said Chet Hunter, GCOEM director.
Looking for old barns to tear down for the lumber to build furniture. We will clear everything from the site as a benefit to the property owner. Please contact Olivia at 417-849-0865.

2007 Yamaha V-Star 650 Silverado. Good condition, motor runs great, paint and seats are in good condition. This bike has a shaft drive. Gas tank holds 4.2 gallons. No electrical problems. Great all around motorcycle for riding the back country roads or in town cruising. Selling for $2,750 or OBO. Please contact Tod at 417-300-1010.

Golf Clubs, 3-PW , SW/UW , bag and driver. $75, call 848-8450, ask for Phil.

Farm fresh eggs for sale at $3 per 18. Please call Bonnie at 402-650-7614 or email at redplaidgirl@hotmail.com.

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.

2004 Mercury Grand Marquis, 4.6L V8, motor is strong, transmission is smooth. Has damage to front of car. Repairable. Asking $1,000 cash. Call (417) 425-6557, leave msg. Solid oak entertainment center with pull-out swivel television holder and lots of cabinet space and built to last a life time ($250). Nice stylish light pink chair w dark hardwood legs ($50). Full sized mattress with cover, box spring and metal frame ($50). Contact Joe at 343-3117.

FOR SALE

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Fire Department’s Bob Monier earns Fire Officer Certificate

Promotions

Jeffrey Charchol
Survey Chief – Public Works

Philip Costa
Lead Maintenance Worker – Environmental Services

Zachary Hildebrand
Parks Caretaker – Parks

Chelcie Kinzey
Office Administrator – Finance

Brian Olle
Associate Engineer – Environmental Services

Sally Payne
Assistant Director of Workforce

Retirements

Mark Clinkenbeard
Fire Captain
Fire – 22 years

Michael Giles
Principal Engineer
Public Works – 30 years

Stephen Slatkavitz
Aircraft Services Trainer – Airport

John Waitman
Environmental Compliance Officer – Environmental Services

Isaac Weber
Senior Workforce Development Specialist – Workforce Development

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Fire Captain
Fire – 22 years

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Why do you do what you do?
I have always hoped to have a job where I can make a difference in people’s lives. Working with the youth in my own city is the best way I can think to do so. We are so much more than after-school care. In many ways, we are helping shape the future of our city and I feel honored to be a part of it.

What’s the hardest part of your job?
The balancing we do. It’s a matter of focusing on the safety and fun of our kids, but we do also have to make sure that the parents are satisfied and that we work to maintain our partnership with the schools. It can be dizzying at times, but rewarding when we bring it all together.

Do you work to live or do you live to work?
Both! I have to work to maintain a living, but I also genuinely look forward to going to work. I enjoy what I do and I love the people I get to do this job with.

What do you admire about this organization?
The community feel. I’ve felt welcomed and included since the day I started.

What's something that Springfield should strive for as a city?
Stick together! So often, people give up and take the “move somewhere else,” mentality when things aren’t going their way. Yes, there is a time for that, but overall we will grow so much more if we stay the course and fight for our city and what we want for it.

65th Springfield Police Academy class graduates

The 65th Springfield Police Academy who graduated on June 26 includes: Zachary Adkins, Matthew Bashion, Shane Bertalott, Christopher Brackin, Joshua Brown, Nicholas Evgenides, Kevin Fox, Samuel Gahr, Cody Greninger, Lauren Henderson, Jason Highley, John Howery, Evan Nicholson, Veronica Knight, Sophal Peng, Collin Teal, Nicholas Telscher, Nathan Worland, Nicolas York and Gregory Young.

The 20 graduates underwent 1,019 hours (24 weeks) of intense law enforcement training. Nineteen of them are now each assigned to an experienced field-training officer (FTO) for approximately 520 hours (13 weeks) of on-the-job training.

Once they complete the FTO program, these 19 new officers will be assigned to the Springfield Police Department’s Uniform Operations Bureau.

One graduate, Kevin Fox, has returned to the Springfield Fire Department for additional training for his new position as a fire marshal. Congratulations to all the graduates!

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), will arrive on Aug. 10 to examine all aspects of the Springfield Police Department’s policy and procedures, management, operations and support services.

Verification by the team that the Agency meets the Commission’s standards is part of a voluntary process to gain CALEA accreditation, which recognizes departments with professional excellence.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency personnel and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session at 5 p.m. on Aug. 11 in the Police SRT Building auditorium located at 216 W. Central.

If an individual cannot speak at the public information session but would still like to provide comments to the assessment team, they may do so by calling 417-864-1133 on Aug. 11 between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Telephone comments, as well as appearances at the public information session, are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency’s ability to comply with CALEA standards.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Springfield Police Department’s ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write to: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA®), 13575 Heathcote Blvd, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia, 20155.
To: Springfield Police Department, Airport Police Officer Rick Bookout

Hello! Today my sons and I visited your airport as a little field trip. I’m 53, my boys are 11 and 6, and this is the first time any of us had been to an airport. I just wanted to let you know that one of your security guards (whose name I failed to get) took the time to escort us around the facility and explain things to us. He went above and beyond. We were very impressed. When we do decide to take that first flight, he has been very beneficial in easing our nerves and making us feel comfortable. We very much enjoyed your facility. The gentleman who helped us told us he retired from the Springfield PD and I think just works part time. Please thank him again for us!

Sincerely,
Rina, David, & Stetson Barnes

To: Springfield Police Department

I just want to take a moment to say THANK YOU for everything you guys do. I know you guys get disrespected, but let me tell you that I will NEVER disrespect you guys. People don’t truly stop and think what you guys go through every day. You guys get shot at, cussed at, yelled at, and you guys deal with the most calm to the insane criminals. I pray for your safety every day, you guys are my true heroes. I have lived here all my life, and I can’t see myself living anywhere else, and I’m glad that I have guys like you to protect my life and my family’s lives. THANK YOU.

Sincerely,
Michael Moore

To: Lucinda Hodges and Joel Holdman, 911 Telecommunicators; Andrew Hoover, 911 Shift Supervisor; Officer Laura Cordes, Springfield Police Department

On June 26, Joel Holdman answered a 911 call from Linda, a Greene County citizen, requesting a well-being check at an address in the county. Lucinda Hodges dispatched the call to Greene County deputies Jordan Dibben and Neil Kastler so they could respond. Linda called back later to say “good job and thank you” to all involved.

To: Ellen Herrmann and Leigha Brandt, 911 Telecommunicators; Andrew Hoover, 911 Shift Supervisor; Officer Laura Cordes, Springfield Police Department

On July 4, Ellen Herrmann received a 911 call from a Springfield citizen, regarding an alarm at his home. Leight Brandt dispatched the call while Andrew Hoover called the caller back to get the door code. SPD Officer Laura Cordes responded to the alarm call. The 911 caller contacted 911 again and expressed his appreciation to all involved for the handling of his alarm.

To: Holly Heminger, 911 Telecommunicator

On July 4, Holly Heminger answered a 911 call concerning some juvenile subjects, approximately 10-year-olds, that were causing a disturbance and spitting on one another. As the caller was on the phone, several adults joined in and the caller was quickly outnumbed. Afterward, the caller re-contacted 911 to thank Holly because she was patient and understanding while obtaining information from him.

To: Tifanie Keim, 911 Telecommunicator

On July 12, Tifanie Keim was dispatching for Springfield Police Department (SPD) when a traffic pursuit started. The pursuit quickly ended when spike strips were used and the suspect was apprehended. Later SPD Officer Tony D’Andrea sent a message to 911 Director Zim Schwartze complimenting Tifanie on her excellent job of relaying information and staying calm on the radio. Officer D’Andrea thought Tifanie sounded like a seasoned dispatcher, but later learned she had just been released from police dispatch training.

To: Kris Inman, 911 Training and Education Manager

Shawna Jones, Assistant to the Director of Public Safety at Evangel University, contacted Kris Inman regarding job shadowing at 911 Emergency Communications for Evangel’s dispatchers.

Kris was very accommodating and coordinated details. After Evangel’s job shadowing experience, Kris received an email from Shawna stating this was “a really great positive experience” for Evangel’s dispatchers. She thanked Kris for the opportunity and stated Emergency Communications is awesome!

To: Russ Wright, Help Desk

I would like to thank Russ Wright, who works at the help desk, for being so down to earth!

As a fellow City Employee, sometimes we take our internal customers for granted. Russ has helped me on several occasions with computer issues, and is always friendly. Today, Russ went above and beyond. He not only corrected the computer issue, but stayed on the line with me while we made sure the fix was actually going to work.

He explained to me why I was getting some of the errors screens, and what he was doing to fix it. It was more than him just clicking a bunch of screens; I felt as if I actually learned something when I got off the phone with Russ.

Thank you, Russ, for your courtesy and explaining things in a way I can understand. You truly are an asset to the City of Springfield and to the help desk!

Sincerely,
Vanessa Wyrick
Administrative Assistant
MWA Region 16