City staff make a difference on Day of Caring, gear up for United Way campaign

City departments once again came out in force to participate in United Way of the Ozarks’ 23rd annual Day of Caring Aug. 20.
Projects completed by City staff ranged from filling a prize box for the Ronald McDonald House’s Tooth Truck for pediatric patients to choose from after their dental visit to painting walls at Boys & Girls Clubs to grading roads and re-roofing buildings at a Girl Scout camp.

Day of Caring offers a great kick-off for the City’s annual United Way fundraising drive. The 2015 United Way campaign will kick off Sept. 8. The theme for this year’s campaign is “Hit it out of the Park!”

Last year, City employees and retirees raised donations totaling $107,029. More than $96,000 came from individual pledges and over $11,000 from special events sponsored by City departments. The City is United Way of the Ozarks’ third-largest donor, according to United Way of the Ozarks Director of Resource Development Shellie Jones.

This year, the City’s fund-raising goal is $115,000. Donation forms will be distributed by departments after the United Way coordinators meet on Sept. 2. Fund raising events will run through Oct. 23. Watch the Monday Morning Announcements for a schedule of each week’s events.

The annual Sharepoint silent auction, which is hosted by Public Information and Information Systems, will take place Oct. 12-16.

If you have new or gently used items to donate for the auction, please bring them anytime after Labor Day to Public Information Executive Secretary Sharon Spain on the fourth floor of the Busch Municipal Building. For more information, contact Sharon at 864-1105 or at sspain@springfieldmo.gov.

Thanks again to all of those who participated in Day of Caring.

City of Springfield Director of Public Information & Civic Engagement Cora Scott said the parade brought in about 5000 spectators to watch roughly 425 classic cars, trucks, motorcycles, floats and performing groups. Roughly 600 spectators watched from a City grandstand area at the Springfield Expo Center lot and thousands more lined Route 66 (St. Louis Street) from Glenstone to the Square.

“It was really rewarding to see all of those happy faces cheering on the folks in the parade, many of whom where from out of town, out of state, or even in a few instances, from out of the country,” Scott said.

An Australian tourism company, Travelling Made Easy, guides Route 66 tours each year. They specifically booked their trip down the historic highway into Springfield to coincide with the 2015 Birthplace of Route 66 Festival.

“They were looking for a different angle and to provide their Route 66 fans with something new and different to learn about, and we were it,” Scott said.

An additional 15,000 people visited the festival Saturday and additional 3,000 came Sunday. The 6.6-mile run down 66 drew 180 participants.

Business owners, including hotels and retail outlets reported boosts, thanks to the festival. Businesses such as Steak and Shake, Hurts Donuts, St. Michael’s and Maria’s, saw people line up out the doors for many hours during the festival.

Plans have already been announced for the 2016 festival, which will take place Aug. 12-14. Promoters at the historic Gillioz Theatre announced next year’s concert acts for both Aug. 12 and 13 and provided special ticket offers to this year’s festival-goers. Officials there say they have already sold about 100 tickets to both concerts.

Festival partners also included the City of Springfield, West Central Neighborhood Alliance and the Route 66 Association of Missouri. Event assistance was also provided by Fisk Limousine, Inc. and Great Southern.

Public Works employees Matt Dyer, Greg Braden and Bobby Berry take a ride in the Drive-In Movie float that premiered in the Birthplace of Route 66 Parade. Two floats for the parade were designed by the Public Information Department and constructed by Sterling Jones, Curtis Mitchell, Mike Raney, Rick Anderson and others in Public Works.
The Springfield-Greene County Health Department is excited to welcome Katie Towns-Jeter back to the SGCHD family this month. Towns-Jeter will return as an assistant director for the department, a title she will share with current Assistant Director Clay Goddard. Two of her top priorities will be assisting in the implementation of the department’s Community Health Improvement Plan as well as contributing to the efforts city-wide as part of the Zone 1 Blitz planning.

Towns-Jeter served as the public information officer at the department until spearheading the creation of SGCHD’s division of chronic disease prevention. Since 2013, Towns-Jeter has served as the system director of corporate and community health for CoxHealth.

“I am thrilled about the opportunity to again be a part of the excellent team at the Springfield-Greene County Health Department!” Towns-Jeter said. “This team is driving community health improvements with careful analysis, strategic initiatives and solid partnerships. With all that is taking place to improve our community and redesign health care, it will be exciting as well as an extreme privilege to join this team and serve alongside them as we help Greene County become the happiest, healthiest place to live.”

**Battle of the Boot Camps is back!**

Wednesday, Sept. 30 • Noon - 1 p.m. Harrison Stadium/Curry Sports Complex, 900 N. Summit Ave.

Battle of the Boot Camps is back this year! Teams of City employees will compete in a special battle against each other and the Leadership Team. They’ll be using all their might to “soak” the Leadership Team to win four hours of paid leave and bragging rights. Please join us as a competitor or a spectator. Easterly’s Chuck Wagon will be on site or you can bring your own lunch to eat while you enjoy the entertainment.

**Battle of the Boot Camps school supplies drive a SUCCESS!**

The Battle of the Boot Camps Challenge committee adopted Weller Elementary and collected school supplies from Aug. 3-11 for the school’s “Cents of Pride” store. Students earn pretend money for attendance and good behavior which they can use to “buy” donated goods. Many thanks to all of those who filled our donation boxes, especially employees from the Clean Water Services building who donated more than any other department! A total of nearly 350 pounds of school supplies were collected, plus some cash donations! Staff at Weller were very grateful for the generosity of City of Springfield employees.

**Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE**

It is an honor to give the Golden Goose award to my very good friend David Bartels. David and I had the opportunity to work together in the past. His knowledge of the equipment and continual encouragement helped me gain confidence in my work. David, you are a good person and good worker. Thank you and I want you to know that I’m glad to have the opportunity to work and learn from you.

Rosa Aviles, Public Works

I’m giving Crystal Dorser this award because of her great personality and positive attitude. She is always giving words of encouragement. She is a “shining star” in the HR Department and is very deserving of this award.

David Bartels
Environmental Services
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.

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.

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.

CreAsian restaurant to donate half of Sept. 9 gross sales to Springfield Police and Fire

CreAsian restaurant, at the northwest corner of Chestnut and Campbell in Springfield, will again donate half of its gross sales Wednesday, Sept. 9, to the City’s Police and Fire departments. Last year’s donation netted nearly $1,200 for SPD’s crime prevention and neighborhood watch programs, and SFD’s fire education and prevention efforts.

Restaurant co-owner Kiki Hu says her husband Johnny Tang came up with the idea because he wanted to give back to the community.

“We are so blessed and he felt that since he came here 14 years ago, he had nothing. Now he has a restaurant and a family,” she explained. “It’s now time to contribute back to society.”

Environmental Services hosts 2nd annual Happy Fest for staff

The Environmental Services Department held its 2nd annual Happy Fest to show appreciation to its hard-working employees and have a little fun. Department supervisors and leadership took part in a multi-round trivia game that ended with the losers getting a pie in the face!

Executive Secretary Karen Stewart got the chance to pie Director Steve Meyer in the face.

Happy Fest was organized by the Happiness Committee, whose goal is to spread joy and fun throughout the department.
To: Andrew Hoover, 911 Shift Supervisor

On Aug. 5, 911 Emergency Communications was experiencing general slowness with their CAD computer system requiring the dispatcher to go through the process of sending the call twice. The workstations were inconsistent and slow. Andrew Hoover, 911 Shift Supervisor, was on the phone with the software vendor for quite some time relaying information. Afterwards, the vendor contacted J. R. Webb, Assistant Director, and advised that Andrew Hoover was a tremendous help with their troubleshooting efforts to resolve the issues 911 Emergency Communications were experiencing.

Sincerely,
Phillip
CAD Vendor

To: Ashley House, Danielle Allen, Dean Westermeyer, Ellen Herrmann, Holly Tevlin, Jillian Wokurka, Kelly Goff, Maria Sanchez, Ronnie Woolard and Stacey Watson, 911 Telecommunicators Heather Morrison and Jim Rayle, 911 Shift Supervisors

On Aug. 22, after a busy Saturday night, Jim Rayle received a message from Greene County Deputy Cody Hughes, saying thank you! All your jobs go unnoticed far too often.

Sincerely,
Deputy Cody Hughes
Greene County Sheriff’s Office

Newest 911 Communications Training Officers Leigha Brandt, Sara Meier and Stacey Watson recently completed a three-day Association of Public Safety Communications Officials course administered by Training and Education Manager Kris Inman. They are the third group of trainers to be certified by the department’s formally recognized in-house training program. They will be tasked with training, educating and assisting newly hired 911 telecommunicators with on-the-job training totaling 700-800 hours per employee.

Why do you do what you do?
My whole career has been in private business, skilled trades and manufacturing. This is a chance to give back to the community from lessons I’ve learned and hopefully be able to help people in our community.

What’s the hardest part of your job?
Patience to learn everyone’s names and roles and all the opportunities we have that help people in our community to become employed in a position they enjoy.

What’s the best part of your job?
Being able to help employers and job seekers gain awareness of all the resources available at the Career Center. It seems like it’s the best-kept secret in town. We don’t want it to be a secret! We want to tell the story to everyone so they know about us and what we can assist them.

What are you passionate about?
A spirit of cooperation and collaboration. All days are good; some are just better!

Do you work to live, or do you live to work?
I really try to balance that. I’m very serious about my work, but my wife, Jill and our two boys, Hayden and Caleb, are most important to me.

Who do you admire in this organization?
The folks who work with the job seekers in our office. There are many reasons why people are looking for employment. The number one thing we can give them is hope.