2015 United Way campaign under way

The theme for this year’s campaign is “Hit it out of the Park!” Our goal this year is $115,000. Donation forms will be distributed by your department soon! Fund-raising events will run through Oct. 23. United Way events will appear each week in the Monday Morning Announcements. For more information about the great work the United Way does right here in the Ozarks, please visit uwozarks.com.

Split the Pot Fundraiser
The Information Systems Department will once again be having a Split the Pot fundraiser to benefit United Way. The pot is now up to $350. Purchase Split the Pot tickets from a member of the Information Systems team. If your ticket is chosen at the end of the fundraiser, you will receive one half of the pot, while the other half goes to the United Way! It’s a win/win situation! Information Systems will be selling tickets Sept. 14 through noon on Oct. 9. The winning ticket will be drawn at 2 p.m. on Oct. 9.

Tickets are:
- 1 ticket for $1
- 6 tickets for $5
- 13 tickets for $10

Finance Tower of Tickets
Win this raffle and you will be the proud owner of a TOWER OF LOTTERY TICKETS. Tickets will be sold Sept. 21-Oct. 15. The lucky winner will be drawn at NOON on Oct. 15!

Tickets are:
- 1 ticket for $1
- 6 tickets for $5
- 14 tickets for $10

Find your favorite Finance Employee in the Print Shop, Accounting, Purchasing, or Licensing to purchase your tickets and support the United Way!

Public Works $200 Bass Pro Gift Card Raffle
Tickets will be sold Monday, Sept. 14 until Friday, Oct. 2. The lucky winner will be drawn on Monday, Oct. 5!

Tickets are:
- 1 ticket for $1
- 6 tickets for $5
- 25 tickets for $20

See Kim Talbot or Shirley Johnson to purchase your tickets and support the United Way!

Public Works/Environmental Services Ice Cream Social
Dates will be announced later this week. Please contact Shirley Johnson with questions.

BDS Breakfast Bake Sale
BDS will be having a Breakfast / Bake Sale on Oct. 13. BAKED GOODS ARE NEEDED. Please contact Donna Wilson in BDS if you can donate.

Finance Coffee Sales
Finance is selling freshly roasted, ground, and brewed MUDHOUSE coffee in the Print Shop every Wednesday until Oct. 14. Coffee is $1.50 per cup with all the fixings (flavored syrups, sugar, creamer).

PIO/IS Silent Auction
The annual United Way e-Auction on CityShare will be held Oct. 12-16. Items donated for the auction should be taken to Sharon Spain in the Public Information Office by Oct. 9.

Planning and Development Candy Shoppe
Planning and Development will be opening their Candy Shoppe on Sept. 28 on the 2nd floor in the Planning Department. Hours will be 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Please contact Nicki Woods in IS with additional questions.

Zone Blitz to address neighbors’ concerns
11 topic teams gave recommendations.

Who got Goosed?
See where the Golden Goose ended up this month.

Do You Know?
Get to know Nancy Hoeman at the Health Department.

BeCivilBeHeard.com
Speak out with courage
Express yourself with honor and conviction.
‘Zone blitz’ plan to address concerns shared in May’s listening meetings

At a series of nine “listening” meetings in Springfield’s northwest neighborhoods in May, City and community leaders heard neighbors’ concerns.

Now, it’s time for action. About 175 individuals representing nearly 100 organizations gathered at Doling Park’s Northview Center Wednesday, Sept. 23, to discuss ideas and recommendations to address quality of life issues ranging from health status to chronic nuisance properties in northwest Springfield.

After collecting the responses from the Community Listen meetings, City Manager Greg Burris again reached out to City of Springfield staff and community partners to form 11 teams to brainstorm ways to improve quality of life for Zone 1 residents around the following topics: • Chronic Nuisance Properties • Civic Engagement • Communication • Digital Divide • Food Access • Health Care • Housing • Infrastructure & Transportation • Jobs & Economic Conditions • Public Safety • Wellness.

The teams’ recommendations, which are online at springfieldmo.gov/zoneblitz will be discussed in follow-up public input sessions and implemented shortly thereafter. Some of the recommendations will require more in-depth review by City Council or other legislative bodies, which will come at a later time in the process.

Recommendations will also be shared with the community at the Junior League of Springfield’s Community Summit: Focus on Poverty 9:30 a.m.-noon Oct. 8 at the Springfield Art Museum. Zone 1 residents will be asked to provide final input on the proposed plan.

The summit will also highlight the release of the 2015 Community Focus Report for Springfield-Greene County and the Impacting Poverty Commission Report.

The Community Summit will include the release of the bi-annual Community Focus Report, the Impacting Poverty Commission Report, Healthy Living Alliance update and the announcement of a major grant by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

Assistant City Attorney Sarah Kerner named interim Economic Development director

Assistant City Attorney III Sarah Kerner will join the City of Springfield’s Planning and Development department as interim Economic Development director effective Oct. 4.

While serving in her new position, Kerner will retain her job classification as assistant city attorney while she receives additional training and participates in the City’s career laddering program before transitioning to the Economic Development director position.

Kerner has served in a number of roles as an assistant city attorney for the City of Springfield since 2007, including representation of the departments of Planning and Development, Public Works, Health, Information Systems and the Springfield-Branson National Airport.

Before joining the City, Kerner was an associate attorney for Ellis, Ellis, Hammons and Johnson, PC.

Kerner received both her law and undergraduate degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is a member of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Springfield Class 31 and an active volunteer in her church and community groups.

“Sarah has demonstrated that she has a solutions-oriented attitude and understands the importance of collaboration and innovation in economic development initiatives. I am confident she will excel in this position,” says Planning and Development Director Mary Lilly Smith.
Public Works has authorized Hunter Chase & Associates to begin construction on phase II of the Jefferson Avenue streetscape project. This project will continue the streetscape improvements previously constructed downtown, including the construction of ADA-compliant sidewalks, lighting enhancements and signal reconstruction on Jefferson Avenue from Park Central East to Water Street and on Olive Street from Robberson Avenue to Jefferson Avenue.

The estimated construction cost for the project is $1.16 million, with $253,836 being reimbursed by City Utilities, bringing the City’s portion to $905,101. The funding source for the project is the 1/4-cent Capital Improvements Sales Tax.

The project will involve lane shifts and possible closures at various times. During the construction, the traffic signal at Jefferson Avenue and Olive Street will be removed and a stop sign placed on Olive Street.

By the time Charlotte called Harmony House, she had been seeking shelter for many weeks and found herself nearing the end of yet another list of names and numbers to call.

In one final attempt to gain temporary sanctuary, Charlotte dialed the Harmony House SAFEline number. As she spoke with an advocate, she described fears and anxieties that were becoming overwhelming. Fear that her abuser would find them and that they would not be so lucky this time.

She also had tremendous anxiety and concern about the health and well-being of her children. She said one son in particular consumed her fears as he has a disability and needed access to electricity for an oxygenated breathing apparatus.

She went on to explain that obtaining electricity while being homeless was becoming more challenging with every day that passed. After hearing her story, Harmony House staff was able to find space for this family and welcomed Charlotte and her boys into the safety of the Harmony House shelter.

Your gift changes lives, giving hope to those who find themselves in a hopeless situation. Agencies like Harmony House and The Victim Center are providing this help and hope every day for families like Charlotte and her boys.

YOU make that possible. Thank you!
The City of Springfield was notified Monday by the U.S. Department of Justice that the City will receive funds to assist with the hiring of 11 additional officer positions under the 2015 COPS Hiring Program (CHP). The estimated total amount of federal funds to be awarded to the City over the three-year grant period is over $1.3 million.

The City must make a local cash match of 25% over the three-year grant period. After the three-year grant, the City will assume 100% of the ongoing costs for the additional officers.

Six of the new officers will be assigned to patrol in the Center City Zone, located within the northwest quadrant of the city, part of which is in City Council Zone 1. The City launched a Community Listen initiative in May in Zone 1, after discovering a series of concerning trends, including crime.

The remaining five officers will be assigned to a new evening-shift traffic unit dedicated to DWI, hazardous motor vehicle violation enforcement, and neighborhood traffic concerns, according to Police Chief Paul Williams.

“Traffic consistently rates as a top concern among citizens in our biannual citizen satisfaction surveys and speeding in neighborhoods was a problem brought up at all nine Community Listen meetings,” Williams said.

Springfield was one of 1,103 law enforcement agencies nationwide requesting officers as part of the COPS Hiring Grant. Of those applicants, 196 agencies received grants to hire between 1-15 officers.

Williams said Springfield scored high in the area of community policing, demonstrating the ability to successfully partner with other public agencies, private organizations and citizens to address recurring challenges.

The Springfield Police Department is actively recruiting and testing for current vacancies, and will continue that process to fill these new positions. The next testing date is Oct. 30 at the Springfield Regional Police and Fire Training Center at 2620 W. Battlefield for an academy scheduled for February 2016.

Williams said additional testing dates will be added in the future, with an anticipated summer 2016 academy for the grant-funded officers. That would put these new officers on the street in spring 2017.

The grant is contingent upon formal City Council acceptance. The grant award information will be presented at an upcoming City Council meeting.

Partnership allows troubled youth to improve community, lives

Sherman Avenue Project Area Committee, Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS), University of Missouri Extension and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields program. It enables troubled youth 15-17 years old to earn high school credit and learn about a career in construction, while working to improve the community on City-funded neighborhood projects.

The current iteration of Project CoRE began about five years ago, but its foundation was laid 15 years ago when OTC’s David Lowry and Gary Breedlove developed a program to provide community improvements using DYS students.

Kyle Reed has since replaced Breedlove (who retired) as the program director for DYS.

The program includes two weeks of tools and safety training, followed by eight weeks of on-site construction work. The on-site classes are supervised by two to three DYS and OTC teachers and mentors.

Sherman Avenue PAC purchased the house and vacant lot one block north of OTC from the McAdams Estate. Nate McAdams wanted the house restored using local youth in a mentoring program and sold it under market value with that intention.

The general contractor for the project is a former troubled youth who turned his life around and has been working on City-funded neighborhood projects for about five years. The program is also using three to four OTC students and graduates to help mentor the youth.

“These are ground-up projects in that the students design the project, work out the material costs and install the project. They get to learn as much as they can about construction in the class time that they have,” Breedlove says.

The material for the projects is funded by the City of Springfield. The state pays the students’ tuition to OTC.

“This works very well – the kids listen to and respect the OTC students. It’s not another adult telling them what to do,” says Planning and Development Project Specialist Jim Webb.

Lead paint and asbestos were remediated using the City of Springfield Brownfields Program (EPA funded). The actual on-site work for this project has been 64 days with eight classes graduating approximately 75 students with the skills and the self-confidence to make better life choices.

“After this structure is rehabilitated, we hope to continue the partnership with a new construction project at 1138 N. Sherman,” Webb says.
Registration now open for Employee Bazaar

The Employee Bazaar is a fund-raising event for the Employee Crisis Fund and is open to all City employees. This year’s location is the Busch Building conference rooms located on the second floor – 2 East and 2 West. The Employee Bazaar will be open for shopping and donations:
• 2-4:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 4
• 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5
We are looking for City employee vendors to participate in the Employee Bazaar. If you have any questions, please contact Kara Daniel at 417-864-1621.

Harvest Fest returns to Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park

Harvest Fest at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park opens this weekend, kicking off six weekends of corn maze, pumpkin patch and all kinds of fall-themed family fun.
The annual Harvest Fest event spans Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 6 p.m., Sept. 19-20 through Oct. 24-15. Other activities include hayrides, the corn cannon, cow train, grain train, inflatables and carnival games.
Admission to Harvest Fest is free, but activities have a small fee, and pumpkins are sold by weight. The Farm Park also features free farm animal interactions, pedal tractors and a farm-themed playground.
Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park is just north of Sunshine, off West Bypass, at 3825 W Farm Road 146. For more information, call the Farm Park at 417-837-5949 or visit parkboard.org

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

We now live in a world that is more connected than ever before. The Internet touches almost all aspects of everyone’s daily life, whether we realize it or not.
We connect with friends and family, conduct business and banking online and rely on many services, like transportation and electricity, that are supported with online systems.
Technology has spearheaded advancements in healthcare, education, business, music, government, and many other industries. As technology advances, our lives become easier and more connected.
However, being constantly connected brings increased risk of theft, fraud, and abuse. No country, industry, community, or individual is immune to cyber risks. As a nation, we face constant cyber threats against our critical infrastructure and economy.
As individuals, cybersecurity risks can threaten our finances, identity, and privacy. Since our way of life depends on critical infrastructure and the digital technology that operates it, cybersecurity is one of our country’s most important national security priorities, and we each have a role to play – cybersecurity is a shared responsibility.
Recognizing the importance of cybersecurity to our nation, President Obama designated October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month.
National Cyber Security Awareness Month takes place each October and is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with the National Cyber Security Alliance and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

General Cybersecurity Awareness:
Five Years of STOP. THINK. CONNECT.
Marking its fifth year on Oct.1, STOP THINK. CONNECT. is simple, actionable advice that everyone can follow to stay safer and more secure online.
• STOP. Make sure security measures are in place.
• THINK about the consequences of your actions and behaviors online.
• CONNECT and enjoy the Internet. National Cyber Security Awareness Month will launch with a focus on making this basic advice a guiding principle so that we can navigate the Internet – and our digital lives – safely and more securely.

Cybersecurity Tips
• Share with care. What you post can last a lifetime! Think first about who can see and post how it might be perceived.
• Personal information is like money. Value it. Protect it.
• Keep a clean machine. Keep security software, browsers and operating systems up to date to protect against online threats.
• When in doubt, throw it out. If a message, link or post looks suspicious, delete it.
• Don’t trust anyone calling you to “fix” your computer or device.
The “support technician” directed the employee to a website to download a program to fix the computer.
In reality, the employee was downloading a program that would allow this person to remotely control the employee’s City computer and therefore gain access to the City network.
This particular City computer also had a credit card swipe connected to it. Due to the Web filter that Information Systems has in place, the Web site that the employee was directed to was blocked, and the program could not be installed.
There have been several other similar calls to City employees. Don’t trust anyone calling you to “fix” your computer. If you question why or if an Information Systems employee is calling you, hang up and call the Help Desk.
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.

FOR SALE
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.

To: Assistant Fire Chief David Pennington
On Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 5:30 a.m. as I was driving to the university, my car was broadsided by another vehicle as I was crossing Sunshine on Scenic. Although no one was seriously hurt, the accident was severe enough that my car was totaled. The response time of the Fire Department (Station No. 8) and the Police was three minutes! Their professionalism, efficiency and concern was absolutely amazing! The citizens of Springfield are truly blessed to have such dedicated men and women in these two important areas looking after our safety and well-being!

Sincerely,
Jerry Hoover
Missouri State University

To: Keith Bachman, Leigha Brandt, Ashley House and Tracy Whipple, 911 Telecommunicators
On Aug. 25, 911 received a call regarding a vehicle occupied by a male with multiple warrants. The suspect abandoned the vehicle, ran through a fence and eluded officers. Ashley House, dispatching on County Law, set up a perimeter involving Springfield Police Department and the Greene County Sheriff’s Office. A friend of the suspect told a Springfield Police officer at the scene the suspect was in a field and would shoot officers before he went down. Tracy Whipple was dispatching Police (Southside) and Leigha Brandt was training Keith Bachman on Police (Northside). After the incident, Deputy Randy Foster with the Greene County Sheriff’s Office, called in and complimented everyone involved. He stated “you definitely have your hands full, keep up the good work.”

Deputy Randy Foster
Greene County Sheriff’s Office

To: Jillian Wokurka, 911 Telecommunicator
On Sept. 3, Director Schwartz received a call from Lieutenant Revell, Springfield Police Department, complimenting Jillian Wokurka, 911 Telecommunicator. Lieutenant Todd Revell had called in to 911 Emergency Communications to follow-up on an incident where supposedly one of their K-9’s chewed up a kid’s soccer ball while officers were searching a backyard area. As he was talking to Jillian, she offered to donate a soccer ball to the family. Lieutenant Todd Revell wanted to thank Jillian for going above and beyond as he was quite impressed with her willingness to donate.

Lieutenant Todd Revell
Springfield Police Department

To: Andrew Bick, Keith Bachman, Leigha Brandt, Kelsey Eick, Kelly Goff, Ellen Herrmann, Cinnamon Fuller, Joel Holdman, Tifanie Keim, Andrew Meyer, Tessa Peterson, Crissy Postlethwait, Tari Redd, Jesse Richerson, Maria Sanchez, Kayla Smith, James Stater, Stacey Watson, 911 Telecommunicators; Andrew Hoover, Heather Morrison and Mike Vasso, Shift Supervisor
On Sept. 7, there was a large motor vehicle accident/pile up on I-44 with multiple agencies assisting. Fire Chief Eric Ghan, West Republic Fire District, called in to say thank you to all who helped with the multiple crashes on I-44. Director Schwartz also received a phone call from Fire Chief Jamie Kilburn, Bois D’Arc Fire District, who wanted to commend everyone on the excellent dispatching and appreciates all 911 Emergency Communications does. He said the dispatchers were not rattled and did a great job!

Fire Chief Eric Ghan, West Republic Fire District; Fire Chief Jamie Kilburn, Bois D’Arc Fire District

To: Lisa Donaldson, Tessa Peterson and John Saunders, 911 Telecommunicators
On Aug. 27, a male with dementia traveled from Arkansas to reunite with his family (on a Greyhound bus.) However, his family members were unable to locate him. Randy, a concerned family member, called 911 several times that day. Randy told an officer to tell dispatch to say “thank you” to everyone whom he spoke with throughout his contacts.

Randy
Springfield

To: Cinnamon Fuller, 911 Telecommunicator
On Aug. 24, Cinnamon Fuller went above and beyond by contacting multiple different agencies in an attempt to find a suicidal female. The female was located at New Western Illinois University in the Macomb Police Department area sobbing for help. The female was transported for the assistance she needed. Crisis Negotiator Captain Harms called Cinnamon Fuller and wanted to thank her for all her help reaching out to help the female.

Captain Harms
Women’s Regional Correction Center Crisis Negotiator

To: 911 Emergency Communications Department
On Aug. 28, Phil called to say everyone is polite and professional in all his dealings with 911 Emergency Communications. He has been a 911 caller for at least twenty years. His compliment was not related to any one event but several over the years.

Phil
Springfield

To: Officer Jacob O’Quinn, Springfield Police Department; Andrew Bick, 911 Telecommunicator
On Sept. 14, Officer Robert Reeves with the Springfield Police Department received a call from James and Clara. Clara stated that Officer Jacob O’Quinn, Springfield Police Department, was very sweet and professional. She stated there were two other officers but did not see their name tags. Clara stated “Officer Jacob O’Quinn made us feel safe and secure.” She also stated that Andrew Bick, 911 Telecommunicator, was very helpful, kind and stayed on the phone with her until police arrived.

James and Clara
Springfield
‘Super Springfield Squad’ wins the Battle of the Bootcamps

Fun was had by all who participated or attended the annual Battle of the Boot Camps Challenge held on Sept. 30 at the Central High School/Drury University stadium.

Congratulations to the winning team, the “Super Springfield Squad,” comprised of Captain Jason Gabathuler (PW), Amanda Callaway (Law), Jonathan Peitz (PW Engineering), Lori Stubbeman (Licensing), Tina Stob (PW Traffic), John Waldo (Parks), Todd Wagner (PW/CU), and Colten Harris (PW). They barely edged out the “Badunkadunk Busters,” who took second place and “Sharon’s Minions,” who took third, to take the first place trophy and four hours of paid vacation! Though the Leadership Team won the tug ‘o war event, it came down to a tie-breaker race for the other two teams to declare a winner!

Many thanks to the spectators who came out to enjoy lunch and cheer on their favorite team! Free items were thrown to the crowd to battle over. Congrats to Mark Montgomery (PIO), Brittney Bywater (PIO), Buffee Smith (Licensing), Jon Mooney (Health), and Jordan Coiner (Health) for winning their respective races.

Also, big thanks to the Battle of the Boot Camps Committee who urges you to get involved, stay active, and get ready for next year’s challenge!

Nancy Hoeman, RN, MS(N)
Nurse Coordinator, Health
Nancy has worked for the City 9 years.

Why do you do what you do?
Public health and the emphasis placed on prevention is important.

What’s the hardest part of your job?
Working with babies and children with special health care needs.

What’s the best part of your job?
I get to work with an outstanding group of caring and creative professionals.

What issue is impacting/affecting your area right now?
The issue of growing poverty in the community. A large section of the community is just not aware.

How are you dealing with it?
Education and working with different collaboratives within the community and school district.

What’s the coolest thing you’ve done in your career?
The unique experience of working in the special needs shelter during the 2007 ice storm.

What’s something you’ve learned since working for the City?
Before I came to the City, I knew the City did a good job of collaboration, but now I know just how well we do it across the sections.

Do you work to live, or do you live to work?
Why? I live to work. Nursing is my passion.