Open Enrollment is Here!

Open Enrollment allows eligible employees the opportunity to enroll and/or make certain changes to current Cafeteria, Health, Aflac, Dental and Life plan elections. Any changes made during Open Enrollment will take effect Jan. 1, 2016.

Open Enrollment elections must be complete and received by the Human Resources Department by 5 p.m. on Nov. 23.

More information on your Open Enrollment options, plan information and enrollment forms can be found on City Share>Forms >Human Resources. You can also learn more about your Open Enrollment options by attending a meeting. The meeting schedule can be found on City Share too.

If you have questions please email benefits@springfieldmo.gov or call Human Resources at 864-1607.

United Way campaign preliminary totals in

Preliminary numbers for the City’s grand total contribution to the United Way are in and we are just under $100,000 this year, with employee pledges comprising about $87,000!

“Thank you to all of you that have so generously donated to the United Way and supported our United Way fundraising events. I wish you all could see how much of a difference you are making in the lives of those less fortunate. It is truly humbling to work with such caring and generous people,” said IS Executive Secretary Nicki Woods.

Fundraisers result in more than $2,200 for Thornhills

From Oct. 29 through Nov. 1, the Environmental Health division of the Health Department conducted a fundraising “blitz” for co-worker Tarrah Thornhill. Tarrah’s husband Brian is battling stage IV cancer.

Thanks to all the generous support of caring City employees who participated in the cookout/lunch, silent auction, raffle for Kansas City Royals wear, and the Nov. 1 swap meet, more than $2,200 was raised for the Thornhill family.

Silent Auction Winners:
- Winter Wellness: Greg Burris
- Nature’s Naturals: Becky Sigrest
- Tailgaters Choice: Janet Hicks
- Garden Basket: Janet Hicks
- Hairs to You: Nancy Hoeman
- Happy Pet: Karen McKinnis
- Hunters Delight: Katie Scott
- Pamper it Up: Rebecca Husney
- Dairy Dream: Roxanne Sharp
- Organic Beezness: Chastity Willers

“And thanks to all of those who worked so hard in coordinating events and distributing/gathering pledge forms. We could not have successfully pulled off this campaign without your help,” she added.

Kansas City Royals Wear Raffle Winner: Daniel Neal.
City and partners dedicate Battlefield and 65 bridge replacement and diverging diamond interchange

The City of Springfield, Greene County, Ozarks Transportation Organization and the Missouri Department of Transportation celebrated the opening of the bridge replacement and new diverging diamond interchange at Battlefield Road and U.S. 65 with a dedication ceremony and reception Oct. 29 in the Justice Jewelers parking lot (3520 E. Battlefield) overlooking the intersection.

Elliott Lodging hosted a reception immediately following the dedication at the Clarion Inn and Suites near the interchange.

About the Project
This project was “Completed as Promised” thanks to cost-share dollars from the 1/4-cent capital improvements and 1/8-cent transportation sales tax approved by Springfield voters. Partners City of Springfield, Greene County, Ozarks Transportation Organization and Missouri Department of Transportation, completed the $12.5 million project on time and on budget.

The project included converting the interchange into a diverging diamond configuration and rebuilding the bridge. Also completed were northbound and southbound lanes on U.S. 65 to connect Sunshine Street and Battlefield Road ramps and installing a new traffic signal at Battlefield Road and Woodstock Avenue.

The prime contractor on the project was Hartman and Company, Inc.

“We simply could not do these sorts of projects without important partnerships, and of course, the support of the voters,” said Public Works Director Dan Smith. “Thank you to everyone involved, especially the neighbors, both commercial and residential, for your patience and support through the construction of this vital intersection in our community.”

Shop for the holidays at second annual Employee Bazaar Nov. 4-5

The Employee Activities Committee will host a holiday bazaar 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4 and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, in the Busch Municipal Building 2 East and West conference rooms.

Shop vendors such as Pampered Chef, Scentsy, Jamberry, Mary Kay, Advocare, and Plexus. Handmade items such as soaps, lotions, baked goods, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, crocheted items and much more will also be available.

Donate to the Employee Crisis Fund for the chance to win items from the vendors. Cash or personal check accepted at all booths. Some vendors may accept credit cards. All proceeds or personal check accepted at all booths. Some vendors may accept credit cards. All proceeds will go directly to fund the Employee Crisis Fund.

Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony Nov. 28

Mayor Bob Stephens, with help from first- and second-grade students, will signal the start of the holiday season by lighting a 33-foot Norway spruce, located in Jordan Valley Park, east of the Mediacom Ice Park at the annual Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28. The musical tree and surrounding park will be lit up with thousands of lights.

Hundreds of school-aged children are expected to attend the tree-lighting ceremony, which will include live music, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus and other celebrity guests. Santa’s mailbox (a decked-out mailbox provided by the U.S. Postal Service) returns, on-site Saturday night only, for children to send their letters to Santa.

The ice park, located at 635 E. Trafficway, will again offer free ice skating, 7-8 p.m. that evening. Skate rental is $2.50.

Free parking is available at Mediacom Ice Park and Hammons Field. Convenient parking is also available for a fee at the Jordan Valley Car Park on Trafficway.

Donations to the Boy Scouts of America are also welcome at the Secretary of State’s tree lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. in the Park on Trafficway.

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Inclusion in the workplace just plain good business

Several weeks ago I attended the annual Business Leadership Network (BLN) conference in Austin, Texas. The BLN is a business-led organization whose mission is to advocate and promote the talents of people with disabilities in the workplace. With nearly 1,000 people in attendance, the height of inclusiveness, acceptance and respect for each other was felt everywhere we went.

Major Fortune 500 employers representing various sectors and areas across the nation presented ideas, initiatives and challenges common to all employers, the challenge of acquiring talent to keep them on the competitive edge. They all recognize the value of an inclusive and diverse workforce, specifically the value and talent that people with disabilities bring to their companies.

I was impressed with the high quality of presenters and flow of events throughout the three-day conference. I met two young graduates, one a computer science engineer and the other a chemical engineer with a shared purpose – to get a job!

The conference afforded attendees the opportunity to network with other recent graduates and recruiters. Among the guests were the hearing impaired, visually impaired, the physically impaired and those with hidden disabilities. They were effortless in their approach to new friends, presenting ideas and sharing information.

There was a fashion show with beautiful, talented models representing people with disabilities. There was an awards luncheon honoring contributions of employers and some very inspirational speakers and video presentations.

Most memorable though, was a conversation I had with a very self-assured and accomplished young lady. She recanted to me the day’s events and the things she learned, and then she said something that affected me in such a way, I could feel my heart sink. She said, “I love this conference and look forward to attending every year. I feel so normal!”

I thought, what type of environment or culture have we created in our society that inhibits or suppresses talent, and why should someone with so much talent, enthusiasm and a great attitude have to wait an entire year to feel “normal”?

Kudos to her employer for recognizing her value and kudos to the BLN for being a shining example for all of us to model.

As business leaders, we must do all we can to ensure we are deliberate in our actions to exercise inclusion in our workforce, as it is just plain good business. Hiring people with disabilities helps us to maintain our competitive edge, as it’s been proven that this population loves to work.

They also have buying power, and many companies that have designed products for people with disabilities have increased their productivity and sales as the products are accepted and used by the general population. Additionally, individuals with disabilities have a much higher unemployment rate – 15 percent compared to 5 percent of the general population. For the business community, this translates into an untapped talent pipeline.

As labor markets get tighter and the demand for skilled talent continues to rise, it just makes sense to reach out to this segment of the population.

Mary Ann Rojas is director of the Missouri Career Center-Ozark Region, which serves Christian, Dallas, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties and has locations in Springfield and Branson.

Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE

I would like to give Ellen Painter in Parks – Operations the Golden Goose Award for her always smiling face, kind heart, and willingness to help me. There isn’t a task I ask Ellen to do that she won’t do with a smile.

She always responds to me quickly when I need information to help me do my job. I love Ellen and she is SO deserving of this award!

Alice Wood, HR

I would like to restore this Golden Goose Award on Alice Wood in recognition of her diligence and perseverance in bringing the Zoo up to City standards in HR procedures. Alice has patiently worked with the zoo staff to instruct us on sometimes complicated issues including getting our computer software updated. As a fairly new supervisor, I would particularly like to thank her for her guidance and instruction in matters that are new to me. Her upbeat attitude and patience with instruction are much appreciated.

Melissa Dickson, Dickerson Park Zoo

Bonnie, it is a pleasure, and a blessing, I might add, to know you and work with you. There’s never been a time, no matter how busy you are, that you have failed to help me with a problem or point me in the right direction for the answer. You treat everyone as if they matter. I appreciate your character, your dedication to your job, and last, but definitely not least – the way you consider others, always with courtesy and politeness. I can see your smile through the phone! Bonnie Phillips, a great asset to Human Resources, is truly deserving of the Golden Goose award.

Ellen Painter, Parks
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.

'95 Ford Conquest –$15,000 (Ozark, MO)
'95 Conquest in excellent condition; well taken care of and maintained. New tires, new generator and stove. New batteries. Call Rex or Vera at (417) 818-4586.

Please contact Angela Huggins by call or text at 417-576-8502.

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.

FOR SALE

‘95 Ford Conquest –$15,000 (Ozark, MO)
‘95 Conquest in excellent condition; well taken care of and maintained. New tires, new generator and stove. New batteries. Call Rex or Vera at (417) 818-4586.

Please contact Angela Huggins by call or text at 417-576-8502.

• 10 inch custom subwoofer enclosure for a Mazda RX8 asking $250.00
• GE 18 cube fridge less than 6 months old, moved no longer need it, asking $325.00

Golf Clubs, 3-PW, SW/UX, 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.

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.

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.

Micro-suede queen sleeper sofa, Chocolate brown, very good shape. $250 Call 417-425-6557, leave msg.

The Health Department will again be offering flu immunizations to City employees, retirees and spouses. City employees can receive the vaccine at no cost. City employees’ spouses, retirees and retirees’ spouses will be charged the $16 cost of the vaccine.

The clinics are scheduled for:
• Wednesday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Westside Public Health Center, 660 S. Scenic
• Thursday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Police SRT Building/Mill Classroom, 216 West Central

These dates may change based on the flu vaccine availability. Employee Flu Hotline: 864-1112 (internally: ext. 41112).
Jennifer Swan  
Registered Architect, Facility Design & Construction, Public Works  
Jennifer has worked for the City 1 year.

**What's the hardest part of your job?**  
The hardest thing happens to be the best thing; It’s that I never (or rarely) do the same thing twice. A new and unexpected opportunity knocks on my office door daily. Architects are generalist and learn small amounts about many subjects or topics, where most professionals specialize in their field knowing a great depth about a specific topic. So, I’m learning a lot of new different things every single day I come to work.

**What issue is impacting/afflicting your area right now? How are you dealing with it?**  
Public Works’ facility design and construction division and the maintenance division are teaming up to develop a preventive maintenance annual cost so the City can budget for long-term maintenance of all our facilities.

**What’s the best part of your job?**  
When I see improvement on the quality of product that we create. I hope each project we complete is a little better than the last.

**What’s the hardest thing you’ve done in your career?**  
Truly a toss-up between passing the ARE (Architectural Registration Exam) and learning how to balance professional and personal/family time. I am very proud of both.

**What gives you satisfaction?**  
When I see a project become real inhabitable space that started as conception from a client’s need and my design.

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**Agency Recognitions**  
To: Amy Davis, 9-1-1 Telecommunicator  
On Sept. 9, there was a traffic pursuit covering a large portion of southwest Greene County and Springfield. The pursuit ended with the suspect shooting a civilian and officers shooting the suspect. I would like to thank Amy Davis, who was very calm on the radio and helped me to remain calm throughout the incident. Amy did a fantastic job!  
Sincerely,  
Sergeant Jeff Ussery, Greene County Sheriff’s Officer

**Citizen Recognitions**  
To: Tina Saunders, 9-1-1 Telecommunicator  
On Oct. 17, Lucky, a Springfield citizen, called 9-1-1 Emergency Communications to report that someone was trying to break into his apartment. After the Springfield Police responded, Lucky called back to thank Tina Saunders for a job well done and extended his appreciation during the situation.

To: Springfield Police Department  
The Springfield Police did an amazing job investigating my aunt and uncle’s brutal and senseless murder. I commend them for a job very well done. Corporals Barb and McAmis are outstanding investigators along with the other men/women at SPD who were involved in this investigation.  
My family and I cannot thank them enough for their support, understanding, professionalism, and expertise in this matter.  
The people of Springfield are extremely lucky to have such a professional, capable, and honorable police force.  
Sincerely,  
Evan Tyrrell

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Several City employees participated the Bass Pro Marathon events on Sunday, Nov. 1. Pictured is the winning Pace Monkeys relay team, comprised of Zim Schwartze (911), Randall Whitman (Planning), Jason Gabathuler (Public Works), Jefferson Wood (Health), and Machelle Petit (Health). Big congrats to Health’s Karen McKinnis, who came in first in her division in the full marathon, and to everyone who participated in all of the races.