Remember to vote Tuesday, April 5

On Tuesday, April 5, Springfield voters will be asked whether to renew Springfield’s 1/4-cent Capital Improvement and 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Taxes.

The 1/4-cent Capital Improvements Sales Tax and 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax Renewal Proposal is a sales tax continuation with no additional cost to taxpayers. A significant portion of the revenues for both programs come from non-residents. Residents and visitors alike will benefit from greater safety and roadway capacity on major roadways that serve the region.

First approved by voters in 1989, the 1/4-cent Capital Improvements Sales Tax, is estimated to generate about $30 million to be invested in high-priority projects, such as major street resurfacing and rehabilitation, traffic flow improvements, school sidewalks, stormwater management and neighborhood initiatives. Renewed for an eighth time in 2013, the tax has passed with more than 70% in support in the past three cycles. When possible, funding is leveraged with other partners, including county, state, federal governments and developers.

Voters have approved the 1/8-cent sales tax every four years since 1996. It is estimated to generate about $20 million to be invested in high-priority projects, such as intersection improvements, street and bridge widening, and alternative transportation projects. With a four-year sunset, the renewal of the 1/8-cent sales tax ensures the completion of key projects, including those identified as priorities by citizens.

Help Springfield’s stretch of Route 66 win “America’s Best Main Street” contest

Springfield’s stretch of Route 66 is in the running in the America’s Main Streets contest. You can vote every day through April 24 to get Springfield past the quarterfinalist round! The winning city will receive $25,000 in cash! Visit mainstreetcontest.com to vote.

2016 Route 66 Festival to offer three days of cars, motorcycles, concerts and family fun

The City of Springfield and Birthplace of Route 66 Festival partners KY3, Aaron Sachs & Associates, P.C. and Ozarks On Two Wheels announced the 2016 festival event lineup at a press conference at the historic Gillioz Theatre March 22. The festival, which will take place Aug. 12, 13 and 14 in downtown Springfield, will offer three days of family fun and entertainment revolving around classic car and motorcycle shows, concerts and parades.

Live music will once again be a big part of the Route 66 Festival, with local, regional and national acts on various stages throughout downtown Springfield. Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven will again underwrite the two-day classic car show, which will kick off with the City of Springfield’s Birthplace of Route 66 Parade, located along the historic roadway (St. Louis) from Glenstone to Kansas.

The Gillioz Theatre will host its Route 66 Signature Concert Series Aug. 12 and 13, with iconic bluegrass and country artist Rhonda Vincent and Asleep at the Wheel playing Friday night and The Marshall Tucker Band taking the Gillioz stage on Saturday night. Tickets for the Route 66 Signature Concert Series Aug. 12 and 13 are on sale now at all Ticketholder outlets and online at ticketholder.com.

City-wide Walking Challenge kicks off April 6 through May 6.

Celebrate Earth Month with a variety of events and activities

Author Robert D. Putnam visits Springfield

Noon-1 p.m., April 8
Concert Series are on sale now at gillioztheatre.com.

KY3 will stage a variety of activities throughout the weekend, including a free ice cream social on Park Central Square Friday evening hosted by Barry Williams, a.k.a. Greg Brady of TV’s “The Brady Bunch.” The social will also include a full lineup of Branson entertainers, including Clay Cooper.

The annual 6.6 Mile Run/Walk will take place the morning of Saturday, Aug. 13.

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board will once again host a drive-in movie in the lot on the east side of the Expo Center. Other 2016 festival events include the 6.6-mile Run/Walk through downtown Springfield, the Ozarks on Two Wheels motorcycle village offering live music, games, stunts and shows, and a poker run benefiting local veterans.

The annual confab of authors, artists, collectors and associations affiliated with Route 66 returns to the festival, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 13 and Sunday, Aug. 14 at the Old Glass Place, 501 E. St. Louis (east end of the car show). These folks will have displays with information about their products and services and will have their wares for sale. Come visit with them about Route 66 and see what they have to offer.

Festival-goers are invited to enjoy a Springfield Cardinals home game at Hammons Field both Friday and Saturday night, with a fireworks show following Friday night’s game.

For more information about the festival, please visit route66festivalsgf.com or contact Cora Scott in the Department of Public Information at 417-864-1009 or cscott@springfieldmo.gov. Stay tuned to the Scene and Monday Morning Announcements for volunteer opportunities with the festival.

City-wide Walking Challenge kicks off April 6

The City-Wide Walking Challenge will be held this year from 8 a.m. April 6 until 5 p.m. May 6.

Gather your co-workers and create a walking team – of two to eight people. There will be two divisions: Field and Desk. Decide which division your team belongs - Field is for those that are up and about for most of their job; Desk is for those who spend most of their job at a desk. Have people in each? Choose the division that the majority of your team members are in. Each participant must submit an entry fee donation of $5. Deliver your entry fees of $5 to Nikki Crisp in Finance 100% of the proceeds go directly to the American Heart Association.

To sign up, submit your team information (team name, leader, Field or Desk division, team member names and employee numbers, and how many pedometers you need) at www.surveymonkey.com/s/inBalance_Walking_Challenge_Signup. Not sure what your employee number is? Find out on CityShare.

Track your steps any way you choose - cell phones, Fitbits, pedometers - all devices apply. inBalance pedometers are available upon request. All steps count - walking, running, weekday, weekend, at work, at home. (FYI: 2,000 steps = 1 mile).

Log steps here: www.surveymonkey.com/s/inBalance_Walking_Challenge. Just enter your name and employee number (the same way it was submitted when you signed up) and the number of steps you took from the last time you logged your steps. All steps must be submitted before 5 p.m. May 6.

This year the City of Springfield will also be competing against other local businesses for the largest average of steps taken! This is our chance to take bragging rights and be the first recipients of the highly coveted traveling trophy!

For questions or more information, contact Ben Hunt at 864-1685 or bhunt@springfieldmo.gov.
1 Million Cups Springfield moves to Springfield Art Museum effective April 6

View the first program live at livestream.com/SGFCityView

1 Million Cups Springfield launched Feb. 26, 2014 with the mission to build a start-up and entrepreneurial community out of nearly 100 national and international communities. The program was created by the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, based on the notion that entrepreneurs can discover solutions and network over coffee. Each community uses the same format: two presenters, one hour and free coffee to discuss how the community can help the entrepreneur with his or her business or idea.

1 Million Cups Springfield is the third-largest 1 Million Cups community out of nearly 100 national and international communities. Due to attendance of more than 100 community members each week, the entrepreneurial networking program 1 Million Cups will move from The eFactory to the Springfield Art Museum April 6.

All School Exhibition on display at Art Museum through May 8

Every March, the Springfield Art Museum invites student artists in kindergarten through 12th grade to exhibit outstanding artwork in the “All School Exhibition.”

A celebration of Youth Art Month, this highly anticipated show has been a staple of the museum’s exhibition schedule for over 40 years.

As the art teachers who work with these students know, art is a powerful educational tool. In addition to creativity and self-expression, the arts teach problem solving, critical thinking, innovation, and collaboration. Artwork created by children and teenagers is often relegated to education wings or hallways when it is displayed in museums. By showcasing students’ work in one of its primary gallery spaces, the Springfield Art Museum seeks to highlight the importance of arts education and honor the accomplishments of young artists.

Celebrate Earth Month 2016 with variety of events and activities

The local observance of the 46th Earth Day is an offering of a variety of activities. This year’s Arbor Day celebration marks the celebration of the city of Springfield’s 31st year as a Tree City, USA.

What originally began as a one-day event has now expanded to include all of April. Activities begin April 1 and extend through April 30.

Festivals, clean-ups, displays, field trips, opportunities to volunteer, contribute, participate and just relax and have fun outdoors are included.

A few highlights of Earth Month 2016 include: tree plantings, stream and trail clean-ups, strolls, walks, runs, Party for the Planet at the Dickerson Park Zoo, e-waste collections, pharmaceutical collections, and many, many other fun and productive activities for all ages, abilities and interests. These make up the most eventful Earth Month celebration in the Springfield area to date.

Good works and accomplishments will be celebrated at the 16th annual Choose Environmental Excellence awards luncheon at noon on April 29 at the White River Conference Center. Tickets are $15. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Barbara Lucks at 864-1906 or blucks@springfieldmo.gov.

The first Earth Day, held on April 22, 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The passage of the landmark Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many other groundbreaking environmental programs soon followed – all designed to protect the natural environment where we live, work and play. Arbor Day observances, honoring trees and their many and varied benefits, began as early as the 1800’s. Tree plantings recognizing Arbor Day Poster Contest winners will take place at several Springfield schools.

For a complete listing of Earth Day and Arbor Day activities, including volunteer opportunities, visit: OzarksEnvironment.com. The events and activities list will be updated throughout the month as more information is received.

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Municipal Court’s Judge Becky Borthwick selected by Missouri Lawyers Weekly for Women’s Justice Award

Municipal Court Judge Becky Borthwick has been selected by Missouri Lawyers Weekly to receive a Women’s Justice Award. The program honors those who have moved the needle in the Missouri legal community, looking for women who hold positions of strength, lead boldly, who serve the underprivileged and aspire to a new future, among other characteristics.

“Judge Borthwick has done great things in her tenure at the City, most notably working with many partners to launch Springfield Homeless Court,” said City Manager Greg Burris, in his report at the March 21 City Council meeting.

Homeless Court is a special court session for homeless defendants to resolve outstanding nonviolent misdemeanor offenses, fines and warrants within the city of Springfield’s Municipal Court.

OEM Director Chet Hunter elected president of Missouri Emergency Management Association

At its annual conference on March 18, the Missouri Emergency Management Association (MOEMA) elected Chet Hunter, director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (GCOEM), as president of the association. Hunter will continue to serve in his role as director of GCOEM throughout his two-year term as MOEMA president. “I am grateful to those who have elected me to serve them and I will strive to represent MOEMA in such a way that it will be seen as the leading emergency management association across the nation,” said Hunter. MOEMA is the preeminent organization for Missouri emergency management professionals. Founded in the 1960s, MOEMA is dedicated to increasing the effectiveness and productivity of emergency management professionals.

The association advocates the role and value of the emergency management profession to businesses, the media, government representatives and the general public. The association serves as a forum for sharing, promoting ideas and building strong collaborative partnerships with public and private sectors to influence and guide the field of emergency management and develop disaster resilient communities throughout the state. In addition, MOEMA has developed the Missouri Emergency Management Certification (MoCEM) program, recognized and accepted across the state as the standard of professional competency in the field of emergency management. Hunter has been MoCEM certified since 2010.

“This honor not only speaks so well of Mr. Hunter’s standing among the many other association members, but it once again puts the spotlight on Greene County and the excellent staff and standing our emergency management office has across the state,” said Harold Bengsch, Greene County Commissioner.

Nominate your volunteer hero for a Gift of Time award

Every day throughout the Ozarks, hundreds of volunteers give the “gift of time” to non-profit, public and human-service organizations. Many volunteers have full schedules even before their volunteer activities. But because they consider volunteerism vital, they lend their time, talent and resources with boundless generosity, spirit and enthusiasm.

Since 1991, the “Gift of Time” awards have recognized volunteers who contribute thousands of hours to make life better for our friends and neighbors here in the Ozarks. We invite you to participate by nominating a member of your volunteer team for a “Gift of Time” award. An impartial team of business and civic leaders will review each nominee based on information you provide.

Five individuals will be selected as Volunteers of the Year and placed in a drawing to win one donation of $1,000 to benefit the charity of their choice. All nominees will be recognized for their volunteer efforts during the luncheon to be held at the Ramada Oasis Convention Center at noon on June 30, 2016.

The Rosanna Bradshaw Memorial Wall of Fame was established in 1994, to honor volunteers through the Gift of Time awards. Portraits of Gift of Time award recipients in the Rosanna Bradshaw Memorial Wall of Fame are on display in the Busch Building throughout the year. The wall of fame’s namesake was an active volunteer in the Ozarks for many years and helped to create the Gift of Time program.

Nominations will be accepted April 1-May 31 at springfieldmo.gov/giftoftime.
DO YOU KNOW...?

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

John Grier
Fire Captain (Rescue 1 A-shift)
John has worked for the City for 17 years.

What’s the hardest part of your job?
“Realizing that sometimes no matter how much effort we put into our job, bad things are going to happen to good people.”

What’s the best part of your job?
“Being able to make a difference in the lives of the members of the community that we serve.”

What’s the coolest thing you’ve done in your career?
“Reconnecting with a pair of sisters who my crew rescued from a building fire in 2003.”

What’s the hardest thing you’ve done in your career?
“Dealing with the way some people choose to treat each other.”

What gives you satisfaction?
“Spending time with my 18-year-old daughter Hannah Jo, and my 15-year-old son, Tyson Drake and making sure that I visit my mother on my non-shift days and calling her on my duty days.”

Do you work to live, or do you live to work? Why?
“My career is a calling; it is way more than a normal job. Firefighters are never really “off duty.” It is something that is in our core. But there has to be a separation between work and “life” as we have to learn to leave some of the “job” at the station so that it doesn’t negatively affect our families.”

What’s something that Springfield as a city should strive for?
“Continued improvements in diversity across all City departments.”

Author Robert D. Putnam to speak at MSU Public Affairs Conference April 8

Please save the date for a special opportunity to hear Professor Robert D. Putnam, author of “Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis,” and “Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community.” Putnam is a political scientist and Malkin Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government.

“Our Kids” is a combination of individual testimony and rigorous evidence. Putnam provides a disturbing account of the American dream that should initiate a deep examination of the future of our country.

Putnam’s visit to Springfield is in conjunction with Missouri State University’s Public Affairs Conference and in partnership with 13 area organizations, working together to create a dialogue about addressing some of our community’s biggest challenges.

Admission is free and open to the public, and registration is not necessary.

Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE

I am presenting the Golden Goose to five people as I will only have one opportunity to ever thank these co-workers. My recipients are: Kevin Gipson, Sheila Maerz, Mary Mannix, Mary Lilly Smith and Todd Thornhill.

Each of these individuals were on the Leadership Team when I was hired and each, over the years, has provided institutional knowledge to me when I, as a newbie, would have founndered without this insight. In addition, each one of them allowed me to bug them, exasperate them, and laugh with them in times when good cheer was in short supply due to tight budgets, crazy Councils, manager changes, employee change forms, evaluation deadlines, belief in the insanity of man-made global warming, $20-a-gallon gas predictions, and our legislature’s determination to override the right-to-work veto.

I was privileged to work with them, and most importantly, count them as friends. Thanks to each of you for making the City Attorney feel welcomed and appreciated.

Dan Wichmer, Law

I am presenting the Golden Goose to Kelby Stuckey, our assigned attorney from Law. Kelby works very hard to keep me out of federal prison. He does so with a smile on his face and a spring in his step. Kelby, for all you do, this goose is for you.

Kevin Gipson, Health

Sarah Kerner has been instrumental in my development as a municipal practitioner. She passed the torch to me when she left the airport and the Health department. She brought me up to speed and directed me, during my adaptation period. I would not have transformed without her outstanding assistance. Thanks, Sarah!

Kelby Stuckey, Law
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.

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

‘95 Ford Conquest –$13,000 (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.

2Bd/2Ba Garden Level Condo in Northern Branson behind Walmart, Kohls, and Bed Bath and Beyond. All appliances stay and will leave some furniture. In the process of painting entire unit and putting down new vinyl in kitchen and baths. If I finish $73,000, if you finish (I’ll leave paint and flooring) $70,000. Call Mary at 573-747-8705 or Johnnie at 636-524-9541. Parked in Branson.

Large L-shaped simulated cherry office desk with beautiful matching hutch from office depot ($200.00). Solid oak entertainment center with pull-out swivel television holder, including a 31” TV, and lots of cabinet space and built to last a lifetime (250.00). Contact Joe at 343-3117.

Pin Up Salon Company at 219 E. Commercial Street is now taking new clients! Come on in on your lunch or on your day off and get pampered! We have clipper artists to get you looking fresh, we have beauty operators to get you looking gorgeous, and best of all: show your City badge and we will give you a 15% discount on any and all services! Call 417-865-3089 and ask for Dixie to schedule your appointment today!