Employee wage increase addressed in proposed budget

My proposed fiscal year 2017 (FY2017) budget was provided to City Council April 28 and, as in prior years, I want to share the same information with all employees. The process used by the City to develop its annual budget is comprehensive and time-consuming. All City and City-County departments are involved, and I appreciate all of the work that has been invested in this process.

Revenue projections and known expenditures help form the creation of the budget, and, as always, the budget requests I received from departments far exceed our available funding. All of the requests are for needed items and would improve the service we are able to provide our citizens.

June 3 deadline for 2015-16 Honor Walk dedications

Employees or departments interested in honoring fellow City employees with a brick in the City of Springfield Employee Honor Walk are asked to submit their requests by June 3.

The Honor Walk is a commemorative walkway at the main entrance to the Busch Municipal Building in City Government Plaza and was the 2014 CAmP Class’s legacy project. The walkway was established to honor City employees for their dedication and service to the City.

“When it came time to brainstorm an idea for our Legacy Project, our CAmP Class looked back on 2014 and remembered those we’d lost,” said class member Kristen Milam. “Several high-profile leaders within the City had passed away. Others had retired or moved on to other jobs. We chose to find a way to remember these employees forever and honor them for their dedication and service to the City.”

Customized engraved brick pavers are available to City employees, retirees, and their family members for a $100 donation. Engraved bricks are great for retirement gifts, honoring a departing employee, or memorializing the life of a current or past employee.

Proceeds will be used to give back to employees through the Employee Crisis Fund.

The deadline for submitting forms for the 2016 installation of bricks is Friday, June 3. Bricks will be installed in time for the Employee Picnic.

Springfield Lasers announce 2016 home season July 31-Aug. 13

BeCivilBeHeard.com
Speak out with courage
Express yourself with honor and conviction.

Zim Schwartz named Missouri 9-1-1 Director of the Year
Support the Route 66 Plaza Clock Tower on May 3

The City of Springfield is participating in Give Ozarks 2016, a 24-hour online fundraising marathon taking place May 3 to raise funds for the Route 66 Plaza Clock Tower, which will be built at College Street and Broadway Avenue. Contributions to the Route 66 Plaza Clock Tower fund will help residents and visitors recognize the impact of Route 66 on Springfield for years to come. Visit giveozarks.org/2016/route-66-sgf on May 3 to donate.

Thanks for your support!
Environmental Services dedicates new Cleanwater Services facility April 22

In celebration of Earth Day, the City of Springfield Environmental Services department dedicated the new Clean Water Services Operations Building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and facility open house Friday, April 22 at 755 N. Franklin Avenue.

This 12,079-square-foot building is the new home of the Clean Water Services Division programs including Industrial Pretreatment, Fats Oils and Grease (FOG), and Private Sewer Repair. The south side of the building provides an office area and public restrooms for the Franklin Avenue Recycling Center.

In keeping with the City’s commitment to environmentally responsible construction, the building was constructed to LEED Silver specifications and includes a rooftop rain water harvesting system feeding a 2,900 gallon cistern, pervious pavement, light shelves, and a rain garden.

Offering citizens a crash course on policing in Springfield

Each year the Springfield Police Department offers citizens the unique opportunity to get a taste of how their law enforcement agency and its many specialized units operate. A successful and interactive program called the Citizen's Police Academy was reinitiated by Police Chief Paul Williams in 2011.

The application process for Springfield residents is now open, and students will be selected this summer to begin the 11-week academy in September. Classes are held one evening per week for approximately three hours. Topics covered in the academy will include crime scene processing, investigations, narcotics and gang investigations, defensive tactics, use of firearms and traffic/DWI enforcement. The group will also participate in field trips to the department’s range, headquarters, South District Station, Springfield Regional Police and Fire Training Center and its history museum, the Calaboose.

“I encourage citizens to participate in this academy because it allows them to get a much better understanding of the difficult job officers have,” said Police Chief Paul Williams. “The deeper their understanding is, the stronger our relationship can be with the citizens we serve. Establishing, or in some cases building upon connections between officers and citizens allows them to enhance the level of respect and trust among one another.”

Upon completion of the program, alumni of the Citizens Police Academy tend to develop a newfound desire to serve the City. Some get involved as members of the Police Civilian Review Board, which reviews any citizen appeals of determinations made by the SPD about police conduct matters. Many alumni have helped enhance the department’s volunteer program by giving their time and variety of skills and talents to the SPD, and in turn, the citizens of Springfield. Most recently, a group of alumni banded together to form a new nonprofit organization called the Springfield Police Foundation. Its mission is to help fund education, training and equipment needs for the men and women of the SPD—meeting the department’s needs that the annual budget may not allow for.

The Springfield Police Department is accepting applications for the academy through July 1. The program is limited to 25 participants who must be citizens living inside the city limits of Springfield. To learn more or submit an application for the Citizens Police Academy, visit springfieldmo.gov/SPD or call 417-864-1351.
The Springfield Lasers Mylan World Team Tennis (WTT) Pro League team has announced its 2016 season schedule.

The Lasers schedule includes six home matches at the Mediacom Tennis Stadium, in Springfield’s Cooper Tennis Complex, 2351 E Pythian St.

Lasers marquee player John Isner returns to Springfield Thursday, Aug. 11.

All home matches begin at 7 p.m. at Mediacom Tennis Stadium at Cooper Tennis Complex.

John Isner, America’s No. 1 male tennis player, returns for a second consecutive season with the Lasers this summer. The Lasers roster includes Canadian doubles specialist Daniel Nestor, an eight time Grand Slam winner and the first ATP tour player ever to achieve 1,000 wins. The roster also includes German tour veteran Benjamin Becker, rising Australian star Daria Gavrilova and versatile Dutch player Michaella Krajicek. Coach John-Laffnie “JL” de Jager returns for his 10th season with the Lasers.


Tickets are available at 417-837-5800. For more information about the Springfield Lasers, visit springfieldlasers.com or look for Springfield Lasers on Facebook or Twitter @SGFLasers.

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9-1-1 Director Zim Schwartze named Missouri 9-1-1 Director of the Year

Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Director Zim Schwartze was named Missouri 9-1-1 Director of the Year at the Missouri Public Safety Communications Conference (MPSCC) March 22 in Columbia.

The Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 administration team nominated Schwartze for the award without her knowledge.

“I’m totally shocked, honored and humbled to be the director of such an amazing administrative team and telecommunications that serve our citizens,” Schwartze said.

Three statewide organizations come together each year to host the conference to include the Missouri Chapters of APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officials), NENA (National Emergency Number Association) and the Missouri 9-1-1 Director’s Association.

Schwartze has a master’s degree in public administration and a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering, both from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is a graduate of the 20th School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC) through Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and the FBI National Academy, Session 231, in Quantico, Virginia.

She is an adjunct instructor at the Law Enforcement Training Institute located in Columbia as well as in the Northwestern University SPSC classes. Schwartze is a member of the three state 9-1-1 organizations and currently serves as the treasurer of the Missouri 9-1-1 Directors Association.

In addition, Schwartze is a past president of the Kansas-Western Missouri Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates and a member of the University of Missouri Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs Advisory Board.

Schwartze has volunteered her time with Special Olympics-Missouri for nearly 25 years. She serves on the Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee and is the chair of the State Summer Games held in Springfield each year.

Schwartze and her husband, Jay, have two children and numerous family pets.
Springfield Fire Department annual report highlights accomplishments and future goals

The 2015 Annual Report captures the sites, stats and news from the Fire Department. Along with stunning photos from the year, the report highlights the accomplishments of a very busy Water Rescue Team. As the result of two major rain events, The team responded to 79 swift water and flood incidents in 2015 making over 30 rescues.

Also during the year, the Springfield Fire Department was notified that it would maintain its excellent ISO 2 rating, placing the City of Springfield in the top 1% of the state.

Other highlights of the year include SFD response rates, changes to the placement of fire companies, and why calls for service continue to rise, even though the number of fires in our community is falling.

The complete Springfield Fire Department Annual Report is available online at springfieldmo.gov/fire.

Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE

I am pleased to present the Golden Goose award to Rodney Colson. He epitomizes the hard work and dedication of a goose flying in formation to help the flock – I mean, City staff – achieve their goals. Rodney is extremely conscientious in performing his work and always goes the extra mile to accommodate developers while kindly guiding them into compliance with the city stormwater regulations. He is also very patient and courteous when explaining stormwater issues to the public.

Sarah Kerner, Planning and Development

Carrie Lamb has “stepped up” and taken charge of updating the City’s Stormwater Ordinance and Chapter 10, Water Quality, of the City’s Draft Drainage Criteria Manual. She is extremely knowledgeable in the latest water quality regulations and technologies. She plays a vital role in educating the community about the benefits to improving water quality and ensuring the City’s NPDES requirements are met.

Rodney Colson, Public Works

I am pleased to present the Golden Goose to Kris Heinrichs in Public Works. I am very grateful for Kris’s help with the financial paperwork on several grant projects over the past few years. I couldn’t have done it without her! Anytime I need something, she is always quick to respond and does so with a positive attitude. Thanks for all you do Kris!

Carrie Lamb, Environmental Services

Edgar Garcia
Arborist Crew Leader
Edgar has worked for the City for 9 months.

What’s something you’ve learned since working for the City?
“I’ve learned to use different kinds of equipment and that a job doesn’t have to be so stressful.”

Why do you do what you do?
“I do my job, because I know we are making the public more safe by removing potential hazards.”

What’s the hardest part of your job?
“Educating the public on the dangers of keeping a hazardous tree and the need of removing it.”

What’s the best part of your job?
“Gaining knowledge about our work through seminars, webinars, classes, etc.”

What’s the hardest thing you’ve done in your career?
“Trying to make some co-workers understand that it is not worth taking short cuts to get the job done.”

What gives you satisfaction?
“Knowing that I will see my family every day.”

What are you passionate about?
“About being successful, doing what I love.”

Who do you admire in this organization?
“I admire the leaders of the City that are very involved with the community.”

What’s something that Springfield as a city should strive for?
“Strive to find more resources to bring in more money to keep providing many services to the community.”

Do You Know...?

A Q&A of City of Springfield employees. To suggest a colleague for “Do You Know...?” e-mail thescene@springfieldmo.gov.
Springfield named 17th Best City for Hispanic Entrepreneurs in WalletHub.com study

Springfield was named the 17th Best City for Hispanic Entrepreneurs in a recent study by WalletHub.com.

To help Hispanic entrepreneurs find the most fertile ground for their enterprises, WalletHub’s analysts compared the 150 largest U.S. cities across 19 key metrics. Its data set ranges from “Hispanic entrepreneurship rate” to “Hispanic income growth” to “share of Hispanic-owned businesses.”

Hispanic Business Climate in Springfield
(1=Best, 75=Avg.)

- 9th – Hispanic Unemployment Rate
- 11th – Hispanic Population Growth
- 22nd – Hispanic Entrepreneurship Rate
- 48th – Housing Affordability for Hispanics
- 45th – Significant Startups per Capita
- 15th – Small Business Loans per Number of Small Businesses
- 2nd – Average Monthly Rent for Office Space.

View the full results of the study at wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-cities-for-hispanic-entrepreneurs/6491/

Bike to Work Week

Join this fun annual Ozark Greenways challenge to leave your car behind at least one day and bike, walk, bus or carpool to work or school May 16-20. Register your workplace or school at ozarkgreenways.org.

National Trails Day and Ozark Greenways 25th Anniversary

In honor of Ozark Greenways’ 25th anniversary in 2016, join a celebration on Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m.-noon at the new trailhead near Battlefield Road and West Bypass, linking South Creek and Wilson’s Creek Greenways. Join us for fun, food and exciting trail news. Details at ozarkgreenways.org.

Outdoor Pools open May 28

Fassnight, Grant Beach, Silver Springs, Meador, Westport and McGee/McGregor outdoor pools open Memorial Day weekend.

Enjoy discount Splash & Sizzle admission daily after 5:30 p.m., and all day on holidays and special weekends (select pools only.) Pool maintenance (closed) days are staggered throughout the week. Check parkboard.org/aquatics for schedule. Summer schedule also includes Chesterfield and Doling indoor aquatics admission for outdoor pool prices, Mon.-Thurs. only.

36th Annual Artsfest on Historic Walnut Street

On Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, May 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. the largest fine arts festival will be held in southwest Missouri, featuring original art from 140 juried artists from across the country.

This event includes live music, dance and theater on multiple stages, food from some of Springfield’s favorite restaurants and hands-on art activities for all ages. It’s Springfield’s springtime tradition!

Proceeds benefit Springfield Regional Arts Council. $5 entry fee; children under 5 years are free.
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.

2004 Nissan Murano. Contact Tessa Peterson at tpeterson@springfieldmo.gov.


Computer desk in like new-condition. Asking for $600 (New $850-$900). Contact Suzanne at 417-425-2294 or Randy at 417-425-2293 (evenings Fri - Mon) or days otherwise.

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

2010 34 ft. Flagstaff Camper, 1 slide, 2 bedrooms, sleeps 12. AC, heated storage tanks, Smoke Free, Power Awning, Flat screen TV with surround sound inside and outside speakers, Used only a half dozen times. Must sell $18,000. 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 life time ($250.00). Contact Joe at 343-3117.

In addition to the Convoy of Hope outreach event at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds May 7, Convoy will be leading betterment projects in Springfield’s Zone 1 neighborhoods 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on event day. View a full list of the projects to choose from on Sharepoint. If you’d like to lend your services to assist your fellow Springfieldians that day, please visit convoyofhope.org/springfield and click Reserve Your Volunteer Spot Now. Fill your information in the fields provided, then choose “I want to volunteer for Springfield Community Betterment projects on the event day.”

Questions? Contact betterment projects volunteer coordinator Phyllis Hall at philphree1214@gmail.com.
To: Rosa Aviles, Public Works

I would like to thank Rosa Aviles for the wonderful landscaping in front of the Busch Building and Historic City Hall. The tulips in the early spring were a welcome sight. As the weather is getting warmer, the plants and flowers look more spectacular each day. I have seen Rosa work hard in both the heat and the cold. The results of her hard work are now visible for all of us to enjoy. Thank you for the beauty you have added to the Municipal Government Complex.

Sincerely,
Mary Mannix

To: Cinnamon Fuller (Telecommunicator) and Kevin Patton (911 Supervisor)

Thank you both for making sure the homeless camp protocol was followed upon SPD 120 request! I know there is a lot to remember on the Ops Room floor! But this is one of those times we have to remember how to do it the right way even though we don’t handle this type of incident very often!

From Zim Schwartze, Director of 911 Emergency Communications

Please tell your team how very much I appreciate them contacting me as part of the homeless camp protocol. Your team is invaluable.

From Cora Scott, PIO

Springfield Officer injured after being dragged by pickup truck

To team: Kelsey Eick, Sara Meier, Jillian Workurka, Maria Sanchez, Ashley House, Cayleigh Medina, Joel Holdman, Crissy Postlethwait, Jesse Richerson, Drew Meyer, Cindy Hodges, Jared Bottorff, Jordan Lurten, Jennifer Meloy, and Tracy Whipple

THANK YOU! You do not know how calming it is for an officer to be out on the street trying to deal with a major event like this and knowing the dispatchers have their back! You may not realize the trust and bond you guys have simply by answering their call for help. I relied on that bond for over 20 years and I can honestly say I never once was worried that the dispatchers didn’t care, didn’t want to help me with anything going on, and always had my safety at heart!

From Zim Schwartze

To: Springfield Fire Department

I received a phone call from a citizen late on Friday who wanted to pass along her experience with the Fire Department. She was with her two daughters (4 & 8 years old) at an event at ARC of the Ozarks, and was driving home. Her 8 year old, who has autism, became aggressive and violent toward her sister after being over stimulated at the event, something that required immediate action by her mother to prevent her daughter from being injured. Knowing she could not make it home, she began considering a place close to her where she could handle the issue, and where her 4 year old would be safe. She stated, “I knew I could go to the fire station, I have met them before and they were all so nice.” She stopped at station 8 and took measures to handle her daughter, and the crew took care of her four year old. “The crew was just amazing they helped me deal with my daughter, took care of my four year old, showing her the station and making sure she was safe. I felt as safe there as I do in my own home, and I want them to know how much I appreciated their kindness.” She did not recall anyone’s name, or even the exact day, but wanted everyone to know she was thankful for them.

Our fire stations are part of the community, and a gateway to the neighborhoods they serve. It is great that your neighbor felt so comfortable coming to you, which resulted from a prior positive experience she had with you.

Again, great job Station 8C, specifically, Jason McCormick and Kody Rein!

Sincerely,
David Pennington, Asst. Fire Chief - Operations Division

Citizen Recognitions

To: Officer Kyle Campbell

On behalf of myself and the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at MSU, we want to extend a sincere thank you to Officer Kyle Campbell. Having taken time out of his schedule, his day off, and last minute notice, managed to find the time to present our chapter with a presentation and Q&A session. His presentation allowed us to better understand the occupation and the many aspects of what it entails to be a police officer in Springfield. We are proud of all of our LEOs in Springfield and are especially pleased with Officer Campbell’s enthusiasm and passion for what he does. The men of PI Kappa Alpha at Missouri State stand with those behind the badge here in Springfield and across the nation!

Thank You!
Alex Schlitt

To: Officers Daniel Simmons and Sean Kennedy

I wanted compliment two of your officers today. Our daughter and four year old granddaughter were with me at Ott’s on Cherry this evening. Our granddaughter Addison was made a junior officer. It made her day. They were so sweet and friendly to her that she is telling everyone she is now a police officer. The officers names were Kennedy and Simmons. They are a great example of the outstanding police officers we have in Springfield!

Sincerely,
Hal L. Higdon, Chancellor
Ozarks Technical Community College System

To: Chief Paul Williams, Springfield Police Department

My sincere appreciation to you and your staff for your gracious hospitality in helping us celebrate the 25-year anniversary of the special operations unit of the Springfield Police Department.

It was indeed an honor and privilege to see firsthand the progressive development of CAT/SRT over the years, and to know that the Springfield community is well served by this group of highly trained and uniquely committed team of officers.

Please express my gratitude to Major Kirk Manlove, Captain Greg Higdon, Lt. Chad Eutsler, Sgt. Chad McIntyre and Cpl. Chris Snipes for organizing and presenting Tuesday’s wonderful event. It was special for me and my family to be with the dedicated and skilled officers of the SRT, as well as to see their state of readiness. Also, I want to personally thank you for your presentation of the Chief’s Challenge Coin to members of the CAT team and myself. I have fond memories of my time at the SPD.

I send my best wishes to the outstanding men and women of the Springfield Police Department.

Sincerely,
Terry Knowles