City at 81% of United Way campaign goal
Campaign runs through February 2017

By Jennifer Swan, 2016-17 United Way campaign coordinator

The City-wide United Way goal was set at $104,000. Now that the employee pledge drive is wrapping up, the current donation total is at 81% of the City-wide campaign goal. I’m pleased to say that many departments have already exceeded their goals! We still have a ways to go to reach 100%, though, so please plan to sponsor some departmental fundraising events between now and the end of February.

The response to the Silent Auction this year has been incredible. There were 47 themed baskets and 99 auction items. The auction included a wide range of fantastic items. Thanks to all who donated items and put together the themed baskets. The sale price of the baskets or items donated on behalf of departments will be added to the donation total for those departments. The proceeds from the auction have not been totaled yet, but will be reported in the December edition of the Scene.

Additional special events (sponsored by different departments) will be held through the end of February 2017. Please contact Jennifer Swan at 864-2033 or jswan@springfieldmo.gov.

Congolese refugees served by City, community collaboration

Kathryn Wall, Health Department

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the other City departments who went above and beyond to provide care and hospitality to a group of Congolese refugees now residing in our community.

Thanks to the great partnerships within city government and relationships in the community, SGCHD was able to organize a one-stop health screening event for 49 refugees.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a nation still struggling to rebuild after a war that lasted from 1998-2003. An estimated 5 million people died as a result of the conflict that stretched across the African continent.

The Oct. 19 event served as an opportunity to sign families up for WIC services, provide immunizations and do health testing. But even more than that, SGCHD and city staff saw it as an opportunity to welcome the refugees to our community.

“I’m always inspired by the passion and heart of Health Department staff,” said Director of Health Kevin Gipson. “They have a strong dedication to service that I am very proud of.”

See REFUGEES on page 3
Know someone interested in running for City Council?  Info packets now available

Those interested in running for City Council on the April 4, 2017 municipal election ballot can begin the process by picking up information packets and petitions for signatures from the City Clerk’s office on the fourth floor of the Busch Municipal Building, 840 Boonville. The clerk’s office is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The candidate filing period begins at 8 a.m., Dec. 5, 2016 and ends at 5 p.m., Jan. 17, 2017.

Packets may be downloaded at springfieldmo.gov/runforcouncil starting Monday; however, petition forms must be picked up in person in the City Clerk’s Office, at which time the candidate will declare the seat for which they are running.

Open Seats
• Mayor (currently occupied by Bob Stephens)
• General A (currently occupied by Jan Fisk)
• General B (currently occupied by Craig Hosmer)
• Zone 1 (currently occupied by Phyllis Ferguson)
• Zone 2 (currently occupied by Dr. Tom Prater, who was selected by Council in September to fill the seat vacated by Justin Burnett)
• Zone 4 (currently occupied by Craig Fishel).

Important Dates
• Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 (8 a.m.) – Filing begins
• Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017 (5 p.m.) – Filing ends
• Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017 – Ballot certified to Greene County
• Tuesday, April 4, 2017 – Election.

Qualifications
• Must be a registered voter in the city of Springfield.
• Must have been a resident of the city of Springfield for at least two years.
• If running for a Zone Council seat, in addition to the two years residency in the city limits, must have lived in the respective zone for one year immediately preceding election.
• Must not be disqualified under RsMO 115.306.1 (federal or felony conviction).
• Must not be disqualified under RsMO 115.306.2 (1) (delinquent taxes).
• Must have completed and filed form 5120 per RsMO 115.306.2 (2).

Petitions
• Mayor – Clerk’s office must certify the signatures of 200 registered voters in the city limits of Springfield.
• General C – Clerk’s office must certify the signatures of 200 registered voters in the city limits of Springfield.
• General D – Clerk’s office must certify the signatures of 200 registered voters in the city limits of Springfield.
• Zone 1 – Clerk’s office must certify the signatures of 100 registered voters in Zone 1.
• Zone 2 – Clerk’s office must certify the signatures of 100 registered voters in Zone 2.
• Zone 4 – Clerk’s office must certify the signatures of 100 registered voters in Zone 4.

Additional City info is available on our Web site at www.springfieldmo.gov. Videos may be viewed on CityView on the Web or on Mediacom channels 15.1 and 80 and AT&T U-verse channel 99.

Nov. 21, 2016
Please direct your submissions to the Department of Public Information. Submissions and ads via e-mail are preferred: thescene@springfieldmo.gov

Employee flu immunizations available in November: see page 8
Children enjoyed snacks and games while interpreters helped their parents fill out paperwork. Playing with bubbles was the kids’ favorite.

“We did not have a common language, but blowing bubbles, working puzzles, coloring pictures and teaching how to use a yo-yo bridged any communication gap. No words were necessary; their eyes said it all,” said Andee Coble, SGCHD’s emergency planner.

One child was especially fond of Kendra Findley’s camera phone, and took a photo of Findley that meant so much to her.

“The fact that it is slightly blurry and half my head is cut off was perfect. I won’t delete the picture. It made my day,” said Findley, who is the administrator for Community Health and Epidemiology.

While the men waited for services, they watched and argued over soccer—a special treat for SGCHD’s Hugo Aparicio, who serves as a Community Health Advocate.

“I opted for speaking ‘futbol’ language, from the moment that I did that I couldn’t stop them from talking,” he said. “In fact there was a moment when I went and sat to talk with one of them and the next thing they were all sitting around me telling me in broken English why their favorite team (Barcelona) was a better team than mine (Real Madrid). Soccer was the language that warmed them up to me.”

In all, there were 49 participants who received a total of 128 immunizations and 46 tuberculosis screenings. Three women and seven children were enrolled in WIC services.

A special thanks is owed to Joseph Gatiba, who not only served as a Swahili interpreter, but who also brought a level of excitement and passion to the event that truly made a difference for the clients seen that day. Thanks also to 911 for the generosity of allowing him to work the event.

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Darla Morrison named interim Human Resources director

City Manager Greg Burris has named Darla Morrison to serve as interim Human Resources director effective Oct. 21.

Morrison temporarily replaces Sheila Maerz, who announced her retirement in July. Maerz’s last day with the City was Oct. 20.

“In addition to her knowledge and experience in Human Resources, Darla has built strong relationships throughout the City’s workforce that will serve her and the City well as the interim Human Resources director,” Maerz said.

Morrison has served in the City’s HR department since 1991. In her current role as senior human resources coordinator, which she has held since 2011, Morrison supervises and manages the employment, training and classification division of the department.

She has a master’s degree in public administration from Missouri State University and a bachelor of science in human resources and psychology, also from MSU.

Before joining the City, Morrison worked in Human Resources for Marion Laboratories in Kansas City, Bass Pro and Great Southern Bank. She has passed and received certification in the first sitting of the Senior Professional Human Resources Certification exam and is a member of the Society of Human Resources Management and the Springfield Area Human Resources Association.

Morrison lives in Springfield with her husband Scott and two daughters.

“I look forward to working with Darla as we continue to strive to be Springfield’s employer of choice and recruit the best and the brightest to join the City team,” Burris says.

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City celebrates completion of the South Creek Restoration Project Oct. 26

Environmental Services staff celebrated the completion of the South Creek Restoration Project with a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday, Oct. 26 at Sunset Street and Grant Avenue, near the South Creek Greenway Trail. The purpose of the project was to improve water quality and habitat for aquatic life by removing the concrete channel and restoring the creek to a more natural condition in the one-mile section of South Creek along Sunset Street between Campbell Avenue and Kansas Expressway.
Springfield City Council has approved a 90-day pilot project studying potential action for addressing the City’s chronic nuisance properties.

“The volume of service requests for dangerous and nuisance properties and the severity of the cases reported, have increased,” Chris Straw, BDS director, explained. Increased awareness about the issue, following a nine-neighborhood Community Listen tour in Springfield’s Zone 1 neighborhoods in 2015, is one of the reasons Straw cited for the increase in reporting.

Chronic nuisance property requirements are those properties in which repeated complaint calls are received and responded to, including from the City’s Building Development Services, Police and Fire Departments, as well as other calls for service. Certain properties in Springfield have had upwards of 70 complaint calls in a single year.

The issue is such that “chronic nuisance properties” rose to the top of the list of concerns in seven of the nine listening sessions and remained a clear “number one” priority throughout a follow-up process with residents participating in Zone Blitz brainstorming sessions.

The “Safe Housing Inspection Pilot Program” will launch in November in a portion of the West Central neighborhood in the areas of Campbell Avenue to Grant Avenue and Grand Street to Madison Street. The West Central neighborhood leaders vied for the opportunity to participate in the voluntary pilot program.

The West Central neighborhood is generally located between the boundaries of Chestnut Expressway to the north and Grand to the south; South Avenue/Boonville to the east and Kansas Expressway to the west.

The pilot project will consist of a three-month initiative to study and find better ways to ensure public safety against life-safety-housing issues. The project will consist of visits to homes that will focus on life-safety issues (mostly within the interior living space, but including some exterior life-safety issues). Life-safety complaints can be made on rentals or owner-occupied dwellings, but the complainant must have first-hand knowledge of the life-safety issues allowing entry to the home is voluntary.

“This is a research project that could lead to specific program and enforcement changes being proposed that City Council could consider,” Straw explained. He stressed that any potential solution must be well thought out and balanced with a variety of interests.

Straw is most excited about the opportunity this study provides in bringing multiple organizations together to look at creative ways to address this community challenge. He is hopeful this could lead to proposed enforcement changes down the road.

“The City brought multiple stakeholders to the table,” explained City Manager Greg Burris. “We met with neighborhood leaders and property owner groups such as Greater Springfield Apartment and Housing Association and individuals who own multiple rental homes, as well as residents throughout the city. There are a lot of interests to balance, but I am optimistic that we can work together to find some common ground. The safety of our residents and health of our neighborhoods is a top concern.”

City officials also met with first responders and other organizations providing home-based services, such as City Utilities technicians, home healthcare workers, Parents as Teachers and others, about life safety concerns they are seeing in Springfield homes. They expressed an interest in helping and some expressed relief in creating an alternative for possibly addressing the concerns they say they see on a regular basis.

Those groups will have the ability to report life safety concerns to the City’s Citizen Resource Center.

“These individuals will not search or inspect houses seeking life safety issues; they will only be requested to report life-safety concerns witnessed within the scope of their duties,” Straw explains. BDS staff will follow up on the reported concerns that exhibit life safety issues that place occupants at risk.

Three tiers of life safety violations have been developed.

An additional dimension to this pilot project is an expanded partnership with social service providers and the faith community to develop a protocol for accommodating occupants (renters or owners) who may be temporarily relocated due to the most egregious life-safety concerns during the remediation process and cannot afford alternate accommodations during the remediation time. The City will look to its partner, One Door, to assist with coordination of this work.

About the Building Development Services Department:

The Department of Building Development Services implements and monitors a variety of city, state, and federal codes, and four trades (electrical, plumbing, gas and mechanical). It also offers essential information for businesses, homeowners, landlords, tenants, contractors, and developers.

Services Include:

• Issuing permits for all phases of building construction
• Implements building codes
• Implements zoning
• Monitors demolition and movement of existing buildings
• Monitors and issues permits for temporary and permanent signs
• Certifies trade crafts (electricians, plumbers, gas, and mechanical licenses)
• Maintains minimum parking ratios
• Implements flood plain ordinances
• Inspects for buffer yards and tree planting in commercial areas
• Implements Dangerous Building Code

BDS begins Safe Housing Inspection Pilot Study Nov. 1
What’s something you’ve learned since working for the City?
“I’ve learned how much it really takes to keep a city running, something I never really had thought about before.”

What’s the best part of your job?
“...how diverse it is, one day I am printing bid books for public works the next day I may be printing Christmas cards for one of the departments. It also keeps me moving a lot which is nice.”

What’s the hardest part of your job?
“Difficult files, how to handle them and troubleshoot them.”

What are you passionate about?
“I am very passionate about my family, and coffee...”

Who do you admire in this organization?
“The police officers and firefighters, I admire them because they do the job that I would never be cut out for, and they do it well.”

What gives you satisfaction?
“Seeing a final product take form, especially when there are multiple parts or something that was designed and printed for the first time.”

What’s one thing you would change about the City as an organization?
“More community involvement. Usually, people just come to us or we go to them if there are problems. I think it would be cool to see the City doing more just with the community, just hanging out and showing people we aren’t just here when there are problems.”

Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE
I am very pleased to present the Golden Goose Award to Ron Bailey, superintendent of streets, with the Public Works department. Ron is the first person I call when I receive a request from a citizen, an organization or if my division needs anything remotely related to Public Works. If he isn’t the correct contact, he is very patient and helpful directing me to someone that can help me. If he is the correct contact, he provides me with assistance promptly and willingly. He shares my desire to serve our citizens and is not afraid to try something new in order to do that.

Between us, we sometimes receive some very unusual requests!

I depend on him to participate in our educational events, such as Career Days, Public Works Week, Partners in Ed and many others. During Day of Caring, he has, by far, the largest and most diverse group, but organizes the effort with both accuracy and with a spirit of service. I appreciate his help, his excellent attitude and his good humor!

Thank you, Ron, for your willingness to serve both our internal customers and our external customers our citizens.

Barbara Lucks, Environmental Services
Ron Bailey, Public Works

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

Bradley McEntire
Print Shop Assistant
Bradley has worked for the City for 3 ½ years.

What’s something you’ve learned since working for the City?
“I’ve learned how much it really takes to keep a city running, something I never really had thought about before.”

What’s the best part of your job?
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America Recycles Day
Sunday, November 6th
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
at the Discovery Center | sponsored by City of Springfield Environmental Services
Free Admission
Join us at the Discovery Center for an America Recycles Day celebration! Guests can explore the variety of hands-on exhibits and activities, including making musical instruments from recycled materials, a decomposition lineup, toys from trash demonstrations, and an appearance by Eco Elvis. Staff from the Dept. of Environmental Services will be on hand to provide information about recycling resources available in the community.

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Public Works and Environmental Services employees win $100 each in United Way drawings

Three employees from the Public Works and Environmental Services departments won $100 in two drawings held Thursday. Julie Hawkins in Public Works and Myra Decker in Environmental Services drew the winning tickets in the Director’s 100 drawings for the departments. The departments’ directors, Dan Smith and Steve Meyer, donate $100 each for the drawings. To enter the drawings, any Public Works or Environmental Services employee can increase their United Way pledge over last year’s pledge. For every dollar increase over last year’s, pledge, their name goes into the drawings. Public Works had 2,270 tickets to draw from. Environmental Services had 1,454 tickets to draw from.

Rick Anderson won the Public Works Leadership Team-sponsored drawing for giving consecutively to the United Way. Public Works employees who have donated to the United Way for consecutive years had their name entered into another drawing and could draw up to five tickets (for five years of consecutive giving). This drawing had 223 tickets to draw from. Congrats to all the winners and thanks for donating to the United Way!

The Springfield Art Museum is pleased to present its final special exhibition of 2016, “The Wood-Fired Kiln: A Catalyst for Collaboration” on Friday, Nov. 4 with a reception at 5:30 p.m. Wood-Fired Kiln features the work of seven well-known local, regional, national and international ceramicists whose work incorporates, to varying degrees, wood-firing techniques and aesthetics: Kenneth Baskin, Keith Ekstam, Rick Hirsch, Nina Hole, Jeff Johnston, Scott Meyer, and Priscilla Mouritzen. This exhibit focuses specifically on work that has been created using a wood-fire kiln and will investigate the character and dynamic of the collaborations that have resulted from this very communal and social process.

Wood firing, by its very nature engenders a sense of community and has re-emerged as a pedagogy of tremendous importance in ceramics, its influence widening well past the immediate sphere of the skilled artists for whom it is central. The discipline now holds extended influence over a wide variety of artists who occasionally approach the discipline to fulfill their disparate creative aims. While filling the kiln, stoking the fire, and monitoring the flames over the course of many days, participating artists talk about their work, share ideas, and discuss opportunities. The collaborative nature of the firing process often serves as a catalyst for future artistic endeavors. The majority of the artists represented here have fired together, published together, exhibited together, held panel discussions, seminars, workshops, and residencies together.

“The artists represented in this exhibition span the globe, from right here in southwest Missouri, to as far away as Denmark,” says Director Nick Nelson. Individually, they are incorporating disparate materials. The objects run the gamut from functional to sculptural. On the surface, these artists and objects may not seem like they belong together, but they’ve all been subjected to this crucible-like experience. What emerges from the kiln is unified by the process; there is a sense of warmth and community in what has been created. I cannot think of a better message to impart during this particularly divisive time in our history.”

This exhibit includes a free gallery guide, multimedia of a wood-firing in process, and free public programs including a themed Family Day and an artist panel.

Craftmatic adjustable Twin XL frame and mattress, $200. Twin bed with box springs, mattress and headboard, used very little. $75. Call Merrill Chastain at 417-869-4496 if interested.

1988 Honda Goldwing, 1500cc with reverse, am, fm, cassette, three helmets and mic systems. A matching trailer comes with it. 106k miles. Runs great and looks great. $4000 or best offer. For more info or pictures contact Richard at 417-818-3353.


Pecan time! Shell pecan halves, chopped pecans, chocolate covered pecans, cinnamon glazed pecans and chopped black walnuts. All to benefit the Springfield Queen City Lions charitable giving. Call Phil at 848-8450 for details.

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 $70,000, if you finish (I’ll leave paint and flooring) $68,000. Call Mary at 573-747-8705.

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.


FOR SALE

Craftmatic adjustable Twin XL frame and mattress, $200. Twin bed with box springs, mattress and headboard, used very little. $75. Call Merrill Chastain at 417-869-4496 if interested.

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Large L-shaped simulated cherry office desk with beautiful matching hutch from office depot ($200). 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). Contact Joe at 943-3117.

29 Gallon Aquarium. Complete with filter, heater, black deluxe full hood with fluorescent light, tank décor, fish, and miscellaneous supplies. 24 ¾”w x 12 ½” D x 16 ½” H. $50. Contact Marcia at 417-379-8459.

New NuWave Oven Pro Plus with Extender Ring Kit. Still in box! Black NuWave Oven Pro Plus (digital power head, cool to touch base, BPA free dome, 12” non stick liner pan, 1”/3” reversible cooking rack, and dome holder). The “Pro Plus” Extender Ring Kit includes a 2” cooking rack, 10” non stick baking pan, and 3” stainless steel extender ring. Retails for over $200. Asking $125 For more information or pictures, contact Marcia at 417-379-8459.

Genuine HUMMER Paratrooper Mountain Bike. Full size, high-performance folding bicycle. Original style designed for military use for US Marines paratroopers. Folds in a matter of seconds for the car trunk or closet. Excellent condition, like new. Ridden only on paved trails. $500. For more information or pictures, contact Marcia at 417-379-8459.

Western saddle with stirrups, cinch, and decorative conches and leather straps. 16” seat. Very good condition. Has always been stored inside, either in a barn or garage. $225. If interested, call Marcia 417-379-8459.
The 2016 CAMp class is hosting a donation drive for The Northwest Project and the Drew Lewis Foundation (The Fairbanks through Nov. 15). The Fairbanks (formerly Fairbanks Elementary School) is a community resource center located in the Grant Beach neighborhood that offers food, educational programming for children and adults, social services and other assistance.

The Northwest Project, which operates out of The Fairbanks, is a Community Foundation of the Ozarks grant-funded program to help families overcome the challenges that have kept them living in poverty and sustain their long-term success in emerging from those circumstances. The CFO selected northwest Springfield for this project because much of the area exceeds the city’s overall 25.6 percent poverty rate. In addition, the privately funded Northwest Project will take place in concert with the City’s focus on improving public safety, infrastructure and chronic nuisance properties in this geographic area.

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, 2017.

Open Enrollment elections must be complete and received by the Human Resources Department by 5 p.m. on Nov. 21.

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 the City’s Cafeteria and Aflac Cancer plans by attending one of the following meetings:

- Cafeteria Plan - Nov. 4 at 11 a.m. - Busch L45
- Cafeteria Plan - Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. - Busch L45
- Aflac Cancer Plans - Nov. 14 at 11 a.m. - Busch 3rd floor

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

Important Information on the City’s Retiree Health Plans
On March 21, City Council approved the Health Insurance Committee’s recommendation to close the City’s Retiree Health Plan. Accordingly, the Non-Medicare Plan will close Dec. 31, 2016, at midnight, and the Medicare Plan will close Dec. 31, 2017, at midnight. If you have questions about these changes, please contact Krystal Ray at 417-864-1608 or kr@springfieldmo.gov

Employee flu immunizations available in November

If you’d like to help collect items for the drive, please drop off the following requested donation items at the locations below. Campbell’s Chunky Soup is The Fairbanks’ food pantry’s most popular item, which is why it is listed several times below.

- Fire Department administration (Historic City Hall) and Fire Stations:
  - Campbell’s Chunky Soup, canned goods/pantry items
- Planning & Development department (Drop off to Judy White, second floor of the Busch Municipal Building):
  - Pantry items/canned goods and hygiene items
- Human Resources department (third floor of the Busch Municipal Building):
  - Diapers/wipes
- Public Works at 755 N. Franklin, Sewer Maintenance at 1216 W. Nichols, and the Southwest Treatment Plant, 3301 S. Hwy FF:
  - Chunky Soup
- SPD headquarters (921 E. Chestnut Expressway) and the South District Station (2620 W. Battlefield Road):
  - Chunky Soup, canned goods/pantry item
- Finance department (Busch Municipal Building basement) and Licensing (first floor of the Busch Building):
  - Hygiene items

- 911 Telecommunications (Public Safety Center, 330 W. Scott): Chunky Soup
- Information Systems (Busch Municipal Building Basement): Chunky Soup
- Workforce Development (Missouri Career Center building, 2900 E. Sunshine): Chunky Soup
- Public Works (second floor of the Busch Municipal Building, drop off to Shirley Johnson) and Public Works-Operations (1010 W. Chestnut, drop off to Kim Talbot and Casey Kellner): Professional clothing (see list below)
  - Men’s pants 30-34
  - Men’s Medium shirts
  - Men’s shoes (especially larger sizes)
  - Women’s shoes
  - Plus size women’s clothing
  - Men’s larger size shirt and pants
  - Men’s trouser socks-new
  - Accessories (jewelry, purses, belts, ties)
  - Woman’s smaller sized shirts (XS, small, size 0-4)

The Health Department will again be offering flu immunizations to city employees, retirees and spouses, however, things will be a little different this year.

Current City employees:
City employees can receive the vaccine at no cost. The clinics are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. at Westside Public Health Center, 660 S. Scenic.
- Wednesday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-1-3 p.m. at Mill Building Classroom, 216 W. Central

*These dates may change based on the flu vaccine availability*

Spouses, retirees and retirees’ spouses:
City employees’ spouses, retirees and retirees’ spouses will be charged the $17 cost of the vaccine, and will be asked to make an appointment after Nov. 10 by calling 417-874-1220 to receive the vaccination at the Westside Public Health Center, 660 S. Scenic. For questions or concerns:
- Westside Public Health Center: 874-1220
- Employee Flu Hotline: 864-1112
The Planning and Development Department celebrated October as National Community Planning Month by focusing on community engagement.

The month started with Mayor Robert Stephens officially declaring October Community Planning Month. Springfield was host to the American Planning Association’s Statewide Conference, “MO Planning, Less Problems, October 5-7. City staff’ Brendan Griesemer, Bob Hosmer, Olivia Hough, Sarah Kerner, Dawne Gardner, and Jeremy Snow served on panel discussions or led mobile workshops. Mayor Stephens read the Proclamation and acknowledged the great efforts and successes of the profession during the Keynote Luncheon. Councilmember Phyllis Ferguson was awarded the “Citizen Planners Award” for her dauntless efforts in recharging and rebuilding Zone 1 during an evening reception.

Other activities throughout the month were designed to recognize community engagement through planning. Planning trivia questions were offered each week in the Monday Morning Announcements. Planning staff’ highlighted community projects such as the Route 66 Roadside Park, Galloway Creek Greenway, Moon City Creative District, West Meadows, and the Commons at Jordan Valley Park, that were created through a collaborative community planning process. Pictures were taken and posted on various social media.

Planners Daniel Neal and Jeremy Snow took to the classroom and spoke to over 120 kids from third grade to eighth grade about city planning. Planners recognize that we must engage and excite children about planning since we do not plan cities for ourselves. We plan for the children and their children so we have to start including them.

In addition to social media efforts, the Springfield News-Leader published an editorial by Mary Lilly Smith about the importance of dreaming big, highlighting some takeaways from the recent Greenville, South Carolina Community Leadership Visit and encouraging participation in future planning efforts.

The Department came together the last week of the month to celebrate a job well done by watching two planning films. After, they collectively brainstormed on what’s in store and adjourned united and energized. As one of the newest employees to the department, I am very excited to see the unity, camaraderie, and most of all the overall proactive approach to the future this group is cultivating. It is a great time to be a Planner in this city. #PlanningMonth

To: Building Development Department
Dear Sirs:

The purpose in writing this letter is we want to thank your department in the efficient manner in which you gave to a complaint we issued on a property at 1242 E Sunset. Your courtesy and understanding and your willingness to help was much appreciated in a difficult situation for us. Thanks to all in the department.

We also want to extend our commendation to an employee in your department, Mr. Carson Cash. His courtesy, understanding of the process, keeping us informed and his genuine interest to our situation was exemplary. He is an outstanding employee in your department and is held with high esteem by us.

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Ferguson

To: Springfield Police Department
Dear Chief Williams,

On behalf of the men and women of the Kansas City, Kansas Police, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to you for all your help during the funeral of Captain Robert “Dave” Melton. We also appreciate the many prayers, cards, and contributions made to the Captain Melton Memorial Fund.

The loss of Dave has been difficult for our Department and Dave’s family, but the thoughtful actions of you and your Department have made it a little easier on us and for that we thank you.

Sincerely,
Terry R. Zeigler, Chief of Police

To: Springfield Public Works
We want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the work all of you do. I don’t know how many times we have called for you to pick up the mess of a “road kill” animal and it is gone within the hour. All services were as efficient as you this would almost be a perfect world! Thank you so much. Keep up the good work in all that you take care of. It is noticed! Thanks!

Judy Fish, Cheroakie Neighborhood Watch coordinator

To: 911 Emergency Communications
911 Emergency Communications Shift Supervisor, Andrew Hoover, received a “job well done” from a citizen on September 16th. The citizen called 911 concerned and somewhat nervous about suspicious activity in her neighborhood. Hoover investigated the situation, and was able to determine all was safe and reassured that everything was OK. She called back in later that night wanting to thank Hoover. She stated, “Hoover should be commended for the handling of my situation as he could have made me feel dumb for calling, but he didn’t.”

To: 911 Emergency Communications
Oct. 7 was a very busy day for the 911 Emergency Communications Department. During the early afternoon hours 911, started receiving multiple calls from citizens in the area of the 2200 block of North National reporting a male armed with a handgun threatening passing motorists. The Springfield Police immediately responded to the scene and became involved in a stand-off with the suspect. Due to the nature of the incident, the police department and dispatch had multiple tasks at hand in order to keep the citizens in the area safe. After the male surrendered without harm to anyone, Springfield Police Sergeant Pratt sent a message to all involved. He stated,
“Thanks to everyone for the help involving that standoff. Appreciate you taking all the calls and dealing with the people. I particularly want to thank the North and South dispatchers for their help with keeping things running smoothly.”

Great job to employees: Lucinda Hodges, Jesse Richerson, Tari Redd, Kelly Pearman, Maria Sanchez, Joel Holdman, Vera Clemmons, Jillian Wokurka and Tina Saunders!

To: Shift Supervisor Terry Hedden and Telecommunicators Tracy Whipple, Ashley House, Elisha Lurvey-Smith, Jared Bottorff, Keith Bachman, Dean Westermeyer, Kelsey Eick, Crissy Postlethwait, Jordan Lurten, Kayla Smith, Jessica Graham-Mitchell, Leigha Brandt

On Oct. 10, Springfield PD was dispatched to shots fired and serious assault at the Bass Pro parking lot on Campbell. After investigating, SPD Lt. Beck wanted to pass along his appreciation for how the shift handled the situation and indicated ‘good job to everyone’.

Phyllis Ferguson recognized with Citizen Planner Award by American Planning Association

Congratulations to Zone 1 Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson, who was awarded the Citizen Planner Award by the Missouri chapter of the American Planning Association for her work on the Moon City Creative District Plan, numerous task forces and committees, service on City Council and the P&Z Commission and overall commitment to planning. Ferguson is pictured above with Planning & Development staff members.

Judge Todd Thornhill appointed to MO Bar Press Committee

I am the current President of the MMACJA committee and recently, Judge Bob Aulgur advised me that due to his pending retirement, he needed to resign from the MO Bar Press Committee, and he asked me to appoint a new member. At our Board meeting last week-end, I appointed Judge Todd Thornhill, a former president of MMACJA and our long standing editor of our newsletter, the Benchmark. I am confident that Todd will be an asset to the MO Bar committee. Thank you so much for including MMACJA on your committee.

Andrea Niehoff

To: Sharon Matlock

Thank you again for all of your help. I was freaking out quite a bit this morning and you made my day a lot brighter. I don’t know if you ever get recognition but you went above and beyond to help me and I truly appreciate that.

Ryan

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. 19.

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, 5:45-6:45 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.