Record turnout for Employee Picnic

2017 Picnic By the Numbers

- 1,000 hot dogs
- 600 burgers
- 300 brats
- 36 pounds of grapes
- 252 Cuties
- 480 pounds of watermelon
- 600 bags of chips
- 40 pounds of salad

Thanks to Parks Community Recreation Services Administrator Robert Uckele for providing the delicious food for the picnic.

Thank Yous

“Thank you so much for making City of SGF Employee Picnic 2017 the best one yet! We had a record turn out of approximately 600 people (served in two hours!) and everyone seemed to have a great time.

We served 600 burgers, 1000 hot dogs, 300 brats, 36 pounds of grapes, 252 cuties, 600 bags of chips and 40 pounds of salad. Wow! Special thanks to Robert Uckele of Parks (pictured second row left) for putting our menu together and ALL of you for helping make our employees feel special. Employees noticed the special effort by Audrey Cova and the inBalance team to provide healthy options and the “Build Your Community. Build Your Career.” T-shirts were also HUGE hit.

It took a village to pull this off. Thank you!”

- Cora Scott, Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement

“Many thanks to all you who came out today. You made this one of the largest Employee Picnic’s ever! Special thanks to all you who work “behind the scenes” to stage this large event. You made it look easy – that’s just because you’re good at it!

We know it takes a lot of planning, prep and, of course, clean up, to make this happen. Thank you all!”

- Tim Smith, Deputy City Manager

“Will you please pass on a hardy “THANK YOU” to all the folks that made the picnic such a success? Me and my fellow employees really enjoyed ourselves and know how much work goes into these events. We totally dig our free T-shirts too!”

- Heather Hoggard, Environmental Services

- See PICNIC on pages 2-3
The SCENE is published monthly by the City of Springfield, 840 Boonville, P.O. Box 8368, Springfield, MO 65801

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The SCENE Deadline: July 25, 2017

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

Additional City info is available on our Website 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.

July 25, 2017

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

VISIT SPRINGFIELDMO.GOV/JOBS TODAY!
Thank Yous (cont’d)

“Thank you Cora to you and your team as well. What a great event and turnout ... and it was good to see so many employees from a wide variety of departments all together today! We heard a lot of great feedback from employees. ‘Thank you!”
- Darla Morrison, Director of Human Resources

“Wow - what a great time yesterday!! That was fun! Thank you so much to the Picnic Committee that put a lot of work into making sure there was great food, music and all details covered! I heard several attendees say the event had a lot of ‘energy’ and just a fun atmosphere!!
AND free stuff given out was a big hit!
Great job to everyone that put that on for all City folks!”
- Zim Schwartze, Director of Emergency Communications

“Just want to send a big, giant THANK YOU to the PIO team, particularly Brittney, Mark, Kristen, Sharon, and Melissa for all of the hard work on our Build Your Community campaign. I think the photo booth was VERY well received, and it could not have happened without our partnership. I am so excited about the momentum we have built, and can’t wait for the next steps of our campaign! Thank you!!”
- Amie Davis, Human Resources Specialist

“I would like to add my voice to the chorus of those expressing thanks. I appreciate everyone taking this to the next level.”
- Greg Burris, City Manager

CAMP Class 2016 Fundraiser Success

“To all CAMPers,

All I can say is WOW! We had a wildly successful raffle and collection drive today at the Employee Picnic! What a great idea (thanks to those who thought it up)!

We ‘sold’ around 650 tickets and were able to collect/donate over 800 items to The Northwest Project! Kristina Wilmoth at NP was very happy to see the “Blue Shirt Brigade” arrive again!

We delivered all of the items and purchased grocery gift cards with the cash that will greatly help their clients!

I can’t say THANK YOU enough to those who were able to help put up the tent, prepare the flyer, gather items for today, make the banner, take money, set up, deliver to Fairbanks, help with cooking at the picnic, purchase tickets to help the cause, stop by the tent, buy the gift cards, and wear balloons on their tail (wait-that was just me!)

CAMP 2016 ROCKS!!
- Zim Schwartze, Director of Emergency Communications

My City Kicks Off with Employee Survey

We are a City of Springfield employee-led committee focused on creating a culture of excellent customer service.

To achieve our goal, we must hear from you!
Please fill out the online survey on CityShare and tell us what you think. (it’s anonymous)"
City Council approves City budget; prioritizes public safety

At its June 16 meeting, Springfield City Council approved City Manager Greg Burris’ $348 million total balanced budget after five budget hearings over several weeks. The General Fund portion of the budget is roughly $83 million and is the City’s primary operating fund. The General Fund covers most Police and Fire operations, Public Works, Planning and Development, Building Development Services and all administrative support functions. It relies on sales and use taxes for the majority of its revenue. Other General Fund revenue sources include the payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) from City Utilities and revenues from licenses, fines, and fees.

Two primary factors made the development of the fiscal year 2018 (FY18) balanced budget (in which projected revenues must equal proposed expenditures) challenging: a very small projected revenue growth and significant prior-year commitments consuming most of that projected revenue. By city charter, the budget the City Manager submits to City Council must be balanced – projected revenues must equal proposed expenditures.

Although fiscal year 2017 (FY17) was not yet over when the council approved the budget, Finance Director David Holtmann did not expect sales tax to hit budgeted projections by year end. This shortfall will create challenges over the coming months for City departments. City Council has already committed to covering the shortfall with FY16 carryover funds.

Holtmann projects a conservative revenue estimate for FY18. Total revenue growth from budget FY17 to budget FY18 is estimated at only 0.9 percent. FY18 sales tax, the largest source of revenue, is estimated to be 1.3 percent lower than the FY17 budget, which makes this year’s budget process even more difficult. Growth over FY17 anticipated actual ending sales tax is estimated at 1.5 percent. Helping offset some of the sales tax shortfall from FY17, other revenue sources, such as sales and use taxes for the majority of revenues must equal proposed expenditures.

Nationally, pedestrian-involved crashes have been on the rise since 2009. This number can be attributed to the growing use of smart phones which can serve as a significant source of distraction to both drivers and pedestrians.

On average, 60 pedestrians are struck on Springfield streets per year.

To combat this growing trend, the City is rolling out a new pedestrian safety campaign called SGF Yields, made possible by a $5,000 Blueprint for Safer Roadways grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT).

The goal of the campaign is to initiate a cultural change in Springfield toward being more pedestrian friendly. The aim is to foster an awareness in motorists to actively watch for pedestrians and to yield to them at crosswalks, while pedestrians are urged to travel responsibly – using crosswalks, obeying traffic signals and following other tips to stay safe.

In an attempt to increase awareness of crosswalk locations and remind drivers to watch out, the campaign includes a unique element – sculptural installations of the campaign’s spokes-pedestrian “Mr. Walker.” These brightly colored, life size metal cutouts will be installed near crosswalks at 10 locations around Springfield. They are intended to reinforce existing crosswalk signage and serve as a highly visible reminder to drivers and pedestrians.

“Our goal is that the Mr. Walker installations will raise awareness and make people take care in crossing the street and that drivers watch closely for pedestrians,” says Traffic Safety Professional Mandy Buettgen-Quinn. “We hope citizens will identify with this character and have a little fun seeking out each Mr. Walker location.”

Educational booths will be setup at multiple art and safety events this summer beginning with a kick-off event in Park Central Square during the July 7 First Friday Art Walk. The booth will feature pedestrian safety tips, give-aways and a selfie station with Mr. Walker.

For more information and safety tips, visit springfieldmo.gov/sgfyields.

Mock-up of Mr. Walker installation.
City celebrates employees with 40-plus years of service (Part 2)

With 40 years of service, there is a handful of City employees who truly exemplify the definition of a civil servant. In this issue of the Scene, we’ll feature two such employees – Marti Fewell and Bill Weaver, both from the Planning & Development.

Bill Weaver, Planning & Development

Development Economist Bill Weaver began working at the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority (LCRA) in 1977 as director of acquisition and disposition. When the LCRA was absorbed into the City of Springfield in 1984, Weaver’s title was changed to Development Economist for the then-Department of Community Development.

In transferring to the Economic Development section in 2002 as a development economist, Weaver continued to acquire land for City purposes, primarily working in the downtown and Jordan Valley Park areas. He provided valuable support in the real estate acquisition, disposition, and construction management necessary to accomplish the West Wye Connector project.

Weaver serves on the Brownfields Committee and staffs the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority. His real estate acumen and business sense have been key factors in the success of the City’s various incentive programs, including the loan programs and property tax abatement programs.

Bill is married to his wife of 45 years, Bobbye. The couple have a son, Greg. Weaver describes both as “the mature part of the family.” While sports aviation (flying fixed-wing, gliders and hot air balloons along with skydiving) were pursuits when he was younger, today, he says, reading about sports aviation seems more appropriate. He enjoys cuisine preparation methods and developing recipes, especially barbecue. He has also, as he states – “perfected the art of dishwasher cookery”.

Mary Lilly Smith, director of Planning & Development says, “Bill has an unparalleled depth of real estate and financial knowledge and has mentored me and others in our department. He’s also served as a mentor and coach to other departments. He is always willing to share his knowledge and the reasoning behind his analysis so that we can learn from him. Bill often serves as a reality check on our projects – helping us to see them through a different lens. That’s not to say he’s not a fun guy – ask him about the legendary pancake breakfast!”

Congratulations for 40 years of service, Bill!

Marti Fewell, Planning & Development

Marti Fewell began her City employment with the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority in 1977. With progressive positions as clerk-typist, administrative assistant, office administrator and housing assistance technician in the City Planning & Economic Development departments she has exemplified top-quality customer service throughout her career. Her customer interactions include homeless families, landlords and property managers, as well as sewer assistance applicants requiring detailed explanations of various programs and regulatory requirements.

Additionally she has served on the board for Habitat for Humanity and as staff liaison to the Sherman Avenue Project Area Committee housing organization while promoting safe and decent housing during her career as well.

She maintains an active social life with her two young boys and her volunteer service at church.

Mary Lilly Smith, director of Planning & Development says “Marti works with people from all walks of life – from a young mother at risk of becoming homeless who needs help navigating the housing process to developers who must comply with a myriad of regulations. Marti treats everyone with compassion, respect and patience. One other thing I really love about Marti is that she holds everyone to the same accountability and personal responsibility. She is always eager to help others but expects them to help themselves too. Her compassion shines through in her private life as well, serving as a foster mom to many children over the years.”

Congratulations, Marti, for 40 years of service!
Pro Tennis
Springfield Lasers
AT COOPER TENNIS COMPLEX
JULY 16- AUG. 2
TICKETS AT: SPRINGFIELDLASERS.COM

Springfield Lasers Pro Tennis home season July 16-Aug. 2

The Springfield Lasers professional tennis team brings rising international stars and familiar faces to Cooper Tennis Complex this month for the 22nd season of Mylan World TeamTennis.

City and county employees get free tickets (up to four per employee, with ID at the gate) at the opening match, Sunday, July 16, 6 p.m., gates open at 4:30 p.m. The Courthouse Chorale presents the National Anthem.

The 2017 Lasers team line-up includes No. 1 American Jack Sock, who earned two gold medals at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. A local favorite, Sock returns to Cooper Tennis Stadium, where, in 2004, he won his first national USTA tournament at age 11. Sock appears in Springfield Friday, July 21. Sock is currently ranked No. 18 in singles and No. 17 in doubles.

Also returning to Springfield: doubles specialist Jean-Julien Rojer, from Netherlands Antillies, who helped take the Lasers to the Mylan WTT finals in 2013; and German Anna-Lena Groenefeld, who played for the Lasers in 2015. Groenefeld and Rojer partnered to win the mixed doubles title at the 2014 French Open. Both are ranked in the top 30 in doubles.

German Benjamin Becker, who made his Springfield debut in 2016, also returns to the team.

New to Springfield is Russian Daria Kasatkina, who earned her first WTA title in April, and Romanian Sorana Cirstea, who will sub for Kasatkina at for the final three matches.

All team members are internationally ranked professional tennis players.

Crowd favorite Coach JL De Jager returns to Springfield for his 11th consecutive season with the Lasers.

Home matches are:
• Sunday, July 16, v. Washington Kastles, 6 p.m.
• Thursday, July 20, v. Philadelphia Freedoms, 7 p.m.
• Friday, July 21, featuring Jack Sock, v. San Diego Aviators, 7 p.m.
• Thursday, July 27, v. San Diego Aviators, 7 p.m.
• Friday, July 28, v. Washington Kastles, 7 p.m.
• Sunday, July 30, v. Philadelphia Freedoms, 6 p.m.
• Wednesday, Aug. 2, v. New York Empire, 7 p.m.

New this year, tickets may be purchased online at springfieldlasers.com. Tickets may also be purchased by phone or in person at Cooper Tennis Complex, 417-837-5800 (Employee free July 16 tickets are only available the gate.)

City & County Employee Night! Attend FREE Sunday, July 16, 6 p.m.

All City of Springfield and Greene County Employees and retirees, plus up to three guests, are invited to the Springfield Lasers World TeamTennis opening match. Present valid City or County I.D., paycheck stub or benefits statement at will-call window.

Cooper Tennis Complex, 2331 E. Pythian St. • This offer good for July 16 home opener only. No cash value.

Watercolor USA 2017: Exhibit open through Aug. 27: Features 85 works by 80 artists from across the country. The exhibition highlights contemporary work in watermedia from traditional transparent watercolor to mixed media collage and sculpture. Visit sgfmuseum.org for hours of operation.

Aquathon Series: Thurs., July 6 and 13 at Doling Park; Tues., July 18 and 25 at Meador Park. 7 p.m., check-in 6-6:45 A four-week series of timed biathlon-style races, including a 150-meter swim and one-mile run. Bring your running shoes and swimsuit. Participants earn points each week. Top three in each age group are recognized following the event. Free T-shirt with registration for two or more weeks.

Age: 5 yrs. and up
Fee: $10/Week or $35/All four weeks

14th Annual Kid’Athlon: Sat., Aug. 5 • Meador Park. A mini-triathlon for kids. Swim, bike, and run your way to victory in events designed for your age group, and take home a medal, T-shirt, giveaways and the pride that comes with finishing a triathlon.

Discount early registration by July 21: $25/child, $15/addl. child same household.
Late registration: July 22-Aug. 3: $35/child, $25/ addl. child same household

National Night Out: Tues., Aug. 1, 5:30-8 p.m., Nichols Park, 1900 W. Nichols St. An annual community-building campaign promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie, making our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. Visit with local police officers, firefighters and park rangers, and enjoy free tennis and other games and special activities.
Do You Know...?
A Q&A of City of Springfield employees. To suggest a colleague for “Do You Know...?” e-mail thescene@springfieldmo.gov.

Al Berry
Airport Police Officer
Al has worked for the City for 9 years.

What’s something you’ve learned since working for the City? “That the airport has a stand-alone Police Department outside of SPD.”

Why do you do what you do? “I enjoy trying my best to promote a positive but professional image and at the end of the day, the role that I play here at the airport is that of influencing other people to make the correct choices.”

What’s the hardest part of your job? “Dealing with unreasonable people.”

What’s the best part of your job? “Showing up to work.”

What’s the coolest thing you’ve done in your career? “I once saved a baby in a locked vehicle, and boy, was he glad to get out of that vehicle.”

What are you passionate about? “Community service.”

Do you work to live, or do you live to work? Why? “Both. I enjoy my job, and I have found out that double dipping is a good thing.”

What do you admire about this organization? “This organization has proud men and women and we take pride in the work we do.”

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Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE
It is an honor to give the Golden Goose to Kara Bills. Kara had the misfortune to be assigned to me. I not sure what Kara did to deserve me, but I certainly appreciate all that she has done to help me.
Steve Meyer, Director of Environmental Services

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Busch Building Carpet Replacement Project: Upcoming Dates

Common area: June 27-July 10

2 West closed: June 27-July 14 (after carpet, both conference rooms will be painted)

Public Works: July 7-27 (285 closed)

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SPIRIT DAYS

Wear your city gear on the first Friday of each month (any City logo wear qualifies)

Take a selfie or picture with co-workers

Email the picture with your name, department and phone number to: TheScene@springfieldmo.gov

enter the a drawing for a chance to win prizes

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SCENE 7
To: Dan Smith, Edgar Garcia and Public Works

Dan, we’ve met on a couple of occasions and I have shared my love of trees with you. I have a story to share about one of your Public Works employees. I’m delighted to say that it is a happy, uplifting story. But it didn’t start out that way.

I live near the Art Museum, and as I was driving on Bennett in May I noticed a crew taking down a huge tree. I felt like I was kicked in the stomach. Then I was angry! Why are they cutting down that huge tree?!

I was very agitated and stopped on the side of the road near where they were working. The chain saws were loud, so I yelled at the workers “What are you doing?!” I’ll admit, I was very upset and ready to do battle to protect that tree.

One of the men walked over to my car. His name was Edgar. He was very calm, even though I wasn’t. He told me that the tree had been hit by lightning and pointed to the damage. He explained that it was now a hazard and that they had to take down the tree even though they hated to lose it. He was very kind and explained all of this to me in a way that anyone could understand. He had no idea that I am the Chairman of Tree City USA.

I told him I was sorry I was so agitated, but I love trees so much and the number of trees being cut in Springfield is frightening to me. He agreed and told me that there were more people being hired in Public Works that cared about trees and wanted to prune them correctly instead of cutting them down. Even though I know a little about the Public Works department, hearing him explain this was a surprise and made me feel a lot better. That maybe there is hope for our beautiful green canopy. (There are days when I wonder.)

I wanted to let you know that Edgar is a credit to your department and to the community. He took the time to explain what was going on and that he and many others on the crew care about trees. Please offer him my thanks and gratitude for a job well done!

Mindy Spitz, Chair, Tree City USA Citizen Advisory Committee

To: Dan Smith, Edgar Garcia and Public Works

I wanted to let you know what a pleasure it’s been working with your arborists and other tree crews here at the museum. From the supervisors to the guys out here removing our damaged trees and grinding stumps, they’ve all been incredibly helpful and professional. Just wanted to pass the kudos along and let you know how much I appreciate the folks who work with you!

Nick Nelson, Art Museum director

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

Thank you so very much for the amazing package you sent to Peyton! He was beyond thrilled to get it in the mail addressed to him! I cannot convey to you how much it meant to him! We pray daily for your safety and support you all always! Thank you so much from the bottom of our heart!

Springfield resident

Edgar was awarded an Image Award from Public Works at the June 21 Public Works Leadership Team Meeting.

JULY
Fri., July 7: Jumanji PG
Sat., July 8: The Prestige PG-13
Fri., July 14: Beauty and the Beast (1991) G
Sat., July 15: La La Land PG-13
Fri., July 21: Moana PG
Sat., July 22: Dead Poet’s Society PG
Fri., July 28: The Goonies PG
Sat., July 29: Ferris Bueller’s Day Off PG-13

AUGUST
Fri., Aug. 4: Kubo and the Two Strings PG
Sat., Aug. 5: The Princess Bride PG
Fri., Aug. 11: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs PG

Birthplace of Route 66 Festival outdoor movie shown at Jordan Valley Park
Sat., Aug. 12: Anchorman PG-13
Fri., Aug. 18: The Jungle Book (2016) PG
Sat., Aug. 19: North by Northwest Not rated
Fri., Aug. 25: E.T. PG
Sat., Aug. 26: Rogue One PG-13
Promotions
Colten Harris
Julie Hawkins
Jonathan Peitz
Leree Reese
Jason Saliba
Engineer III – Public Works
Stephanie Woehl
Public Health Nurse – Health
Rinda Dunn
Rebecca Sigrest
Health Program Coordinator – Nursing – Health
Ashley Grajczyk
Health Program Coordinator – Health
Richard Hogan
Equipment Operator II – Public Works
Randall Stevens
Maintenance Supervisor – Public Works

Retirements
Arlie Becker
Airport Police Officer
Airport – 15 years
Rick Garner
Professional Engineer
Building Development – 27 years
David Illig
Senior Keeper
Parks – 17 years
Clinton Laws
Police Officer
Police – 4 years
William Smart
Battalion Chief
Fire – 23 years

FOR SALE
1988 Honda Goldwing, 1500cc with reverse, am, fn, cassette, three helmets and mic systems. A matching trailer comes with it. 106k miles. Runs great and looks great. $4,000 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.


Roll top desk for sale. Great condition - $500 (~$900 retail price). Can send photo on phone to show. Call 417-425-2294 or 417-425-2293 (evenings Fri - Mon) or days otherwise.

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 343-3117.

20/29 Gallon Aquarium with filter, heater, black deluxe full hood with fluorescent light, and miscellaneous. 24 ¼”w x 12 ½” D x 16 ½” H. $30 OBO. Contact Marcia at 417-379-8459.

New & still in original box. Black NuWave Oven Pro Plus with Extender Ring Kit. Digital power head, cool to touch base, durable shatter-resistant BPA free power dome, 12” non stick liner pan, 1”/3” reversible cooking rack, and dome holder. Extra “Pro Plus” Extender Ring Kit includes a 2” cooking rack, 10” non stick baking pan, and 3” stainless steel extender ring. $100. Call Marcia at 417-379-8459.


2013 Flagstaff Classic Popup, sleeps 6 with 2 heated coil beds, AC, kitchenette with minifridge, indoor shower with bathroom, outdoor shower, slide out for extra room, LOTS of storage, custom LED party lights outside w/ remote. Electric lift for popup. Includes TONS of extras! Very Clean! Excellent condition! $1,150.00 OBO. Text or call 417-461-4192.

Steve’s Scuba: City of Springfield employees and friends receive $100 off Open Water Certification Class (regular price $450 per person, special price is $350 per person). Save 10% on continuing educational classes; try scuba for $25. For more information, call 417-882-7327 or email itsallgood@stevesscuba.com.

JR’S Handyman Service, 417-343-7772, Licensed & Insured. Services Offered: Tub Refinishing, Home Remodeling, Home Repairs. Also see us on Facebook@JR’s Handyman/Renewsurfacing.

Interested in Mary Kay products or hosting a party? Contact Maria Sanchez at 417-848-5357 or e-mail mkmariasanchez@gmail.com. Also, ask how to receive a free facial.
To: Troy Powell, Amy Jackson and Casey Kellner

I want to publicly thank Troy Powell for all he has accomplished in the Olde Ivy subdivision. Over 3 planting season we have been fortunate to receive over 60 trees. The trees have been a beautiful addition to the neighborhood. They range in variety with the majority being White Bud with a smattering of Red Bud and Japanese Snowbells to spice it up!

Also, thank you to Casey Kellner as well for her kindness and support via the occasional change in planting locations and outstanding customer support.

Sincerely, Keith Spiva, HOA Board Member, Vice President

To: Todd Thornill and Deanna Farley

I was delighted at the meeting the other day to hear the acknowledgment from the Court Automation Committee that Springfield Municipal Court is one of the best run in the state. You both deserve kudos for the court being functioning at such a high level, and I was glad to hear you receive them.

Cordially, Rhonda Leawser, former Assistant City Attorney

To: Officer James Dougherty

My boyfriend and I were hit by another driver that fled the scene. Officer Dougherty was extremely helpful, kind, and professional. We just wanted to make sure that his hard working and caring personality does not go unnoticed.

Springfield resident

To: Officer Travis Wilson

Our car was stolen and our home burglarized while we were on vacation in May. The car was found by the MHP and towed to a lot in Monett, MO. I called MHP and requested they process the car for evidence - they declined. I then spoke to Officer Wilson and asked if he would process the car for evidence since we had thousands of dollars in items stolen from our home and wanted the people guilty to be charged and prosecuted. I know that he requested special permission to drive to Monett, MO to process the car. He also called me to keep me informed of anything new about the case in a timely manner. He was professional, yet compassionate while discussing the case. He understood how it felt to be a victim of crime. Thank you Officer Wilson, I do appreciate your time and effort in helping us.

Springfield resident

To: Officer Chris Johns and Police Services Representative Holly Counts

I just had officer Chris Johns at my house in response to a call about property stashed in my bushes. I had called a few hours earlier about someone breaking into my car parked in the driveway beside the bushes.

Once again, my experience with the Springfield Police Department has left me super impressed with the professionalism, kindness, and humanity of the officers I have encountered.

No matter how small a crime may be, it is unsettling when it happens on your property where you hope to feel safe. Chris’s calm, understanding, and helpful manner alleviated much of my anxiety and helped me see what steps I could take next to make my home and yard more secure. That helps me feel less like a victim and more like there is something I can do to better protect myself and my property.

Holly Counts, who took my report about my vehicle break-in, also worked in a professional, thorough, knowledgeable manner and was very kind.

Although my day started out to be upsetting, my contact with your officers and department changed my the overall feeling about the day into a positive one. That’s quite a remarkable gift.

Thank you so much! I greatly appreciate your presence on our streets and in our neighborhoods, your kindness (you seem like really good, nice people!), and your calming influence.

You all are in my prayers! Stay safe, and keep on doing what you do!

Springfield resident

To: Police Chief Paul Williams and Officer Shawn Clawson

I want to express my sincere appreciation to you. Thank you so much for allowing Officer Shawn Clawson to testify last week as an expert witness in our jury trial. We got a guilty verdict on a woman who was out of control with drugs in Mount Vernon and needed to be stopped. First, I want to say Officer Clawson is the best witness on the stand I have ever had or seen in my 16 years. The way he answered the questions was something to behold. Every law enforcement officer should be trained on how to testify in this manner. Officer Clawson spoke directly to the jury as if he was speaking to them in their living room. Further, his knowledge of the subject matter, (DWI and DRE), was remarkable. The jurors I spoke to were all extremely impressed and discounted all the testimony of Travis Jones the Defense Expert.

I could go on and on about his testimony, but I will not take up anymore of your time. I just wanted to express my gratitude to you and Officer Clawson. If I can ever be any assistance to you in the future please call.

Don Trotter, Lawrence County Prosecutor

To: Emergency Communications 9-1-1 Telecommunicators, Fire Dispatch

As of June, Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 reformatted fire dispatching procedures and format to accommodate the Greene County Fire Agencies response to calls for service. After meeting with the Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts several times, the new format was established and agreed upon. Chief Kim Grant with the Ash Grove Fire Protection District stated, “Just thought I would give you feedback on the new dispatching — I LOVE IT! Your dispatchers are doing an awesome job with the new format! Thank you for hearing us!” The Fire Chief for Springfield Fire Department also wanted to pass on positive comments that came from his crews about the new dispatch procedures. He wrote, “They really like the heads up on who the call is for. SFD appreciates everything the 9-1-1 Fire Dispatchers do they are a great help.”

Katrina Viau, Executive Secretary, Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Department

To: Rosa Aviles and Byran Loughrige

The flowers are beautiful! Thanks for all your hard work & look forward to seeing PCW. After you planted I had people tell me how nice they looked. Let’s hope they grow PCW.

Barb Baker, Downtown Springfield CID