City Council approves putting continuation of level property tax on fall ballot

At its Aug. 29 lunch meeting, Springfield City Council approved asking voters to continue the level property tax to pay for unfunded public safety capital improvement and staffing needs. The vote was 7-1 with Councilwoman Kristi Fulnecky voting no and Councilman Richard Ollis absent.

If approved by voters in a November election, the renewal would not constitute a tax increase.

Currently, Springfield residents pay a 27-cent property tax (per $100 of assessed value), which generates about $8 million per year. Renewed by voters in 1999, 2001 and 2004, the LPT has funded large-scale capital projects, such as police and fire station construction, public safety apparatus and vehicles, stormwater improvement projects and emergency storm warning systems. All of the projects have been completed as promised with no increase in the tax rate.

The discussion to consider funding a new slate of projects began last fall when then Fire Chief David Hall proposed closing one fire station in order to reallocate resources to growing demands in other parts of the City. Discussion continued throughout the City’s budget talks in March and April where it was again reiterated the City’s need for funding of the public safety departments’ equipment and vehicle lifecycle replacement needs, along with maintenance of existing equipment and buildings. New facilities, such as the two new fire stations, also requires additional staffing. The approved ordinance accounts for that.

An amendment by Councilman Hosmer narrowed the scope of staffing funding to limit it to public safety employees, including those serving in the police, fire and public works departments.

Mayor Ken McClure made an amendment to add specificity to the bill before its passage. An exhibit details the commitments that include, but are not limited to, the costs of staffing and the costs of equipment and vehicle replacement.

The approved ordinance accounts for that.

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Aug. 30 POTUS visit a successful operation

By Lisa Cox, Public Information Administrator

I was uneasy Wednesday morning ... worried about the safety of our officers and the peaceful demonstrators from both political parties. My husband Dustin and I adjusted our schedules and the kids’ drop-offs/pick-ups in case I needed to keep working into the night.

Not one arrest had to be made in relation to the Presidential visit and protests. I’m proud that we were able to be one of the cities that won’t be known for violence and hatred a week from now through the national media. It was unifying to see people in the room with differing political beliefs equally excited about this day that allowed our city to be in the spotlight due to a visit from President Trump.

I’m proud of the heroes I get to work with every day who had to do an insane amount of security and motorcade planning in the matter of a few days while carrying such a huge amount of responsibility on their shoulders. I’m proud of our 137 officers, as well as those from other agencies who worked on this operation for their massive amount of professionalism and bravery. I’m grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

22nd Annual Japanese Fall Festival:
Fri., Sept. 8, 5-10 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 9, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 10, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic.
Three days of Japanese culture, celebrating Springfield’s sister city, Iseaki, Japan. Includes Taiko drumming, top spinning, martial arts, folk dancing, origami, tea ceremonies, authentic Japanese foods, candlelight walk and more. Fee: Fri. & Sun., $7/adult, $3/12 yrs. and under; Sat. featuring Shoji Tabuchi: $15/adult, $3/12 yrs. and under.

15th Annual DogFest:
Sept. 23: 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Chesterfield Park, 2511 W. Republic Rd.
Everyone, including the family dog, is invited for free fun and activities. DogFest features dog agility demos, police K-9s, therapy dogs, a dog fashion show, canine related vendors and more. All proceeds benefit Cruse Dog Park. Fee: Free, $1/Bounce house, $10/t-shirt
Mayor Ken McClure proud and thankful for civility during POTUS visit

Wednesday’s visit by President Donald Trump proved to me once again what a special place Springfield is. I have not seen news coverage from anywhere else around the country where supporters, protestors and counter-protestors assembled together peacefully. Although not totally without arguments or tension, Springfield’s event was, for the most part, civil, respectful and without negative consequences. I am proud of the fact that not one arrest had to be made in relation to the Presidential visit and protests. I read at least one account of a supporter and protestor, “hugging it out” after hearing one another out. That’s the way we do things in Springfield.

The coordination, planning and execution of the plan by the Springfield Police Department and other City departments and partner agencies was superb. I am proud and thankful for our 137 officers who worked the event, as well as those from other agencies, who handled things with such professionalism and bravery.

- Mayor Ken McClure

Do you want to win this vehicle?

It’s that time of the year and the Springfield Police Department is selling raffle tickets for a brand new 2017 Honda Pilot Elite. The money raised from this raffle will go to Special Olympics Missouri to help our athletes statewide!

This raffle ends October 1st with a winner from Southwest Missouri area going to a Mizzou Football game (AT NO COST) to see if they have the key to start the new Honda Pilot. There will be a total of 8 winners statewide, with a winner from each region. Each region will send their region winner to the game and whoever doesn’t have the winning key will get a $500 cash prize.

If you are interested in helping our Special Olympics Missouri athletes and possibly win a new vehicle or $500, contact:

- SDS – Officer Mark Priebe - Traffic Section at mpriebe@springfieldmo.gov
- HQ - Amanda Dodge – Quartermaster’s Office at adodge@springfieldmo.gov

Ticket prices: $5 each ticket.

For more information about the raffle and why we support Special Olympics visit somo.org/win.
Larry Woods named director of Office of Emergency Management, Brendan Griesemer promoted to assistant director of Planning & Development

Larry Woods has been named director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), effective immediately.

“I am honored and humbled to serve the citizens of Greene County in this capacity and look forward to advancing the vision of the Office of Emergency Management to make our community the most disaster resilient community in the nation,” Woods said.

Woods joined OEM in 2000 as a planning officer. He was promoted to the title of deputy director (then assistant director) in 2003. While in this role, Woods was instrumental in developing and maintaining the county’s emergency operations center and solidifying its role as an example of best practice in community disaster response.

“Over the last 17 years, Larry has consistently demonstrated the qualities which are vital to this position: dedication, dependability, passion and leadership,” said Presiding Commissioner Bob Cirtin. “We are pleased he has accepted the position, and we look forward to the direction he will provide the Office of Emergency Management.”

Before joining the OEM, Woods served as the 911 and emergency management director for Laclede County and as an emergency medical technician for American Medical Response in Kansas City, MO. He has also worked in both the fire service and law enforcement.

“Larry has extensive experience and has proven himself time and time again. For a community that intends to be the best prepared in the country, I have every confidence in Larry’s ability to lead the Office of Emergency Management and our entire community to achieve that goal,” said City Manager Greg Burris.

Woods is the Region D director for the Missouri Emergency Managers Association and is the planning section chief for both the Southwest Missouri Incident Support Team as well as the Missouri Disaster Response System. He is professionally certified by the International Emergency Managers Association and is a licensed emergency medical technician.

Woods is also a planning section chief for one of two Incident Response Coordination Teams for the Office of Emergency Management under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Brendan Griesemer, AICP, has been named assistant director of Planning & Development for the City of Springfield, effective July 23.

“I am honored to have been chosen for this exciting opportunity. I look forward to serving the community in this new role,” Griesemer said.

Griesemer joined the City in 1996 as a senior planner. He was promoted to the title of principal planner in 1999, neighborhood conservation manager in 2004 and planning and development manager in 2009. While in this role, Griesemer spearheaded the creation of the Springfield Community Land Trust to provide additional affordable homeownership options to Springfield citizens.

Among other duties, he directs the City’s Neighborhoods Office, which is responsible for working with the City’s neighborhood organizations on neighborhood planning and improvement initiatives.

“I’ve had the pleasure of working with Brendan for over 20 years,” said Director of Planning & Development Mary Lilly Smith. “His breadth of experience in planning, budgeting and policy development provides a great basis for this expanded role.”

Before joining the City of Springfield, Griesemer worked for the City of Shawnee, Kansas, the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City, Kansas University’s Transportation Center and the City of Nixa.

He holds a master of urban planning degree with a specialization in community and economic development planning/housing policy from the University of Kansas, and a bachelor of science degree in community and regional planning from Missouri State University.

Griesemer is the professional development officer for the Missouri Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) and the vice chair of Community Partnership of the Ozarks’ Transportation Collaborative. He is professionally certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners and has previously served as a member of Springfield Public Schools’ Long Range Planning Committee, the Transportation Task Force, the Impacting Poverty Commission and on the steering committee for Community Foundation of the Ozarks’ Community Focus Report.

Griesemer is also a past vice president of the APA’s Kansas City Metro Section, a founding member of APA’s Ozark Mountain Section and a past board member of the North Springfield Betterment Association.

Springfield Fire Department releases Quarterly Fire Safety Report

The Springfield Fire Department continued its efforts to improve fire safety in the community in the second quarter of 2017 through its Project RED Zone program. Firefighters spent Saturday afternoons visiting every home in the West Central Neighborhood, checking and installing free smoke alarms and providing fire safety information. From April through June, they visited a total of 2,500 homes, testing nearly 900 fire alarms to ensure they are working. They also visited over 1,200 apartment units. In June, crews began visiting homes in the Grant Beach neighborhood.

As a result of Project RED Zone, and additional installations of alarms by request, in just three months, Springfield Fire crews installed 660 new smoke alarms and provided 219 batteries for existing alarms. By comparison, during the same period last year, firefighters installed 175 new smoke alarms and 130 batteries.

This aggressive campaign to ensure every home has working smoke alarms comes as fire calls in Springfield continue to rise. During the second quarter of 2017, fire crews responded to 65 fires, while responding to 35 during the same period last year. The leading cause of building fires is related to cooking, accounting for 30% of our accidental structure fires. Total calls for service for the Fire Department are up 10%, with medical calls falling slightly. For more information, see our entire quarterly fire safety report.
Mayor Ken McClure testifies before transportation task force

Mayor Ken McClure testified before the Governor’s 21st Century Transportation System Task Force Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017 in Springfield. The purpose of the task force is to evaluate the condition of our state transportation system, current transportation funding and whether current funding is sufficient to maintain our system in its current state and ensure it will continue to serve the needs of Missouri citizens as we move forward in the 21st Century.

“We believe a healthy infrastructure is one of the most important elements as we look to the future of our City,” the Mayor said. “Infrastructure is critical to economic development, quality of life and public safety.”

He went on to point out how Springfield recognizes the important role of the MoDOT system and shared that Springfield has a history of partnering with MoDOT on infrastructure projects that have acted as a catalyst for economic development in the Springfield community.

“We support additional funding for the Missouri transportation system outside of a sales tax, which could impact the City and County’s ability to fund other critical local needs via sales tax. We believe fuel taxes, as well as other current and new sources of revenue, are essential to funding the maintenance and improvement of the state transportation system. An increase in state funding through the current funding formula will also directly benefit local governments and help maintain our local transportation systems,” Mayor McClure said.

He said the City does not support the transferring of responsibility of roadways from the state to our local governments. “This will merely pass the financial burden of decaying roads on to local governments who are already hindered by unfunded needs – infrastructure and otherwise. This transfer, if put into effect, could have a significant negative impact on the City of Springfield, Greene County and many other local governments in the state.”

The task force is expected to provide a report of its findings to the Missouri General Assembly by Jan. 1, 2018.

The 2017-2018 United Way Campaign has officially begun!

By Zim Schwartze, United Way Campaign Chair

Our goal this year is $104,000 for the City of Springfield and more donors than last year! Many departments have already begun hosting various events to raise money, so be looking for the fun ways to participate and support United Way in the Monday Morning Announcements and your departments bulletin boards!

The Pledge Form giving is scheduled to start in September followed by the popular on-line Auction in October and Employee Expo back again this year in November! Watch for details as we plan for these events!

Please contact your Department Coordinator with any questions:

- Cara Burch, 4th Floor (City Manager/ City Clerk/PIO/Risk Mngt)
- Kara Remington, Airport
- Joy Latimer, Airport
- Michele Huntley, Art Museum
- Susan Smith, BDS
- Stacey Watson, Emergency Comm.
- John Waitman, ES
- Diana Young, ES-Solid Waste Mngt.
- Ashley Fears, ES

New inBalance Fitness Class Schedule

Mon. & Wed., 11-11:45 a.m. Lower-Impact Class The Mill Building, 216 W. Central St.
Mon. & Wed., 12-12:45 p.m. Noon Time Fitness, The Mill Building OR Drury Field (weather permitting)
Mon. & Wed., 5:30-6:45 p.m. Yoga, Fire Station #1, 720 E. Grand St.
Tues. & Thurs., 12:30-1:15 p.m. Workout Remix! The Mill Building
Fri., 12:05-12:55 p.m. Yoga, Fire Station #1

Join us for fun and creative fitness challenges (for both the competitors and the spectators), great food, the opportunity to win 4 hours of paid leave, bragging rights and many giveaway items. Bring a $3 cash donation, benefiting United Way, for your lunch!

Jersey Day for United Way

Hey there, sports fans! It’s time to sport your colors on Jersey Day for United Way! On September 8, City employees may support their favorite NFL team by wearing a team jersey or t-shirt in exchange for a $5 donation to the United Way. Everyone participating will get a sticker showing their support of the United Way along with their favorite team!

Contact Cara Burch at cburch@springfieldmo.gov or 864-1004 to participate.

SAVE THE DATE

COSFIT GAMES

12-1 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 13
@ DRURY’S TRACK & FIELD
(AT SUMMIT AVE. & CENTRAL ST.)

Join us for fun and creative fitness challenges (for both the competitors and the spectators), great food, the opportunity to win 4 hours of paid leave, bragging rights and many giveaway items. Bring a $3 cash donation, benefiting United Way, for your lunch!

Brandy Atnip, Finance
Terry Woods, Finance
Julie Viele, Health
Elizabeth Mack, Health
Amy Squires, HR
Nicki Woods, IS
Donna Wilson, Law
Kimberly Castillo, Municipal Court
Karen Mellinger (Herron), Parks
Judy White, Planning
Mike Lucas, Police
Curt Ringgold, Police
Shirley Johnson, PW
Kim Talbot, PW
Tammie Beeman, Workforce Devel.
Kathy Marlar, SPD-CAmP #4 Silent Auction/Employee Expo
Zim Schwartze, Campaign Chair
David Pennington, Campaign Vice-Chair

I’m proud to be the City’s United Way Campaign Chair this year with help from the Vice-Chair, Fire Chief, David Pennington!

Please help us reach our goal…we are the game changers for our community! Be a part of it!
Danielle Dingman, the community health coordinator at the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, has a passion for health and fitness that extends far beyond her day job. This year, Dingman has entered eight triathlons and duathlons—and won every single one of them, three of which were national titles.

Triathlons include swimming, biking and running, while duathlons are biking and running.

Dingman has competed in—and won—these USA Triathlon-sanctioned events this year:

• March in Okarche Duathlon: March 18
• F1 Duathlon: April 9
• 2017 USAT Duathlon Long Course National Championship: April 29
• Kansas City Duathlon: May 14
• St. Louis Triathlon: May 21
• Ozark Valley Triathlon – International Distance: June 4
• 2017 USAT Standard Distance National Championships: June 17
• 2017 USAT Sprint Distance National Championships: June 17
  (Yes, she competed in and won two national competitions in one day!)
• 2017 USAT Age Group National Championships–Olympic Distance: Aug. 12
• 2017 USAT Age Group National Championships–Sprint Distance: Aug. 13

Dingman always had a passion for sports. She rediscovered that passion this year and has been competing all over the country. She has been athletic since she could walk, earning many accomplishments in several sports throughout her school career. In high school, she was a six-time Florida state champion in both 800 meter running and as part of the 4 x 800 meter relay. She was also a Wendy’s High School Heisman State Finalist. Dingman also had a successful running career at Baylor University. “I qualified for the Olympic Trials in the Steeplechase in 2008 but could not run due to a foot fracture,” Dingman recalls.

After college, Dingman aspired to be a professional runner, but a sickness turned her attention to cycling. After racing locally in Texas, she started competing as a domestic-elite cyclist across the nation in 2014, requiring 20-25 hours a week of training. After suffering from a fractured back in 2015, she took a step back and decided to focus on her career and husband. “Although both have been tremendously rewarding, I still experienced a great sadness because I was neglecting myself by not pursuing my passions,” she said.

While suffering from depression, Dingman was encouraged by a friend to get out and run again. Within a few months, she had rediscovered her love of running, cycling and competing. She has an upcoming race in September. She also qualified for world races and plans to compete internationally in 2018. “My goal is to race as a professional triathlete. I am still working on determining the discipline, whether that is the Olympic distance, half IRONMAN, or IRONMAN distance. This year will help shape my focus in the future.”

Dingman is sponsored by Springfield Brewing Company and A&B Cycle. Dingman says “Ultimately, I want to use my talents as a platform for helping people live healthy lives by motivating, encouraging and inspiring them to make healthy lifestyle choices. Thankfully, I get to do this in my role at the Health Department and have an avenue for pursuing my athletic goals.”

Dingman is a full time employee of the Health Department who commutes every day from Branson and still finds time to train 12-15 hours a week.

“All things I do take a great deal of commitment from myself and my husband. But it is what brings me joy, because I am pursuing my passions and goals. I believe everyone has a purpose, and in order for someone to best be able to live that purpose, they need to be the healthiest versions of themselves they can be. A person doesn’t need to train for a triathlon, marathon, or any crazy race. They simply need to identify what it will take for them to be healthy spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially and socially; set some bite-size goals and dedicate themselves to the daily process. Results don’t happen overnight. Rather, they occur as an outcome of the accumulation of small, smart decisions.”

2017 Birthplace of Route 66 Festival draws 53,000 to downtown

A huge thank you to Police, Fire, OEM, Public Works, Environmental Services, Parks and all of the employees who volunteered to work the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival Aug. 11-12. This year’s festival was the best and most highly attended yet. We are estimating a crowd of 53,000 over the two days – 21,000 Friday and 32,000 Saturday!

- 2 superstar concerts
- 32 musical acts
- 72 vendors
- 223 runners
- $24,500 from Big N Rich concert ticket sales, Gypsy Poker Run and the Birthplace of Route 66 Charity Bike Show benefiting Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and Home at Last, a homeless veterans association affiliated with The Kitchen, Inc.
- $10,000 in proceeds from car show registration benefiting the West Central Neighborhood, who, in turn, donate much of that to Route 66 preservation/rejuvenation efforts.
**Events**

**Springfield Art Museum**

Enjoy. Learn. Create.

*Springfield Art Museum*, 1111 E. Brookside Dr., sgfmuseum.org

**Veterans’ Views:** July 22–Nov. 26.

A juried exhibition highlighting photographs taken by members of our nation’s armed services and relating to their military experience.

**Wonder Rooms:**

Ozark Collections: Sept. 16–Feb. 23.

Wonder Rooms examines the human desire to collect, with a specific focus on private collections in Southwest Missouri, in order to discover the underlying stories and driving impulses behind collecting. The exhibit will present representative works from ten local collections, and will feature a wide range of media arranged in cabinets or “rooms,” including ceramics, photography, outsider art, local art, furniture, prints and drawings.

The **PARK**

Springfield-Greene County Park Board, ParkBoard.org

**Grandparent’s Day:** Sept. 10: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Dickerson Park Zoo, 1401 W. Norton Rd. Fee: Free for grandparents; $12/Adults and teens; $8 Children 3-12 yrs.; Seniors 60 yrs. and up.

**26th Annual 1980’s Lifestyle Expo at Gray-Campbell Farmstead:**

Sept. 16-17: Sat., 11 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Sun., 12-4:30 p.m., 2400 S Scenic Ave.

Rediscover pioneer life at the oldest house in Springfield. Apple butter making, horseshoes, hearth cooking, fiber arts, crafts, wood carving, tours and more. Free event.

**Dog Obedience:** Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Oct. 17: Beginning session is 6-7 p.m.; Advanced is 7-8 p.m., Oak Grove Community Center, 1538 S. Oak Grove Ave. A great start for you and your dog. Dogs and owners of all ages are welcome for six weeks of beginning and advanced classes. Proof of vaccination required. Fee: $95/Beginning, $105/Advanced

**Tiny Dancers Hip Hop:** Wednesdays, Sept. 13-Oct. 18: 6-7 p.m., Oak Grove Community Center, 1538 S. Oak Grove Ave.

New this fall, Tiny Dancers (ages 3-8 yrs.) learn the basic movements of Hip Hop in a fun, energetic and age-appropriate environment. Fee: $25/6-week session.

**Concert at the Cave:** Sept. 24: 12-6 p.m., Doling Park's Giboney Cave, 501 E. Talmage St. Four bands perform outside Doling Park's Giboney Cave. Event also includes cave tours, kids interactive art, games and a bounce house. The Doling History Museum is open for tours 1-4 p.m. Play it Forward collects musical instruments for students. Concessions available. Free event.

**Harvest Fest:** Sept. 29-Oct. 29: Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Rd. 146

**Hours:** Fridays, 6:30-10 p.m. (Pumpkin Patch, Corn Maze & Haunted Trail only); Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (6:30-10 p.m. Pumpkin Patch, Corn Maze & Haunted Trail only); Sundays, 12-6 p.m

Five weekends of fall-themed fun at the farm! Meander through the corn maze, take a hayride, pick your own pumpkin from our pumpkin patch, ride the Cow Train or Grain Train, try your luck at carnival games, bounce on inflatables and much more as you enjoy this Midwest fall tradition! Fee: Free admission, most activities have a small fee.

**Ritter Springs Camping Trip:**

Sat., Sept. 30, 12 p.m.–Sun., Oct. 1, 12 p.m.; Ritter Springs Park, 3683 W. Farm Rd. 92.

Join Outdoor Initiatives for a fun overnight campground. Includes kayaking, catch & release fishing, hiking, and more. Dutch Oven dinner provided Saturday evening. Some camping equipment available on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee: $10/person, scholarships may be available to youth 18 years and under who meet the income requirements.

**Frisco Lane officially on track following City Council approval**

Springfield City Council greenlit Frisco Lane at its Aug. 7 meeting with the passage of Council Bill 2017-196.

The ordinance approves the acquisition of about 67,000 square feet of open space and alleyway north of the buildings on the north side of Commercial Street between Campbell and Benton Avenues to be used for access and parking by C-Street merchants.

The purchase will be financed with about $708,000 in BNSF credits; $267,508 from Commercial Street Tax Increment Financing District funds; and $25,747 from the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax. BNSF owed the City the $708,000 in exchange for 2.6 acres in southwest Springfield for the West Wye project, a turnaround track for coal trains coming from the west to City Utilities’ Southwest Power Station.

Development of Frisco Lane for parking spaces and access to the buildings has been a long-held wish of C-Street business owners.

The passage “represents the culmination of decades of efforts by merchants on Commercial Street and others,” said Deputy City Manager Tim Smith, during the first reading of the bill at the council’s July 31 meeting.

BNSF has owned the property for more than 100 years. A significant portion of the purchase price of the property includes the railroad’s loss of capacity.

“BNSF has active tracks on this property that it will no longer be able to use,” said Economic Development Director Sarah Kerner. Kerner compared the purchase to the acquisition of a business property to build a new highway. “The business owner is paid for more than just the land – they are also paid the value of the loss in business because they no longer have that property.”

In the near future, Kerner says the City plans to grade the gravel and fence the area, in the near future, Kerner says the City plans to grade the gravel and fence the area, in the near future, Kerner says the City plans to grade the gravel and fence the area, in the near future, Kerner says the City plans to grade the gravel and fence the area.
What’s something you’ve learned since working for the City? “The city is progressive. The recent work to make it possible for Uber and Lyft to serve the area is really significant and groundbreaking. The City is willing to make profound changes if the old way of doing business isn’t necessarily the best way to serve the people in a modern world.”

Why do you do what you do? “When I was a kid, I read ‘To Kill A Mockingbird.’ The idea of helping people who were invisible for one reason or another was very appealing to me. That led me to the law and public service.”

What’s the best part of your job? “Working with other lawyers and clients to find creative solutions to vexing legal problems that have been difficult to solve. There’s nothing better than closing a hard case.”

Do you work to live, or do you live to work? Why? “I have been very driven in my career. It is fair to say it took over my life for a time. Today, I’m trying to find the perfect balance, but I still define myself largely by whether I feel that I am making a difference at work.”

What do you admire about this organization? “Over nearly 30 years serving in state government positions, I always have been impressed with the strong environmental awareness evident in the City and its people. St. Louis, Kansas City, and even Columbia pale in comparison. Springfield clearly ‘gets it’ when it comes to water quality and the environment.”
**Promotions**

Jimmy Avant  
Parks Caretaker – Parks

Joshua Cansler  
Maintenance Worker – Environmental Services

Heather Ferrier  
Supervisor of Animal Control – Health

Jonathan Peitz  
Jason Saliba  
Professional Engineers – Public Works

Jody Vernon  
Asst. Dir. of Finance & Comptroller – Finance

**Retirements**

Randy Barnts  
Supervisor of Animal Control  
Health – 17 years

Kevin Binam  
Fire Marshal  
Fire – 24 years

Steven Pratt  
Police Sergeant  
Police – 23 years

Kevin Sweeney  
Police Corporal  
Police – 20 years

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**FOR SALE**

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. $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.


2Bd/2Ba Garden Level Condo in northern Branson behind Walmart, Kohl’s, 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.

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”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! $11,500.00 OBO. Text or call 417-461-4132.

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**SERVICES**

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 at mkmariasanchez@gmail.com. Also, ask how to receive a free facial.
To: Springfield Police Department

The other night, people gathered across the country to stand with Charlottesville against white supremacy. In Springfield, there was an event not organized by locals, although details of the gathering were shared by local groups. Those group leaders who shared details were clear in asking participants to observe nonviolent means of protest. Some people on the left took such requests as “how dare you tell me how to act!” Personal attacks escalated and some started posting about their preferred means of physical response. At this point, many I know made decisions not to attend or bring their families as planned.

I was the second person to arrive at City Hall. I sat in my car for 15 min debating whether or not to stay, while looking at the first to arrive: a man in body armor with a gun. The third person to arrive at the rally refused to walk up to the steps without calling 911. Within a few moments, streets were blocked off in all four directions by police cars and flashing lights. The armed man was approached by police and asked to step away from the area while they investigated the matter.

There was no harassment by SPD! There was a response to a concerned citizen. The armed man gave his rationale for being there in gear as “protection”. As far as I am concerned, he fed into the fear/conflict narrative that many in the faith community were there to renounce. Nonetheless, there was no escalation. Officers spoke with me and others. The armed man was not detained and instead joined the others gathered...still carrying his gun. For me, a strong supporter of the 2nd Amendment, it is nonetheless a perfect example of how ridiculous gun laws are in this country.

Today, even as I can’t help but wonder if the results would have been different if the armed man were black or in a different town...in the circumstances that were presented, the SPD watched out for us all. And after they ascertained that the event truly was a non-violent stand of solidarity, the police presence disbanded.

Springfield resident

To: Carrie Waggoner, Finance

I just wanted to tell you thank for your exemplary service to me any time I’ve called upon you at the City. You have always been cordial, prompt and professional in your service to me. Please give a copy of this note to your supervisor because he/she needs to know that you are an employee who truly is valuable to the city and a good ambassador for it.

Thanks again,
David Zuhlke

To: Public Works Department

I just wanted to thank you and especially the men and women that worked on our street curbs. They even fixed several neighbors across the street from me.

The work was much more detailed than I anticipated and they did a fabulous job!

Thank you all again for your efforts.
Springfield resident

To: Ashley House, 9-1-1 Telecommunicator and Joseph House, Willard Fire Department

On July 15, 2017, approximately 7 p.m. Ashley House, a Telecommunicator with Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1, and her husband Joseph House, Firefighter with the Willard Fire Department, were kayaking close to the access point of Lake Springfield off Highway 65 near the Missouri Veterans Cemetery. They noticed several kayaks grouped together in the middle of the channel who appeared to be enjoying the day and playing in the water.

As Joseph and Ashley continued to float closer to the group, they noticed items floating in the water and it became obvious that someone had flipped their kayak. They overheard a bystander say that 9-1-1 had been called and a woman had fallen out of her kayak because of a seizure. The emergency response training that Ashley and Joseph kicked into gear. They witnessed a female clutching the back straps of the unresponsive female’s swimsuit struggling to keep her face out of the water. With her face under water, they knew the female was not able to breath. Joseph and Ashley jumped into the water to take control of the situation. They swam to the unresponsive woman, pulled her to shore, observed her lips were blue, and immediately starting CPR. The couple was informed that the woman had been under the water for approximately 7 minutes. They continued the lifesaving steps until Springfield Fire Department Water Rescue team and Cox Ambulance arrived on the scene. The female was transported to the hospital for treatment. Excellent job to Ashley and Joseph for going above and beyond to save the life of another through their training and desire to help others!

To: Marleen Maupin, 9-1-1 Telecommunicator

On July 16 at 7:23 a.m., near Bradley and Wilson within the city limits of Ash Grove, 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Marleen Maupin was dispatching fire when Ash Grove Fire Department had a situation with an unconscious female inside a residence and no key holder. Marleen requested assistance from Greene County Sheriff’s deputies who were dispatched to assist in gaining entry. Willard Fire Department was contacted and requested for equipment. Victim gained consciousness and it was later determined that the victim was intoxicated and hearing impaired. Chief Kim Grant with the Ash Grove Fire Department was so thankful for how Marleen dispatched all the help that was needed on scene during this incident that she baked chocolate chip cookies for the 9-1-1 department personnel.

To: Springfield-Greene County Emergency Communications 9-1-1

Lieutenant Mike Lucas with the Springfield Police Department sent his appreciation for the 9-1-1 telecommunicators,” I know ALL your employees have a very tough job and they do an amazing job keeping us safe and informed”.

To: Officer Kolby Helms

A few weeks ago a delivery driver driving a white box truck for “Mattress Firm” crashed into my car which was parked in a designated space on Walnut Street in Springfield, Mo. Officer Helms arrived to investigate. He was incredibly helpful, professional and tuned in to helping me locate the delivery driver and the owner of the trucking company to establish that the driver hit my car and left the scene. He also helped detach my bumper with tools from his vehicle to assist me in getting my car to the collision center for an estimate. He interviewed witnesses, the driver who denied the accident at first and the owner of the trucking company. If not for Officer Helms the driver would have not admitted hitting my car and the owner of the truck would not have paid for the damages to my car. I sincerely appreciated the
time he took to help. He was calm but firm and helped put me at ease as well. I’ll never forget it and hope he sees this so that I can thank him. Thank you Officer Helms!

Springfield resident

To: Springfield-Greene County Park Board

Thank you so much for partnering with us this year. We (yogis) love practicing yoga in all of the parks. But we really favor Phelps Grove Park for this.

The entire staff at the Park Board—secretaries, Maria Johnston, Jenny Edwards, the superintendent—all went above and beyond to make sure we were welcome and had everything needed for a successful event. We look forward to next year! Thank you from all of us in the True You Yoga Festival Committee!

Newest 9-1-1 CTO’s (Communications Training Officers)

The newest group of 9-1-1 trainers recently completed a required three-day APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officials) course administered by Training and Education Manager Kris Inman. Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 established its in-house certification program in 2013 through efforts of Manager Inman who has now successfully trained 24 CTO’s to benefit the telecommunicators’ training program!

Each newly certified trainer is required to complete modules in the course which address the following topics:
• Performance Based Training
• Preparing, Motivating and Communicating with Trainees
• Customer Service in Public Safety Communications
• Counseling

These CTO’s will now be tasked with training, educating and assisting newly hired 9-1-1 Telecommunicators with on-the-job training totaling 700-800 hours per employee. Congrats to each of them!

L-R: Jordan Lurten, Abbie Shouse, Daniel Salcido, Frankie Missey and Elisha Lurvey-Smith

• Stress Management
• Meeting the Needs of the Adult Learner
• Training Strategies
• Performance Evaluations
• Record Keeping and Documentation
• Total Quality Management
• Liability and Standards

Thanks for all of the great Spirit Day selfies! Nathan Huggins in Information Systems was August’s winner! Don’t forget to snap a pic wearing your City spirit shirts Fridays, Sept. 1 and Oct. 6 and send it to TheScene@springfieldmo.gov!

Employees helping employees.

City employees are often the first to step forward to help their fellow co-workers in times of crisis. The Employee Crisis Fund provides an avenue for employees to give to other employees in need, and for those in need to seek assistance.

HOW TO GIVE

Donate Directly: Donations may be sent to the Finance Department, Attn: Nikki Crisp. The Finance Department is located in the lower level of the Busch Municipal Building, 840 Boonville.

Make checks payable to: City of Springfield Employee Crisis Fund. Donations are not tax deductible.

Payroll Deductions: A voluntary donation can be set up directly from your paycheck. Visit the Employee Crisis Fund tab on CityShare to complete the payroll deduction form.

APPLY

An eligible employee or his/her designee must complete an Employee Crisis Fund Program Application and submit it to the Crisis Fund Administrator.

For more information or to obtain an application, email: employeecrisis@springfieldmo.gov