City at 95% of United Way goal with four months left in campaign

The City’s 2017 goal for the United Way fundraising campaign is $104,612. According to the City’s United Way chair, Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Director Zim Schwartze, we are already at 95% of our goal with pledge forms, cash and check donations! We have brought in more than $7,000 in additional funds through special events. Several more events are planned.

Thank you to all who bid on the Silent Auction items and your continued participation in upcoming fundraisers. Be looking for info on the Employee Craft Bazaar coming Nov. 29-30.

Please see page 10 for more special event opportunities.

Pictured right: September’s ‘Duct tape Chris Straw to a Wall’ fundraiser raised $110 for the United Way campaign. Several employees paid $20 to place a piece of tape over Chris’ mouth.

City’s Level Property Tax has history of financing large projects

Like all municipalities, the City of Springfield faces many opportunities and tough challenges. New police and fire facilities must be built to keep pace with demand.

Police cars and fire trucks must be replaced, and the city’s infrastructure must keep pace with rapidly changing technology. Core services, such as police and fire, are funded by multiple sources, but chiefly from sales tax collected for the City’s General Fund.

Sales tax is a volatile revenue source and one that is impacted by many unpredictable factors. Historically, very few capital improvement projects have been funded through the General Fund—as the General Fund is primarily used for ongoing, operational expenses. Revenue collected from the City’s 27-cent property tax has funded major capital improvements for many years, without increasing the tax rate.

In 1995, Springfield citizens voted to maintain and “keep level” the tax levy and use the revenue collected to fund the building of new fire and police stations, stormwater management structures and to open amenities such as Jordan Valley Park and the Grandstand and E-Plex at the fairgrounds. Voters renewed referendums to maintain what is referred to as the Level Property Tax in 1999, 2001 and 2004 and the projects have been completed as promised and with no increase in the tax rate.

It still remains to be 27 cents for $100 of assessed value (19 percent of appraised residential property value; 32 percent of appraised commercial property value). On Nov. 7, voters will once again be asked whether or not to maintain the current property tax rate in order to build newly identified capital improvement projects and purchase public safety equipment and vehicles.

Springfield’s Fire Station No. 8 was funded by a 2004 renewal of the Level Property Tax.
Fire Department’s first Truck or Treat event a success

More than 2,500 people attended the free event held Oct. 26 at Fire Station No. 8 on Scenic, hosted by Springfield Fire, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and the Department of Public Information. The Halloween-themed event allowed children the chance to climb aboard each of the many types of fire vehicles, meet firefighters, play games and learn about fire safety.

Congratulations to all involved. Thanks to the partnership between the multiple departments, children received free candy, a free pumpkin and a safe opportunity to show off their costumes.

SPD adds ‘flavor’ to its fleet

The Springfield Police Department has a new vehicle in its fleet – not a cruiser, not a motorcycle – an ice cream truck. The mission of SPD’s ‘Cold Patrol’? To protect and serve frozen treats. Modeled after similar projects launched by police departments in St. Louis and Boston, SPD officers will use the Cold Patrol to connect to and engage with citizens, especially children, as part of the department’s community policing philosophy.

The Springfield Police Foundation awarded a truck to the Department which, fully outfitted, is valued at $16,500. The Walmart Foundation donated $10,000 directly toward the purchase of the truck which was purchased locally at Wheeler Auto. Wheeler Auto outfitted the box truck with the equipment needed to convert it to a working ice cream truck as an in-kind donation to the Foundation and the SPD.

Hiland Dairy has committed to providing up to $2,000 worth of ice cream for the officers to serve annually.

“We are grateful to the Springfield Police Foundation and the generous donors who are making this all possible,” said Police Chief Paul Williams. “This fun and unique tool will give our officers the opportunity to interact with people, especially kids, without the chaos of a crisis that usually draws a police presence.”

The Cold Patrol will visit neighborhoods unannounced like the successful foot patrol program that the Department began in northwest Springfield in 2016.

“We want families to see their local police officers as approachable people who are here to help whenever needed,” said Williams. “We look at this as one more way to help us bridge any gaps that may exist between officers and the citizens we serve and protect every day.”

Employee Flu Shot Clinic scheduled for Nov. 9

Flu season is upon us and the Health Department will be offering flu vaccines at no cost to all City employees. Spouses and retirees are also welcome to attend and will be charged $18 for the vaccine.

Thursday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Mill Building, 216 W. Central St.

The Vaccine Administration Record of Recipient Signature form (found on CityShare) must be completed prior to vaccine administration.

If this date does not work for you, appointments are also available, please call 417-864-1638 and select option 3 to schedule an appointment.
The tax generates about $8.5 million a year and is used to primarily fund projects via issuance of debt, with bonds issued and paid off over multiple years. As projects become completed and debt gets paid off, more “headroom” becomes available, allowing for new projects to be bonded and paid for. The current tax will sunset when the last bond payments are made, which is presently expected to occur in 2031.

To address the current headroom available, as well as to plan for the future, City Council voted to put the continuance of the Level Property Tax on the ballot and to identify projects to be funded by these continued revenues. Although capital needs have historically been the focus of the Level Property Tax, the 2017 proposed continuation and new project package includes the capability to address critical ongoing needs as well – such as the lifecycle replacement of police cars and fire engines and additional police and fire staff. The City does not currently have a funding source for most of its lifecycle replacement needs. In order to ensure ongoing revenue to meet some of these replacement needs and also to support additional public safety staff, the measure does not include a sunset.

The committee currently reviews and monitors the collection of the 1/4-cent Capital Improvements Sales Tax revenues, the 1/8-cent Transportation Sales Tax revenues, and the 3/4-cent Police and Fire Fighters Pension Fund Sales Tax revenues.

Previously Funded Projects
Funded projects are geographically dispersed throughout the city. They include, but are not limited to: Police and Fire Facilities: Six fire stations and the Regional Police-Fire Training Center. Stormwater and Other Infrastructure: In 2017, Public Works identified $700 million in unfunded stormwater management needs.

LPT funded:
• $14 million in 1999
• $15 million in 2001 and
• $13 million in 2004.

Fire
• A new West Central fire station (No. 13) and staffing.
• A new West Springfield fire station
• The replacement of fire stations No. 7 and No. 4.
• Needed equipment for Fire Department’s facilities and employees.
• Repairs and upgrades for existing fire stations.

According to data compiled by Fire Chief David Pennington, the West Central neighborhood has the highest incidence of fires and a lack of a fire station there requires the other stations throughout the city to respond to fill in the gap of service. “This negatively affects response times and the safety of firefighters and citizens across the whole community,” Pennington said.

Police
• Lifecycle replacement of police vehicles
• Repairs and upgrades for existing police facilities
• Police equipment
• Additional police investigators
• Evidence storage facility
• Contribution to a City-County jail expansion (if a County sales tax passes).

If the Level Property Tax is renewed, the following projects will be funded, over time:
• A fully staffed Police Family Violence Unit to investigate domestic violence offenses.
• Seven additional property crimes investigators to conduct follow-up investigations on the largest number of cases/crimes; two for vehicle thefts, one for financial crimes, one pawn shop Investigator, and three to investigate juvenile crimes.
• A new vice unit to investigate crimes involving human/sex trafficking, prostitution, gambling and alcohol.

PROPOSED PROJECTS
• Stormwater and Other Infrastructure
  Level Property Tax revenues are also used for stormwater improvements and maintenance and renovation of existing equipment and buildings. Proposed projects include:
  • Infrastructure improvements to minimize flooding and restore the natural environment around Jordan Creek.
  • Neighborhood stormwater improvements, which will be carried out in each quadrant of the City.
  • Repair and replacement of stormwater infrastructure designed to reduce flooding to streets and neighborhoods.
  • Floodplain acquisition to reduce potential stormwater harm to people and structures.

The City of Springfield believes strongly in good stewardship of its own municipal facilities. These facilities are investments made by the community. The 2004 Level Property Tax funded $5.5 million for City facilities improvements, including the City’s Public Works’ Service Center which extended the life of equipment and vehicles through site improvements, storage and fleet maintenance.

The new referendum proposes to fund additional maintenance and upgrades to City facilities, and the construction of a new Public Works’ grounds operations facility in south Springfield.

It also includes:
• Needed equipment upgrades and repairs to the storm siren system.
• Renovations to Historic City Hall.

A vote to keep the Level Property Tax will not increase the current property tax paid by Springfield citizens. Keeping the tax level allows the City to plan for a consistent amount of revenue for the proposed projects.

If you would like more information about the Level Property Tax proposal or any of the proposed projects, visit springfieldmo.gov/election or follow us on Facebook at CityofSGF.
Director of Health Kevin Gipson to retire, Clay Goddard to take reins Nov. 12

Gipson serves at the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Director of Health. Kevin Gipson announces his intent to retire.

"It has truly been a joy to serve the citizens of Springfield and Greene County for the past 24 years and to lead such a great organization the last 13 of those years," Gipson said. "I am leaving a department with a wealth of talent and opportunity. As I continue my career, I look to contribute as much as possible to the health and prosperity of this region."

Gipson's public health career spans more than 55 years, beginning in Jefferson City as a disease intervention specialist with the Missouri Department of Health. He came to SGCHD in 1996 to become the epidemiology services coordinator. In that role, Gipson conducted investigation and analysis of diseases and injuries in our jurisdiction to prevent the further spread of illness and to promote prevention.

Gipson moved up through the ranks of the department in the years following, holding the title of community health planner and administrator of health planning and epidemiology before being named the assistant director of public health and welfare in 2002. He was named director in 2004.

"After 24 years at the City of Springfield, Kevin has earned a reputation as a straight shooter and the voice of reason. His roles both within the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, state-wide, and nationally speak to his level of expertise in his field and the high regard in which his peers hold him. Kevin's legacy will be the team he's created within his department — a team loaded with talent, creativity and possibilities," said Springfield City Manager Greg Burris.

Gipson’s time as director of health has been characterized by significant changes in the public health world. Gipson attributes much of the change to the progress of technology, comparing modern disease reporting — largely electronic and automated — to his experience of "shoe-leather epidemiology," which involved pouring through paper records, building relationships with health care providers and going door-to-door to track down patients.

As is his style, Gipson doesn’t give himself much of the credit for what he considers the crowning achievement during his time as director, highlighting instead the entire department and partners for the start of and continued growth of Jordan Valley Community Health Center.

Jordan Valley is our community’s Federally Qualified Health Center, serving patients who otherwise might not be able to afford medical care to improve care access and, overall, the community’s health. Gipson served as part of the committee that applied for the grant to start the health center, and remains an active member of the board.

"We were convinced it was needed and unapologetic about it. And it’s been wildly successful," Gipson said. "I think that’s one of our big success stories, and still is, as we see the growth of Jordan Valley and our interaction with them. It’s been such a positive influence on our community. I can’t be any prouder of what we’ve accomplished there."

Asked about what he has been most proud of in his time as director, Gipson praises his staff without missing a beat.

"I put our staff up against anyone in the country — they’re the best and brightest. And that’s not an accident, we worked hard to find good, quality staff. That’s a point of great pride to me," he said.

"It’s time to pass the baton. It’s time for new ideas and for new people to take over. We have great staff who are able to do that. Any job of a great leader is to replace yourself — that should be your number one priority."

As parting wisdom, Gipson kept his focus on health.

"It’s all about health. It’s woven into the fabric of everything we do in our lives. Think of a time when your health wasn’t good — nothing else really matters. Without health, nothing else matters. I think it’s important that everyone realize that we need to think of health in everything we do," he said.

Gipson’s final official day of work will be Nov. 9.

Burris appointed Assistant Director of Health Clay Goddard as director of health for Springfield-Greene County effective Nov. 12.

Goddard has been with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department since 1996, starting as an intern and continuing his public health service in a variety of roles.

"It is an honor to be following in the footsteps of two local public health legends, Harold Bengsch and Kevin Gipson," Goddard said. "I am humbled by the opportunity and excited for the future of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. Our staff are second to none in their commitment and talent. I look forward to the great things we will do together."

"In 1996, a young graduate student named Clay Goddard walked into my office requesting an internship. I made the decision to hire him and have worked side-by-side with him ever since. He has developed into one of the most respected public health leaders in the state of Missouri. He not only is a great leader, but an even better human being. I could not be prouder to leave this department in his hands," Gipson said.

Goddard’s education includes a master’s degree in public administration and a bachelor’s degree in political science from Missouri State University. He is a graduate of the Missouri Public Health Leadership Institute and Leadership Springfield. Goddard served as director of the City’s Information Systems Department before returning to his passion for public health to serve as assistant director of the Health Department. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member with Drury University.

Goddard is the current president of the Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence.

He is a member of the American Public Health Association and National Association of City and County Health Officials. He serves on the board for Community Partnership of the Ozarks and co-chairs the Community Investment process for the United Way of the Ozarks. Goddard is also a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Goddard and his wife Cindi reside in Springfield and have three college-age children.

"It is my pleasure to appoint Clay Goddard as the new director of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. Within public health circles. Clay’s reputation precedes him," said Burris. He works well with, and is respected by, other community leaders both regionally and beyond. We’re fortunate to have someone of Clay’s caliber ready to step into this role — he will hit the ground running, I look forward to working with him in this new role."
Director of Building Development Services Chris Straw to retire

Chris and his department have become familiar with the City’s Director of Building Development Services (BDS) Chris Straw. He announced he will retire in January 2018. Many residents have become familiar with the BDS team because many of the department’s services affect the quality of life in neighborhoods and workplaces.

The BDS team ensures the community’s buildings are safe by issuing permits for all phases of building construction and by giving tests and awarding skill-based certificates to electricians, plumbers, gas fitters and mechanical craftsmen for a license to operate in Springfield. BDS inspectors also respond to approximately 12,000 citizen service requests per year, addressing a wide variety of nuisance complaints.

Chris has served as director since 2010 after joining the City in 1999 as a plan review specialist and later a project facilitator and code administrator. A licensed architect, Chris previously worked in the private sector working in building design and development for 22 years.

“I’ve had the opportunity to work with Chris as a project manager while working on the Expo Center. He was top-notch then and he’s top-notch now,” said Rick Quint, a general contractor and owner of Q & Company.

Quint worked with Chris on two high-profile projects: Springfield Expo Center and the Springfield-Branson National Airport terminal. “He just has a roll-up-your-sleeves, get-to-work attitude and he’s a problem solver,” Quint said. “He’s the kind of guy that just drops everything to help someone who needs his help. He will be missed.”

Chris has been instrumental in the City’s Zone Blitz initiative, working to address the number one priority shared by neighbors in the 2015 Community Listen tour: chronic nuisance properties. Since the listening tour, Chris has taken several steps (with City Council approval) to further address dangerous buildings and enforce the unkempt property code.

Those steps included:
- Hiring of two additional BDS inspectors in July 2016
- Adopting the standards of the International Property Maintenance Code in March 2017
- Streamlining the administrative hearing process for those contesting compliance enforcement attempts in March 2017
- Revising portions of the City’s Chapter 74 Nuisance and Housing Code

To address unhealthy and unsafe rental properties, Chris and a multidisciplinary team consisting of City public safety departments and private sector organizations and nonprofits have teamed up to create a Safe Housing Inspection program.

“Chris is tireless in his dedication to private citizens and developers,” said City Manager Greg Burris. “He provides outstanding customer service and dramatically improved the City’s reputation for being a friendly and easy organization to work with. He and his department have led multiple initiatives that improve the quality of life in Springfield. Our entire city is better because of Chris’ work.”

Director of Ozark Greenways Terry Whaley retires Nov. 1

Mary Kromrey to Become New Director

The years have flown by with Terry Whaley at the helm of Ozark Greenways the past 22 years, and the winds of change are blowing. We can hardly believe the time has come—Terry retired Nov. 1, in order to enjoy the next chapter of life for him. There have been so many accomplishments in the past two decades, too many to count, and Springfield is so grateful. Wave when you see him spin past on his bike! Thank you for your years of great work, Terry.

We’re excited to announce that Mary Kromrey will become the next OG director! Mary joined our staff in 2016, and she is ready to carry on our vision for trail expansion throughout Greene County.

Ozark Greenways has had a lot of success because of the hard work and dedication of our Executive Director, Terry Whaley, since 1995. Although he’s retiring, we’ll still see him on the trails but without a chainsaw. Terry will pass the trail torch to Mary Kromrey (pictured lower left), who is raring to extend greenways throughout Greene County and beyond. The future looks bright.

Tim Smith to receive Lifetime Achievement Award from SCA

Deputy City Manager Tim Smith will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from Springfield Contractors Association at their Annual Salute to Design and Construction Awards Banquet, Thursday, Nov. 9 beginning at 5 p.m. at the Oasis Convention Center. Jeff Houghton will serve as this year’s emcee. If you would like to show your support for Tim and attend this event, ticket information can be found at springfieldcontractors.org/events/salute-to-construction.
City takes Safe Housing Program a step further in presentation to City Council

At Council Lunch Oct. 24, Director of Building Development Services (BDS) Chris Straw presented additional details on a proposal he plans to bring forward for formal City Council approval next month. The proposal focuses on improving the City’s ability to address chronic nuisance properties and buildings/houses that are deemed to be dangerous structures.

“The volume of service requests for dangerous and nuisance properties, and the severity of the cases reported, have increased,” Straw 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 properties are defined as those properties in which repeated service requests (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 neighborhood listening sessions and remained a clear “number one” priority throughout a follow-up process with residents participating in Zone Blitz brainstorming sessions.

In partnership with the West Central Neighborhood Alliance, BDS launched a Safe Housing Pilot Program last year. Lessons learned from the volunteer pilot program informed Straw’s proposed rental registration — part of a comprehensive Safe Housing Program.

Straw proposed a no-cost, online registration process for single-family rental properties that would require landlords to register their rental properties with the City. Any service requests would trigger an inspection process. If a violation is found and the property is not registered, a notice of violation for not registering would also be sent. If the owner does not request a hearing, a penalty fee of $200 will be assessed to the property for it not being registered. This would not excuse the violation issues.

“The City brought multiple stakeholders to the table,” explained Tim Smith, Deputy City Manager. “We met with neighborhood leaders and property owner groups such as the 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 have worked together to find common ground. The safety of our residents and health of our neighborhoods is THE 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 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; after which time BDS will request permission to inspect and educate the occupant(s) and property owner.

“These individuals will not search or inspect houses seeking life safety issues; they will only be requested to address 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 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.

Straw also proposed changes to the adopted International Property Maintenance Code as follows:

• Definition of a Vacant Structure: A structure that is substantially void of personal belongings and furnishings.

• Require free registration of vacant properties in similar fashion to what is proposed for rental property registration. Based on a complaint, if the vacant structure is found to be in violation of the dangerous building code or nuisance code, the hearing officer may order the boarding of the entire structure with a boarded building permit. The current cost of a boarded building permit is $200 for six months and the boarding cost is assessed against the property.

With open or abandoned buildings were twice as high as rates on matched blocks without open buildings.

• Fire: The U.S. Fire Administration reports over 12,000 fires in vacant structures each year in the United States, and the National Fire Protection Association estimates that 6,000 firefighters are injured every year in vacant and abandoned building fires.

• Higher Insurance Premiums: Insurance companies are beginning to look at the proximity of vacant and condemned properties as a “high hazard” based on their underwriting manuals. One national company has indicated that it could lead to a cancellation or non-renewal of an insurance policy on wood structures within 100 feet of a vacant or condemned property.

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HUD approves City’s Annual Action Plan

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has notified the City that its 2017 Annual Action Plan has been approved by the agency.

A change in the way the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) calculates a timeliness ratio (what it means to use grant money in a timely manner) required the City’s Planning and Development Department to reallocate $4.05 million of the HUD funds the City uses to run a commercial loan program. The loan program was started by the City using Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) from HUD and has made more than 230 small business and facade improvement loans.

The City was notified May 17, it was not in compliance with the new interpretation of HUD rules and was given a March 31, 2018 deadline to spend the money. On June 12, City Council approved a plan which outlined the list of “shovel-ready” priority projects assembled by City staff. The projects were listed in two tiers so that if any of the lists of tier 1 were not completed before the March 31, 2018 deadline, tier 2 projects would be pre-identified to move forward.

Projects were selected using HUD’s strict criteria that includes meeting national objectives for the program, including benefiting low-to-moderate income people and eliminating slum and blight. The evaluation team also had the goal of funding high-impact and/or transformational projects, making sure projects were geographically dispersed and taking into account staff resources and other implementation issues. The projects include sidewalk and park improvements in Zones 1-4.

Hazelwood Municipal Cemetery celebrates Sesquicentennial Oct. 14

On Oct. 14, Springfield commemorated 150 years of history and service to the community at the Sesquicentennial Anniversary Celebration at Hazelwood Municipal Cemetery.

At the time it was officially dedicated, on October 26, 1867, Hazelwood was a long horse and buggy ride miles outside Springfield’s city limits. Today, the city has grown up around it. With 60 developed acres and over 44,000 grave spaces, Hazelwood is one of the largest municipally operated cemeteries in Missouri.

Hazelwood honors Springfield founder John Polk Campbell, Route 66 visionary John T. Woodruff and is the final resting place of many other familiar names in our community.

Art Museum unveils chandelier, new shop

In April, the Springfield Art Museum was pleased to announce the acquisition of a sculpture by renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly titled “Autumn Persian and Feather Chandelier,” made possible by the estate of Elizabeth Burgess. This impressive piece was unveiled at a reception Oct. 22 and is the first work of art that visitors encounter upon entering the newly renovated lobby. According to Director Nick Nelson, the piece serves to further elevate the cultural and artistic profile of our community.

Also opening on Oct. 22, Avant Art (the former museum shop) which features a new exhibit titled “Art in Our City,” museum merchandise, and beverage service. This new flexible social gallery space has been under renovation since its closure in April. “Art in Our City” highlights local artists and the character of Springfield’s unique neighborhoods. The first six-month rotation of this exhibit will feature eight artists from City Council Zone 1.

Open Enrollment underway

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, 2018.

Open Enrollment elections must be complete and received by the Human Resources Department by 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 20.

More information including plan information and enrollment forms can be found on City Share.

Meetings for the City’s Cafeteria and Aflac plans are scheduled as follows:
• Aflac Cancer Plans - Oct. 30th at 11 a.m. - Missouri Career Center
• Aflac Cancer Plans - Nov. 15th at 11:30 a.m. - Busch 3rd floor
• Cafeteria Plan - Nov. 16th at 11 a.m. - Busch L45

If you have questions please email benefits@springfieldmo.gov or call Human Resources at 864-1607.
Municipal Court probation officer Jody Austin recognized by Gov. Eric Greitens for commitment to helping juveniles

Jody Austin, a probation officer at the Springfield Municipal Court, has been appointed by Governor Eric Greitens to the Missouri Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (MJJAG).

The mission of the MJJAG is to provide leadership and education to Missourians in the area of juvenile justice and ensuring the safety and well being of all youth, their families, and communities.

“The City of Springfield is proud that the Governor has selected Jody to serve on the Missouri Juvenile Justice Advisory Group. Her work experience aligns well with the group’s mission and makes her a logical choice for this position. I know she will be a great addition to the group,” said City Manager Greg Burris.

Austin’s body of work includes not only her years as a juvenile officer, then City of Springfield probation officer, but also her weekly service for 18 years with Greene County Mental Health Court. “She brings great depth of experience in justice as well as mental health to this appointment,” said District Attorney Todd Musselwhite.

Austin graduated from Drury University with a B.A. in Sociology; she followed that with a J.D. from the University of Missouri's Columbia Law School. As a juvenile officer, she worked with the juvenile justice and corrections systems, and also worked with families whose children were involved with the system.

As a municipal court officer, she has helped families on a wide range of issues from severe violence to parenting problems.

“Mrs. Austin has been with the Treatment Court programs for more than 16 years; before that, she and my administrator worked together for five years at the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center,” Davis said. “The Missouri Juvenile Justice Advisory Group endorses ‘prevention, treatment and the use of appropriate interventions’ that help all youth achieve their full potential within a system that balances justice for all juveniles with protection of all Missourians. Mrs. Austin has an understanding of the complex issues that the justice involved population presents to our community and works every day to achieve that balance between meeting the needs of those individuals under her supervision and the safety of the community. She is well qualified to sit on the MJJAG Board.”

Police Chief Paul Williams said he is “excited to see Jody asked to put her expertise to use statewide in the area of Juvenile Justice. Her knowledge of the juvenile system and passion for helping those in need make her a perfect fit.”

Austin is one of 30 women appointed by the governor to leadership positions on a number of the state’s boards and commissions. These appointments follow First Lady Sheena Greitens’ announcement on Oct. 3 that the administration would appoint 25 women in the subsequent 25 days, in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Women’s Foundation.

Austin graduated from Drury University with bachelors’ degrees in sociology and criminology. In 2014, she received the Liberty Bell Award from the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association.

2017 1st Annual Environmental Services United Way Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest

The 50/50 raffle proceeds was $152, with the drawing winner Bill Cole of ES winning a total of $76.00. Food, pumpkin voting tickets, and corn hole competition totaled $413.00.

Grand Total raised for United Way of the Ozarks — $489.00.

Pumpkin carving winners:
• Grand Prize 4 Hours Paid Leave: James Noblitt & Casey Jo Kellner
• Two Complimentary Canoe or Kayak Rentals at Lake Springfield Boathouse: Kim Brown
• 2 Rounds of Complimentary Golf with Cart at Rivercut Golf Course: Mike DeLong
• Dickerson Park Zoo - Family 4 pack admissions: Elizabeth Mack
• 4 Complimentary Passes for Ice Skating at Mediacom Ice Park: Heather Hoggard
• Inbalance Coffee Cup/goodies: Stephanie Pierce & Molly Jessen
• Inbalance Fleece Jacket: Tarrah Thornhill & Gary Bullock

Prizes are located at 1216 W. Nichols Street, Building G. If you would like them to be sent through interoffice mail, please contact Lori Chafin by email or 417-874-2205.

Thank you to everyone for their participation!

City celebrates America Recycles Day with free admission to Discovery Center 1-5 p.m. Nov. 5

The City of Springfield Department of Environmental Services is teaming up with the Discovery Center of Springfield to host an America Recycles Day event, 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5 at the Discovery Center, 438 E. St. Louis Street.

Admission will be free to visitors thanks to a sponsorship by the Department of Environmental Services. Visitors are invited to explore the many green features of the Center, including the LEED Gold Certified elements of the west building and exhibits created from repurposed materials.

Hands-on activities will focus on recycling and repurposing including a composting activity, recycled building challenge and making bracelets from plastic shopping bags. Employees from Environmental Services will be available to share information about recycling options available throughout the community.

For more information on this free event, visit americarecylday.org/event/american-recycles-day-discovery-center-springfield/.
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.

- **Veteran Family Portraits:** Nov. 4: 10 a.m. Exhibition juror Rebecca Miller will be taking free family portraits for veterans. By appointment only. Please call 417-873-6337 or email rmiller01@drury.edu to reserve your session.

- **Veterans’ Views Program: Voices From Vietnam:** Nov. 16: 6 p.m. Performance organized by Larry Rottman featuring original music, poetry, and stories relating to the war in Vietnam, the veteran’s experience, and the local culture. Due to subject matter, may be inappropriate for children younger than 13.

Springfield, Missouri is home to a vibrant artistic community. This exhibition highlights and celebrates the creativity of our community focusing on artists living and working in the many neighborhoods that make up our city. This exhibition not only concentrates on the artists on display but also their neighborhoods and what it means to live and work creatively in Springfield. The exhibit will rotate every six months; the first exhibition will feature work by eight artists from five neighborhoods located in City Council Zone 1.

Humans readily identify themselves with man-made structures, which perhaps explains one reason this genre is so popular among artists. A simple landscape becomes more interesting when dwellings or other architectural structures are included as part of the scene.

Final Pre-K Studio Sessions of 2017: Fridays, Nov. 3 & 10, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Bring your littlest artist to the museum for some hands-on fun! You and your child can make your mark using a variety of tools and materials in an exploratory open-studio setting. These sessions are designed for kids ages 3-5 with a caregiver. Our Pre-K Open Studio Sessions are free and open to the public, however Registration is required (sgfmuseum.org/163/Family-Learning).

Tai Chi With Dee Ogilvy: Fridays, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24: 9 a.m. Great for adults of any age and physical fitness level. Requires no special equipment. Relaxed, composed flowing movements that combine strength with gentleness. Beginners are welcome! Free and open to the public.

Add Your Loved Ones to Our Veterans’ Family Tree: Nov. 11: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Patrons and veterans are encouraged to bring photos of themselves or service members from their families, photocopy them using materials provided, and add to our growing wall of community member’s photos.

Free Family Day: Nov. 25: 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Crafts and gift making.

Veterans’ Appreciation Day at the Zoo: Nov. 11: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dickerson Park Zoo, 1401 W. Norton Rd. Free zoo admission for military veteran with ID and their immediate family.

Indian Rock House Trail Hike: Nov. 18: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Take a step back in time as we hike to Indian Rock House Cave, located in the rolling hills of Arkansas and used by Native Americans as shelter years ago. The total distance will be 3 miles, on moderate trail. Bring water, snacks, and a lunch. This hike is for anyone 12 yrs. and up (12-17 yrs. with an adult). Fee: $10/Person. Deadline is Nov. 17.

Turkey Trot Can Drive at Springfield Skate Park: Nov. 14: 3-9 p.m., 945 W. Meadowmere St. Join us for a free session at the Skate Park when you donate two canned food items. Proceeds benefit Ozark Food Harvest, in partnership with the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk.
IS Split the Pot Fundraiser extended to Nov. 17

The Information Systems Department will once again be having a Split the Pot fundraiser to benefit United Way. Purchase Split the Pot tickets from a member of the Information Systems team. If your ticket is chosen at the end of the fundraiser, you will receive one half of the pot, while the other half goes to the United Way! It’s a win/win situation!

Information Systems will be selling tickets through noon on Nov. 17. The winning ticket will be drawn at 2 p.m. Nov. 17.

Tickets are: 1 ticket for $1; 6 tickets for $5; 13 tickets for $10.
What’s something you’ve learned since working for the City?

“I have only been employed with the City of Springfield since January, however, I have worked in the planning and development field for over a decade, as a public servant. As a new employee, I have found the City to be very forward-thinking. It is extremely refreshing for the standard response NOT to be, “well, we have always done it that way.” In this rapidly changing world, the City of Springfield has demonstrated the ability to embrace progressive ideas and processes.”

Why do you do what you do?

“I have always wanted to effect positive change within my community by improving the lives of those citizens that live, work and play within our region; while also seeking to turn negative stereotypes about government service and work ethic on their head. And, in my current position I feel that I can accomplish just that.”

Do you work to live, or do you live to work? Why?

“I am very driven in both my career and personal life. I try to look upon each day as a gift that must be cherished. However, I am constantly reassessing my life to ensure that I have the proper balance between my work and home life.”

What do you admire about this organization?

“The City of Springfield truly understands that its greatest asset is its employees. The City does an excellent job of both attracting and retaining skilled talent, ensuring the highest level of service for its citizenry.”

Bob Atchley
Senior Planner, Planning and Development
Bob has worked for the City for 11 months.
CAmP Class 2016 hosting food drive for The Fairbanks Nov. 6-17

EPIC (Empowering People Impacting Citizens) CAmP Class 2016 proudly supports the Northwest Project and Drew Lewis Foundation at the Fairbanks.

To accomplish our mission of Empowering People Impacting Citizens, we need your help! Our challenge is for each employee to bring 1 or more items!

The ‘Drives for the Fairbanks’ will collect shelf items for their food market from all City departments Nov. 6-17!

Questions? Contact Zim Schwartze at zschwartze@springfieldmo.gov.

Items will be collected at:
- Airport
- Art Museum
- Building Development Services
- City Attorney
- City Clerk
- City Manager
- Emergency Communications
- Environmental Services
- Finance
- Fire Department
- Health
- Human Resources
- Information System
- Municipal Court
- Parks
- Planning & Development
- Police Department
- Public Information Office
- Public Works
- Risk Management
- Workforce Development
- Reusable grocery/shopping bags
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Lotion
- First-aid kit items
- Children's/infant Tylenol and ibuprofen
- Baby wipes
- Lice treatments
- Bedbug mattress covers
- Mops/brooms
- Clorox wipes
- Chunky Soup (any variety)*
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruits
- Fruit cups
- Fruit and veggie pouches
- Dry cereal
- Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned meat
- Other shelf-stable foods and snacks
- Vinegar (for cleaning and food)

An all-time favorite request is any variety of Chunky Soup!

MOVEMBERSGF.COM

INBALANCE
Monthly Update from inBalance - November

There are some new options in the vending machines in the Busch Building. Be sure to check them out! If your office building is interested in offering similar options, please contact us at inBalance@springfieldmo.gov.

NEW VENDING OPTIONS!

Meet Rachel Owens

Come visit Rachel’s class every Monday & Wednesday from
11:00 - 11:45 AM in the Mill Building (216 W Central St).

= Awareness & Action

Men die 4.5 years sooner than women.
Prostate cancer is as common as breast cancer.
73% of suicide victims are men.
Promotions

Kevin Trogdon
Division Chief – Fire

Jennifer Lewis
Senior Human Resources Spec. – Human Resources

Heith Aldridge
Eric Latimer
Battalion Chiefs – Fire

Bruce Gorman
Plan Review Specialist – Building Development

Lee Hart
Senior Keeper – Parks

Tanner Westerfield
Fire Equipment Operator – Fire

David Byron
Tommy Irvine
James Luttrell
Equipment Operators II – Public Works

Top Row, L-R: Brian Tarabula, Parks; Clayton Young, PW.
Fourth Row: Ronald Miller, PW; Dan Snider, WFD; Lucas Weldon, ES.
Third Row: Shawn Werst, Parks; Keith Thomas, IS.
Second Row: Stuart Benedict, 911; Mollie Jessen, ES.
Bottom Row: Whitney Keith, 911; Jessica Hawk, Finance, Amanda Davis, 911.

FOR SALE


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 lifetime ($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 mini-fridge, indoor shower with bathroom, outdoor shower, slide out for extra room,LOTS of storage, custom LED party lights outside w/ remote. Electric lift for pop-up. Includes TONS of extras! Very Clean! Excellent condition! $11,500.00 OBO. Text or call 417-461-4132.
To: Officers Jacob Boogaarden and Chris Laughlin

Hello. I live on Oak Grove Avenue. I was attending a block party earlier in October where two of Springfield’s finest came to update our neighborhood on crime, etc. in our area. It was my first time to attend because I have just relocated from Plano, TX.

I bit into a grape and the juice went down the wrong way! I could not breathe! I just turned around and walked over to Officer Jacob Boogaarden and touched him on the arm and pointed to my throat and made a noise. He immediately turned me around and lifted me off the ground and started doing the Heimlich maneuver on me. He tried three or four times and then Officer Chris Laughlin came over and took over. After another three more attempts, I was able to breathe! I cannot tell you how thankful I was that they were there! I am an asthmatic and have chronic bronchitis. They both went down to the end of our street to my house and got my purse so that I could use my inhaler.

I want to tell you that if it weren’t for these two fine young officers, I would not be here today! I come from a medical family and am therefore doubly thankful! If there is someway that they can receive some sort of commendation for their quick actions, I would be ever so grateful.

Springfield resident

To: Officer Jonnathan Miller and PSR Holly Counts and 911 telecommunicator, Max Allison

Hello, I just wanted to thank ALL who made my night by going to my house to make sure my husband was OK. He wasn’t answering his phone, so I was getting worried. The dispatcher was so nice to me when I called. Today I am still very thankful for the great service. Thanks to all that responded to my call. Thanks so very much.

Springfield resident

To: Officer Eric Schroeder

Just wanted to send you a quick note regarding our encounter with Officer Schroeder this morning. We had someone with a medical issue, and an ambulance was called. Officer Schroeder also responded and spoke with us after the paramedics departed. He was so amazingly kind! He spent time talking and explained why the police were also dispatched and their heightened sensitivity to staff safety at Burrell, shared his personal experience with the same medical issue, and was incredibly both personable and professional.

We know how often your officers come under negative scrutiny in fulfilling their duties, and people are often all too ready to throw a stone when they are displeased, but not nearly as quick to share a positive experience. Thus, we wanted to share with you what a delight this officer was – he frankly made our morning, and is a true testament to your leadership.

Hope you have as wonderful a start to your day as we did to ours!

Denise Mills, Vice President Corporate Relations, Burrell Behavioral Health

To: Officer Veronica Knight

We had Officer Knight at the Library Station helping with a situation involving a special needs patron, and she did a great job of de-escalating the situation. She had a very calm, “I’m in control and the situation is going to get better” demeanor as she handled the situation.

Library Station employee

To: Officer Alexander Vu

Management called 911 regarding the daily problem with homeless people cutting the fence line of our private property and the homeless setting up a tent and tarp on our fence line. The police had been out a week earlier for the exact same call. We in the office deal with the police department on a regular basis. Our Section 8 property has a high crime rate and police are on the property almost daily. I have been working here 16 years and have met and worked with many different officers. Officer Vu was the most efficient and kind officer I have ever dealt with. He did not rush me or talk over me like officers often do. He also actually seemed concerned and wanted to help solve our problem. He wrote down everything I said and confirmed he had the correct information. He also followed up with me after speaking with the trespassers. That is rarely done and leaves us wondering if anything is being taken care of. After Officer Vu left our office, my maintenance team even commented on how outstanding he was. We have never met this officer before and were very thankful to see someone so professional and polite to our staff. I really felt like he loved his job and wanted to help make our community better.

Glenwood Manor office

To: Jessica Graham-Mitchell, 9-1-1 Telecommunicator

During the early morning hours one day in September, 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Jessica-Graham Mitchell received a call from Canada from a lady who was worried about her uncle she was unable to contact. Jessica promptly dispatched deputies to check on the relative. After the situation was resolved, 9-1-1 was re-contacted by the Canadian caller who thanked Jessica for being ‘fantastic’! Great job!

To: Jillian Wokurka and Ashley House, 9-1-1 Telecommunicators

In September, location near West Kearney, a silver Acura was found running with a purse on the seat in a parking lot with no one around. Extensive search of the vehicle and resources led the Springfield Police Department to the vehicle owner’s location and confirmed that she was unharmed at her mother’s house. Corporal Dunnegan called to thank Jillian Wokurka and Ashley House with a quote of “They Rock!” Corporal Dunnegan was impressed that every time he radioed in with one piece of information Jillian and Ashley had discovered three to four additional items to help them locate the vehicle owner and make sure she was safe.

To: Chris Hollan

I wanted to let the City know how much I appreciated Chris Hollan’s quick response to an intersection where I had almost been hit twice. I had called the City about the outer road of Glenstone north of Peele Street near the Walmart Supercenter. People were not noticing the stop signs there. Chris did an excellent job installing flashers there to get people’s attention to the stop signs. Thank you!

Springfield resident

To: Police Corporal Chris Nuccio

I was walking east on Elm Street and witnessed the officer driving past two stalled vehicles. I then witnessed the vehicle immediately take a U-turn and ask the people in the vehicles if they needed any assistance. Although the owners of the two stalled cars had everything taken care of it was really nice to see an officer willing to go beyond the normal “call of duty” to offer to help someone in potential need.

Springfield resident