City Manager reflects on 2017

Dear City Team:

I wanted to once again thank you for your service and mention a few things for which I am grateful during this time of reflection.

Let’s start with reflections of a few recent accomplishments, just as examples of what we do together as a team:

• On Dec. 19, our external auditors presented their report to City Council. Once again, the City received the highest rating the auditors can give. The external auditors also audited three federal grants (one in the Police Department, two in Workforce Development) and gave us such good marks that we will remain as a “low-risk auditee” regarding these federal grants. I want to thank David Holtmann, the entire Finance Department team, and all of our financial professionals that work in other departments. All of this is a reflection of the work of many people in many departments working well together.

• In early November, our Level Property Tax was renewed with 75 percent voter support. This, too, was the result of many people working together, and I thank everyone who was involved in preparing information, delivering presentations, or educating the public about this important decision.

• In keeping with the spirit of the above-listed successes, I continue to see an amazing level of cross-departmental collaboration. For that, I thank you. One example is the way that Building Development Services, Police,
HARLAN HILL from page 1


“In my 27 years living and working in the community, I have spent a great deal of time with developers, contractors and other professionals in the construction industry and really enjoy working with them as a team. I consider the City’s BDS department to be regarded as a valued team member assisting in their development and business success,” Hill said. “The City is a great place to work and I enjoyed the people and friendships I had when I previously worked here. Many still work here today and I feel at home coming back to a place that supports the vision of improving the community. I hope to build upon the great work by Chris Straw and the BDS team.”

City Manager Greg Burris describes Hill as a great asset to the City team. “BDS provides essential information for businesses, homeowners, landlords, tenants, contractors and developers. Harlan has the expertise, experience and relationships in our community to ensure the City continues to work well with multiple stakeholders.

We are pleased to have him on the City leadership team.”

Hill’s salary will be $105,000.

About the Building Development Services Department:

The Department of Building Development Services implements and monitors a variety of city, state and federal codes, and four trades (electrical, plumbing, gas and mechanical).

Services Include:

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

City of Springfield

MISSION

We are committed to working with the community to provide ethical and responsible local government so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of living and working in Springfield.

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

January 25, 2018

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

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Fire, PIO, Law, and others have been working together to address nuisance properties in our community. Another example is the way Planning & Development staff work with multiple departments to update our annual capital improvements plan. And even more recently, Public Works has been coordinating with various departments to establish a Level Property Tax construction timeline. I very much appreciate this type of teamwork.

- And speaking of spirit, I’ve also noticed an increase in employee spirit and engagement. Whether it is participation in Spirit Day, support for United Way, or employees stepping up to volunteer to help our organization or our larger community, your “can do” spirit is noticed and is infectious.

As always, thank you for what you do, day in and day out . . . 24 x 7 x 365. The city never stops and the city never sleeps. Neither do we. Whether you work first shift, second shift or third shift, I want you to know how much I appreciate your work and the way you do it. Whether you work on the front lines with citizens, customers and partners, or behind the scenes supporting all of your fellow employees, I thank you.

And finally, I hope all of you and your family and friends enjoyed a joyous and peaceful holiday.

I will be sending a “Year in Review” recap of 2017 soon. In the meantime, know how much your work is appreciated.

City Council receives FY 2017 independent audit report

The Springfield City Council received an unmodified opinion, the highest level given, on the City’s financial statement audit from the City’s independent auditing firm, RSM. The firm indicated that the audit showed no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies or compliance issues. The City is qualified as a “low-risk” auditee as related to federal funds, having no identified deficiencies more than three years in a row.

RSM also audited compliance of the City’s grant programs. In FY 2017, the City received $15.4 million in federal grant funds. The audit of the grant funds also received an unmodified opinion, the highest level given. The auditors found no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses when reviewing the City’s compliance with the major federal grant programs.

The audit is required under the City Charter.

The City’s Finance Department prepares the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) each year, in compliance with the City Charter, which requires an annual report to the City Council on the financial condition of the City.

The equity of the City at the close of the most recent fiscal year was $860 million, an increase of $30.7 million over last year. This is also referred to as net position. The largest portion of the City’s net position, $653.5 million (76 percent), reflects its investments in capital asset, e.g., land, construction in progress, buildings, improvements, machinery and equipment and infrastructure, less any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding. The City uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. An additional portion of the City’s net position, $33 million (4 percent), represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of the City’s net position, $174 million (20 percent) represents unrestricted net position that may be used to meet the City’s ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

The City’s net investment in capital assets, such as buildings, roads and sewer systems, increased $24 million over the last year to more than $653 million.

The fund balance of the General Fund is $25.9 million – a decrease of $743,000 from last year as a result of slowing economic conditions and a decrease in sales tax payments compared to what was budgeted.

The auditors also provided some comparisons to Springfield’s benchmark cities.

“We are paying down our debt. We are dealing with volatile revenue sources such as sales tax. After reviewing our federal grants, the auditors have designated the City of Springfield as a low-risk auditee. All are indicators of the City’s strong financial health. We hope this news gives our citizens a high level of comfort that we continue to live within our means,” City Manager Greg Burris said.

The Finance Department received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence on Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 40th consecutive year.

The department also received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award for its budget presentation for a 10th consecutive year.

December sales tax payment rebounds after three below-budget months

The City of Springfield’s December sales tax check from the Missouri Department of Revenue is up 3 percent, or $136,085, compared to the amount budgeted. The sales tax check was $4,379,522 compared to the budgeted amount of $4,243,237.

The check reflects sales processed by the state in November from transactions made primarily in October. On a year to date basis, with December being the sixth month in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, revenues are down 1 percent compared to budget.

Compared to last December, monthly revenues are up 12 percent, or about $478,925.

The December check is a rebound from the previous three monthly disbursements. November’s check was 7 percent below budget; October’s check was 9 percent below budget and September’s check was 7 percent below budget. Holtmann attributed significant delays in processing the City’s largest vendor payments for the three below-budget checks in the fall.

The City heavily relies on sales tax revenues as its main source of revenue to fund vital services, such as police and fire operations. In Springfield, approximately 56 percent of revenue in the General Fund comes from sales tax and use tax.
City plans more than $80M in capital improvements for 2018

If given the green light by City Council on Jan. 29, the City of Springfield will spend more than $80 million on 117 capital improvement projects and programs during the 2018 fiscal year. The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the plan at its Dec. 14, 2017 meeting. Twenty-two projects and programs identified in the 2017 Capital Improvements Program Plan have been completed as promised at a cost of $41.6 million.

By definition, capital improvement projects are:

- individual projects that are relatively large in project size and scope
- are estimated to cost $100,000 or more
- are significant, permanent or have a useful life of six years or more
- include the construction of new streets, parks, storm water and sanitary sewer facilities, improvements to the landfill, airport, zoo and public facilities, buildings and grounds
- can include comprehensive programs which consolidate many smaller individual improvements that do not individually meet the $100,000 threshold. Examples are sidewalks, stormwater and sewer repair, signal enhancement and neighborhood improvement programs.
- can include acquisition of property, land, right of way or easements, but should not include the purchase of equipment or services. The only exception to this is when the purchase of equipment is part of the initial startup of a project that involves a new service. For example, if a new fire station is proposed for funding, the fire trucks (and other equipment meeting the criteria listed above) should be included.

City of Springfield capital improvement projects are prioritized based on their relationship to the following City Council adopted priorities: Public Safety, Legislative Engagement, Fiscal Sustainability and Economic Vitality.

The planned 2018 projects include ones that are city-wide and in each of the four City Council zones, with the majority of work planned for Zone 1, the City’s northwest quadrant.

““The Capital Improvements Program is a schedule and strategy for funding and planning the construction, maintenance and replacement of the infrastructure and public facilities for a six-year planning window,” said Principal City Planner Randall Whitman.

The program identifies capital projects and programs that will be funded in 2018 and those projects and programs potentially funded between 2019-2023.

Whitman said the CIP is updated on an annual basis, creating an opportunity for new projects or programs to be added and existing projects to be amended, as construction schedules and funding demands. This annual review allows projects and programs to receive consideration for funding and inclusion in the annual budget.

“The CIP also strives to align anticipated capital improvements with adopted plans, studies and related programs the City and its various departments are charged with following,” Whitman said.

The primary funding source for Capital Improvement Projects is the ¼-cent Capital Improvement Project Sales Tax, which has been renewed every three years by Springfield voters since its inception in 1989. Other funding sources include the ¼-cent Transportation Sales Tax, the Level Property Tax, the ¼-cent Parks Sales Tax, and state and federal funding. Many of the projects have already been programmed and solicited for funding in connection with the 2016 renewal of the ¼-cent Capital Improvement and ¼-cent Transportation sales taxes.

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**ZONE 1 PROJECTS**

- Acquire airport snow removal equipment
- Remodel and expand airport secure side restaurant
- Land acquisition – new fire station, Westside/West Central Neighborhoods
- Design – Frisco Lane - street improvements
- Nichols Park - playground equipment, walking trail, signage, picnic tables, park benches, soccer goals
- Tom Watkins Park – restrooms, support facility, playground equipment, walking trail, signage
- Design - Chestnut South trunk sewer

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**ZONE 2 PROJECTS**

- Partnership Industrial Center West – infrastructure development
- Design - Central Street improvements phase 2, Grant Avenue to Clay Avenue
- Construction - College Street streetscape, Grant Avenue to Market Avenue
- Division Street and Commercial Street - turn lane and safety improvements
- Grand Street improvements and bridge replacement, from Park Avenue to Kansas Expressway
- Grant Avenue & Route 66 streetscape, between Walnut Street and Olive Street
- Main Avenue bridge improvements over Jordan Creek
- Mount Vernon Street bridge improvements over Jordan Creek
- US 65 and Division Street - interchange improvements
- Commercial Street pedestrian ways – various locations
- Design - Grant Avenue and Division Street - intersection improvements
- National Avenue and Bennett Street - traffic and signal improvements
- CDBG sidewalk improvements – Grand Street, Park Avenue to West Avenue
- CDBG sidewalk improvements – Jefferson Avenue, Kearney Street to Turner Street
- CDBG sidewalk improvements – Kansas Expressway, Talmage Street to Kearney Street
- CDBG sidewalk improvements – Turner Street, Benton Avenue to Robberson Avenue.

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**ZONE 2 PROJECTS**

- Design - replacement of Fire Stations 4 and 7
- Design - sanitary sewer overflow reduction project - Smith Park
- Design - Beechwood Heights Phase I - storm water improvements
- Design - Gelven Withers Subdivision - storm water improvements
- Springfield Industrial Park Subdivision - storm water improvements
Springfield Fire Department puts new hazardous materials truck into service

Springfield’s newest fire apparatus, Hazmat 12, was officially be put into service Nov. 29 following a traditional ceremony dating back to the late 1800’s.

A longstanding tradition in the fire service, the “wet-down”, is a ceremonial process in which firefighters officially place into service a new fire apparatus by anointing it with water sprayed from the retiring unit. This ritual dates back to the late 1800’s when horse-drawn pumper were used throughout the nations fire service. After being called to duty and extinguishing the flames, firefighters would return to the station tired and with a dirty fire engine. The community that lived in the neighborhood around the station would come out and help wash the engine and the horses. They would then help push the engine back into the station. It was about more than just cleaning the equipment, it was about community pride and ownership of their fire station.

Today, many fire departments celebrate this tradition, although slightly modified. After being wet down and dried, community leaders and members symbolically “push” the apparatus back into the station, with the help of the apparatus slowly rolling backwards into the station under power.

Hazmat 12 was be put into service with a similar “wet-down” ceremony at Fire Station 12 located at 2455 S. Blackman Rd. Members of the media, surrounding neighborhoods and interested members of the community were all invited to attend.

City-wide projects include a reforestation and landscaping program, school sidewalks, sidewalk/curb/gutter and ramp construction, floodplain acquisition and stormwater improvement, bicycle routes signs and markings, neighborhood improvements and the Neighborhood Works program.

Whitman added that the development of the 2018 Capital Improvements Program represents a collaboration between multiple City departments, resulting in a comprehensive database of all public improvement needs planned everywhere in the City, from the airport to the zoo.

The Capital Improvements Program fulfills the City’s Charter requirement that the City Manager shall “… secure an estimate of all capital projects pending and of those which it is recommended should be undertaken (a) within the budget year and (b) within the next five succeeding years.”

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**ZONE 3 PROJECTS**

- Design - Cherry Street improvements, Barnes Avenue to Oak Grove Avenue
- Design - Division Street improvements, National Avenue to Glenstone Avenue design
- National Avenue and Bennett Street - traffic and signal improvements
- CDBG sidewalk improvements – East Central Street, 1600 block
- CDBG sidewalk improvements – Commercial Street, gaps from Pacific Avenue to Missouri Avenue.

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**ZONE 4 PROJECTS**

- Design - Linden Avenue and Latoka Street - storm water improvements
- Ravenwood South Subdivision Phase II - storm water improvements
- Battlefield Street & Fremont Avenue - intersection improvements
- Design - Campbell Avenue & Walnut Lawn - intersection improvements
- Eastgate Avenue / Mill Street - intersection improvements
- Fremont Avenue, Battlefield Street to Sunset Street – street improvements
- Design - Galloway Street improvements - Luster Avenue to Lone Pine Avenue
- Primrose Street improvements - South Avenue to Kimbrough Avenue
- The Link – Cox Health Systems campus.

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**ZONE 4 PROJECTS**

- Design - Kansas Expressway extension, Republic Road to Farm Road 190
- Nathanael Greene / Close Memorial Park entrance, road & parking improvements
- Design - Southwest Treatment Plant solar farm
- Design – Yard Waste Recycling Center, bagging plant
- Design - Silsby Street - storm water improvements, Jefferson Avenue to Kimbrough Avenue
- Design - Campbell & Walnut Lawn - intersection improvements
- Grand Street improvements and bridge replacement, from Park Avenue to Kansas Expressway
- Republic Road phase 4 street improvements, Fairview Avenue to Chase Street
- Republic Road – widening & storm water improvements, between Golden Street and Route FF.

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**ZONE 4 PROJECTS**

- Meador Park improvements – playground equipment, walking trail, signage, tennis courts/pickle ball – improvements, lighting, fencing
- Blackman Woods - lift station relief sewer
- Lone Pine Recycling Center – site upgrades
- Galloway Village - Lone Pine storm water improvements
Springfield named 25th in the country by Gallup in community ranking for exercise

The Gallup organization has ranked Springfield 25th on its list of Communities with the Highest Rates of Regular Exercise.

The study conducted as an addition to the State of American: Well Being series. On the 2016 Community Ranking for Exercises report, Springfield was ranked 25th in the nation. The report examines exercise in Americans across the U.S. and ranks the cities based on response and percentage of those who have exercised for 30 minutes or more a day, three or more days a week.

Gallup reported on its website that “nationally there is good news on exercise with rates of regular exercise at a nine-year high.” These rates vary by community but the top exercise communities show more 65 percent of their population exercises daily. Springfield reported 57.7 percent of the population exercised 30 minutes or more, three times a week.

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department, alongside the award-winning and nationally acclaimed Springfield-Greene County Park Board, are thrilled with these results.

“The Ozarks is truly a beautiful place to live with lots of opportunity to be active outside,” said Director of Health Clay Goddard.

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board, accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies, offers many opportunities for residents to enjoy physical activity both indoors and out. The Park Board has 103 different sites including; neighborhood playgrounds, four golf courses, sports complexes, family centers, botanical gardens, two aquatic centers, six outdoor swimming pools, a farm park, multiple school-park sites and a zoo.

Ozark Greenways also plays a significant role in Springfield’s vitality. Ozark Greenways has built 72 miles of greenway trails in Greene and Polk counties for both recreation and transportation purposes. Ozark Greenways also partnered with the City of Springfield to designate 81 miles of on-street bike routes, including The Link, a seven-mile bike and pedestrian corridor spanning the city from north to south.

The Health Department, along with the Healthy Living Alliance advisory council, have made active living and healthy eating a key part of the Springfield Community Health Improvement Plan. More information on the improvement plan and activities surrounding those efforts can be found at OzarksHealthCommission.org.

For more information about the survey, visit well-beingindex.com.

For more information about outdoor exercise opportunities visitparkboard.org and ozarkgreenways.org.

Department of Workforce Development Celebrates One-Year Anniversary of MJC North

The City of Springfield Department of Workforce Development hosted a One-Year Celebration of Missouri Job Center North, 1443 N. Robberson St., on Dec. 19. Located in Zone 1, MJC North has served 5,185 customers in the past year and 104 job seekers have reported finding gainful employment earning more than the minimum wage.

Keynote speakers for the event included Zone 1 Councilwoman Phyllis Ferguson and Missouri Job Center Director, Mary Ann Rojas. MJC North has partnered with many local companies including Regions Bank for financial literacy skills, CoxHealth for health needs, Vocational Rehab Services, OACAC for childcare needs, and Legal Services of Southwest Missouri.

Zone 1 has been the target of the City’s Zone Blitz initiative for the last two years and adding a job center location in that zone has helped reduce the unemployment rate in the area. The City has been adamant at improving the quality of life of all citizens and a successful first year of operation at Missouri Job Center North is an achievement the Department of Workforce Development celebrates.
Rev. John Tranbarger retires after 45 years as a volunteer SPD chaplain

Rev. John Tranbarger has spent most of his life using his compassion and communication skills to serve the community.

He first came to Springfield in 1959 to become Hillcrest Presbyterian’s first pastor where he inspired countless lives over his 35-year tenure.

To SPD, he has been a faithful and hardworking volunteer chaplain for 45 years. The Springfield Police Chaplains have always been there whenever police need them to help counsel and console others, or even their own.

“John Tranbarger has, by his faithfulness and dedication, been an inspiration to all chaplains who have come behind him,” said Chaplain Robert Stephenson, president of the Police Chaplains Association of Springfield. “As a founding member of the Police Chaplains Association in 1972, he set the standard and has led by example.

He will be missed, and we shall endeavor to carry on the good work he began 45 years ago.”

Congratulations on your retirement this year, John! Your many years of selflessness and service are much appreciated!

Springfield Art Museum seeks entries for Watercolor USA 2018

The Springfield Art Museum is pleased to announce a call for entries for Watercolor USA 2018, highlighting the very best in contemporary American watermedia. This year’s exhibit will run from June 2 through Aug. 26. The deadline to apply is March 6.

Organized in 1962, this year marks the 57th year of Watercolor USA. The nationally known exhibition is open to artists from all 50 states and U.S. territories, and seeks to discover what is new and what is next in the world of American watermedia. This year’s exhibit will be judged by Kelly Kane, former editor-in-chief of Watercolor Artist magazine and a leader in art publishing for more than 20 years.

Approximately $20,000 in cash prizes and possible Museum purchase awards are available. Top awards include the $3,000 Kenneth M. Shuck Memorial Award, the $2,000 Greg G. Thielen Memorial Award, the $1,500 Bill Armstrong Memorial Award, and the $1,000 Robert E. Goodier Memorial Award For Traditional Transparent Watercolor, among others. Additional cash awards are generously provided by the Watercolor USA Honor Society.

A few reminders about getting vaccinated:

1. Everyone over the age of 6 months is recommended to be vaccinated.
2. Even if you got vaccinated last year, it is important to get vaccinated again this year to protect from changing flu viruses.
3. Talk to your doctor about getting your vaccine if you have any health concerns.
4. It’s easier than ever to get vaccinated. Flu.gov has an interactive map showing the various locations where vaccine is available. Many locations in Springfield don’t require an appointment.

Flu Season Reminders

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 3 steps to fighting flu:

1. Take time to get a flu vaccine—even if it proves to be less effective this year, some protection is better than none.
2. Take everyday preventive actions like covering coughs and sneezes, avoid touching your eyes or mouth, staying away from sick people and washing your hands often to help stop the spread of respiratory viruses including flu.
3. If you do get the flu, or just don’t feel well, stay home to avoid making others sick. This is especially important for populations most at-risk for getting the flu: the very young and the elderly.

Artists from all 50 states and U.S. territories, ages 18 and up, who are using watermedia as critical components of their work are eligible to apply. Artists whose work pushes the boundaries of traditional aqueous media are encouraged to enter.

High realism, abstraction, traditional transparent watercolor, and innovative uses of the medium are all welcomed as the exhibit continues to expand and adjust with contemporary artistic practice, including the use of nontraditional supports and mounts.

For full information on entry rules, entry fees, and how to submit artwork, please visit sgfmuseum.org. The Springfield Art Museum is located at 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Admission to the Museum is always free.
Springfield Art Museum announces 90th Anniversary exhibition line-up

The Springfield Art Museum turns 90 in 2018 and is celebrating with a special exhibition calendar packed with local, regional, and international interest.

NEW IN 2018

Frolic of the Mind: The Illustrious Life of Rose O’Neill (April 14 – Aug. 15)
This comprehensive exhibition traces the prolific career of artist, illustrator, author, poet, and inventor Rose O’Neill. Frolic of the Mind will feature 150 works from public and private collections including the Springfield Art Museum, the Huntington Library and Art Museum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Bonniebrook Home and Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. A fully illustrated catalogue featuring several guest essays will bring new research to the topic.

Decades: 90 Years of Collecting (Sept. 15 – Feb. 17, 2019)
In honor of the Museum’s 90th birthday, this exhibit will trace the history and growth of the Museum’s permanent collection beginning with the initial acquisition, in 1928, of a landscape painting by Philadelphia artist Mary Butler. The exhibit will be divided into decades, presenting 10 objects per decade, and will examine the shifting trends and diversity of the Museum’s permanent collection. A wide range of objects will be exhibited including paintings, prints, ceramics, textiles, and historical objects.

Contemporary Cuban Printmaking (Dec. 8 – March 17, 2019)
Pullled entirely from the collection of the Racela Educational and Charitable Foundation, this exhibition presents over 70 prints by 33 Cuban artists who have all worked at the Taller Experimental de Gráfica de Habana – the oldest, continuously running print workshop in Cuba. From its inception, the workshop has focused on connecting artists with traditional printmaking techniques and fostering a dynamic artistic community based on the sharing and exchange of ideas, experimentation, and art criticism. This supportive community has allowed Cuban artists a relative freedom of expression, even amid the country’s larger political and cultural issues.

RETURNING IN 2018

All School Exhibition (March 3 – April 29) and MFA Student Showcase (May 4 – 20)
These two shows present a unique snapshot of the continuum of work being produced in public, private, and parochial educational settings throughout Springfield – from Kindergarten to Higher Education.

Watercolor USA 2018 (June 2 – Aug. 26)
This annual summer favorite returns with over $20,000 in cash prizes and possible museum purchase awards available. This will be the 57th showing of the very best in contemporary American watermedia, judged by Kelly Kane, former editor-in-chief of Watercolor Artist magazine.

Four by Four (4x4): 2018 Midwest Invitational (Aug. 25 – Nov. 18)
The biennial 4x4 exhibition recognizes and encourages contemporary artists working in all media who reside in the four-state region of Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas. This year’s artists include Shawn Bitters (Kansas), Jason Cytacki (Oklahoma), Dawn Holder (Arkansas) and Meghan Roswell (Missouri).

Art in Our City (Zone 2: March 24 – Oct. 14; Zone 3: Oct. 20 – March 17, 2019)
This special exhibition highlights local artists and the character of Springfield’s unique neighborhoods. In 2018, work from 17 artists representing 8 neighborhoods in City Council Zones 2 and 3 will rotate into Avant Art, the Museum’s new flexible, social gallery that combines art, retail, and limited beverage and snack service.

EVERGREEN IN 2018

New works from American artists from the 18th century onward will continue to rotate quarterly into Creating an American Identity, our semi-permanent exhibition of our permanent collection. Rotating works of ‘art on and off’ display not only helps preserve the art, it also helps keep our galleries fresh and relevant to our patrons. Patrons can also enjoy installation pieces like Anne Lindberg’s titled sky and Dale Chihuly’s Autumn Persian and Feather Chandelier, year-round.

Plan to join us for any, or all, of these exciting exhibits during our 90th Anniversary year at the Springfield Art Museum, located at 1111 E. Brookside Drive. Admission is always free. Donations are gratefully accepted.

The Springfield Art Museum is Springfield, Missouri’s oldest cultural institution, founded in 1928. A department of the City of Springfield, we are dedicated to enhancing the education and documenting the cultural heritage of the people of southwest Missouri through the collection, preservation, and exhibition of art objects. For more information, please visit www.sgfmuseum.org
Wonder Rooms: Ozark Collections: Through Feb. 11. 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.

Curator’s Talk: Jan. 25: 5:30–7 p.m. Join Sarah Buhr, Curator of Art at the Springfield Art Museum, as she discusses the process of curating “Wonder Rooms: Ozark Collections.”

Family Day: Jan. 27: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Family Days are drop-in events designed to help kids and grown-ups explore the Museum’s exhibits together through hands-on gallery and art-making activities. No registration required.

Richard Tuttle: Lines and Edges: Through March 25. Richard Tuttle has spent the majority of his career working within a very limited set of formal constraints – line, color, and form – to explore deeper issues of abstraction. His practice has encompassed a wide variety of materials including etchings, aquatints, and woodcuts to more ordinary materials such as cardboard, Styrofoam, wire, wood, cloth and rope.

Grant Wood: Lithographs: Through March 25. Wood produced 19 lithographs in his lifetime. All nineteen will be featured in the exhibition. This exhibit will examine Wood’s thematic concerns and role in the growth and popularity of printmaking in America. Visit sgfmuseum.org for hours of operation.

Tai Chi With Dee Ogilvy: Fridays, Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26: 9–10 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.

The Structured Landscape: Through March 25. Buildings of all shapes, sizes, and styles are ever-present in our environment. A simple landscape becomes more interesting when dwellings or other architectural structures are included as part of the scene. This exhibition is the sixth in a series, focusing on various artists, styles and trends, pulled exclusively from the Museum’s outstanding collection of contemporary American aquamedia.

1 Million Cups Springfield: Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 8:30–10 a.m. The 3rd largest 1 Million Cups Community out of nearly 100 national and international communities. The program was created based on the notion that entrepreneurs discover solutions and network over a cup of coffee. Each community uses the same format: two presenters, one hour, lots of free coffee, and asking of the generous question of “What can we as a community do to help your business?”

Connect with the City #MyCitySGF
Are you connected with the City on social media?

More than ever, we are using social media to bring information to you. Make sure you are connected to catch news, photos, job opportunities and more.
Brian Powers in Environmental Services wins $220.00 in lottery tickets in the Lots O Lottery drawing.

Laurie Duncan wins Ugly Sweater Contest

Environmental Services’ Laurie Duncan won four hours of paid leave in the Ugly Sweater Contest for the United Way campaign. $135 was raised for the United Way. Congrats, Laurie, and thanks to everyone who participated!

Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE

To Kim Talbot, PW
Kim deserves the Golden Goose award because she is always helpful, always cheerful, and goes out of her way to make sure everyone is taken care of. She has helped me many times over the years but most recently with acquiring our new plotter. She also gives her time on the Candyland project every Christmas, and I want to recognize her for all the behind the scenes work she does every day.
Jack Dill, PW

To Linda Williams, HR
I would like to present the Golden Goose to Linda Williams in Human Resources. She was the first person that came to mind to pass this honor on to. I have worked with Linda for many years and have always been amazed at her diligence, friendliness, knowledge, and willingness to help in every situation. In my estimation, Linda exemplifies the best in a public servant and is a role model for all City employees. Plus, she has a great laugh and laughs at all my stories. Thank you, Linda, for all the help and kindness you’ve given me over the years.
Kim Talbot, PW

PIO receives Reaching for the Stars award at 2017 NOVAs

“Reaching for the Stars is an annual award given to a person, organization, or partner that has had a particularly large and profound impact on the neighborhoods throughout the past year. Over the last year, the staff in the Public Information Office have worked hard to help improve neighborhood communication across the city. If you ask neighborhoods what one of their most pressing issues is, many will say being able to effectively share information with their neighbors. Springfield Neighborhood News was born as a response to this need. The website and printed paper serve as a platform for sharing creative, relevant, heart-warming and need-to-know information with neighbors all over the city. PIO took a great idea, with input and feedback from neighborhoods, and created SGF Neighborhood News, a quality publication that has helped bring neighbors from all over the city valuable information.”

Director Cora Scott and Assistant Director Melissa Haase accepted the award on behalf of the department.
What are three words to describe the City of Springfield? “Devoted, challenging, rewarding.”

What advice do you have for prospective employees? “Be willing to get involved as much as you can. There are a lot of opportunities that come along with working at the City.”

If you could switch your job with anyone else within the City, whose job would you want? “I would probably like to switch with someone over at the airport. I love planes, and I think it would be a lot fun to work hands on with some of the aircraft.”

What’s something you’ve learned since working for the City? “There’s a lot that happens behind the scenes here at the City that citizens do not get to see.”

Why do you do what you do? “I get to have an impact on an entire community rather than just a few people.”

What’s the hardest part of your job? “Prioritizing the needs of the community sometimes does not address everyone’s needs.”

What’s the best part of your job? “The diversity of the projects that I get to be involved with and how every day is different.”

What do you admire about this organization? “The willingness to make positive changes throughout the City.”
Mark your calendar: 2018 Supervisors’ Meeting dates announced

Below are the tentative dates for the 2018 Supervisors’ Meetings. The agenda and location will be sent out prior to each meeting, but thought you might want to get them on your calendars.

• Jan. 11 – 3:30 p.m.
• April 18 – 3:30 p.m.
• July 19 – 8:30 a.m.
• Oct. 17 – 8:30 a.m.

Police Promotions

The Springfield Police department hosted a promotion ceremony on Jan. 3 at the Springfield Regional Police Fire and Training Center.

• Lieutenant Kevin Grizzell was promoted to captain.
• Sergeant David Meyer was promoted to lieutenant.
• Corporal David Shanholtzer was promoted to sergeant.
• Officer Mark Foos was promoted to sergeant.

C-SPAN features Springfield Jan. 6–7

Local segments recorded during C-SPAN’s week long visit in November will air on Jan. 6–7 during a special Springfield weekend as the featured programming of the series C-SPAN Cities Tour.

• Sat. Jan. 6, 11 a.m. – Book TV (C-SPAN2; Mediacom ch. 87 or 82-21)
• Sun. Jan. 7, 1 p.m. – American History TV (on C-SPAN3; Mediacom ch. 88 or 82-13)
Many of us are shopping online more frequently. Unfortunately, cybercriminals take advantage of this by increasing their efforts to steal your information. One common way they do this is by phishing which is sending a fake email message from a reputable company such as FedEx, UPS, PayPal or Amazon. Please review the tips below to help you identify these fraudulent email messages. If you receive an email that you suspect is a phishing attempt, please forward it to the Help Desk (helpdesk@springfieldmo.gov). This will generate a support ticket and a Help Desk employee will contact you as soon as possible to follow-up.

• Be suspicious of email messages that don’t address you by name, have misspelled words or that don’t look professional.
• Be suspicious of email messages that convey a sense of urgency or threaten you if you don’t take immediate action.
• Hover over links in email messages to verify their actual destination.
• Never provide sensitive personal information such as your SSN, account names or passwords.

Don’t forget about the 2018 cybersecurity training. It is required for anyone with a City email and/or network login account. This year’s training focuses on email phishing. It takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and must be competed by Feb. 6.
MILESTONES

Promotions

Clay Goddard
Dir. of Public Health & Welfare – Health

David Fraley
Associate City Planner – Planning and Development

Angela Hedges
Community Health Nurse – Health

Clifford Vich
Asst. Wastewater Video Technician – Environmental Services

Clinton Collier
Shawn McClure
Daniel Rowles
Police Corporals – Police

Retirements

Judy Bell
Office Administrator Police – 11 years

Michael Bell
Buyer Finance – 17 years

Bette Schutt
Workforce Development Specialist
Workforce Development – 5 years

Terry Whaley
Exec. Dir., Ozark Greenways
Parks – 22 years

FOR SALE

To submit ads, call 417-864-1003 or email TheScene@springfieldmo.gov.


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 417-818-3555.


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 417-3117.

20/29 Gallon Aquarium with filter, heater, black deluxe full hood with fluorescent light, and miscellaneous. 24 ¼”w x 12 ¼” 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”/5” 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.

SERVICES

Farmhouse Picture Frames made of real wood. You choose your color! City Employee pricing: 8x10 ($25), 11x14 ($30), and 5x7 that holds up to 8 photos ($35). Have a size not listed? Let’s talk! For more info or pictures, call or text Chris at 417-894-2067.

Rodan + Fields is the No. 1 skincare product in US. The product is designed for every skin type: sensitive, acne-prone, sun damaged, and even those looking to reduce or prevent the appearance of wrinkles. Contact Amanda L. at 4179882075 or mimosaeun@gmail.com for more information if you are interested.

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 submit ads, call 417-864-1003 or email TheScene@springfieldmo.gov.


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SCENE
To: Brian Loughrige, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Public Works

We don’t want December to slip away without a grateful thank you— to you, personally, and to your crew.

Your kindness to us when we offered our beautiful blue spruce for Springfield’s Christmas tree on the square, continued through the process of removal and extended to an unexpected follow-up.

The removal of our twenty-five foot tree was so well orchestrated. We (and our neighbors) were fascinated with the way your team worked— each moving into their appointed places and moving equipment as needed to complete the process.

The team coming back the following week, working to leave our yard level and seeded, was a pleasant surprise.

We attended the lighting ceremony and enjoyed, with thousands of others during the season, one of God’s beautiful creations adorned for Christmas. Thank you for making that possible.

Blessings on you and those who work with you. Best wishes for a new year filled with God’s love.

Bill and Evelyn Gustafson

To: 9-1-1 Telecommunicators

On Nov. 20, a Greene County citizen called into the Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 center and wished all of the employees a Happy Thanksgiving! She wanted to let us know she was thinking about all of us this holiday season, and appreciates us and the work we do for our community, and “May God bless us and all of our families”. On Nov. 23, another Greene County citizen called into the Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 center and wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all the telecommunicators who work a high-stress job especially on a family oriented holiday”. The 9-1-1 folks appreciate the thoughtfulness of the citizens of our community, especially during the holiday season!!

To: Lucinda Hodges, 9-1-1 Telecommunicator

On Dec. 6, Telecommunicator Lucinda Hodges received an ‘abandoned 9-1-1 call” (when we answer a 9-1-1 call and are unable to make contact with the caller or it is an accidental call). Hodges attempted follow-up and to make contact with the abandoned caller. She was able to finally talk with a Greene County citizen named Nick who was very thankful that he had received the call to make sure that everything was ok. He thanked the entire 9-1-1 department for everything they do.

Lost Something?
The Busch building front desk may have it!

There are a few items in the lost and found located at the front desk of the Busch building. We have necklaces, charms, a ring and ear buds that have come in recently. If you have lost any of these items, please check with the front desk.