10 Questions with new City Manager Jason Gage

Jason was sworn in on Aug. 1. See the ad on page 2 for a list of employee and community meet-and-greet opportunities with Jason.

What attracted you to Springfield?
Since I grew up about two hours from Springfield, I occasionally visited the community. I always enjoyed my visits! Springfield appears to be a very progressive community that offers a lot to its residents. In addition, the size of Springfield is perfect for the next, and hopefully last, phase of my career. Finally, the City of Springfield municipal government has a very solid reputation for positive elected leadership and solid management. That is certainly attractive to a city manager as a place to work and make a difference.

What are three words to describe the City of Springfield as an organization?
I would describe Springfield as stable, fun and caring.

Have you tried Andy’s frozen custard or Springfield-style cashew chicken yet? What did you think?
I have tried Andy’s frozen custard, but haven’t had a chance to try Springfield-style cashew chicken. I look forward to giving it a shot! With regard to Andy’s, I am a fan!!

Where do you see Springfield in the next three to five years?
I still have a lot to learn about the Springfield community and organization. With that in mind, in the next three to five years, I would like to see Springfield as the leader in the state for providing

Regina Crumrine replaces Claudia Crighton as Citizen Resource Center coordinator

Regina Crumrine was promoted from Citizen Resource Center administrative assistant to the center’s coordinator, effective July 22. Crumrine replaces Claudia Crighton, who retired June 1 after more than 17 years in the position.

Crumrine, who joined the CRC in 2016, has a bachelor of science degree in journalism from Missouri State University.

“Regina is a great team player and has taken on a role at the Citizen Resource Center, going above and beyond in every way,” said Cora Scott, director of Public Information & Civic Engagement. “Last year, she coordinated the Treasures of the City event and she volunteers to help with our big City events, such as the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival and Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony. She is very committed to our organization and community.”

The Citizen Resource Center, located on the first floor of the Busch Municipal Building, receives approximately 60,000 to 70,000 calls per year, routing more than 15,000 service requests to City departments. Service requests can be made via phone, e-mail, through the City’s website at springfieldmo.gov and in person.

The CRC is a division of the Department of Public Information & Civic Engagement and works closely with neighborhood groups and individual citizens to resolve issues affecting the community, such as nuisance properties, tall grass or weeds.

Employee Honor Walk gets 10 new bricks engraved July 26

HR announces pay increase, Merit Rule revisions regarding funeral leave

2018 CAMP class graduates
What do you believe are the biggest issues/challenges that Springfield is facing right now?

I think City Council has communicated the challenges very well. Economic stability and healthy neighborhoods are two big ones. Remedying these over the long haul means working hard to grow quality jobs with good pay and benefits. Having financial capacity for the organization to respond to citizens’ core needs is also a big challenge.

What book are you reading currently?

Given my emphasis over the last few weeks on finishing up in Salina, moving and transitioning to Springfield, I am in between books. With that in mind, one of my favorites is “Good to Great.” Another is “Profiles in Courage.” I am a big fan of truly striving to be the best a person and an organization can be. In local government, I feel we owe that to our community. To do this sometimes takes a little courage.

What’s something that Springfield as a city should strive for?

As a community, Springfield could strive to be the cleanest, most hospitable and livable city in Missouri.

What’s the hardest part of being a city manager?

I think one of the hardest aspects of being a city manager is balancing the variety of diverse community needs, while finding a common strategy to move the entire community in a positive direction.

What are you most looking forward to as the new city manager?

To get started!! I can’t wait to get to know the elected officials, City staff and community!

Tell us about your family and what you like to do in your spare time.

I am married with four kids of my own and two stepdaughters. Of the six, all are in college, but one. In my spare time, I like to camp, exercise, watch sports, play basketball and softball, fish and read. I truly look forward both to starting work and enjoying the Springfield area!
National Night Out Aug. 7 at Nichols Park

Aug. 7 will mark Springfield’s 7th annual National Night Out event to coincide with the national public safety event, and its second year at Nichols Park, 1900 W. Nichols, in the Heart of the Westside neighborhood.

National Night Out offers residents a chance to get to know their local law enforcement representatives, first responders and other agencies and organizations that promote health and safety. The event gives families a chance to tour police, fire and safety vehicles, browse safety info booths and enjoy free hot dogs, ice cream and music. There will also be games and inflatables and a Police vs. Fire softball game starting at 7 p.m.

This free event is a result of collaboration between Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Springfield-Greene County Park Board and the City of Springfield.

National Night Out celebrates the culmination of crime prevention activity in all Springfield neighborhoods: people working together in associations and other groups to prevent and address crime and other neighborhood problems. It also promotes healthy neighborhoods and encourages people to get out and get to know one another.

“It is an occasion to celebrate past successes, discuss current challenges or issues, and re-dedicate collaborative efforts with neighbors, police, businesses and others to improve the quality of life in our city,” said Chief Williams.

Past National Night Out campaigns involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from thousands of communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

Employee Honor Walk gets 10 new bricks engraved July 26

Ten former City of Springfield employees have been honored with a place in the Employee Honor Walk, located at the main entrance to the Busch Municipal Building. This year’s honorees include:

• Michael Bell, Purchasing
• Denise Bredfeldt, Mayor’s Commission for Children
• Greg Burris, City Manager’s Office
• Claudia Crighton, Public Information & Civic Engagement
• Julie Gimlin, Building Development Services
• Joe E. Harpine, Planning and Development
• MaryBeth Houser, Building Development Services
• Steve Meyer, Environmental Services
• Tim W. Smith, City Manager’s Office
• Chris Straw, Building Development Services

The Honor Walk is a commemorative walkway established to honor City employees for their dedication and service to the City, and is the legacy project of the CAMP Class of 2014. “When it came time to brainstorm an idea for our Legacy Project, our CAMP Class looked back on 2014 and remembered those we’d lost,” said class member Kristen Milam. “Several high-profile leaders within the City had passed away. We chose to find a way to remember these employees forever and honor them for their dedication and service to the City.”

Through the Honor Walk program, customized engraved brick pavers are available for purchase by City employees, retirees and their family members, to honor employees for their service and commemorate retirements and memorials. A $100 donation is asked to dedicate a brick. This year approximately $800 in proceeds will be given back to employees through the Employee Crisis Fund.

How to honor someone with a brick in the Honor Walk

• Download an Honor Walk Brick Dedication Form found on Sharepoint. Fill out all necessary contact info and specify what information should be engraved on the brick.
• Submit the dedication form and $100 donation to the Public Information Office on the 4th floor of the Busch Municipal Building. Donations will be accepted in the form of cash or check, either in-person or via U.S. mail. All donations must be private funds and cannot be from departmental accounts.
• Forms and donations will be collected year-round. A yearly, on-site bulk engraving is performed in the early summer.

Need something to give your honoree now?

Certificates of Induction into the Honor Walk are available for your honoree showing a mock-up of what their brick will look like. Certificates are available within two weeks of order submission.

For more information, contact Kristen Milam at kmilam@springfieldmo.gov or 864-1402.
Art Museum breaks attendance record

The Springfield Art Museum has had over 60,000 visitors since July 2017. That breaks another attendance record for the museum. “People have really embraced the museum as a hub for culture, a hub for art and a hub for activity, and we are really excited to see that and to figure out ways to enhance that and grow that in the future,” says museum Director Nick Nelson.

CoSFit Games are back again

Plans for the 2018 CoSFit Games are well under way! Mark your calendar for Sept. 19 from noon-1 p.m. at Drury’s track and field (at Summit/Central). Teams are forming – start building your winning team now!

What can you expect? Both spectators and competitors will find fun and creative fitness challenges, great food and the opportunity to win many prizes (and bragging rights) – all of that in just one lunch hour!

Build your winning team now!

There are no minimum qualifications, and you don’t have to look like The Rock to compete! Get your work buddies together to form a team of four City employees (at least one female per team), and email your roster and team captain to Machelle Petit at mpetit@springfieldmo.gov by Sept. 5. If you would like to compete but do not have a team, contact Machelle to be placed on a team. Further instructions for all of the teams will come from Machelle once you register.

HR announces pay increase, Merit Rule revisions regarding funeral leave

PAY IMPROVEMENTS
City Council recently approved pay improvements for regular employees effective July 8, 2018 that was reflected on your July 26 paycheck. The new salary schedules reflecting these pay improvements may be viewed on Cityshare or the City of Springfield website.

A question has been raised about how the new top step will be implemented for non-union employees. This new top step will result in a 2.5 percent pay increase, effective July 8, for all non-union employees who are currently at the top step of their salary grade.

FUNERAL LEAVE POLICY REVISION
Enduring the death of a loved one is a difficult time for anyone and the City truly desires to support employees in a meaningful way during such times. As such, we are pleased to relay City Council recently approved an expansion to the funeral leave benefit that better supports employees following the loss of a loved one.

In June, City Council approved the recommendation and authorized a revision to Merit Rule 21.7. This Merit Rule change also clarified wording regarding immediate family members approved for the funeral leave benefit.

Who Is Eligible To Receive Funeral Leave?

The funeral leave benefit is available to regular employees and to contract employees whose agreement denotes inclusion of this benefit.

What Changed?
- Eligible employees may now take five days (or three 24-hour shifts for employees on 24-hour shifts) in the event of a death of a spouse, child, mother, father, or sibling. This is an increase from the previously authorized three days.
- Eligible employees may now also take one day of leave (or one-half shift for employees on 24-shifts) in the event of a death of an employee’s minor child’s grandmother or grandfather.
- The terms mother, father, child, sibling, grandparent, or grandchildren extend to adoptive, long-term guardian or foster care, and step family relationships.

We are pleased that this enhanced benefit is an additional means for the City of Springfield to come alongside and support employees.

When Is It Effective?
These revisions became effective with the City Council’s authorization on Monday, June 18.

What If My Family Member Is Still Not Covered?
In the event of a death of a family member who is not specifically listed in Merit Rule 21.7, there is a provision that allows employees to submit a request to the City Manager, via your supervisory chain, for further consideration and approval.

If you have questions about the pay improvements or funeral leave benefit expansion, please contact your department’s HR Specialist.

2016 CAmP class collects $400, 99 food items at Employee Picnic

The 2016 CAmP class collected $400 cash and 99 food items at the Employee Picnic. The class purchased Price Cutter gift cards with the $400 so the Northwest Project can give them out as incentive program rewards. Thanks again to Greg Burris for providing the four hours paid leave to incentivize employees to raise so much cash to help our community!

Special thanks goes to the following folks who helped during the picnic, set up, coordinate, pack up, buy gift cards and deliver food/gift cards:

- Bryan Lundquist
- Debbie Lawrence
- Casey Jo Kellner
- Sarah Limb
- Nikki Crisp
- Shirley Johnson
- Pam Cummings
The City takes proactive stance to preserve trees

The Missouri Department of Conservation has confirmed the presence of the invasive forest pest, the Emerald Ash Borer, in Greene County.

The Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic beetle from Asia whose larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, killing the tree within the span of a few years. The beetle has already been responsible for the loss of tens of millions of ash trees in North America. Preventative insecticide treatment options exist, but they cannot eliminate an infestation once it occurs.

The City of Springfield is taking a proactive stance in the management of the issue, which is expected to affect less than 3 percent of the total urban tree canopy.

There are currently 380 City-managed ash trees located in public right-of-way. Springfield Public Works urban forestry division has identified and inspected every City-managed Ash within the last year, looking at factors such as location, size and health of the tree. This information was then used to develop removal and preventative treatment recommendations.

The City has budgeted $75,000 in FY2019 budget for Emerald Ash Borer management. These funds will be used for the preventative treatment of approximately 50 percent of the City’s Ash trees and the removal of trees that are in poor condition or location.

“Preventative treatment is the only way we can retain Ash trees in our community,” says City urban forester Casey Kellner. “Our strategy is to retain what we can, remove what we can’t and restore what we’ve lost.”

Each individual tree’s fate has been decided based on the tree’s health, where it’s located and other factors. Over the course of five years, the City plans to treat 177 trees and cut down and replace 164 trees. The remaining 39 trees may be treated once, then re-evaluated, Kellner said. Ash trees will need to be treated once every one to three years depending on the treatment to keep them free of emerald ash borers.

For every Ash tree removed from the public right-of-way, another species of tree will be planted. The total number of Ash trees in the community is unknown at this time, but Kellner expects that 97 percent of the community’s total trees are not going to be affected.

Information and resources can be found on the City’s website at springfieldmo.gov/emeraldashborer.

70th Springfield Police Academy class graduates July 13

Graduation ceremonies for the officers of the 70th Springfield Police Academy were held July 13, at Parkcrest Baptist Church.

The 19 graduates have undergone 1,099 hours (27 weeks) of intense law enforcement training. Upon graduation, they were assigned to an experienced field-training officer (FTO) for approximately 520 hours (13 weeks) of on-the-job training. Once they complete the FTO program, the new officers will be assigned to the Uniform Operations Bureau.

The class consists of seventeen men and two women with education including a master’s degree, ten bachelor’s degrees, five associate’s degrees and four with prior or current military experience.
O’Reilly Center for Hope Training Center to be named after former City Manager

When Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) recently announced the future plans to turn the former Pepperdine Elementary School building into the O’Reilly Center for Hope, they deliberately held back one piece of information. Charlie O’Reilly, speaking on behalf of the O’Reilly family – Charlie & Mary Beth, David, Larry and Rosalie O’Reilly Wooten – wanted to hold the announcement of the special naming of its training center, until City Manager Greg Burris completed his tenure. Burris resigned as City Manager, effective June 30.

The Greg Burris Training Center will be the “heart” of the Center for Hope, Charlie O’Reilly said. In conjunction with the naming, a fund has been created in Greg Burris’ honor at Community Foundation of the Ozarks to benefit the O’Reilly Center for Hope. O’Reilly credited Burris with standing up for those less fortunate and for creating an awareness in the community that “we must collectively work together to address homelessness in our community in order to pave the way for future vibrancy.”

O’Reilly said Burris recruited him and businessman Lynn Thompson to co-chair the Mayor’s Task Force on Crisis Sheltering, an effort that later led to the creation of the O’Reilly Center for Hope. Former Mayor Bob Stephens appointed a 17-member, diverse task force in September 2015, which issued four recommendations, including the reduction of the need for crisis sheltering through shelter diversion. A key piece was the funding of additional diversion specialists at One Door, the community’s one-stop shop for homeless prevention services and the funding of a new facility for the Springfield Affordable Housing Center, where One Door and other partners are currently housed.

The historic Pepperdine Elementary School will be transformed into the O’Reilly Center for Hope, a community-centered hub for affordable housing and homeless prevention services, education and other resources vital to the growth of our community.

Last year, City Council approved a plan which outlined priority projects, which included $1 million in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding for a new facility for One Door and Springfield Affordable Housing Center. The funds will be used to restore the historic Pepperdine building and expand services to include Burrell Behavioral Health, OACAC, Legal Services of Southern Missouri, Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Family Support Division and the Springfield Police Department.

“We plan to expand our housing services and better connect people with resources,” explained Michelle Garand, CPO’s Vice-President of Affordable Housing & Homeless Prevention. “We will continue the long history of community-centric learning, providing a one-stop center for resources regarding housing and financial education. In addition, we will bring together community stakeholders – residents, families, faith communities, agencies, government and law enforcement – to build relationships and to leverage all resources to help neighborhoods flourish.”

Financial counseling and the ongoing Making Sense of Money financial literacy classes will take place in the Greg Burris Training Center, along with in-service training on tenant rights and responsibilities and the Tools for Life program; and home buyer opportunities and educational information. “We can help households understand the responsibilities of being a good renter, a good property owner and a viable, connected member of a neighborhood community,” Garand said.

Three new communications training officers complete in-house training program

Jessica Graham-Mitchell, Kelly Pearman and Jill Evert are all now 9-1-1 CTO’s (Communications Training Officers).

The group recently completed a three-day APCO (Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials) course administered by the 9-1-1 Training and Education Manager Kris Inman through the department’s formally recognized in-house training program.

They will be tasked with training, educating and assisting newly hired 9-1-1 telecommunicators with on-the-job training totaling 700-800 hours per employee. There have been 25 telecommunicators trained since the department implemented this in-house training program in 2014.

SFD Promotion Ceremony July 3

Congratulations to Captain Mark Phillips, Lieutenant Jason Wells, and Equipment Operator Devin Keeney on their promotions.

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Gov. Mike Parson signs legislation at Greene County Public Safety Center July 6

On July 6 in front of a crowd of emergency personnel, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson signed two pieces of long-awaited legislation into law at the Greene County Public Safety Center, 330 W. Scott Street.

SB 870 is a bill that modifies 15 provisions of state law related to emergency medical services, including: new positions, mutual aid, training, treatment protocols, records and patient rights.

“The provisions in SB 870 will allow for the ability to create a State EMS Medical Director,” said CoxHealth’s Emergency Medical Services Director Mark Alexander. “The State of Missouri does not currently have this type of role, so this will bring us up to par with other states in the country.”

SB 870 will also allow Missouri to become a member state of the “Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact,” a network of states that allows the privilege to practice emergency medical services across state lines.

“The inclusion of the EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact will greatly impact our day-to-day operations. This provision will allow Missouri emergency medical personnel to operate in neighboring states, allowing us to assist in emergency medical services across state lines and, also, for other states to help us when needed,” said Alexander.

HB 1456 contains legislation that will bring changes to the laws regarding 911 emergency communication services in Missouri. Each county can choose to implement a tax on any device that can contact 911, including wireless phones. This tax would replace 911 funding currently in place in that county. Counties that have 911 funding can choose this funding method instead of one of the two previous methods of funding 911. The approval of this 911 wireless phone tax bill will help fund the need for updated and enhanced technology to help modernize Missouri’s 911 system.

“Missouri does not have any law or policy involving the use of a 911 cell phone tax,” said Springfield-Greene County 911 Emergency Communications Director Zim Schwartze. “Over 80 percent of incoming 911 calls are from a wireless device. It would also allow 911 centers across the State of Missouri to improve our technology and training so they can better serve our citizens.”

Schwartze and J.R. Webb, assistant director, Springfield-Greene County 911 Emergency Communications Department, were involved in the legislative task force assigned by three statewide 911 organizations’ presidents to work on drafting the proposed 911 emergency communications legislation this year. Those statewide organizations are the Missouri 911 Director’s Association, The Missouri Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association and The Missouri Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials.

“We attended several hearings and committee meetings on behalf of the statewide organizations during this entire process as the bill was introduced, passed through the House and eventually through the Senate,” said Schwartze.

The Greene County Public Safety Center provides a fitting location for the signing of these bills. It is the focal point of coordination for city and county response and recovery efforts during major disasters and emergencies through the use of its state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center and, when activated, the Regional Multi-Agency Coordination Center. The PSC is home to the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, the Springfield-Greene County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center, the Greene County Sheriff’s Office Training Division and the Greene County IT Network Services team.

Heather Parker joins Springfield Fire Department as Fire and Life Safety Educator

Heather Parker has joined the Springfield Fire Department as its Fire and Life Safety Educator. Parker’s duties will consist of developing and implementing fire prevention and safety education curriculum consistent with the fire department’s community risk reduction programs to include prevention, conducting juvenile fire setter screening and education, tracking and reporting community fire trends, and applying for grants and seeking community partnerships to ensure funding for the department’s public education programs.

“I am excited about the opportunity to work alongside firefighters, neighborhoods, schools, local organizations and businesses on existing and new creative ways to make our community safer,” Parker said.

Parker joined the fire department from the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, where she served as the coordinator for the Community Health Advocate Program. She has also worked as a public health investigator, a biologist for the National Park Service, an environmental scientist, a teaching assistant for Missouri State University, a laboratory technician for City Utilities, and as a park ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Parker has a master of science degree in natural and applied sciences/plant sciences from Missouri State University. Her bachelor of science degree is in wildlife and conservation management.

“I believe Heather’s experience with program management and her strong ties to the Springfield community will make her an excellent addition to the Springfield Fire Department,” said Fire Chief David Pennington.

Parker replaces Cara Erwin, who recently joined the Health department as a community wellness coordinator.
Art Museum adds Little Rock, AR watercolorist to permanent collection

The Springfield Art Museum is pleased to announce the acquisition of “Reason: Pepper,” a watercolor on textile currently on view in Watercolor USA 2018, by Little Rock artist Emily Wood. Wood’s work has been seen at the Arkansas Arts Center and at the Springfield Art Museum in the 4x4: 2014 Midwest Invitational Exhibition.

“Reason: Pepper” is part of a series Wood titled, “Working”, that explores how, why, and for what or whom people work.

The artist asks individuals for used work shirts and why they work. In this case, it is for the individual’s daughter, Pepper. Wood notes, “I love the way the watercolor responds to the various fabrics and the challenge of figuring out how to make it work … while also embracing the accidents and imperfections.”

“Reason: Pepper” integrates two focus areas of the Museum’s Collection Plan: contemporary American watermedia, especially those works that showcase innovative use of the medium or unexpected mounts, and art of the Midwest. This acquisition marks the third former 4x4 artist to be added to the museum’s permanent collection.

This piece also bridges the museum’s extensive watermedia collection with its sizable collection of textiles, selections from which were most recently on display in the 2016 special exhibition, “String Theory: Textiles” from the Permanent Collection. The acquisition of “Reason: Pepper” was made possible by the Southwest Missouri Museum Associates’ (SMMA) sponsorship of Watercolor USA, with funds designated for art acquisition.

“Reason: Pepper” and 81 other works of contemporary American watermedia are on view in Watercolor USA 2018 through Aug. 26 at the Springfield Art Museum. Admission is always free. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Scene Flashback to Aug. 1995

Employee cookout a sizzling success

The members of the Ozarks chapter of the American Association of Zookeepers are hosting their annual Picnic in the Park event on Aug. 11 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a raffle, silent auction, zookeeper chats and more. There will be food trucks open to the public, as well as the Bush Country Cafe. This is a fundraising event with $8.5 at the gate for everyone. Children two and under are free. 100 percent of this year’s proceeds will be used to support the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya, Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia and Bukit Barisan Selatan and Way Kambas National Parks in Sumatra, Indonesia.

Proceeds from our picnic will help to ensure that endangered species and the valuable ecosystems they call home will remain a part of our future.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact Brock Andrus at Bandrus@springfieldmo.gov.

Picnic in the Park Aug. 11

The Springfield City Employee News Extra

August, 1995

Number 91

Management Team members keep the heat on as they grilled 1,000 bologna for approximately 565 employees who attended the 2nd Annual Employee Cookout on June 29th. Community members chipped in, too—special thanks to Charlie Denver for the loan of a grill and his personal grill time.

Shirley Johnson, Public Works, won the grand prize ticket to “Patio!” Sixty-six employees donated cookies for a chance at the grand prize. Numerous other donated gifts were also awarded. Great organization, wonderful weather, good company, and hungry stomachs made this a very enjoyable event. Many thanks to all those who participated. All contributions and donations were greatly appreciated.

Okay, okay, where’s the fire truck. Councilman Charlie Denver and Harold Ronzack, Director of Health, were smoked along with about 1,000 hotdogs at the Employee Cookout. Assisting them was Sheryl Royal, Police. To the left Billie Hardin, Finance, and Shirley Scott. Personnel, dance for their dinner. Below is the scene of much activity at the site of the Employee Cookout between City Hall and the Bush Building.
Art in our City–Zone 2: Through Oct. 14

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 second exhibition features work by nine artists from five neighborhoods in City Council Zone 2.

Four by Four 2018: Opening Aug. 25

The biennial Four by Four 2018: Midwest Invitational Exhibition recognizes and encourages artists working in all media who reside in the four-state region of Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas. The exhibit features work by four artists – one from each state – who will each exhibit a body of work. This year’s artists will include Shawn Bitters (Kansas), Jason Cytacki (Oklahoma), Dawn Holder (Arkansas) and Meghan Rowswell (Missouri).

Opening Reception: Aug. 24, 5:30-7 p.m.

Tai Chi With Dee Ogilvy: Fridays, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 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.

1 Million Cups Springfield: Wednesdays, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: 8:30-10 a.m.

The third 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?”

Ballet, Jazz and modern dance performances. Free and open to the public.

Frolic of the Mind: The Illustrious Life of Rose O’Neill: Closes Aug. 5.

This exhibition traces the prolific career of artist, illustrator, author, poet and inventor Rose O’Neill. This exhibit will feature 150 works from a number of 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, among others. The exhibit will include illustrations, rarely seen paintings, drawings, archival documents, personal effects, and smaller sculptures. A fully illustrated catalogue will bring new research to the topic, featuring several guest essays.

Watercolor USA 2018: Closes Aug. 26

Organized in 1962 by the Springfield Art Museum, this national, annual juried exhibition aims to attract the best in contemporary American watermedia and strives to exhibit work by artists who are pushing the boundaries of the medium. This is the 57th exhibition of “Watercolor USA.”

Artist Talk: Alicia Farris: Aug. 16: 5:30 p.m.

True You Yoga Festival: Aug. 25, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Ravianayoga Teachers present a day of free yoga and other activities at Phelps Grove Park. Bring your yoga mat and water bottle and find a teacher and style that’s right for you. Includes food, vendors and prizes.

Movie at Founders Park – Back to School Showing: Aug. 25: 7 p.m.

Join us for a free back to school celebration screening of School of Rock. Enjoy live music from a local band at 7 p.m. and other activities. Movie will begin at dusk. Concessions available, bring your own lawn chairs or blankets.

Dog Swim: Sept. 4: 4-7 p.m.

Dogs get to swim at Fassnight Pool (No humans in the pool.) Fee: $8 for 1 dog and 1 person, limit 1 dog per person; $3 each additional human. All proceeds benefit Cruse Dog Park. Registration and proof of vaccination required. For more information visit ParkBoard.org.

23rd annual Japanese Fall Festival: Sept. 7: 5-10 p.m.; Sept. 8: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sept. 9: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Three days of Japanese culture in the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, celebrating Springfield’s sister city, Isesaki, Japan. Includes Taiko drumming, Japanese storytelling, top spinning, folk dancing, martial arts, origami and other hands-on crafts, tea ceremonies, a tent-top market and gifts, a visiting delegation from Isesaki and more. Friday opening ceremony with student ambassadors. Friday and Saturday evenings end with an intimate candlelight walk. Presented by the Springfield Sister Cities Association, peacethroughpeople.org. Fee: Fri. & Sun., $7/adult, $3/12 yrs. and under; Sat. $10/adult, $3/12 yrs. and under.
All regular positions now eligible for Employee Referral Program

HR is excited to announce a change to our Employee Referral Program. ALL regular positions are eligible for the employee referral program. This means for all regular full-time or part-time positions, you can receive a $500 award for successful referrals! Please be sure to see the updated Policy and FAQs for further information and specific requirements for the program.

CPO extends Grand Jubilee discount package to City employees

Community Partnership has been offered an amazing discount package from Grand Jubilee at Grand Country in Branson! CPO wants to give City employees and their families an opportunity to take advantage of this great deal, too!

The package is valued at $45 and includes one ticket to the Grand Jubilee Show on Sept. 4, one free popcorn and one free Grand Jubilee Souvenir Book. CPO is offering this deal to all City employees for only $10 per package.

The Grand Jubilee was named Best Show of the Year in Branson, and CPO would love for City employees and their families to join us for this family-friendly, entertaining show. Tickets may be purchased at https://form.jotform.com/81976230987168.

2018 CAmp class graduates July 11

CAmp 2018 Class

Brian Athen – Fire
Melissa Barton – Planning
Ben Basham – Fire
Sarah Buhr – Art Museum
Cara Burch – City Manager’s Office
Regina Crumrine – Public Information
Daniel Dale – Airport
Myra Jo Decker – Environmental Services
Lisa Dement – Police
Angela Foster – Health
David Fraley – Planning
Jennifer Gage – Environmental Services
Wendy Graves – Workforce Development
Uli Gulje – Fire
Colten Harris – Environmental Services
Ashley House – E911
OJ Marshall – Public Works
Karen Ostby – Police
Stacia Portis – Finance
Brian Powers – Environmental Services
Jim Rayle – E911
Dan Ream – Airport
Matthew Robinson – Police
Tom Smith – Finance
Jennifer Swan – Public Works
Matt Taylor – Environmental Services
Marc Thompson – Finance
Randy Woods – Public Works

SPD participates in Lip Sync Challenge

Battle of the Sexes—SPD Style

You can check out the video at facebook.com/SGFPolice
**Follow the GOLDEN GOOSE**

**To: Russ Wright, IS**
I am honored to have been given the opportunity to pass this magnificent sterling bird to someone else who has truly earned it. It is my pleasure to pass the Golden Goose off to Russ Wright. In the past several years of knowing Russ he has assisted us with our computer needs both great and small. He is always polite and nice about our issues (even when caused by us) and is always quick, accurate and thorough with solutions. Our work relies heavily on our computers and systems working well with each other and Russ has saved us on more than one occasion. I think I can speak for a lot of people when I say that Russ deserves the Golden Goose. Thanks for all you do, keep up the amazing work! P.S. I may have broken my computer…. again…
Bradley McEntire, Print Shop

**To: Terry Neill, WFD**
I am happy to present the Golden Goose Award to Terry Neill. Terry provides exceptional technical support to our Workforce staff in Springfield, and remote locations in the area. She provides great customer service and approaches work with a positive attitude. She communicates her concerns to the Help Desk staff and provides valuable information involving computer and network issues as they occur. I am impressed by her willingness to address complicated and difficult tasks independently and as a team member. We appreciate all that she does behind the scenes to help her fellow employees.
Russ Wright, IS

**What are three words to describe the City of Springfield?** Community, opportunity and family.

**If you could switch your job with anyone else within the City, whose job would you want?** Parker the Penguin at Mediacom Ice Park. Parker is the ice park mascot. I mean, who doesn’t love a penguin?

**What’s the best part of your job?** The smiles and happiness of our customers and watching the kids’ eyes light up as we hand out a colorful, sweet snow cone on a hot day … priceless.

**What are you passionate about?** Our overall concessions operations: great food, great service and a clean atmosphere.

**What do you admire about this organization?** Parks is a family. Everyone works to help one another from the top administration to our hard working staff that make everything happen on the front line with a smile and a “thank you.”

**What’s something that Springfield as a city should strive for?** Encourage the City’s promotion and hiring system to reward internal employees’ hard work with encouragement for advancement with a system that trains current employees for advancement into new positions.
Getting away from it all on a summer vacation doesn't have to mean getting away from living an active lifestyle. Think about planning an active vacation. It could be a chance to explore a new interest or hobby, or might end up taking...

CLICK HERE FOR FULL ARTICLE.

National Farmers Market Week
August 5 - 11, 2018

Let's celebrate our Farmers Markets! National Farmers Market Week is a great opportunity to show how much value markets bring to their communities.

- Farmer's Market of the Ozarks (Springfield)
  - Saturday (year-round) 8 am - 1 pm
  - Thursday (June, July & August) 4 - 7 pm

- Greater Springfield Farmers' Market
  - Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays 8 am - 12 pm

- C-Street Market
  - Saturday 9 am - 2 pm
  - Thursday 4 - 8 pm

Questions? Email us at inBalance@springfieldmo.gov

Featured Recipe:
Watermelon, Raspberry, & Lime Ice Pops
Serves: 8
The combination of tart lime and sweet watermelon and raspberries will keep you refreshed on a hot summer day.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL RECIPE
eatingwell.com/recipe/263839/watermelon-raspberry-and-lime-ice-pops/

cancer.org/latest-news/plan-an-active-vacation.html

Working with the Community
Awards & Recognition

To: SFD
These great people are heroes!
Thank you for Sunday at Hunter’s Glen Apts. You’re response to the first fire I’ve witnessed in my two years living here was not only incredible, it really put my mind and heart at ease to witness such urgency, care, and professionalism shown!

Five trucks within five minutes on scene!
I can now sleep a little better just knowing your incredible guys and gals are out there.

Thank you for all you withstand, endure, and do, everyday!
—Shelley

To: Officer Chris Laughlin
I just wanted to thank the officer who let my son say hi to me on the loud speaker at the big rig event. My son has ADHD combined type and he’s very excitable.

Some day he hopes to be a police man, firefighter or an animal doctor. He hasn’t decided yet.

I try to make a big deal about police officers when we see them because when I was his age I had a family member that wasn’t so good, and I remember sitting in the police cruiser with an officer looking at baseball cards and chewing gum while things got resolved. I feel that it’s important to have respect for and good memories of all public service figures so thank you for everything you do! Keeping us safe and having a little fun with the kiddos!
—April

To: Officer Zach Pugh
I would like to compliment Officer Pugh for his assistance in obtaining overnight parking for our upcoming bike ride on the Frisco Highline Trail. Not knowing who to contact directly with our parking question, I found Officer Pugh’s contact information from the PARS section of the SPD web site. I only requested that he point me to the appropriate individual to ask for parking information, however Officer Pugh went above and beyond by personally contacting the Chief of the Park Rangers with my questions. Because overnight parking is prohibited at the trailhead, Officer Pugh gave us some suggestions for other parking options. While this entire sequence of contacts may seem trivial to some, it just goes to show his level of commitment to service of the public. Officer Pugh’s actions reflect very highly upon the Springfield Police Department and the City of Springfield.
—John Fruits

To: Officers Andrew Zinke and Tyler Thornhill
I recently purchased three apartment buildings. The properties had been neglected for years and the previous owner had lost control. I had high hopes of rehabbing the properties and making a difference in my little part of Springfield.

On my first week of ownership I quickly learned that I had my hands full. The units had squatters and drug users, so my first goal was to secure the units and remove those who did not belong. On one occasion your department had been called out five times in one day by drunken feuding occupants. I had the pleasure of meeting Officer Andy Zinke that day who gave me advice in the tough road I had ahead. He gave me tips and told me he would make his presence known, which he did and has continued to do. He also passed the information to his opposing shift, Officer Thornhill.

See WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY on page 14
To submit ads, call 417-864-1003 or email TheScene@springfieldmo.gov.


PUPPY FOR SALE…8 months old, AKC registered, male, golden retriever puppy. All vaccinations and medications are current. Asking $600. I can text or email pictures upon request. Contact Doug Chadwell at (417)224-3684.

Looking to acquire rental property for little investment or perhaps a weekend getaway: I have a small (1000 sq ft) two bedroom, 1 bath house in Alton, Missouri that would be perfect. Have a small (1000 sq ft) two bedroom, 1 bath house in Alton, Missouri that would be perfect. Asking $600. I can text or email pictures upon request. Contact Doug Chadwell at (417)224-3684.

It’s maintenance free on the outside with vinyl siding and a metal roof. It does need inside vaccinations and medications are current. PUPPY FOR SALE…8 months old, AKC registered, male, golden retriever puppy. All vaccinations and medications are current. Asking $600. I can text or email pictures upon request. Contact Doug Chadwell at (417)224-3684.

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I really never understood the complexities of being a Police Officer and how hard it must be to do the job within the law, without violating a criminal’s rights. These officers are real professionals and I can see that Police work is a calling not a job. It felt like the odds where stacked against me but Officer Zinke encouraged me to be patient, and patience has paid off. I was determined not to lose this fight. Its been several months now, and I feel we have the upper hand and have gained control. We have made many repairs, upgrades and have cleaned up the properties. None of this would have been possible without Officer Zinke and Officer Thornhill. I just wanted to take a moment to tell you how much I appreciate them and the Springfield Police Department. I hope you will let them know that they are both very much appreciated. Thank you all, for your service.

– Chris Reda

To: Officer Mardie Keller

Officer Keller regularly works off-duty security at the Walmart where I work. Possibly because she’s had prior contact with me through our mutual jobs, when she came to my house in mid-May, knowing that she probably would have to take me to the emergency room, she approached me more as a concerned friend rather than as a law enforcement officer answering a call. During my initial time in the ER Officer Keller helped me notify my employer that I would not be in to work and stayed with me, exerting a calming influence that would last long after she left, and heaven knows that was needed. In the weeks since, any time I encounter Officer Keller at work, she greets me enthusiastically, sometimes quietly and privately checking up on me, other times sharing a laugh, or building up my sense of self by sharing with others what she likes about me. If she doesn’t truly like hearing my weird law enforcement story, or personal and public safety and the efficacy of neighborhood watch organizations.

– Garrett Wood

To: Officers David Snider and Jerome Lockett

My wife and I had a surprising and pleasant experience today when two uniformed officers walked up our driveway. Normally the first response to the unexpected arrival of the police is concern but this was not the case in this instance because both officers projected a friendly, non-threatening demeanor, which put us both immediately at ease. We had a pleasant and informative conversation about a wide variety of topics especially personal and public safety and the efficacy of neighborhood watch organizations. Kudos to the officers for both their professional and personal demeanor and to the department for the policy of sending officers on foot through the neighborhoods.

– Brent Diefhaug

To: Elisha Lurvey-Smith, 9-1-1 Telecommunicator

On July 5, during the early morning hours, Elisha Lurvey-Smith received a 9-1-1 call from a gentleman from Kansas City who stated his son was somewhere in Greene County wanting to harm himself. Elisha was able to ‘ping’ his cell phone and obtain a possible location. Law enforcement was able to respond and get the young male transported to receive assistance. The caller re-contacted 9-1-1 and thanked Elisha for helping his son so quickly!

To: Joel Holdman – 9-1-1 Telecommunicator

On July 10, Joel Holdman took a call that someone had just dropped a light-colored lab dog near their residence near FR 148 and FR 205. The caller had surveillance video of the vehicle and requested to speak with a deputy. The dog was last seen near this intersection and the Greene County Sheriff’s Officer responded. The deputy located the dog and it was taken to a shelter for safety. Social media carried the story and the abandoned dog, now named “Hope,” came to visit his telecommunicator savior Joel at the 9-1-1 Center!

To: Scarlett McCall – 9-1-1 Telecommunicator

On July 14, 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Scarlett McCall took a call from an off-duty Springfield Police Department officer who was behind an impaired driver on US60 near Republic. While a Greene County Sheriff’s Office deputy responded, the officer continued to follow the suspect to his house. The suspect immediately got out of his vehicle, pulled a handgun, and started firing. The officer fled the area but the suspect began pursuing the officer and tried to run him off the roadway. McCall helped guide the officer out of the area and he eventually eluded the suspect shooting at him. GCISO later located the suspect’s vehicle and took one male into custody. The SPD officer later called back in to 9-1-1 and thanked McCall personally.

To: 9-1-1 Telecommunicators

On July 18, we received a ‘thank you’ from a Greene County Sgt. Dennis Rice on his last night with the County! He said, ‘I just wanted to send a thank you to all of you in Communications. I successfully made it home each night after a shift, thanks to you girls and guys always looking out for us. You are not told nearly enough, but I truly appreciate the sacrifices and hard work you put in for others. Please tell the others at the keyboards tonight that it’s been great, and again THANK YOU!’ We wish Sgt. Rice well in his next adventure.