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News Release

For Immediate Release

City close to achieving fundraising goal for Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park project

With five days remaining in the campaign, the City of Springfield is only \$1,360 away from reaching our \$15,000 goal to build a replica of the Red's Giant Hamburg sign in the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park being developed at College Street and Fort Avenue. Red's, owned and operated by Sheldon "Red" Chaney and his wife Julia, was a roadside café located on West Chestnut Expressway (Historic Route 66) and recognized for opening the world's first drive-through window.

The plan to incorporate memories of local Route 66 landmarks as part of redevelopment plans for an area in West Springfield through which the legendary route runs.

Those interested can be a part of Springfield's Route 66 legacy by visiting crowdit.com/route66sgf.

Springfield is officially recognized as the birthplace of what became known as the iconic "Mother Road." It was on April 30, 1926 at the Colonial Hotel where officials first proposed U.S. 66 as the name of the new Chicago-to-Los Angeles highway.

Route 66 meandered across the city from Kearney to Glenstone to St. Louis Street, through Park Central Square to College street, then headed west along what is now Chestnut Expressway.

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