YEAR IN REVIEW

CITY OF Springfield

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From the Mayor

Mayor Bob Stephens

On behalf of the City of Springfield, I am pleased to share our City's 2013 Year in Review report. The Year in Review highlights initiatives, projects, programs and events that defined Springfield in 2013.

One of the qualities that makes Springfield strong is our ability to collaborate. The City partners regularly with Greene County, City Utilities, private organizations and state and federal agencies to make our community better for everyone. As you'll see on the following pages, we owe much of what we accomplished in 2013 to collaboration.

While unemployment fell and local businesses and jobs grew in 2013, City services remained focused on public safety, quality of life, the environment, transportation and engaging with our citizens. See page 7 for the breakdown in how the City allocated its resources in 2013.

Our successes as a city would not be possible without the leadership and support of City Manager Greg Burris, City Council, and the Springfield community. We're very fortunate to have a City workforce of public servants dedicated to fulfilling our core values – integrity and pride of service, cooperation and communication, continuous improvement of services, leadership, knowledge and innovation – each and every day.

All the best in 2014!

Robert L Stephens

Springfield City Council

Mayor Bob Stephens (2013)

Zone 1 - Jeff Seifried (2013)

Zone 2 - Cindy Rushefsky (2011)

Zone 3 - Jerry Compton (2011)

Zone 4 - Craig Fishel (2013)

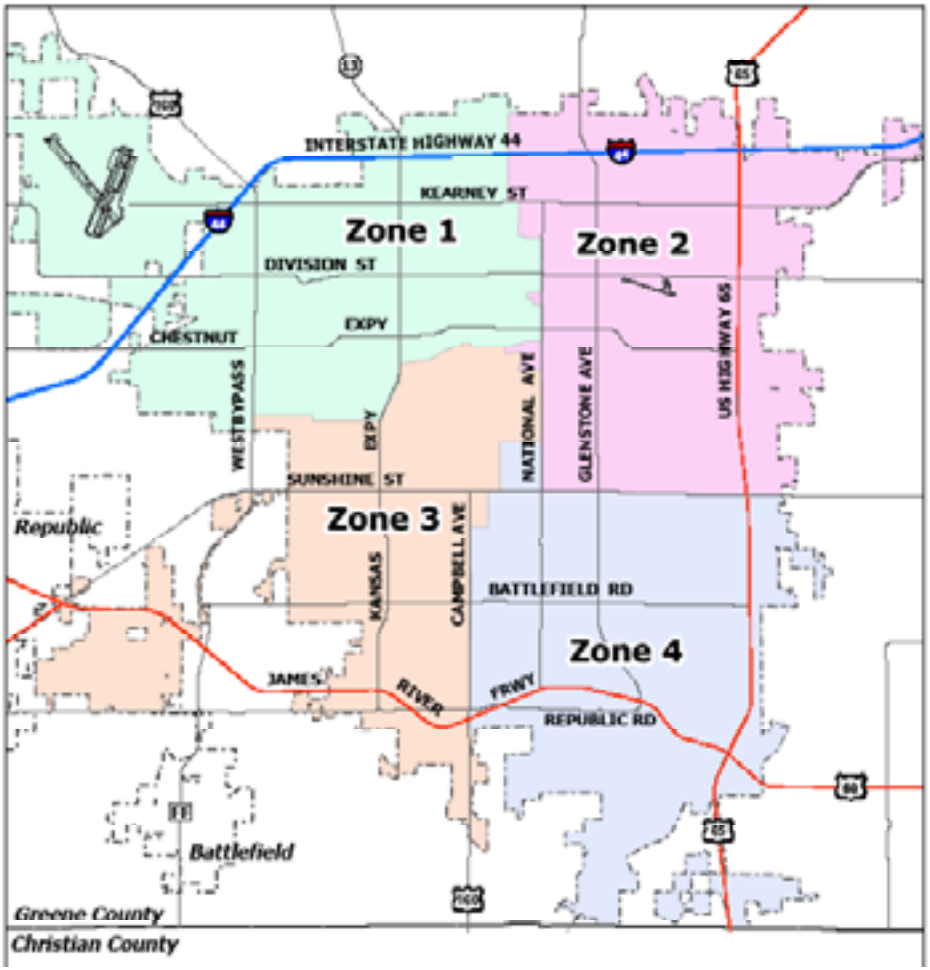
Gen. A - Jan Fisk (2013)

Gen. B - Craig Hosmer (2013)

Gen. C - Doug Burlison (2011)

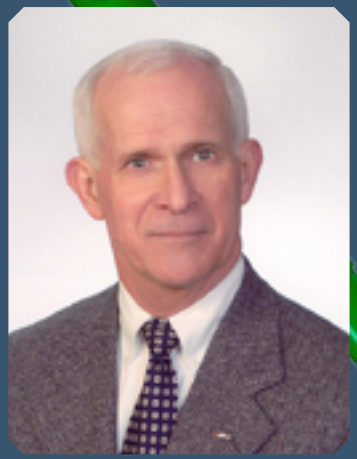
Gen. D - Mike Carroll (2011)

WHAT ZONE DO YOU LIVE IN?



Springfield is divided into four zones, each represented by a council member. The remaining four council members and the Mayor represent the entire City. Council members serve four-year terms. The Mayor serves two-year terms.

Dedicated to:



Fred Marty
1942 – 2013

City staff and people from all parts of the community in November mourned the loss of Deputy City Manager Gen. Fred Marty after his valiant fight against cancer. Fred left a legacy of excellence, compassion and getting things done. His work to develop the City's Collaborative Community Development Philosophy helped secure Springfield's reputation for being "open for business," and ushered in new ways of thinking to make the City more developer-friendly.

Watch the Fred Marty tribute video.

CITY OF Springfield

Mission Statement

The people of our community are the only reason we are here.

Therefore,

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.

We will achieve this through:

Integrity and Pride of Service
in everything we say and do, and with dedication to quality.

Cooperating and Communication
with one another and with citizens to ensure open government, and open management with no surprises.

Continuous Improvement of Services
through cost-effective utilization of people, materials, equipment and technology.

Leadership and Knowledge
through staff training and development.

Innovation
in how we meet present and future needs of our city.

CITY LEADERSHIP TEAM

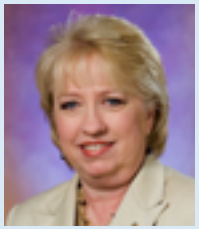
Greg Burris
City Manager

Collin Quigley
Assistant City Manager

Fred Marty
Deputy City Manager

Bob Belote
Parks

Phil Broyles
Public Works


Brenda Cirtin
City Clerk

Jeff Coiner
Information Systems

Mary Mannix Decker
Finance

Kevin Gipson
Health

David Hall
Fire Chief

Sheila Maerz
Human Resources

Steve Meyer
Environmental Services

Nick Nelson
Art Museum

Ryan Nicholls
Emergency Management

Ralph Rognstad
Planning

Mary Ann Rojas
Workforce Development

Zim Schwartze
Emergency Communications

Cora Scott
Public Information

Mary Lilly Smith
Economic Development

Doug Stone
Risk Management

Chris Straw
Building Development Services

Todd Thornhill
Municipal Court

Brian Weiler
Airport

Daniel Wichmer
City Attorney

Paul Williams
Police Chief

"I believe leadership occurs most purely at the local level . . . where the rubber meets the road . . . where the constituent can pick up the phone and truly connect with a public servant. That's where our Leadership Team excels. I'm so proud of their focus on customer service and getting things done to meet the needs. That doesn't happen everywhere."

City Manager Greg Burris

From the City Manager

Greg Burris - City Manager

The successes chronicled in this Year in Review publication highlight only some of the hard work accomplished by the City of Springfield in 2013. All of our accomplishments are made possible, at least in some part, thanks to those who have dedicated their careers to public service. The services provided by City of Springfield employees are looked upon by others in both the private and public sectors as extremely high caliber and as a national role model for excellence in municipal governance.

This symbol denotes a Field Guide 2030 community strategic plan initiative. To learn more about Field Guide 2030, see page 39.

The economic recovery

the City experienced in 2012 continued through 2013. Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013) can be characterized as a year of economic stability. The City saw job growth in several sectors of the economy. Most importantly, the City saw significant improvement in the local unemployment rate in 2013 – dropping from 6.6 percent in January to 4.8 percent by the end of the year. Business expansion and job growth occurred throughout the local economy. The health care industry, a key component of the local economy, continued to expand. The manufacturing and service sectors also experienced growth in 2013. Although there are many positive economic signs, the City continues along the path of conservative financial management. The FY 2014 budget reflected conservative estimates of revenue growth, a moderate increase in expenses and was a balanced budget without using reserves or one-time funds.

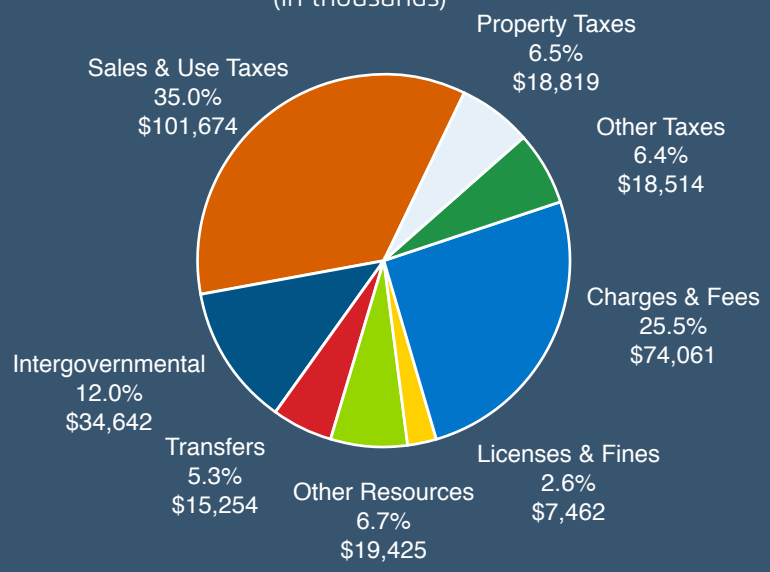
The Springfield City Council received an "unmodified" opinion on the City's financial statement audit from BKD, the City's independent auditing firm, meaning there were no qualifications or reservations expressed about the City's financial reporting processes. That is the highest level of opinion given.

There was a positive change in net position in fiscal year 2013. The total assets of the City less the liabilities are $892 million – an increase of $33 million.

Where the City Got its Money in 2013

All Funds $289,851

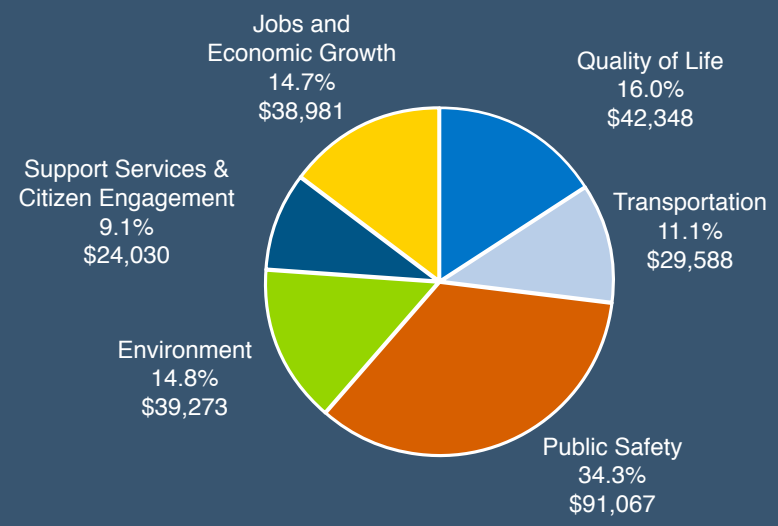
(in thousands)



How the City Spent its Money in 2013

All Funds $265,287

(in thousands)



View these funds in detail.

Want More?

Use the links in this report to view videos and learn more about the topics covered.

Watch the 2013 Year in Review video.

Connect With Us

Sign up to follow us on Twitter or Facebook. Watch us on Mediacom channels 15.1 and 80 and AT&T U-verse channel 99, the City's government cable access TV stations. You'll discover that the City of Springfield is already hard at work to achieve even more success in 2014 and beyond.

About Our City

With more than 440,000 people in the metro area, Springfield is where the rolling hills of the Ozarks plateau form a surprisingly modern and green city. A "big, small town," Springfield offers a great blend of fascinating attractions, historical treasures, sports excitement and cultural and leisure activities in a welcoming environment.

The city offers 102 parks, including a linear trail system that integrates with the city's growing on-street bike route system; an airport; an art museum; a zoo; the Springfield Lasers professional tennis team; and the Springfield Cardinals minor-league baseball team. Casual dining, upscale bars and restaurants, antique shops, trendy clothing, stores, art galleries and a public art and sculpture tour make downtown Springfield a fun place to visit.

Creating and retaining new jobs is a priority for the City of Springfield. The Workforce Investment Board continued to guide the efforts of the Missouri Career Center, administered by the City's department of Workforce Development.

As a member of the Springfield Partnership for Economic Development, the City teams with the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Springfield Business and Development Corporation, City Utilities of Springfield and Greene County to encourage investment and job creation. Few communities work as collaboratively.

The Enhanced Enterprise Zone is a key component of the Partnership's incentive program. The zone allows for local real property tax abatement and can provide saleable state tax credits. City staff members also serve as project facilitators for major economic development projects to ensure timely approval of plans and permits.

Springfield's unemployment rate of 4.8 percent at the end of 2013 was well under the national and state rates of 7.6 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively. The current workforce in the metro area is comprised of 225,567 workers with a .5 percent average annual workforce growth.

Major employers include CoxHealth and Mercy, Walmart, Springfield Public Schools, Missouri State University, the federal, state, county and city governments. Springfield is home to Bass Pro Shops national headquarters; O'Reilly Auto Parts; BKD CPAs & Advisors; Missouri State, Drury and Evangel universities; Ozarks Technical Community College; and the Assemblies of God USA.

The City of Springfield operates under the council-manager form of government, a system that combines the policy leadership of elected officials in the form of a city council, with the managerial expertise of an appointed city manager.

View an A to Z tour of Springfield.

Breakdown of Jobs in the Metro Area:

36,000
Education & Health Services

28,600
Government

24,500
Retail Trade

22,500
Professional & Business Services

18,400
Leisure & Hospitality

3,900
Information Technology

160,660
Population within Springfield City Limits

In the third quarter 2013 Cost of Living Index, Springfield ranked as the **least expensive place to live in Missouri.**

$54,041
Median household income

Nerdwallet.com, a consumer advocacy Web site, named Springfield among the **top 30 places in the U.S. for home ownership.** NerdWallet considers availability, affordability and area growth.

1953
Year of Incorporation

1.5%
Annual population growth

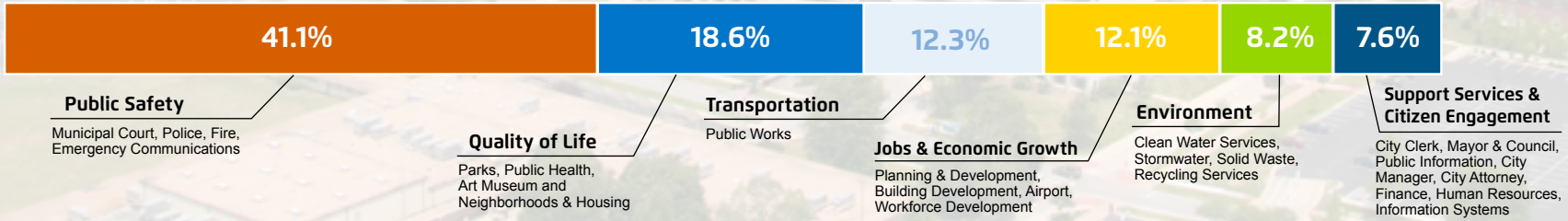
82.3
Square Miles

Greene County Seat - Southwest Missouri

Aa1
The bond credit rating given to the City by Moody's, a business that provides international financial research on bonds issued by commercial and government entities. This is the second-highest rating given by Moody's.

4.8%
Unemployment rate as of December 2013.

FY 2014 Employee Breakdown:



50TH
VISIT MLKSCF.COM
I HAVE A DREAM
I HAVE A DREAM
WE HEARD
DECENT HOUSING NOW!
50TH
VISIT MLKSCF.COM
VOTER SUPPRESSION IS UNAMERICAN
I HAVE A DREAM
I HAVE A DREAM
I HAVE A DREAM
50TH
SPRINGFIELD MO
50TH ANNIVERSARY MARCH ON WASHINGTON
I HAVE A DREAM

Quality of Life

In 2013, the City of Springfield moved forward with many programs and projects to improve and enrich the quality of life in our community. These include supporting arts and cultural endeavors; providing a national Gold Medal Award-winning parks system and recreation facilities; promoting public health initiatives and strong neighborhoods; and addressing tough societal issues such as race relations, poverty and food security.

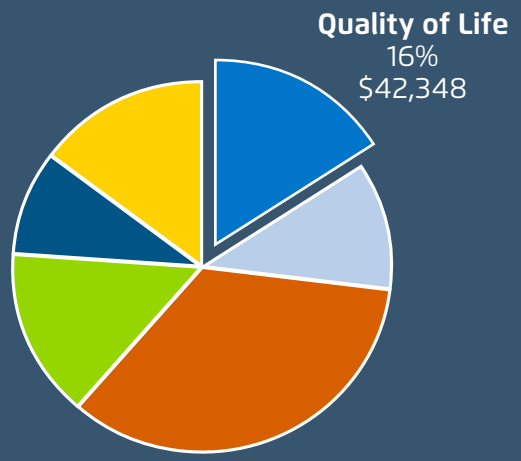
The Greater Springfield Race & Faith Collaborative is working to create city-wide conversations on diversity. Participants in the group represent a variety of faith and community organizations.

The Unity March to the Square and celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in August was just the beginning of a year-long roster of activities aimed at focusing on civil rights.

Watch a video about the event.

How the City Spent its Money

All Funds $265,287
(in thousands)



Quality of Life includes funding for community initiatives such as arts and culture, parks and recreation, public health, and neighborhoods and housing.

More than **1,000** gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech. The Springfield-Greene County Park Board includes **102 sites** ranging from neighborhood playgrounds to multi-use recreational facilities and more than **100 recreational trails. Nine** Springfield neighborhoods achieved **Great Neighborhood** status in 2013.

A CULTURE OF ART

Springfield Art Museum Director Nick Nelson (standing), staff members Kate Baird (red square), Sara Buhr (green square), Tyra Knox (beanbag) and Assistant Director Merritt Giles (yellow square) are determined to make art fun, accessible and educational for all Springfieldians.

Nelson, who joined the museum in July 2012, has led efforts to revamp programming at the museum to include a variety of audiences. He also worked with Public Works Assistant Director Jonathan Gano to plan a Sculpture Walk (opposite page).

"The Springfield Art Museum is an extraordinary museum with an incredible collection, a fantastic facility, and a wonderful board and staff," Nelson said. "There is an obvious appreciation for the arts and their potential to create a better community in Springfield. As a significant cultural resource, the art museum has an important role in the community."

View an interview with Nick Nelson.

A Couple Reunited

"We hope the museum's art collection can serve as a point of civic pride."

Springfield Art Museum Director Nick Nelson

In July, the Springfield Art Museum reunited a husband-and-wife pair of portraits – L.A.D. and Fanny Crenshaw – by artist George Caleb Bingham after a century-long separation. Now, the museum wants to permanently reunite the couple via a crowdfunding campaign to purchase the portrait of L.A.D., which is currently on loan to the museum from Rachael Cozad Fine Art in Kansas City. Both portraits are hanging side-by-side in the "Creating an American Identity" exhibition.

The museum raised more than $30,000 toward the $45,000 purchase price and partnered with CauseMomentum.org, a crowd funding platform developed by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks to raise the remaining $15,000.

"The crowdfunding model seemed perfect for this acquisition," Museum Director Nick Nelson said. "The museum's art collection is the community's art collection. We hope that this campaign will not only provide funding to get the painting, but will provide everyone participating with a sense of ownership of the museum's collection."

Glendale music students perform at a September luncheon featuring keynote speaker Barbara Shepherd, the director of national partnerships for Any Given Child, based at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Springfield was the second city in the country to be chosen as an Any Given Child Community.

View a video about Any Given Child.

MORE ARTS & CULTURE SUCCESSES:

ideaXfactory

The ideaXFactory, a City-owned building leased by the Springfield Regional Arts Council for temporary art installations, has gained national attention as a recipient of a **$200,000 ArtPlace grant.** At left, City Manager Greg Burris plays guitar in front of Russ RuBert's Harmonic Wall at ideaXFactory during a First Friday ArtWalk.

Stormdrain Reveal

In 2013, for the third year in a row, James River Basin Partnership (JRBP) and the City of Springfield partnered on a public art project to raise awareness about water quality and the impact of stormwater pollution.

Sculpture Walk

The first pieces of art in Springfield's new Sculpture Walk program debuted at Jubilee Park (at the intersection of North Jefferson and St. Louis) in November. All works are for sale through the Springfield Regional Arts Council.

A CENTURY OF PARKS

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board celebrated a century of parks at the Park Board's 100th Birthday Bash in May at Phelps Grove Park.

The 1913-themed event featured live music from the New Creole Jazz Band, free carnival midway games, food and drink at 1913 prices, a birthday cake, parks history, croquet, badminton, horseshoes, maypole dancing and the sealing of the Centennial Time Capsule.

"The Park Board has enhanced our community's quality of life for longer than any of us can remember," said Bob Belote, director of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. "We invited the whole community to help celebrate our 100th birthday in the park, enjoying old-fashioned games and music and 10-cent cheeseburgers."

View a video about the anniversary celebration.

BIG additions to the Parks family

The Park Board in January opened the $5.2 million Dan Kinney Family Center at 2701 S. Blackman Road. Named for longtime former Springfield-Greene County Park Board Director Dan Kinney (at right), the facility is the Park Board's third family center. The two-level 35,279-square-foot facility includes a full-size gymnasium, indoor 1/16-mile walking/running track, fitness center and weight room, aerobics room, game room, childcare, community room and locker rooms.

View a video about the Dan Kinney Family Center.

35,279
Square Feet

The $3.358 million aquatics addition to the Doling Family Center opened in February. The 13,778-square-foot addition features three pools: a 25-meter three-lane lap pool; a zero depth entry recreation/therapeutic pool with a water slide, aqua arch sprays, pools and falls play feature, water umbrella, basketball goal, a whirlpool spa and changing rooms.

View a video about the Doling Aquatics Center.

13,778
Square Feet

Horse Tales

Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center partnered with the Walmart Foundation and area schools to promote literacy and horsemanship. The Horse Tales Literacy Program has introduced tens of thousands of young readers to the world of horses through books by Walter Farley, author of the classic children's book, "The Black Stallion." Each student involved in the program is given their own copy of "Little Black, A Pony," a cliff-hanger picture book by Farley, which they read in their classroom. Equestrian center staff visit students in the classroom to discuss horses, ponies, horse safety and the importance of reading. Afterward, students go outside and meet a real live "Little Black" pony. A few weeks later, the class takes a field trip to the Equestrian Center to read portions of their books aloud to "Little Black" and other horses.

Scan to watch a video about Horse Tales.

FOCUSING ON HEALTH

The City, through the Springfield Greene-County Health Department, partnered with the Healthy Living Alliance on a number of initiatives in 2013, starting with First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign to end childhood obesity in the United States. Springfield has earned four bronze medals for supporting healthy lifestyle choices in the community. The HLA, based out of the downtown YMCA, is a network of more than 30 organizations working to make Springfield a healthy place to live, work, and play. Projects range from healthy eating initiatives such as school cafeteria salad bars to neighborhood engagement in sidewalk and bike route development. Pictured above, the HLA, in partnership with the YMCA and Urban Districts Alliance, offered free 40-minute yoga classes on Park Central Square during the summer months.

View a video about Yoga on the Square.

Sharing nature's miracles

"Breast milk is nature's miracle pill. I wanted to give other babies the opportunity to benefit from it rather than let it go to waste."

Erin Matthews
Milk donor

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department partnered with the Greater Ozarks Regional Breastfeeding Coalition to open the Greater Ozarks Regional Mother's Milk Depot at the Health Department's WIC office. Once a breastfeeding mother has completed the necessary health screenings and is approved to donate milk, she can bring her milk to the depot. Milk collected locally is shipped to the Heart of America Mothers' Milk Bank in Kansas City (one of 13 human milk banks in North America) for processing, pasteurization and distribution to infants in need in hospital neonatal intensive care units across the U.S.

Nixa mother and high school Spanish teacher Erin Matthews (above) is pleased to be able to donate the breast milk she pumps while at work to maintain her supply for daughter Pfiefer, 14 months.

"Breast milk is nature's miracle pill," she says. "I wanted to give other babies the opportunity to benefit from it rather than let it go to waste."

Helping those most vulnerable

City Manager Greg Burris didn't wait for more potential federal cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP - formerly known as food stamps) before starting a local discussion on how Springfield and Greene County will continue to support "our most vulnerable citizens." During a November "Food Summit," area food pantries reported on whether their current level of food support is sustainable. Representatives from the food pantries and food bank reported that we are vulnerable to food insecurity.

2,480 RESCUED

The Springfield Animal Shelter, a division of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, and its rescue partners reached a milestone in 2013: two full years of getting every adoptable dog out of the shelter and into "forever" homes.

The Animal Issues Task Force, established by Springfield City Council to address the increasing animal-related issues facing our community, presented recommendations to Council in September for improving animal control and animal welfare activities in Springfield. Among their recommendations were a new shelter with on-site adoption, pet licensure, a fund-raising and advocacy arm and community education. All stakeholders agreed that continuing a strong partnership with rescue groups is essential.

BUILDING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Bob and Tina Caldwell (pictured above with daughter Katie) have spent a lifetime helping others. The couple made their way to Springfield in 2001 after 30 years of serving in Assemblies of God ministries all over the U.S.

"We owned a home in New Mexico when we were first married," Bob says. "Over the years, through different employment situations and moving around, we haven't been able to own one since. Even now, while we are able to make payments, we really would not have been able to come up with the down payment for a home."

With help from the Springfield Community Land Trust, the Caldwells closed on their brand-new home at 846 S. New in April.

The program, a partnership between the City and Community Partnership of the Ozarks, allows qualified buyers to purchase homes at rates much lower than most pay in rent. While buyers own the home, the land beneath their home belongs to the land trust and the homeowner holds rights to the land by paying a small fee through a leasehold agreement. To learn more, visit springfieldclt.org.

View a video about the Springfield Community Land Trust.

Great Neighborhoods

City of Springfield

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS

View a video about Great Neighborhoods.

Great Neighborhoods is the City of Springfield's program for working with residents and businesses to create and maintain our neighborhoods. The City recognizes that Great Neighborhoods only occur where there is a collaborative process between neighborhood residents and businesses, the City, and the rest of the community.

"We build our neighborhoods, and our neighborhoods build us. Our neighborhoods can have a significant impact on our lives," says Senior City Planner Randall Whitman.

"Neighborhoods that contribute to our well-being can only be achieved when neighborhood residents and businesses take the lead with the assistance of the City and the rest of the community."

Bissett, Bradford Park, Grant Beach, Robberson, Tom Watkins, Weller, West Central, Westside & Woodland Heights –

These nine neighborhood associations achieved Great Neighborhoods status in 2013. Grant checks were presented to neighborhood associations in December.

Opening new doors

Located at 300 E. Central in City Government Plaza, the Springfield Affordable Housing Center is a one-stop shop for affordable housing and homeless prevention services. The center offers the community direct access to key housing service providers including, the Springfield Community Land Trust, One Door, the Housing Authority, Veterans' Administration, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri and more. Each of these agencies provides important steps and services in the continuum of care for people seeking stability and affordable housing solutions.

A night out with neighbors

Springfield Police Chief Paul Williams hopes to send a message to criminals: "Neighborhoods are organized and fighting back." National Night Out is a free summer event and the result of collaboration between Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Springfield-Greene County Park Board and the City of Springfield and brings together law enforcement, as well as agencies and organizations that promote health and safety.

Transportation

Whether by plane, car, bus, bicycle or their own two feet, Springfieldians were able to move around the city – and the nation – safely and efficiently in 2013.

The Springfield-Branson National Airport – an economic engine for the city – offers service to 10 cities around the nation.

The City's accredited Public Works department operates and maintains 135 traffic control signals, repairs over 37,000 traffic signs, stripes nearly 600 lane-miles of streets and coordinates snow removal on 675 lane-miles of high-priority emergency routes each year.

The Healthy Living Alliance, through its Walkable Neighborhood Project, worked to make Springfield a more pedestrian-friendly city. Downtown Springfield is emerging as a walkable community with urban living close to shopping, work and transit.

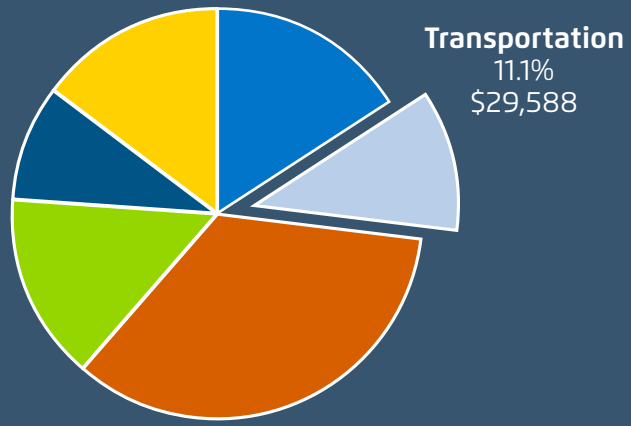
Via The Link and Ozark Greenways, Springfieldians now have more options than ever when it comes to getting around town on two wheels rather than four.

Commuters using City Utilities buses have access to a variety of routes around the city 365 days a year. The system offers both fixed day routes and evening routes, encompassing over 172 miles.

Formed in 1991, Ozark Greenways is excited to see such popular support for the increase of alternative transportation options in Springfield. Its goal is to show people that leaving their car behind once in a while (or even on a regular basis) isn't as hard as one might think in a community like Springfield, where a network of greenway trails and on-street bike routes connects people and places.

How the City Spent its Money

All Funds $265,287
(in thousands)



Transportation includes funding for the Public Works department and projects,City-owned parking garages, and roads and bridges maintenance.

In November, voters approved the renewal of the ¼-cent Capital Improvement Tax by a margin of 74%-26%.

In the three years of the tax, over **50 miles of new sidewalks** were laid, more than **100 miles of sidewalks** were repaired, **25 miles of bike lanes** were created, and over **2,000 new trees** were planted to enhance our urban canopy.

THE LINK

Advocates for a more people-powered transportation infrastructure in Springfield had a lot to celebrate in 2013. The LINK is a planned, accessible north-south pedestrian and bicycle route along low-volume, slow-speed streets through Springfield's core, that will eventually connect existing and planned greenways, bike routes, neighborhoods and activity centers from Doling Park to the Medical Mile.

The ultimate goal is to develop a system of shared-use routes that creates an experience of comfort and safety, similar to that of walking or riding on a greenway trail.

The LINK, like the Ozarks Greenways trail system, will take a number of years to complete. When complete, The LINK will triple the number of bike lane miles in the City.

Talmage Trail is the newest section of The LINK and is an eight-mile north-south bicycle and walking route connecting Doling Park with Cox South with a combination of on-street bike lanes, paths and off-street trails. Funding comes from the 1/4-cent sales tax for capital improvements.

Citizens Renew 1/4-cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax

In April, Springfield voters renewed the City's 1/4-cent cent capital improvements sales tax for the eighth consecutive time since it was first implemented in 1989. The tax is projected to generate about $25.5 million over three years. The tax funds intersection upgrades, major street paving, additional trees, stormwater projects and new sidewalks, among other projects. The tax comes up for renewal every three years. Close to 75 percent of voters (9,438 yes and 3,331 no) supported the renewal.

Danger Rangers teach kids how to be safe

In an effort to promote traffic safety to children, the Public Works - Traffic Operations staff members brought a four-week pedestrian and bicycle safety education program to four Springfield elementary schools in October.

In 2009, the City secured $24,779 for educational programming through a federal Safe Routes to School grant and has partnered with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Safe Kids Springfield, the Healthy Living Alliance, Safety Council of the Ozarks, the Parent-Teacher Association, and others to bring active and fun safety lessons to Springfield schools.

The program utilizes educational materials from Mighty Kids Media, who specialize in empowering children to lead healthy, safe and responsible lives. The "Danger Ranger" cartoon series of DVDs, books and songs playfully teaches children how to be safe and how to make good choices.

Westport, Cowden, Pittman and Bowerman students received a visit from traffic engineers and "Danger Rangers" characters Sully and Kitty; participated in special school assemblies and a walk-to-school event; and learned safety lessons over a four-week time period.

A regional economic engine

According to a study released in November by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), the annual total economic impact of the Springfield airport is $402,017,000.

Put another way, the airport's economic clout accounts for 2.48 percent of the Springfield metro's total economic impact.

The Springfield airport's total economic impact numbers are impressive by themselves: 4,454 total jobs, with a payroll of $154,280,000. Total economic impact: $402,017,000.

"The Springfield airport is, in a very real sense, an economic hub," says Director Brian Weiler. "The list of companies doing business here is long. It includes airlines, restaurants, gift stores, air cargo companies, corporations that own their own planes, plus City and federal employees."

The biggest economic generators at the airport are the online travel company Expedia and the Missouri National Guard's aviation repair depot. The Guard employs approximately 358 people at the airport. Expedia has nearly 1,000 employees at its airport offices located in the retired airport terminal building.

Besides being an economic powerhouse, the Springfield airport provides the region with access to the world economy. In the last five years, the number of international round trips at the airport has increased 25 percent.

$402 M
Economic impact

25% **Increase of international trips within the last five years.**

ICE
FIELD
MO

Public Safety

Protecting Springfield's residents, schools, businesses and visitors continues to be a top priority for the City. In 2013, several significant challenges and positive enhancements affected our public safety departments, while the men and women who answer our calls for help continued to do their work 24/7 to keep Springfield safe.

The Springfield Police Department (SPD) offers a variety of programs and services that engage citizens in public safety initiatives:

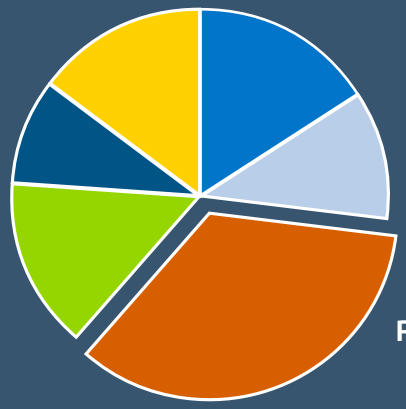
- Police Area Representative (PAR) officers;
- Crime prevention;
  - Neighborhood Watch
  - Apartment Watch
  - Business Watch
  - Night Watch
  - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED);
- Targeted awareness campaigns;
- Crime Stoppers;
- Citizens' Police Academy;
- Coffee with the Chief;
- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS).

Springfield Police Officer Dak Henning, with 3-year-old Jaden Hanson of Bolivar.

Photo courtesy of Valerie Mosley, Springfield News-Leader.

How the City Spent its Money

All Funds $265,287
(in thousands)



Public Safety
34.3%
$91,067

Public Safety includes the Springfield Police Department, Springfield Fire Department, Springfield-Greene County 911 Emergency Communications and Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management.

Citizen requests for service from the Police Department totaled **155,714** in 2013. The Fire Department reported an **18% decline in total fires** in 2013. 911 Emergency Communications **logged 474,962 calls** last year. The Office of Emergency Management hosted **20 trainings**, completed **24 vulnerability assessments** and graduated **62 Community Emergency Reponse Team (CERT)** volunteers.

HELP, NOT JAIL

The Springfield Police Department (SPD) and Greene County Sheriff's Office (GSO) have a name for the people who regularly find themselves in trouble with the law for non-violent, nuisance-type offenses. Called "frequent flyers," they're the folks shouting from a park bench, sleeping on Park Central Square or climbing trees at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds. Many are mentally ill, have substance-abuse problems or both.

In 2012, Police Chief Paul Williams proposed that local law-enforcement agencies partner to help these non-violent offenders using funds the Sheriff's Office received from a 2011 U.S. Department of Justice grant.

The goal of the program – called the Justice Mental Health Collaboration – is to get mentally ill substance abusers the help they need and stop cycling them through the courts and the Greene County Jail.

Samantha Nelson, 45, (pictured left) was living in her car last summer and was so delusional from bipolar disorder and substance abuse that she heard voices and would climb trees at the fairgrounds. She was arrested several times for trespassing.

When Greene County Jail's mental health coordinator asked if she'd be willing to try the program, Nelson says she knew it might be her last chance to get help.

"I've been clean for five months now, and I'm so happy and proud of how far I've come," Nelson says. To date, the Justice Mental Health Collaboration has helped around 250 people in Springfield and Greene County.

Battling violence with awareness and support

Watch the public service announcement.

With a significant increase in aggravated assaults recognized in the fall of 2012, the Springfield Police Department (SPD) decided to take a deeper look into the incidents being reported. Their research found that domestic assaults were driving overall assault numbers, with 70 percent of all aggravated assaults in Springfield being domestic in nature.

At the end of 2012, the SPD logged 2,476 domestic violence incidents for the year, averaging over six incidents per day. The total amount of incidents had increased from 2,207 in 2011.

Representatives from SPD met with the Greene County Prosecutor's Office to develop a better approach to addressing domestic assault investigations and prosecutions. One component was the development of the Family Violence Task Force, which includes representation from the SPD, the Greene County Prosecutor's Office, the City of Springfield, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, The Victim Center, Harmony House and other local organizations. The task force's first goal was a community-wide education effort about domestic violence.

"Domestic violence not only affects the victim, it affects the lives of those around them at home, at work, at school and the overall quality of life in the community," said Springfield Police Chief Paul Williams.

For more information, visit sgfsafe.com.

Police release quarterly public safety reports

In any community, crime is only one aspect of public safety. Rarely can police or city officials solve public safety problems alone.

In Springfield, public safety agencies work together to address a variety of problems that affect community safety and order.

The Springfield Police Department's Community Policing philosophy serves as a guide for daily operations and functions. It is a philosophy based upon a partnership between the police and the community, in which the police and the community work together.

"To increase awareness about public safety issues in our community, the Springfield Police Department presents the Quarterly Public Safety Report. In addition to providing crime statistics, we include information on programs and services that exist to address important safety issues, including crime. We also hope to inspire citizens to become a part of the solution to make Springfield an even safer place to live, work and play," says Police Chief Paul Williams.

By working together, the police and the community can reduce the fear and incidence of crime, and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods city-wide. By working together, we can mobilize the efforts and resources of the police, the community and local government.

REACHING OUT

Springfield saw a significant improvement in the number of total fires, house fires and fire fatalities in 2013. There were two fire fatalities in 2013, compared to six in 2012. The total number of fires fell nearly 18 percent – from 1,061 in 2012 to 865 in 2013. The number of residential structure fires fell from 511 to 424. Careless smoking continues to be a cause of many home and apartment fires. It remains the **No. 1 cause** of fire fatalities in Springfield and is to blame for nearly 30 percent of all residential fires. **The percent of fires caused by careless smoking in Springfield is 15 times the national average.** The Springfield Fire Department will continue to educate residents about this very serious issue, by reminding smokers to dispose of their cigarettes in a deep, sturdy ash tray.

View a video about careless smoking.

424 Number of residential structure fires in 2013

18% Decrease in fires compared to 2012

Percent of fires caused by careless smoking is

15 times the national average

Springfield Fire Department Captain Jeff Prior, with Colton Williams, 3, of Springfield.

Photo courtesy of Valerie Mosley, Springfield News-Leader.

Fire Department reaches out to educate about fire safety

Fire prevention is the Springfield Fire Department's No. 1 goal. "We would much rather citizens never experience a fire than need to call us to put one out," says Fire Chief David Hall.

In 2013, the Springfield Fire Department joined several other area fire departments to form the Southwest Missouri Youth Fire Intervention Coalition in an effort to curb youth fire setting. During Fire Prevention Week in October, the fire department and employees from Battery Outfitters canvassed neighborhoods offering to replace smoke alarm batteries.

The department also launched an educational campaign about careless smoking, which included "Watch Your Butt," a humorous public service announcement (QR code at left). Over the last three years, Springfield fire crews responded to more than 150 apartment fires. Of those, **67 percent** were ruled as an accidental cause with more than half caused by careless smoking. In November, the Springfield Fire Department distributed fire safety information to residents of 70 apartment complexes.

Program aims to make Springfield safest city for heart attack survival

Through a new initiative, called "Springfield LifeSave," the City has reached its goal of training and certifying 100 percent of its employees in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) administration.

"We want to make Springfield safer for those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, which is the leading cause of death in Greene County, and is preventable through the prompt action of bystander CPR and early defibrillation," says Fire Chief David Hall.

The City set a goal of having 50 percent of its employees trained by the end of 2012 and the remaining 50 percent trained during 2013.

"We have employees located throughout the community every day of the year. Giving them the knowledge to know what to do when faced with an emergency is something we felt was important," said City Manager Greg Burris. "Obviously, our employees felt strongly about this as well, because this training was voluntary."

Changing Shades

Four new red fire trucks were added to the SFD fleet in 2013, switching back to the traditional color from the yellow engines of the last 20-plus years.

RAPID RESPONSE

Springfield's 911 Emergency Communications department logged 474,962 calls in 2013. Of those, 77 percent were calls from mobile devices.

After years of preparation, the Springfield and Republic 911 dispatch centers merged in October.

With 70 employees, the 911 Emergency Communications department provides dispatch for seven municipal police departments, 13 fire departments and the Greene County Sheriff's Office.

474,962
Calls logged in 2013

911 Emergency Communications
SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY

Making a Connection

The 7 a.m. shift one Wednesday in January 2013 began like most at the 911 dispatch center in the middle of an Ozarks winter – calm and essentially uneventful.

Three minutes into the shift, everything changed.

Seven-year-old Kailee Mangan called 911 from a cell phone. She, her 5-year-old brother Wyatt and her mom's boyfriend had been in a car accident. Kailee and her brother were both injured and terrified. She was afraid her mom's boyfriend was seriously hurt or dead (he was unconscious) and she didn't know their location.

Telecommunicator Stacey Blair (pictured above with Kailee and her family), a six-year 911 veteran and mother of three, took Kailee's call that morning.

Watch the video.

"She hesitated, and then replied, 'I love you too, honey.' Stacey disconnected, put her face in her hands and cried."

Blair's training and experience immediately kicked in. She located the scene of the accident, requested emergency medical response and kept Kailee talking. Blair reassured Kailee that help was on its way.

With Blair's help, Kailee remained calm and provided useful information about the accident and injuries until help arrived. Within seven minutes, firefighters were administering CPR and removing Kailee and her family from the vehicle.
Once Blair knew that Kailee would be OK, she began concluding the call so Kailee could receive medical attention. Kailee then took the seasoned 911 telecommunicator by surprise when she told her she loved her.

"Stacey hesitated, and then replied, 'I love you too, honey.' Stacey disconnected, put her face in her hands and cried," said Blair's co-worker, Daphne Dauzat.

Emergencies in real time

In 2013, Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management conducted two major exercises to test the functionality of the Springfield-Greene County Public Safety Center's Emergency Operations Center (PSC), located at 330 W. Scott.

Watch a video about the Public Safety Center

The "Twisted Twister" exercise was held in April and offered real-time disaster management training to 88 professionals from 40 agencies. The three-story, 56,000 square-foot PSC building is built to withstand an EF-5 tornado (the size and strength of the 2011 Joplin tornado) and utility interruptions, providing secure workspace for emergency responders and state-of-the-art emergency communications technology used during disaster events.

In November, the agency hosted a winter storm exercise involving 22 jurisdictions and 47 professionals from the 18-county service area. The PSC was a busy facility in 2013. The facility hosted a total of 7,582 people in meetings or training sessions throughout the year.

Environment

A large portion of our local quality of life and economy relies on our environmental stewardship. The City is very proud of our community's track record of environmental compliance and recognizes we must protect our environmental resources for future generations. The City's Sustainability Office offers educational and outreach programs about a variety of topics, including recycling for homes and businesses, air quality, composting and vermicomposting. Springfield has been held up as a "model community" by both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)

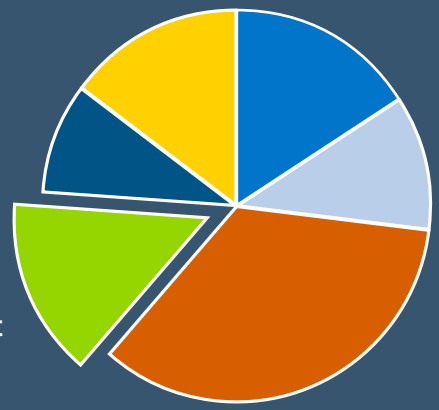
The City, Greene County and City Utilities continued building an integrated plan framework that would allow a more holistic approach to the various unfunded environmental mandates that all communities are facing – wastewater, stormwater, drinking water, air quality and solid waste. The plan also takes into account community affordability in a new, and in our opinion, more equitable way than state and federal regulators currently propose. The City proposed this integrated plan framework to both EPA and Missouri DNR. If crafted successfully, the framework could become a national model.

In May, the City's Environmental Services department hosted a community meeting to discuss the feasibility of a $2 million-$2.5 million 30,000-square-foot community greenhouse operation, powered by renewable energy generated by the Noble Hill Renewable Energy Project of the Springfield Sanitary Landfill.

Watch a video about the project.

How the City Spent its Money

All Funds $265,287
(in thousands)



Environment includes funding for cleanwater (sewer), stormwater, solid waste (landfill) and recycling services.

Public Works and Environmental Services earned national accreditation by the American Public Works Association, **an honor bestowed on less than 1% of cities nationwide.** In 2013, City-operated recycling centers collected **3,624 tons of materials.**

A WAY WITH WATER

The City of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board dedicated the new Doling Lake and Waterway Improvements in June at Doling Park, 301 E. Talmage.

The project included dredging of sediment from the lake, repair and stabilization of eroded lake banks, installation of a 1,214-foot paved walking trail around the lake, repair and upgrade of the lake spillway and stabilization of the stream channel, installation of a wetland and rain garden, improved pedestrian access to Giboney Cave and beautification of the area.

The improvements successfully improved access and water quality at Doling Lake, which was badly eroded and had been full of sediment and algae before the project took place.

The $1.6 million project was funded by the voter-approved county-wide 2006 Parks Sales Tax, which sunset June 30, 2012; as well as $20,000 from the Springfield-Greene County Urban Watershed Stewardship Project (Big Urbie) EPA Section 319 Water Quality grant. The City is one of several partners on the Big Urbie grant with Watershed Committee of the Ozarks to implement stormwater practices that protect water quality.

Doling Lake and Waterway is the fourth of six cooperative projects between Springfield Public Works and the Park Board designed to improve water quality and access to lakes, streams and waterways in public parks. Waterway improvements at Sequiota Park, Fassnight Park and Dickerson Park Zoo are complete. Improvements are in progress for Nathanael Greene/ Close Memorial Park and the Ward Branch Greenway.

1,214 feet
of paved walking trail surrounds Doling Lake

6
cooperative water projects between Public Works and the Park Board.

Working to keep rainwater out of 20 miles of sewer pipe

After more than a year of work, a pilot program aimed at finding the most cost-effective way to keep rainwater out of Springfield's sewer system yielded positive results.

Removing rainwater from the sewer system is part of the City's EPA-mandated $50 million Early Action Program to reduce overflows and improve water quality. Much of the excess water comes from downspouts, sump pumps and area drains improperly connected to the sanitary sewer.

The results of the pilot program have been promising. The amount of rainwater passing through pipes down the line from the targeted areas has been reduced by 33 percent or more, said Environmental Services Director Steve Meyer. Complete results will help officials decide the best course of action to take citywide.

Watch a video about the project.

The City targeted five areas in north and central Springfield for the first phase of the pilot project.

"We basically said, 'Where are the leakiest sewers?'" Meyer said, noting that the target areas included some of the oldest sections of the clay pipe sewer in the city.

The program involved two steps for property owners: evaluation and repairs. All property owners were contacted to schedule a plumbing evaluation to identify any improper connections to the sewer system. Problems were found at about a quarter of the 1,500 homes and businesses tested, Meyer said. Nearly all of the owners contacted agreed to allow repairs, which were paid for with City funds.

All told, the City spent about $2 million on the repairs, which ranged from $400 to cap an open clean-out to more than $3,000 to disconnect an improper drain.

At the same time, the City spent almost $9 million repairing public sewer infrastructure. That work included the repair of more than 1,000 lateral connections, 88 manholes and about 20 miles of aging sewer pipe.

1,000
lateral connections

88
manholes

20 miles
of sewer pipe

Public Works, Environmental Services departments accredited

Public Works and Environmental Services achieved accreditation from the American Public Works Association (APWA) in June. The APWA accreditation program recognizes governmental agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally in the public works industry.

The APWA accreditation indicates that Public Works and Environmental Services staff are dedicated to concepts of continuous improvement and in-depth self-assessment of department policies, procedures and practices.

"We are now one of 85 public works agencies in the United States and Canada and four in Missouri that have this accreditation," said Public Works Director Phil Broyles, in a staff memo. **"Fewer than 1 percent of all agencies qualify for this accreditation."**

Petey's Pal
Petey's Pal
Petey's Pal
Petey's Pal
Parks &
Sister Cities
The PARK
• Maintain our Parks and trails
• Establish a relationship with Isesaki, Japan and Tlaquepaque, Mexico

Citizen Engagement

Civic engagement has been defined as "individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern."

Civic engagement can also be summarized as a citizenry working together to make a difference in the civil life of a community and developing the combination of skills, knowledge, values, and motivation in order to make that difference. An engaged citizenry builds community and improves quality of life through both political and non-political processes.

Civic engagement can take many forms – from attending a City-sponsored event to volunteering on a task force to organizing a Neighborhood Watch to voting in an upcoming local election.

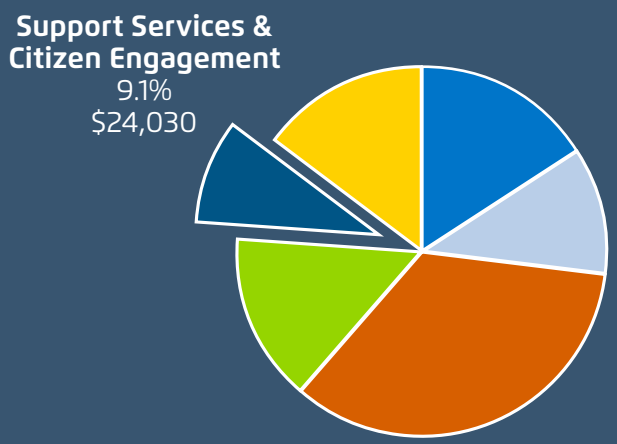
Springfieldians volunteered their time on a variety of citizen task forces in 2013, focusing on topics that ranged from sexual orientation and gender identity to animal control. After examining the topics closely over the course of many months, the task forces then made recommendations for important action items to City Council and the City Manager's office.

In October, the City and Springfield Public Schools hosted the 24th annual "Treasures of the City" event. Designed to complement third-grade students' social studies curriculum, "Treasures of the City" brings concepts discussed in the classroom to life as students and their parents interact with elected officials and government employees.

Watch a video about "Treasures of the City."

How the City Spent its Money

All Funds $265,287
(in thousands)



Support Services include funding for City departments such as the City Clerk, the Mayor and City Council, City Manager, Finance, City Attorney, Human Resources and Information Systems and expenditures for municipal buildings, the City's print shop, workers' compensation, employee development and employee wellness programs. Citizen Engagement includes activities of the Public Information Office.

114 citizens served on **6 citizen task forces** in 2013. The City's social media presence saw a tremendous increase in both followers and interactions during 2013. At year's end, there were **3,704 Facebook "Likes"** and nearly **6,000 Twitter followers**.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Southern Hills residents gathered in October to find out what they could do to make their neighborhood safer.

Cathy Fredrick (pictured left) contacted Craig Fishel, Zone 4 City Councilman, to share her concerns about crime after her home was broken into. Fishel worked with Police Chief Paul Williams to organize an initial public meeting to discuss crime prevention and specific incidents in Southern Hills.

More than 100 residents attended the interactive session, held at Glendale High School.

Nearly 80 residents signed up to participate in a December Neighborhood Watch training session.

"The Springfield Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program has been a tremendous success within the Springfield community and has made a significant difference with the participating Neighborhood Watch groups," explains crime prevention officer Dave Snider.

Neighborhood Watch training sessions are provided to the citizens of Springfield free of charge. Those interested can contact the police department's Crime Prevention Unit at 417-874-2113, or at springfieldmo.gov/spd.

Watch a video about Neighborhood Watch.

What's ahead, Springfield?

Community leaders move Field Guide 2030 strategic plan forward

For more than two years, community and business representatives, led by the Field Guide Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee drafted a set of community strategic goals for the next 20 years. This collective vision is detailed in Field Guide 2030. The guide contains 13 chapters with four unifying themes – sustainability, civic engagement, regionalism and minimizing poverty – that address the most pressing issues in our community at this time.

The process included a listening tour of 45 meetings to collect citizen input, evaluation of five community assessments, consideration of other organizational strategic plans and input from all segments in our community, including regional counterparts, City Council and the Greene County Commission. A Horizon Scanning Committee comprised of citizens and City and County staff identified "mega-trends" will likely affect our community over the next 20 years, and their report was provided to each planning committee.

Watch a video about Field Guide 2030.

"This is not a typical City strategic plan, focusing on bricks and mortar. It is a community strategic plan that addresses a wide variety of issues some cities might shrink away from," says City Manager Greg Burris. "It's a plan that may make many people uncomfortable since it takes our community's issues head-on. Hundreds of citizens who are passionate about these issues spent hundreds of hours analyzing information and trends to put this plan together. Some of the action items have already been completed and yet others are in progress. As a community, we will revisit this plan and these goals every five years."

Visit fieldguide2030.com

Top row, from left: Dave Catlin, Sharon Atwell, Bob Lewis, William St. Gemme, Sheryl Watchter. **Bottom row, from left:** Kirk Elmquist, Ethyl Campnell, Sue Pignon, Raechel Gramm and Colene Hauck.

Gift of Time luncheon honors volunteers

Ten "volunteers of the year" were honored in June at the 23rd annual Gift of Time Awards Luncheon, a joint project of the City and the Council of Churches of the Ozarks. The honorees were chosen from a total of 46 nominees by a panel of five judges.

Their portraits are displayed on the Rosanna Bradshaw Memorial Wall of Fame in the Busch Municipal Building. Bradshaw was a community volunteer for many years and helped to create the Gift of Time program in 1991.

The City has been recognizing volunteers through Gift of Time for

23 years

Campbell

Jobs & Economic Growth

Springfield ranked as the eighth-best city for cost of doing business by Forbes in a listing released in August. This ranking contributed to Springfield landing in the top 100 of Forbes' list of Best Places for Business and Careers. Forbes looked at the 200 largest metropolitan statistical areas in the U.S. and considered 12 metrics relating to job growth, costs of doing business and living, income growth over the past five years, education attainment and projected economic growth through 2014.

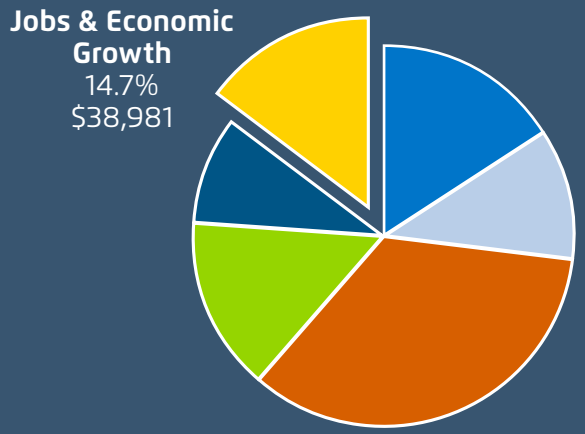
The Springfield metro workforce has grown more than 8.5 percent over the last four years, while the unemployment rate is holding steady at less than 5 percent, well below the national average. Manufacturers are expanding and posting job growth of 13 percent since the low point of the recession. Springfield's three health care systems are expanding, with construction projects totaling more than $375 million.

Missouri State University's Brick City (above) and Jordan Valley Innovation Center (right).

Opposite page photo courtesy of Colby Moore.

How the City Spent its Money

All Funds $265,287
(in thousands)



Jobs & Economic Growth includes funding for the Planning & Development, Building Development and Workforce Development departments, community development grants and small-business loans.

An analysis conducted by Joel Kotkin, a growth analyst and acclaimed writer for The New Geography, lists Springfield as the **13th Best City for Job Growth** among mid-sized cities in the United States, and 1 of only 2 Missouri cities ranked within the top 100 of all cities.

Jobs for People... People for Jobs

Through its new Missouri Career Center-Ozarks Region location at 2900 E. Sunshine, the City's Department of Workforce Development offers a variety of services – all of which are free – for dislocated workers, job hunters and employers in Polk, Dallas, Greene, Webster, Christian, Stone and Taney counties.

The center assists workers as they transition to new jobs and is responsible for ensuring that participants meet basic eligibility requirements, such as completing a two-week job readiness workshop. Workers seeking help from the Missouri Career Center are assigned a career counselor who monitors their progress and helps them work through barriers to complete their training.

"We are here for one reason: to connect people with jobs," says Director Mary Ann Rojas (pictured above with staff).

Services for businesses include helping them find skilled workers, seminars, lowering tax liability, insurance protection and labor compliance. Youth services (those ages 14-21) include career counseling, GED preparation, occupational and leadership skills education, and job-readiness activities.

"Our programs strive to empower Ozarks residents to secure and maintain gainful employment, benefiting not only themselves but our community as a whole," Rojas says.

Watch a video about Mary Ann Rojas.

City launches Collaborative Community Development philosophy, e-plans

Collaborative Community Development (CCD) is the City's philosophy for encouraging private development in Springfield. By working collaboratively, City departments and private developers achieve high-quality and timely construction projects.

Kum & Go CEO Kyle Krause complimented the City on how far it has come to streamline development processes.

"When Kum & Go first started building new in Springfield a few years ago, it was one of the more difficult markets ... it's now much better. The pre-app process, GIS and the fact that City staff comes to the table organized and ready to resolve issues have made a huge difference," Krause said.

One component of making Springfield a development-friendly city was the launch of the first end-to-end electronic plan services initiative in the state, using Avolve Software's ProjectDox.®

E-plans benefit the community by offering streamlined plan review and permit approval processes; reduced administrative processing, printing and travel times; and improved communication with developers, contractors, design professionals and project stakeholders.

The City, in concert with City Utilities (CU), integrates its e-plans technology with existing permitting and document archival systems. This reduces redundant data entry and enables network and wireless data distribution to multiple City and CU departments.

Building a strong community through private investment and job creation

The City of Springfield seeks to be a community that welcomes new business investment and supports the businesses that have chosen the City as their home. A vibrant business community improves the quality of life for all residents.

Quality of life and economic development are interdependent goals. Private investment and job creation can build a stronger community. Community improvement leads to maintaining a vibrant community that will keep existing businesses and attract new ones.

Economic development incentives, if used carefully, can help maintain and build employment opportunities and the property tax base the City needs to be strong.

Incentive categories include:

- **Special taxing districts** - Typical taxing districts include Community Improvement Districts (CID) and Transportation Development Districts (TDD).
- **Property tax abatement**
- **Redirection of the incremental increase in taxes**
- **Small Business Loan programs.**

Revitalizing the Birthplace of Route 66

Thanks to generous donors, the City of Springfield not only reached its first fund-raising goal for the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park, it exceeded it by $126.

The $15,126 raised through local crowd-funding company CrowdIt.com (crowdit.com/route66sgf) will cover construction costs for a re-creation of the iconic Red's Giant Hamburg sign, a major landmark along the Historic Route 66 Highway.

Ground will be broken in spring 2014 for the initial development of the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park. The Red's sign will likely be installed this summer with a ribbon cutting for the park as part of the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival in August 2014.

The estimated cost of the Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park is about $1 million, according to Director of Planning Ralph Rognstad (pictured). While the City will provide funding to implement certain infrastructure improvements along the College Street stretch of Historic Route 66 between Grant Avenue and Kansas Expressway, it must leverage its investment in the project with private donations and other sources of funding.

A larger plan to revitalize Historic Route 66 through other parts of Springfield could roll out in phases, as the City gauges interest and potential funding.

The first project was the re-creation of the Red's Giant Hamburg sign.

$1 million
Est. cost of park

$15,126
raised so far

12 miles
of Route 66 run through Springfield

Watch a video about Route 66.

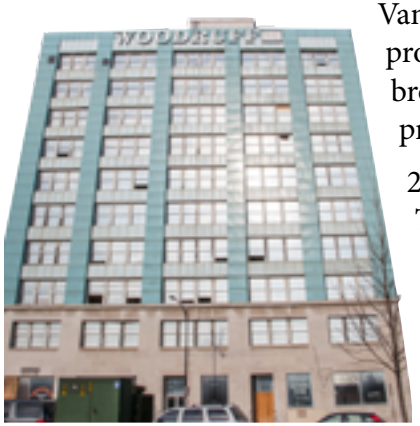
Downtown development projects include reimagined uses for historic Springfield buildings

Downtown Springfield continues its renaissance as developers tackle some of the last remaining large buildings in the urban core. Housing development is driving the resurgence of downtown and has led to new restaurants and bars opening in the area, as well as boutique retailers. The City of Springfield assisted several of these projects with funding from its Small Business Development Loan program and with partial property tax abatement.

The Frisco, formerly known as the Landmark Building, opened in January 2014 after renovation by The Vecino Group. The project includes 68 universal-designed, affordable housing units. The $7 million project qualified for both historic and low-income housing tax credits and a state HOME loan. The City assisted the project with a small-business loan and partial property tax abatement.

College Station Lofts is a $2.5 million new construction project that includes 18 market rate apartments and first floor commercial space. The development includes direct access to the College Station parking deck and is the new home of the Moxie Theater. Developer Craig Wagoner completed the project in late 2013.

Currently under construction, the historic Masonic Temple is being renovated into the Hotel Vandivort, a 50-key boutique hotel. Brothers John and Billy McQueary project a 2014 opening for the $13 million project. The City provided brownfields assistance and partial real property tax abatement for the project.



2014 promises to be another stellar year for downtown development. The History Museum on the Square will open its first phase in 2014 and The U, formerly known as the McDaniel Building, will open as a student housing project in late summer. Construction is also projected to begin on the former Heer's department store and on Sky Eleven, formerly known as the Woodruff Building. These large-scale housing projects will open in 2015.

$230 million
investment in downtown over 15 years

26,000 jobs
within 1 mile of downtown

30,000 residents
within 1 mile of downtown

40,000 students
within 1 mile of downtown

No Other City

has this unique collection of accolades.

Our public safety departments: Police, Fire and Emergency Management, have all reached quality standards high enough to receive national accreditation. Many cities have strived to achieve this. Most have failed.

We didn't stop there. Our Public Works and Environmental Services departments, and the Dickerson Park Zoo have also received national accreditation by their respective associations. We believe this means our services are provided at the highest level of quality, meeting national standards and benchmarks in a way that surpasses the ordinary.

Our Parks and trails system has been named a National Gold Medal Award winner, proving our commitment to provide top-notch leisure opportunities, to offer programs for relaxation as well as stimulation, and to encourage personal and community enrichment.

But we are more than just a safe and fun community. We are also nationally recognized for our economic resiliency. The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce has been chosen as a national Chamber of the Year, and its collective efforts with the City, County and business members have helped us become a national leader in job growth with an unemployment rate far below the national average.

Because we work together, and work together well, we are able to boast of this wide array of accomplishments. And we believe that makes us like no other city in the nation.

Springfield Police Department

The men and women of the Springfield Police Department are not only known for quick crime-solving skills and catching the bad guys, they are also accredited by the **Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)**. This accreditation means the SPD has achieved a level of recognition only the elite in law enforcement achieve. It's an honor they've garnered 15 years running.

Springfield Fire Department

Springfield firefighters will tell you it's true. They actually run toward danger, while others run away. The Springfield Fire Department's accreditation by the **Center for Public Safety** proves that the department has enviable response times, high-caliber training, efficient resource deployment, and excellent public education. **Only one-half of 1 percent of fire and rescue agencies in the U.S. are accredited.**

Top 10 Digital Cities

Springfield was named one of the **Top 10 Digital Cities in 2013**, for improved transparency with open government initiatives and access to city services via interactive technology.

Public Works and Environmental Services

The City of Springfield Public Works and Environmental Services Departments are accredited by the **American Public Works Association (APWA).** The association recognizes governmental agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally in the public works industry. **Fewer than 1 percent of all public works agencies qualify for this accreditation.**

Dickerson Park Zoo

Only zoos and aquariums that meet the highest standards are accredited by the **Association of Zoos and Aquariums.** To become accredited, the Dickerson Park Zoo underwent a thorough review to ensure it has met and will continue to meet ever-rising standards. Accreditation also allows the zoo to participate in the coordinated conservation programs among other accredited North American zoos.

Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management

Springfield-Greene County's Emergency Management program received national accreditation from the **Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)** in 2012. EMAP is an independent and voluntary evaluation of state and local emergency management programs based on national best practices. Springfield-Greene County Emergency Management was the first agency to achieve a perfect score.

Springfield-Greene County Park Board

A nationally known organization, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board's efforts were recognized by the **National Recreation and Park Association** in 2000 when named a Gold Medal Award winner. The most prestigious award of its kind, the Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the U.S. that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, fiscal resource management, citizen support systems, environmental stewardship, preservation, technological integration, program planning and assessment, professional development, and agency recognition.

Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce won the **2012 Chamber of the Year award**, the nation's only award recognizing the dual role chambers have in leading businesses and communities. The award was presented by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives to top chambers that have not only demonstrated success in community leadership and organizational strength, but have also made an apparent impact on key community priorities such as education, transportation, health care and cultural vitality.

Only Springfield, Missouri...
...we checked!

Fewer than 5%
of law enforcement agencies in the country have successfully applied and received the Commissioners for the Comission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accreditation.

Only 187
fire departments in the world have successfully received accreditation by the Center for Public Safety.

Fewer than 1%
of all public works agencies qualify for the APWA accreditation.

At the time of our accreditation, Springfield-Greene County was **one of only 13** local programs in the nation to be accredited by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

CITY OF Springfield

CONNECT WITH US

840 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802

(417) 864-1010

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www.springfieldmo.gov
Facebook: CityofSgf
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City Cable TV: Mediacom Channel 80.1 and U-Verse Channel 99