



Neighborhood News

WestCentralSpringfield.org

Spring 2014

Calendar of Activities

- Tuesday, Mar. 25 — 6:30 pm
WCNA General Membership
McGregor Elementary
Fort Ave. & Madison St.
- Sat., April 5 — 9:00 am
Neighborhood Blitz
Campbell Elementary
Grant & Mt. Vernon
- Tuesday, April 29 — 6:30 pm
WCNA Committee Meetings
McGregor Elementary
Fort Ave. & Madison St.
- Tuesday, May 27 — 6:30 pm
WCNA Board Meeting
807 W. Walnut
- Tuesday, June 24 — 6:30 pm
WCNA General Membership
McGregor Elementary
Fort Ave. & Madison St.

Numbers to Remember

- Neighborhood Police Officer
Mike Evans, 864-1194
- Caring Communities
Eric Hillgren, 888-2020
- Healthy Living Alliance
862-8962
- Health Department & Building
Development Services
864-1438

Neighborhoods Bind Together

Our community is just beginning the process of healing from the Hailey Owens tragedy. It was truly moving to see the outpouring of support for her family at the candlelight vigil on Commercial Street.

It is a sober reminder of the importance of keeping our children close and being aware of our surroundings. Hailey's neighbors played a key role in identifying the abductor's truck, license plate, and other valuable information when they quickly called 9-1-1.

One of the reasons many of us choose to live in West Central is its proximity to downtown, parks, and many other amenities. We appreciate walkable sidewalks and bike routes. As such, everyone has a role to play in helping to keep them safe. "See something, say something" is more than a slogan for neighborhood watch. It is the way that we send a message to anyone involved in illegal activities — especially when it comes to hurting our children — that it won't be tolerated and we are united with the Police, businesses, schools, churches, and non-profits in that effort. Thank you to everyone who helps in a million little ways to make West Central a better place to live, work, and play!

West Central a "Great Neighborhood"

At the Community Partnership's NOVA Award Banquet in December, the City of Springfield recognized the West Central Neighborhood as one of ten "Great Neighborhoods" out of the 34 officially-recognized neighborhoods across the city.

There were several selection criteria for clean, safe, and friendly initiatives. WCNA noted its annual neighborhood clean-up, adopt-a-street programs, participating in neighborhood teams, partnering with the police on neighborhood watch, hosting the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival and the annual Neighborhood Night Out, producing quarterly newsletters, and maintaining our website as its highlights.

The City installed "Great Neighborhood" signs at several of our gateways in January. It also awarded \$1,000 to our designated project — the Route 66 roadside park on College Street. It helped the crowdfunding initiative for the Red's Hamburg sign reach its goal in January. The first phase of the park is scheduled to be completed by the fourth annual Birthplace of Route 66 Festival on Saturday, August 9.

Congratulations to **Scott Gayer with Downtown Market** for being recognized as the **West Central Volunteer of the Year** at the same NOVA Banquet!

This newsletter supported by the Community Partnership's Caring Communities Initiative

See Something? Say Something!

Get Involved with Neighborhood Watch

What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a voluntary program organized by concerned citizens to reduce crime in their communities. Working with local law enforcement, citizens can learn when and how to report suspicious activities, assist in property identification, conduct home security surveys, and implement home security measures and precautions.

What can I do to help my neighborhood?

1. Attend Neighborhood Watch Trainings offered by the Springfield Police Department

These four-hour trainings are packed with good information and taught by enthusiastic officers. They are available on Saturday mornings or on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Go to www.springfieldmo.gov/spd and click on Neighborhood Watch for more information. About 15 West Central residents have participated so far and our goal is to have at least 20 participate by spring.

2. Make time to walk or ride your bike through the neighborhood

While you're getting your exercise, get to know the area and observe any suspicious activity. Depending on what you notice, call 9-1-1 or contact Officer Mike Evans (information below).

3. Attend Neighborhood Watch meetings.

We meet quarterly to share information on the latest hot spots (as identified by the number and severity of calls for service) and strategize on what can be done collaboratively between the neighborhood, property owners, management companies, Police, Building Development Services, Community Partnership, churches, and other non-profits to address those problem areas.

We need your help!

Wayne Rader

WCNA Neighborhood Watch Chair
j12963@yahoo.com
(417) 300-7999

Mike Evans

Police Area Representative
mevans@springfieldmo.gov
(417) 864-1194

West Central Neighborhood Action Plan Update

Accomplishments This Year

- **Chronic Nuisance Properties** — Maintaining an active Neighborhood Team and encouraging the City to take more assertive action on chronic nuisance properties.
- **Safety and Security** — Identified “hot spots” and will focus efforts on those areas (Grant & Mt. Vernon, College & Broadway, Campbell & State, Campbell & Lombard), and had 15 residents participate in NW Training (goal is 20).
- **Image Enhancement** — Installed eight new gateway signs from the City. Worked with the City on the College Corridor project and reached the crowdfunding goal for the new Route 66 roadside park.
- **Resident Activism**—Hosted Birthplace of Route 66 Festival and Neighborhood Night Out at McGregor Park. Michelle Ciesielski has volunteered to coordinate our website (www.westcentralspringfield.org) and Facebook page (West Central Neighborhood Alliance).

Current Initiatives

- **Chronic Nuisance Properties** — Gathering information on chronic nuisance properties and landlords. Strongly encouraged Council members to support Building Development Services on dealing with chronic properties.
- **Safety and Security** — Assist Police in monitoring hot spot locations and implementing strategies to address them. Encourage residents to attend Neighborhood Watch trainings. Will promote residents walking and biking their areas more.
- **Home Ownership** — Advocate to City Council to incorporate home ownership initiatives in its 2014-15 budget.
- **Image Enhancement** — Promote the major redevelopment projects in WCNA and work with Campbell School to explore it becoming a “choice school.”
- **Resident Activism** — Increase WCNA membership to 100 residents, businesses, and supporters.

Real Life Leadership: Building Practical Leadership Skills



Date: Friday, November 9th

Location: Ramada Oasis Inn & Convention Center

(Community Partnership has reserved a block of 20 rooms at a discount rate until Oct. 11th)

Cost: \$10 (includes breakfast and lunch)

Lunchtime Keynote Speaker: Kirk Elmquist of Morelock-Ross

Time: 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

What it is:

Based on NeighborWorks® curriculum, Real Life Leadership will teach you the skills you need to become a more effective and efficient leader. Increase your confidence, learn how to become more engaged with peers and staff, and connect with local leaders working in a variety of fields.

For a list of workshop topics & to register:

- For questions or to pay by check, please call Katie at (417) 864-0030
- To pay by credit card, please visit our website at www.commpartnership.org





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West Central Neighborhood Alliance Membership Form

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Shirley Robbins, Treasurer
1114 W. Walnut
Springfield, MO 65806-1634
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Cost: \$10.00 per household

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Address: _____

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