



Neighborhood News

WestCentralSpringfield.org

Summer 2013

Calendar of Activities

- Tuesday, August 6 — 6:00 pm
National Night Out
Meador Park
2500 S. Fremont
- Saturday, August 10 — 10:00 am
Birthplace of Rt. 66 Festival
Park Central Square
- Tuesday, August 20 — 4:30 pm
Framing Hope Distribution
700 W. Chase
- Friday, August 23 — 6 to 8 pm
Neighborhood Night Out
McGregor Park
- Tuesday, Sept. 24 — 6:30 pm
WCNA General Membership
McGregor School
- Tuesday, Oct. 22 — 6:30 pm
WCNA Committee Meetings
McGregor School

Numbers to Remember

- Neighborhood PAR Officer
David Walker, 874-9354
- Caring Communities
David Greer, 864-6020
- Health Department
864-1438
- Building Development Services
Permits, 864-1068

2013 Birthplace of Rt. 66 Festival

The 3rd Annual Birthplace of Route 66 Festival will be on Saturday, August 10, from 10 am to 4 pm. The event almost doubled in size last year with 175 cars filling Park Central Square. Over 200 are expected this summer, plus dozens of craft and food vendors. Several local bands will perform, including Blue Plate Special, Rockabilly Cats, and The Detectives as the headliner at 1 pm. Car show awards will be announced at 4 pm. The Best Western Rail Haven Motel is the title sponsor for the event as a part of its 75th anniversary celebration.

The festival is West Central's main fund-raiser for the neighborhood and is a great opportunity to showcase Springfield's pivotal role in the rich history of Route 66. It will reinforce the exciting plans for the College Street Corridor.

Please contact **Amber Neal** at shadyo@swbell.net to register a classic car or motorcycle; **Shirley Robbins** at shirleyrobbins.wcna@hotmail.com for vendor information; or **Thom Brandt** at ommprez2004@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

West Central Neighborhood Night Out

Thousands of individuals will get together throughout the city to celebrate and get to know one another at parks across Springfield. Caring Communities, the Springfield Police Department, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, and many other partners will join together to promote this annual Lights-On Safety Event.

Last year over 250 West Central residents turned out for Neighborhood Night Out in McGregor Park. Mark your calendar to join us!

FREE HOT DOGS AND CHIPS!

FREE FACE PAINTING AND INFLATABLES!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

6-8 PM * MCGREGOR PARK

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

West Central Neighborhood Action Plan Update

Accomplishments This Year

- **Chronic Nuisance Properties** — City Council approved the Strategy (Escalating fines for repeated violations, expediting the process, educating tenants and landlords, maintaining an active Neighborhood Team).
- **Safety and Security** — Identified “hot spots” and will focus efforts on those areas (Grant & Mt. Vernon, College & Broadway, Campbell & State, Campbell & Lombard), had 15 residents participate in NW training (goal is 20), held quarterly NW meetings.
- **Home Ownership** — Requested the City make any vacant City-owned properties available for single-family housing.
- **Image Enhancement** — City Council approved College Street Corridor Plan. Ordered eight new gateway signs from the City.
- **Resident Activism**—Hosting Birthplace of Route 66 Festival and Neighborhood Night Out at McGregor Park.

Current Initiatives

- **Chronic Nuisance Properties** — Gathering information on chronic nuisance properties and absentee landlords. Examining stronger disincentives for meth houses and new inspection before occupancy.
- **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** — Developed new live-work zoning for College Street Corridor Plan (south side of College). Advocate to City Council to incorporate home ownership initiatives in its 2013-14 budget.
- **Image Enhancement** — Work with Campbell School to explore the possibility of it becoming a “choice school.”
- **Resident Activism** — Increase WCNA membership to 100 and recruit help with website and social media.

College Street Corridor Plan Implementation

The City of Springfield is working with the community to create a new future for the College Street Corridor, an area located along College and Olive Streets, between Grant Avenue and Kansas Expressway. It has strong linkages to the future West Meadows of Jordan Valley, the West Central Neighborhood, and downtown which are very important to the future of the College Street Corridor.

A plan was created through an extensive public engagement process and approved by City Council in August 2012. The implementation is being coordinated by the City Manager’s Office and is focused on action steps outlined in the plan.

To date, the following actions have been accomplished:

- The Concept Plan for the Streetscape, Gateways, and the Route 66 Roadside Park was completed this past March and is available at: springfieldmo.gov/collegestreet
- The Planning Department prepared an updated zoning ordinance and Chapter 99 Redevelopment Plan which will allow for tax abatement for redevelopment.
- The Public Works Department has done the first phase of urban forest management near the proposed Route 66 Roadside Park creating a vista of the West Meadows.
- Hy-Vee raised \$1,000 toward the recreation of the “Red’s” sign for the park.
- Plans for additional private fund raising for specific Park elements are underway.
- Engineering plans are in process for the road and rain garden in the Roadside Park. It is anticipated these improvements will be installed by fall of 2014.
- The Police Department has done a great job through enhanced enforcement along College to improve the street environment.
- The environmental cleanup in the West Meadows is nearing completion, helping move it another step toward eventual public use.



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West Central Neighborhood Alliance Membership Form

Send Check to:
Shirley Robbins, Treasurer
1114 W. Walnut
Springfield, MO 65806-1634
Contact me at: shirleyrobbins.wcna@hotmail.com
Make check payable to: WCNA
Cost: \$10.00 per household

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____
