



Neighborhood News

WestCentralSpringfield.org

August 2014

WCNA Event Calendar

- Friday, Aug. 22 — 6:00-8:00 pm
Neighborhood Night Out

McGregor Park
Fort & State

- Tuesday, Sept. 30—6:30 pm
WCNA General Membership

McGregor Elementary
Fort & Madison

- Friday, Oct. 3 — 6—10 pm
Springfield Jazz Festival

Park Central Square

- Saturday, Oct 4 — Noon—4 pm
Taste of Springfield and Oktoberfest

Park Central Square

- Friday, Oct. 28 — 6:30 pm
WCNA Monthly Meeting

McGregor Elementary
Fort & Madison

Numbers to Remember

- Neighborhood Police Officer
Mike Evans, 864-1194
- Caring Communities
Eric Sutton, 888-2020
- Health Department & Building
Development Services
864-1438
- Community Resource Center
864-1010
- Healthy Living Alliance
862-8962

Neighborhood Night Out

Friday, August 22 — McGregor Park — 6-8 pm

The return of the school year also marks the time for our annual West Central Neighborhood Night Out. It's a great opportunity to get outside with your friends and family to get to know your neighbors. Last year over 300 West residents turned out to join us. Mark your calendars now!

FREE GRILLED HOT DOGS AND CHIPS!

FREE FACE PAINTING AND INFLATABLES!

LIVE MUSIC!

Rt. 66 Roadside Park Dedicated

College Street has a new Roadside Park on historic Route 66 and overlooking West Meadows. The City of Springfield joined the West Central Neighborhood in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 8. It is the first phase of this project that will shine a spotlight on Springfield's unique role in the "Mother Road."

Future streetscape projects will stretch from gateways at Kansas Expressway on the west and Grant Avenue on the east (strategically located at Bud's Tire and Wheel and Mother's Brewery).

The Roadside Park was the result of a two-year community engagement project led by the City of Springfield. Property owners, businesses, residents, and Route 66 advocates were invited to share their ideas on the future of College Street and Route 66 quickly rose to the top.

One of the early pioneers in the heart of College Street was Mark Cockrum who renovated 1031 West College for "Mother Road Antiques & Uniques." It offers a great variety of Route 66 memorabilia and is just a few doors east of the new Roadside Park. The store is open Tuesday through Saturday. Make plans to stop by and check out a great addition to our neighborhood!

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



See Something? Say Something!

Safety and security is a major priority for West Central. Contact Wayne Rader, Neighborhood Watch Chair, to get more information on how you can work with Officer Mike Evans (Police Area Representative), get training on how to make your home more secure, and interact with neighbors on your block.

Wayne Rader

Email: j12963@yahoo.com

Phone: 300-7999

Connect digitally with NextDoor.com

Check out NextDoor.com — the latest social media tool to better connect neighbors. It's an easy and free way for to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. Thousands of neighborhoods, including many across Springfield, are already using Nextdoor to build happier, safer places to call home. People are using Nextdoor to:

- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- Find out who does the best paint job in town
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog
- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Find a new home for an outgrown bike
- Finally call that nice man down the street by his first name

Help West Central use the power of technology to build a stronger and safer neighborhood!

In Memory—Gordon Harmon

Gordon Stewart Harmon (1215 W. Walnut) passed away earlier this summer. Growing up in Arkansas and Oklahoma, he completed his undergraduate degree from Northeastern State University and obtained his graduate degree at the University of Oklahoma. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the US Army Special Forces/Special Operations in 1996 after serving for 29 years on active duty and the Army Reserves. He was assigned to various positions and in joint command assignments. A graduate of the Command and General Staff College, he did tours in Viet Nam, Operation Desert Storm (Gulf War) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Bosnia) where he served with the Special Operations Command, Europe.



Following his passion in family history and genealogy, he published several copyrighted books and articles on his family history and other family surnames including client's genealogical research reports. Gordon was the Founder and Past President (2003-2013) of the Endecott-Endicott Family Association, Inc. an international family association (direct descendants of Governor John Endecott, the First Governor in the Massachusetts Bay, 1628).

Gordon was a member of the WCNA Board, volunteered every year for the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival, and coordinated Walnut Street and Jordan Creek clean-ups. We appreciate his efforts to make West Central a better place.

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, Campbell & State, Campbell & Lombard), and had 20 residents participate in NW Training.
- **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. Maintain the website (www.westcentralspringfield.org), Nextdoor social media site, and Facebook page (West Central Neighborhood Alliance).

Current Initiatives

- **Chronic Nuisance Properties** — Gathering information on chronic nuisance properties and landlords. Strongly encouraging Council members to support Building Development Services on dealing with chronic properties.
- **Safety and Security** — Assisting Police in monitoring hot spot locations and implementing strategies to address them. Encouraging residents to attend Neighborhood Watch trainings. Will promote residents walking and biking their areas more.
- **Home Ownership** — Promoting historically low mortgage rates to owners who want to live near downtown.
- **Image Enhancement** — Promoting the major redevelopment projects in WCNA and work with Campbell School to explore it becoming a “choice school.”
- **Resident Activism** — Increasing WCNA membership to 100 residents, businesses, and supporters.

Community Partnership Info



Working Together to Build Strong Communities





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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: _____