

Fall 2011



The Blue Springs

Informing Residents, Embracing Community, Improving the Quality of Life

MAGAZINE

Public Works Updates

“My Blue Springs” Photo Contest

Blue Springs
Bicycling & Trail Map

City of Blue Springs • 903 West Main Street • Blue Springs, MO 64015

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On the cover:



Kids enjoy the playground at Rotary Park at Railroad Lake.

Fall in Blue Springs



Much has happened in Blue Springs since the last edition of the Blue Springs Magazine. Our community had a defining election in April. The City Council and I want to personally thank all the Blue Springs residents that voted in this key election for the future of our City. We thank you for your trust in our stewardship of your dollars. Our men and women in our Police Department thank you for giving them the appropriate tools to keep them safe and effective as they protect us each day.

I also want to welcome back Councilman Jeff Quibell and thank Jim May for filling the unexpired term of Councilwoman and now State Representative Jeanie Lauer; and congratulate Councilmen Kent Edmondson and Ron Fowler on another term in office.

Long-time Parks & Recreation Director Roscoe Righter is retiring from the City in September of this year, and I personally want to thank him for all of his work in creating a strong and vibrant parks & recreation system. He's leaving a legacy here in Blue Springs that our community can be proud of and enjoy for years to come.

In March, Blue Springs was officially declared a *Let's Move!* community and we have been working with StandUp Blue Springs to develop a comprehensive, citizen-generated community plan to build generations of healthy citizens. I encourage you to get involved in this initiative by contacting StandUp Blue Springs at (816) 478-4500.

I encourage you to subscribe to my bi-weekly newsletter, "News Happenings" to stay informed on all the great things happening here in Blue Springs. I hope you enjoy the last rays of summer and the bounty that comes with fall.

Gratefully in your service,

Mayor Carson Ross

The Blue Springs MAGAZINE

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Let's Move! Blue Springs

The *Let's Move!* Initiative is in full swing here in Blue Springs. StandUp Blue Springs has now facilitated four summits with over 100 residents to develop and implement innovative ideas for improving the health of the children throughout the community.

On July 9, Citizen Summit participants prioritized more than 150 ideas that were generated in the previous Citizen Summit. Through a multi-voting approach the group narrowed the list to 8 initial project ideas.

The project ideas are:

- Community-wide fitness event
- Community Gardening
- Girls on the Run

- Expansion of the Blue Springs School District Back Snack program
- Healthy Foods in Schools/ Nutrition Classes in the Schools
- *Let's Move!* Saturdays
- Livable Streets with Walking Trails (See the enclosed Bicycling & Trail Map in this magazine!)
- *Let's Move!* Signage/PR

Let's Move! Workgroups will plan and implement the 8 initial project ideas. As ideas are implemented, additional ideas from the list and new ideas will be addressed by the *Let's Move!* Workgroups.

Keep up with *Let's Move!* Blue Springs by joining them on Facebook (search for *Let's Move!* Blue Springs, Missouri) or visiting www.bluespringsgov.com/letsmove.

LET'S MOVE! We need your help!

If you are interested in becoming involved, contact the StandUp Blue Springs office by email at info@standupbluesprings.org or call (816) 478-4500.



'My Blue Springs' Photo Contest

We are proud to announce the second annual 'My Blue Springs' Photo Contest! Pictures can include cityscapes, wildlife, events, parks and community life here in Blue Springs.

There will be one winner in each age category and one over all winner. Winners will be published in the Blue Springs Winter 2011 Magazine.

Contest Rules:

- This contest is for Blue Springs residents only.
- All photos must have been taken inside Blue Springs city limits.
- Limited to 5 entries per person.
- Each entry must have the category

you are entering and your contact information.

- All photos must be original work of the contestant and never been the subject of a copyright.
- Digital Photos: jpg files at least 300 dpi at 5" x 7."
- Standard Prints: must be at least 4" x 6." Prints can be dropped off at City Hall or mailed to Photo Contest, 903 W. Main Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015. Photos will not be returned.
- All photos submitted shall become the property of the City of Blue Springs upon submission and may be used in future publications.

- **Categories include:**
 - Youth (under 18)
 - Adult (18-49)
 - Senior (50 and over)
- **Contest entry deadline is Oct. 31, 2011**
- **Email entries to photos@bluespringsgov.com**

If you have questions, contact photos@bluespringsgov.com or (816) 655-0497.

By the Numbers

Community Development

(from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011)

13

New Blue Springs home owners through the First Time Home Buyers program

525

Building Permits issued

712

Property Maintenance Code violations

1,143

Weed/high grass violations

3,733

Code violation cases

41,239

Pounds of electronics collected to be recycled

56,787

Pounds of household hazardous waste collected to be recycled

313,060

Pounds of recyclable materials collected at Pink Hill Park Recycling Center



Chaplain Rick Johnson

BSPD Chaplain Program

By Rev. Dr. Ed "Doc" Golden

9-1-1, what is your emergency? Dispatchers at the Blue Springs Police

Often, when a chaplain is called to notify the family of the death of a loved one or arrives shortly after they have been told by other authorities, it is found that a family has no church home or minister to help them through these difficult times.

Department ask that question frequently. Citizens often face situations that require help from public safety organizations.

Another very important aspect of a chaplain's work is to minister to first responders. While many police officers, firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) deal with death and serious injury regularly, they are not immune to the need for Critical Incident Stress Debriefing.

Sometimes the call for service involves a person who has stopped breathing and is transported to a local hospital. Other times, a family member may arrive home and find that a loved one has already passed. In these situations, a chaplain may be dispatched to the scene. While the first responders work on the ailing person, the chaplain provides the family with needed support.

The chaplaincy team for Blue Springs Police Department is comprised of Rev. Rick Johnson, Pastor of the First Bible Baptist Church, Carl Hunt, who is also the Chaplain and Victim Services Advocate from the Oak Grove Police Department, and Rev. Dr. Ed "Doc" Golden. All chaplaincy work is done on a strictly volunteer basis.

Chaplains offer prayers as the family asks that their loved one be prayed for. Chaplains may assist during lengthy visits to Emergency Rooms, stay while other family members arrive from out of town or sit with the family until the Medical Examiner can get to the scene.

While the Chaplain duties are many, their dedication to the community is singular and greatly appreciated.

Public Safety Sales Tax

In April 2011, voters passed the 1/2 cent dedicated Public Safety Sales Tax to address needs found in the Public Safety Citizen's Advisory Board analysis. Revenues produced from this tax will only be used for public safety purposes and cannot be used for other General Fund programs or services.



quarterly reports to the City Council on spending of funds collected by the tax and report on performance goals.

The Public Safety Advisory Board, made up of Blue Springs citizens, is charged with oversight of the tax. The Advisory Board will make regular

To learn more about the Public Safety Citizen Advisory Board and view Public Safety Sales Tax reports, visit [www.bluespringsgov.com/publicsafety board](http://www.bluespringsgov.com/publicsafetyboard).

Public Works Update



Sni-A-Bar Sewer Treatment Plant

Despite the near record heat, construction continues on the Sni-A-Bar Wastewater Treatment Facility and the expansion project is approximately 65 percent complete.

This expansion will help us meet new regulatory requirements and provide additional capacity for our City for the next 20 years. The requirements will be met with the addition of tertiary membrane filtration, ultraviolet

disinfection, enhanced sludge handling, and 18 million gallons per day of wet weather influent treatment capacity. This project is on track and is expected to be completed in Spring 2012.

Reed beds have been installed, which will be used to absorb and use the pollutants within the sludge to generate a product that can be easily disposed of at a fraction of the energy cost of many standard processes. A \$3 million dollar grant was awarded to the City for this green component of the project.

Woods Chapel Road

MoDOT has given preliminary plan approval for the project and the City is in the right-of-way and land acquisition process. Over half of the necessary tracts have been acquired. Constant negotiations are on going with the remaining property owners to facilitate the start of this project.

This project is expected to break ground in 2012.



7 Highway and Colbern Road

The final phase of the 7 Highway expansion within Blue Springs is in full swing at the intersection of Colbern Road and 7 Highway. This project will widen 7 Highway to a five lane section including turn lanes, center islands, bicycle facilities and traffic signal improvements.

This phase will enhance the connection between the Colbern Road and 7 Highway corridors completing a much needed southern link in the metropolitan area.



HyVee

Coming Soon!

HyVee, Jack in the Box and more retail in Adams Dairy Landing are scheduled to open in Fall of 2011.

Development Update



Jack in the Box



Adams Dairy Landing

Streets are No Place for Trash

Fall is fast approaching and residents will be preparing their yards and landscaping for the winter season.

Each year Public Works responds to numerous complaints of clogged catch basins and roads littered with yard debris. The debris causes several problems for neighbors, motorists and the environment. Any material deposited in the street eventually finds its way into the stormwater

system and then to the creeks and streams within the city, county, and state.

If there is a sufficient quantity of debris, stormwater catch basins can become clogged and cause flooding for neighbors downstream. Piles of leaves in the curb line not only cause potential flooding concerns, they block a portion of the road and cause slick conditions during rainstorms.



We would like to remind residents to properly dispose of their yard waste through their local trash company or other outlets like; Lee's Summit Resource Recovery Park, Courtney Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility, or Compost Connection.



Recycling Resources

Recycling Center — The Pink Hill Park Recycling Center is now open! The center accepts common recyclables such as glass, plastic, aluminum, tin cans, paper and cardboard materials. Hours are Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Electronics Recycling — Blue Springs will host an electronics recycling event on October 29, 8 a.m. to noon. This event will be held at Pink Hill Park, 1201 NW Park Rd. There is no residency requirement and no limit on the number of vehicles accepted. Fees apply for proper recycling of certain electronics.

For more information or to volunteer, visit www.bluespringsgov.com/recycling or call (816) 220-4504.

Glass Recycling — Glass recycling is available 24 hours a day at the Price Chopper North in the "Ripple Glass" purple bin. Glass is also accepted at the Pink Hill Park Recycling Center.

If not recycled, a glass container takes over one million years before it begins decomposing.

Household Hazardous Waste Recycling — Blue Springs participates in a regional program that allows residents to bring materials to participating facilities. This free program accepts paint, paint products, automotive fluids, lawn and garden chemicals, fluorescent bulbs, pool chemicals, glues, household cleaners, batteries and other household hazardous materials.

Drop-off appointments are required for safety purposes. For more information, visit www.recyclespot.org or call (816) 513-8400 for the Kansas City location or (816) 969-1805 for the Lee's Summit location.

Unusual or Large-Item Recycling or Disposal — Visit www.recyclespot.org or call (816) 474-8326 for more information.

Why Do You Need a Backflow Device?

Do you have a sprinkler system? Did you know that if you don't have a backflow device on your irrigation system, you could be at risk for backflow water contamination?

The Public Works Department as required by Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) regulation 10 CSR 60-11 regarding backflow prevention, will be verifying that all residential accounts with sprinkler systems and all commercial accounts have a backflow device installed and are current on their inspections.

This verification is a critical element for protecting the integrity of our distribution system and guarding against contamination of your drinking water.

What is backflow?

Our water distribution system serves many different uses, from drinking water to fire protection to irrigation. A cross connection is a connection between the distribution system and a source of contamination, such as the chemicals used for an irrigation system.

When such a cross connection exists and the water system experiences a loss of pressure due to a water main break or a large firefighting effort, backflow can occur. Backflow allows contaminants to enter the distribution system, mix with the drinking water supply, and may jeopardize your drinking water.

How can we prevent backflow?

If you have a sprinkler or frost-free yard hydrant, you must have a backflow



device. As required by MDNR and Blue Springs City Code (Cross Connection Control) Section 710.090 all backflow devices must be inspected annually and the City must have a copy of the inspection on file.

If you have not been contacted by the Public Works Department regarding this please call 816-228-0195.

Are You Prepared?

Step 1: Get a Kit!

If a disaster strikes our community, you might not have access to food, water, or electricity for some time. By taking time now to prepare emergency water supplies, food supplies and disaster supplies kit, you can provide for your entire family.

Step 2: Make a Plan!

Families can cope with disasters by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Create a family disaster plan including a communication plan, disaster supplies kit, an evacuation plan and emergency contact information.

Step 3: Be Informed!

Outdoor warning sirens are not

designed to be heard indoors so invest in an all-hazard radio for your home or business. You can also sign up for CodeRED Emergency Notification & Weather Warning System. This system allows us to notify you of emergency situations that require immediate action.

For more information, visit www.ready.gov or call the Central Jackson County Fire Protection District at (816) 229-2522.

Sign up for CodeRED

- www.bluespringsgov.com/codered
- (816) 220-CODE (2633)



Community Calendar

42nd Annual Fall Fun Fest

The Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce proudly presents the 42nd annual Fall Fun Festival in downtown Blue Springs on Sept. 16-18.

The largest parade in Eastern Jackson County will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17. This year's parade theme is "Tom Sawyer."

New this year is Blue Springs' own Texas Hold'em tournament. Competitors test their luck and skill for a chance at fame, glory and prize money!

For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at (816) 228-6322 or visit www.bluespringsfallfestival.com.

August

Concert in the Park

Lipriddle
Aug. 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

Vesper Hall Talent Show

Fri. Aug. 26, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Vesper Hall

Concert in the Park

Aug. 28
Blue 88, 3-5 p.m.
Eric Tessmer Band, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

September

Car Cruise

Sept. 3, 5 p.m. to Dark
Downtown Blue Springs

Concert in the Park

Sept. 4
Cold Blue Band, 3-5 p.m.
51% Blues, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

Centennial Pool-Plex

Labor Day Weekend
Sept. 3-5, 12:30-7 p.m.
Centennial Pool-Plex

Nine and Dine Couples Golf

Sept. 5
Adams Pointe Golf Club



Helpful City Information

City Telephone Directory - All (816) Area Codes

Adams Pointe Conf. Center	228-8100	Crime Prevention	228-0161	Police (non-emergency).....	228-0151
Adams Pointe Golf Club.....	220-3673	Drivers License.....	655-0430	Police Detectives.....	228-0156
Alarm Permits	228-0217	Economic Development.....	228-0208	Police Records	228-0160
Ambulance Billing.....	229-8805	Engineering.....	228-0121	Pothole Hotline	228-0291
Animal Control	228-0149	Finance Department	655-0320	Public Works	228-0195
Building Inspections.....	228-0104	Fire Depart. (non-emergency)...	229-2522	Sales Tax.....	220-4542
Building Permits.....	228-0118	GIS - Mapping Division	228-0119	Snow Removal Hotline	228-0295
Business Licenses	228-0131	Human Resources	228-0190	Street Department.....	228-0195
City Administrator's Office	228-0110	Human Resources Job Hotline..	228-0290	Swimming Pool	228-0188
City Clerk.....	228-0110	License Plates.....	228-0127	Tax Department	228-0131
Planning Department.....	228-0207	Liquor License (Individual).....	228-0160	Vehicle Registration	228-0128
City Communications	655-0497	Liquor License (Business)	228-0131	Vesper Hall.....	228-0181
Codes (Compliance).....	220-4565	Mayor and Council.....	228-0110	Voter Registration	228-0110
Codes (Permits).....	228-0118	Municipal Court Clerk.....	228-0274	Water & Sewer Billing	228-0135
Community Development.....	228-0207	Parks & Recreation.....	228-0137	Water/Sewer Maintenance.....	228-0195
Comm. Develop. Hotline	228-0223	Parks & Recreation Hotline	228-0116		
Comm. and Youth Outreach	228-0178	Police Administration.....	228-0164		

**Centennial Pool-Plex
Indoor Season**
Sept. 6
Centennial Pool-Plex

**Blue Springs Barbeque
Blaze-Off**
Sept. 9-10
Hidden Valley Park

Fall Fun Fest
Sept. 16-18
Downtown Blue Springs

Pooches in the Pool
Sept. 17, noon to 3 p.m.
Centennial Pool-Plex

50 Plus Art Show
Sept. 19-22
Vesper Hall

Let's Move! Saturday
Sept. 24, TBA
Dynamic Dance
1901 SW Us Highway 40 # B

**Rape Aggression Defense
Systems (RAD) Training**
Sept. 26 to Oct. 24
bluespringsgov.com/parks

October

Skateboard Competition
Oct. 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Old Mill Skate Park

**Princess Party featuring
The Tooth Fairy**
Oct. 1, noon to 4 p.m.
Valley View High School
standupbluesprings.org

Electronics Recycling
Oct. 29, 8 a.m. to noon.
Pink Hill Park

"Boo" Springs Harvest Fest
Oct. 29, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Downtown Blue Springs

Spooktacular Scramble
Oct. 30
Adams Pointe Golf Club

Trick-or-Treat Street
Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.
Vesper Hall

November

**New Balance Girls on the Run 5K
Let's Move! Blue Springs event**
Nov. 12, 9 a.m. to Noon
Downtown Blue Springs

Turkey Trot Scramble
Nov. 20
Adams Pointe Golf Club

Buy Blue Springs Week
Nov. 25 to Dec. 2
Various Retail Locations
buybluesprings.com

December

Scrooge! The Musical
Dec. 1-4 and 8-11
2000 NW Ashton Drive
bluespringcitytheatre.com

Mayors Christmas Tree Lighting
Dec. 6, 5:30-7 p.m.
Blue Springs City Hall

Holiday Light Tour
Dec. 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Departs Blue Springs City Hall

Breakfast with Santa
Dec. 10, 9 a.m.
Vesper Hall

Santa Scramble
Dec. 17
Adams Pointe Golf Club

Chipping of the Green
Dec. 26 through Jan 15
Pink Hill Park



8th Annual Princess Party

StandUp Blue Springs will host its eight annual Princess Party to raise funds for its flagship program Dental for Kids, from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 at Valley View High School, located at 5000 N.W. Valley View Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

Young ladies ages 2-12 and their adult companions will be the royal guests of honor and enjoy a visit from the Tooth Fairy. Activities include the Sparkle Smile Academy, a princess concert and crafts. Advanced tickets recommended, visit www.StandUpBlueSprings.org.



Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting

Join us on Tuesday, Dec. 6 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. when the Mayor throws the switch that lights this very special Christmas Tree just outside City Hall, 903 West Main Street.

Entertainment by local schools and community groups. Free refreshments are served. Santa and other special guests join the festivities.