

The Blue Springs Magazine

Includes
Parks and Recreation Activities Guide

Your Community Connection
Fall 2007

INSIDE

Envisioning a New Blue Springs

The Blue Needs You!

Is Your Family *Emergency Ready?*

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The Blue Springs Magazine

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"EnVISIONing a New Blue Springs"

Over the course of this year, I have had the privilege like you, to witness the benefits of positive change and growth in the City of Blue Springs. We are truly a unique and diverse community that is preparing for great things to come, and I encourage you to share this vision with us.

In this, the Fall 2007 issue of The Blue Springs Magazine, we have chosen to focus on the theme "Envisioning a New Blue Springs" as our city continues to advance from thinking about possibilities of improvement to experiencing fulfilled opportunities.

To make this journey possible, we must continue to work together to **create a vibrant vision** for Blue Springs by advocating for economic development, recognize the advantages of community expansion and change, while nurturing a spirit of cooperation and diversity within our community.

The Adams Dairy Landing Project is an example of how we see the vision of a "New Blue Springs" taking shape in the form of new retail and restaurant opportunities as well as many other exciting projects on the horizon that will appeal to all visitors and residents.

You will also find in this issue how creating a vision for Blue Springs requires us to **embrace the vision** through citizen-driven activity and programs like *Renew the Blue*. This program is designed to incorporate the ideas and support of Blue Springs residents in order to make an important impact in the continued improvement and development of our city.

Finally, in embracing this vision of a new and thriving Blue Springs, we have included several new components in this issue of the magazine. As your Mayor, it is my commitment and the mission of city staff to empower you, our residents, with the information and resources you need to become participative citizens in government and in your communities. For this purpose, we are introducing two new sections to the magazine called "Citizens' Corner" and "News Around the Metro", which serve to keep you informed and involved in news and information that is most important to you.

As 2007 steadily comes to a close, I reflect on the opportunity I have had to serve as your Mayor, and to be a part of such a dynamic community. Please continue to support the work of your city government, and together, we can make Blue Springs the best **Blue** it can be.



Your Servant,

Written By Merideth Parrish,
City of Blue Springs

What It Means to Advocate Growth in Blue Springs

Historically, the City of Blue Springs has been a community rooted in a sound tradition of civilian connectivity, economic growth and prosperity, and a dynamic infrastructure that has appealed to citizens over time. As a new-comer to the City, I was eager to explore this city's rich heritage and take a closer look into this idea of a **New Blue Springs**.

In my explorations, I found that the City of Blue Springs is on the move towards great things. To make this possible, the City has essentially remained focused on three important goals: **1) To enhance the quality of life for citizens by 2) Fostering growth and newfound opportunities and 3) To empower it's citizens with an active role and a voice in government and community affairs.** Let's look at these three objectives to understand why they are so important to the Blue Springs community.

Quality of Life

Through citizen-facilitated programs like the Park Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission, Renew the Blue, and the Public Art Commission, the City helps preserve and promote the history of Blue Springs, and continues to support the cultural image and identity of the community.

- According to the 2006 Citizen's Survey, 64% of residents surveyed indicated a need for greater emphasis on the appearance of new development in new areas throughout Blue Springs
- In the past 5 years, City Council and staff have worked to address this need in the following ways: by improving public safety through street maintenance and rehabilitation; supporting environmental excellence; reinforcing architectural standards, design, quality use of open space through appealing landscaping, walking trails and bike trails for residents; and by promoting overall health wellness and activity through various parks and recreational activities



Above: Proposed Architectural Rendering of Revitalized Downtown Blue Springs

City Growth and Opportunity

Blue Springs is a strong supporter of economic growth and new business development opportunities for the City. Through collaborative partnerships with key organizations such as the Blue Springs Economic Development Corporation (EDC), the Chamber of Commerce and the Kansas City Area Development Council (KCADC), the City works to bring new developments to the community which help attract new job opportunities, retail novelties for consumers, and fosters a genuine sense of community that the City stands for.

- In conjunction with city government, the EDC has helped facilitate new developments in the city including the new Adams Dairy Landing, the erection of new housing developments in the City's downtown district, and retail and residential revitalizations along Highway 7 at Copperleaf Village, Chapman Farms, and at 40 and 7 Highways



Left: Signs of Progress in Motion New Village Gardens on Highway 7 & Mock

Empowering Citizens

The success of Blue Springs has, and will continue to be only as successful as the citizens it serves and supports. Your cooperation and involvement with government affairs is vital to the continued growth and prosperity of this wonderful community. Consider getting involved with your Blue Springs city government today:

- Attend City Council meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month
- Visit www.bluespringsgov.com for information on joining citizen-driven programs
- Tune into CTV Government Access Channel 7 on Comcast Cable to learn how you can get involved



Capital Improvements Program Adopted

How CIP Projects Are Prioritized:

► Urgency of Need

- Is there a risk to public safety?
- Is there a need to protect public or city property?
- How cost effective is the project?

► Relationship with Other City Priorities

- Does it coordinate with the completion of other city projects?
- Does it meet priorities established by City Council, community groups and citizens via the Citizen's Survey?

► Fiscal Impact

- How much will it cost?
- How will it affect city operations?
- Will economic & job opportunities increase as a result?

► Quality of Life Impact

- How will it benefit citizens' lives?
- How will it help protect current city resources?
- Is the project's design both appealing to and supportive for residents?

On June 18, 2007, the Blue Springs City Council adopted the 2007-2008 to 2012-2013 Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The CIP guides the City in planning, scheduling and budgeting capital improvement projects. It outlines proposed expenses and allocates existing funds and anticipated revenues to rehabilitate, restore, improve and add to the City's infrastructure. Covering a six-year period, it is published each year to reflect ongoing changes and additions. It does not appropriate funds, but functions as a planning and budgeting tool.

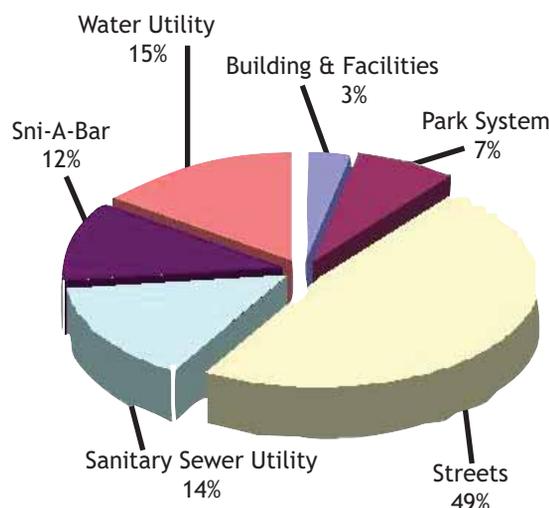


City streets will see additional rehabilitation through CIP funding

In general, CIP projects include acquisition of land for public use, construction of a new public facility, one-time rehabilitation or replacement of public facilities with a cost of \$50,000 or more, and associated planning and engineering services. These projects primarily correspond to adopted documents and policies such as the 2003 Comprehensive Plan, the 2004 Area Plan, and the "Out of the Blue" or "Renew the Blue" Vision Plans, as well as the most recent Citizen's Survey. A CIP Rating Committee reviews and ranks proposed capital projects.

This year's CIP continues to fund City Council and community priorities. The primary focus for the upcoming fiscal year is ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation of streets, facilities and other infrastructure projects such as water and sewer systems. The CIP for 2007-2008 includes \$8.5 million in projects and expenditures. The entire CIP totals more than \$34.3 million for projects with identified funding, and \$152.8 million for all projects identified in the CIP. This year's CIP is available on the City's website at www.bluespringsgov.com and includes a map identifying the project locations.

Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Improvements by Type



| <u>Type of Improvement</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Building & Facilities | \$ 285,000 |
| Park System | \$640,000 |
| Streets | \$4,104,399 |
| Sanitary Sewer Utility | \$1,240,000 |
| Sni-A-Bar | \$1,000,000 |
| Water Utility | \$1,308,663 |

The Blue Needs You!

Getting Citizens Involved in Building a Better Blue Springs Community

In May 2006, the Blue Springs City Council commissioned an initiative to be led by members of the community for the purpose of identifying the vision for Blue Springs for the next 10-15 years. The visioning initiative was completed and presented to the Council in May 2007, resulting in the approval of the Renew the Blue citizen visioning and engagement process. The Renew the Blue program is well underway, and we need you to help keep it moving!

Implementing the vision for the City will require the community to get involved. As a citizen of Blue Springs, I have found that one person can make a difference and I, along with the members of Renew the Blue, am encouraging you to become a Renew the Blue Stakeholder. As a stakeholder, you will have the opportunity to work on any or all of the strategies for implementation. The investment of time, commitment and the choice of what you would like to work on is determined by you.



Once again, Renew the Blue has established an Implementation Committee to oversee the Renew the Blue initiative. Below is a brief overview of the program focus areas and the appropriate Chairs of each area. We look forward to working together with you to make Blue Springs a better community. With the involvement of the community, Renew the Blue will continue to provide a citizen-driven process focused on making progress toward the future.

Implementation Committee Co-Chairs

Chair:

Jeanie Lauer -
jeanielauer@comcast.net

Co-Chair:

Dave Wright -
dave.wright@rma.usda.gov

Get Involved...

Join Renew the Blue Today!

Visit www.renewtheblue.com for more information or to join



Renew the Blue!

Renew the Blue Key Performance Areas:

- **Education**
Continuing education and workforce development:
Ginger Duhon -
gduhon1@yahoo.com
Bert Brecheisen -
bert.brecheisen@haldex.com
- **Quality of Life**
Art, culture and recreation; human services and needs of a diverse community; community marketing and identity:
Dale Falck -
dale.falck@wellsfargo.com
Brandon Martin -
bmartin@bssd.net
- **Economic Development**
Business and residential development and needs for primary employment:
Robert Andrew -
robwandrew@sbcglobal.net
Judy Qualkinbush -
info@judyq.com
- **Government**
Delivery of city government services in light of future population changes and pressures; building strong relationships between governmental entities; keeping citizenry informed of progress; locating adequate revenue to support the work of the City:
Norma Anderson -
nanderson@bssd.net
Dave Wright -
dave.wright@rma.usda.gov
- **Planning and Development**
Housing, transportation and redevelopment:
Dave Adams -
dadams@bssd.net

Who's Who on the Sewer Maintenance Crew

Have you ever wondered what happens to the water after you have washed dishes, clothes, or used the bathroom? The Blue Springs Sewer Collections Department ensures this wasted water is transported to the City's treatment facilities by maintaining the sewer mains and pumping facilities.

This is a major responsibility for a 6-man crew to perform on a daily basis, with 29 sewer pump stations, 6,000 manholes, and 1,396,992 feet of sanitary sewer lines to maintain.

This elite, professionally trained group is required to multi-task many job assignments in order to fulfill the needs of Blue Springs' customers. Their daily activities most often include cleaning sanitary sewers, repairs on aging pipes, lift station inspection and maintenance, inspecting and maintaining sanitary sewer mains, rehabilitation of manholes, grounds keep at pump stations, assisting other city departments when needed, and many other activities.

These members are also responsible for after-hour emergencies and provide snow removal in the winter. The knowledge and talent these crew members possess is required to fulfill many activities, making them an essential part of Blue Springs.

Quick Trivia: How Much Water Do We Use?

- Each winter, Blue Springs' residents consume an average of 4.2 million gallons of water per day
- In the summer, we consume an average of 6.4 million gallons of water per day

Meet Your Maintenance Manpower:



Left to Right:
Jeff Story
Paul Trussell



Left to
Right:
Corey Alford
David Stacy



Left to Right:
Josh McAurthur
Jamie Estes
Scott Ewer

NEW!

Citizens' Corner: Got a Question?...Get Information



Have you ever wanted to find out answers to your most frequently asked city questions? Questions like, "How are potholes repaired on my street?" and "What happens to household hazardous waste when it's recycled?"

Submit your most frequently asked questions to the Blue Springs Magazine editor at mparrish@bluespringsgov.com.

We will do our best to review your comments and respond to your questions as quickly as possible!

To get immediate answers to some of your most important questions, visit our website at www.bluespringsgov.com, or tune into CTV Government Access Channel 7 on Comcast Cable.

Here's some of what you'll find:

- City Council Information
- Street Closings & Maintenance
- Parks & Recreation Activities
- City Job Opportunities
- News, Information and More!

Blue Springs Steps Out to Stamp Out Crime

On August 7th, Blue Springs celebrated the 24th Annual National Night Out (NNO) event by stepping out into the streets of downtown Blue Springs, taking a stand against crime and drug abuse. Sponsored by the Blue Springs Police Department, NNO is a free event designed to generate support for and encourage participation in anticrime and public safety programs and to strengthen the neighborly spirit of Blue Springs and police-community partnerships.

During National Night Out, neighbors and friends were able to meet and greet with one another, enjoy the dynamic dancing and musical sounds of local performers, and visit a variety of information booths sponsored by organizations of the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan community.

Hundreds of residents, including Missouri's 4th District U.S. Congressional Representative Ike Skelton (pictured above), braved the heat to enjoy a night full of food, community fellowship and an important education opportunity. "I'm honored to be a part of such an important event for the Blue Springs community" said Congressman Skelton.

NNO also served as the kickoff date for the Police Trading Cards Contest which runs through September 16th at noon during the Blue Springs Fall Fun Festival. The Police Trading Cards Contest is an opportunity for community children to meet and connect with their fellow officers and civilian employees.



Is Your Family Emergency Ready?



September is...
National Preparedness Month
Get a Kit, Make a Plan,
Be Informed and
Get Involved

Would your family be ready should an emergency happen today?

During the month of September, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Preparedness Month Coalition are urging Americans to make themselves and their families better prepared for emergencies by taking these simple steps:

1. Get a Kit:

Should include 3 days worth of supplies for your family to use in an emergency. Items include water, food, flashlights, battery-powered radio and a first-aid kit.

2. Make a Plan

Know what you will do before an emergency happens. Include a communications plan, evacuation procedures and shelter-in-place plans. [Ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) has more information to get you started.

3. Be Informed, Get Involved

Learn more about different threats that could affect your community and how to respond to them. Be sure to visit www.cjcfpd.com for more information about emergency plans in Blue Springs and the Central Jackson County area.

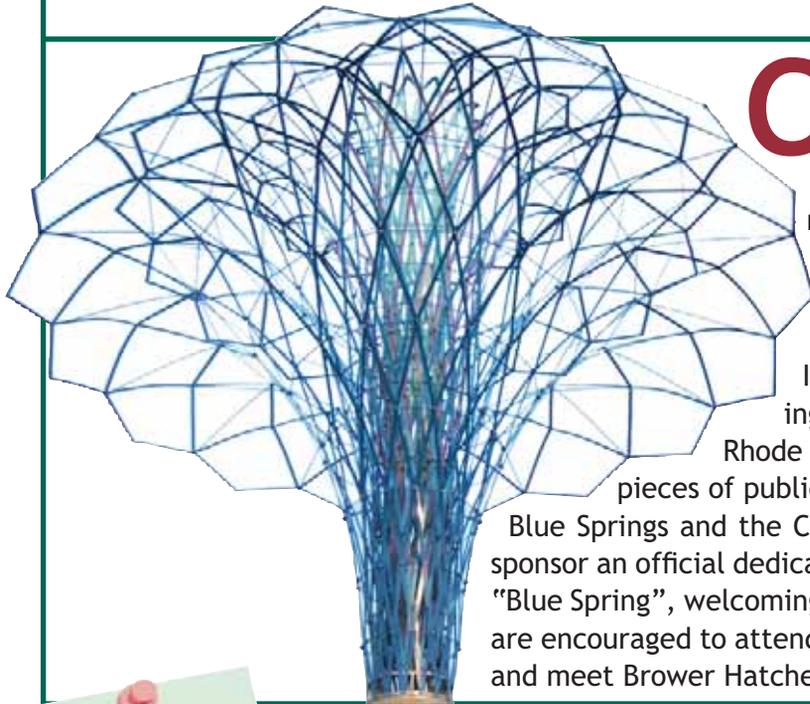
Helpful City Information

City Telephone Directory — All (816) Area Codes

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Adams Pointe Conf. Center--- 228-8100 | Crime Prevention ----- 228-0161 | Police Detectives----- 228-0156 |
| Adams Pointe Golf Club ----- 220-3673 | Driver License Testing ----- 622-0720 | Police Records ----- 228-0160 |
| Alarm Permits ----- 228-0217 | Economic Development ----- 228-0210 | Pothole Hotline----- 228-0291 |
| Ambulance Billing----- 229-8805 | Employment Hotline----- 228-0290 | Snow Removal Hotline ----- 228-0295 |
| Animal Control ----- 228-0149 | Engineering ----- 228-0121 | Street Department----- 228-0195 |
| Building Inspections ----- 228-0118 | Finance Department----- 655-0320 | Swimming Pool ----- 228-0188 |
| Building Permits----- 228-0118 | Fire Dept. (non-emergency)-- 229-2522 | Tax Department ----- 228-0131 |
| Bldg. Codes Inspect. Hotline --- 228-0104 | Human Resources ----- 228-0190 | Vehicle & Driver Licenses---- 228-0128 |
| Business Licenses ----- 228-0131 | Liquor Licenses----- 228-0131 | Vesper Hall ----- 228-0181 |
| City Administrator's Office --- 228-0110 | Mayor's Office ----- 228-0110 | Voter Registration----- 228-0110 |
| City Clerk/Public Relations--- 228-0110 | Municipal Court Clerk ----- 228-0175 | Water & Sewer Billing ----- 228-0135 |
| City Planners----- 228-0207 | Parks & Recreation----- 228-0137 | Water/Sewer Maintenance --- 228-0195 |
| Codes Administration ----- 220-4565 | Parks & Recreation Hotline--- 228-0116 | Youth Outreach Unit----- 228-0178 |
| Community Development ----- 228-0207 | Police Administration----- 228-0164 | |
| Community Dev. Hotline ----- 228-0223 | Police (non-emergency)----- 228-0150 | |

Watch CTV 7 (Comcast channel 7) and visit the City's Web site at www.bluespringsgov.com.

Dedication of "Blue Spring"



Commuters traveling on I-70 have probably seen the City's newest piece of public art which provides a very distinct look to the City's landscape. Entitled "Blue Spring", the large art sculpture depiction of a blue, mint green and lavender water spring has called the City of Blue Springs home for the past few months and is located on the northwest corner of I-70 and Highway 7, formerly a commuter parking lot.

Installed in December 2006 and completed with landscaping this year, "Blue Spring" was designed by Providence, Rhode Island artist Brower Hatcher, who is responsible for many pieces of public art throughout the country. Together with the City of Blue Springs and the Chamber of Commerce, the Public Art Commission will sponsor an official dedication ceremony on September 21, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. for "Blue Spring", welcoming it to its permanent home in the community. Residents are encouraged to attend this significant event to learn about the "Blue Spring" and meet Brower Hatcher the artist.

→ DON'T FORGET!

Dates To Remember...

- **September 7-8:** 24th Annual Blue Springs Barbeque Blaze Off - Hidden Valley Complex Sponsored by: Blue Springs Parks & Recreation
- **September 14, 15 & 16:** Blue Springs Fall Fun Festival - Downtown Blue Springs
Sponsored by: Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce
- **September 21:** Dedication of "Blue Spring" - Northwest corner of I-70 & Highway 7 (6:00 p.m.)
Sponsored by: Blue Springs Public Art Commission

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