

Fall 2010



# The Blue Springs

Informing Residents, Embracing Community, Improving the Quality of Life

MAGAZINE

## “The Wall That Heals” coming to Pink Hill Park



Blue Springs  
‘Best Places to Live’

“My Blue Springs” Photo Contest

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## On the cover:



The Wall That Heals photo from Apalachicola, Florida.

# Fall in Blue Springs



As we move from summer to fall, there is a lot of excitement in the air. Students are returning to school, fall recreation programs are in session and capital improvement projects are progressing.

We will kick off the season with the Fall Fun Fest in Downtown Blue Springs on Sept. 17-19. Then, Blue Springs will honor Vietnam veterans and showcase our community when The Wall That Heals comes to Pink Hill Park from

Sept. 30 through Oct. 3.

Our city has recently been honored by two national publications as an outstanding community. Blue Springs was named to BusinessWeek's "Best Places to Raise Your Kids" list and MONEY Magazine's "Best Places to Live" list. These recognitions place national attention on Blue Springs and validate the efforts of our residents, businesses, elected officials and many other community partners to make our community an attractive place for families, businesses and visitors.

Community partners and resident involvement are key reasons that Blue Springs has been honored on national "Best of" lists. Notable examples of these partnerships are the disc golf course at Young Park, the Pink Hill Park Recycling Center and the recent addition to the Blue Springs Police Department K-9 Unit, Bandit. Thanks to these partnerships, Blue Springs is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

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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# 'My Blue Springs' Photo Contest



We are proud to announce the 'My Blue Springs' Photo Contest! Show us what you think makes our city great.

This contest is open to photographers of all ages. 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 Magazine Winter 2010

edition. Contest entry deadline is Oct. 31, 2010.

#### Age categories include:

- Youth (under 18)
- Adult (18-49)
- Senior (50 and over)

#### 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." Please submit digital photos to photos@bluespringsgov.com.
- Standard Prints: must be at least

- Categories include:
  - Youth (under 18)
  - Adult (18-49)
  - Senior (50 and over)
- Contest entry deadline is Oct. 31, 2010
- Email entries to photos@bluespringsgov.com

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.

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

## "The Wall That Heals"

- Sept. 30 – Oct. 3
- Pink Hill Park  
2715 NW Park Drive Blue Springs, MO 64015
- To volunteer or for more information, visit [www.bluespringswallthatheals.net](http://www.bluespringswallthatheals.net), [www.bluespringsgov.com](http://www.bluespringsgov.com), call (816) 655-0490 or email [thewall@bluespringsgov.com](mailto:thewall@bluespringsgov.com)

"The Wall That Heals," the traveling half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Washington DC, will be coming to Pink Hill Park in Blue Springs from September 30 to October 3.

The event will include a Traveling Museum and an Information Center. Educational exhibits and veterans services will be on-site.

This event is free and open to the public.



# Public Works Update



## Sni-A-Bar Sewer Treatment Plant

The Sni-A-Bar sewer treatment plant expansion is fully underway. Progress has been sporadic due to inclement weather. The abnormally wet spring and summer have presented a significant challenge for the excavation contractor, but the project is moving forward and is still on schedule to be completed in late 2012.

Reed beds are currently being 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.

## 7 Highway and Colbern Road

Blue Springs has acquired all the needed right-of-way and easements for the 7 Highway and Colbern Road intersection expansion project. Improvements include signal improvements, additional through and turn lanes and center islands for motorist safety.

The project will go to bid this winter and be under construction until 2012.



## Moreland School Road Extension

Asphalt and sidewalk work on the Moreland School Road extension is complete. Storm sewer and water main improvements are in place.

The newly extended road that connects 19th Street and Liggett Rd will remain closed while work on sidewalks and landscaping continues.

The Moreland School Road extension is scheduled to be open in late Fall.



Kohls

## Coming Soon!

Kohls, Michaels and Staples are scheduled to open in Fall of 2010.

# Adams Dairy Update



Michaels



Staples

# Blue Springs 'Best Places To Live'

The City of Blue Springs has earned a place on MONEY Magazine's, "Best Places to Live" list, which ranks America's best small cities in 2010.

Blue Springs, ranked 49th out of a total of 100 cities recognized. MONEY Magazine partnered with OnBoard Informatics, a New York-based provider of real estate analysis, to select cities with a population of 50,000 to 300,000. The initial list consisted of 746 candidate cities; the selections were then narrowed by looking at housing affordability, school quality, arts and leisure, safety, health care, diversity and several ease-of-living criteria.

In the report, Blue Springs was praised for its low cost of living, nationally-

recognized schools, low tax rates and a central location among other things.

"This recognition by MONEY Magazine places a national spotlight on Blue Springs and validates the efforts of our resident, businesses, elected officials and many other community partners to make Blue Springs an attractive place for families, businesses and visitors," said Mayor Carson Ross.

Mayor Ross continued, "Our residents recognize the high quality of life that is offered through our affordable homes, beautiful neighborhoods and excellent community partners like the highly acclaimed Blue Springs School District".

"It speaks well to the hard work and



commitment of city staff and the residents of Blue Springs. A high standard has been set and the City looks forward to distinguishing itself as an excellent place to live and work," said Blue Springs City Administrator Eric Johnson.

For more information about MONEY Magazine's 2010 "Best Places to Live" list, visit [money.cnn.com](http://money.cnn.com).



## Sign Codes

In October 2009, Mayor Ross directed that a "Sign Code Task Force" be formed to address reoccurring concerns associated with the City's sign code. This task force was lead by Councilmember Jeanie Lauer and was comprised of Councilmembers, Planning Commission members, business owners and residents.

The task force held public meetings to

identify key concerns that needed to be addressed. Key concerns that were identified included: changeable copy signs, electronic reader board signs, wall signs, vehicle signs, off-site signs, and Master Sign Plan requirements.

The task force divided into focus groups and provided a list of proposed ordinance amendments to address key concerns. The proposed amendments

were presented to the Planning Commission on June 28, 2010 and after review and a public hearing, were approved by the City Council on July 7, 2010.

To learn more about the sign code update, call the Community Development Department at (816) 228-0207 or visit [www.bluespringsgov.com](http://www.bluespringsgov.com).

# 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 10 a.m. to 6 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 9, 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/electronics10](http://www.bluespringsgov.com/electronics10) 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](http://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](http://www.recyclespot.org) or call (816) 474-8326 for more information.

# Are You Prepared?

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. This national program is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities.

Residents and business owners should always be prepared for unforeseen events. These events include tornadoes, ice storms, floods, long-term power outages, and fire. Events like these typically create long-term power outages and water concerns.

Developing an emergency plan and kit can lessen the stress involved in an

emergency situation. Practicing your emergency plan regularly is important so when an emergency does happen, you and your family are ready.

Preparing can be as simple as practicing exit drills in your home or business in the event of a fire. Remember to check smoke detector batteries and exit lights and their batteries twice a year both in your home and your business.

Update your family's emergency contact list on a regular basis. Identify an out-of-town contact. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so this contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members. Make sure your contact list includes home, work and cell phone numbers. If you have a cell phone, program your emergency contact(s) as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in your phone.

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



## Emergency Kit items:

**Water** - one gallon of water per person, per day for at least three days.

**Food** - at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.

**Power** - flashlights, portable radio, weather radio, and batteries.

**First aid kit** - bandages, antibiotic ointment and any prescription medicines.

**Supplies** - tools, blankets, extra clothes, and anything else you may need for an extended period without basic utilities.

**Entertainment** - books, games and other activities.

**Other items** - infant formula, diapers, calling cards, money, emergency contact lists, pet food and extra water for your pet.

For more emergency kit ideas, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

# Code RED

## Sign up for CodeRED

- [www.bluespringsgov.com/codered](http://www.bluespringsgov.com/codered)
- (816) 220-CODE (2633)

The City of Blue Springs, Mo. and the Central Jackson County Fire Protection District have installed the CodeRED Emergency Notification System – a high-speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications.

This system allows us to notify residents of emergency situations that require immediate action. Once activated, the system will call your contact number and leave messages in voicemail boxes and on answering machines.

Blue Springs residents can also sign up for CodeRED Weather Warning while signing up for CodeRED Emergency Notification System. The CodeRED Weather Warning is a severe weather early warning service that will call your contact number and deliver an alert message shortly after a warning is issued by the National Weather Service for your area.

It is important to update your contact information as needed for the system to be effective.



# Community Calendar

## 41st Annual Fall Fun Fest

The Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce proudly presents the 41st annual Fall Fun Festival in downtown Blue Springs on Sept. 17-19.

The largest parade in Eastern Jackson County will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18-. This year's parade theme is "American Heroes".

New this year is Blue Springs' own version of "Minute to Win It". Competitors participate in a variety of crazy games to vie for cash prizes.

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

## August

**Concert in the Park**  
Trampled Under Foot  
Aug. 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

**Concert in the Park**  
Mighty Moe-Joes  
Aug. 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

**Vesper Hall Talent Show**  
Fri. Aug. 27, 12:30-1:30 p.m.  
Vesper Hall

**Concert in the Park**  
Nace Brothers  
Aug. 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

## September

**Car Cruise**  
Sept. 4 - 5pm - Dark  
Downtown Blue Springs

**Concert in the Park**  
Doghouse Daddies/Cold Blue Band  
Sept. 5, 4:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

**Centennial Pool-Plex  
Labor Day Weekend**  
Sept. 4-6, 12:30-7 p.m.  
Centennial Pool-Plex

**Centennial Pool-Plex  
Indoor Season**  
Sept. 7  
Centennial Pool-Plex



# 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		



**Blue Springs Barbeque  
Blaze-Off**  
Sept. 10-11  
Hidden Valley Park

**Storytime in the Park**  
Sept. 11, 11 a.m.  
Blue Springs Park - Shelter 2

**Fall Fun Fest**  
Sept. 17-19  
Downtown Blue Springs  
[bluespringsfallfestival.com](http://bluespringsfallfestival.com)

**Pooches in the Pool**  
Sept. 18, Noon to 3 p.m.  
Centennial Pool

**September Showdown**  
Sept. 19  
Adams Pointe Golf Club

**50 Plus Art Show**  
Sept. 20-23  
Vesper Hall

**Skateboard Competition**  
Sept. 25, 10 a.m.  
Old Mill Skate Park

**The Wall That Heals**  
Sept. 30 - Oct. 3  
Pink Hill Park

## October

**Princess Party featuring  
The Tooth Fairy**  
Oct. 2, noon to 4 p.m.  
Valley View High School  
[standupbluesprings.org](http://standupbluesprings.org)

**Car Cruise**  
Oct. 2, 5 p.m. to Dark  
Downtown Blue Springs

**Electronics Recycling**  
Oct. 9, 8 a.m. to noon.  
Pink Hill Park

**“Boo” Springs Harvest Fest**  
Oct. 30, 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

**Mom & Son Event**  
Nov. 13, 10 a.m. to Noon  
Vesper Hall

**Turkey Trot Scramble**  
Nov. 21  
Adams Pointe Golf Club

## December

**Breakfast with Santa**  
Dec. 4, 9 a.m.  
Vesper Hall

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

**Holiday Light Tour**  
Dec. 10, 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
Departs Blue Springs City Hall

**Holiday Express Train**  
Dec. (Date & Time TBD)  
Downtown Blue Springs

**Santa Scramble**  
Dec. 19  
Adams Pointe Golf Club

**Chipping of the Green**  
Dec. 26 through Jan. 9  
Pink Hill Park



## 7th Annual Princess Party

StandUp Blue Springs will host its seventh annual Princess Party to raise funds for its flagship program Dental for Kids, from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2 at Valley View High School, located at 5000 N.W. Valley View Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

Young ladies ages 2-12 will be the royal guests of honor and enjoy a visit from the Tooth Fairy. Activities include the Sparkle Smile Academy featuring the Royal Puppets, a Princess concert and crafts.



## Mayor's Christmas Tree

Join us on Tuesday, Dec. 7 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.