

Spring/Summer2011



# The Blue Springs

Informing Residents, Embracing Community, Improving the Quality of Life

MAGAZINE

## City Fireworks Display

# *“Let’s Move!”* Blue Springs



## Celebrating 10 Years of Public Art

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

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## On the cover:



"March with the Mayor" *Let's Move!* kick-off event on March 25 in Downtown Blue Springs.

Special thanks to the Kansas City Chiefs mascot, KC Wolf, who participated thanks to a partnership between the *Let's Move!* campaign and NFL Play 60 program.

# Welcome Warmer Weather!



After a particularly harsh winter, warmer weather is a welcome change of pace. Blue Springs received a lot snow this winter and I wanted to give the fine men and women who clean and maintain our streets during these storms a public "Thank You!" I have received many emails and phone calls from Blue Springs residents complimenting our crews on a job well done.

I'm so proud that Blue Springs has become a *Let's Move!* city.

The City has partnered with StandUp Blue Springs to develop a long-term, sustainable, and holistic approach to fight childhood obesity in our community. Community partners, such as the Blue Springs School District, St. Mary's Medical Center, Blue Springs Family YMCA, Central Jackson County Fire Protection District and many others have signed letters of commitment to the initiative. I hope to see you at one of the many *Let's Move!* events planned throughout the year.

With this issue, we are announcing a few new sections. The "By the Numbers" section will spotlight interesting facts about different departments every issue. This section gives readers a glimpse into the day-to-day operations of the featured departments. I am also proud to announce the Community Photo and Calendar section. This section features resident-submitted photos and an at-a-glance calendar of City-sponsored events.

Two-way communication is one of my top priorities. My goal is to help people be informed, be engaged and encourage them to get involved in City issues. If you would like more frequent updates on City news, I encourage you to sign up for my newsletter, follow us on Twitter or become "fans" on our Facebook page. Links to all of these resources can be found by visiting the City's Web site.

Gratefully in your service,

Mayor Carson Ross

## The Blue Springs MAGAZINE

### Contact Information

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Editor's note: This publication was printed before the April 5 election. For an updated list of elected officials, visit [www.bluespringsgov.com](http://www.bluespringsgov.com).

### City Officials

Carson Ross, Mayor  
Eric Johnson, City Administrator

### District 1

Dale Carter (816) 224-0384  
James May (816) 305-7375

### District 2

Kent Edmondson (816) 229-4864  
Chris Lievsay (816) 674-5108

### District 3

Grant Bowerman (816) 229-2726  
Ron Fowler (816) 228-1568

# Let's Move! Blue Springs



citizens of Blue Springs to develop and implement innovative ideas for improving the health of the children throughout the community.

StandUp will facilitate two citizen-led community summits to review current wellness programs and services to determine what could be expanded, as well as generate new ideas to meet the goals of *Let's Move!* Citizens will be invited to participate in the planning and implementation of the ideas generated from these summits.

This is a great chance to get involved for anyone who has a passion for making Blue Springs an even better community. These half-day morning summits will be held on June 18 and July 9.

A calendar of events has been developed for the *Let's Move!* initiative

on the City's website. Visit [www.bluespringsgov.com/letsmove](http://www.bluespringsgov.com/letsmove) for more information.

If you would like to submit an event for this community calendar, send information to [letsmove@bluespringsgov.com](mailto:letsmove@bluespringsgov.com).

On Monday, March 7, the Blue Springs City Council passed a resolution to become a *Let's Move!* city. The *Let's Move!* initiative was created by First Lady Michelle Obama and the Department of Health and Human Services as part of the nation's effort to raise a healthier generation of children.

The City of Blue Springs is partnering with StandUp Blue Springs to engage

## *Let's Move!* Summits

June 18

July 9

To register, call 478-4500 or visit [www.bluespringsgov.com/letsmove](http://www.bluespringsgov.com/letsmove) for more information.

# 13th Annual National Night Out



- August 2, 6-9 p.m.
- Downtown Blue Springs
- To volunteer or for more information, visit [www.bluespringsgov.com/nno](http://www.bluespringsgov.com/nno)

We invite your family to join us as we celebrate the 13th Annual National Night Out event in Blue Springs!

Hundreds of families, elected officials and neighboring businesses will be stepping out in the streets of downtown Blue Springs on August 2 from 6-9 p.m. to take a stand against crime and drug abuse.

This free, community event educates children and adults about crime prevention, general public safety and the danger of drugs.



Department Spotlight:

# By the Numbers

## Public Works (from Feb. 2010 to Feb. 2011)

18

Miles of road resurfaced

76

Number of watermain repairs

591

Number of cul-de-sacs  
in Blue Springs

3,639

Number of traffic signs  
maintained

3,832.5

Number of hours for  
snow removal

7,668

Number of permanent  
potholes filled

3,696,600

Pounds of salt used

2,104,100,000

Gallons of sewer treated  
at the Sni-A-Bar Sewer  
Treatment Plant

# 10th Anniversary of Public Art



Blue Spring,  
Brower Hatcher



Restless Recovery, Beth Nybeck



Sundance, Cecilia Luenza

The Blue Springs Public Art Commission was created by City ordinance in September 2000 to develop a public art program that would enhance the aesthetic appearance of the community and make Blue Springs an even more desirable place to live, work and locate a business.

Since its creation, the seven member voluntary board has brought six temporary art exhibits to the City, commissioned two major artworks, and enabled the City to integrate high quality, publicly accessible art that reflects the community's identity and vision.

The Blue Springs Public Art Commission is celebrating its tenth anniversary by sponsoring its First Annual Art Crawl this Spring. For more information about the Art Crawl, call Eleanor Frasier at (816) 655-0490.

## INSPIRED VISIONS

RED Development has partnered with the Blue Springs Public Art Commission to exhibit four artworks at the Adams Dairy Landing Shopping Plaza. RED Development has committed to the inclusion of permanent artworks and murals as part of the plan for bringing a quality shopping experience to the community.

"Inspired Visions" temporary art exhibit will be on display from April to October 2011.



Arabian, Victoria Reed

# Public Works Update



## Sni-A-Bar Sewer Treatment Plant

Even though it has been cold and snowy, the crews have been laying pipe, pouring concrete and excavating at the wastewater treatment plant.

During the course of the winter, new aeration basins have emerged from the terrain. Process piping has been installed between the different structures connecting them together in preparation for the next steps. The reed beds are about to receive layers of sand and earth in preparation for the planting of the reeds.

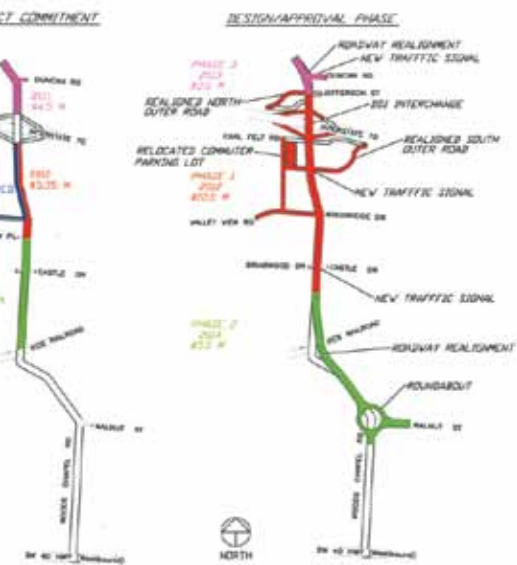
The project is a little over 35 percent complete and is on schedule for full completion in the spring of 2012.

## 7 Highway and Colbern Road

Jackson County has completed Colbern Road to Lee's Summit just to the west of this intersection. 7 Highway to the north was widened to five lanes in 2007. This project involves not only the signalization of this intersection, but also the improvement of all four roadways in each direction from the intersection.

This intersection is our southern entrance, and serves as a major gateway into Blue Springs.

This project is scheduled to begin construction this spring and be completed in the summer of 2012.



## Woods Chapel Road

Improvements will add much needed capacity for commuters, while adding additional turn lanes, new walkways, enhanced landscaping and a bike path. This cutting-edge design will feature a diverging diamond interchange. This style of interchange increases capacity, decreases congestion and minimizes the cost of new infrastructure.

MoDot has given preliminary plan approval for the project and the City is in the easement and land acquisition process. This project is expected to break ground in 2012.

# VIPS Making a difference!

The Volunteers In Police Services (VIPS) program began in May of 2008 as a natural progression from the former Non Commissioned Officer Program. This core group of the VIPS Program consisted of 10 people and ranged in age from 17 to 64. The VIPS program currently has 22 volunteers on staff. So far, VIPS members have logged 7,863.5 hours of service since the program began!

Duties include database management,

teaching training classes, crisis response and assisting Animal Control. VIPS members also assist at community events such as the Fall Fun Festival, DWI Checkpoint operations and National Night Out Against Crime.

If you are interested in joining the VIPS Program or would like more information, contact Sgt. Allen Kintz or Ed "Doc" Golden at (816) 228-0178.



VIPS members presented a check to Mayor Carson Ross for the 2010 assessed value of VIPS service to the Blue Springs community. In 2010, VIPS members logged a total of 3,829.25 hours of service that was valued by the Department of Labor at \$67,360.91!

# Recycling Resources

The Pink Hill Park Recycling Center is located at 2725 NW Park Rd, Blue Springs. The center is open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sort recyclable items by type:

- Office, shredded paper, newspaper & magazines
- Cardboard, paperboard & brown paper bags
- Phone books
- Plastics #1 (bottles)

- Plastics #2 (containers)
- Plastics #3-7 (containers)
- Aluminum cans
- Steel/tin food cans
- Glass jars and bottles

Staff is available to help and answer your recycling questions. For more information visit [www.bluespringsgov.com/recycling](http://www.bluespringsgov.com/recycling) or call the recycling hotline at (816) 228-0228.

**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.

**Unusual or Large-Item Recycling or Disposal** — Visit [www.recyclespot.org](http://www.recyclespot.org) or call (816) 474-8326 for more information.



## Top 10 Spring Codes Tips

### 2. Tree Limbs

Limbs that overhang the sidewalk or street must be trimmed. Call Public Works at (816) 220-0121 if you have questions about limbs in the rights-of-way of streets.

### 3. Brush Piles

Brush piles must be removed and properly disposed of. Open burning is not permitted within City limits.

### 4. Trash Containers

Trash for pick up should be placed no further than 5 feet from the home. Curbside pick up is prohibited. All trash must be contained at all times.

### 5. Inoperable Vehicles

Must be stored inside a garage or removed from the premises. For inoperable vehicles in the street, contact the Police Department at (816) 228-0150. Commercial vehicles weighing more than 6 tons, boom and tow trucks are not permitted in residential districts.

### 1. Resident Lawns

Lawns should not exceed 8 inches in height. Eradicate any poison ivy on the premise of your residential property.

### 6. Parked Vehicles

Parking of cars and trucks is not permitted on grass and lawns. Recreational Vehicles (RV's) can be stored in driveways, side yards or rear yards if access is available.

### 7. Fence, Deck and Pool Construction

A new deck, fence or pool construction requires a City building permit. All pools holding 24 inches of water or more, including inflatable pools, must have a permit from the Codes Administration Department.

### 8. Garage Sale Signs

Garage and yard sale signs must be placed on your own property. They may not be posted on public utility/light poles or on public rights-of-way of streets. These signs do not require a permit. Signs cannot be posted on premises for longer than 3 days per sale.

### 9. Home Childcare Businesses

All in-home childcare businesses require a business license issued by the City of Blue Springs. Business licenses can be obtained at City Hall.

### 10. Disposal of Refrigerators

When disposing of refrigerators or airtight containers, always remove the container door or secure the door with a chain and lock.



# Community Calendar



Jackson Levan cleaning snow off his fire hydrant.  
Photo submitted by Doug Levan.



Allison and Gabrielle Graham at Rotary Park  
Photo submitted by John Graham

## April

### Inspired Visions

Temporary Art Exhibit  
April 1 - October 3  
Adams Dairy Landing

### Household Hazardous Waste Event

April 16, 8 a.m. to noon  
Pink Hill Park

### Jackson County Family Week

April 17-23  
jacksoncountyfamilyweek.org

### Arbor Day Walk

April 23, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

## May

### Car Cruise

May 7, 5 p.m. to dark  
Downtown Blue Springs

### Fishing Derby

May 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Registration at 8:30 a.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

### Pooches on the Parkway

May 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
Young Park

### Concert in the Park

Krazy Kats  
May 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

### Centennial Pool-Plex Opening Weekend Free Day

May 28, 12:30-7 p.m.  
Centennial Pool-Plex

## Community Photo Corner

We love seeing photos of you  
enjoying Blue Springs. Send your  
Blue Springs photos to photos@  
bluespringsgov.com.



# 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		

# June

## Car Cruise

June 4, 5 p.m. to dark  
Downtown Blue Springs

## Concert in the Park

June 5  
Ben Miller, 4-6 p.m.  
David Mayfield Parade,  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

## Night Bike Ride

June 11, 11:30 p.m.  
Centennial Pool-Plex

## Concert in the Park

Southbound  
June 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

## Let's Move! Summit

June 18, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
[www.bluespringsgov.com/letsmove](http://www.bluespringsgov.com/letsmove)

## Skate Park Competition

June 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Old Mill Park

## Concert in the Park

BluzBenderz  
June 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

## Street Flicks

Karate Kid  
June 24, 7:15 p.m. (dusk)  
Downtown Blue Springs

## Concert in the Park

Elsa Smith Band  
June 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

# July

## Car Cruise

July 2, 5 p.m. to dark  
Downtown Blue Springs

## Concert in the Park

Midnight Review  
July 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

## Fireworks Celebration

Monday, July 4  
Gates open at 7:30 p.m.  
Fireworks begin around 9:30 pm.  
Peve Football Stadium

## Let's Move! Summit

July 9, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
[www.bluespringsgov.com/letsmove](http://www.bluespringsgov.com/letsmove)

## Concert in the Park

Mighty Moe-Joe's  
July 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

## Concert in the Park

Livy High  
July 17, 4:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

## Street Flicks

How to Train Your Dragon  
July 22, 7:15 p.m. (dusk)  
Downtown Blue Springs

## Concert in the Park

Rail Dogs  
July 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

## Concert in the Park

Loose Change  
July 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

# August

## National Night Out

August 2, 6-9 p.m.  
Downtown Blue Springs

## Car Cruise

August 6, 5 p.m. to dark  
Downtown Blue Springs

## Concert in the Park

Nace Brothers  
August 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake



## Arbor Day “Tree-Ching!”

Have you ever wondered how much a tree is worth? You know that trees are great, but what if you could assign a dollar value to an individual tree?

Join us on April 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for an Arbor Day Walk at Rotary Park at Railroad Lake to learn about the value and benefits of urban forests.

Year-round price tags will be placed on trees in Rotary Park showing their value using the National Tree Benefit Calculator. This calculator uses each tree's location, species and size to estimate the monetary benefit it provides each year by managing storm water, improving air quality and reducing energy usage.

For more information, visit [www.bluespringsgov.com/arbortalk](http://www.bluespringsgov.com/arbortalk).

## Concert in the Park

Mary Goes Round  
August 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake

## Concert in the Park

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

## Concert in the Park

Eric Tessmer Band  
August 28, 6-8 p.m.  
Rotary Park at Railroad Lake