

Thanks for Supporting the Farmers' Market

The Springfield Farmers' Market celebrated a successful 7th Season at Begg Park. Thank you to all who visited the Market and participated in our special events.

We feel it is important to offer special events that stimulate our community and encourage the use of our great facilities. Some of the special events hosted this year included the 6th Annual Car and Craft Show (which hosted nearly 200 classic cars), our monthly craft shows, two Mom 2 Mom Sales, the First Annual Health Fair, the First Annual Springfield Business Expo (which saw more than 15 local businesses come together at the Market), and the First Annual Community Potluck (which brought together more than 75 residents and market goers). We even hosted three disc golf tournaments, including the 2008 World Disc Golf Championships in August!

In addition to the great special events, our Market saw a significant improvement when we implemented our new

Debit/Credit/EBT Program. We are the only area market that accepts all three of these forms of payment, and they certainly had their effect on our vendors' annual sales . . . More than \$3,300 passed thru the card machine this summer!

Other investments like the new *Market Bistro*, that provides a place for market-goers to sit

and talk, and even enjoy some of the great produce and baked goods that our vendors offer, or the big beautiful new sign that announces the area as "The Springfield Market District" have been implemented by the City in an effort to make the Market more user friendly.

The sign shown below was made possible through a joint

effort of the six businesses named on the sign and the City's TIFA Board, who combined their funds to cover the signs \$24,000 cost.

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Market. We look forward to seeing you next season, when we plan to roll out a number of new events at the Market!!



Election Results Are In

Voter turnout in Springfield was high this season. Clerk Vogel and her staff did an outstanding job!! The lines moved quickly, even with the increased turnout.

Springfield residents will have some new representatives at the County, State, and Federal levels.

Kate Segal, our current County Commissioner, did not seek reelection to the County Commission. However, she will now represent us via State House District 62. This seat was formerly held by Representative Mike Nofs.

Kate's seat on the County Commission will now be held by Lisa Gerow.

Mark Schauer, our current State Senator (District 19), will now represent our City via the U.S. House in District 7. This seat is currently filled by Congressman Tim Walberg. Congressman Schauer's current Senate seat will likely be filled by the Governor in the coming months.

We also have a new County Prosecutor (Susan Mladenoff), a new 10th District Judge (John Hallacy), and a new County Drain Commissioner (Larry Cortright). Sherriff Al Byam, Clerk/Register Anne Norlander, and Treasurer Ann Rosenbaum were all reelected.

Thanks for participating in this year's elections!

Did You Have Trouble Voting?

A number of voters had unexpected problems at the polls in Springfield and other local polling locations. It's in your best interest to take some time and do the following to ensure that you're ready to vote at the next election:

1. Call the Clerk's Office and make sure you're registered to vote; we had a few residents attempt to vote, only to find out that they were not registered.
2. Also, verify the correct voting place with Clerk's Office; we had a number of people trying to vote here when they were registered to vote in different cities. You cannot vote in Springfield unless you're registered here.
3. If you move, be sure to register at your new address! If you move back to an old address, make sure your voter registration is updated!

Autumn is Winding Down

As the autumn season draws to a close, we have a few things to remind everyone about:

1. Please have your swimming pools properly closed for the season as soon as you're done utilizing them. All temporary pools should be removed from your yard and properly stored until next summer. Please help us keep our neighborhoods looking great!
2. Do not rake/blow your leaves into the street! Do not burn your leaves. Your Green Refuse Bin can be used for yard waste through the last Monday in November. After that, we will not be conducting any leaf or grass pickup until Spring.
3. Beginning December 1, you can use your Green Refuse Bin for regular garbage.
4. It is going to start getting dark earlier, so if you notice a street light out, please contact the City Clerk's Office.
5. During snow times, please try to park in your driveway. This will help us keep the streets clean and safe for all to use.
6. Please do not let your dogs bark . . . Just let them inside the house and they'll probably be happy!

Christmas Parade

The City of Springfield will make their annual entry in the Battle Creek Christmas Parade this year. As in past years, our staff and Council Members are working on a great float that will represent our City in the Event. This year's theme is "A Small Town Christmas." So, come on out on November 22nd and enjoy the parade!!

Park and Sell Locations

As the economy tightens, many property owners are looking for ways to maximize revenues. One of the ways in which some are doing it is by creating "Park and Sell" locations on their property where they rent parking spaces for people to leave a vehicle for sale. Please contact the City office prior to implementing such a use on your property, as zoning regulations and site plan approval rules will apply.

Utility Bills will soon go EFT

Beginning with the next utility billing cycle, all residents and businesses will have the option to have their utility bill (water, sewer, refuse) debited directly from their checking or savings account through an electronic fund transfer. This move will be at no cost to the customer!! Each day, we strive to provide better services to our residents in an efficient and affordable manner . . . We hope everyone finds this service useful! If you have any questions, please contact the Utility Billing Department.

Winter Tax Bills are Coming

Winter Tax Bills will be mailed out on December 1st. They will be due on February 14th . . . Happy Valentine's Day! All Winter Tax Bills must be paid by March 1st, or the Calhoun County Treasurer's Office will assume the liability.

Income Tax Time

Remember that Springfield does administer a local income tax. If you live and/or work in Springfield, you are required to file a return with the City's Income Tax Department. All of our forms are available online at www.springfieldmich.com, and forms/booklets can also be obtained at the Municipal Building. On line forms are fillable format, so you can fill them out on your computer, print them, and send them in!

Beginning February 1, 2009, you will also be able to e-file your Springfield Taxes!

Don't Forget About our New Office hours

As we strive to be more efficient with your tax dollars, we have moved to a four-day work week for office staff. Effective July 7th, our office hours are now Monday thru Thursday from 7a to 6p. We hope you find the additional time in the mornings and evenings to be convenient.

We're Welcoming Two New PSOs

PSO Stephen Herbstreith started in early September and PSO Trevor Endsley started in late September. Please welcome these gentlemen to our great community.

Thanks for all who Participated in the Community Cleanup!

This Fall's Community Cleanup event was a great opportunity for residents to get rid of unwanted items that were cluttering up their houses/yards. It was well-received, and many residents brought out the things that they no longer wanted.

However, did you know that we have UNLIMITED TRASH PICKUP all year long through Waste Management?

Yes, we do! Most of the items that were disposed of at the Community Cleanup event could have been simply put at the curb for Waste Management's normal weekly pickup! You did not have to bring them

down to our drop off locations.

Please remember this in the future—there is no need to wait for a special event to de-clutter your house, garage, or yard . . . You can do it all year long.

There are many items that you may think are not allowed as part of your regular garbage pickup through Waste Management . . . But guess again, they are probably OK! Here are some items that are OK to put out with your regular trash:

1. Latex paint cans—just take the lid off and let the paint dry first (you can mix cat litter into the can to speed up the drying process).

2. Building materials like dry-wall, insulation, wood, etc. that is left over from your home construction projects.
3. Air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and other devices using Freon. You must have the Freon professionally removed.
4. Bulky furniture items like chairs, couches, etc. can also be left at the curb. You must call Waste Management to inform them of the large item.
5. Brush and leaves can also be picked up via Waste Management's yard waste program.

Dates to Remember

- The City Offices will be closed Nov 27-28 for Thanksgiving.
- The City Offices will be closed Dec 24-26 for Christmas.
- The City Offices will be closed Dec 31-Jan 2 for New Year's.
- The City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30p.
- The Planning Commission meets the 4th Monday of each month at 7p.
- The EDC/TIFA/BRA meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7p.
- Coffee with the City Manager is on the 1st Monday of each month at 8a.