



Springfield Department of Public Safety Celebrates “Movember”

Members of the Springfield Department of Public Safety are participating in the annual Movember celebration. For a number of years, the members of the Movember Foundation (named by combining “Mo,” which is an Australian term for *mustache*, and “November”) have dedicated the calendar month of November to raising awareness to issues that affect men’s health.

This year, the Springfield Department of Public Safety will be growing mustaches throughout the month of November to raise awareness of the effects of prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is the most common non-skin cancer in the United States, affecting 1 in 6 men. A non-smoking man is more likely to develop prostate cancer than he is to develop colon, bladder, melanoma, lymphoma and kidney cancers combined. A man is also 35% more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer than a woman is to be diagnosed with breast

cancer (these facts were provided by the Prostate Cancer Foundation).

As part of this effort, the Springfield Department of Public Safety will be collecting donations at the front desk. The donations will be collected throughout the month, and the proceeds will be passed on to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Residents that wish to learn more about this fun way to bring awareness to this important issue can visit www.movember.com. Donations can also be made at this site by clicking on donate to person and typing in “Thomas Wirebaugh.” PSO Wirebaugh is spearheading the department’s efforts to grow mustaches and grow attention to prostate cancer. Thank you PSO Wirebaugh for your efforts!

Also, visit PSO Wirebaugh’s “Mospace” page at www.movember.com/mospace/65774/

If you’re out on the town and see one of our officers with a mustache, please take a moment to acknowledge his efforts to bring awareness . . . It’s also ok to laugh. The next edition of the Springfielder will certainly contain some pictures of our officers’ mo-staches.



Prostate Cancer Foundation

MOVEMBER
CHANGING THE FACE OF MEN’S HEALTH

*** Holiday Office Hours ***

This is our last Springfielder before the holiday season is in full swing. Please note the following holiday closures in the City of Springfield:

- November 11
- November 26-27
- December 24-25
- December 31

Springfield Welcomes Meat and Cheese Market

Kim and Lynn’s Meat and Cheese Market opened last month at 842 Goguac Street (near the corner of 20th). Please take some time to visit their great store and welcome them to our community. Kim and Lynn’s is a great addition to our community, and we wish them great success. Their hours are Mon-Fri 8a-7p and Sat 9a-3p.

Kim and Lynn’s is a great place to stop for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, and it’s also a convenient place to stop and do your grocery shopping. They have a large selection of meats and cheeses, deserts, sandwiches, and other daily grocery items. Feel free to call them to request a lunch menu: 269-964-8630.

Springfield Wireless Internet is Moving at High Speeds . . .

Our new high speed wireless internet network continues to be a great success. During the initial months, many of our subscribers were patient as we tweaked the system and worked with Consumers Energy to install and power the needed routers on their utility poles. We thank you for your patience, and hope the reward of great, reliable high speed internet access for only \$10 per month was worth the wait.

Our wireless system is one of the largest and most technologically-advanced in the entire country. The 21st Century technology that we used was developed by a California-based company that specializes in stable, reliable high speed wireless internet, and their product has yet to disappoint us.

Older wireless systems work reasonably well

for simple text e-mail, Internet browsing, and other low bandwidth functions. Springfield’s next-generation network allows users to make phone calls over the Internet (known as Voice over Internet Protocol, or VoIP) and to send and receive massive documents such as blueprints and movies using laptop computers. The technology used in our wireless infrastructure is, by far, the most advanced available.

ACD also provides high speed wired internet services, as well as telephone service. They are a long-standing member of the internet providing community, and we are grateful to have their expertise overseeing and managing our great WiFi system! Enjoy this great, unique city benefit!

Contact ACD at
1-877-422-3638 or
visit www.acd.net.



Winter Safety Takes Everybody's Help

Adult Citizens

- * Please do not **plow snow into or across the roads.**
- * Don't pile snow high near intersections or driveways obstructing others vision.
- * Keep garbage bins, basketball hoops, etc., away from road.
- * Please park your vehicles away from the road.

Children

- * Please stay away from roads being plowed.
- * Don't throw snowballs at vehicles.
- * Don't play along edge or in snow piles by the road.
- * **Remember, the plow driver can't always see you.**



- DID YOU KNOW ?**
1. Your mailbox is in the road right-of-way, as permitted by the City of Springfield.
 2. Please check to see that your mailbox is in good condition, and repair if needed.
 3. Please check to see if mailbox is set back properly so the plow truck cannot hit it.
 4. Please help by removing obstacles in the way for winter plowing.

Please slow down and have a safe winter

City of Springfield Department of Public Works

CURBSIDE MAILBOX INSTALLATION AND REPLACEMENT POLICY

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MAILBOXES

All curbside mailboxes shall comply with the following installation requirements:

1. The bottom of the mailbox shall be between 41 inches and 45 inches from the top of the pavement, as defined by United States Postal Service (USPS) installation requirements.
2. The front of the mailbox shall be set back 6-8 inches from the face of the curb or, on streets without curb, the edge of the pavement, as defined by USPS installation requirements.
3. The mailbox support post construction shall meet the following standards:
 - The mailbox support structure shall not be constructed of masonry or concrete material.
 - Mailbox support structures shall comply with AASHTO's Roadside Design Guide, section 4.6.5 Mailbox Supports, and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standards.
 - Mailbox support structures shall, if wood, be no greater than either 4 inches by 4 inches if the structure is square or 4 inches in diameter if the structure is round; if metal, have strength no greater than a 2 inch diameter standard strength steel pipe; and not be embedded more than 24 inches into the ground nor set in concrete, unless the support design has been shown to be safe by crash test.

Mailboxes not conforming to the requirements of this policy that were located within the street right-of-way before September 21, 2009 are permitted subject to the following conditions:

1. No alteration or addition to a non-conforming mailbox is permitted except in conformity with this ordinance.

2. If any non-conforming mailbox is damaged or destroyed by any means, or if a nonconforming mailbox is removed due to street or utility construction or similar work, repair or reconstruction will be permitted only in conformity with this policy.

MAILBOX REPLACEMENT

The City will replace curbside mailboxes only when it has been determined that all of the following apply:

1. The damage was caused by actual physical contact with City equipment.
2. The mailbox is of standard design and placed in conformance with this policy.
3. The mailbox and post were in good condition.

The City will not replace curbside mailboxes when the City has determined that any of the following apply:

1. The mailbox was not of standard design or not placed in conformance with this policy, even though it might have been damaged by City equipment.
2. The mailbox and post were not in good condition.
3. The weight of plowed snow resulted in the damage to the mailbox and/or support structure.

The replacement of mailboxes by the City shall be limited to a minimum standard metal USPS mailbox with a standard 4 inch by 4 inch treated wood post. Special decorative mailboxes and/or support structures will not be provided. If a resident wishes to install a decorative mailbox and/or post meeting standards referenced in this policy, the City will reimburse the resident the up to \$50.00 for the cost of materials only upon receipt of a paid invoice.

How Springfield's Taxes Compare

Springfield's City Council and staff pride ourselves on being able to provide the very best municipal services to our residents and business owners at the most appropriate and affordable price.

From time to time, we like to benchmark ourselves against other area municipalities to make certain that we are providing the greatest services to our residents at a price that is competitive with our comparable neighbors. In essence, we want to make sure Springfield is remaining competitive with our neighbors in terms of quality of life and cost of living.

Springfield provides full service police and fire protection, as well as great parks and one of

the best systems of street infrastructure in Calhoun County. We aggressively seek out non-local funding sources for infrastructure improvements, work with neighboring municipalities to improve efficiencies, and prioritize expenses to avoid major tax and fee increases without negatively affecting services. Using mostly grant dollars, we completed 15+ miles of street resurfacing in the last two years.

Many times, residents and business owners comment that property taxes are generally too high, and specifically point to Springfield as being much higher than other communities. Property taxes are an important source of funding for municipal services, libraries, education, etc. They are not strictly used to fund city

or township government.

For example, the average residential tax bill in Springfield is approximately \$1,290 per year, but only \$451 is kept in Springfield; the remainder is sent to Battle Creek Public Schools, Willard Library, Calhoun County, and other area agencies. Springfield keeps approximately 35% of each residential tax bill and 25% of each commercial tax bill.

In comparison to other area municipalities, Springfield's overall tax rate is in the middle of the road. However, of the four area municipalities listed below as having property tax rates lower than that of the City of Springfield, three do not offer full service public works (local street repairs and snow plowing) or

public parks, and two do not have dedicated police departments. Springfield truly is a full service city.

Springfield boasts a tax rate that is lower than Albion and Marshall, and much lower than Kalamazoo and Portage. Additionally, Springfield's affordable housing market allows families to purchase homes at an average cost of \$65,000.

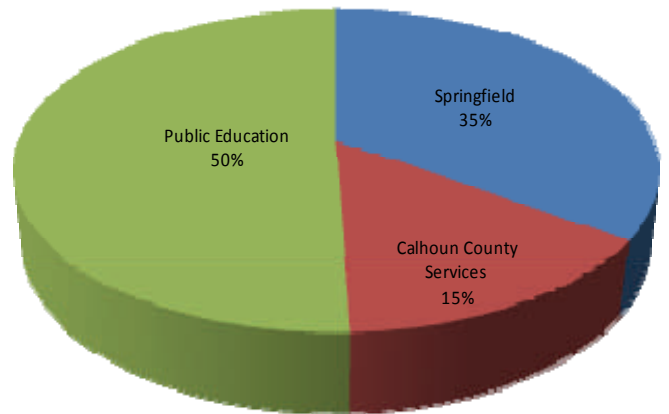
For example, the average cost for a residential parcel in Emmett Township is \$120,000. And, although the township's tax rate is lower, the average residential tax bill in Springfield would be \$700 less per year.

Springfield offers a high-quality, affordable place to live!

Property Tax Comparisons



Where Your Property Taxes Go



Income Tax—Credit

The Springfield City Council recently adjusted the local income tax personal exemption from \$1,500 per exemption to \$750 per exemption.

This move was completed as part of the City's efforts to correct a number of income tax related issues:

1. Reduce the number of filing errors by residents that also file in the City of Battle Creek.
2. Reduce the administration expenses related to correcting errors in tax filings.
3. Stabilize the Income Tax Fund's revenue.

The effects of this change on the average household are expected to be minimal. The typical income-tax paying resident will see a reduction in their tax return equal to about \$3.50 per exemption. With the average household size in Springfield being just over 2 persons, the average reduced tax return should equal approximately \$7.00 per year.

The Springfield Income Tax is a vital revenue source for local services. In the current FY 2009-10 budget, the Income Tax Fund provides for four public safety officers and \$50,000 in local street improvements.

Grants Repave Our Streets

Nearly \$1 Million in competitive State and Federal grants have been received in the last year to resurface 8 miles of streets.

The entire Springfield Heights neighborhood has been resurfaced, and both Harmonia Rd and Jackson Street have also been completed this fall.

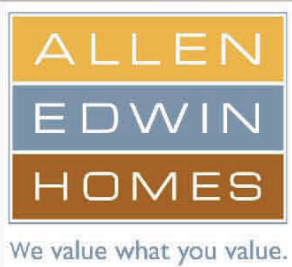
This is in addition to the work

done on 20th Street, Avenue A, Lafayette Street, and in the Harmony Neighborhood in the last two years. In the past three years 16+ miles of our local streets have been repaved.

We take pride in our ability to maintain the very best street infrastructure in Calhoun County.

Holiday Market November 21

This year, our Farmers Market will host its first ever holiday market. The event will include the sale of many Christmas-related plants, like Christmas Trees and poinsettias, and will also feature Christmas Carolers and other festive events. The market will be open from 10a to 3p. Don't forget to make the Springfield Holiday Market a part of your holiday celebration; stop in before you head to Battle Creek's annual downtown parade.



Orchard Hills

Allen Edwin Homes is honored to partner with the City of Springfield and offer new homes in Orchard Hills.

Orchard Hills is an attractively priced community with new homes starting at \$99,900. This community is in an area of growth with a wealth of surrounding lifestyle amenities. Residents in Orchard Hills are located minutes from downtown Battle Creek and have easy access to I-94.

Visit AllenEdwin.com to learn more!

Or Call Joe at (800) 514-1620



- Great Orchard Hills Lot
- 1640 Sq. Ft.
- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
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