

the
BLUE SPRINGS

Fall 2008

Informing Residents, Embracing Growth, Improving Quality of Life **magazine**

Includes Parks and Recreation Activities Guide

Inside:

Meet Your Mayor and City Council

Voters Pass City Bond Issues

Police "Call-Taker of the Year"

Recognizing Vesper Hall Volunteers

and much more...



*Where Vision and
Opportunity Meet*

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the
Blue Springs
magazine

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About the Cover:

Fall 2008 cover photo taken by Debbie Whisler. Members of the Blue Springs City Council, Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce, teachers and cheerleaders of the Blue Springs School District, family and friends gathered to record a "good luck" message for 2007 American Idol® winner, David Cook.

Video message was recorded by Kansas City's Fox 4 TV station.



A Message from Mayor Ross

Blue Springs is a community known for its community partnerships, planned growth and shared vision. In 1981, I was elected to the City's Board of Alderman and more than 20 years later, I'm encouraged to see the continued commitment of departments and members of the City Council to make the needs of our citizens and our city government a key priority.

After just a few short months in office as the Mayor of Blue Springs, I can look around this great city of ours and affirm that Blue Springs is certainly a community on the move. Through citizen feedback tools such as our annual Citizen's Survey and the Renew the Blue visioning process, the City Council is working along with staff to develop strategies for improvement for various City government programs and services.

In this issue of the Blue Springs Magazine, we will uncover a number of positive activities currently underway in the City. Recently, Blue Springs voters approved two important City-proposed bond issues for sewer and street improvements, a positive sign that citizens are in support of growth and progress in the City.

Our Blue Springs Police Department is one of several key departments also working to identify and improve service areas most important to citizens. Trend information from the Department's 2007 Annual Report indicates that our Police Department takes citizen safety very seriously, reflecting an 18% decrease in violent crime from 2006.

Finally, we'll take a look at the programs and services, including the (CIP) Capital Improvements Program and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan which serve as important planning tools to help guide the City's priorities for budget development and service delivery.

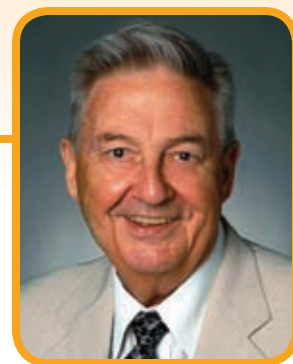
Blue Springs is a community that is poised for growth and expansion in every sector of the City. An exciting future lies ahead of our City and through the commitment and continued cooperation of the entire community, we can continue making our City a leader in Eastern Jackson County for decades to come.

Remembering a City Leader

On August 11, 2008, the City of Blue Springs lost one of its great leaders in city government, a man whose passion for the community led him to dedicate many years of service.

Ted Anderson was a member of the Blue Springs Planning Commission, working within an 11-member board to advise the Mayor and City Council regarding planning and zoning regulations in the City. Commissioner Anderson also served as acting Board Chairman and CEO of Fogel-Anderson, a Kansas City based construction company responsible for numerous building projects both in Blue Springs and the surrounding metropolitan area.

Members of City Council and the Blue Springs Planning Commission share equal sentiments about the recent loss of this community and government leader. Mayor Ross highlighted, "With the experience he had and his passion for the City, it will not be easy to replace Ted Anderson...he will be greatly missed."



Contact Your City Leaders



Blue Springs City Council

Success in '08

City Voters Pass 2008 Bond Election Issues

Like many communities, Blue Springs prides itself in being a city government that is responsive to the quality of life needs and expectations of its citizens. This year proved that point as the City presented two questions on the Jackson County Primary Election ballot for voter consideration designed to make improvements to the City's sewer system and selected roadways.

Question 1, which was approved by approximately 84% of the voters, authorizes the use of a \$35 million revenue bond for improvements to be made to the City's sewer facilities in order to meet mandated environmental regulations and to take advantage of low-interest state financing. By utilizing this special state financing, the City will be able to reduce projected increases in customers' sewer rates which are used to repay the bonds.

Question 2 for selected street improvements also saw a significant passage at the August poles, with approximately 80% of voters approving the issuance of \$28 million in general obligation "No Tax Increase" bonds for road and intersection improvements including: 1) Widening of Woods Chapel Road, 2) Duncan Road at Woods Chapel Road/R.D. Mize Road intersection, 3) Extension of Moreland School Road to Liggett Road, and 4) Colbern Road and Highway 7 intersection. With this bond, the City will be able to extend its current debt service tax levy of \$.15 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for an additional 20 years. The bonds will be issued in three phases in order to maintain the current levy of \$.15. The current cost of the debt service levy to a resident whose house is valued at \$150,000 is \$42.75 per year or \$3.57 per month.

Mayor Carson Ross said the passage of the two bond issues has significant implications for the City, being the first approved City-proposed bond issues since 1990. "The results of this special bond election prove that the voters want to see continued growth and improvements in our City" said Ross.

"The residents of Blue Springs have come to appreciate and expect a high standard of government services and a unique quality of life. With these bonds, the City can continue providing its residents and businesses with the quality of services this community expects and deserves."

Watch CTV Channel 7

District 1

Councilman Jeanie Lauer
(816) 228-9152
jeanielauer@comcast.net

Councilman Lyle Shaver
(816) 517-6822
lyle@shaverdistrict1.com

District 2

Councilman Kent Edmondson
(816) 228-7181
kwikkopy4@comcast.net

Councilman Sissy Reed
(816) 229-2593
sissyreed@comcast.net

District 3

Councilman Ron Fowler
(816) 228-1568
ron.fowler@atk.com

Councilman Sheila Solon
(816) 229-0218
sheila@solondistrict3.com

City Council Meetings

The Blue Springs City Council holds regular meetings on every first and third Monday of each month, unless noted otherwise.

Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held at the Howard L. Brown Public Safety Building, 1100 Smith Street. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Live and On Demand

Watch City Council meetings live and at your convenience on Comcast Cable Channel 7 or online at www.bluespringsgov.com!

Answering the Call

Blue Springs Officer Awarded Police "Call-Taker of the Year"

Patricia "Patti" Kanotz, one of two Dispatch Supervisors for the Blue Springs Police Department Communication Unit was recently selected the 2007 TIPS Hotline "Call-Taker of the Year" for the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Patti was surprised with the award at a Crime Stopper's recognition and appreciation breakfast on January 31, 2008 which honored all of the agencies and their selected call-takers for 2007.

Laura Moritz of KMBZ Channel 9 and members of the Crime Commission presented the award to Patti, with Blue Springs Dispatch Supervisor Jim Keyton, Captains Robert Morton & Rea Myers, and Chief Wayne McCoy present at the ceremony.

The Blue Springs Police Department, along with other area police agencies, answers TIPS Hotline calls regularly during evening and weekend hours. Each year, one call-taker is chosen as the "Call-Taker of the Year" based on tips they have received and their dedication to the Crime Stopper Program.

Patti was selected for tips she received that helped to resolve a murder in Grandview, Missouri, tips relating to a variety of other felonies, as well as her long-term commitment and service to the Crime Stopper Program. There are 13 police agencies from two states that assisted as call-takers in the Kansas City metro area in 2007, but only one call-taker of the year (and only one Patti)!



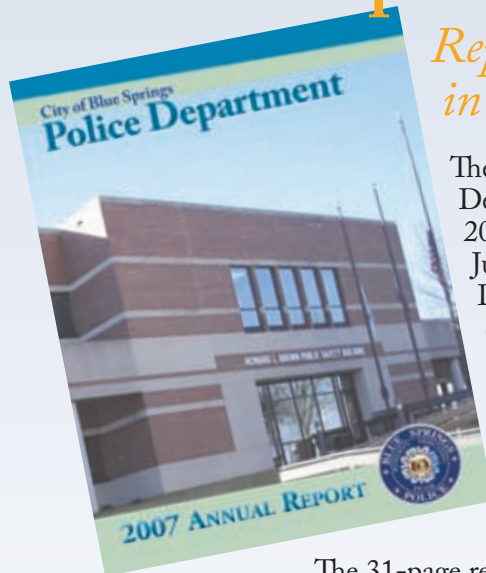
Laura Moritz of KMBZ Channel 9 News (far-left) presents "Call-Taker of the Year" award to Patricia Kanotz (middle)

Patti is a 19-year veteran of the Blue Springs Police Department Communications Unit. Before joining the Blue Springs Police Department Patti worked for the Greely, Colorado, Beverly Hills, California and Harrisonville, Missouri Police Departments.

Away from the police department, Patti is very active in her church and spends her free time spoiling her grandchildren. Family and friends are very important to Patti, including her family at the Blue Springs Police Department. The City is proud of Patti, and of all it's Dispatchers who assist in making the Crime Stopper Program a valuable tool in the apprehension of many dangerous criminals.

Police Department Releases Annual Report

Report reflects lowest crime index in six years and increase in police presence



The Blue Springs Police Department released its 2007 Annual Report in July highlighting the Department's many accomplishments in 2007, including a reduction in violent crime and vehicular accidents and an increase in police presence over the past year.

The 31-page report provides a comprehensive overview of the structure and performance indicators of the Blue Springs Police Department for 2007, including various activities and services provided by the Department's four professional bureaus.

"With an authorized strength of 115 full-time employees - 83 sworn police officers and 32 civilians - the Department's mission

is to provide the highest quality of police services to the Blue Springs community, promoting a safe environment through police and citizen partnerships" said Police Chief Wayne McCoy.

The report includes several highlights including the successful completion of the first full year of service for the Blue Springs K-9 unit, an expansion of the Department's crime prevention efforts, a department-wide reorganization process to better address the City's public safety needs, and the addition of 13 sworn Officers over the past seven years.

Trend information from this year's Annual Report also indicates the Blue Springs Police Department takes citizen safety very seriously, reflecting an 18% decrease in violent crime from 2006. Chief McCoy said he attributes the significant decline in crime in the Blue Springs community to a number of factors, "particularly the active role our citizens take in their partnership with the Blue Springs Police Department."

To view the Blue Springs Police Department's 2007 Annual Report in its entirety, visit www.bluespringsgov.com.



Community Development Now

Federal Funds Aid City's Direction

Blue Springs sets priorities for 2008-2009 CDBG Funding Cycle

In 2006, the City of Blue Springs qualified as an "Entitlement Community", making it eligible to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The City intends to utilize the CDBG funding from HUD to provide public infrastructure improvements in areas that are in the most need. The City intends to meet the national objective of Low/Moderate Area benefit with the public facilities improvements that are proposed. The performance measurement objective is to "Create Suitable Living Environments" and the outcome is to achieve "Sustainability" in the core areas of the City.

Blue Springs has been engaged in multiple visioning and public master planning processes over the last three years. These efforts to involve the public in the advancement of the older neighborhoods of the City have produced a very clear direction that the City intends to follow with the help of CDBG funding.

The projects proposed for the 2008-2009 Annual Action Plan will begin to address

the concerns citizens raised in the "Renew the Blue" visioning process and the Downtown Master Plan formulation. Mobility and safety of the residents in the older neighborhoods will be addressed with the new and upgraded sidewalk projects in and around downtown. The proposed projects include nearly 3,600 feet of new and improved sidewalks.

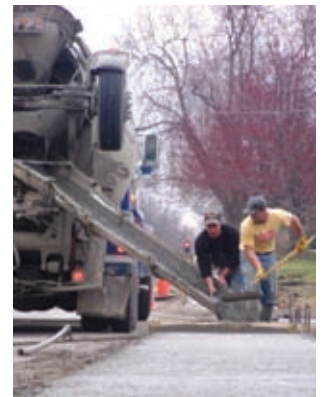
The area in which the City will be focusing CDBG funds for infrastructure improvement is located in a general area, south of Interstate 70 to US 40 Highway and west of Missouri 7 Highway to Woods Chapel Road. This is the older core of the City. The City looks to allocate all CDBG funding in this area in the form of infrastructure improvements in primarily residential areas. The specific locations of the sidewalk improvements are adjacent to residential areas and are designed for safe pedestrian travel for the residents of these neighborhoods.

Accessibility to the oldest part of Blue Springs is also of importance to the residents in this area. It is the City's goal to provide a safe and convenient access to

the facilities residents need, including medical and community services.

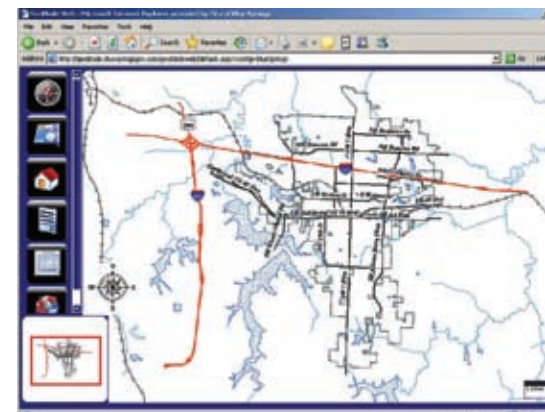
The City will replace sidewalks that do not meet current ADA requirements or install new sidewalks where none exist. Well maintained sidewalks are important for Blue Springs' neighborhoods. They improve the appearance of a neighborhood as well as property values. Most importantly, well maintained sidewalks are important for pedestrian safety. A damaged sidewalk can cause injuries to pedestrians.

The City's application would include \$225,058 for 3,600 feet of new sidewalk, sidewalk replacement, and new construction along 10th street, between R.D. Mize Road and South Avenue, and Kingsridge Drive from NW Canterbury Road to the existing sidewalk.



GIS Website Now Available

The public interactive mapping website is now available on the City's website. Now when you have questions about how your lot is zoned, what projects are happening in your area, or the location of a business, you are only a click of the mouse away from the answer. All you need to do is click the "Maps" link on the City of Blue Springs home page and accept the disclaimer and you will have access to several layers of information including aerial photos, street centerlines, addresses, zoning, zip code boundaries, school district boundaries and much more. Once you have created your map with the layers that you want, you will be able to give it a title and print it or save it to your computer. The City is currently working on adding additional layers and functionality to the site as they become available including a link to "Help" or "FAQ" documentation.



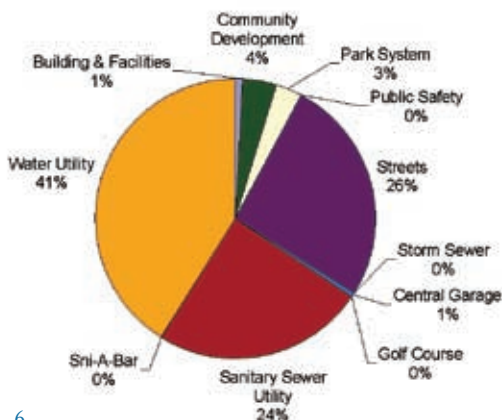
Community In Motion



City Program Works to Improve Quality of Life

The Blue Springs Capital Improvements Program (CIP) offers the community opportunities to analyze its financial needs, responsibilities, and capabilities. Capital Improvement Programming has proven successful in communities throughout the United States because it provides a linkage between planning and budgeting, and a coordination of financing and timing in a way that maximizes the return to the community. It enables the City to envision its opportunities and constraints, and make great efforts to take advantage of these opportunities and develop strategies to tackle problems and avoid financial crises. The CIP outlines proposed expenditures and allocates existing funds and anticipated revenues to rehabilitate, restore, improve, and add to the City's physical assets.

The Blue Springs CIP covers a six-year planning period, but is re-evaluated and published each year to reflect changing needs, new opportunities, or shifting City Council priorities and goals. For the current CIP Fiscal Years 2008-09 to 2013-14, the projects that are funded total just over \$39.5 million. The project dollars are allocated as shown graphically below:



For more information about the CIP contact :

*City of Blue Springs
Community
Development
Department
(816) 271-0207*

*or view the CIP on-line
at
www.bluespringsgov.com.*

City Codes Help Keep the Community Clean & Safe

Top 10 "Codes Tips" for 2008

1. Brush Piles

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

2. Tree Limbs

Limbs that overhang the sidewalk, street or fence must be trimmed. Call Public Works at (816) 228-0121 if you have questions about limbs in the rights-of-way of streets.

3. Parked Vehicles

Parking of vehicles is not permitted on grass and lawns. Recreational vehicles must be stored in driveway, side yard or rear yard if accessible.

4. Trash Containers

Trash for pick up should be contained and placed no further than 5 feet from the home. Curbside pick up is prohibited.

5. Home Childcare Businesses

All in-home childcare businesses require a business license issued by the City of Blue Springs.

6. Residents' Lawns

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

7. 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.

8. Fence, Deck, 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.

9. Inoperable Vehicles

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

10. Disposal of Refrigerators

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

Committed for a Cause

Vesper Volunteer Serves Blue Springs Senior Community on Local and State Levels

Many individuals give back to their community, but once in a while a special volunteer comes along that really “Gives Big.” Bill Landrum is such a volunteer. A resident of Blue Springs since 2006, Bill began his volunteer service at Vesper Hall Senior Center almost immediately following his retirement from St. Mary’s Medical Center as a social worker. “I

“One of the benefits of a program committee, with volunteers and staff, would be to give our members an avenue to both recommend new programs, and critique existing programs.”

Bill Landrum

filled out an application one day and was contacted the very next” said Landrum. Since then, Bill hasn’t stopped working to provide stronger services for older adults. He is involved in the Vesper Hall Choir, Site Council (serving as President three years), Accreditation Review Committee and fund-raising. Over the last three years, he has led the Site Council in bringing in over \$19,000 in donations for Vesper Hall.

In May 2008, Bill was appointed to the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging. The role of this 12-member Council is to review legislation on aging and make

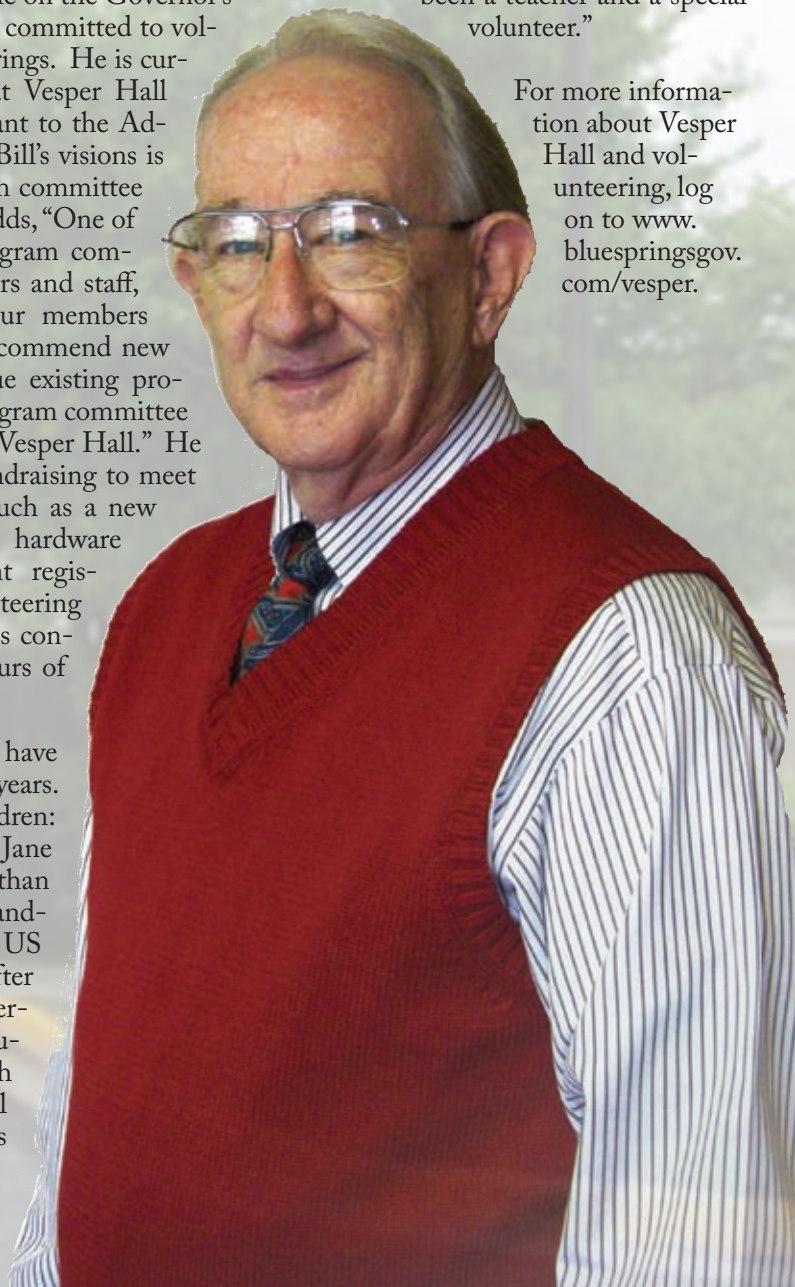
recommendations to the Governor. This Council was recently reorganized by Gov. Matt Blunt after several years of inactivity. Landrum states, “I’m hoping, as legislation is reviewed, I’ll have the opportunity to seek input from appropriate city commissions and councils and community groups and report to interested audiences.” The Council is currently in the process of re-defining its governing status, and then will be busy with its assigned tasks.

Even with his new role on the Governor’s Council, Bill remains committed to volunteering in Blue Springs. He is currently volunteering at Vesper Hall as the Special Assistant to the Administrator. One of Bill’s visions is to establish a program committee at Vesper Hall. He adds, “One of the benefits of a program committee, with volunteers and staff, would be to give our members an avenue to both recommend new programs and critique existing programs. I believe a program committee would be healthy for Vesper Hall.” He will also continue fundraising to meet Vesper Hall needs, such as a new piano and computer hardware for easier participant registration. Since volunteering at Vesper Hall, he has contributed over 750 hours of volunteer time.

Bill and his wife Pam have been married 48 years. They have three children: Johanna Fredenberg, Jane Ann Landrum, Jonathan Landrum and four grandchildren. He is also a US Air Force veteran. After completing his undergraduate degree in education from Pittsburgh State University, Bill taught school and was a professional with the Boy Scouts of

America. He earned his Masters Degree in Social Work (MSW) from the University of Kansas and spent 30 years in social work. Bill says that one of his most rewarding roles was teaching the Dale Carnegie Course in Effective Speaking and Human Relations. He was also a national trainer for Dale Carnegie of New York. Having a lifetime of teaching at the elementary, college and adult education levels, including staff and volunteer training at Vesper Hall, one could say of Bill – “He’s always been a teacher and a special volunteer.”

For more information about Vesper Hall and volunteering, log on to www.bluespringsgov.com/vesper.



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 ----- 228-0208	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
Business Licenses ----- 228-0131	Human Resources ----- 228-0190	Vehicle & Driver Licenses ----- 228-0128
City Administrator's Office ----- 228-0110	Liquor Licenses ----- 228-0131	Vesper Hall ----- 228-0181
City Clerk/Public Relations ----- 228-0110	Mayor's Office ----- 228-0110	Voter Registration ----- 228-0110
City Planners ----- 228-0207	Municipal Court Clerk ----- 228-0175	Water & Sewer Billing ----- 228-0135
Codes Administration ----- 220-4565	Parks & Recreation ----- 228-0137	Water/Sewer Maintenance ----- 228-0195
Codes Inspect. Hotline ----- 228-0104	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.

Coming Up Around Town

September 5 - 6, 2008

Blue Springs Barbeque Blaze-Off

Friday, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Hidden Valley Park, Blue Springs, MO

September 20, 2008

Pooches in the Pool

12 noon to 3:00 p.m.
Blue Springs Centennial Pool, Blue Springs, MO

October 4, 2008

Blue Springs Cruise Night

5 p.m. to dark
Main Street, parking between 10th and 12th Streets
Downtown, Blue Springs, MO

October 25, 2008

"Boo"-Springs Harvest Fest

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Main Street between 10th and 12th Streets
Downtown, Blue Springs, MO

October 31, 2008

Blue Springs Trick or Treat Street

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Vesper Hall, Blue Springs, MO

November 4, 2008

General Election - Remember to Vote!

December 2, 2008

Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
City Hall, Blue Springs, MO

Mission ADP Complete!

The Wyatt Road and Shrou Road/Adams Dairy Parkway intersection in Blue Springs is now open to the public.

Mayor Carson Ross, along with members of the Blue Springs City Council and Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce commemorated the event with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly finished intersection on August 15, 2008.

The intersection was closed on July 23, 2008 to construct the final one thousand feet of Adams Dairy Parkway (ADP) and to connect it with Wyatt and Shrou Roads. Mayor Ross said "This one thousand feet was once dubbed as 'The Missing Link' and now allows motorists to drive from Colbern Road to Pink Hill."



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