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Photos courtesy Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium, by Josh Beecher, Anna Burgess; Cover photo by Brandon Alms



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# welcome

## TO THE LIFE YOU WANT IN SPRINGFIELD

Springfield is the third-largest city in Missouri, behind only St. Louis and Kansas City.

Springfield's cost of living is nearly 14% lower than the national average.

Community members gather at more than 20 annual festivals in the city.

Springfield metro residents spend an average of 23 minutes commuting to work.

Springfield's revitalized downtown continues to grow and is home to restaurants, shops, performance centers and much more.





Christina Ford's husband, Dana (left), became the head basketball coach at MSU, so the Ford family picked up and moved to Springfield.

# Warm Welcome

In 2018, Christina Ford's husband, Dana, became the head basketball coach at Missouri State University, so the young family relocated to Springfield. But the college campus was just the first thing she loved about her family's new home.

BY REN BISHOP

**C**hicago, Nashville, and now Springfield, Christina Ford and her husband, Dana, have lived all over the Midwest during their eight years of marriage. But Springfield might be Ford's favorite.

"The first time I was wowed by Springfield was when we were looking for a home," she says. "When our realtor started showing us different areas of Springfield, the neighborhoods and the convenience of everything, that was my wow moment."

The cost of living, a historic downtown and little traffic were also big benefits

for this mom of six. From a high school with a rich athletic history to a daycare just around the corner, there was a place and opportunity for every Ford family member to thrive, she says.

"I knew Dana and Missouri State University were a great fit, but when we moved here, the key word was intentional living," she says. "I want us to be very intentional when we're here, and in this stage of our lives, Springfield gives us a great quality of life. I've never felt isolated here, and the people in this community are my favorite. They're so willing to support and collaborate."

Prior to moving to Springfield, the Fords started a nonprofit: The Rebound Foundation. The nonprofit's mission is to support and restore women who are making a recovery from domestic abuse through holistic, immersive programming and transitional housing. Only six months after moving to Springfield, The Rebound Foundation opened its first home for women and children—Marda's House—with enthusiastic support from the Springfield nonprofit community.

When the doors of Marda's House opened, Ford knew Springfield was the right choice for her family and the foundation. "I love college athletics because a community gets pride in their school, but in Springfield, people are fans of Springfield. People are rooting for their community," Ford says. "The people here have pride and care about their community and making it better. I've never experienced that before, and that's one of the reasons why in this stage of our lives, Springfield gives us a great quality of life."



# Getting SETTLED

Here are some basics to help you get familiar with what's available in Springfield, and what you need to get oriented.

**BY KAREN BLISS**



## Settle In

Once you're here, it's time to set up your electricity and water. It's important to get things set up a few days before move in, as it might take two to three business days to connect a new service. Contact City Utilities by phone, 417-863-9000, online at [CityUtilities.net](http://CityUtilities.net) or in person at 301 E. Central St.



## Get Your News

Want to be up-to-date on local news? Springfield has several media sources. *417 Magazine* highlights what is going

on in the 417-area code, but Whitaker Publishing has other local magazines such as *417 Home* and *Biz 417*.

Other publications include *The Springfield Business Journal* and *The Springfield News-Leader*. For local broadcast news, check out KSPR, KY3 or KOLR10 and if you want your local NPR station, tune in to KSMU, Ozarks public radio, at 91.1 FM.



## Fuel Up

Need some energy before setting off to work? Springfield is home to several local coffee shops. Just to name a few: The Coffee Ethic, located downtown; Architect Coffee Co. in south Springfield, Cafe Dib, on C-Street, where you can enjoy gluten-free sweets; and Classic Rock Coffee on the west side.



## Work Out

Springfield has an array of gyms and fitness studios. There are also lots of fitness events including the popular Bass Pro Fitness Series, where you can run lengths from a 5K to a marathon. For more information on the series, visit [fitness.basspro.com](http://fitness.basspro.com). Springfield is also home to numerous gyms, yoga studios and CrossFit centers, so you can find your workout of choice.



## Network

There are lots of opportunities to touch base with other working professionals or join philanthropic groups. Join one of Springfield's various rotary clubs or the Junior League of Springfield. For professional networking, check out The Network, and stop by the efactory, a local business incubator that offers seminars for those looking to expand their skills in the workplace.



## Shop Local

If you're looking to support local farmers and vendors, visit Springfield's farmers markets, which run year-round (learn more on p. 68). If it's clothing and home decor you're after, Springfield is home to a thriving local business community, so you can easily support local while you shop (learn more on p. 42).



For a full list of nonprofit and professional organizations that you can join, check out [thelibrary.org/directory/documents/directory.pdf](http://thelibrary.org/directory/documents/directory.pdf).



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# WELCOME

## Day TRIPPER

Fill a day—or two—in Branson where the fun never stops and the list of attractions keeps growing.

BY KAREN BLISS

### The Titanic Museum

Branson is host to the World's Largest Titanic Museum. You can see what it was like to walk in the hallways, touch a real iceberg and learn what it could have been like on the RMS Titanic by experiencing it and seeing some 400 actual artifacts from the wreckage. The museum is located at 3235 76 Country Blvd and Hwy 165. Call 417-334-9500 or visit [TitanicBranson.com](http://TitanicBranson.com).

### Aquarium at the Boardwalk

With a grand opening in November 2020, the new Branson Aquarium at the Boardwalk showcases creatures of interest for all ages. The aquarium takes you through the oceans of



the world, with views of colorful fish, seahorses, jellyfish, octopi, eels and sharks. The aquarium is at 2700 W. 76 County Blvd. For more information visit [AquariumAtTheBoardwalk.com](http://AquariumAtTheBoardwalk.com).

### ▲ Silver Dollar City

Silver Dollar City features 40 rides and attractions, including the new Time Traveler with its 10-story, 90-degree drop. The 1880s-themed park also presents 100 demonstrating craftsmen and live shows the whole family can enjoy, and it hosts various festivals throughout the year.

### Branson Landing

With a first-class collection of waterfront shops, entertainment and restaurants, a summer concert series and a fire show at the fountain, Branson Landing is a popular spot for family fun. Be sure to take in the fountain show.

### Big Cedar Lodge

Named the No. 1 resort in the Midwest by *Travel + Leisure*, Big Cedar Lodge offers luxurious lodging, fine dining, spa services, a full-service marina, swimming pools, golf courses and an unbeatable lakefront view of Table Rock Lake up at Top of the Rock where visitors can enjoy fine dining, craft cocktails and the popular golf cart tours.

### Fritz's Adventure

Fritz's Adventure offers exciting activities you'd find outdoors, all within its 80,000-square-foot indoor park. Try the ropes course and parkour pit, or step inside the outdoor skydiving experience.

### Branson Zipline at Wolfe Mountain

This eco-adventure features a zip line that has you soaring above the Ozarks landscape. If you'd rather stay on the ground, the Snowflex Park simulates snow tubing, all year long.

### Branson Mountain Adventure Park

Experience the Ozarks in a unique way at this park with one of the few mountain coasters in Missouri—The Runaway! This park is one of the latest additions in Branson.

### The Track Family Fun Parks

In 2016, this three-location park welcomed the Branson Ferris Wheel—previously known as the Chicago Navy Pier Ferris Wheel. You can also find high-rise go-kart tracks, laser tag, bumper boats, bumper cars and mini golf.



## Root

## FOR THE HOME TEAMS

Whether on the diamond, on the links or on a court, Springfield has no shortage of sports for residents to take in. From minor league baseball to professional tennis, Springfield residents don't have to travel far to watch professional athletes.

BY JESSICA HAMMER

◀ Tiger Woods designed his first public golf course, Payne's Valley, down the road from Springfield.

### Baseball

Hammons Field is a second summer home for baseball fans who turn out to watch Springfield Cardinals games. At this minor league affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals, you might spot major league players on the diamond—pitcher Adam Wainwright has played in Springfield, as has catcher Yadier Molina. Kid-centered experiences, theme nights and fireworks are also a regular part of ballpark festivities. For tickets visit [milb.com/springfield/tickets](http://milb.com/springfield/tickets).

### Golf

Local, award-winning golf courses offer plenty of ways to hit the links. But the biggest draw when it comes to golf is Big Cedar Lodge, where duffers can enjoy a variety of courses designed by some of the best-known names in golf. The newest course, called Payne's Valley, was designed by Tiger Woods. Discover more at [bigcedar.com/golf/](http://bigcedar.com/golf/). Springfield is also home to the Price Cutter Charity Championship each July, where golf greats play alongside locals to benefit local charities. Organizations benefited include Camp Barnabas and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks. Learn more about the charity championship at [pricecuttercc.org](http://pricecuttercc.org).

### Basketball

Missouri State University is the home for NCAA Division I basketball action each year. The Bears have brought home NCAA and conference championships. Season tickets and family packs of tickets are available each season to see the Bears and Lady Bears, and theme nights are a regular occurrence at JQH Arena. Get your tickets at [missouristatebears.com](http://missouristatebears.com). Want more college basketball? Be sure to watch the Drury University Panthers compete in Division II ball.

High school basketball stars from across the country have also congregated in Springfield since 1985 for the Bass Pro Tournament of Champions. College coaches and scouts attend the tournament each year looking for top talent, and some players have even gone on to be NBA draft picks. See this year's upcoming tournament dates at [tofc.weebly.com](http://tofc.weebly.com). On top of that, Springfield hosts the Missouri High School Basketball Championships each March.

### Tennis

The Springfield Lasers have their own claim to fame as World Team Tennis champions. Each March, the new Lasers team is drafted and includes professional players from around the world. Andy Roddick, Ana Kournikova, and Martina Navratilova have all served on the Lasers roster. Games are played in the 2,500-seat Cooper Tennis Complex, which boasts 12 indoor and 17 outdoor courts. Find the season lineup at [springfieldlasers.com](http://springfieldlasers.com).



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## Festivals GALORE

Take your pick of annual festivals and events celebrating art, music, history, food and more that are fun for the whole family.

BY SAVANNAH WASZCZUK

### February

#### SERTOMA CHILI COOKOFF

A savory aroma fills the air at the Springfield Expo Center during this annual fundraiser. Bowls of hot chili and cold beverages abound. The best part: All profits go to local children's charities.

### March

#### ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Get your Irish on at the annual Springfield St. Patrick's Day Parade. This family-friendly afternoon event rolls, marches and dances from C-Street to downtown with contests, prizes, food and plenty of laughs and smiles.

### RATED SGF

New in 2018, this film festival is a welcome addition to Springfield with its mission to celebrate exceptional things in unexpected places. Don't miss the film screenings and Q&As with actors, directors and others.

### April

#### OZARKS BBQ FEST

Barbecue fans can rejoice because the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds hosts this two day que-fest. There's live music, adult beverages, endless samples and even a kids barbecue contest.

### May

#### ARTSFEST

Historic Walnut Street springs to life as hundreds of regional artists show off their work at this juried art fair. Come for the shopping and stay for live music, activities for kids, good food and entertainment.

### DERBY DAY

Don your fanciest hat or suit for this Kentucky Derby watch party hosted by ChriShan Park and catered by Avanzare benefiting the HOPE Foundation, a local children's charity that helps families battling pediatric emergencies.

### June

#### TASTE OF SOMO

This downtown foodie event brings out the region's favorite local restaurants, offering samples of their most popular fare. Those of age can enjoy adult beverages.

#### JUNETEENTH

Celebrate freedom and commemorate the emancipation of enslaved individuals with food, music and fun at this annual festival organized by the NAACP's Springfield branch and held the third Saturday in June.

### July and August

#### OZARK EMPIRE FAIR

Thousands of visitors flock to the fairgrounds each summer for rides, live music and tasty treats. There's a petting zoo for the kids, plus livestock shows, photo contests, chainsaw carving and more.

### August

#### ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL

Celebrate Springfield's role in the history of the Mother Road with a classic car show, live music, local food and local craft vendors. Proceeds benefit the West Central Alliance.

### September

#### JAPANESE FALL FESTIVAL

This festival at Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park features children's activities, performers, storytelling and authentic arts and crafts. For more than 20 years, the Springfield Sister Cities Association has hosted this three-day event to showcase Japanese culture and Springfield's sister city, Isesaki, Japan.

### CIDER DAYS

Historic Walnut Street welcomes cooler temperatures with a fall-themed juried art fair at Cider Days. You'll also find tons of fun kid-friendly activities, yummy food and, of course, warm apple cider.

### October

#### GREATER OZARKS PRIDEFEST

The region's largest Pridefest is all about celebrating the LGBTQ community. In addition to live music and a Voice of Pridefest singing competition, vendors sell crafts, pride flags and merchandise.



Japanese Fall Festival





Ozark Empire Fair



Artsfest

### THRILLER ON C-STREET ▶

Every October, dancers decked in zombie costumes head to Springfield's historic Commercial Street to perform Michael Jackson's "Thriller." Come cheer them on and enjoy music, circus-style games and more.

### November WINGAPALOOZA

Each year, wing lovers rejoice as local restaurants compete in hopes of being crowned the best wings in town. There's plenty of beer to wash down those spicy wings, local bands, and all the money goes to help local youth charities. Due to COVID, Wingapalooza was canceled in 2020, and the 2021 schedule was still being worked out at press time.



### FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS ▼

Downtown Springfield is set aglow with thousands of beautiful lights during this annual holiday celebration. In 2020, the typical parade of lights changed format, and each float and marching band was stationary so cars could drive through the display, which was set up over 6 acres throughout downtown.

### December DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD CHRISTMAS PARADE

Welcome the Christmas season with this yearly parade, which travels around Park Central Square. Guests enjoy floats and even a visit from Santa Claus himself.

### Ongoing BASS PRO SHOPS FITNESS SERIES

This outdoor fitness festival hosts events throughout the year. After a kids run in the spring, most activities—including bike rides, a wellness conference, a trail run, a marathon weekend and more—take place in the fall.







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# live

## THE LIFE YOU WANT IN SPRINGFIELD

Springfield's housing costs are 30% lower than the national average.

Local airports provide nonstop service to cities such as Chicago, Denver, Dallas, Atlanta, Phoenix, Las Vegas and several cities in Florida.

Springfield is the only city in Missouri to be designated a World Health Organization Safe Community.

Five health systems, including nationally recognized CoxHealth and Mercy, provide top-notch medical care.



Springfield offers a diverse array of housing options across a variety of neighborhoods, such as Rountree.

Where to Live 20 • Getting Around 22 • Safe City 24 • Stay Healthy 26



◀ The picturesque Rountree neighborhood is near downtown Springfield and Missouri State University.



Lakes at Wildhorse



#### ▲ DEEP-ROOTED NEIGHBORHOODS

You can find ranches and two-story homes in Ravenwood, Vintage Hills, Southern Hills, Lakes at Wildhorse and Emerald Park. Ravenwood is close to Twin Oaks Country Club with quick access to Highway 65 and nearby dining and retail. Vintage Hills is close to Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, a popular autumn destination for pumpkin patches and fall-themed festivals. Southern Hills boasts mature landscaping, a pool and a tennis club. Lakes at Wildhorse is near Hickory Hills Country Club and has brick homes with easy access to Highway 65. Close by is Emerald Park, home to French Provincial houses, a pool and tennis courts.

#### Sale Price Range of Homes 2019–2020

**Ravenwood:** \$140,000–\$499,000

**Vintage Hills:** \$199,500–\$370,000

**Southern Hills:** \$120,000–\$605,000

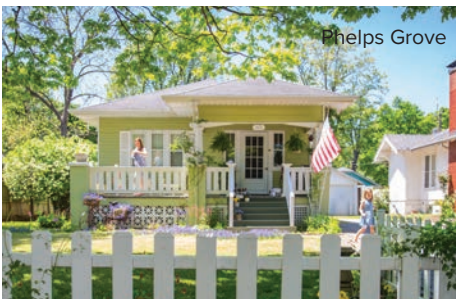
**Lakes at Wildhorse:** \$253,300–\$458,500

**Emerald Park:** \$265,000–\$667,000

# Putting Down Roots

No matter what you're looking for, Springfield has the right neighborhood for you. Learn about the city's historic districts, deep-rooted neighborhoods and private golf communities to decide where your next home is.

BY ROSE MARTHIS



Phelps Grove

#### ▲ HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Springfield is steeped in rich history, evident in places like Walnut Street and in neighborhoods such as Phelps Grove, Rountree and Midtown. Here you can find bungalows, ranches and two-story homes, with cottages and Victorian-style houses mixed in, all near downtown and Missouri State University.

Phelps Grove has a large community park with walking trails, pavilions, grills and a tennis court. It's also right by the Springfield Art Museum. With its central location, Phelps Grove has a diverse mix of college students, young families and long-time Springfield residents. Both Rountree and Walnut Street are home to fun annual celebrations, such as parades for Independence Day and Halloween in Rountree, and Artsfest and Cider Days festivals on Walnut Street. A little farther north is Midtown, near Central High School and Drury University. Cox North Hospital and Washington Park are also close.

#### Sale Price Range of Homes 2019–2020

**Walnut Street:** \$40,000–\$247,500

**Phelps Grove:** \$93,900–\$550,000

**Rountree:** \$90,000–\$335,000

**Midtown:** \$52,000–\$415,000

Rivercut



#### ▲ PRIVATE AND GOLF COMMUNITIES

Springfield is home to many private communities with memberships to top-rated golf courses. Settle into a French Provincial home, a ranch or a one-and-a-half or two-story home. Located in northeast Springfield, Cooper Estates includes a chipping green, a pickle ball court and a fishing pond. Millwood, in southeast Springfield, has a pool, tennis court and fitness center. Residents of Rivercut in southwest Springfield enjoy bike rides on nearby trails. East of the city limits is Highland Springs, with tennis courts, a three-story clubhouse and more.

#### Sale Price Range of Homes 2019–2020

**Cooper Estates:** \$145,000–\$390,000

**Millwood:** \$300,000–\$775,000

**Rivercut:** \$311,500–\$582,000

**Highland Springs:** \$400,000–\$1,225,000



# WON'T YOU BE OUR NEIGHBOR?

Plenty of people call Springfield's suburbs and nearby towns home. These communities each have their own feel, but they all have one thing in common: easy access to all Springfield has to offer.

BY ROSE MARTHIS

## JUST DOWN THE ROAD

### 1. Nixa

Located 12 miles south of Springfield, Nixa is a fast-growing community of more than 21,000 people. The award-winning public school district excels in both academics and athletics. There are many opportunities for residents to come together, including Movies in the Park and the Nixa Community Center, which has kids' camps, recreational sports, training programs, an aquatics center and more.

### 2. Ozark

Nature and city life collide in Ozark, a town south of Springfield with more than 19,000 people. The town square is filled with local businesses, and at Smallin Cave, guests explore natural features on a guided tour or dive deeper into history with a Civil War Lantern Tour. Residents also bike and walk the Finley River Greenway Trail and play disc golf at Neal & Betty Grubaugh Park.

### 3. Republic

About 10 miles southwest of Springfield is the city of Republic. The 16,000 residents here enjoy the convenience of having the big city nearby in addition to having the luxury of having almost everything they need in one place. Republic is also home to Amazon's new E-Commerce Fulfillment Center. Want to spend the afternoon outdoors? Head to one of the city's six city parks.

### 4. Battlefield

History buffs love Battlefield, home to 6,000 residents and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Children and adults can learn about the second major battle of the Civil War by touring the grounds and stopping by the visitor's center. A section of the historic Trail of Tears is also nearby.

### 5. Willard

About 10 miles northwest of Springfield sits Willard, a fast-growing town with more than 5,000 people. The Willard school district is known for both excellent academics and athletics. Residents stay active with the community's sports complex, parks, community center, recreation center and the easily accessible Frisco Highline Trail.

### 6. Rogersville

A quick drive east on U.S. Highway 60 will bring you to Rogersville, home to more than 3,000 people. The town thrives with more than 100 businesses and an award-winning school district. The close-knit community is still close enough to enjoy Springfield's attractions.

### 7. Strafford

Strafford is located along Historic Route 66 and has 2,000-plus residents. Relax at the two city parks: Howard Smith Community Park, which has entertaining water features, and Croxdale Park. Strafford is also home to Wild Animal Safari, a drive-through animal reserve that gives you the chance to get up close and personal with several exotic species.

## LIVE NEAR THE LAKE

### 8. Branson

Shopping and recreation abound at this summer family vacation destination, but the bustling town of more than 11,000 people is thriving all year long. Relax on Table Rock Lake and at one of the award-winning spas in Branson.

### 9. Hollister

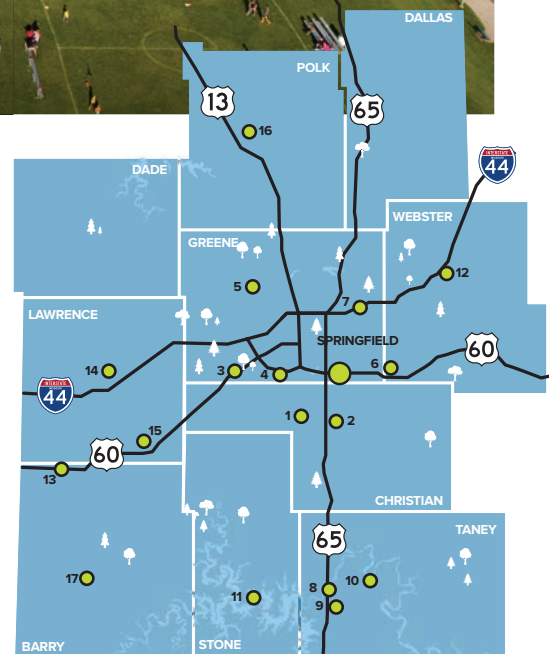
Hollister keeps small-town charm alive in Taney County. Every year, the Grape & Fall Festival takes over Downing Street, bringing locals and out-of-towners together to celebrate the town's history and another year of hard work.

### 10. Forsyth

Home to more than 2,000 people, Forsyth touches both Lake Taneycomo and Bull Shoals Lake and is near the Boston Ferry Conservation Area. While here, treat your taste buds to a filling meal at Fat Daddy's Family Bar-B-Que.

### 11. Kimberling City

Just south of Branson West sits Kimberling City, a quiet lake town nestled on the shores of Table Rock Lake. The 2,000-plus residents here love the multiple boat docks, marinas and places to fish, not to mention nearby Dogwood Canyon Nature Park.



## WIDE OPEN SPACES

### 12. Marshfield

Population: 7,000+  
28 miles northeast of Springfield

### 13. Monett

Population: 8,000+  
49 miles southwest of Springfield

### 14. Mt. Vernon

Population: 4,000+  
33 miles west of Springfield

### 15. Aurora

Population: 10,000+  
30 miles southwest of Springfield

### 16. Bolivar

Population: 10,000+  
30 miles north of Springfield

### 17. Cassville

Population: 3,000+  
59 miles southwest of Springfield





Rebecca Barrientos loves the convenience of the Springfield-Branson National Airport when she has to travel for work.

## JET SETTER

Rebecca Barrientos, a BKD road warrior, has traveled the country but her favorite airport is right here in Springfield. The airport helps her get where she needs to go without worry or long lines.

BY JULIANA GOODWIN



**G**rowing up, Rebecca Barrientos, CPA, and senior manager at BKD, LLP, only took one trip a year. It was always a long, 28-hour drive back to her parents' hometown in Mexico. She didn't get a chance to explore the country until she joined BKD many years later.

After graduating from Missouri State University with an accounting degree, Barrientos joined BKD's health care team in 2011 where she audits community health centers around the nation. Travel was one of the reasons she took the job, and for the little girl who grew up traveling once a year, Barrientos now gets her fill. As a "company road warrior," she's gone one to two weeks each month. "I love to travel," she says. "Our health care team is a bigger practice, and our clients are across the nation."

While Barrientos is based in Springfield, much of her work is concentrated in Texas and California, and when she gets a chance, she makes time to get out and explore the cities she visits. After several years with BKD, Barrientos has hopscotched around the country and flown in and out of many airports, but the Springfield-Branson

National Airport (SGF) is still her favorite. "I love our airport so much," she says. "After using airports across the country, ours is so quick and convenient."

In other metropolitan areas, Barrientos has to arrive more than two hours early, but in Springfield, arriving even one hour early is more than enough time to get through security and settle in at your gate.

With a busy schedule, Barrientos also doesn't want to waste time commuting. Luckily, her commute from her Springfield home to the airport is no more than 20 minutes. It also helps that Springfield-Branson National Airport has 12 nonstop destinations, including five of the nation's largest hub airports including Dallas and Chicago. "You can get anywhere from here," she says.

Barrientos is originally from Cassville, Missouri. She discovered her love of accounting in high school. Soon after, Barrientos joined Future Business Leaders of America and placed third in the state. She moved to Springfield for college and loves it here. "Springfield is the perfect size city," Barrientos says. "It has everything you need. There are a lot of options for great food and there's a lot to do."

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 23 Minutes:** The average commute to work for Springfield metro residents.
- 4 Airlines at Springfield-Branson National Airport:** United Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Airlines and Allegiant Air ([flyspringfield.com](http://flyspringfield.com))
- 12 Nonstop destinations:** Atlanta; Charlotte; Chicago; Dallas; Denver; Las Vegas; Los Angeles; Orlando; Phoenix; Houston; Tampa Bay; and Fort Walton Beach
- 1 Private commercial airport in Branson:** Offers low-cost, scheduled service to major cities across the central U.S. including Houston and Denver ([flybranson.com](http://flybranson.com))

#### GETTING THERE BY CAR

Kansas City	166 mi.	2 hours, 39 min.
St. Louis	216 mi.	3 hours, 19 min.
Chicago	512 mi.	7 hours, 46 min.
Tulsa	181 mi.	2 hours, 47 min.
Dallas	418 mi.	6 hours, 49 min.



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# PLAYING IT *Safe*

Citizens and city officials alike consistently work together to make Springfield a safe place. In fact, residents have recently made it a priority by funding public safety initiatives through the level property tax, and the city continues its commitment to being prepared and bringing residents together to create safe spaces.

**BY ROSE MARTHIS**

## GREENE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER

It's no secret that the Midwest on occasion faces severe weather like tornadoes, but the good news is the \$20 million Greene County Public Safety Center provides resource and support coordination to help save lives should disaster strike. Citizens are familiar with the sound of the severe weather outdoor warning sirens managed by the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). During an emergency, the center becomes the area's operations center, providing the strategic tools and resources first responders need to save lives and protect and stabilize the community.

Inside the operations center, a massive screen capable of showing up to 16 separate informational feeds provides real-time updates from news outlets, traffic cameras and more to provide situational awareness to first responders. The Safety Center is designed to withstand virtually every kind of disaster and has amenities designed to house workers during initial stages of a crisis.

Emergency 911 operators find a year-round home on the second floor, and as many as 200 people can work in the

The Greene County Public Safety Center offers infrastructure and services to help keep Springfield safe should disaster strike. The center is also home to 911 operators and a disaster command center.



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**Every August**

*Meador Park, 2500 S. Fremont Ave.*



facility during a disaster activation. "Our vision is to become the most disaster-resilient community in America," says Larry Woods, director of the Springfield-Greene County OEM. "A focus on personal, family and community preparedness ensures that we are more equipped to face Mother Nature."

## POLICE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Springfield City Council members and local voters also hold public safety as a priority. In November 2017, voters approved a no-rate-increase renewal of the level property tax. This tax provides long-term funding for Springfield's public safety including for new community services and projects, such as new fire stations, new equipment, hiring police officers dedicated to domestic violence and human trafficking and improvements to Springfield's stormwater infrastructure.

Local law enforcement officers are committed to protecting the community

and breaking down barriers with everyday residents at events like the annual National Night Out. Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) holds the event to give residents a chance to meet the people behind the uniform and focus on safety and crime prevention. Families can tour safety vehicles and visit informational booths with activities for kids. "This event has impacted Springfield by providing a positive, friendly and safe opportunity for families to have a more personal experience with the police department, the fire department and other organizations," says Patricia Deck, CPO's deputy director of community and neighborhood development.

In addition to National Night Out, the Springfield Police Department offers a variety of programs and services to engage citizens. Residents can take part in Neighborhood Watch, join Chief Paul Williams at Coffee with the Chief, request a ride-along with an officer and interact with the department on social media.



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# Caring for the Community

Springfield's two major hospital systems work together to benefit the community and boast nationally-recognized facilities, cutting-edge research and family-friendly amenities.

BY LILLIAN STONE

Springfield might be Missouri's third-largest city, but the region's two major health systems have garnered the kind of acclaim you'd expect from a much larger metropolitan area. Between CoxHealth's cutting-edge research capabilities and Mercy's long history of innovative faith-based care, Springfield residents have their pick of some of the nation's most prestigious medical professionals. Even more impressive is that CoxHealth and Mercy work together to better the community alongside smaller operations including Jordan Valley Community Health Center and Ozarks Community Health Center. Between innovative pediatric facilities, advanced cardiac care and ever-growing options for rural Missourians, Springfield's hospital systems are revolutionizing local medicine.

## COXHEALTH

Want a look inside the only Springfield hospital system named to U.S. News & World Report's Best Regional Hospitals list for seven years? Founded inside of a frame duplex in 1906, CoxHealth now boasts six hospitals, more than 80 clinics and five ERs. As the region's only locally owned, not-for-profit health system, CoxHealth serves patients

across dozens of departments including immunology, behavioral health, neuroscience and endocrinology. The hospital's largest campus, Cox Medical Center South, features more than 600 beds and houses the hospital's main service lines including a Level 1 Trauma Center, Level 1 STEMI Center, Level 1 Stroke Center and the Hulston Cancer Center, the latter accredited by the American College of Surgeons as a Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program.

In terms of research, CoxHealth's Center for Research and Innovation also develops a wide variety of clinical trials, investigator-initiated research and academic research for area medical professionals. CoxHealth is also Missouri's first hospital system accredited by DNV-GL Healthcare for quality and patient safety, a national distinction that applies to all CoxHealth hospital campuses, outpatient centers and provider-based clinics.

Overall, CoxHealth is committed to serving Springfield and the surrounding communities, with a new \$42 million, 70,000-square-foot hospital under construction in Monett and two new primary and urgent care super clinics expected to open in Nixa and Ozark early next year. Interested in joining the rapidly expanding CoxHealth team? The

health system offers its more than 12,000 employees a wide array of benefits like an onsite credit union, tuition reimbursement, onsite childcare and continuing education opportunities.

## MERCY

For four consecutive years, Mercy has represented the Ozarks as one of IBM Watson Health's top five large U.S. health systems. Founded locally in 1891 by the Sisters of Mercy, the faith-based operation is the region's longest-serving health care provider, with more than 9,000 Springfield-area co-workers and physicians.

Mercy's main Springfield campus houses a Level I Trauma Center and Burn Center, a dedicated Cancer Center, a Level III Neonatal ICU and the region's most advanced Heart Hospital. Mercy is known for its dedication to young patients, with Mercy Kids Children's Hospital and a nearly complete \$7.5 million, 6,300-square-foot Mercy Kids Emergency Room. The latter is a major plus for area parents, offering a carefully designed child-friendly space with separate triage area and waiting room. Another draw for families: Last year, Mercy's Jane Pitt Pediatric Cancer Center celebrated 10 years as one of the nation's eight St. Jude Affiliate Clinics,





CoxHealth



Jordan Valley Community Health Center

bringing cancer care home to more than 3,000 area children.

Just south of Springfield, Mercy Orthopedic Hospital Springfield brings in patients from across the nation for hip and knee replacements through partnerships with large employers like Walmart and Lowe's. In addition, Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital is one of the highest-ranked in the nation.

It's all part of Mercy's patient-forward mission, which includes access to innovative technology options including virtual visits and the convenient MyMercy online patient portal. Finally, this major employer offers wide-ranging benefits including health insurance, generous paid time off, community-wide Mercy employee discounts and perks, tuition and professional development reimbursements and more.

### ADDITIONAL CARE

The 417 region is also served by Jordan Valley Community Health Center and Ozarks Community Hospital, and to the north by Citizens Memorial Hospital in Bolivar. Jordan Valley Community Health Center recently expanded its clinic, which

specializes in comprehensive care including dental, optometry, pediatrics and behavioral health. It also provides a school telehealth program and mobile unit services. Dr. Nick Pfannenstiel, vice president of Oral Health Services, says Jordan Valley is fortunate to also have two dental residency programs.

"What makes Jordan Valley unique is the ability to integrate the patient's whole care," says Dr. Matthew Stinson, vice president of Medical and Behavioral Health Services.

Locally, Ozarks Community Hospital and Jordan Valley cater to uninsured populations and Medicaid patients. Jordan Valley has locations throughout 417-land, and OCH has opened clinics in several small communities, and is often able to utilize once-closed and unconventional buildings.

Citizens Memorial Hospital is a fully integrated health care system that has been named among the Top 10 Rural Hospitals in America. CMH is dedicated to managing underserved populations through its cardiac care, a cancer center and multiple locations around 417-land to ensure patients have access to treatment.



## IN GOOD HANDS

Doctors Kunalpreet Gugnani and Ichha Sethi explored different communities and health systems after finishing residencies in Omaha, Nebraska. The couple, who have a young daughter, says it was important to balance their professional and personal lives.

"We found Mercy to be a good fit for us," says Dr. Gugnani, who practices family and geriatric medicine with his wife at a north Springfield clinic. "When we first interviewed, we got a sense of belonging. And when we visited the clinic, we just clicked."

They sought a family-friendly Midwestern community, and they also wanted to practice in a town that valued quality medicine. "For the size of Springfield, it's amazing," says Dr. Sethi, a family medicine doctor.

"The quality is exceptional," Dr. Gugnani says. "There are specialists, there are resources, and there is availability. Everyone's goal is one, which is good quality health care. I feel that is a spirit that is everywhere."

That creates a sense of community security, he adds. "Having both Mercy and Cox[Health] work at the same goal and have a healthy competition—it helps both keep going and continue to excel and provide that health care," Dr. Gugnani says. "For patients, it really is a consumer market."



## SPRINGFIELD'S BEST-KEPT SECRET

Temitayo Bakare, system clinical director of pharmacy for CoxHealth, moved to Springfield for love, but she relishes her career. The pharmacist is impressed by the community amenities she and her husband enjoy, including access to excellent health care.

Quality medicine in the Springfield area is on par with larger cities, "even meccas of health care like Boston," says Bakare, who moved from Boston. Consumers can find comparable health care and services through CoxHealth, Mercy and smaller facilities such as Jordan Valley Community Health Center, she says, because they all practice a high standard of care.

The tricky part is getting the word out. Once colleagues move here, she says with a grin, they start recruiting other medical professionals. "It's the best-kept secret that you can't keep to yourself once you find out," Bakare says.





# Future Plans

As an architect and planner, Tim Rosenbury has big plans and even bigger dreams for the city of Springfield.

BY ETTIE BERNEKING



**T**im Rosenbury has a big job. As Springfield's director of quality of place, it's his responsibility to make sure Springfield grows in a way that makes the city as livable and beautiful as it is functional. But how do you do that in a city that already has a long-established footprint and traffic pattern? Well, you dream big.

## What does placemaking really mean?

It goes beyond beautification. It's really about looking at characteristics that make a place unique and inspiring and memorable for residents and visitors. That rarely happens accidentally, so there is an emerging discipline called placemaking where we look at how to make places more memorable to attract people, which attracts jobs, which creates properties.

## How are you seeing placemaking being put to use in Springfield?

Well, we are growing in a new way now since most of the easy-to-develop land in city limits has been developed already. Most new growth will have a greater impact on its neighbors. That means development will need to be more thoughtful of how it impacts its neighbors.

## Speaking of neighbors, it seems like Springfield neighborhoods are embracing more density and walkable districts.

Yes! A great example of that is the rejuvenation of Cherry and Pickwick. We're seeing people valuing walkable neighborhoods more and areas that value multiple uses and more density and that are pedestrian friendly. I think there's a new thirst for bike and pedestrian traffic.

## How will the city's Grant Avenue Corridor improve pedestrian traffic?

It's going to be a connecting route between two of our city's biggest attractions: downtown and Wonders of Wildlife. Grant Avenue provides an ideal connection because the route goes through two neighborhoods and past Fasnacht Park and it connects to two Greenways on both sides. Plus, the road will be improved so bikes and pedestrians have equal access to the street, and it will provide for fitness and recreation.

## How do you think the project could impact the surrounding neighborhoods?

It could be a stimulus for neighborhood restoration and commercial development oriented toward the park and neighborhoods. It's an ideal place where

we could design the prototype of the public street of the future. Thirty percent of our community is public streets, and if we could do a better job designing them in a way where we think of them as places and not just routes, we'd have a more livable community. We expect that we'll come up with new innovations and new solutions in the way we design streets, paths and trails.

## What are the city's existing strengths that we could continue to build from?

What's interesting about Springfield is that all it takes is one to two examples, and people will support the effort. In my job, I see all kinds of signs that indicate livability is one of the key objectives over the next decade.

## What is one project you'd love to see completed in Springfield?

We should look at our water assets like McDaniel and Fellows Lakes, Lake Springfield, the James River and Jordan Creek. Imagine if you could connect those to each other with trails and bike paths. These water trails are natural landmarks and the reason why we're here. If we could make them more accessible and connected, I think that would transform the character of our community.





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## HOW YOU WANT IN SPRINGFIELD

The Springfield region is home to Fortune 500 companies, global employers, national headquarters and small businesses.

In 2018, Springfield was named the 38th best city for Hispanic entrepreneurs in the country.

In 2020, Springfield ranked as the No. 5 city where employment rates and industries are thriving.

Springfield ranked No. 16 out of more than 180 cities on a 2018 list of best places to start a business.



A dozen major national and international companies, including Intrinsic Specialty Solutions have headquarters or corporate offices in Springfield.

Set Up Shop 32 • Industry Giants 35 • Startup Community 36 • Insider Opinions 37





Danny Collins and Cristina Bustamante (left) launched 37 North as a way to lead guided adventures around the Ozarks and get people outside.

# Getting Down to BUSINESS

Springfield is the economic hub for more than 27 counties in Missouri and Arkansas, as well as home to giants such as Bass Pro Shops and O'Reilly Auto Parts. But small business drives the local economy, accounting for 95 percent of all establishments in the city. Meet the entrepreneurs behind three local mainstays that have flourished in 417-land.

**BY REN BISHOP AND JULIANA GOODWIN**

## LEADING THE WAY

Springfield native Danny Collins had a life he loved and was managing luxury National Geographic outdoor experiences in Ecuador. He had an MBA, a master's of architecture he earned along with his then girlfriend Cristina Bustamante, and they were exploring careers and the Andes. But that all changed one day when he got a phone call letting him know his father was diagnosed with terminal cancer. In that moment, Collins knew he had to come home.

Back home, Collins and Bustamante found themselves exploring the Ozarks. "I fell in love with this area again," he says. "I realized so many people have never seen all it has to offer." As both newlyweds and architects, the pair began designing a new business that did two big things: It removed barriers for women, people of color and limited experience levels, and it created outdoor adventures that included socializing.

With Collins' hospitality expertise and Bustamante's mind for details, 37 North Expeditions hosted its first curated outdoor experience in April 2018. "One of our first private tours was with an outdoor blogger from Florida who chose us because he had never had a way to explore this area by himself," Bustamante says. "Once we educated the market on the experiences we provide, interest exploded."

In 2019, 37 North Expeditions guided nearly 4,000 visitors on trails, hikes, horseback rides and bike rides within 200 miles of Springfield. With growing demand came new markets, more dynamic guides to entertain and educate guests and a new goal: to partner with more local businesses to wow their eager adventurers.

From locally catered, crafted meals trailside to horseback rides between wineries, magic moments come when guests can be fully immersed in all the Ozarks offers. "There's so many advantages to owning a business in Springfield, but my gosh, our backyard is beautiful," Collins says. "One of our missions is to put the Ozarks on the map—we're here, between the Smokies and the Rockies, and this area is worth exploring. We're on our way." —Ren Bishop

Photo by Josh Beecher



Küat Racks President Luke Kuschmeader likes doing business in Springfield because of its central location and lower cost of living.



## RACKING UP SUCCESS

Business has always come naturally to Luke Kuschmeader, who started his own landscape company when he was 17. A few years later, he sold it and founded a construction business.

“At the time I was doing a lot of adventure racing [and] mountain biking,” Kuschmeader says. “I enjoyed construction but wasn’t passionate about it.” That is where the idea for his next venture came in: Küat Racks, which designs and manufactures lightweight, stylish, high-end aluminum bike racks and accessories.

Kuschmeader and his former partner launched their first product in February 2008 (his first partner sold his portion of the business to investor Guy Mace).

“When we founded the company, we got amazing support,” Kuschmeader says. “We went to SCORE, [through which] retired professionals mentor you. The local bike shops were incredibly supportive of our brand; they helped drive initial adoption of the product.”

Traditionally bike racks are made with steel, but aluminum is lighter, doesn’t rust and allows for more creative design, which has given Kuschmeader room to improve and change the design of the racks. The racks are manufactured in Taiwan and China, but the company’s headquarters are in Springfield. Küat Racks has 28 local employees and 25 independent reps around the country and has begun construction on

a new 44,000-square-foot headquarters building and distribution center.

Despite the company’s national presence, there are several reasons Kuschmeader has kept the company in the Ozarks. “We talked about mountain cities like Boulder, [Colorado,] or Park City, [Utah,]” he says. “A lot of outdoor brands center around those hubs, but the cost of living in Springfield is much lower than mountain towns.” Plus, Springfield is centrally located, which is great for shipping, and it has plenty of outdoor opportunities. “We have great access to the hobbies we love: climbing, mountain bike trails, lake hobbies and rivers,” Kuschmeader says. “The Ozarks is a hidden gem.” —Juliana Goodwin





Brittany Bilyeu and Summer Trottier opened Culture Flock as an online store before deciding to open a brick and mortar store in Springfield.

## HERE FOR GOOD

In 2006, Springfield natives Brittany Bilyeu and Summer Trottier met at Missouri State University and discovered a mutual love of puns and positivity. After years of friendship and a couple of college degrees, they decided to take a chance selling their creative and conversation-starting T-shirts online.

“We both were looking for a career change, and we were really focused on how much we enjoyed the arts and being creative,” Trottier says. “Brittany has a graphic design degree and did some screen-printing, and together, we have a weird brain. We had these crazy ideas for T-shirts, so that’s what we did.”

Since 2013, Culture Flock has sold greeting cards and T-shirts with all sorts

of fun designs, buttons with political statements and pro-voting apparel in all sizes. Being inclusive is kind of their thing, Bilyeu says. “We love having fun, but we also want to be culturally relevant. We want people to be more involved in things that are important to them, like our earth, nature, local elections, but we want to make sure the message is also positive and welcoming.”

After years of testing, showcasing and selling their products online, Culture Flock opened up shop in 2018. A physical store was possible because of the low start-up costs in Springfield, which made their hometown the right fit for a store.

Springfield’s business community and Culture Flock’s Galloway Village neigh-

bors celebrated the arrival of the store, and customers soon started swinging by Culture Flock. Inventory is sourced from minority and women-owned businesses, and customers can attend classes in the Flock’s workshop. The 2,000-square-foot space is welcoming to everyone, and thanks to Springfield’s supportive community, the Flock is in Springfield for good, as Trottier sees it.

“Springfield is a place that continually surprises us,” Trottier says. “The way that Springfield responds to new businesses is amazing. We really appreciate all the support we got from the beginning and we continue to get. If you engage with the community, they’ll support you.”—*Ren Bishop*





## REACHING BEYOND THE REGION

With a dynamic workforce and a central location, Springfield is the perfect spot for companies with national and global reach.

**BY SAVANNAH WASZCZUK**

### **Bass Pro Shops (Headquarters)**

*basspro.com*

Specializing in a variety of gear for hunting, fishing, camping and more, Bass Pro Shops operates 180 retail stores and Tracker Marine Centers across America and Canada. Bass Pro Shops employs more than 2,500 people in its hometown of Springfield.

### **BKD CPAs & Advisors (Headquarters)**

*bkd.com*

BKD is a national CPA and advisory firm providing solutions to clients in all 50 states and internationally. Headquartered in downtown Springfield, the firm offers insights, specialized skills and expertise to individuals and business clients in a variety of industries. BKD attracts both recent college grads and experienced professionals to its team.

### **Chase Card Services**

*chase.com*

With more than 1,400 employees, Chase's Springfield operation houses customer support functions for the company's credit card division. The company prides itself on its customer and employee focus, its diverse workforce, premier benefits and a culture prioritizing philanthropy.

### **CoxHealth (Headquarters)**

*coxhealth.com*

CoxHealth, headquartered in Springfield, employs more than 12,000 people in six hospitals and 80-plus clinics in southwest Missouri. CoxHealth encourages active lifestyles for employees through its wellness program, which offers fitness challenges and health-related incentives.

### **Expedia Group**

*expediainc.com*

The world's leading travel company, Expedia Group, employs more than 22,000 people globally and approximately 900 in Springfield, making it one of the company's largest locations outside of its corporate headquarters in Washington. The local office supports many areas of the company including customer service, IT, sales and financial operations.

### **French's Food Co.**

*mccormick.com/frenchs*

For more than 48 years, French's Food Co. has been producing sauces, condiments and fried vegetables, such as French's Crispy Fried Onions, at its Springfield factory. The company has more than 450 local employees.

### **Jack Henry & Associates Inc.**

*jackhenry.com*

Headquartered in nearby Monett and with a sizable location in Springfield, Jack Henry & Associates provides technology solutions and payment processing services primarily for the financial services industry. The company's products and services support approximately 9,000 financial institutions and corporate entities across the country.

### **John Deere Reman-Springfield (Division Headquarters)**

*deere.com*

John Deere Reman is a wholly owned subsidiary of Deere & Co. The company employs 390 people and specializes in the remanufacturing of engines, engine components and fuel systems.

Springfield is home to several headquarters for national companies. Other nation-wide operations, including Chase, have offices in town.

### **Kraft Heinz Co.**

*kraftheinzcompany.com*

A major employer in the region for more than 75 years, Kraft-Heinz employs approximately 950 people at its Springfield facility. This plant makes the popular Kraft Macaroni & Cheese in boxes and microwavable cups, Kraft American Singles, Kraft Natural Cheese and Cracker Barrel cheeses.

### **Mercy Springfield Communities**

*mercy.net*

Mercy Springfield Communities employs more than 9,000 people in the metro area. Its main location is the hospital in the middle of Springfield, but Mercy also has several clinics around town.

### **O'Reilly Auto Parts (Headquarters)**

*oreillyauto.com*

Started as a single store in 1957, O'Reilly Auto Parts is an auto parts wholesaler and retailer with roughly 5,500 locations across the United States. Headquartered in Springfield, the company has stores in 47 states and employs more than 74,000 team members.

### **Paul Mueller Co. (Headquarters)**

*paulmueller.com*

Paul Mueller Co. is proud to have Springfield roots and a global reach. The stainless-steel manufacturing company builds processing equipment that cools, heats and stores products that are used every day, including food, beer and medicines.

### **Prime Inc. (Headquarters)**

*primeinc.com*

Prime is a top-50 national transportation company offering refrigerated, flatbed, food-grade tanker, intermodal and logistics services. Headquartered in Springfield, the company offers its associates and drivers a family-focused, high-energy workplace.

### **SRC Holdings Corp. (Headquarters)**

*srcholdings.com*

The birthplace of open-book management, SRC is a leading remanufacturer in the automotive, construction, mining, trucking, marine and agricultural industries. The company educates, engages and empowers its employee-owners at all levels. Founded in Springfield in 1983, the remanufacturer has grown to more than 13 companies with 1,600 employee-owners and \$500 million in sales.

### **3M Springfield**

*3m.com*

A global company, 3M has an Industrial Adhesives and Tape Division located in Springfield. 3M Springfield offers its eligible salaried employees annual incentive plans and a long list of benefits including insurance, retirement and more.





The efactory provides office space and programming for the local business community.

## Starting Strong

Over the past several years, the efactory in downtown Springfield has established itself in and outside of the area as an invaluable resource for startup entrepreneurs and small business owners.

**BY EVAN GREENBERG**

**T**he efactory, an entrepreneurship and innovation center in the heart of downtown Springfield, has made quite an impact since its inception in 2013. A program of Missouri State University, its objective is to serve businesses in varying stages of development, from fledgling startups to established companies. More than 40 companies work from the efactory in private offices and coworking spaces.

“The goal when the efactory opened was to be that one-stop shop for entrepreneurship and small business,” says Director Rachel Anderson. To that end, the efactory provides office space, programming and, since 2016, an accelerator program, which provides startups with access to capital, mentors and other resources to foster growth.

So far, more than 15 portfolio companies have graduated the accelerator in four cohorts. Software communications company Eagle Speak was part of the first cohort, and co-founder Myke Bates says the experience was invaluable. “[It’s] a three-month crash course in how to run a business,” Bates says. “If you’ve got a business idea in mind, or maybe you’ve got a small business that

you’ve had for a little while and maybe you want to take it to the next level, the accelerator is a program in which you can receive funding for your idea. Basically, it’s a business degree all rolled up.”

The efactory’s increased renown with each passing year has encouraged businesses to stay in the area and has brought an influx of out-of-state hopeful entrepreneurs to town. “The simple fact that you can operate as a business and have space for your business, that’s huge,” Bates says. “Just being able to have that space to operate your business, and by extension... having access to all of the people in there is a huge resource.”

Coupled with Springfield’s affordable cost of living and its growing national reputation as a nurturing place for business, it’s no wonder the efactory is brimming with excitement and energy. “I truly believe Springfield is positioned to become the city of choice for entrepreneurs, innovators and trailblazers,” Anderson says. “Our community has a rich history of entrepreneurship, innovation and economic vitality. Whether a lifelong Springfieldian or a recent transplant, we have all the resources and programs at the efactory to help people start and grow their business.”



# 10

## REASONS

### Why Springfield is Good For Business

**1** “People in Springfield value you for what you bring to the table in enthusiasm, effort, and ideas above all else. It makes for a very rewarding place to have a career.” —*Christina Angle, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Group Services at Erlen Group*

**2** “Springfield is home to companies and educational institutions that offer strong cultural foundations, excellent career paths and successful growth strategies that continue to be validated year after year.” —*Jonathan Andrews, Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Training at O'Reilly Auto Parts*

**3** “Employees are friendly, help each other out and are focused on our customers. That is Springfield through and through.” —*Tony Polodna, Executive Director at Chase Card Services*

**4** “Springfield provides an unparalleled environment for young professionals. We have a seat at the table, our voices are sought out and heard, and we are actively shaping the future of our community. Harnessing the passion of young professionals is powerful for our businesses and community as a whole.” —*Kristin Carter, CPA, Vice President and Tax Officer at Central Trust Co.*

**5** “Due to the number of quality colleges in the area, businesses can develop top talent to fit their needs.” —*Julie Cummings, Managing Director and Chief Human Resources Officer at BKD*

**6** “There is a spirit of collaboration here that goes beyond competition. From little startups to big established companies, everyone is in it together and we're all working to enhance that culture of innovation. That's the great thing about Springfield, we support one another.” —*Scott Rogers, System Director of Performance Integration and Innovation at CoxHealth*

**7** “Ease of access. Even in the farthest outlying areas in Springfield, you are basically a mere 20-minute drive to the airport.” —*Nikki Holden, President at Custom Metalcraft*

**8** “Springfield has something to offer the community in every stage of life. There is tremendous support for education at all levels, professional growth and economic opportunities, exceptional health care, access to spiritual and life balancing activities and many outlets for hobbies, fun and family. This type of welcoming and progressive environment makes it natural for businesses to thrive, attract talent and experience sustainable success.” —*Laura Starks, Vice President-Talent Solutions, Human Resource Optimization at Mercy*

**9** “The cost of doing business is low, and Springfield's leaders have prioritized economic vitality and quality of place. Likewise, our citizens have approved data-driven, long-term investments in transportation, education and public safety. Springfield is incredibly well-positioned for business expansion, economic growth and talent attraction and retention.” —*Matt Morrow, President of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce*

**10** “We have many of the same amenities you find in a larger city, but we don't have to deal with the congestion and the hassle.” —*Jeff Schrag, owner of Mother's Brewing Co.*

# Homebuying, **how you want it.**



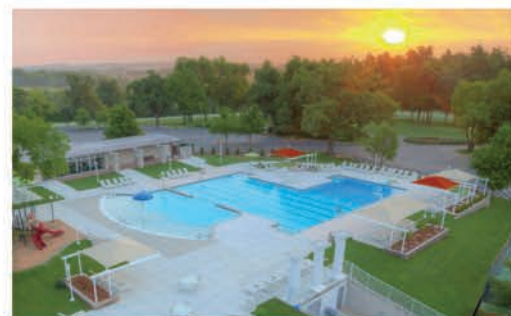
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# play

## WHERE YOU WANT IN SPRINGFIELD

Springfield is home to a ballet, a symphony and an opera, plus historic and state-of-the-art venues.

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board boasts more than 100 parks and 100-plus miles of trails.

Downtown Springfield is bustling with more than 20 retail shops, 60 restaurants and four live theaters.

The region's rolling hills, woods and waterways provide ample opportunity for biking, boating and more.

Springfield Ballet offers classical ballet training and brings pre-professional performances to the city.



Photo courtesy Springfield Ballet

A Night Out 40 • Go Shop 42 • Hikes & Bikes 44 • The Arts 46 • Kid Stuff 47



# Night Out

Looking for a place to take a date? Here are a few local places that offer more than just a traditional dinner and a movie.

BY KAREN BLISS

## PLAY

### Moxie Cinema

417-429-0800, [moxiecinema.com](http://moxiecinema.com)

**The Goods:** As Springfield's only independent movie theater, this venue has a loyal following who flock to the theater for the latest indie flick.

**Must Try:** Become a member and get \$3 off ticket prices plus \$.50 popcorn.

### Artistree Pottery

1423 E. Cherry St., 417-840-5200, [ArtistreePottery.com](http://ArtistreePottery.com)

**The Goods:** Artistree Pottery is a place to paint your own pottery while enjoying a unique, relaxing and fun experience. You can have a cup of coffee or a glass of wine while creating one-of-a-kind pieces of art.

**Must Try:** Want to make it a group date, or a girls night out instead? Plan ahead and book an event package for a group. Party packages are for two hours and cost \$140 for 10 painters.

## EAT

### Flame Steakhouse and Wine Bar

417-862-4444, [flamesteakhouse.com](http://flamesteakhouse.com)

**The Goods:** Flame Steakhouse and Wine Bar runs great happy hour food specials, and the menu includes salads, steaks and fresh seafood.

**Must Try:** The steak is fabulous, but so is the lobster mac and cheese. Both are classics and fan favorites for a reason at this downtown steakhouse.

### Progress

2144 E. Republic Rd., Ste B101, 417-799-9388, [SpringfieldProgress.com](http://SpringfieldProgress.com)

**The Goods:** Whether you go for brunch or dinner, it guarantees a classy atmosphere for a true fine dining experience. Make sure you make a reservation if you plan to go!

**Must Try:** If you're taking out a vegetarian, Progress has a cauliflower steak, seasoned with curry, muhammara sauce, za'atar hummus, toum, harissa spiced hazelnuts, lemon and cilantro. Top it off with a chocolate tart with a tasty pretzel crust.

## DRINK

### The Golden Girl Rum Club

137 Park Central Square, 417-425-5162, [TheGoldenGirl.com](http://TheGoldenGirl.com)

**The Goods:** Feel like summer will never come? The Golden Girl Rum Club is a tropical themed bar and kitchen with island-inspired and classic cocktails, as well as meals and small plates.

**Must Try:** Try the Golden Girl's best seller, the Son of Banana Man. It's made up of a 151-proof rum blend and banana liquor, blended with fresh banana, coconut, pineapple, cinnamon and lime.

### Vantage Rooftop Lounge and Conservatory

260 E. McDaniel St., 417-851-1768, [RoofTopVantage.com](http://RoofTopVantage.com)

**The Goods:** Want to enjoy a drink, but tired of dark bars? Try out Vantage, located at the top of the Vandivort Hotel. You can catch a drink by the twinkling of the stars, or at sunset.

**Must Try:** Make it an extra special date night or group date by reserving a cabana on the rooftop during the warmer months. When it's colder, the cabanas transform into warming 8-person igloos.

### MudLounge

417-368-8298, [mudlounge.net](http://mudlounge.net)

**The Goods:** MudLounge is a great spot for cozy conversation. Its extensive menu has a standout craft beer selection, tasty coffee cocktails and more.

**Must Try:** Warm up with an Irish Cognitive, a delicious blend of Mudhouse espresso, Jameson Irish Whiskey and Bailey's Irish Cream.

## SWEETS

### Hurts Donut Company

417-755-7574, [wannahurts.com](http://wannahurts.com)

**The Goods:** Unusual toppings and a little creativity bring more than 100 rotating flavors to Springfield's Hurts Donut Company. You can even chomp on donuts topped with Nerds!

**Must-Try:** Bite into the Maple Bacon Bar topped with crumbled bacon.

### Bon Bon's Candy House

2720 S. Glenstone Ave., 417-883-3900, [CandyHouseSGF.com](http://CandyHouseSGF.com)

**The Goods:** Want to take your sweetie to pick out some special sweets? Bon Bon's is Springfield's own homemade candy house. Here you can purchase anything from a variety of jar candy to homemade popcorn and fudge.

**Must Try:** Build your own box! Have you ever tried to buy a box of chocolates, but they just don't have the right combination? Bon Bon's will let you build your own soft center box or your own truffle box.

## STAY

### Hotel Vandivort

417-832-1515, [hotelvandivort.com](http://hotelvandivort.com)

**The Goods:** Hotel Vandivort is Springfield's first Four-Diamond boutique hotel and provides an active cultural hub for locals and travelers alike.

**Must Try:** For some added sophistication or to just unwind after a long day traveling, head to Vandivort's in-house bar and restaurant The Order, and grab a smoked old fashioned.



Artistree Pottery



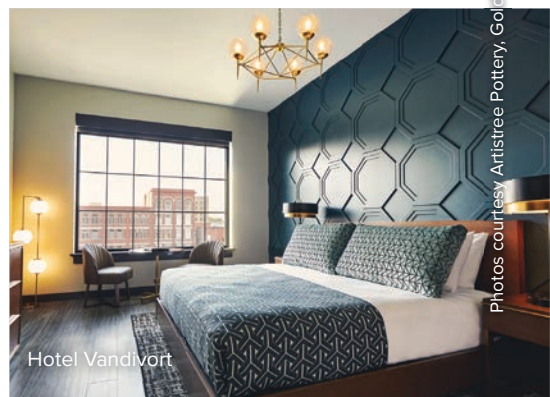
Golden Girl Rum Club



Progress



Bon Bon's



Hotel Vandivort





# Get Connected To Your Community-Owned Utility

Welcome to Springfield! As your community-owned utility, we work hard every day to connect you to the services you rely upon for your daily lives. City Utilities connects our community to reliable water, natural gas, electric, transit, and broadband.

Being a community-owned utility means we serve you, our customers. With some of the lowest utility rates in the country and a focus on renewables—City Utilities is committed to making Springfield a great place to live and work.

## Get Connected to Our Programs



**WAYS TO SAVE.** City Utilities offers a variety of rebates to help you put some money back in your pocket.



**RENEWABLES.** Nearly 40% of City Utilities' energy comes from renewable resources, such as wind and solar.



**MY ACCOUNT.** City Utilities' customer portal provides a convenient way to pay your bill. It also allows you to see your energy usage to help budget and manage your utility costs.



**LEVEL PAY.** After establishing one year of usage, households can make budgeting easier by paying the same amount each month with City Utilities' Level Pay program.

To get connected to these programs and more visit [cityutilities.net](http://cityutilities.net).  
301 East Central, Springfield, MO • 417-863-9000



# Shop

## UNTIL YOU DROP

Whether you're a mom, dad, college student, teen or anywhere in between, you can find your new favorite threads at local shops. Plus, some of Springfield's best stores have unique home decor and gifts in addition to their clothing wares.

BY JESSICA HAMMER

### FOR HER

#### Torn Boutique

115 N. Second Street,  
Ozark, 417-551-4847,  
[tornboutique.com](http://tornboutique.com)

Located in Ozark's historic downtown, Torn Boutique is home to dozens of cute, comfy and casual women's clothing styles. New inventory arrives daily, so customers can always find on-trend pieces (including fall favorites like chunky, textured sweaters). Plus, you don't have to leave home—Torn can ship directly to your door.



#### The Merry Moore

400 E. Walnut St., Suite 120, Springfield,  
417-844-0603, [themerryshop.com](http://themerryshop.com)

Boutique owner Hayley Moore Valdez opened The Merry Moore because she was tired of struggling to find modest, but fashionable and timeless, clothing in big box stores. Women's clothes here range from casual to office-ready, and cute accessories round out the boutique's offerings. Plus, there's a great selection of home decor and gifts available. The shop offers shipping and curbside pickup, so you can get in and out if you're in a rush.

### FOR HIM

#### H.I.M.

2636 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, 417-771-5166  
Springfield has numerous women's boutiques, but men haven't been left out. HIM is the kind of store where guys can shop and unwind. There's a wide selection of men's clothing and accessories from dungarees, whiskey gadgets and Pendleton apparel to men's fragrances, dog accessories, lounge wear and belts.

#### 5 Pound Apparel

412 South Ave., Springfield, 417-368-6401; 2144 E. Republic Road, Suite E104, Springfield, 417-720-2643, [5poundapparel.com](http://5poundapparel.com)



In addition to having a great selection, 5 Pound Apparel donates five pounds of food for each branded item sold, so you can feel good about your shopping habit.

Look good and feel good after shopping at 5 Pound Apparel. The store carries a nice collection of henley shirts, v-necks and button downs as well as hats and cologne. Five pounds of food is donated to Ozarks Food Harvest for each branded item sold.

### FOR THE THRIFTER

#### A Cricket in the House

412 E. Walnut St., Springfield, 417-865-2758,  
[facebook.com/acricketinthehouse](http://facebook.com/acricketinthehouse)

Give your home a local punch with handmade, vintage, eclectic and locally made accessories and furnishings from A Cricket in the House. New items are added to the floor each day, so you'll always find something surprising.

#### Relics Antique Mall

2015 W. Battlefield Road, Springfield,  
417-885-0007, [relicsantiquemall.com](http://relicsantiquemall.com)

For your latest vintage find, head to Relics Antique Mall, the largest antique mall in Missouri. There you'll find more than 400 booths filled with furniture, accessories, jewelry and artwork—and a tasty café and event center to boot.

### FOR THE KIDS

#### Jellybeans

2632 S Glenstone Ave., Springfield,  
417-889-2117, [tinytotstweens.com](http://tinytotstweens.com)

This stylish and playful children's boutique sells toys, clothes and accessories for ages newborn to 24 months, tots sizes 2T to 6X and tweens sizes 7 to 14.

#### LUK Boutique

111 S. Main St., Nixa  
417-494-5008, [lukboutique.com](http://lukboutique.com)

Look no further than LUK Boutique for your custom graphic tee fix. With sizes ranging from newborn to adult 2XL, you and your child can look stylish together. Don't forget to check out the women's apparel while you're here.

#### Jade Tank

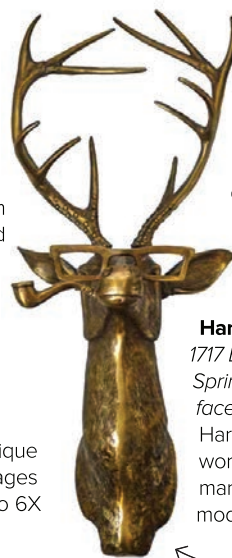
1316 E. Republic Road, Springfield, 417-708-1424,  
[shopjadetank.com](http://shopjadetank.com)

Bright colors and trendy patterns (like leopard and tie-dye) line the racks at this boutique, ready for tween shoppers to pick and choose their favorites. Jade Tank carries tops, bottoms, dresses, and even pajamas in sizes 4 to 6x and 7 to 16. Plus, the shop is passionate about giving back — a portion of each sale supports St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

### FOR YOUR HOME

#### Obelisk Home

214 W. Phelps St., Springfield  
417-616-6488, [obeliskhome.com](http://obeliskhome.com)  
Offering stylish home furnishings and accessories, Obelisk Home is one of Springfield's best-known furniture stores. It also offers design services.



#### Harrison House Market

1717 E. Cherokee St., Suite 103,  
Springfield, 417-351-3122

[facebook.com/HarrisonHouseMarket](http://facebook.com/HarrisonHouseMarket)  
Harrison House Market is the best of both worlds for your home goods needs. The market carries a nice array of vintage and modern items to touch up your home.



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# FIND YOUR Adventure

Get off the couch and hit the trail—or water, or rock wall—at these 417-land hot spots that have thrills to satisfy leisurely joggers and mountain-climbing masters.

BY ETTIE BERNEKING

Pedal your way down the Frisco Highline Trail, a former railroad route.



HIKING



BOATING AND WATER SPORTS



BIKING

## Dogwood Canyon Nature Park

Lampe, [dogwoodcanyon.org](http://dogwoodcanyon.org)

### Easy

This nature reserve is an ideal spot for a leisurely stroll and some nature watching along the 6.5-mile trail. Check out the waterfalls, limestone bluffs, wrought iron bridges and wildlife, and be sure to spend some time at the Dogwood mill, restaurant and treehouse, all of which are accessible with the entry fee.

## Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area

Located in southern Christian County near Highlandville, [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov)

### Moderate

This 2,700-acre area winds through grassy fields, clear streams, woodlands and glades. The woodsy park has 18 miles of mixed-use trails for hikers, horseback riders or mountain bikers who want a little more of a challenge than other trails might offer.

## Buffalo National River

Ponca, Arkansas, [nps.gov/buff](http://nps.gov/buff)

### Moderate to Advanced

The Buffalo National River area is a hiking and camping hot spot so beautiful it was named the first national river in the United States. Most trailheads in the region are situated just two hours from Springfield. To get a flavor of the area, take in the views or hike the popular Lost Valley Trail to see breathtaking waterfalls and the massive Cob Cave. As you head through the Boxley Valley there, be on the lookout for wild elk.

## Bent Hook Marina and Bass Pro Shops Long Creek Marina

Ridgedale, [bigcedar.com](http://bigcedar.com),  
[bassproshopslongcreekmarina.com](http://bassproshopslongcreekmarina.com)

### Easy to Moderate

Big Cedar Lodge's Bent Hook Marina offers a scenic outdoor retreat with boating, skiing, stand-up paddleboarding and other water activities for the lodge's overnight guests or members of the Wilderness Club. The nearby Bass Pro Shops Long Creek Marina offers guided fishing, boating, water-skiing and more to the public.

## The Ski Shack

Springfield, [theskishack.com](http://theskishack.com)

### Beginner to Advanced

If you're not ready to hit the open water, practice your wakeboarding skills at this cable park. Instead of a boat pulling you along, you are propelled forward by a cable that runs the length of the small 630-by-100-foot lake. Once you get your footing, test your skills with a variety of jumps and obstacles.

## Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Eminence, Missouri, [nps.gov/ozar](http://nps.gov/ozar)

### Beginner to Moderate

This unit of the National Park Service includes two waterways, the Current and Jacks Fork rivers. Both are terrific spring-fed floating rivers, perfect for an afternoon in an inner tube or a multi-day adventure. Campground and gravel bars present great opportunities to get off the grid, and the Current is even floatable year-round.

## Frisco Highline Trail

Springfield, [friscohighlinetrail.org](http://friscohighlinetrail.org)

### Easy to Moderate

This 35-mile trail includes 16 former railroad trestles, 12 miles of pavement and 23 miles of crushed limestone ideal for cycling. Don't miss the wildflowers at La Petite Gemme prairie near mile marker 32.

## Two Rivers Mountain Bike Park

Highlandville, [facebook.com/trailspring](http://facebook.com/trailspring)

### Easy to Advanced

This mountain bike park offers steep downhill runs, plenty of jumps and a skills course that's perfect for beginners. Check the park's Facebook page for updates on trail conditions.

## Greene County Farm Roads

Throughout

### Easy to Advanced

The Ozarks is crisscrossed by country roads cyclists love. There are also Springfield cycling clubs to check out. Advanced riders should look into Springfield Brewing Company's bike club. There's also a womens-only group—the Cool Chick Riders. And if you want an early morning ride and some coffee, get to know the Springfield Sunrise Coffee and Bicycling Club.

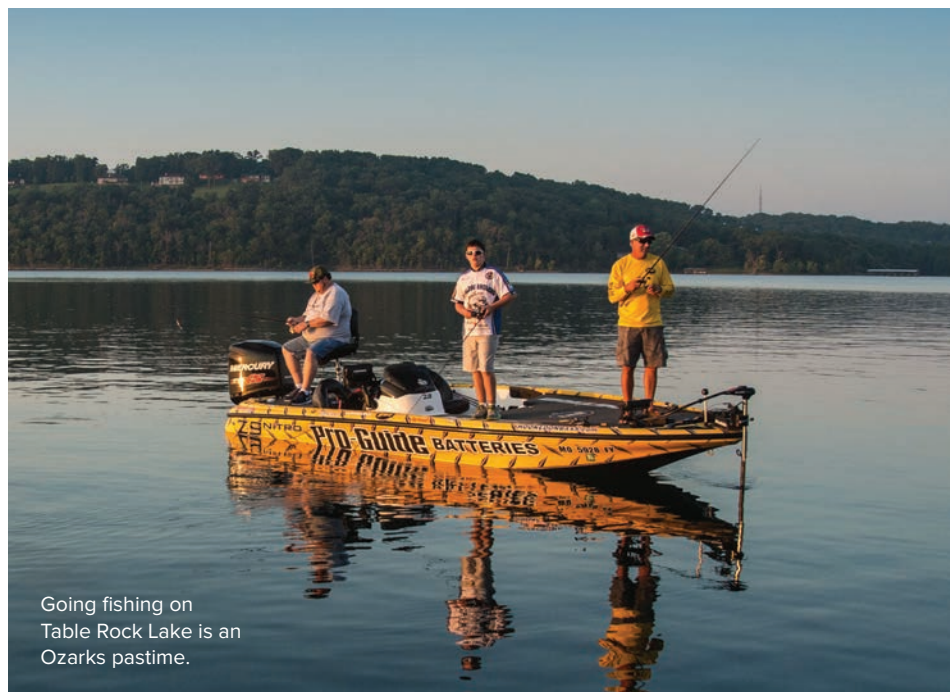
## Sac River Mountain Bike Trail

Springfield, [ozarkgreenways.org](http://ozarkgreenways.org)

### Beginner to Advanced

This mountain-biking destination covers 300 acres and 14 miles of single-track routes. The Sac River Trail is a perfect location for sneaking in a quick ride.





Going fishing on Table Rock Lake is an Ozarks pastime.



**Zenith Climbing Center ▶**  
*Springfield, [zenithclimbing.com](http://zenithclimbing.com)*  
**Beginner to Advanced**

This state-of-the-art climbing studio is a fitness junkie's dream. With multiple climbing walls, a workout area, a yoga studio, a gear shop and various courses for beginners and advanced climbers alike, Zenith offers a thrilling challenge and family-friendly atmosphere.

**Sam's Throne Recreation Area**  
*Mount Judea, Arkansas,*  
*[exploretheozarksonline.com](http://exploretheozarksonline.com)*  
**Moderate to Advanced**

Besides being a scenic setting for hiking and camping, Sam's Throne is well known as a premier rock climbing destination. The area looks out over Big Creek Valley. There are numerous routes that offer climbs for all skill sets at this popular weekend getaway.

**Missouri State University Climbing Wall**  
*Springfield, [missouristate.edu](http://missouristate.edu)*  
**Beginner to Moderate**

If you're looking to rock climb closer to home, members of Missouri State University's recreation center and their guests can learn rock climbing basics there. The climbing wall, which you can rent, is also perfect for birthday parties.



Zenith Climbing Center has both adult and children's climbing plus yoga.



*Want a stress-free adventure?*

Reserve a spot on one of **37 North Expeditions'** day-long guided excursions that typically include a hike and one additional activity, such as stand-up paddleboarding or a visit to a local brewery. Head to [37northexpeditions.com](http://37northexpeditions.com) for details or turn to p. 32 to learn more.



## EXHIBITING *Excellence*

Diversity and variety define Springfield culture, and the arts scene is no exception. In addition to monthly events, you can find creativity on the regular at a few unique spots, galleries and museums in the city.

**BY JESSICA HAMMER**

**First Friday Art Walk** ([ffaw.org](http://ffaw.org)) offers a free stroll through downtown art galleries, restaurants and businesses with a revolving display of local art and live music each month. Art Walk takes place on the first Friday of each month from 6–10 p.m. in downtown Springfield.

**The Gillioz Theatre** (417-863-9491, [gillioztheatre.com](http://gillioztheatre.com)) has been entertaining Springfield audiences since 1926 and was restored to its original beauty in 2006. The Gillioz serves a plethora of functions, including Broadway productions, theater, movies, religious gatherings, arts education, school programs, banquets, concerts, film festivals, conventions and television broadcasts.

**Springfield Art Museum** (417-837-5700, [sgfmuseum.org](http://sgfmuseum.org)) is home to more than 10,000 works of art. Special collections include 19th, 20th and 21st century American paintings, watercolor, sculpture and prints. Admission is free, and donations are welcome.

Local photographer, filmmaker, humanitarian and speaker **Randy Bacon's studio home** (417-868-8179, [randybacon.com](http://randybacon.com)) is in Springfield and displays his passion for capturing humanness. He's a co-founder of 7 Billion Ones, a project that documents stories to help connect and empower people. Additionally, "The Road I Call Home" project is another of Bacon's that features photos of the homeless and includes a narrative from photo subjects in their own words. The exhibit is currently on display at the Springfield Art Museum and the Brick City Museum of Art at Missouri State University.

**Springfield Ballet** (417-862-1343, [springfieldballet.org](http://springfieldballet.org)) offers superior dance training rooted in classical ballet for ages 3 to adult. All classes—ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, modern, pilates and creative movement—are held at the Creamery Arts Center. In addition, Springfield Ballet brings three pre-professional ballet productions to the Ozarks each year, enhanced by professional guest artists.

**Springfield Contemporary Theatre** (417-831-8001, [springfieldcontemporarytheatre.org](http://springfieldcontemporarytheatre.org)) performs an array of productions year-round,



Springfield Little Theatre brings some of the most popular and most anticipated shows to life on stage at The Landers Theatre in downtown Springfield.



▲ Embrace your cultural side at the Springfield Art Museum, which has a variety of art from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

and has performed *Hair*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Nine: The Musical* and *The Goat*, or *Who Is Sylvia?* SCT produces theater through a contemporary view utilizing intimate staging and guest professionals throughout the season.

**Springfield Little Theatre** (417-869-1334, [springfieldlittletheatre.org](http://springfieldlittletheatre.org)) is a volunteer-driven organization that strives to entertain, educate and involve the community in live productions and in the preservation of the historic Landers Theatre. The theater brings the best of Broadway to Springfield with classics including *Les Miserables*, *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof* and *Beauty and the Beast*. The theater also hosts a wide range of children's performance classes.

The mission of the **Springfield Regional Opera** (417-863-1960, [sropera.org](http://sropera.org)) is to create lasting memories by presenting, promoting and developing the art of opera, music and theater. The opera has performed *Carmen* and hosted the *Voices of Christmas* event. SRO Lyric Theatre seeks talent in Springfield but is also

known for casting well-known opera singers from New York City and abroad to bring the best and brightest to the stage in Springfield.

**Springfield Improv** (417-872-2658, [springfieldimprov.com](http://springfieldimprov.com)) guarantees you will laugh louder and laugh more! While Springfield Improv closed its theater, it is continuing to offer online performances, trainings and workshops.

**Spring Vegas Sketch Show** Director Shannon Sherrow says the show is a cross between comedy and theater ([springvegassketchshow.com](http://springvegassketchshow.com)). The show's third season runs October 2020–June 2021. A live streaming option is also available, and you might want to snag tickets early. Sherrow says Spring Vegas shows have sold out every year since it started in 2018.

**Springfield Symphony Orchestra** (417-864-6683, [springfieldsymphonyorchestra.org](http://springfieldsymphonyorchestra.org)) concerts feature classical music as well as fun and familiar pops concerts. A favorite is the annual Christmas-themed concert in December.

For more than 50 years, Missouri State University has entertained locals at its open-air **Tent Theatre** (417-836-4400, [tenttheatre.missouristate.edu](http://tenttheatre.missouristate.edu)), located on campus grounds. Each summer, watch students and professional actors perform in three outdoor productions.

As one of *USA Today's* Best New Attractions in 2019, the **Springfield History Museum on the Square** (417-831-1976, [historymuseumonthesquare.org](http://historymuseumonthesquare.org)) delivers regional history through an interactive experience. With six permanent galleries and occasional traveling exhibits, visitors can learn all about the Civil War's impacts on the area, interactions between pioneers and natives, and the infamous duel Wild Bill Hickok had while on Park Central Square.





The Creamery Arts Center offers kids a chance to blend learning with creativity.

# Kid Around

Whether you enjoy festivals, parks, trails or attractions, there is always something family-friendly to enjoy. Here are a few spots you should explore.

BY JULIANA GOODWIN

## THE ARTS

**Painting with a Twist** (417-755-7760, [painting-withatwist.com](http://painting-withatwist.com)) isn't just for grown-ups. Check online to find classes for ages as young as 8—with some more suited to teens.

Help your kiddos unleash their artistic side at the **Springfield Art Museum** (417-837-5700, [springfieldmo.gov/art](http://springfieldmo.gov/art)). It offers classes in fall, winter and spring—but come summer there are weekly art camps.

During the summer, **Springfield Pottery** (417-864-4677, [springfieldpottery.com](http://springfieldpottery.com)) offers week-long Kid's Camps for elementary, middle and high school students.

**Creamery Arts Center** (417-862-2787, [springfieldarts.org](http://springfieldarts.org)) is home to the Regional Arts Council, the ballet and Springfield Little Theatre, which all host family programming year-round. Visit the website to learn about current programs.

## BOWLING

**Andy B's** (417-883-1234, [bowlandybs.com](http://bowlandybs.com)) is Springfield's bowling destination. With a funky atmosphere and an impressive food and drink menu, it's the perfect place for the kiddos, and those young at heart, to let loose.

## DANCING

**Ann's Performing Arts Centre** (417-881-1211, [annsdancers.com](http://annsdancers.com)) is a multi-studio complex offering recreational and competitive classes for kids ages 3 and up. Styles include ballet, lyrical dance, modern dance, jazz, tap and hip-hop. Children as young as 3 can plié their way into classical ballet training at **Springfield Ballet** (417-862-1343, [springfieldballet.org](http://springfieldballet.org)). Students can also take jazz, tap, modern dance and creative movement classes.

If you're looking for something different, head to **Pat's Clogging Studios** (417-833-4827, [itap2.com](http://itap2.com)) to learn the art of clogging or Irish dancing.

## DIVING

For a taste of underwater adventure, kids can learn to scuba dive at **DiVentures** (417-883-5151, [diventures.com](http://diventures.com)). Swimming lessons are available for children of all ages.

## FARM-STYLE LEARNING

**Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park** (417-837-5949, [parkboard.org](http://parkboard.org)) is a 207-acre farm perfect for a day outside. Enjoy interactions with farm animals, pedal tractors, catch-and-release fishing, a section of the paved Wilson's Creek Greenway and a farm-themed playground.

## HORSEBACK RIDING

Young equestrians can learn the ropes at the **Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center** (417-833-8647, [parkboard.org](http://parkboard.org)). The HorseSHOE Program teaches basic skills on horse safety, grooming, saddling and riding while summer camp offers more advanced training.

**The Libby Ferguson Training Center** (417-894-8221, [libbyfergusonhorsetraining.com](http://libbyfergusonhorsetraining.com)) offers private lessons, semi-private lessons, day camps and horse training and can help prepare your child for competition. Plus, they host birthday parties at the barn, which include horse rides.

## INDOOR FUN

Kids of all ages love **Incredible Pizza** (417-501-0826, [springfieldincrediblepizza.com](http://springfieldincrediblepizza.com)). Grab a bite at the extensive pizza bar and spend hours at play with laser tag, go karts and a slew of classic arcade games.

Fitness meets fun at **Urban Air Adventure Park** (417-210-7889, [urbanairtrampolinepark.com](http://urbanairtrampolinepark.com)). Aside from trampolines, there's rock climbing, ropes courses, virtual reality games, a zipline, obstacle course, indoor playground and more. For your imaginative youngster, **Itty Bitty City** (417-202-2025, [ittybittycity.com](http://ittybittycity.com)) offers loads of creative play opportunities. Kids can pretend to be veterinarians, firefighters and more in a darling setting that looks like a tiny town. They can put on a show on Itty Bitty City's little stage or get messy at the Waterworks water table.

## MUSIC

Young musicians can check out **Springfield Music** (417-881-1373, [springfield-music.com](http://springfield-music.com)), one of the top 100 music retailers in the country. Known for its comprehensive private music lesson programs, Springfield Music offers lessons in guitar, bass, piano, vocals, violin, drums and some specialty instruments.

## PERFORMING ARTS

**Springfield Little Theatre** (417-869-3869, [springfieldlittletheatre.org](http://springfieldlittletheatre.org)) offers acting classes for all ages and skill levels, including musical theater, tap dancing, ballet, acting and voice. For that jokester in the family, **Springfield Improv** (417-872-2658, [springfieldimprov.com](http://springfieldimprov.com)) offers improv training for teens ages 16 and older who are with an adult.

## SCIENCE

**The Discovery Center of Springfield** (417-862-9910, [discoverycenter.org](http://discoverycenter.org)) blends education with fun through hands-on learning, family programs and more.

## SKATING

Lace up your skates and glide across the ice at **Jordan Valley Ice Park** (417-866-7444, [parkboard.org](http://parkboard.org)). The indoor rink offers open skating sessions, figure skating and kids hockey leagues. At **Skateland** (417-881-8011, [springfieldskateland.com](http://springfieldskateland.com)) roller skating is fun for all ages. There are also youth and adult hockey leagues. It's a wonderful birthday party option, and you can even rent the entire rink.

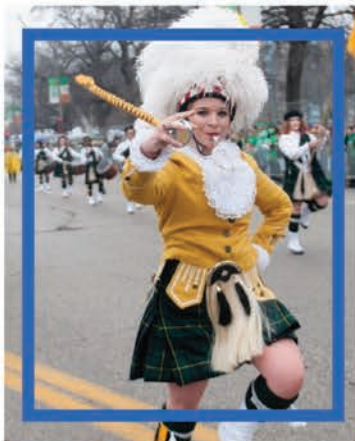
## STUDYING THE ANIMAL WORLD

**Dickerson Park Zoo** (417-833-1570, [dickersonparkzoo.org](http://dickersonparkzoo.org)) is a great family outing, and in between visits, kids and teens can tap into their wild side with classes featuring live animal encounters, crafts, stories, games and snacks. **Wild Animal Safari** (417-859-5300, [animalsafari.com](http://animalsafari.com)) is a drive-through animal park that's great in any season, including the holidays with its Christmas light displays. From the comfort of your vehicle, behold bison, African water buffalo, zebra and more as the animals roam free.

## SWIMMING

Even in winter, families can enjoy splashing around at the **Chesterfield Family Center Indoor Aquatics** (417-891-1616) or **Doling Family Center Indoor Aquatics** ([parkboard.org/aquatics](http://parkboard.org/aquatics)). The centers also offer swim lessons. And during the summer, Republic, Ozark, Nixa and Springfield all have great outdoor community centers with pools and water features.





# FIND YOUR PLACE AT SPS

Springfield Public Schools is a community of students, parents, staff and partners that welcomes everyone to the educational experience. As a team, we create opportunities to empower students and employees to find their passion and achieve personal success. SPS engages all learners by providing choice through innovative academic and support programs in an environment that values all individuals and their contributions.

**CONNECT WITH US AT [SPS.ORG](https://www.sps.org)**

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# learn

## WHAT YOU WANT IN SPRINGFIELD

Springfield Public Schools is the largest fully accredited district in Missouri.

More than 300 students from 23 area school districts participate in GO CAPS, a career exploration program.

Nearly 3,500 students attend private schools within the Springfield area.

The Springfield region is home to more than a dozen colleges and universities.

Nearly 25,000 students, including a large population of international students, enjoy learning at Missouri State University.







Medicine and Health Care is one of the program strands of GO CAPS, a career exploration course for high school juniors and seniors.

# Innovative EDUCATION

Ditch what you know about the traditional classroom experience. Springfield and the surrounding cities offer innovative learning solutions for students through robotics, kayaking and more. Gone are the days of endless pencil sharpening. In their place, school districts including Springfield Public Schools are reimagining the learning process. Area districts offer a variety of in- and out-of-the-classroom opportunities, to diversify the way students learn.

**BY JESSICA HAMMER**

## WONDERS OF THE OZARKS LEARNING FACILITY (WOLF SCHOOL)

**Age: Fifth grade**

**Number of Students: 46**

**Inside the Classroom:**

Remember being in elementary school and heading outside for field trips? Remember being amazed by the wildlife you got to meet and hold and the excitement of wandering through nature centers? Well that's what the fifth grade students at the WOLF school get to experience on a regular basis. This alternative learning experience is a collaboration between Springfield Public Schools and Bass Pro, and it gives kids

with a keen interest in nature and the outdoors a chance to experience the classroom through the lenses of environmental and conservation science. Mixed in with reading, writing and math are lessons on snorkeling, fishing, rock climbing and archery. Classes are held at the John A. and Genny Morris Conservation Education Center, located at Bass Pro's Springfield flagship store. Applications are accepted in November for the following school year, so fourth graders who are ready to move their studies outdoors should polish up their applications and get ready to become a WOLF student.

## FINE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

**Age: Fifth grade**

**Number of Students: 50**

**Inside the Classroom:**

If there's one thing you should know about Springfield, it's that we love our performing arts here. And when it comes to live shows, Springfield Little Theatre is at the FINE Academy of Performing Arts—a charter school focused on the performing arts. The school is housed on the second floor of the historic Judy building, which also houses SLT's education programs, youth performance troupes and rehearsal spaces. The new charter school welcomes 50 fifth graders selected through a lottery system, and once those tiny thespians are in their seats, they get to enjoy an immersive artistic learning experience. Curriculum includes a mix of dance, vocals, drama, visual arts and performance art. Plus, these 50 students have access to all of the stages, practice rooms, rehearsal spaces and creative getaways located inside the walls of The Judy.

## THE WINGS PROGRAM (WORKING WITH THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF GIFTED STUDENTS)

**Age: First through eighth grades**

**Number of Students: 800**

**Inside the Classroom:**

The Phelps Center for Gifted Education has been providing supplemental instruction for gifted students for more than 40 years. As part of another SPS affiliate, WINGS program students get to participate in their regular classroom routine and spend one day a week immersed





▲ The Wonders of the Ozarks Learning Facility (WOLF) program gets fifth graders learning about conservation and self-esteem—all under the guise of some good old-fashioned outdoors exploring.

in their education at an accelerated and more complex pace. Students have opportunities to explore personal areas of interest in an environment designed to provide the academic challenge these students need as they develop critical and creative thinking skills.

#### JOHN THOMAS SCHOOL OF DISCOVERY

**Age:** Kindergarten through sixth grades

**Number of Students:** 487

**Inside the Classroom:**

An extension of the Nixa Public School district, John Thomas School of Discovery (JTSD) focuses on a science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (or STEAM) curriculum. Teachers encourage their students to ask questions and work to weave all of the STEAM elements into their learning. This learning approach helps students develop problem solving and critical thinking skills while the teachers and program facilitators help instill lifelong learning. Enrollment at JTSD opens each February for the following school year.

#### GREATER OZARKS CENTERS FOR ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (GO CAPS)

**Age:** High school juniors and seniors

**Number of Students:** 250

**Inside the Classroom:**

For the dreamers, the planners and the students who already have a career in mind, GO CAPS can help. The program is open to high school juniors and seniors and is a great way for them to test out their preferred industry. GO CAPS gives students a chance to sample whatever industry they already have their sights set on by immersing them in hands-on business projects, lectures from industry leaders and job shadowing. Students are mentored by regional employers while receiving high school and college credit. Students can explore medicine and health care, business and entrepreneurship, IT and software solutions, engineering and man-

ufacturing and teacher education. The deadline to apply for enrollment is February, and students are encouraged to discuss GO CAPS with their school counselor to ensure the program will fit in their schedule.

#### PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

**Age:** 9th through 12th grades

**Number of Students:** Available to all students

**Inside the Classroom:**

Project Lead the Way is available to high school students at Central, Glendale, Hillcrest and Kickapoo and students at Carver, Cherokee, Hickory Hills, Jarrett, Pershing, Pipkin, Pleasant View and Westport Middle Schools who are interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines. Specific areas include biomedical science and computer science, and students get the opportunity to work on collaborative, real-world projects in their respective areas of interest. Through these experiences, teens get to develop critical thinking skills in addition to technical skills. Courses in Project Lead the Way are offered in sequence, starting in ninth grade. For more information, call Springfield Public Schools at 417-523-5558.

#### LAUNCH

**Age:** Kindergarten through 12th grades

**Number of Students:** 120,000 enrollments as of September 2020

**Inside the Classroom:**

The Launch online learning program from Springfield Public Schools offers students and parents an alternative to seated courses, and Nichole Lemmon, director of virtual learning for Launch, has had the opportunity to watch the program grow since 2011.

When enrollment for Launch opened in 2012, the program was only available for middle school and high school students, and there were only three online courses, including physical education. Over time, Lemmon says offerings have expanded to a robust 180+ course catalog.

#### Did You Know

Springfield Public Schools is the largest accredited school district in Missouri?

▼ Gifted students find a challenge in the WINGS program at the Phelps Center for Gifted Education.



#### GET ENROLLED IN SCHOOL

A handy list of what parents must bring:

- Birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Social Security number
- Proof of address

Kindergarten students must be 5 years old before midnight on July 31 to enroll.

Things started picking up for Launch in 2017 when Missouri passed the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP). In a nutshell, Lemmon says it gave “students a right to a virtual education in the state of Missouri.” At the time, SPS Superintendent Dr. John Jungmann envisioned an expansion of Launch, and Lemmon says administration and the board of education supported expansion efforts.





Now, any student in the state of Missouri can learn online instead of in the classroom, Lemmon says. Partner school districts across the state have joined the program and now offer the Launch curriculum to their students, and Launch itself has expanded when it rolled out an elementary program in June 2020.

Moving forward, Lemmon says the next few years will be about refining the elementary program as Launch continues to get feedback from parents and students. “We have to be constantly improving,” Lemmon says, and that includes making it easier for students to access online learning.



# HITTING THE BOOKS

Springfield's multiple faith-based and college preparatory private schools offer students a distinct approach to education. **BY STEPHANIE TOWNE BENOIT**

	 Springfield Catholic Schools	 The Summit Preparatory School	 Greenwood Laboratory School	 New Covenant Academy
<b>Grade Levels</b>	Pre-K through 12th	3-year-olds through 12th	Kindergarten through 12th	Jr. kindergarten through 12th
<b>Founding Date</b>	1913	2005	1908	1979
<b>Student-to-Teacher Ratio</b>	13-to-1	7-to-1	15-to-1	14-to-1
<b>Annual Tuition</b>	\$2,600–9,000	\$8,700 average	\$6,600–7,000	\$3,225–7,460
<b>Average ACT Score</b>	25.3	25.5	27	23.4
<b>Percentage of Grads pursuing Higher Ed</b>	99%	100%	100%	95%
<b>Program Highlights</b>	Academic excellence, faith formation and preparing future community leaders are central at Springfield Catholic Schools, which includes three elementary schools and Springfield Catholic High School. High schoolers can participate in international mission trips and community service. Competitive sports are also offered.	In the 3-year-olds program through 10 <sup>th</sup> grade, students experience daily Spanish instruction. Through the Soar program, high schoolers take college courses at regional institutions and pursue exciting internships. Summit's curriculum of inquiry- and project-based learning facilitates collaboration, critical thinking and deeper learning.	Located on the Missouri State University campus, Greenwood Laboratory School lets students take college classes for credit. Greenwood encourages civic engagement, community service and service learning with its Public Affairs Honors Diploma, and through coursework, clubs and much more. All students participate in a senior-level capstone project.	New Covenant offers a college preparatory program that integrates Christian faith and emphasizes character growth. Students can take part in extracurricular activities, including an award-winning fine arts program and sports teams. Many students perform community outreach, service projects and international or cross-cultural mission trips.



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# Year-Round LEARNING

Exciting day camps and educational after-school programs are two ways kids can stay engaged all year long.

**BY JABET WADE**

## **SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXPLORE!**

Springfield Public Schools flips the script on summer school with its Explore! program, designed to engage students in fun, personalized and project-based summer learning. With 24 locations, 12,000-plus students in all grade levels participate in these exciting learning opportunities. In 2018, Explore! provided 38 days of instruction about subjects such as coding, agriculture and music.

## **DRURY UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR GIFTED EDUCATION**

Each summer, more than 700 young eager beavers head to the Center for Gifted Education at Drury University. Middle and high school students attend Summerscape and Drury Leadership Academy, where they live in student dorms, eat meals in the cafeteria and take multiple classes a day, as well as attend lectures and workshops. When they aren't in the classroom, participants enjoy activities with their peers. Leadership Academy students can earn college credit. Elementary-school kids attend Summer Pals and Summer Quest day camps.

## **BARNABAS FOUNDATION**

Since 1994, individuals with special needs and differing abilities have swarmed to Camp Barnabas when the weather heats up. At week-long summer camps, kids as young as 7 and some adults enjoy the great outdoors and experience life-changing adventures through this Christian-based organization. Barnabas Prep provides a two-year, faith-based collegiate program, and every year, the organization also hosts Snow Ball, a dance for people with disabilities.

## **SPARC: SCHOOLS, PARKS ARE REACHING COMMUNITIES**

A long-standing partnership between the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and Springfield Public Schools, SPARC offers fun, affordable and accessible programming throughout the year. Thousands of kids benefit from SPARC annually, whether it's through the before- and after-school programs they attend or one of the exciting summer camps at locations such as Ritter Springs Park, where campers spend most of their time outside doing archery, fishing, canoeing, hiking and other activities.

## **OZARKS REGIONAL YMCA**

Youth programs at the YMCA—including sports leagues, swim lessons and before- and after-school care—serve more than 15,000 kids each year. Teaching them about healthy living and social responsibility is at the heart of it all, while having fun is always a priority. During the summer, day camps run every week with themes, activities and field trips varying by week and location. The Y also operates Camp Wakonda in Halltown, a residential camp home to a farm, a lake, a 40-foot climbing tower and ropes courses.

## **LIBRARIES**

For even more year-round learning opportunities, be sure to check out the array of programs available at the 10 Springfield-Greene County Library District branches. Activities include a monthly concert series, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) programs and reading groups for all ages. Learn more at [thelibrary.org](http://thelibrary.org).



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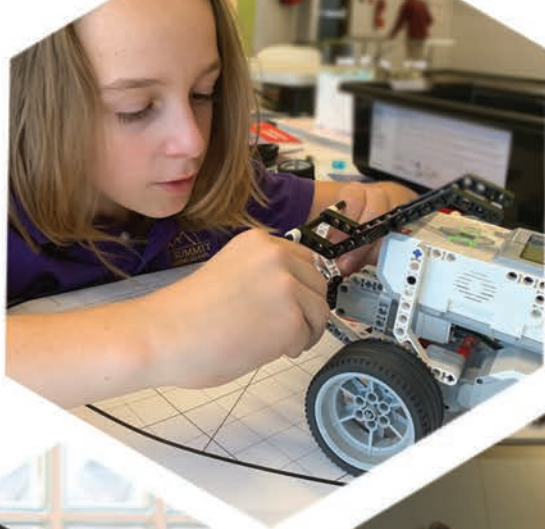
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# Gateway to Success

Students are hitting the books and furthering their careers thanks to the many colleges and universities in the area offering world-class degree and certification programs.

**BY JENNIFER ADAMSON AND CLAIRE PORTER**

## Missouri State University

417-836-5000, [missouristate.edu](http://missouristate.edu)

Although Missouri State University (MSU) has campuses in West Plains, Mountain Grove and across the Pacific in Dalian, China, Springfield is home to the main campus. Missouri State is the second largest university system in the state, and the student body represents every Missouri county, all 50 states and 88 foreign countries. MSU has seven academic colleges, including the College of Business—the largest business school in Missouri—and offers more than 85 majors.

**Fall 2020 enrollment:** 24,163

**Tuition and fees for 2020–2021:** \$9,040 (undergraduate Missouri resident)

**Accolades:** MSU has received numerous awards and accolades, including the 2014 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award, a Best in the Midwest distinction from *The Princeton Review* and a spot on *Forbes's* list of America's Top Colleges.

## Ozarks Technical Community College

417-447-7500, [otc.edu](http://otc.edu)

In 2015, Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) ranked fifth on a list of the nation's fastest growing community colleges. Today, OTC is the third largest community college in Missouri. Workforce training is the heart of the school's mission, so students pursue certificates and associate degrees in fields such as dental hygiene, culinary arts and welding technology. Learning doesn't stop at the Springfield city

limits. OTC has five other locations in the area and multiple online learning options.

**Fall 2020 enrollment:** 11,260 students

**Tuition for 2020–2021:** in-district tuition started at \$117 per credit hour

**Accolades:** Ozarks Technical Community College has placed in the top 50 finalists—one of only two Missouri colleges to do so—for the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program honoring outstanding student outcomes. The college also earned national recognition as one of the nation's Top 100 Associate Degree Producers by *Community College Week*.

## Drury University

417-873-7879, [drury.edu](http://drury.edu)

This liberal arts college offers more than 55 majors and 45 minors along with small class sizes, boasting a student-to-faculty ratio of 13-to-1. Drury University's new undergraduate curriculum, Your Drury Fusion, is a career-building, academic experience that guarantees students will graduate knowing the power that comes from blending passion and profession. They will also graduate with at least three hands-on experiences that demonstrate they can apply what they've learned.

**Fall 2020 enrollment:** 1,417

**Tuition for 2020–2021:** \$29,900 (full-time undergraduate, U.S. students)

**Accolades:** Drury was ranked No. 1 on *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Value Schools 2016. *The Princeton Review* named Drury as one of the best colleges in the Midwest for

its 2016 Best Colleges Region by Region, and 2015 was Drury's sixth year on the publication's Guide to 353 Green Colleges.

## Evangel University

417-865-2811, [evangel.edu](http://evangel.edu)

The Assemblies of God-affiliated Evangel University opened its doors in 1955, and the AG Theological Seminary was embedded within Evangel in 2013 and is located on campus. The university offers 70 undergraduate majors and 19 master's and doctoral degrees. Evangel also has accelerated degree-completion programs for non-traditional students in business management, behavioral health, church ministries and general studies.

**Fall 2020 enrollment:** 2,185

**Tuition for 2020–2021:** \$23,032

**Accolades:** In a partnership with Convoy of Hope, Evangel developed The Center for Compassion, where students engage in compassionate service and research. The Better Business Bureau recognized Evangel with a 2020 BBB TORCH AWARD for exceptional service and high ethics. Evangel was recognized again as a 2020 COLLEGE of DISTINCTION, with special focus on the Departments of Business and Education.

## Southwest Baptist University

417-328-5281, [sbuniv.edu](http://sbuniv.edu)

Southwest Baptist University (SBU) is a private, Christian liberal arts university affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention. SBU fuses liberal arts, career preparation and faith throughout more than 80 areas of study and four campuses in Bolivar, Mountain View, Salem and Springfield.

**Fall 2020 enrollment:** 526 (at Springfield)

**Tuition for 2020–2021:** \$33,480

**Accolades:** SBU received an A rating for general education curriculum by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. It was also recognized as one of America's Best Christian Colleges since 1997.



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# enjoy

## THE LIFE YOU WANT IN SPRINGFIELD

Ozark Greenways Inc. has created more than 150 miles of urban trails and on-street bike routes around Springfield.

Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium was named the best aquarium in the country in 2018 and 2020.

There are six lakes—perfect for swimming, fishing and boating—within an hour drive of Springfield.

Enjoy local spirits and good times at one of the area's many breweries, wineries and distilleries.



Connect with nature on the Ozark Greenways trails, at a local park or in a nearby lake.

Meet Your Neighbors 58 • Farmers Markets 68 • Wonders of Wildlife 74





Ryan and Fernanda Edwards bought and remodeled a 1980s home.

# Interior Inspiration

We profiled four creative homeowners about their inspired home styles and why they've chosen Springfield as their permanent landing place.

**BY LILLIAN STONE AND ETTIE BERNEKING**

## MODERN REMODEL

At six months pregnant, Fernanda Edwards had three months to move her young family from their eclectic starter home to a yet-to-be-remodeled 1980s fixer-upper. The interior designer had her work cut out for her, rushing the remodel and figuring out how to express her signature edgy, contemporary style—all while creating a liveable space for her family of five. “The house had great bones, but the space planning was all off,” Edwards says. In the end, she and her husband, Ryan, decided to work with those great bones. They removed several walls in the living area, raised and vaulted the living room ceiling and raised the outdated sunken living room floor. Edwards also opted to add skylights to brighten up the space while

reinvigorating several original accents, like the living room fireplace. “I loved the original wood-burning fireplace, but it was very dungeon-y,” Edwards says, laughing. Edwards refaced the fireplace with drywall, then added a sleek custom concrete mantel. Now, her family enjoys a space she calls “open, modern and still very comfortable.”

Throughout the remodel process, Edwards worked with some of her favorite local providers, including Springfield-based Mouery's Flooring and Justice Furniture in nearby Lebanon. “When you work with local providers, not only do you get great customer service—things are done the right way,” Edwards says. Of course, that's just one of the many reasons Brazil-born Edwards and her husband decided to



▲ The Edwards gave their new home a contemporary upgrade to reflect their personal style.

make their life in Springfield. “Springfield is a great place to raise a family because the city is big enough to offer lots of fun options for me and my kids,” Edwards says. “There are tons of parks and kid-friendly places like Itty Bitty City, but it's not a crazy big city. It also has the safety of a small town and the convenience of a big town, which is great—as a mom. It's nice to feel so safe hitting the town with three children. Even when you're like, ‘Oh my gosh, which kid do I hold?’”





## HISTORIC REMODEL

Springfield is home to several historic neighborhoods. Which one wins for the most character and charm is still being battled out, but if you ask anyone living along Pickwick or Fremont, chances are they'll say Rountree wins by a long shot. Rountree is one of those tree-lined neighborhoods that's basically out of a storybook with annual Halloween and 4th of July parades, block parties and neighborhood movie nights, and Abby Wasson and her family found their fairytale ending here.

Abby and her husband, Roger, bought a 1934 bungalow in 2012 and quickly started interior renovations. "It was a hodgepodge of midcentury modern mixed with traditional craftsman style," Abby says. "The home has one addition that was done in 1974, but it hadn't been updated since then." Five months after starting construction, the home's interior remodel was finished, the exterior was freshly painted and the Wassons were ready to move in.



▲ The family (top left) loves Rountree's charm and welcoming community.

While the house itself has been a dream to live in, Abby says it's really the neighborhood they've fallen in love with.

"We love that it's truly a neighborhood," she says. "You know who your neighbors are, and there's a lot of activity from walking and biking to Monday night happy hours where neighbors get together. There are lady groups and porch parties. There's a lot of fellowship happening between neighbors."

That sense of community within Rountree reminds Abby of her own childhood growing up in north central Iowa. And being able to give her two kids, Ari and Ezra, the security and independence to run around the neighborhood is important to Abby. "This mirrors my experience growing up in a small town," she says. "Our kids can walk to Imo's and get a soda or get ice

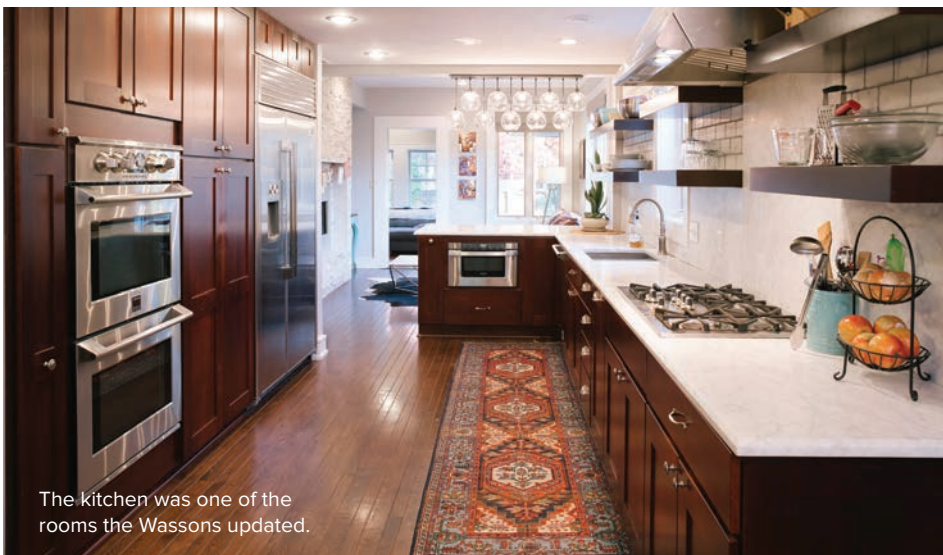


▲ The Wasson family fell in love with the historic character of their Rountree home.

cream from Culture Counter or pasta from Ott's. That's hard to have in this day and age, but there's a sense of security in this neighborhood."

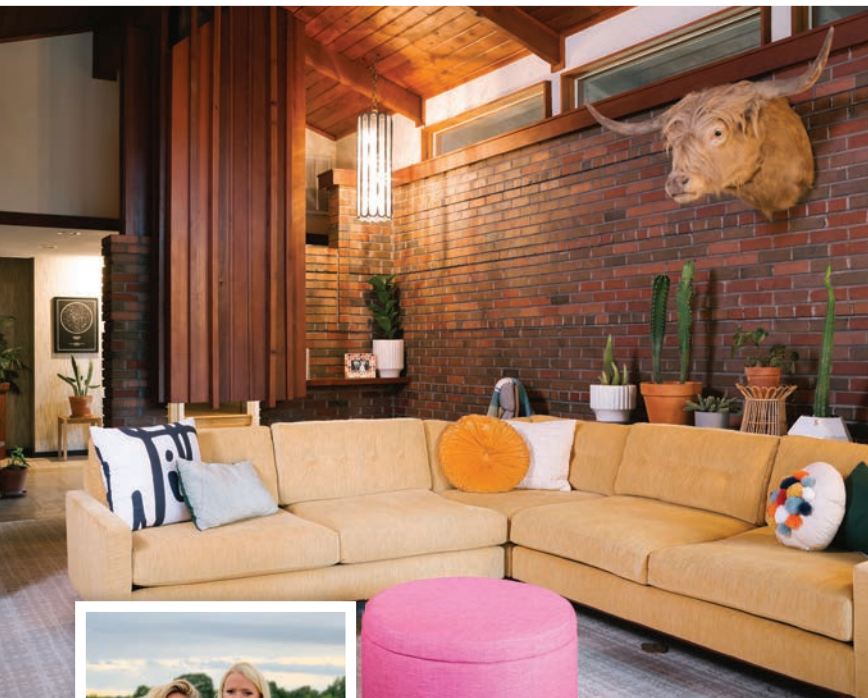
It's not just the kids who get to enjoy the walkability of Rountree. Abby and Roger also hit the sidewalks when they want to see friends or just need to get out of the house. Rarely do they head out on a walk without running into two or three friends, and a trip up to Cherry Picker for a coffee or a bottle of wine often turns into a spontaneous hangout session with friends and neighbors who walk by.

"We've lived here seven years, and I still think it's so magical," Abby says. "It's charming and unexpected. It's socioeconomically diverse, and I think it showcases an open mindedness of the people who live here." At the end of the day, she says, "it all comes down to us just being neighbors."



The kitchen was one of the rooms the Wassons updated.





▲ The Stinsons' home has that vintage vibe they love. They ended up making minimal updates.

◀ Natalee and Felicia grew up near Springfield and found their dream home here.



▲ The Stinsons' desert-inspired style looks right at home in Springfield thanks to their home's character.

## MCM SENSABILITIES

Natalee Stinson and her wife, Felicia, both grew up in rural communities surrounding Springfield. As adults, moving away seemed like an enticing choice—but after spending several years in Florida for Stinson's job, they both felt called back to the 417 area. "We always thought we'd find a more progressive community by moving to a bigger city," Stinson says. "Instead, we realized that Springfield can also become more progressive if people like us are willing to stick around."

The Stinsons moved back to Springfield and fell in love with their one-of-a-kind midcentury home near Springfield's University Heights neighborhood. "It's a pretty odd house," Stinson says. "It's funky and nontraditional, but that's what we love about it." The couple added unfinished hardwood floors to give the large rooms an airier feel, then renovated the back bedroom and bathroom area. Outside of those minor renovations, the couple opted to embrace the home's eclectic vibe, decorating around the living room's unique exposed brick, stained glass and handmade light fixtures. "We didn't do much to alter the living room and dining room," Stinson says. "They just have so much light to them, and we love the character."

Take, for example, the outdated bi-fold doors that separate the living and dining rooms. "When we bought the home, the door between our living room and dining room had these teeny tiny little knocker handles shaped like little gold hands," Stinson says, laughing. "We just fell in love with them. We changed out all of the doors in the bedroom and bathroom, but we didn't touch those little gold hands."



▲ The Stinsons gave their master bath remodel a vintage look.

Now, the Stinsons spend their spare time sourcing colorful accents like their yellow couch, pink ottoman, blue velvet bed—and, of course, the dozens of leafy plants they've adopted during their tenure as self-described "secret plant ladies." And while their home represents the couple's bold personal style, it's more than that: Ultimately, it's a perfect example of the ways Springfieldians can inject their unique flair into the community.





The Day family gutted their little farm house and remodeled it into a more MCM style.

## COUNTRY CHARM

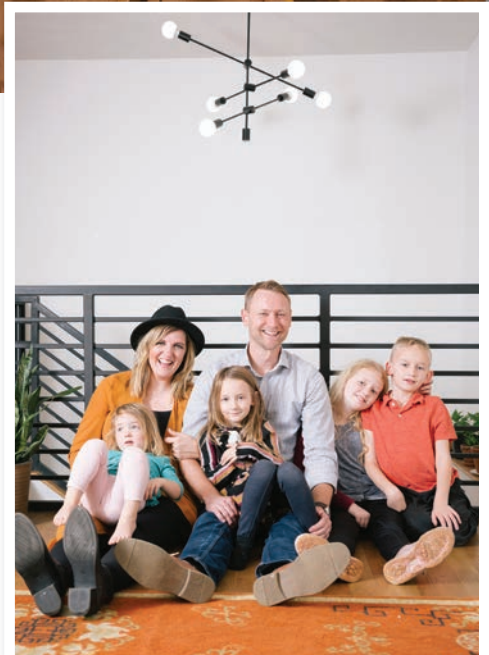
The first thing you should know about Katie and Jared's home is that it didn't start out as the couple's dream home. In fact, with only 1,200 square feet of space, it was barely big enough for the young family of six, but with a grand plan and plenty of creative spirit, this "little white house" soon became the Days' dream home.

Jared is a sales rep for Daltile, and Katie is chief marketing officer at The Virtual Savvy, a photographer and a writer for Springfield's late night talk show, The Mystery Hour. Along with their four kids,

Sadie, 3; Nora, 6; Emerson, 8 and Callie, 10, the Days are a busy family. Before beginning work on their "little white house," the family lived in Nixa. Jared had always wanted to own land, so as the family grew, the Days decided to move out to the country. Everyone had plenty of space, but Katie, an extrovert at heart, felt isolated, so the family decided to look for something closer to town. The problem was, they couldn't find a home big enough to fit their growing family.

What they did find was what Katie calls the "little white house." It was perfect in a lot of ways. It had a 5-acre lot; it was close to town and it had a lot of midcentury charm. The downfall was the cramped layout. After one year of living in the home, the Days began renovations. "We saw episodes of Fixer Upper and thought we could do this," Katie says laughing. She also admits the couple had watched Tiny House Living and had convinced themselves that the 1,200-square-foot home was plenty big. It wasn't.

With both wings of the home under construction, the family moved into the middle of the home, and the front lawn became a mud pit. Soon, the family started playing a game Katie calls "don't get muddy before you go to school." "Sometimes we won," she says. Essentially, the Days' doubled the size of the home, and they tried to incorporate as much midcentury and



▲ The Days have officially moved in!



▲ Part of what the Day family loves about their new home is the property with all its trees.

timeless design as possible to honor the home's 1960s build date. Now, everywhere she looks, Katie can see the choices she and Jared made together. She sees it in the barstools they picked out, in the metal staircase her father welded together and in the spacious deck where the family now gathers to enjoy the view of the property. "It sparks a lot of joy," she says. "We changed so much about the home that we joke that we didn't buy a house; we bought trees." But even those trees on the lot are part of the memories the Days are now making in their new home.



## A SIMPLE *Give and Take*

Amy Blansit is working to transform lives in the Grant Beach neighborhood of north Springfield, and in the process, she's challenging us to reimagine how we solve problems as a community.

**BY CLAIRE PORTER**

**S**aying Amy Blansit has a lot on her plate is an understatement. She started a nonprofit organization that works to improve the community; has a startup company, Solely Jolie, that manufactures a makeup brush clearing palette and brush cleaning solution; founded a real estate company, Blansit Investment Group; and teaches within the kinesiology department at Missouri State University. On paper, these roles seem sporadic, but her personal and professional lives unite under one mission.

After the Branson native graduated from Drury University, she moved to New York City a week before 9/11. She completed her master's program there but wanted a safer place to live, leading her to Springfield. Ready to buy amidst 2007's housing bubble, Blansit could only afford a home in the north side neighborhood Grant Beach. "I could have bought that house in any other neighborhood, and the story would be totally different," she says. Several months after Blansit bought her home, The Fairbanks building a few blocks down closed and became a hub for crime. After calling in a complaint, Blansit decided to buy the building to turn it into a community center where neighbors could connect. She recalls people walking in early



▲ Amy Blansit returned to southwest Missouri after living in New York City and has since launched a business and a nonprofit.

on and offering to help. Bolstered by this community, Blansit started building a network, bringing resources and services to a neglected neighborhood.

Blansit's goal was to improve The Fairbanks and, by extension, north Springfield. As the building developed, so did the nonprofits within it, like Blansit's Drew Lewis Foundation and programs like the Northwest Project, which help families overcome the challenges that keep them in poverty. These programs encourage the community to challenge the way it approaches reducing poverty locally. "Sure, we have poverty, but so does most of the country right now," Blansit says. "Our community is unique to say we're going to talk about it, and we're going to make it one of our primary objectives so that we're talking about poverty in way that focuses on problem solving."

Blansit says the community's enduring support is part of what has allowed her to

take the risk of opening her own businesses. She says it's the kind of move she couldn't have afforded to make had she stayed in New York. The entrepreneur remains an active figure in Springfield. "My personal and professional lives really collide," she says. She spends her free time going to neighborhood association meetings in West Central; she attends meetings for Rotary and Rosie, an advocate network for female founders, owners and leaders, and she bikes to Commercial Street to unwind. Her parents and students volunteer at the Drew Lewis Foundation. Even in her role as a parent of two college-aged kids, she has started thinking about how Springfield can attract and retain young professionals. "There are people in our community who have said, 'I see the potential, and I'm going to continue [working] until it comes to fruition,'" Blansit says. With her dedication to the community and forward-thinking vision, Blansit is definitely one of those people.





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# Foodie BUCKET LIST

Drool over these seven tasty treats from local Springfield eateries.

**BY STEPHANIE TOWNE BENOIT AND  
KATIE POLLOCK ESTES**



Millsap Farm

**1 Original Pineapple at Pineapple Whip**  
*Multiple 417-land locations, pineapplewhip.com*  
A sweet and fruity flavor makes this whipped dessert a summertime classic in Springfield. You can order this non-dairy soft serve in a cake cone or in a bowl. Light, cold and refreshing, it's the edible equivalent of jumping into a chilly swimming pool on the hottest day of summer. Keep your eyes peeled for your dessert siren Lulu, the hula girl on top of the tropical-themed trailer.

**2 Cashew Chicken**  
*Available at numerous restaurants in Springfield.*  
Springfield-style cashew chicken might seem weird to some people, but we love every bite of this original recipe that first appeared in the 1960s thanks to David Leong. Bites of tender white chicken are coated in a seasoned breading, fried and drowned in a rich and savory sauce. You can still enjoy the original recipe at Leong's Asian Diner, but finding a plateful is a breeze—most Asian restaurants in Springfield have this local staple on the menu.

**3 Tamales at Tortilleria Perches**  
*1601 W. Sunshine St., tortilleriaperches.com*  
This family-owned restaurant has carved out a niche in Springfield's Mexican food scene. The selection of homemade soups are worth a visit on their own, as are the tacos served on homemade corn tortillas. Everything here is made with love and that includes the pork and chicken tamales. To spice up this classic dish, order the Tamales A La Diabla where three tamales of your choosing are smothered in spicy red garlic sauce and served with a side of rice.

**4 Pumpkin Pie Concrete**  
*Andy's Frozen Custard*  
*Various 417-land locations, eatandys.com*  
The Andy's Frozen Custard legend might not have originated here in town, but the corporate headquarters now calls Springfield home. The seasonal options top the popularity contest: fresh pumpkin pie in the fall, blackberries and peaches in the summer, strawberries in the spring... the list goes on. And let's not forget the Ozark Turtle, a sundae with hot fudge, crème caramel and roasted pecans that has graced the menu since the store first opened.



**5 Sweet Potato Waffle Sandwich at Culture Counter**  
*607 S. Pickwick Ave., culturecountercommons.com*  
Yes, you can stock up on fresh, local produce, eggs, cheeses, soups and butters. But you can also ditch the meal prep and have lunch here. This neighborhood grocery store and ice cream counter also whips up a mean sweet potato waffle, and you can turn it into a sandwich. If you're really hungry, order the Whole C.C. on a sweet potato waffle and fill up on scrambled eggs, roasted potatoes, pesto, melted cheese and bacon smooshed between a hot sweet potato waffle. If you still have room, you can wash it all down with a fresh juice.

**6 Banana Cake at St. Michael's**  
*301 South Ave., stmichaelspringfield.com*  
This corner eatery is known for its massive salads served in stainless steel bowls. They're perfect for tossing together whatever mix of lettuce, protein and dressing you've selected. But it's also known for its banana cake. This stuff is addictively delicious. It's so moist and so flavorful, and you get a massive slice of cake. On top of that, it's crowned in a cream cheese frosting that will definitely cancel out all the good you did with that salad. So here's the deal; go for the salad, stay for the cake.

**7 Pasta Nicola at Nicola's Ristorante**  
*3631 E. Sunshine St., nicolasristorante.com*  
Restaurateur Nicola Gilardi has been wowing 417-landers with his Italian cuisine for years. His menu at the east-side restaurant is all about the fine dining. There's lamb shank, roasted duck, veal marsala and, of course, homemade pasta. It's the Pasta Nicola that's a true classic. This simple dish is unassuming but worth a second or third helping. Homemade ricotta noodles are drenched in a tomato cream sauce that has just a hint of heat. Add in some crumbled sausage and tender mushrooms, and you've got yourself a dish that's pure amore!

**8 Pizza Night at Millsap Farm**  
*6593 Emu Ln., Springfield, millsapfarms.wordpress.com*  
Each summer, from July through October, Millsap Farm turns its picturesque farm into a weekly outdoor pizza venue. Bring your own chairs and spend an evening at the Farm for wood-fired pizzas and a good time. Reservations must be made in advance, and spots fill up fast! The weekly pizza nights have become so popular they were even featured in the *New York Times*.





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# GREAT Brews

Springfield's craft beer scene is thriving as is its cocktail scene. Regardless of your favorite way to imbibe, you're bound to find something that will satisfy your taste and thirst.

**BY JULIANA GOODWIN AND  
EVAN GREENSBURG**

## BEER

### LOST SIGNAL BREWING CO.

Springfield, 417-869-4755, [lostsignalbrewing.com](http://lostsignalbrewing.com)

This barbecue brewpub is a downtown hit that serves up brews and what they'll tell you are the best ribs in town. Even better, you can start here and walk to both Mother's Brewing Company and Springfield Brewing Company for an easy downtown brewery tour.

**Try This: The Smoked Pecan Porter**

### MOTHER'S BREWING CO.

Springfield, 417-862-0423, [mothersbrewing.com](http://mothersbrewing.com)

Mother's Brewing Co. is all about heady craft beers bringing coastal flavors to the Midwest, and their backyard is one of the best hangout spots in all of Springfield, playing host to seasonal festivals, movie screenings, live music and more.

**Try This: Three Blind Mice**

### PINEY RIVER BREWING CO.

Bucyrus, 417-967-4001, [pineyriverbrewing.com](http://pineyriverbrewing.com)

This award-winning brewery in a converted barn, run by homebrewers-gone-pro Joleen and Brian Durham, has been pumping out delicious craft beers available onsite and in stores that celebrate the Ozarks since 2010.

**Try This: The Black Walnut Wheat**

### SPRINGFIELD BREWING CO.

Springfield, 417-832-8277, [springfieldbrewingco.com](http://springfieldbrewingco.com)



Tie & Timber Beer Co. opened in 2018 and has quickly become a central Springfield gathering place.



Springfield Brewing Co. is dedicated to serving excellent food and inspired brews in-house or to go as guests dine downstairs, upstairs or on the second-floor patio.

**Try This: Greene Ghost**

### TIE & TIMBER BEER CO.

Springfield, 417-429-9131, [tieandtimberbeerco.com](http://tieandtimberbeerco.com)

Located in the Cherry and Pickwick district, Tie & Timber prides itself on being a neighborhood gathering place that supports local live music and brews a wide variety of beers.

**Try This: The Juicy Brewski**

### WHITE RIVER BREWING CO.

Springfield, 417-207-0383, [whiteriverbrewingco.com](http://whiteriverbrewingco.com)

White River Brewing Co. is a small-batch, East-meets-West brewery with big taste, emphasizing ales and lagers and brewing "real beer for real people."

**Try This: Gravel Bar IPA**

### 4 BY 4 BREWING CO.

Springfield, 417-861-6400, [4by4brewingcompany.com](http://4by4brewingcompany.com)

Between the live music, board game selec-

tion, on-site food truck, patio and access to nearby greenway trails, this small brewery has plenty of draw. Plus, it's not afraid to experiment with some wacky brews like key lime lagers and blends of kombucha and beer.

**Try This: Lemon Drop Hefe—a special blend made with Spring Branch Kombucha.**

### SHOW-ME BREWING

Springfield, 1925 E. Bennett St., [showmebrewing.com](http://showmebrewing.com)

This isn't your regular brewery. It's first and foremost a brewery supply shop for all those home brewing enthusiasts. But because the team here likes to brew themselves, you'll find an in-house bar with a regularly rotating lineup of homemade beers.

**Try This: The Guttered Scotsman: this complex, strong scotch ale is a celebration of malts with flavors of caramel, chocolate and notes of dark fruit and a slight nuttiness.**

### HOLD FAST BREWING

235 N. Kimbrough Ave., Springfield, [hfbrewing.com](http://hfbrewing.com)  
Family-owned with two sisters at the helm, Hold Fast is a great downtown brewery where you can enjoy live music, food trucks and a spacious patio.

**Try This: Trafficway IPA with its juicy, tropical notes. It is the brewery's No. 1 seller.**



## JOIN THE CROWD

Sample local libations at these popular community events.

### MOTHER'S DAY FESTIVAL

May, Mother's Brewing Co. Celebrate mom with the annual Mother's Brewing Mother's Day Festival. This outdoor festival is hosted in the Mother's Backyard and is the perfect opportunity to get outside for a sunny Springfield day with a touch of hops.



### ▲ WINE & SHINE FESTIVAL

November, Bear Creek Wine Co. The annual Wine & Shine Festival is a fall fest at Bear Creek Wine Co. where patrons can enjoy local music, food, beer and wine.

### MEADFEST

September, 7Cs Winery Join 7Cs Winery for a day of revelry. This medieval-themed event marks the unveiling of the winery's new meads and includes performances from medieval re-enactors and a belly dance troupe. Enjoy live period music—and, yes, medieval garb is encouraged.



### ▲ OKTOBERFEST

September, Mother's Brewing Co. Mother's Brewing welcomes fall with their annual Oktoberfest, hosted in the Mother's Backyard. Enjoy seasonal brews, local food and live music at this popular Springfield gathering.

Sisters Carol and Susan McLeod are the founders of Hold Fast Brewing.



### GREAT ESCAPE BEER WORKS

4022 S. Lone Pine Ave., Springfield.

[greatestescapebeerworks.com](http://greatestescapebeerworks.com)

Located in the tree-lined Sequiota neighborhood, this brewery has a cozy second-story patio with a good view of the nearby Galloway Greenway.

**Try This:** Queen City Lager brings German malt and hops in to meet American yeast to create an easy drinking, full-flavored beer.

### PREHISTORIC BREWING COMPANY

1816 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield.

[prehistoricbrewingcompany.com](http://prehistoricbrewingcompany.com)

Prehistoric Brewing brings a dose of whimsy and dinosaur-themed fun to its beer names. It's a good low-key hangout when you want to tip back a cold one and support a local brewery.

**Try This:** Trapped in Time is a malty amber ale that's slightly sweet with flavors of honey and bread.

## WINERIES

### BEAR CREEK WINE CO.

Branson, 417-443-0036,

[bearcreekwinecompany.com](http://bearcreekwinecompany.com)

Guests at Bear Creek can unwind and relax with several samples of some of the best wines Missouri has to offer, along with forest and mountain deck views and pizza sold on-site.

**Try This:** Hillbilly Persuasion, the winery's dry white

### OZARK HILLS WINERY

Branson, 417-334-1897, [ozarkhillswinery.com](http://ozarkhillswinery.com)

Nestled among the rolling hillsides of Branson is a new winery that's slated to open at the end of the year, and visitors can enjoy the new tasting room.

**Try This:** Stay tuned to see what's on the menu.

### MEYER FARMS WINES

Springfield, 417-862-3751, [meyerfarmswine.com](http://meyerfarmswine.com)

Ken Meyer's dream of opening his own vineyard became a reality when, in 2005, preparations began to open Meyer Farms as a fully functioning production-only winery, with wines sold only in

stores and named after the five women in the Meyer family: Jana, Joy, Janie, Sophie and Connie.

**Try this:** The Jana has Norton grapes, the official state grape of Missouri. Consider it a milder merlot or cabernet.

### TYLER RIDGE VINEYARD

Springfield, 417-536-1630

Mike and Kathy Dennis, founders of Tyler Ridge Vineyard, planted their first Tyler Ridge grapes at the vineyard in 2012, and they plan to open the winery in 2021.

**Try This:** Burnt Barn Red

### 7CS WINERY AND MEADERY

Walnut Grove, 417-788-2263, [7cswinery.com](http://7cswinery.com)

Named after the seven members of the Crevelt family, this pet-friendly establishment provides visitors with a variety of Western-themed wines, a selection of award-winning meads and more. Take home your favorites in one of 7Cs' convenient pouches.

**Try This:** Alfalfa Mead

## DISTILLERIES & MORE

### COPPER RUN

Walnut Shade, 417-587-3336,

[copperrundistillery.com](http://copperrundistillery.com)

Although you can find spirits from this small artisan distillery throughout the Ozarks, nothing beats sipping them at the distillery's tasting room, which features flasks, T-shirts, shot glasses, gift boxes and live music most Friday and Saturday evenings.

**Try This:** The Moonshine Mary cocktail

### LEAKY ROOF MEADERY

Buffalo, 417-345-1233, [leakyroofmeadery.com](http://leakyroofmeadery.com)

Head mead maker Todd Rock uses wildflower honey to create an amazing base canvas for Leaky Roof's meads. In the tap room, try a variety of fresh mead as well as craft beer on tap and listen to live music.

**Try This:** KCC&S Cyser



# WHERE Community Grows

Shop, play, eat and discover at the area's local farmers markets.

BY KELSEY BROWN



Farmers Market of the Ozarks offers family fun, locally grown produce and meat, plus handmade goods.

**W**ho doesn't love the sights and sounds of an open-air market? Vibrant colors of fresh fruits and raw vegetables are splashed across tabletops and overflowing from the inside of crates. A constant hum of rich conversations about family, friends and food fills the air, not to mention the mouthwatering scent of freshly baked goods. Friendly smiles and nods pass from stranger to stranger. These are the things that farmers markets are made of, and residents of Springfield have several area markets to choose from.

## Farmers Market of the Ozarks

2144 E. Republic Road, Springfield; Saturdays 8 a.m.–1 p.m. (April–December), Saturdays 9 a.m.–1 p.m. (January–March); [loveyourfarmer.com](http://loveyourfarmer.com)

The Farmers Market of the Ozarks has been around since 2012 and boasts an eclectic mix of vendors. In addition to the traditional market staples like eggs, meat, vegetables and fruit, you'll find non-traditional food items like Japanese eggplant and moringa, grown by local Hmong farmers. Whether you're picking up some pasture-raised meats and eggs from Peak View Farm LLC or local greens, pumpkins and apples, all the food here is locally grown and mindfully produced. Local musicians, arts and crafts activities and educational booths also fill the market with fun. Plus, kids love the splash pad. Plus, you can do all your shopping and then end the morning with some grub from one of the bustling food trucks that set up shop during the market. Simply put, the Farmers Market of the Ozarks is a place for community members to gather, small businesses to grow and local foods to flourish.

## Greater Springfield Farmers' Market

2951 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 8 a.m.–noon (April 17–October), Saturday 8 a.m.–noon (November–March); inside the Battlefield Mall); [springfieldfarmersmarket.com](http://springfieldfarmersmarket.com)

The Greater Springfield Farmers' Market is the largest producer-only farmers market in southwest Missouri and has been thriving for nearly 40 years. This year-round market is overflowing with local, seasonal food that's as fresh as can be. An ever-growing list of vendors, occasional special events, nonprofit community groups, local artisans and musicians always keep things interesting. Don't miss the booth of long-time vendor Dan Johnson of Johnson Gardens, where you'll find some of the most gorgeous summer squash, zucchini, okra and more. And be sure to visit Steve Madewell of Madewell Meats, a pork vendor who consistently provides Ozarkians with dozens of savory pork products to devour. This spacious market is pet-friendly and family-oriented, and these vendors even support local food pantries by donating unsold goods. If you visit the market during the winter on Saturdays from January through March, you'll find vendors staying warm inside the mall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enter on the north side of Battlefield Mall. If you're looking for meat and egg vendors and concessions, find them at the southwest corner of the parking lot.

## C-Street City Market

321 E. Commercial St., Springfield; Saturdays 9 a.m.–2 p.m. and Thursdays 4–8 p.m. (April–October); [facebook.com/sweetestlittlemarket](https://facebook.com/sweetestlittlemarket)

## TINY SHOPS

Keep shopping local at farm stands and local shops.

### Culture Counter Commons

607 S. Pickwick Ave, Springfield, 417-720-1381, [culturecountercommons.com](http://culturecountercommons.com)

This neighborhood market stocks up on seasonal produce, milk, eggs, cheese and sweets.

### Urban Roots Farm Stands

823 W. State St., Springfield, 417-597-4858, [urbanrootsfarm.com](http://urbanrootsfarm.com)

Urban Roots Farm has a small walk-in cooler where shoppers can pick up fresh produce even after farm hours.

### MaMa Jean's Natural Market

Many locations, [mamajeansmarket.com](http://mamajeansmarket.com)

This health food market has it all from local produce to organic peanut butter and charcoal deodorant.

The C-Street City Market celebrated its 10th year in 2016, and it has grown to feature more than 40 vendors each Saturday. Residents head to the C-Street City Market for fresh, locally grown produce, meats and dairy, but this market also brags some of the best baked goods, including cinnamon rolls, pies and sweet breads—gluten-free and vegan options included. This city market is also known for its host of local painters, crafters, weavers and other artists.



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Hop on your nearest greenway trail for a run, walk or bike ride.

# Greenways to Explore the Ozarks

Since 1991, the leaders of Ozark Greenways have co-created some of the most beloved outdoor spaces around Springfield. The Greenways Guru Mary Kromrey shares her love for the trail ahead.

BY REN BISHOP

Being able to tap into the beauty of the Ozarks is one of locals' favorite parts of life in Springfield, and ever since 1991, Ozark Greenways has developed pathways to access some of the most scenic stretches in the region. "I think everybody loves the Greenway trails because they are easy; they're accessible, approachable, and they really provide a way for folks, especially those new to the area, to easily access the outdoors," says Mary Kromrey, executive director of the nonprofit.

With a focus on building quality trails, Ozark Greenways has developed 77.5 miles of paved trails throughout the Springfield metropolitan area. These well-maintained trails for walking, biking and jogging wind through Springfield and include the 35-mile Frisco Highline Trail that connects the west

side of town to nearby Bolivar and is popular amongst cyclists.

Walkers can stroll and soak in some education along the James River Greenway Trail of Honor or the Springfield-Greene County African American Heritage Trail. Families with strollers frequent the Galloway Creek Greenway, which passes the Sequiota

Park and its historic cave and Galloway Village's trailside restaurants and shops. The greenway trails are already popular amongst locals, and the city has plans to add to the number of trails. The latest addition came in 2020 when a new 1.44-mile section of the Fulbright Spring Greenway was opened.

The new section of trail means the Fulbright Spring Greenway now stretches 7 miles and connects east and west Greene County. Beginning at Ritter Springs Park and ending at Truman Elementary School, the Fulbright Spring Greenway trail winds along the South Dry Sac River and shows off some of the best local terrain: lush trees, thriving meadows, quiet creeks, dark caves and rolling, gentle hills.

"When you ride or walk on any Greenway trail, it gives you a sense of place," Kromrey says. "The outdoors show us the history of a place as well





# 5

## CAN'T-MISS STOPS ALONG THE OZARK GREENWAYS

### 1 Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park 3825 W. Farm Road 146, Springfield 417-837-5949

See growing crops, interact with some of the farm animals or bring your rod and reel to the fishing pond at this site on the Wilson's Creek Greenway—the visitor's center can point you in the right direction.

### 2 Galloway Grill 4211 S. Lone Pine Ave., Springfield 417-882-5300

Cold beer flows and burgers fill the grill at this neighborhood watering hole, located along the Galloway Creek Greenway. It's a great way to fuel up before heading out or a nice reward following a morning or afternoon on the trail.

### 3 Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park 2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield 417-891-1515

This park, located along South Creek Greenway, is packed with things to see and do. After circling Lake Drummond, hop off the trail and head to the Springfield Botanical Gardens, the Dr. Bill Roston Native Butterfly House or the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden.

### 4 Classic Rock Coffee Co. 1900 W. Sunset Ave., Springfield 417-881-7625

Grab a protein shake or an espresso along the South Creek Greenway on your way to or from Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park.

### 5 Springfield Conservation Nature Center 4601 S. Nature Center Way, Springfield, 417-888-4237

The 80-acre area features educational exhibits in its Visitor Center, plus 3 miles of accessible trails. Along the boardwalk, find blinds for bird watching and picnic tables for lunches or connect to the 5-mile Galloway Creek Greenway Trail.



Many of the greenway trails are near waterways, providing even more to explore.



Stop in 4 By 4 Brewing Co., along the Galloway Creek Greenway trail, for a locally produced pint, games and good times.

as what it could be. When you're walking or wheeling on a trail, when you have the sun on your face and you hear the water of a creek, that's where we find our center as people and fall in love with where we are."



ENJOY

Paddle your way across the shimmering waters of Table Rock Lake.



HAVING A DAY ON

# The Lake

Although Missouri is far from a coast, glistening shorelines and a day in the water are just a hop, skip and jump away at the many popular lakes 417-land has to offer.

**BY KAREN BLISS AND JABET WADE**

## Table Rock Lake

**Drive Time: 1 hour**

Ah, Table Rock Lake. This spot is a gem for folks in and around the Springfield area, but that wasn't always the case. It all started in 1958 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dammed the White River to create what is now the lake. Today, the Corps still manages Table Rock Dam and the lake. The 758 miles of shoreline and thousands of acres of pristine water provide a natural playground that lies practically in your very own backyard

7

## WAYS TO ENJOY OUR LAKES

BY HAILEY JO HOPKINS

### 1. TRY OUT SUP

Ozarks SUP Yoga is the first mobile floating studio in Southwest Missouri. Located in Branson, the Hawaiian sport of stand-up paddleboarding, gives you the chance to get in a workout on the lake in the beautiful, great outdoors. The best time of year for this is in the summer months, where cooling off by the lake is a must do. *Find out more information at [OzarksSupYoga.com](http://OzarksSupYoga.com) or by calling 417-230-7551.*

### 2. KAYAK AROUND

Explore Branson's waterways by kayaking, canoeing or trying a stand-up paddleboard. Even down on Lake Taneycomo or Table Rock Lake, kayaking is a great way to hit the water. You'll even see fishing kayaks dipping in and out of coves. Book a kayak through Kayak Branson, but plan in advance as the lakes get very busy this time of year. *Check out [KayakBranson.com](http://KayakBranson.com) or call 417-336-2811.*

### 3. FLOAT DOWNSTREAM

Ozark River Walkers is giving people a new way to enjoy the nearby rivers through SUP. Not only does the group in Ozark offer paddleboard rentals, but it also can create a custom adventure for you. You can start with a 2-hour paddleboard float on a local river or take a multiple-day float. It also has kayaks, canoes and paddleboards for rent. *Visit [OzarkRiverWalkers.com](http://OzarkRiverWalkers.com) for more information.*

### 4. HEAD TO THE BEACH

It's easy to relax on the popular and sandy shores at Moonshine Beach on Table Rock Lake. Families can enjoy various activities such as swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking and sand volleyball.

### 5. PLAN A GETAWAY

Located 10 miles south of Branson, Big Cedar Lodge (800-225-6343, [bigcedar.com](http://bigcedar.com)) offers rustic, family-friendly cabins beside Table Rock Lake. It has been ranked the No. 1 resort in the Midwest by Travel + Leisure for two consecutive years.

### 6. TEST THE WATERS

The Stockton State Park Marina (417-276-4259, [stocktonparkmarina.com](http://stocktonparkmarina.com)) houses a nationally recognized sailing school and has boat rentals for public use.

### 7. GO FISHING

Reel in a great catch or two at several regional lakes. Enjoy this widespread pastime at Table Rock Lake, Lake Springfield, Stockton Lake, Fellows Lake and Lake Taneycomo.



Spend the weekend  
lounging at one of the lakes  
near Springfield.



## Bull Shoals Lake

### Drive Time: About 2 hours

The largest lake in the White River system, Bull Shoals Lake stretches from Forsyth in central Taney County through Ozark County, all the way to southeastern Marion County in Arkansas. You can boat from Forsyth to Bull Shoals, Arkansas, and rack up about 80 miles on your boat's odometer—and that's just one way. Because its levels can fluctuate so much, Bull Shoals' shoreline is undeveloped, allowing it to remain one of the most beautiful and untouched lakes in our region. This means the water is clean and clear, perfect for a refreshingly cool swim near Powersite Dam in Forsyth when lake levels are high. Or take a peek at the lake critters swimming below by getting scuba certified at the Bull Shoals Lake Boat Dock. Call 870-445-4424 or visit [bullshoalslakeboatdock.com](http://bullshoalslakeboatdock.com) for a list of dive sites.

## Stockton Lake

### Drive Time: 1 hour

Stockton Lake is one of the top 10 sailing lakes in the country and has almost 300 miles of shoreline. About 450 sailboats are docked at three marinas on the lake. There are sailboat regattas and even a world-renowned sailing school. But don't let that fool you. Sailing isn't the only activity

folks enjoy at Stockton. There is plenty of recreational boating, swimming, water sports and fishing to be had. Did you know Stockton is known for great walleye fishing, too?

## Fellows Lake

### Drive Time: 25 minutes

Fellows Lake is located north of Springfield near Highways 65 and AA, and at about 820 acres, it's the largest of the urban lakes. Motorboats up to 40 horsepower are allowed on the lake, as well as canoes, kayaks, paddleboats and sailboats. There is a public boat ramp and courtesy dock for launching, as well as picnic areas and pavilions, playground equipment, a fishing dock and hiking trails. Call the marina at 417-833-2058 for more information.

## Lake Taneycomo

### Drive Time: 1 hour

Like its sister lakes, Table Rock and Bull Shoals, Taneycomo was originally part of the White River, yet it's the only one in the chain that still looks and feels like a river. Its water comes from the bottom of Table Rock Lake, and the average temperature is less than 60 degrees. For those brave enough to face the chills, the best way to take in the lake's views are by stand-up paddleboard, which


can be rented from Kayak Branson (417-336-2811, [kayakbranson.com](http://kayakbranson.com)). Many of the millions of travelers to Branson each year visit Lake Taneycomo for fishing adventures sure to inspire a few stories about "the one that got away," as the lake is stocked with about 750,000 trout each year.

## Lake Springfield

### Drive Time: in town

Lake Springfield, near Highways 60 and 65 off of Kissick Avenue, is located on the James River with easy access to the waterway. This shallow lake laps the shore at Lake Springfield Park (417-891-1550, [parkboard.org](http://parkboard.org)), managed by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. There's parking by Lake Springfield Boathouse and several spots around the lake, making it easy to jump out of the car and onto the bank for a day spent fishing. If reeling 'em in isn't your thing, head to the marina for canoe and kayak rentals or rent out the Boathouse Community Room, which is available year-round for private functions. It seats up to 80 and has a spacious deck. Lake Springfield Park also includes numerous hiking trails, including a section of the paved James River Greenway path.





The Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium has all kinds of underwater displays where you can see sea life from a new perspective.

# How to WOW Your Family

Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium has an adventure for everyone. Below, we share our six favorite elements that will WOW families.

**BY REN BISHOP**

**T**here are tourist attractions, and then there are discovery destinations, which is exactly what Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium is. Dubbed USA TODAY'S "America's Best Aquarium" and "Best New Attraction in America," the aquarium is located in and beside Bass Pro Shops' Springfield flagship store (500 W. Sunshine St., Springfield, MO, [wondersofwildlife.org](http://wondersofwildlife.org)). The 350,000-square-foot immersive attraction is layers of fun for the whole family. For two hours of delight, head to the aquarium, or take the afternoon and experience the full attraction by starting at the Wildlife Galleries before winding through the aquarium. Wherever you begin, lace up your sneakers, unfold the stroller and grab your camera—this destination is full of wonders.

## Close Encounters

After checking into the deep-blue lobby of the Aquarium Adventure, pass the historic fishing boat owned by Ernest Hemingway and enter the Great Oceans Hall. Sea turtles Pam and Izzy and hundreds of other fish fly by guests in the 300,000-gallon circular open ocean habitat. Follow the marked path, and soon you'll be eye-to-eye with an octopus and mere inches away from a 9-foot sand tiger shark in the Out to Sea gallery.





Penguins are one of the popular exhibits at Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium.

### Big Moments

Part of the draw at WOW is the grand scale of exhibits. Steps from the entrance of the aquarium, you'll find a swirling school of 6,000 herring fish moving in sync. If you peer upward, you'll see shimmering fish native to the coral reefs. Spot the two long eels in the same exhibit and take a minute to be amazed by the aura of the to-scale humpback whale that flies overhead.

### Layers of Fun

Be transported to the Bayou with hanging vines, hooting owls and haunting creatures in The Swamp at Night exhibit. The dark but delightful two-story display features layers of creatures native to the swamp. Turn a corner and find a rare white American alligator who crawls across from Bucky the Beaver and a small flock of flamingos. What you see is your own experience. Children and toddlers in strollers are likely to see a different world, with frogs, turtles and even a snake exhibit right at their eye level.

### Hands-on Learning

Start a quest and explore the seas at Shipwreck Reef. Colorful saltwater fish circle the mast of a decommissioned ship that serves as the center of a circular stingray bay. Anyone can feel a stingray fly under their fingertips at the Reef's stingray touch station.



Wonders of Wildlife was voted America's best new attraction and best aquarium.

Or stay dry and get close to coral reef creatures in one of three tanks that encourage little ones to pop inside the habitat of fish in a circular viewing window. These pop-up bubbles offer an up-close view of life under the sea.

### Art and Adventure

At every turn, art brings exhibits to life in the aquarium and nearby Wildlife Galleries. Majestic murals and painted backdrops bring texture to habitats to make these curated ecosystems seem even more realistic.

In the Cave, bats fly by as a crafted waterfall crashes beside carved stalagmites under darkened lights. After they explore the great outdoors with their five senses,

inspired artists can even make their own colorful fish to project onto a digital aquarium screen to end their journey.

### More to Explore: Wildlife Galleries

Located in the main Bass Pro Shops facility, the Wildlife Galleries offer even more to explore. Towering taxidermy bring to life creatures the world over. Cold, fresh air blows in Sheep Mountain, and sounds of the Savannah echo near proud elephants in the Great African Hall. Conclude your visit to the museum with a visit to Penguin Cove, home to a colony of live penguins. Watch them splash and play to end your day or upgrade your ticket to an annual membership to experience the Wonder again and again.



# Springfield's FUNNY MAN

As the host of regional talk show *The Mystery Hour*, Jeff Houghton spends a lot of time making people laugh. He's also an advocate for Springfield as a destination for those looking to create, connect and grow.

BY JULIANA GOODWIN  
AND LILLIAN STONE

**J**eff Houghton, host of Springfield-based, Emmy award-winning talk show *The Mystery Hour*, knows a thing or two about living life to the fullest. He tried his hand at taxidermy, once met Michael Caine at an Apple store and was one of the brains behind the viral video and website Instagram Husband.

He's lived in New York, Los Angeles and small-town Iowa, but something keeps this entertainer and his family happily rooted in Springfield. Catch Houghton onstage during his show or moonlighting as on-air personality with local news station Fox 5. You can follow his adventures on his weekly Fox 5 segment, "Jeff Learns Things," in which Houghton, well, learns things—hence the foray into taxidermy.

And while he might not be an expert taxidermist yet, Houghton is proof that Springfield is full of opportunity. In 2017, Houghton created *Make Something Where You Are*, a video and website encouraging Springfieldians to pursue their dreams no matter how far-fetched they seem.

Jeff Houghton is the host of *The Mystery Hour*, which has won several Emmy awards.

## Q&A WITH JEFF HOUGHTON

### What message did you want to convey with the *Make Something Where You Are* video?

I very passionately believe that you don't have to be on the coast or any big city to go for a dream or try and make something cool happen... and that in fact Springfield can be a really great place. I think that we're often like, 'Well if we're doing it here it's not as good.' I think you can make something where you are in a general sense, and I also think that Springfield is really great at that. I couldn't do my show without all the great support. There's a great entrepreneurial spirit here in town, and there's people that come alongside you to support you.

### How does Springfield's comedy scene compare to those of other places you've lived?

Springfield has a surprising amount of talent

for the size of the place, in terms of comedy, theater, the arts and creativity. That's probably a big part of what's kept me here. Here, because it's smaller, there are fewer barriers for creative fields. I like that it's odd that what I'm doing is here. I lived in L.A., and there are a million of me. It's more fun to do something unique.

### What do you think has made it successful?

We have concentric levels of community. It starts with the writers. Then all these people help out with the show and offer various talents, then sponsors, then crowds in person and on TV.

### COVID forced the show, like many other national late night shows, to start streaming episodes online instead of filming live audiences. How was that transition for you?

When COVID started, I made a home studio in my garage and did a nightly show on Facebook. We did about 60 episodes of varying quality. I have an office downtown, and I'm redesigning it to shoot there. I am not planning on a crowd any time soon, but I will be excited when I can do it again.

### Without audience feedback, how do you know if you're funny?

Comedy is a hard thing to pull off in a room by yourself. I presume they are laughing.

### Where are some of your favorite Springfield spots?

I love Galloway Village and all the development going on there. I love Hammons Field. I love going to get donuts with my kids [at] Hurts Donuts. I'm excited for Alamo Drafthouse being here. I think Commercial Street is so cool and has gotten so filled in really well with cool things to this point.

### For people new to the area, what's the first thing they should do?

I would say find things going on and go to them. I love connecting people to things, and other people are the same way. You just have to make the first move and get yourself to things where you get the opportunity to meet people, and you'll find that it's a great, connected community.



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# Art

## IN THE PARK

Springfield's outdoor sculpture walk is a great way to explore the heart of the city.

**BY ETTIE BERNEKING**

**K**ansas City has the fountains, and St. Louis has the arch, but here in Springfield, we have Sculpture Walk. This interactive art display is all about getting outdoors and curating a gallery without walls. Each year, Sculpture Walk puts out a new collection of sculptures from artists around the country, but unlike a normal art display where pieces are grouped near each other, this collection is spread out around town. So if you're going to take in all 33 sculptures, you better have a plan. To help you make the most of an afternoon taking in Sculpture Walk, we've put together a simple five-step plan of action. Happy viewing!

### Step 1: Download the map

Before you head out, be sure to download the online map of Sculpture Walk so you can head the right way. Just visit [sculpturewalkspringfield.org](http://sculpturewalkspringfield.org) to see the current list of sculptures and their locations.

### Step 2: Start downtown

The downtown area is home to several sculptures, so it's a great place to start your tour. Grab a coffee and ham and cheddar roll at Coffee Ethic or nosh on a pastry from European Cafe and then lace up those walking shoes. Making a quick loop around the downtown square is an easy way to take in several sculptures including four in the 2020–2021 collection.

### Step 3: Take a walk along the Jordan Creek Trail

Two of the walk's sculptures are located near the Jordan Creek Trail, which winds behind the Jordan Valley Ice Park and Jordan Valley Park. Take a quick break from the arts and relax at the park or enjoy the walk before heading back to the trail to continue your artistic afternoon.

### Step 4: Grab lunch at Druffs

You'll find some of the best (and most inventive) grilled cheese sandwiches in town at Druff's where you can also check out two sculptures including the patented windmill dubbed Homespun and the interactive installment Maestro where kids can compose their own musical medley.

### Step 5: Head east

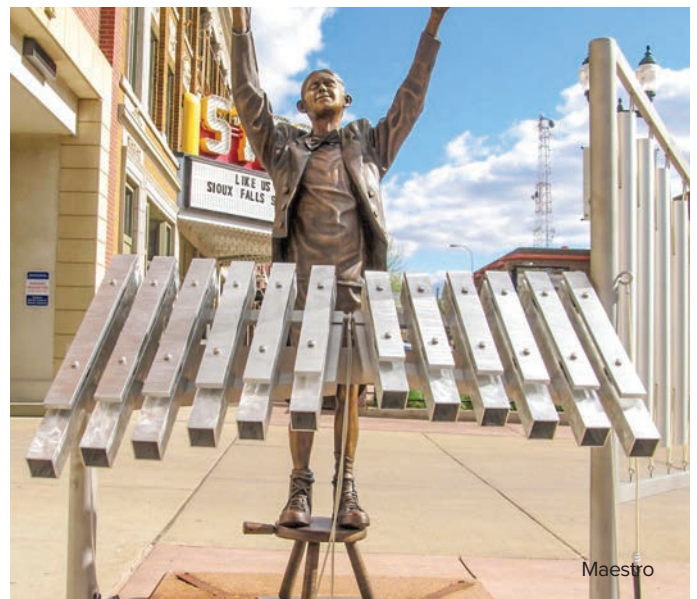
End the day in the Cherry and Pickwick district where you can enjoy a locally made beer at Tie & Timber, grab a taco or two from Team Taco or sip on a cocktail and enjoy the patio at The Royal. While you're at it, be sure to check out the two art installations in the neighborhood including the massive wooden arch better known as Portal No. 5 and the metal super rat entitled Do Something Good With Your Superpowers.



Eggspert



Portal No. 5



Maestro



Do Something Good With Your Superpowers





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# RESOURCES

Have more questions about life in Springfield? These local resources can help you get better acquainted with the Queen City of the Ozarks.

## NEWS AND MEDIA

### **417 Magazine**

417-883-7417, 417mag.com

This monthly magazine focuses on the best things in southwest Missouri.

### **417 Home**

417-883-7417, 417homemag.com

This publication shows off the region's best inspiration to help you create your dream home.

### **Biz 417**

417-883-7417, biz417.com

This business magazine, published six times a year, is networking in print. Get connected with 417-land's movers and shakers and learn from their experiences.

### **Springfield Business Journal**

417-831-3238, sbj.net

This weekly publication covers business news in southwest Missouri.

### **Springfield News-Leader**

417-836-1100, news-leader.com

This daily newspaper covers news throughout the Ozarks and the state.

### **KOLR-TV**

ozarksfirst.com

This is the CBS affiliate in Springfield.

### **KRBK-TV**

fox5krbk.com

KRBK is the local FOX affiliate.

### **KSPR**

kspr.com

This is the ABC affiliate in Springfield.

### **KY3**

ky3.com

The local NBC affiliate has been broadcasting since 1953.

### **KSMU**

ksmu.org

Tune in to Ozarks public radio to enjoy NPR programming.

## LOCAL RESOURCES

### **Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce**

202 S. John Q. Hammons Parkway, Springfield

417-862-5567, springfieldchamber.com

Connect with the business community.

### **Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau**

815 E. Saint Louis St., Suite 100, Springfield

417-881-5300, springfieldmo.org

Get ideas about what to do around town.

### **Downtown Springfield Association**

417-831-6200, itsalldowntown.com

Stay up-to-date on local entertainment and nightlife happenings.

### **Government**

City of Springfield

417-864-1000, springfieldmo.gov

### **City Utilities of Springfield**

301 E. Central St., Springfield

417-863-9000, cityutilities.net

Lobby Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

### **Driver License and Vehicle Registration**

149 Park Central Square, Room 252, Springfield,

417-869-5100

1002 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield,

417-831-2600

319 E. Battlefield Road, Suite P, Springfield,

417-823-8484

### **Register to Vote**

Register to vote at any Springfield-Greene County Library branch. Visit thelibrary.org.

### **Visit the Library**

The Library Center

4653 S. Campbell Ave., Springfield

417-882-0714, thelibrary.org

The Library Station

2535 N. Kansas Expressway, Springfield

417-865-1340, thelibrary.org

Midtown Carnegie Branch

397 E. Central St., Springfield

417-862-0135, thelibrary.org

Park Central Branch

128 Park Central Square, Springfield

417-831-1342, thelibrary.org

Schweitzer Brentwood Branch

2214 Brentwood Blvd., Springfield

417-883-1974, thelibrary.org

## CABLE/INTERNET PROVIDERS

### **AT&T**

att.com

### **Mediacom Communications**

mediacomcable.com

### **Total Highspeed Internet Solutions**

totalhighspeed.com

## TRASH/RECYCLING

### **Automated Waste Services**

automatedwasteservicesmo.com

### **City Recycling Centers**

springfieldmo.gov/2081/recycling-centers-

recycling

### **Republic Services**

republicservices.com

### **WCA Waste Corporation of America**

wcawaste.com

## NEIGHBORING CITIES

### **Battlefield**

battlefieldmo.gov

### **Nixa**

nixa.com

### **Ozark**

ozarkmissouri.com

### **Republic**

republicmo.com

### **Rogersville**

rogersvillemo.org

### **Strafford**

straffordmo.net

### **Willard**

cityofwillard.org





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