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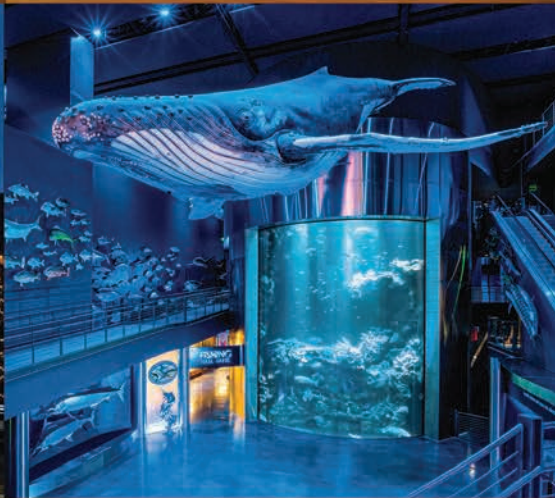


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Photos by Joshua Beecher, Ettie Berneking



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Check out these attractions and events the whole family will enjoy.



Photos courtesy Convoy of Hope, Springfield Art Museum, Wonders of Wildlife

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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 13% lower than the national average.

Community members gather at more than 40 annual festivals throughout the region.

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.

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Brad Erwin moved from Chicago, Illinois, to call Springfield home.



Welcome Home

Community involvement and growing roots made Springfield a home for this local architect.

BY PEYSON MECKE

When Brad Erwin and his wife, Cara, moved to Springfield from the Chicago suburbs in the early 2000s, they thought they would only stay a few years. “Now it’s been over 20 years,” says Brad, who serves as the president of Paragon Architecture. “We both found really great opportunities from a professional standpoint, and we figured out it’s a great place to live. The quality of life is a lot different than what we experienced in the Chicago suburbs. Springfield is a great combination for us of small town, big city.”

In 2010, Brad started Paragon Architecture, a collaborative architectural firm that leads and works on projects

that touch on several areas of our community—from York and Williams Elementary Schools to the Jordan Valley Health Clinic located in Republic, just to name a few. “I moved [to Springfield] right as there was a desire for involvement of young professionals to have a seat at the table,” says Brad, who started getting involved in the community in 2007. From the City of Springfield Comprehensive Planning, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, nonprofits and more, Brad jumped in to be involved and felt embraced by the community. “There are a lot of points of entry to grow your personal and professional network [in Springfield],” Brad says. “People are willing to accept your phone call and

help you advance in your profession—and within the community.”

That access to mentorship and a feeling of community have impacted not only Brad but also his team at Paragon. While Paragon now operates four offices across Missouri and Northwest Arkansas, their home office remains in the Ozarks. “If you look at our staff, a lot of us are transplants, or we’ve been able to hire them directly out of school to keep them in Springfield,” Brad says. “From a small business perspective, there’s a lot of resources from the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, efactory, networking groups and more.”

Beyond the networking and community involvement opportunities in Springfield, Brad says you can’t beat the proximity to almost anything—from being able to get anywhere in town within 15 minutes to being able to enjoy Table Rock Lake within about an hour. Plus the access to a variety of local neighborhoods (all of which offer a little something unique, like C-Street), the outdoors and family fun have made Springfield the perfect home for overall quality of life.



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Michael Spyres is the artistic director of the Ozarks Lyric Opera.



Why He Moved Back

After visiting and living all over the world—from Vienna to Paris to London—there’s still no place like Springfield for this world-renowned and award-winning opera performer.

BY PEYSON MECKE

Although Michael Spyres, artistic director of the Ozarks Lyric Opera, lived most of his adult life in Europe, he and his wife moved back to Springfield when they wanted to start a family. “We wanted to be close to our family and friends, and since we are both from the greater Springfield area, we decided to make our home here,” says Spyres. He still travels the world performing the majority of the year. “We wanted to move back in order to help our community grow and broaden its horizons, and we have been able to do that through our work with the Opera,” he says. “I love how Springfield is growing and how it is attracting and motivating people from all around to move here.”

In his role with Ozarks Lyric Opera, Spyres leads the organization presenting

two fully staged operas as well as four additional events each season. While opera may seem like an event only for the upper echelon, the Ozarks Lyric Opera is helping set the stage for accessibility to experience an art form that has been enjoyed for centuries. “We want our public to know that opera isn’t an art form that is only for the elites,” Spyres says. “It has never been the case because opera is a mixture of folk music, pop and musical theater. I tell everyone that if you like musical theater, then you need to realize that it was born out of opera.”

Beyond performing locally and helping others in Springfield enjoy the rich history of opera, Spyres enjoys all the offerings of Springfield. He recognizes the diverse opportunities in the Ozarks, from the music and theater scene to its neighborhoods and

coffee culture. “I have found that we really do have all the comforts and offerings of a major city like London or New York in terms of entertainment,” he says. “We have so many good places in Springfield that all of my friends that I have invited here from far have been thoroughly impressed.”

Living in seven countries throughout his adult life, Spyres has had the opportunity to experience a wide variety of different cultures, talent and amenities. Even with those impressive stamps in his passport, Springfield still has everything Spyres and his family need to make it home. “We have a great quality of life in our area and now many people are waking up to that fact,” he says. “I love being part of a dynamic community, and throughout history, the arts by their very nature have been at the forefront of change.”



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Branson ◀

Branson is just 40 minutes south of Springfield, and while it's best known for live shows and access to Table Rock Lake, there's so much more to do than hear country's greatest hits. Step back in time at Silver Dollar City, an award-winning theme park with high-flying roller coasters and down-home comfort food and some of the best Christmas lights around. For an indoor escape, stop by the Aquarium at the Boardwalk for an up-close look at deep-sea creatures. Swing by Big Cedar Lodge for some of the best views of the Ozark Mountains, enjoy a private cabin retreat or hit up one of the award-winning golf courses at Top of the Rock. Even if you play terribly, you can end the day with a great meal, a whiskey and one of the most scenic sunsets in the Ozarks, capped off with a cannon salute, of course.



Finley Farms

Ozark ▲

Down Highway 65, Ozark is full of small-town charm with an upscale flair. Grab a coffee and attend a variety of classes at The Workshop at Finley Farms, where the spacious patio overlooks a working farm. Wander around the idyllic town square and then go antiquing and see what you can find. You'll come across treasures at Camp Flea Antique Mall + Vintage Market, Boomland Square Gifts and Home Decor and nearby Little Bluebird Vintage Boutique. Then, end a charming day in Ozark where the town began, with a picnic at Finley River Park. Before it's all over, toast to a near-perfect small town with upscale cocktails at The Garrison, where you can take in the sunset along the shore of the Finley River.

Fun Across The Region

Springfield is only the beginning. Here are our favorite weekend (and weekday) adventures for fun in the region.

BY REN BISHOP

Nixa ◀

Take Campbell Avenue and keep going south to find Nixa, a thriving community for families to play. Start your day with a cup of Joe from The Baked Bean Coffee. Stop by 14 Mill Market for lunch and a drink. This food hall offers games, outdoor seating and a variety of food options to satisfy everyone. End your day with America's favorite pastime at Rotary Park, featuring three baseball fields families have enjoyed for more than half a century. Or, see a show at the Aetos Center for the Performing Arts. Don't miss out on Nixa Sucker Days, an annual arts, crafts and music festival that is a highlight in the community.

Republic ▼

To find Republic, just head west! The town outside of Springfield is where history and modern life meet. Start your day at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, a space that shows the Ozarks' impact on one of the Civil War's largest early battles. Then, grab your family and pick strawberries at Boz's Berry Farm, the sweetest place to be during strawberry season. Keep an eye out for fun festivals throughout the year—like Republic Pumpkin Daze and the Have-A-Blast Patriotic Celebration. On hot days, there's no better place to make a splash than at the Republic Aquatic Center. This water park was designed to provide family fun until the sun goes down.



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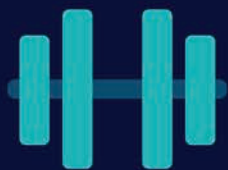
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THE LIFE YOU WANT IN SPRINGFIELD

Springfield's housing costs are 25% lower than the national average.

The local airport provides nonstop service to 16 destinations, including five of the nation's largest airports.

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

After adopting Forward SGF in 2022, Springfield is restoring Jordan Creek to boost downtown development and water quality.



Photo by Brandon Alms

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at Wildhorse is near Hickory Hills Country Club and has classic brick homes with easy access to Highway 65.

Sale Price Range of Homes 2023–2024

Ravenwood: \$235,000–449,900

Vintage Hills: \$265,000–425,000

Southern Hills: \$205,000–615,000

Lakes at Wildhorse: \$459,900–624,977

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 pickleball court and a fishing pond. East of the city limits is Highland Springs, with tennis courts, a three-story clubhouse and more. Millwood, in southeast Springfield, has a pool, tennis court and fitness center. Residents of Rivercut in southwest Springfield enjoy bike rides on nearby trails.

Sale Price Range of Homes 2023–2024

Cooper Estates: \$285,000–599,900

Millwood: \$430,000–1,240,000

Rivercut: \$445,000–1,035,000

Highland Springs: \$525,000–2,695,000

Putting Down Roots

Learn about the city's historic districts, deep-rooted neighborhoods, private golf communities and apartments to decide where your next home is.

BY ROSE MARTHIS

WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM JORDAN BLOMQUIST



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 2023–2024

Walnut Street: \$41,000–169,000

Phelps Grove: \$299,000–685,000

Rountree: \$187,000–390,000

Midtown: \$120,000–374,900

HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Springfield's rich history is evident on Walnut Street and in neighborhoods like Phelps Grove, Rountree and Midtown. These areas feature bungalows, ranches, two-story homes, cottages and Victorian-style houses, 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

DEEP-ROOTED NEIGHBORHOODS

You can find ranches and two-story homes in Ravenwood, Vintage Hills, Southern Hills and Lakes at Wildhorse. 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

APARTMENTS

Springfield features a variety of apartment complexes to suit diverse needs, from historic to modern, including options for older adults and students. The Preston, Springfield's premier all-inclusive community, offers upscale one- to two-bedroom suites with sophistication and comfort. Rent includes chef-prepared meals, weekly housekeeping, valet trash, utilities, cable and internet. Heer's is ideal for those looking to be in the heart of downtown Springfield while still indulging in a luxurious atmosphere. Their rooms have tall ceilings and stunning views of the downtown scene. The 505 provides student housing, offering studio apartments to four-bedroom units. Situated downtown, it offers convenient access to Missouri State University, Drury University and Ozarks Technical Community College.

Rent Price Range of Complexes in 2024:

The Preston Luxury Living: Starting at \$3,500 a month

Heer's Luxury Living: \$880–2,500 a month

The 505 Student Housing: \$650–2,600 a month



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Won't you be our NEIGHBOR?

Plenty of people call Springfield's nearby towns home. These communities all have their own feel and easy access to everything 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 24,700 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, training programs, an aquatic center and more.

2. Ozark

Nature and city life collide in Ozark, a town south of Springfield with more than 22,500 people. The square is filled with local businesses, and at Smallin Cave, guests explore natural features on a guided tour or dive into history with a Civil War Lantern Tour. Residents also bike or walk the Finley River Greenway Trail and disc golf at Neal & Betty Grubaugh Park. Ozark is also home to Johnny Morris' Finley Farms, which is located along the Finley River and has restored the historic Ozark Mill property—complete with a coffee shop and restaurant.

3. Republic

About 10 miles southwest of Springfield is the city of Republic. The 19,700-plus residents here enjoy the convenience of having a big city nearby in addition to having the luxury of almost everything they need in one place, including six city parks. Republic is also home to Amazon's new E-Commerce Fulfillment Center.

4. Battlefield

History buffs love Battlefield, home to about 6,214 residents. Within a 15 minute drive is 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 6,500 people. The Willard school district is known for both excellent academics and athletics. Residents stay active with the sports complex, parks, community center, recreation center and the Frisco Highline Trail.

6. Rogersville

A quick drive east on U.S. Highway 60 will bring you to Rogersville, home to more than 4,800 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 east along Historic Route 66 and has 2,600-plus residents. Relax at two city parks: Howard Smith Community Park and Croxdale Park. Strafford is also home to Wild Animal Safari, a drive-thru animal reserve that gives you the chance to get up close and personal with several exotic species. They've also added the ever-popular Buc-ees!

8. Marshfield

Located along Interstate 44, Marshfield is home to more than 7,600 residents. You can't visit Marshfield without stopping by Antique Mercantile, a thrifter's dream! If you're looking for an outdoor escape, Hidden Waters Nature Park—located along Route 66—is the perfect spot to enjoy the beautiful scenery and fresh air.

LIVE NEAR THE LAKE

9. Branson

Shopping and recreation abound at this summer family vacation destination, but the bustling town of more than 12,900 people is thriving all year long. Relax on Table Rock Lake and at one of the award-winning spas in Branson.

10. 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.

11. Forsyth

Home to more than 2,700 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.

12. Kimberling City

Just south of Branson West sits Kimberling City, a quiet lake town nestled on the shores of Table Rock Lake. The 2,300-plus residents here love the multiple boat docks, marinas and places to fish, not to mention the nearby Dogwood Canyon Nature Park.

WIDE OPEN SPACES

13. Monett

Population 9,000+
49 miles southwest of Springfield

14. Mt. Vernon

Population: 4,000+
33 miles west of Springfield

15. Aurora

Population: 7,000+
30 miles southwest of Springfield

16. Bolivar

Population: 11,000+
30 miles north of Springfield

17. Cassville

Population: 3,000+
59 miles southwest of Springfield

The OZARKS





TAKING Flight

HOW SGF POWERS CONVOY OF HOPE'S GLOBAL MISSIONS

For Convoy of Hope, every second counts. The Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF) is crucial to their mission of bringing assistance and hope around the world.

BY MEGAN PRICE

The Springfield-Branson National Airport is a vital hub that ensures seamless travel and efficiency for regional travelers. One of its most frequent customers is the team from Convoy of Hope.

When disaster strikes anywhere around the globe, Convoy of Hope is often on the front lines, bringing relief and hope to those in need. With their headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and a constant need for rapid deployment, having the Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF) nearby is an invaluable asset.

The organization's global reach means team members are frequently airborne, responding to crises and delivering aid. "We have about 285 team members working out of our headquarters, and just about every day, some of them travel as part of their jobs," says Ethan Forhetz, vice president of public engagement at Convoy of Hope. "The number of team members flying out varies greatly. Sometimes, it's just one person, but other times, we have a couple dozen traveling at once."

Assignments typically span two to five days, but the destinations are as varied as



The Convoy of Hope team travels the world providing aid to those in need.

the missions themselves. "Some of the most recent places our team has flown include Kenya, Togo, Ghana, Tanzania, Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and all over the United States," Forhetz shares. This major globetrotting schedule underscores the importance of a reliable local airport.

Having an airport nearby is more than a luxury; it's necessary for maintaining Convoy's efficiency and responsiveness. Without this option, operations would significantly slow down due to increased travel time and potentially add extra costs for hotel stays in St. Louis or Kansas City.

When comparing SGF to alternative airports like Kansas City International (MCI) or St. Louis Lambert International (STL), Forhetz focuses on the advantages despite the higher costs. "It's generally more expensive to fly from SGF, but we make up for that in the convenience of having an airport in town," he says. "The SGF airport is much newer and cleaner. Plus, the coffee is better thanks to Travellers House Coffee."

For the Convoy of Hope team, the perks of flying out of a smaller airport include shorter wait times. "One of our favorite things about flying from SGF is the time savings from shorter lines," Forhetz says. "From security to coffee, the lines are considerably shorter than bigger airports. The staff is extremely friendly and efficient."

In the fast-paced world of disaster response, every minute counts. For Convoy of Hope, the Springfield-Branson National Airport is more than just a gateway to the skies. It's a vital part of their mission to bring help and hope to the world.



Volunteers distribute supplies with Convoy of Hope.

BY THE NUMBERS

4

Airlines that fly from SGF:

Alliant, Envoy Air/American Airlines, Delta and United.

16

Nonstop destinations: Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Destin, Fort Walton, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Orlando, Phoenix, Punta Gorda, St. Pete, Tampa and Miami (includes seasonal stops).

1

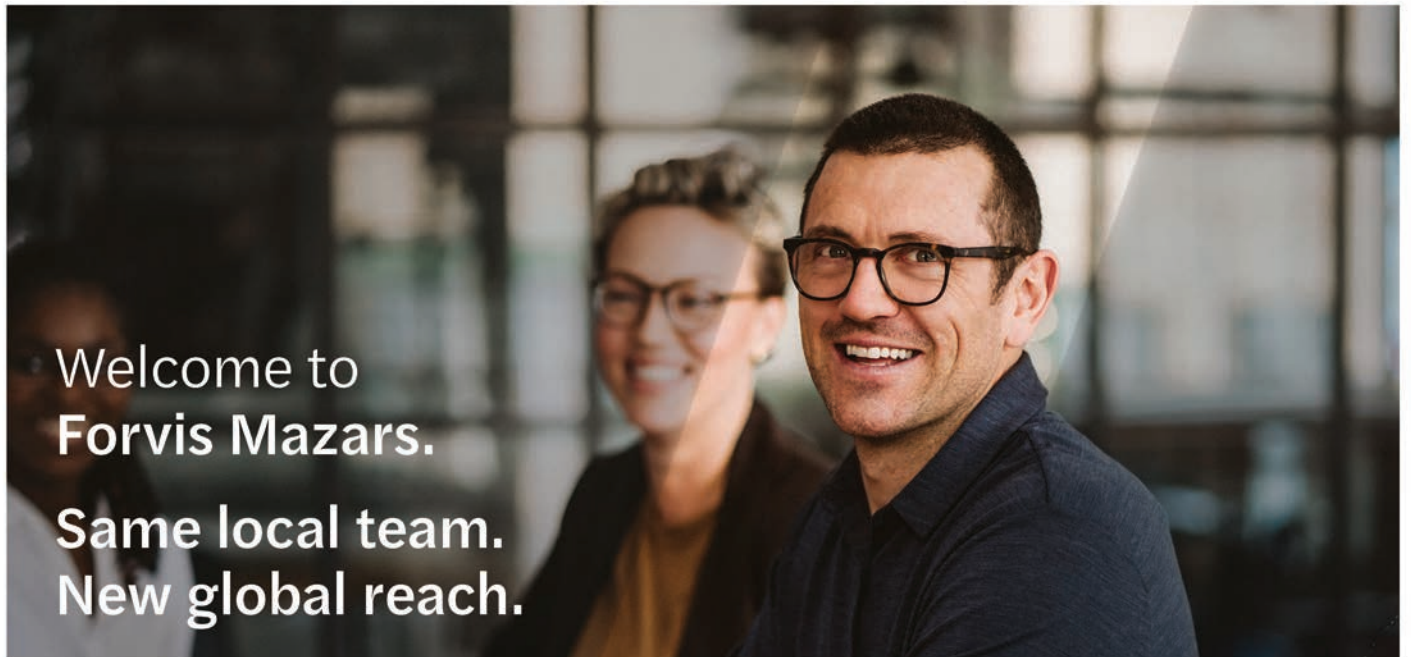
Private air service: Midwest Premier is a full-service Fixed Base Operator (FBO) at SGF.



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PLAYING IT *Safe*

Citizens and city officials alike consistently work together to make Springfield a safe place to live. In fact, residents have made it a priority by funding public safety initiatives through the level property tax.

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. During an emergency, the safety center becomes the area's emergency operations center, providing the strategic tools and resources first responders need to save lives, protect properties and stabilize the community. Many partner agencies work together in the center to ensure efficient and swift disaster response efforts for Greene County.

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



The Greene County Public Safety Center offers infrastructure and services to help keep Springfield safe.



Events throughout the year give community members a chance to meet the officers behind the uniforms.

and incorporates amenities designed to house workers during the initial stages of a crisis, including dorm rooms, showers, a cafeteria and a small infirmary.

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



The police department hosts events to connect with residents.



Bears Badges & Kids was a collaboration between MSU and the Springfield Police Department.

and breaking down barriers with everyday residents at events like the annual National Night Out. Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) has held the event since 2011, giving residents a chance to meet the people behind the uniform and focus on safety and crime prevention. Families can tour police, fire and safety vehicles, visit informational booths with activities for kids and enjoy free hot dogs and ice cream. Representatives of local neighborhood associations also participate, bringing neighbors together.

In addition to participating in National Night Out, the Springfield Police Department (SPD) offers a variety of programs and services that engage citizens in public safety initiatives. Residents can take part in Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch and Apartment Watch. Any time you want to learn more about SPD, you can join Chief Paul Williams at Coffee with the Chief, an informal monthly event that anyone can attend to ask questions. Officers are also available for ride-alongs, and the department encourages social media interaction.

Photos by Tyler Hines, City of Springfield



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Caring for the Community

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 innovative pediatric facilities, advanced cardiac care and ever-growing options for rural Missourians, Springfield's hospital systems are revolutionizing local medicine.

BY MARY ELLEN CHILES

WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM
JORDAN BLOMQUIST

COXHEALTH

As the region's only locally owned, not-for-profit health system, CoxHealth serves patients across several service lines including orthopedics, cardiology, oncology, neurology and more.

CoxHealth now boasts six hospital locations in the region, including two in Springfield. It also has the Meyer Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Hospital, more than **80** clinics and **five** emergency departments.

CoxHealth employs **13,970** people system-wide with **13,511** within or surrounding the Springfield area.

Exciting New Additions: Two new clinics and Urgent Cares in Springfield and one in Branson are open until 8 p.m. every day of the week. "We've been proud to continue to grow our Primary Care and Urgent Care footprint within our region to better serve our patients," says Brock Shamel, senior VP of operations. CoxHealth also launched its Virtual Care Team to transform care. CoxHealth placed technology in hospital rooms that enhances the care provided to patients by adding virtual support. It allows multiple team members—from nurses to physicians, pharmacists and more—to engage with the patient, in addition to maintaining the same bedside care ratio.



MERCY

Founded locally in 1891 by the Sisters of Mercy, the faith-based operation is the region's longest-serving health care provider and the sixth largest Catholic health care system in the U.S. Mercy's main Springfield campus houses a Level I Trauma Center and the regions only burn center, along with a dedicated comprehensive cancer center, a Level III Neonatal ICU and pediatric ICU, Level IV Labor and Delivery and a heart hospital. Mercy is also known for its dedication to young patients, with a \$7.5 million, 6,300-square-foot Mercy Kids Emergency room. Just south of town, Mercy Orthopedic Hospital Springfield is a leading regional facility offering access to fellowship-trained, subspecialized orthopedic and spine



Burrell Behavioral Health's new autism center



Mercy Hospital

surgeons and physicians. It has a strong sports medicine program that delivers orthopedic care to student and professional athletes throughout the Ozarks, including Springfield Public Schools, MSU and the Springfield Cardinals. With more than **93,000** visits and **11,000** surgeries in FY24, Mercy's orthopedic hospital continues to grow to meet the needs of its patients and the community.

Mercy employs more than **9,000** co-workers across the Ozarks and **8,000** local MSA employees, contributing to its workforce of more than 40,000 co-workers and over 2,400 physicians. Mercy Springfield has one of eight St. Jude's Children Research affiliates nationwide and is a proud supporter of the Springfield community. Each year, Mery provides millions of dollars of free or reduced medical care to patients in need. In FY2023, Mercy Springfield donated \$27 million worth of charitable care.

Exciting New Additions: Mercy is building a new emergency department that will be attached to their orthopedic hospital and is scheduled to open in 2025. They also opened new clinics and invested in existing clinics in their rural communities where access to health care is getting harder to find.

BURRELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

In 2022, Burrell Behavioral Health and Preferred Family Healthcare joined a number of subsidiaries under the Brightli Inc. umbrella. Brightli—headquartered in Springfield—

became one of the largest community behavioral health companies in the United States. In the 2025 fiscal year, Brightli will employ over **5,000** team members across five states.

There are currently about **1,400** employees across the Southwest Region, which also includes Brightli-wide system support team members and team members with recently rebranded Firefly Supportive Living and Employment Services.

Across the Southwest Region, over **42,000** clients are served annually by a team that includes about **330** clinical providers who work at Burrell, Preferred Family Healthcare or Firefly.

In Greene County, there are **18** Burrell locations, **four** Preferred Family Healthcare locations and **two** Firefly locations. They include walk-in crisis access points and specialty clinics for needs including substance-use recovery, developmental services, autism, ADHD, crisis services and more.

Exciting New Addition: In April 2024, Burrell had a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Burrell Behavioral Health's Autism Center expansion, which is designed to provide support and spaces tailored to the needs of clients who are reaching transitional ages. Burrell team members are also excited about the progress being made on a vital addition to the community, the Youth Resiliency Campus. The first phase of the Burrell campus, supported through major local and state funding investments, is expected to be completed in late 2025 to early 2026.



JORDAN VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER AND OZARKS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Aligned with its mission to improve access to health care, Jordan Valley's nearly **700** employees help in providing medical, dental, behavioral health and vision services to approximately **70,000** patients annually in nine clinics across five communities in the region. Mobile and school-based services help expand that reach even further. "What makes Jordan Valley unique is the ability to integrate the patient's whole care," says President/CEO Dr. Matthew Stinson.

Exciting New Addition: Known for innovative community partnerships, Jordan Valley recently launched an early childhood education center in the area, apprenticeship training programs for medical and dental assistants, and southwest Missouri's first Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Dr. Nick Pfannenstiel, Executive Vice President/COO, says Jordan Valley is fortunate to also have a dental residency program.



Citizens Memorial Hospital (CMH)

CITIZENS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL/ CITIZENS MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

Located in Bolivar, Citizens Memorial Hospital (CMH) comprises two corporate entities: the Citizens Memorial Hospital District and the Citizens Memorial Health Care Foundation. The public hospital district was established in 1978, while the 501(c)(3) Foundation was created in 1986. Together, they operate a rural integrated health care system, employing **2,359** people and serving an eight-county area in southwest Missouri, with a population exceeding **130,000** residents.

CMH opened in 1982 and is licensed for **86** beds. It is a Level III Trauma Center, Level II STEMI Center and Level III Stroke Center. CMH also provides ambulance services for Cedar, Hickory, Polk and St. Clair counties. CMH has **34** primary and specialty care clinics, **14** of which are certified as Rural Health Clinics.

The CMH Foundation operates one residential care center and six skilled nursing facilities across four counties, with **705** licensed beds. It also offers home care, hospice, home medical equipment and health transit services.

Exciting New Additions: CMH launched a \$100 million expansion and renovation plan in 2024. Spanning three stories and 117,000 square feet, this project will add new and expanded patient areas for the Emergency Department, intensive care unit, medical/surgical unit and birthing unit. It will also add a new kitchen, cafeteria, dining area, pharmacy, gift shop and hospital entrance. The project also includes remodeling 25,000 square feet of the current hospital. Two new cardiac cath lab procedure rooms and a renovated and expanded surgical department are planned. Construction is expected to be finished in 2026.



CMH Donald J. Babb Medical Center



SRIKANT NANNAPANENI MD, HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY COXHEALTH

Many people visit New York or LA the first time they visit the United States. But Srikant Nannapaneni, MD, headed straight to Springfield. “Missouri State had a very good international program, and out of all the admissions that I got, that was the most affordable one,” he says.

After completing his studies abroad, Nannapaneni completed medical school in Vijayawada, India, and then headed to New York for his residency and fellowship programs. Once that was finished, his growing family nudged him to move back to Missouri in 2016, so he called CoxHealth. “After I had my second kid, within a month I called and said, ‘I’m coming back to town,’” Nannapaneni says. “I was the first one to sign up as a medical oncologist for CoxHealth.”

The move was no surprise to his colleagues. “They heard me talk about Springfield too many times,” Nannapaneni says. “Everybody knew that once I finished my training, I was going to go back.” Springfield’s attractiveness came down to three factors: it was a good place to raise a family, it offered short commute times and it provided the Nannapaneni family the standard of living they wanted.

“I think the quality of life here is more optimal,” Nannapaneni says. “You may get paid a little bit more somewhere else but that goes into cost of living and everything else. So, this is the best bang for the buck.”



MARWAN JAOUDEH, HOSPITALIST MERCY

Marwan Jaoudeh moved from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Springfield, Missouri, in 2017 after completing residency. Both he and his wife are internal medicine physicians, and during a job fair toward the end of residency, Mercy invited them to visit their Springfield campus. “My wife and I were like, ‘Springfield, what will we do there?’” Jaoudeh recalls. “We’re from California and Pennsylvania, and we didn’t think we’d ever end up in Springfield, but we figured we’d come check it out.”

As soon as Jaoudeh stepped into Mercy Hospital, it felt like family. “We felt the warmth and it changed our minds about Springfield,” he says. They both loved the team immediately and despite interviewing at different hospitals around the country, they knew Mercy was where they were meant to land. “We’ve been with Mercy for seven years now, and it’s been great,” Jaoudeh says.

The hospital was a significant draw for Jaoudeh and his wife. Initially unsure about Springfield, their perspective shifted after experiencing the outdoor opportunities firsthand. “The air is clean, the hiking is great and it has all the necessities—it has everything we need,” Jaoudeh says. “People want to move away from the city and be in a place where they can run around outside, and Springfield has plenty of outdoor attractions.”

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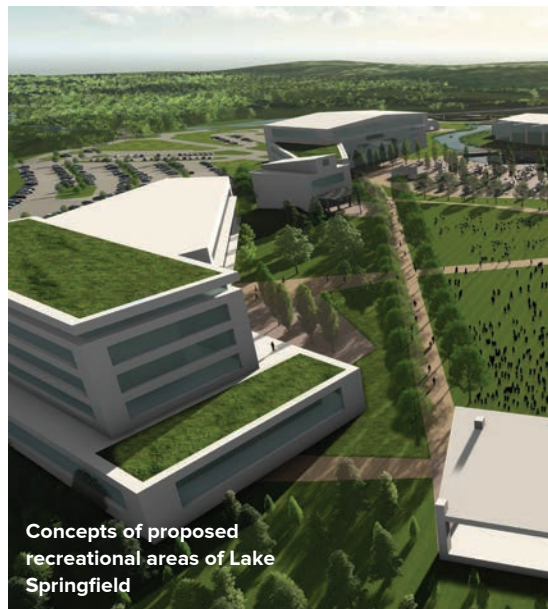


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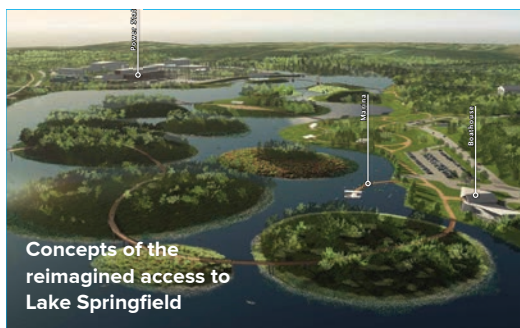
Rendering of the West Facade of the Springfield Art Museum



Concepts of proposed recreational areas of Lake Springfield



Rendering of the East Facade of the Springfield Art Museum



Concepts of the reimagined access to Lake Springfield

Future Plans

The Springfield Art Museum and Lake Springfield are among the locations in Springfield undergoing significant and exciting changes.

BY MEGAN PRICE

Growth has been a constant in Springfield for years. Looking forward, exciting developments are in store that will improve the lives of locals and attract out-of-town tourists. Two city treasures, the Springfield Art Museum and Lake Springfield, are poised to undergo impressive changes.

MAKING OVER THE SPRINGFIELD ART MUSEUM

The Springfield Art Museum is ready for a renovation driven by a visionary plan that has been in the works for years. "Completing a site plan and engaging the grounds as part of the museum experience were key goals in our 2014 strategic plan," explains Museum Director Nick Nelson. The dedication of staff, board members and community supporters has brought these plans to life.

Construction will begin in January 2025, thanks to a \$5 million gift from the Sunderland Foundation, \$3 million in ARPA funds from the City and a \$2.75

million ARPA grant from the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

Key highlights of the redevelopment plan include a new gallery with over 20-foot ceilings, making it a one-of-a-kind feature in southern Missouri. Expanded educational spaces, improved program areas and refreshed galleries will enhance the visitor experience, while an art study room will cater to higher education partners and scholars. Finally, universal design principles will improve accessibility at the museum.

Springfield patrons will benefit from a more welcoming, community-focused space. "The new facility will embrace the concept of a 'third place,' a home away from home where people feel comfortable connecting with each other," Nelson notes. Upgraded climate control systems and building enhancements will protect the museum's art collection for future generations.

The new gallery and expanded exhibition capabilities will draw art enthusiasts. At the same

time, improvements to outdoor spaces like the Hatch Lawn and Amphitheater will provide venues for concerts and performances, which will also boost visitation.

"I'm excited to see the museum live in a facility that will match our ambitions for how we will serve our community," Nelson says of the museum's future. "Creating a space that is welcoming to all excites me the most."

REIMAGINING THE ACCESS TO LAKE SPRINGFIELD

Lake Springfield is set for a dramatic transformation, with plans for expansion, improved trail connections and enhanced water access. The project aims to convert the former power plant site into a vibrant public resource that will benefit locals and visitors.

The project received an \$800,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration, which focuses on creating new financial opportunities, promoting environmental sustainability, ensuring fair access and boosting tourism. A \$200,000 match from the Hatch Foundation brought the total planning funding to \$1 million.

The plan addresses the closure of a power plant that served the community for 65 years while maintaining Lake Springfield's key functions. Lake Springfield plays a crucial role in regional water quality, acting as a settlement pond that improves water before it flows into Table Rock Lake.

Photos courtesy Springfield Art Museum, City of Springfield



The Lake Springfield plan includes enhanced water access.



“The idea is to adapt the industrial area into a space accessible to the public,” explains Director of Quality of Place Initiatives at City of Springfield Tim Rosenbury. This includes creating boardwalks and other facilities to explore and enjoy the lake. Another key highlight is connecting Springfield Lake with the James River, making it easier for small watercraft to navigate.

Local lake-goers can look forward to enhanced water recreation and new arts and entertainment activities in the area. “We have the chance to develop exciting attractions and amenities,” Rosenbury shares. “An amphitheater was one of the suggestions.”

Surprisingly, Springfield Lake has been an under-utilized amenity. Rosenbury hopes to change that with this project. “One of the things I’m excited about is the opportunity to take advantage of a hidden gem in Springfield,” he says.

A dedicated website called LakeSGFPlan.com provides rolling updates and more information about the project.

7

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Alex and Damon are big collectors of art and antiques, and they include their favorite pieces in their home decor.

Settle In

Whether you're looking for a house with a backyard oasis or a center city loft, the Springfield region has many neighborhoods and homes just waiting to welcome you.

BY ETTIE BERNEKING

A MIDCENTURY PROJECT

Alex Regalado Yerian and his husband, Damon, bought their midcentury ranch in Phelps Grove practically sight unseen in 2021. A few months later, they moved in and started renovations.

Alex and Damon were living in Seattle before moving to Springfield to be closer to Damon's parents. Besides one short visit in April to house-hunt, the couple had spent very little time together in the Queen City. When their realtor called to let them know a five-bedroom ranch in the tree-lined Phelps Grove neighborhood was about to go on the market, they jumped on it.

"We moved here in August, started remodeling in September and were done in December," Alex says. It was a remarkably quick turnaround considering

Alex and Damon basically gutted the home, but they were careful to remodel in a way that honored the house's original style and architecture. To bring in some of the Ozarks' natural elements and color palette, Alex—an interior designer—added stone to the fireplace and used plenty of greys and soft blues. The toned-down color scheme also worked well with the couple's impressive collection of artwork and antiques.

Alex has been collecting for 20 years, and now that collection is on display around the couple's spacious ranch. "Every single piece I remember," he says. "I picked up many of these pieces from friends or on trips or from Round Top Antiques Show in Texas." Since he's moved to Springfield, Alex has already added several new antique pieces to his



▲ Damon and Alex gave their midcentury ranch a modern facelift.

collection, and he's discovered several favorite new antique shops. "There's great antiquing here," he says. "And the estate sales in the area are great."

Now that they're settled into their new home, Alex and Damon say they're ready to explore the hiking and floating in the area. They've already made a nice dent in the local bar and restaurant scene, which Alex says has an impressive amount of Mexican food. He can already list off his favorite spots for tacos and pozole. Then there are the wild numbers of drag shows in town. "There's more drag here than what we found in Houston," Alex says. "In some ways, Springfield is more progressive to me. It's just easy living, and the people are so nice."



A COUNTRYSIDE RETREAT

If Lauren or Bud Petit ever invites you on one of their “Missouri safaris,” get ready to add to the family’s bug collection. You might also end up with a pocketful of elderberries or blackberries. It’s all part of the country charm out here.

Lauren and Bud met and lived in Chicago for several years before the couple moved back to Lauren’s hometown of Nixa. They didn’t have kids at the time, but they knew they wanted a family, and Nixa’s school district was a big draw for the newlyweds. By the time their first daughter turned 3, they were ready to build their own home out on Lauren’s family farm.

For years, Lauren had been eyeing properties in California for design inspiration. With some Midwest, modern farmhouse vibes mixed in, she and Bud designed a single-story ranch farmhouse the family could enjoy for decades. Inspired by the natural light she loved so much in many California homes, Lauren decided to ditch the upper cabinets in her kitchen in place of large windows that look out over the rolling hills.

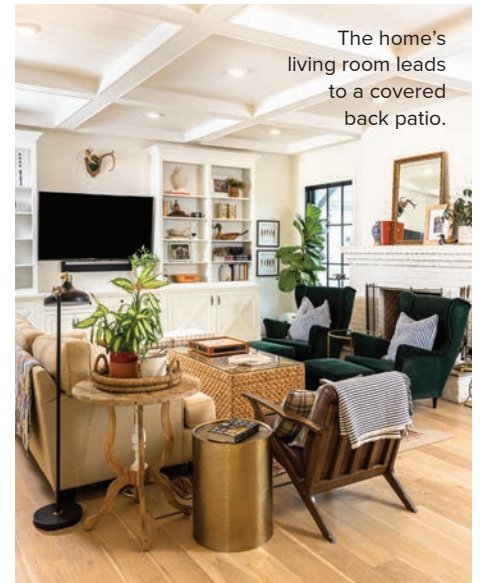
When the family hosts friends and loved ones, there’s plenty of room to entertain everyone, especially on the outdoor patio. The scenic outdoor space is part of what this young family loves most about their new home. “Two years ago, we planted a 10-acre elderberry farm,” Lauren says. “My kids grew their own strawberries, and we have a blackberry farm now, and we got really into gardening.” On sunny days, the kids go on “Missouri safaris” to search for wildlife, rocks, flowers... you name it.

Not shockingly, their bucolic retreat has attracted more than just the occasional visitor. Lauren’s photos on social media

▲ The Petit family spends a lot of time enjoying the outdoors when they’re home.

even prompted one of her friends to relocate from Palm Springs to the Springfield area. “They moved out here pretty much sight unseen,” Lauren says. “They just knew they wanted a change in lifestyle.” Like so many of the friends and family the Petits have welcomed to their home, Lauren’s friend was shocked to find so much natural beauty in the heart of the Ozarks—a hidden gem Lauren grew up knowing and loving.

▼ The Petits’ kitchen offers great views of the countryside property.



The home’s living room leads to a covered back patio.





▲ Their home was lovingly updated before they bought it.

◀ Stella loves playing inside but really loves getting outside.



▲ Amanda and Mitch moved into Rountree to start their family.

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Amanda and Mitch Jenkins both grew up in Springfield, and never had plans to leave. Their families both live in town, their network of friends is in the Queen City, and they have built their careers here. “We just love everything Springfield has to offer,” Amanda says. “We really can’t imagine being anywhere else.”

Early on, the couple lived in an apartment in the cozy Galloway neighborhood, where greenway trails are within walking distance and craft breweries have taken hold. From there, they transitioned to a small home in the Rountree neighborhood. “We always had our eye on Rountree,” Amanda says. “As soon as we bought a house there, we knew it was home.” For the Jenkinses, it was the walkability and the community that drew them to the historic neighborhood. Rountree is known for its block parties and massive Halloween parade, and it’s the kind of place where neighbors know each other and where friends gather on front porches as kids race down the street. It was the perfect place for the Jenkinses to start their new family.

As a young mom, Amanda found it easy to get some adult time in during the day even when she was watching her daughter, Stella. “I need to see other adults,” she jokes. “I have that here. For instance, my neighbor had a garage sale, and my daughter and I hung out there for three hours. I just drank my coffee and chatted.” On warm days, Amanda and Stella will walk around the neighborhood and check out the cats that live nearby. They’ll play on a neighbor’s front yard swing, and say hi to everyone who passes by. Amanda describes Stella as a social butterfly, so she fits in perfectly with all the chatty neighbors. “Everyone knows Stella,” Amanda says.

As the Jenkinses prepared to welcome their second daughter, they moved down the street to a larger home. She loves that the house, like many of the homes in Rountree, has a real history. She even stays in touch with the previous owners. “I love that they raised daughters in this home, and now we’re raising our daughters in it,” Amanda says. “So many people have made memories here. It’s not just a house. It’s a home.”



The Whitcombs restored this historic home in Grant Beach.

A HISTORIC RENOVATION

There are a few neighborhoods that almost every Springfield resident knows about. There's Rountree with its shaded bungalows and massive Halloween parade. Then there's Southern Hills with its mid-century ranches and well-stocked ponds. Then there's the Midtown and Grant Beach area. Located near Drury University,

these historic neighborhoods have some grand Victorian homes. That historic time stamp also means this neighborhood has a smattering of houses waiting to be lovingly renovated, which is exactly what Mick and Paige Whitcomb have done.

Both Mick and Paige are artists, and they have two true loves—design and history. Mick creates custom light fixtures inspired by 19th century inventions, and Paige is a tintype photographer. Neither one of them is from Springfield originally, but they found themselves in town after living abroad. When they found the Midtown neighborhood, they knew they were home.

“Our neighborhood is a mix of professors, artists, musicians and entrepreneurs,” Mick says. “There’s diversity here both in economic diversity and diversity in thought.” Soon, the couple turned their love of the arts and home design into a passion for renovating historic homes. “We approach this from an artistic motive,” Mick says. “It’s about preservation not flipping.” Mick says a lot of the home owners in Grant Beach have played an active role in renovating and updating their homes. “That means they’ve played a role in the creation of this community,” he says.



▲ Mick Whitcomb loves antiques, and he and Paige have incorporated them into their decor.



▲ When the Whitcombs find antiques and other relics on their travels, they bring them home and find a new life for them.

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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.

Springfield was named one of U.S. News and World Report's 150 Best Places to Live in the U.S. for 2024-2025.

In December 2023, Buc-ee's opened and brought over 200 jobs to the Springfield region.

In 2023, efactory and Codefi, two of the state's leading innovation centers, formed the Southern Missouri Innovation Network.



Springfield offers all kinds of remote working destinations, like the co-op space at Eurasia Coffee Co.

Photo by Joshua Beecher



Vital Farms chose Springfield as the home for their Egg Central Station.

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. However, small businesses drive 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, JORDAN BLOMQUIST & JULIANA GOODWIN

IT’S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY

Springfield is home to Vital Farms’ Egg Central Station (ECS)—their award-winning egg washing and packing facility. ECS is at the heart of Vital Farms’ supply chain and operations. Eggs from over 300 pasture-raised family farms are transported to ECS, where a skilled team handles washing, sizing, grading and packing. The eggs are then distributed to retailers and food service operators nationwide, eventually landing on consumers’ tables. “Vital Farms’ mission is to bring ethical food to the table, and our purpose is to improve the lives of people, animals and the planet through food,” the Vital Farms team says.

Since its initial opening in Springfield in 2017, Vital Farms expanded ECS in 2022, nearly doubling its original size. Springfield allowed the Austin-based small business to scale to the national brand it is today. This expansion supports over \$300 million in additional revenue and the future growth of the company. Currently, ECS processes up to 6 million eggs daily.

The Springfield community has played a significant role in helping the Vital Farms team develop a passionate group of crewmembers at ECS who continuously raise the standards in the food industry. “We chose to continue to invest in Springfield with ECS’ expansion in 2022 because of the rich community and relationships here that we’ve built over the years,” the Vital Farms team says. “Our fast-paced work environment has also opened the door to fulfilling career opportunities and created high-quality jobs for the local community.”

ECS is a Safe Quality Food Institute (SQFI)-certified facility and the only egg facility worldwide to receive the SQFI Select Site Certification. ECS voluntarily undergoes annual unannounced recertification audits by SQFI. Recently, ECS earned an “excellent” rating with a 98% score on an SQF food safety and quality audit. Additionally, Quality Assurance Manager Robert Clark received the 2024 Excellence in SQF Practitioner Leadership Award from SQFI. This award recognizes his role in promoting food safety and inspiring the next generation of food safety leaders.

In Springfield, Vital Farms eggs are available at Price Cutter and MaMa Jean’s Natural Market. Restaurants incorporating these eggs into their dishes include Rise, The Order Food & Drink and Springfield Brewing Co.

Photo courtesy Vital Farms



Jonathan Bell created a company to help business owners with their marketing strategies.

SAVED BY THE BELL

When Jonathan Bell was 15, he wanted to earn some money but couldn't find any opportunities for a boy his age. He turned 16, and then the world shut down due to COVID-19. Bell became a full-time virtual student and was home, scrolling on social media 24/7. He got an idea: What if he started a business from home? What if he made money creating content online?

As a sophomore at Parkview High School, Bell created Bells Marketing Consultant, which has since rebranded to That GenZ Agency. The vision for the brand? A Gen-Z digital marketing agency that develops innovative solutions for business owners.

In 2020, Bell made \$8,000 serving small business owners. In 2021, Herbal Remedy became a client, selling exclusively on Facebook Marketplace. By designing an e-commerce website and activating search engine optimization tactics in strategic markets, Herbal Remedy went national in less than 24 hours.

Bell could take the agency anywhere, but the Springfield community invested in him as a startup, and he wants to help fuel innovation by engaging in the business community now as a CEO and board member for Springfield's Multicultural Business Association.

Now, That GenZ Agency has seven team members and \$50,000 in projected sales. Bell is using the agency to take more actionable steps for the community. This includes being a voice for Gen Z, providing internship opportunities for students and collaborating with companies to understand this new generation of the workforce. "I would love to see more culture here: more experiences, more attractions, more inclusion," he says. "That all comes from innovative businesses opening, and the more we support business owners, the better Springfield is as a place to be."

Photo courtesy Jonathan Bell

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Electric Lineman, since 2020

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City Utilities
Connecting Our Community

Culture Flock brings vibrant art, apparel and community spirit to the Rountree Neighborhood.



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, the pair decided to take a chance, change careers and sell their 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 been selling greeting cards and T-shirts with

fun designs, buttons with bold political statements and pro-voting apparel in all sizes. Being inclusive is kind of their thing. "We love having fun, but we also want to be culturally relevant," Bilyeu says. "We want people to be more involved in things that are important, 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 in the Galloway Village neighborhood was possible because of low start-up costs in Springfield, which made their hometown the right fit for a storefront.

Since then, the Culture Flock team has moved to the Rountree neighborhood.

"It's already our favorite spot in town for food and drinks, but we knew how rooted many of the long-time businesses in the neighborhood are, so we didn't expect we'd find a spot in the neighborhood for Culture Flock," Trottier says. To their surprise, their realtor informed them that space on Pickwick was becoming available. It was a no-brainer for them to make the move.

"Springfield is a place that continually surprises us," Trottier says. "The way Springfield responds to new businesses is amazing, and the community is very welcoming to new places. We appreciate the support we got from the beginning, and we continue to get. If you engage with the community, they'll support you."



Kraft Heinz Co. employs about 1,000 people at its Springfield location.

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

AMAZON

amazon.com

Amazon is the largest online retailer and technology provider and is based out of Seattle, Washington. Between the Republic fulfillment center and Springfield delivery station, the facilities together have about 1,600 employees and counting.

BASS PRO SHOPS (HEADQUARTERS)

basspro.com

Specializing in a variety of gear for hunting, fishing, camping and more, Bass Pro Shops operates 200 retail stores and Tracker Marine Centers across America and Canada.

CHASE CARD SERVICES

chase.com

With more than 990 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, the diversity of its workforce, premier benefits and a culture prioritizing philanthropy.

COXHEALTH (HEADQUARTERS)

coxhealth.com

CoxHealth, headquartered in Springfield, employs more than 13,000 people across six hospitals and 80-plus clinics in southwest Missouri. The company encourages healthy 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 17,100 people globally and approximately 1,000 in Springfield, making it

one of the company's largest locations outside of its corporate headquarters in Washington state.

The Springfield office supports many areas of the company including customer service, IT, sales and financial operations.

FORVIS MAZARS (HEADQUARTERS)

forvismazars.com

Forvis Mazars 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. Forvis Mazars attracts both recent college grads and experienced professionals to its team.

FRENCH'S FOOD CO.

Frenchsfoodservice.com

For more than 45 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 400 local employees.

JACK HENRY & ASSOCIATES INC.

jackhenry.com

Headquartered in nearby Monett and with a sizeable 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 10,500 financial institutions and corporate entities nationwide.

JOHN DEERE REMAN-SPRINGFIELD (DIVISION HEADQUARTERS)

deere.com

John Deere Reman is a wholly owned subsidiary of Deere & Co. John Deere Reman specializes

in the remanufacturing of engines, engine components and fuel systems for the global John Deere dealer network.

KRAFT HEINZ CO.

kraftheinzcompany.com

A major employer in the region for more than 70 years, Kraft Heinz employs approximately 1,000 people at its Springfield facility. This plant makes the popular Kraft Mac & Cheese and Kraft Singles.

MERCY SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITIES

mercy.net

Mercy Springfield Communities employs more than 9,000 people in the metro area. Among its many benefits, Mercy offers employees a free health and wellness program that features personalized fitness and nutrition plans as well as workshops focusing on financial and spiritual health.

O'REILLY AUTO PARTS (HEADQUARTERS)

oreillyauto.com

Started as a single store in 1957, O'Reilly Auto Parts is an auto parts wholesaler retailer with roughly 6,130 locations across the United States. Headquartered in Springfield, the company has stores in 48 states and employs more than 87,000 team members.

PAUL MUELLER COMPANY (HEADQUARTERS)

paulmueller.com

Paul Mueller Company 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 transportation company offering refrigerated, flatbed, food-grade tanker, intermodal and third-party logistics services. Headquartered in Springfield, the company offers its associates 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, SRC has grown to more than 13 companies with 2,000 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.



efactory has been an incredible resource for small businesses in Springfield.

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

The 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.”

5 REASONS

Why Springfield is Good For Remote Work

Springfield, Missouri, was ranked No. 1 by *The Wall Street Journal* in a new report that lists the best places to work remotely.

BY JORDAN BLOMQUIST

1 “With a low cost of living, including some of the lowest utility rates in the nation, gigabit internet speeds available across the community, and unmatched outdoor recreation opportunities, who wouldn’t want to live in Springfield and work remotely.” —*Joel Alexander, Manager-Media Relations at City Utilities*

2 “People often seek remote positions to establish greater work-life balance, and what better place to do that than in the Ozarks with its amazing outdoor opportunities, proximity to urban areas and access to resources like efactory—including coworking spaces, business support resources and talent development opportunities. These are all major factors in improving the lives of remote workers.” —*Nicki Donnelson, Director, Marketing and Communications at efactory*

3 “The sense of community that exists in Springfield’s neighborhoods is really unmatched—take for example Commercial Street and Rountree. Where jobs are increasingly becoming remote, this sense, paired with the inspiring new coworking spaces in town, allows people to still identify with a social network that can be challenging to come by outside of the traditional office environment.” —*Justin Beiler, owner of Eurasia Coffee Co and Social INC Coworking*



Eurasia coworking space

4 “The Springfield-Greene County Library offers a serene environment for remote workers seeking a break from the distractions of home. We’re ready to help with a wealth of resources including books and databases, meeting rooms and spaces for uninterrupted productivity. It’s always a great time to visit the Library.” —*Vickie Hicks, Community Relations Director at Springfield-Greene County Library District*

5 “The key to being productive while working from home is creating a dedicated space with an ergonomic office chair. Don’t settle for your dining room chair or bar stool and instead utilize the showroom of Grooms Office Environments and sit test a variety of task chairs of all styles and price points to elevate your home office to fit your needs.” —*Victoria Gorham, Senior Workplace Strategist at Grooms Office Environments*



Photo by Joshua Beecher

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sps.org

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WHAT YOU WANT IN SPRINGFIELD

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

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

Nearly 4,000 students attend private schools within the Springfield area.

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



Photo courtesy Ozarks Technical Community College

Innovative Education 48 • Hitting the Books 52 • Gateway to Success 54



Wonders of The Ozarks
Learning Facility (WOLF School)

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. Schools including the Springfield Public School (SPS) District are reimagining the learning process. SPS offers a variety of in and out-of-the-classroom opportunities, to diversify the way students learn.

BY JESSICA HAMMER

WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM ALLIE FREE

AGACADEMY

Age: Fourth through sixth grades

Number of students: 150

Inside the classroom: The Darr Family Foundation gifted Springfield Public Schools a building for a magnet school focused on agricultural education on the campus of Missouri State University's Darr College of Agriculture. The school is a partnership with Missouri State University, and it provides students with an immersive learning experience centered around plant and animal sciences, service learning and exposure to the industry of agriculture. This program aims to cultivate the next generation of agricultural leaders.

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 or recess? Remember being amazed by all the wildlife you were able to meet 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 the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium, Springfield Public Schools and Bass Pro Shops, 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 now and get excited to become a WOLF student.

ACADEMY OF FINE AND 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 (SLT) 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 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. The 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: 750

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

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



JOHN THOMAS SCHOOL OF DISCOVERY

Age: Kindergarten through sixth grades

Number of Students: 489

Inside the Classroom: An extension of the Nixa Public School district, JTSD focuses on 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 life-long 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 at Central, Glendale, Hillcrest, Kickapoo, Parkview, Logan-Rogersville, Marshfield, Nixa and Ozark and is a great way for them to gain interest in 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 manufacturing 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: Ninth through twelfth grades

Number of students: Variable, available in multiple schools

Inside the Classroom: Project Lead the Way is available to high school students at Central, Glendale, Hillcrest and Kickapoo 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,

Photo courtesy Springfield Public Schools

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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, parents can call Springfield Public Schools at (417) 523-5547.

LAUNCH

Age: Kindergarten through twelfth grades
Virtual Course Enrollments: 75,600

Inside the Classroom: Launch Virtual Learning at Springfield Public Schools offers students and parents an alternative to seated courses. Nichole Lemmon, director of virtual learning and strategic planning for Launch, has had the opportunity to watch the program grow since 2011. When enrollment for Launch first opened in 2012, the program was only available for middle school and high school students, and originally, there were only three online courses, including physical education. Over time, Lemmon says offerings have expanded to a robust 430+ course catalog. Launch serves both SPS students and students from 392 partner school districts around the state, including students enrolled in private and charter schools.

The Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP) allows all students living in Missouri the option to utilize virtual learning for some or all of their education needs at no cost to the family. Launch provides full-time and per-course enrollments for students in Kindergarten through high school seniors.

Elementary students are supported with live instruction daily while middle and high school students have the option of live or asynchronous instruction.

The benefits of online learning options are vast, but Lemmon says the primary reason so many families choose this option is due to the flexibility it provides students. “Our goal is for students to have access to high quality learning options in a mode that works best for their learning style,” Lemmon says. “Our students learn from teachers, not technology and we can’t wait to see you online!”

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

Age: High school juniors and seniors
Number of Students: 30 to 35

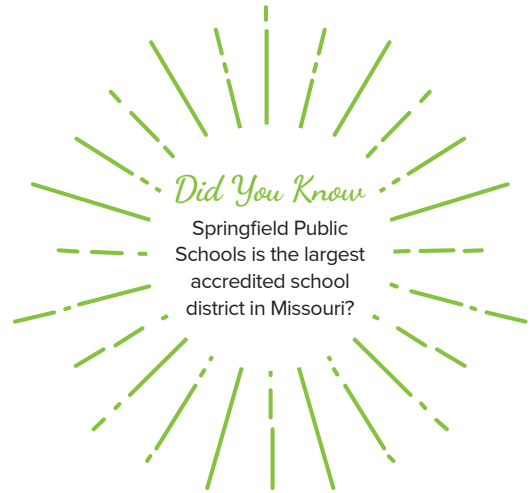
Inside the Classroom: A new program opening to students in the fall semester of 2024, the Alliance for Healthcare Education is a partnership with Ozarks Technical Community College, Missouri State University and CoxHealth meant to provide SPS students with early access to the health care industry and numerous opportunities for networking and professional development. Students can also choose pathways to earn an associate degree with credit toward a bioclinical science degree, earn certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), or earn certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). The program aims to equip students with information needed to excel in health care careers.

FLYSPS

Age: High school juniors and seniors must be 16 or older by August 1.

Number of Students: 20 juniors and 10 seniors

Inside the Classroom: For students who want to go above and beyond, the FlySPS program allows students to earn a private pilot’s license while earning both high school and college credit. Students spend half of their school day at the Springfield-Branson National Airport for the duration of the two-year program. After completing the program, students can continue to pursue an associate degree in aviation.



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HITTING THE BOOKS

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

BY STEPHANIE TOWN BENOIT

	 Greenwood Laboratory School	 New Covenant Academy	 Springfield Catholic Schools	 The Summit Preparatory School
Grade Levels	Kindergarten through 12th	Jr. kindergarten through 12th	3-year-olds through 12th	3-year-olds through 12th
Founding Date	1908	1979	1913	2005
Student-to-Teacher Ratio	15-to-1	15-to-1	18-to-1	8-to-1
Annual Tuition	\$7,100–7,500	\$7,745–8,995	\$2,900–10,000	\$10,775 average
Average ACT Score	28	23.33	25.8	25
Percentage of Grads pursuing Higher Ed	100%	95%	98%	98%
Program Highlights	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 more.	New Covenant offers a college preparatory program that integrates Christian faith and emphasizes growth. Students participate in activities including an award-winning fine arts program and sports teams. Students perform community outreach, service projects and mission trips.	Academic excellence, faith formation and community service are central at Springfield Catholic Schools, which includes three elementary schools (Immaculate Conception, St. Agnes and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) and Springfield Catholic High School.	Hands-on, project-based learning that fosters academic excellence and embraces a holistic approach to child development, promoting social-emotional learning for students starting at 3 years old ensures a well-rounded educational experience.



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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 project-based summer learning. At multiple locations, students in grades K-12 participate in these exciting learning opportunities in June and July. Students can choose seated or virtual classes and a wide variety of subjects like coding, agriculture and music.

DRURY UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR GIFTED EDUCATION

Each summer, children from pre-kindergarten through high school head to the Center for Gifted Education at Drury. Middle school 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 and enjoy activities with their peers outside of class time. Plus, Leadership Academy students can easily 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 years old and some adults enjoy the great outdoors and experience life-changing adventures through this Christian-based organization. Every January, Camp Barnabas also hosts Snow Ball, a dance for people with disabilities. They also host weekend camps in the fall.

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 fishing, canoeing, hiking, playing volleyball 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.



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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

Fall 2024 enrollment: 25,038

Tuition and fees for 2023–2024: \$20,934 (undergraduate Missouri resident)

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, and offers more than 85 majors.

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

Fall 2023 enrollment: 11,045

Tuition for 2024: starting at \$131 per in-district credit hour

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, allowing students to pursue certificates and associate degrees in fields such as dental hygiene, culinary arts, welding technology and more. Learning doesn't stop at the Springfield city limits—OTC has six total locations in Missouri and online learning options.

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

Fall 2023 enrollment: 2,268

Tuition and fees for 2024–2025: \$59,900

This liberal arts college offers more than 70 majors and 39 minors, along with small class sizes, boasting a student-to-faculty ratio of 13-to-1. A general-education curriculum, CORE, requires participation in learning experiences that engage the community, and many Drury students participate in the university's study abroad programs.

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

417-865-2815, evangel.edu

Fall 2022 enrollment: 1,258

Tuition and fees for 2024–2025: \$37,646

The Assemblies of God-affiliated Evangel University opened its doors in 1955 as the first Pentecostal liberal arts college in America. Offering more than 100 academic programs, the university also offers accelerated degree-completion programs for non-traditional students in human services, management, communication and church ministries.

Accolades: In 2014, Evangel was named one of the 50 most beautiful Christian college campuses in the world by Christian Universities Online. The Valor teams have ramped up their game with the women's volleyball, men's basketball, cross country and outdoor track teams making it to the NAIA National Championships for their respective sports.

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

417-328-5281, sbuniv.edu

Fall 2024 enrollment: 800 new students

Tuition for 2024–2025: \$28,656

Founded in 1878, Southwest Baptist University (SBU) is a private, Christian liberal arts university affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention. SBU maintains a distinctly Christian and Baptist vision to fuse liberal arts, career preparation and faith throughout its more than 80 areas of academic study and four campuses located in Bolivar, Mountain View, Salem and Springfield.

Accolades: SBU received an A rating for general education curriculum by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. The university has also been recognized as one of America's Best Christian Colleges since 1997 and as one of America's 100 Best College Buys since 1996.

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

Springfield, Missouri, is home to over 76 locally owned restaurants.

Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr Pepper Bottling Co. located in Springfield, distribute to over 50 counties in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Springfield boasts more than 800 restaurants in total.

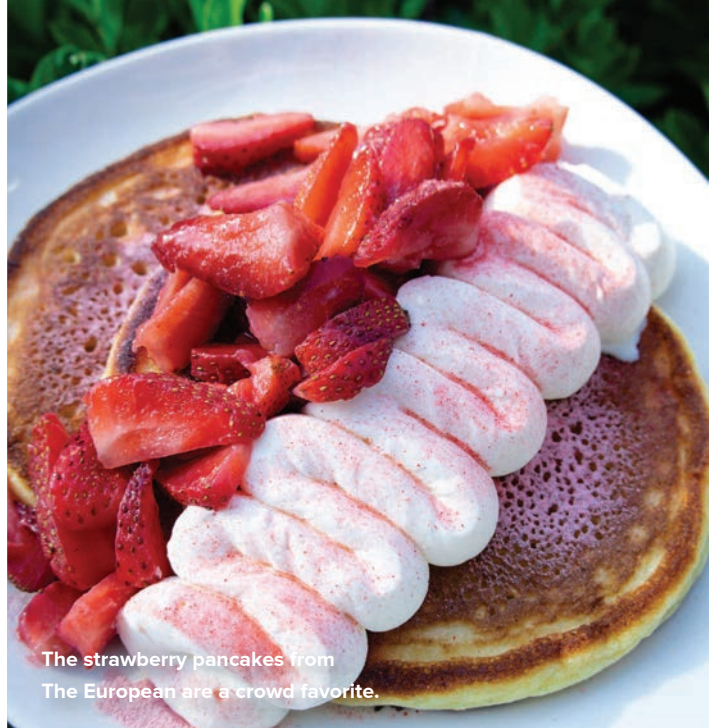


The Ozark Mill Restaurant has seasonal dishes made with farm-fresh ingredients. More on page 64.

Foodie BUCKET LIST

Springfield's dining scene is ever-evolving, so you'll never run out of new bites to try on local restaurant menus. Here are 10 must-taste favorites that show off some of the best flavors in town.

BY KATIE POLLOCK ESTES



The strawberry pancakes from The European are a crowd favorite.

1 White Usuzukuri at Ariake Sushi & Robata

1110 E. Battlefield Road, Springfield
ariakesushirobata.com

With a chic interior, an extensive list of sakis and cocktails and a menu unlike any in town, Ariake Sushi & Robata is a must-try for a date night or special occasion—or to impress out-of-town guests. The plates are small, so order several to share with your fellow diners. The white usuzukuri is not to be missed. It's a raw dish featuring thinly sliced flounder that's accented by brightly flavored yuzu, sweet pear, crispy candied quinoa, black lava salt and chili oil for a truly perfect bite.

2 Strawberry Pancakes at The European

105 Park Central Square, Springfield, 417-986-4646, theeuropean417.com

This sunny breakfast and lunch spot has an airy interior, a laid-back vibe and absolutely beautiful food. Located on Park Central Square with a cozy outdoor patio space, The European is a great spot to enjoy coffee, breakfast and fresh air as downtown Springfield awakens. And the best part: The coffee, breakfast cocktails, fresh-pressed juices and dishes are all nourishing. For a sweet bite, don't miss the strawberry pancakes—ricotta pancakes topped with mascarpone cheese and macerated fresh strawberries.

3 Fish and Chips at Farmers Gastropub

2620 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield 417-864-6994, farmersgastropub.com

This spot has a menu inspired by British food favorites, but that's not all. There's something for everyone, from flavor-packed salads to double smash burgers—and the food is always expertly prepared. For a British vibe, order the fish and chips with a side of mushy peas and some malt vinegar. Add a Scotch egg for your appetizer.

4 Frutti di Mare at Avanzare

3240 S. Fremont Ave., Springfield, 417-567-3463, avanzareitaliandining.com

A long-time Italian favorite in Springfield, Avanzare just got a major upgrade by moving

to a brand new location. But the excellent pasta, steaks and other Italian dishes remain the same. The frutti di mare is an excellent option from the pasta menu. It features a variety of seafood (shrimp, scallops, black mussels, calamari) in a bright and fresh tomato-based sauce that's spiced up just a bit with red pepper flakes. It is served over spaghetti noodles.

5 Birria Tacos at Cesar's Old Mexico

2627 E. Sunshine St., Springfield
417-881-8252, cesarsoldmexico.com

Expect a lively atmosphere and a filled-to-the-brim dining room at Cesar's Old Mexico, a popular spot that delivers on quality. Street-style tacos come topped with onion, cilantro and guacamole with your choice of numerous proteins. The juicy birria and flavorful Cesar's pork are must-try favorites. Don't miss the margaritas here; they are delicious and strong.

6 Tarragon Chicken Salad Sandwich at Derby Deli

2023 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, 417-823-3551, derbydeli.com

Located inside Brown Derby International Wine Center, Derby Deli is a hopping spot at lunchtime with a menu that truly lives up to the hype. The tarragon chicken salad sandwich is an addictive customer favorite, topped with lettuce, tomato and thick-cut bacon. Make sure to order it with a fresh salad on the side.

7 Cottage House at Sleepy Opossum Cafe

1423 E. Cherry St., Suite 101, Springfield, 417-379-9401, instagram.com/sleepyopossumcafe

With lovely decor that gives big Wes Anderson vibes, this restaurant space is The Royal Music Hall at night and Sleepy Opossum Cafe during the day. Don't miss the hashbrown bowls, especially the Cottage House, which features braised greens, bacon, fried eggs, chili crisp and miso-butter roasted turnips. Hot tip: The cakes are second-to-none, so treat yourself to a slice of whatever they are offering when you visit.

8 Scallop Ceviche at Vantage Rooftop Bar & Conservatory

260 E. McDaniel St., Springfield
417-832-1515, rooftopvantage.com

Located at Hotel Vandivort and overlooking downtown Springfield, Vantage is a sophisticated spot with an Art Deco-inspired interior, huge windows and lots of outdoor seating. The cocktails are creative and change with the seasons (as does the food menu), and there is even a small menu of tasty mocktails. As for food, the shareable small plates are always a good choice, but we recommend making a beeline for the raw bar—specifically for the scallop ceviche, which is served with watermelon radish, scallion and fresno chili for a lovely presentation.

9 Lamb Rogan Josh at Taj Mahal

1250 E. Republic Road, Springfield
417-719-4573, tajmahalsgf.com

The menu is huge at Taj Mahal, and there's plenty of variety so you can find something for everyone. Get a handful of dishes and share them family-style, so you can try all kinds of flavors. Here's one way to do it: Start with the vegetable samosa appetizer and treat yourself to a mango lassi. Then order the karahi paneer, lamb rogan josh and chicken jalfrezi entrees. The lamb rogan josh is particularly addictive! For dessert, try the ras malai homemade cheese served with pistachios.

10 Springfield-Style Cashew Chicken at Leong's Asian Diner

1540 W. Republic Road, Springfield, 417-887-7500, leongsasiandiner.com

No Springfield food bucket list would be complete without cashew chicken! This dish of fried chicken bites topped with an oyster sauce-based gravy, cashews and green onions was invented here by David Leong in the 1960s. Today, you can get the dish at just about any Chinese spot in town. But you have to try the original by visiting Leong's Asian Diner, where David's son Wing Yee Leong is still making cashew chicken using his dad's recipe and techniques.



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LET'S GET Crafty

Welcome to the Queen City where we're never short on craft breweries.

**BY MARY ELLEN CHILES
WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM
JORDAN BLOMQUIST**



MEET SPENCER HARRIS

We asked Spencer Harris, a local beer connoisseur and former co-host of *The Mixed Six* podcast, to share his favorite local brews.

4 BY 4 BREWING CO.

Springfield and Ozark, 417-861-6400, 4by4brewing-company.com

Known for: Check out this brewery across the street from Sequiota Park or make your way to its second location in Ozark. It's a fun-loving spot that features live music, trivia and Laptop Fridays when you can finish up your work week with a craft beer.

Spencer's pick: Parkside Pineapple

Best for: Relaxing after a bike ride or walk at Sequiota Park

GREAT ESCAPE BEER WORKS

Springfield and Republic, 417-824-4043, greatest-capebeerworks.com

Known for: This is a laid-back brewery off the Galloway Creek Greenway Trail that feels like a mountain town hangout thanks to the second-story balcony. They just opened a second location in Republic, Missouri, as well!

Try this: Full Quiver Lager-Munich Dunkel

Best for: Patio seating

Tie & Timber regularly hosts live music.

HOLD FAST BREWING

Springfield, 417-761-2318, hfbrewing.com

Known for: This open-air tap house is perfect for enjoying the downtown scenery. This versatile brewery offers trivia nights and a “Books and Brews” reading club, plus food trucks and live music.

Spencer’s pick: Patio Pleaser-Golden Ale

Best for: Drag brunch complete with queens and breakfast food trucks

MOTHER’S BREWING CO.

Springfield, 417-862-0423, mothersbrewing.com

Known for: This brewery is the place to be for spending time with people of all ages outside. You can play cornhole on the lawn, and there’s a play-ground for the little ones. There’s also live music inside and outside, and Springfield’s wiffle ball league plays here every Wednesday in the summer.

Spencer’s pick: Winter Grind-Coffee Stout

Best for: Yard games and a drink when you have the kids in tow

PINEY RIVER BREWING COMPANY

Bucyrus, 417-967-4001, pineyriverbrewing.com

Known for: This Ozarks-style brewery is worth the drive east. It’s housed on a 160-acre farm where you can enjoy homemade pizza and soft pretzels

at the converted BARn Taproom. Stop here after a float trip or just for a day in the country. There are plenty of lodging options nearby, too.

Try this: Black Walnut Wheat

Best for: A refreshing beverage on beautiful farmland

SPRINGFIELD BREWING CO.

Springfield and Willard, 417-832-8277, springfield-brewingco.com

Known for: This is a great place to hear live music and to catch a game while enjoying classic pub fare and a great local beer (or root beer). Check out their second location in the Ozark Greenways, Inc. mural building, along the Frisco Highline Trail in Willard, Missouri.

Spencer’s pick: Greene Ghost IPA-India Pale Ale or the Margarita Style Squeeze-Kettle Sour Ale with Lime and Salt

Best for: When you want a flight of great beer to go with your meal

TIE & TIMBER BEER CO.

Springfield, 417-429-9131, tieandtimberbeerco.com

Known for: Located in the Rountree neighborhood, this brewery is home to regular live music. Sit in the beer garden and enjoy the dog watching.

Spencer’s pick: Hey Mr.-Tangerine Sour

Best for: Live music

WHITE RIVER BREWING CO.

Springfield, 417-600-2739, whiteriverbrewing.com

Known for: Located on Commercial Street, this is a friendly neighborhood bar where you can meet a friend. This eclectic place offers musical shows, trivia nights, game nights and even yoga classes. The brewery doesn’t serve food but allows guests to bring their own.

Try this: Table Rock Red Ale

Best for: A quick drink while you shop on C-Street

WIRE ROAD BREWING COMPANY

Battlefield, 417-512-7391, wireroadbrewing.com

Known for: Not only does Wire Road Brewing Company serve beer, it also has Copper Canyon coffee and an early morning call time. Need a bite to eat? You can find food trucks here every day. You can even join a yoga class in the beer garden—a drink is included!

Spencer’s pick: Limestone Cowboy-Kettle Sour with Lime Peel and Wilson’s Kriek-Belgian Wild Ale Aged on Tart Cherries

Best for: Visiting with pals and dogs on the covered patio

Enjoy a beer flight from Wire Road Brewing Company.



Photo by Joshua Beecher, courtesy Spencer Harris

A CUP OF SWMO

Grab a mug and settle in. This is your guide to the best locally-owned coffee in 417-land.

BY REN BISHOP

COFFEE ETHIC

124 Park Central Square, Springfield, 417-866-6645

Known for: The Coffee Ethic is for sophisticated coffee lovers, who love exposed brick paired with a simple, sublime seasonal menu and homemade cookies and scones.

Best sip: The honey lavender latte is a can't-miss sip, but our favorite is the simple and strong Remedy Cold Brew Coffee.

EURASIA COFFEE CO

445 E. Commercial St., Springfield, 417-720-1949

Known for: Eurasia uses 100% Arabica coffee. The atmosphere inside the shop is the definition of cozy and inviting.

Best sip: The blonde mocha is a delicious mix of steamed milk, espresso and white chocolate.

KINGDOM COFFEE

Two locations: 211 S. Market Ave., 2896 S. Lone Pine Ave., Springfield, 417-350-1234

Known for: This is where you go to work and munch on a burrito trailside or downtown. Kingdom Coffee is earth tones and warm oatmeal with premium coffee served hot or as a satisfying cold brew.

Best sip: The cortado, a 1:1 milk and espresso to jumpstart a busy day. Try it with a specialty espresso, sourced from Nicaragua or Colombia.

ARCHITECT COFFEE CO.

1604 E. Republic Road, Springfield, 417-771-5030

Known for: Need a work-appropriate spot to grab lunch, meet a colleague or work remotely? This coffee lounge and cafe is it.

Best sip: The honey coconut latte is a sweet and smoky blend of espresso, wildflower honey and coconut syrup.

CLASSIC ROCK COFFEE

Three locations: 1900 W. Sunset, Springfield, 535 W. Walnut, Springfield, 1230 US Highway 60 E, Republic, 417-232-0835

Known for: So good it's global, Classic Rock Coffee began in Springfield in 2011. With locations literally around the world, this java house made it big with

Kingdom Coffee is an ideal place to work or catch up with friends.

a mix of black coffee, flavorful lattes, smoothies and Rock 'n Roll.

Best sip: The Sister Hazelnut Latte is one of the most popular flavored drinks, inspired by, you know, classic rock songs.

ECHELON COFFEE ▾

2407 N. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, 417-374-2739

Known for: Echelon has it all: an Instagrammable interior, quick access to I-44 and a drive-thru. It also has quick menu items you can grab when you're on the go.

Best sip: The Formation, a perfect combination of espresso, vanilla, cinnamon and honey.

ROOTS COFFEE BAR

1645 E. Republic Road, Springfield, 417-877-6889

Known for: A boho modern vibe, chalkboard menu and all, Roots is where you can get a raspberry truffle latte and local Kombucha.

Best sip: A dirty chai latte.

DANCING MULE

1945 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, 417-883-5114

Known for: A convenient, center-city drive-thru and specialty lattes... 49 flavor combinations to be exact.

Best sip: No two mules are alike, but we enjoy the yin and yang latte, which is a white and dark chocolate pairing.

MUDHOUSE COFFEE

Two locations: 323 South Ave., Springfield, 5401 N. 22nd St., Ozark, 417-832-1720

Known for: Signature frozen drinks and worn leather couches, Mudhouse might be the granddaddy of downtown coffee shops.

Best sip: The Mud Puddle, a better-than-frappe chocolate smoothie drenched in whipped cream. It's an icon, just like this downtown coffee shop.

TRAVELLERS HOUSE COFFEE & TEA

Two locations: 2151 W. Republic Rd., Springfield, 824 S. National Ave., Springfield

Known for: Hot, iced or frozen expertly crafted coffee and premium loose-leaf tea. You can also find them at the Springfield-Branson National Airport.

Best sip: If you have a sweet tooth, try the Snickers latte—a mix of espresso, caramel, dark chocolate and hazelnut.



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Where Community Grows

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

BY KELSEY BROWN

**WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM
JORDAN BLOMQUIST**

FARMERS MARKET OF THE OZARKS

2144 E. Republic Road, Springfield;
Saturdays 8 a.m.–1 p.m. (year-round);
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. Local musicians, arts and crafts activities and educational booths also fill the market with fun. 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; Saturday 8 a.m.–noon (year-round), Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 a.m.–noon (April–October);
springfieldfarmersmarket.com

The Greater Springfield Farmers' Market has been thriving for over 40 years. This year-round market has an ever-growing list of vendors, special events, nonprofit community groups and local artisans that always keep things interesting. This spacious market is pet-friendly and family-oriented, and these vendors even support local food pantries by donating unsold goods.



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

C-STREET CITY MARKET

321 E. Commercial St., Springfield;
Saturdays 9 a.m.–2 p.m. and
Thursdays 4–8 p.m. (April–October);
cstreetcitymarket.com

The C-Street City Market has grown exponentially to feature dozens of vendors each week. This market brags some of the best baked goods in just about every category, 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.

OZARK FARMERS MARKET

844 Finley Farms Lane, Ozark;
Thursdays 3–7 p.m. (May–September);
ozarkfarmersmarket.com

Load up mid-week on locally grown fruits and vegetables, as well as locally raised meats at the Ozark Farmers Market at Finley Farms. You can even grab dinner at a food truck and listen to live music. Besides fresh produce, baked goods and arts and crafts from local vendors, the market offers special events like beekeeping demonstrations and an artisans market.

FARM FRESH RESTAURANTS

Missed the market? These restaurants use farm-fresh ingredients in their dishes.

Harvest Restaurant

8011 E. State Hwy AD, Rogersville

Great for: Quality meats and homemade desserts. Their menu changes each weekend depending on what's in season.

The Ozark Mill Restaurant

802 Finley Farms Ln., Ozark

Great for: Seasonal dishes that feature local and sustainable food sources, as well as produce grown on-site.

Farmers Gastropub

2620 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield

Great for: British and American food made with locally sourced ingredients, offering a mix of classic dishes and creative options.

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Citizens Memorial Hospital (CMH) is a fully integrated health care system based in Bolivar, Missouri, serving eight counties in southwest Missouri. Since 1982, CMH has been committed to exceptional patient care. The hospital is licensed for 86 beds and is a Level III Trauma Center, Level II STEMI Center and Level III Stroke Center.

CMH offers comprehensive health care services through 34 primary and specialty care clinics, and rehabilitation and ambulance services, providing comprehensive health care for patients in the Ozarks.



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The CMH Foundation supports six long-term care facilities and one residential care center, independent living communities, home health and hospice services, home medical equipment stores and retail pharmacies, offering essential care across the region.

CMH is nationally recognized for its innovation and quality, earning the prestigious Davies Award of Excellence and being named a Top 10 Rural Hospital in America. CMH is one of the region's largest employers and is currently undergoing a 117,000-square-foot expansion and a 22,250-square-foot renovation project that will include private patient rooms. The project is scheduled for completion in 2026.

MORE INFORMATION
417-326-6000 | citizensmemorial.com



play

HOW 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 is bustling with more than 27 retail shops, 64 restaurants and bars and four live theaters.

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



Photo by Brandon Alms

Festivals Galore 68 • Date Night 70 • Find Your Adventure 74 • Kid Around 85

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

January

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

This festival is packed with performances, food and fun, representing different cultures from around the world.

February

SERTOMA CHILI COOKOFF

A savory aroma fills the air at the Springfield Expo Center during this annual fundraiser, featuring hot chili and cold drinks. 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 event marches from C-Street to downtown with contests, prizes, food and plenty of smiles.



The St. Patrick's Day parade is a popular one held each year.

April

CHERRY BLOSSOM KITE AND PIÑATA FESTIVAL

The Cherry Blossom Kite and Piñata Festival celebrates Japanese and Mexican culture through performances, along with snacks, candies, drinks and souvenirs.

May

ARTSFEST

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

June

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.

TASTE OF SOMO

This foodie event brings out the region's favorite local restaurants, offering samples of their most popular fare.

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 on the third Saturday in June.



August

BIRTHPLACE OF 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.

September

JAPANESE FALL FESTIVAL

This popular fall festival held at the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park features children's activities, performers, storytelling and authentic arts and crafts stations. 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, Iseaki, 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.

The Cherry Blossom Kite and Piñata Festival is a fun, family-friendly event.



MO FOOD TRUCK FEST

Held at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, the MO Food Truck Fest is a great excuse to try all the food trucks you've been seeing around town all at once.

October

CELEBRATE SPRINGFIELD

At the beginning of each October, Celebrate Springfield hosts an event to bring together the best Springfield has to offer. With art, food and live performances. It's just an amazing way to say, "I love where I live!"

TASTE OF TLAQUEPAQUE

Experience the lively spirit of Mexico right here in Springfield. This event highlights the traditional music and culture of Tlaquepaque, Jalisco, one of Springfield's sister cities.

THRILLER ON C-STREET

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

November

WINGAPALOOZA

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 a great cause, as the money goes to help local youth charities.

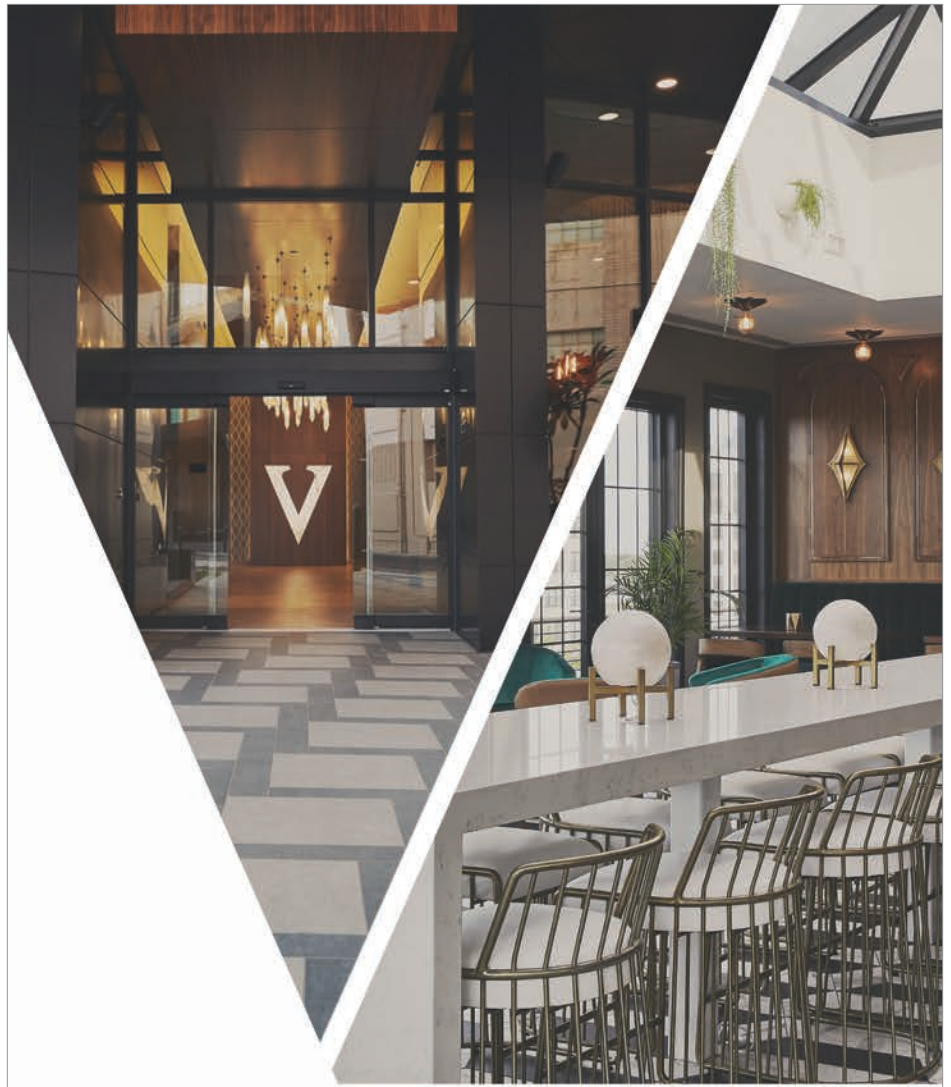
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Downtown Springfield is set aglow with thousands of beautiful lights during this annual holiday celebration.

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.



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305 E. Walnut St. Springfield, MO
(417) 832-1515



Date Night

Looking for the perfect date spot?
Check out these local gems.

BY KAREN BLISS
WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM
JORDAN BLOMQUIST

PLAY

Alamo Drafthouse

417-708-9599, drafthouse.com/springfield

The Goods: Sit back and enjoy a film at Alamo Drafthouse. Springfield's location is the biggest of all Alamo locations in the United States.

Must Try: The best part of seeing a movie at the Alamo? You have a full food and drink menu to order from any time during the film.

BigShots Golf

417-427-3040, bigshotsgolf.com

The Goods: Feel like a big shot playing on the driving range at BigShots Golf. You can get together with a group, book a private tee-box and play your heart out.

Must Try: Have a drink and play a game of golf. BigShots has its own drink menu that includes handcrafted cocktails such as the watermelon mojito, fairway classics such as a Mimosa, a wine menu to class it up, beer and boozy popsicles.

Blue Room Comedy Club

417-228-8403, blueroomcomedyclub.com

The Goods: Springfield's adult comedy club showcases beloved local acts alongside renowned talents from around the country.

Must Try: Come hungry and try a gourmet sandwich. Don't miss out on Moosie's Meatballs.

EAT

Flame Steakhouse and Wine Bar

417-862-4444, 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.

Ariake Sushi & Robata

417-501-1675, ariakesushirobata.com

The Goods: Ariake is Springfield's new sushi destination, offering high-quality ingredients and exclusive omakase experiences.

Must Try: You can't visit without trying the tuna cigars and a specialty cocktail.

14 Mill Market

417-763-6500, 14millmarket.com

The Goods: 14 Mill Market is Nixa, Missouri's food hall—located just outside of Springfield. They have multiple different restaurant concepts and



The Moxy is Springfield's newest rooftop bar.

sweet treats and outdoor entertainment areas.

Must Try: A traditional cocktail with a modern twist from the full-service bar.

DRINK

The Golden Girl Rum Club

417-425-5162, thegoldengirl.com

The Goods: Summer never ends at this downtown rum bar. The glassware is a hoot, the pizzas are homemade and the Korean barbecue tacos are a must.

Must Try: Try the Golden Girl's bestseller, 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

417-851-1768, 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 a 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 eight-person igloos.

MudLounge

417-368-8298, mudlounge.net

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

Must Try: The Tiramisu Tini is a favorite, a delicious blend of RumChata, MudLounge Kahlúa, chocolate liqueur and soy milk.

SWEETS

Pineapple Whip

417-207-3975, pineapplewhip.com

The Goods: Craving a cool treat? Pineapple Whip is one of Springfield's original sweet treats. With multiple locations all over town, it's a great spot to sit and enjoy a true Springfield creation.

Must Try: Although people often think of pineapple flavor, each location offers various

flavors. The company often updates its Facebook page with the flavors offered at each location. Additional fruity flavors include grape, strawberry-kiwi, lemon berry and mango peach.

Andy's Frozen Custard

Several locations around town, eatandys.com

The Goods: With its sweet frozen custard, Andy's has made its mark. You can sit in your car, eat outside or take home a pint of a variety of frozen custard treats. Be sure to try the seasonal specials.

Must Try: Depending on the time of year, you might be able to get a blackberry, blueberry or peach concrete. If you're there when the key lime pie concrete is on the menu, get it!

STAY

Hotel Vandivort

417-832-1515, 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.



Moxy

417-501-7773, marriott.com/en-us/hotels/sgfox-moxy-springfield-downtown

The Goods: Moxy is Springfield's newest downtown hotel with a rooftop bar—the perfect spot to snap a photo.

Must Try: Visit Eyrie Rooftop Bar & Kitchen, where the energy is as high as the views are stunning. The view pairs perfectly with one of their vibrant mojitos, made with signature house mint syrup and fresh muddled limes.

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Shop 'TIL YOU DROP

Local boutiques offer unique products you can't find in other stores, curated by passionate 417-landers.

**BY JESSICA HAMMER AND
SUSAN ATTEBERRY SMITH
WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING
FROM ALLIE FREE**



Staxx features popular brands for clothing, accessories and jewelry.

FOR HER STAXX

2632 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield
417-866-2900, shopstaxx.com

More than a dozen boutique brands tempt shoppers at this upscale Brentwood Center women's clothing store with a casual, youthful vibe. Beach Riot swimsuits and BaubleBar jewelry are also part of STAXX's eye-catching inventory.

Modern Society Apparel

2652 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield
417-831-0775, modernsocietyapparel.com
Modern Society is known for its contemporary style and has racks stocked with staples like denim, dresses (party or casual), tops and all the latest accessories, hats and posh loungewear. You'll feel stylish just window shopping.

Clothe Boutique

2644 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield
417-593-2513, clotheboutique.com
Casualwear galore can be bought at this boutique: crop tops, dresses, rompers, hats, accessories and classic shirt and pants styles. All of their items can be easily accentuated with their 14K gold and sterling silver bracelets, anklets, necklaces and rings also offered in-store.

FOR HIM

Blackwell's Men's Clothing

2716 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield
417-887-8200, blackwellsmensclothing.com
This masculine attire store connects customers with dozens of men's apparel options made with high-quality materials. From Fidelity denim made in the good ol' US-of-A to luxury leather goods from Milestone Leather and Missani, this is the best place to shop for a classy man in your life.

Town & County Men's Clothing

2660 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield
417-883-6131, shoptownandcounty.com

A fixture on Springfield's retail scene since 1957, this family-owned fine clothing store outfits customers in everything from stylish business suits to swimsuits. Classy is the vibe, classic customer service is a point of pride. Its renovated store now boasts a specialty wine shop, The Reserve.

5 Pound Apparel

412 South Ave., Springfield
417-368-6401, 5poundapparel.com
Look and feel good after shopping at 5 Pound Apparel. The store carries a 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 Relics Antique Mall

2015 W. Battlefield Road, Springfield
417-885-0007, 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 an event center to boot.

Camp Flea Antique Mall + Vintage Market

1900 W. Elm St., Ozark
417-581-2575, campflea.com
Tucked away off of U.S. Highway 65 in Ozark, this 26,000-square-foot mall and market houses more than 200 booths and aisle upon aisle of farmhouse primitives, industrial relics and vintage kitsch—and even some not-so-vintage finds of all kinds.

Renewed Treasures Thrift Store

824 W. Commercial St., Springfield
417-848-4320,

renewedtreasuresministries.org
This cozy thrift store offers clothing, home decor, knick-knacks, furniture, appliances and more for those looking for a good deal. The business is also a 501(c)(3) charity that supports a transitional home for women.

FOR THE KIDS

Jellybeans

2632 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield
417-889-2117, tinytotstweens.com
This boutique sells toys, clothes, swim gear, jewelry and other accessories for ages newborn to 24 months, tots sizes 2T to 6X and tweens sizes 7 to 14. On their website, customers can also create baby registries and look at others already posted.

Haute Tot Upscale Kids Resale

1975 E. Independence St., Springfield
417-720-1602, hautetotupscalekidsresale.com
From size preemie to youth 18, this resale shop offers kids' clothes, shoes, books and toys alongside maternity clothing and other equipment. You can sell gently used clothing to them too.

Jade Tank

1111 E. Republic Road, Suite 148, Springfield
417-708-1424, shopjadetank.com
Bright colors and trendy patterns (like leopard and tie-dye) line the racks, ready for tween shoppers to choose their favorites. Jade Tank carries tops, bottoms, dresses and even pajamas in sizes 7 to 16. Plus, the shop is passionate about giving back—a portion of each sale supports St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

FOR THE HOME

Obelisk Home

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

House Counsel Interior Design

1959 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield
417-501-1331, housecounsel.com
This sleek home decor and furnishings business has recently relocated and is excited to continue offering high-quality products alongside its professional interior design services.





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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 and beyond.

BY ETTIE BERNEKING

The Buffalo National River was named the first national river in the United States.

HIKING

Dogwood Canyon Nature Park

Lampe, 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

Highlandville, mdc.mo.gov

Moderate

This 2,700-acre area winds through grassy fields, clear streams, woodlands and glades. The woody 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

St. Joe, Arkansas, 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 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.

BOATING & WATER SPORTS

Bent Hook Marina and Bass Pro Shops Long Creek Marina

Ridgedale, bigcedar.com, bigcedar.com/camp-long-creek

Easy to Moderate

Big Cedar Lodge's Bent Hook Marina offers an 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

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, wakeboarders 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

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 intertube or a multi-day adventure. Campground and gravel bars present ideal opportunities to get off the grid, and the Current is even floatable all year-round.

BIKING

Frisco Highline Trail

Springfield, ozarkgreenways.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, trailspring.org

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.

Sac River Mountain Bike Trail

Springfield, ozarkgreenways.org

Beginner to Advanced

This mountain-biking destination covers 300 acres and 8 miles of single-track routes. Located 3 miles north of Interstate 44, the Sac River Trail is a perfect location for sneaking in a quick ride.

KAYAKING

Fellows Lake

Springfield, springfieldmo.org/listing/fellows-lake/908

Easy to Moderate

Whether you're kayaking, fishing, paddleboarding or wildlife watching, Fellows Lake is a peaceful spot in the Ozarks. Fellows



Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center offers horseback riding opportunities in Springfield.

Lake spans 860 acres and has a fun family-friendly atmosphere. If you're fishing, you can expect to catch a mix of bass, crappie, walleye and muskie.

Lake Springfield

Springfield, parkboard.org/lakespringfield

Easy to Moderate

Take a break and cool off this summer at Lake Springfield. Canoes and kayaks are available to rent at the Lake Springfield Boathouse from April 15 to October 15. There are many stops along the way perfect for picnicking and watching the wildlife.

CLIMBING

Zenith Climbing Center

Springfield, 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

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.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center

Springfield, parkboard.org/288/Valley-Water-Mill-Park-Equestrian-Center

Easy to Advanced

For equestrian enthusiasts, Valley Water Mill boasts a 200 x 90 indoor arena with sand footing, a 170 x 115 fenced outdoor arena with limestone chat footing and a covered viewing deck. They offer introductory horsemanship classes, year-round riding lessons, summer camps and much more.

Photo by Brandon Alms

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The Sac River Mountain Bike Trails cater to all skill levels, from beginner to advanced.

Greenway to Explore the Ozarks

Since 1991, the leaders of Ozark Greenways have co-created some of the most beloved outdoor spaces around Springfield.

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. "[Guests love] the opportunity to connect with the outdoors in a welcoming environment," says John Montgomery, Frisco Highline Trail manager and interim executive director.

With a focus on building quality trails, Ozark Greenways has developed more than 110 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 among 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 Sequiota Park and its historic cave and Galloway Village's trailside restaurants and shops. The greenway trails are already popular among locals, and the city has plans to add to the number of trails.

The Fellows Lake Trails are an exciting addition to the region's trail system and are designed to preserve the area's natural beauty and wildlife. This 800-acre City Utilities property currently offers over 25 miles of interconnected natural surface trails through wooded areas with lake views. Open from sunrise to sunset, the trails accommodate hiking and running and are optimized for mountain biking.

"Our mission is to build a trail system that connects and enhances our community," Montgomery says. "We are the driving force behind a 200+ mile planned system of multi-use trails—a dynamic network of connected streams, parks, businesses and neighborhoods. Trails are recreation, transportation infrastructure, tourism destinations and quality-of-life necessities. Most importantly, trails connect people to our beautiful outdoors, each other and the places they want to go."



Plan Your Adventure

Ozark Greenways Inc.
417-501-4674
ozarkgreenways.org

Springfield-Greene
County Park Board
417-864-1049
parkboard.org

5

CAN'T-MISS STOPS ALONG 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. NATHANAEAL 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. BLACK LAB COFFEE CO.

3541 S. Lone Pine Ave., Springfield
417-429-2332

Grab an espresso on your way to or from Sequoia Park on Galloway Creek Greenway trail.

5. SPRINGFIELD CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

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

Escape to the outdoors within Springfield's city limits at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center. The 80-acre area features educational exhibits in its Visitor Center, plus 3 miles of winding, accessible trails. Along the boardwalk, find special blinds for bird watching and picnic tables for packed lunches or connect to the 5-mile Galloway Creek Greenway Trail.

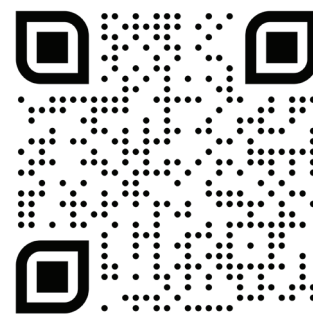


Photo by Springfield CVB



Ozark Greenways is the driving force behind a 200+ mile planned system of multi-use trails. A dynamic network of connected streams, parks, businesses and neighborhoods which provides for the enjoyment and economic development of our community. Trails play a crucial role in our community's quality of life and make this an awesome place to live, work and play. With 110 miles of trail built, there's something for everyone regardless of age, abilities or interests.

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE:





SPENDING THE 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. Go to visittablerocklake.com

for everything you need, including a lake map, events, places to stay and more.

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. 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 for the list of dive sites.

STOCKTON LAKE

Drive Time: 1 hour

Stockton Lake is one of the top 10 sailing lakes in the U.S. 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? Visit stocktonlake.com for more information.

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,



7

WAYS TO ENJOY OUR LAKES

BY HAILEY JO HOPKINS

1. TRY OUT SUP

Located in Hollister, Waves of Wellness offers you the chance to try the Hawaiian sport of stand-up paddleboarding. It provides an opportunity to work out on the lake while enjoying the beautiful, great outdoors. The best time of year for this is in the summer months, when cooling off by the lake is a must-do. Find out more information at wavesofwellnesswithdanielle.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 sometimes of the year. Check out 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 and canoes for rent. Visit 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) offers rustic, family-friendly cabins beside Table Rock Lake. It was 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) 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.

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). 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. Visit explorebranson.com/article/lake-taneycomo-complete-guide for everything you need to know.

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), 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 Springfield Cardinals play at Hammons Field.



Cooper Tennis Courts

A RISING HUB FOR SPORTS TOURISM

Springfield is becoming a premier sports destination with the acquisition of Hammons Field, the new Wilson Logistics Arena and investments in local complexes. Discover why these attractions are must-visits for residents and tourists alike.

BY SONIA GUZMAN

Hammons Field

Hammons Field stands as a cornerstone for sports tourism in the region. This baseball stadium, now secured with a long-term contract to host the Springfield Cardinals, draws thousands of fans each season. Its acquisition ensures the continuity of professional baseball in Springfield and attracts visitors from neighboring areas. The stadium's modern amenities, exciting promotional events and the chance to see future major league stars make it a must-visit destination for sports enthusiasts and tourists alike.

Cooper Tennis Complex

The Cooper Sports Complex in Springfield has top-tier facilities and ongoing enhancements. Recent investments are modernizing amenities, expanding the number of courts and improving spectator areas, making it an ideal venue for regional and national tournaments. Visitors can enjoy state-of-the-art facilities, a lively sports atmosphere and the chance to see the Springfield Lasers World Team Tennis.

Killian Softball Complex

The Killian Softball Complex in Springfield offers a welcoming atmosphere, attracting sports

enthusiasts of all levels. Recent upgrades, including new video boards and complete turfing of all eleven diamonds along the Cooper corridor, enhance the experience. With these improvements slated for completion by summer 2025, visitors can anticipate top-notch facilities and an exciting community spirit.

Wilson Logistics Arena

Wilson Logistics Arena, a 6,300-seat venue, has quickly become a Springfield sports tourism hub. In its first year, it hosted the USA BMX Show Me State Nationals and USA Cycling Collegiate BMX Championships, drawing over 1,000 riders from 41 states and four countries, with an attendance of 12,615 people over three days. It also hosted Missouri USA Wrestling's State Championships and is home to the Ozarks Lunkers professional arena football team during the summer. Tourists and sports fans are drawn to the arena for its exciting events, energetic atmosphere and high-caliber competitions.

Betty & Bobby Allison Sports Town

Betty & Bobby Allison Sports Town stands as a foremost destination for sports enthusiasts, boasting a wide range of amenities to cater to various athletic interests. With twelve soccer fields, four basketball courts (also convertible for volleyball), and two indoor turf soccer fields, the facility accommodates sports like basketball, volleyball, soccer, futsal, lacrosse and more. Area clubs such as Sporting Springfield and 417 Volleyball call the facility home for practices and competitions, while community events like car shows further highlight its versatility. Conveniently located at the Gateway of Springfield along I-44 and near the Springfield-Branson National Airport, this state-of-the-art facility offers unparalleled accessibility and opportunities for both athletes, attendees and event organizers.

SWEAT WITH The Best

Looking to change up your workout routine? We've rounded up a list of the best fitness centers in town to help you get started.

BY EMILY FUGE

GYMS

Orangetheory Fitness

Orangetheory Fitness provides classes designed to give you a full-body workout in a fun, supportive environment.

They offer: Strength training, rowing, treadmills, group classes

Snap Fitness

Snap Fitness is open 24 hours a day, complete with essential cardio and strength equipment. They have Springfield and Nixa locations.

They offer: Strength and personal training, group classes (Springfield location only), cardio equipment

Royal Barbell & Fitness

From beginners to advanced lifters, Royal Barbell & Fitness offers a great spot for powerlifting and the like. If you are looking for a class for beginners, their boot camps are a great option.

They offer: Bootcamps, personal training

Rage Fitness

Rage Fitness has locations in Springfield and Nixa. They have locker rooms, private showers, saunas, and tanning.

They offer: Strength equipment, fitness seminars

The YMCA

The YMCA is a nonprofit organization that serves the community through programs focused on healthy living and youth development. In addition to traditional gym equipment, the YMCA offers seminars, fitness programs, childcare and more.

They offer: Gym equipment, cycling, basketball court, pickleball, indoor pool

YOGA

Pure Hot Yoga

Pure Hot Yoga uses infrared heat, and their classes offer a next-level experience when it comes to connecting with your body and mind.

They offer: Hot yoga, barre

S.W.E.T. Hot Yoga and Fitness

S.W.E.T. features a variety of classes in their studios for both the experienced and novices. With their studios being kept at 95-105°F, the classes offered

are designed to help customers build strength, find wellness, increase energy and tone their mind and body.

They offer: Hot yoga, barre, power dance, buti yoga

Sumits Yoga

Sumits Yoga offers a variety of daily classes for all levels. With professionally trained instructors on hand, you'll be learning from the best.

They offer: Hot yoga, barre

CROSSFIT

XFit Personal Training

XFit Personal Training offers group and personal fitness classes at flexible hours. You can find it just off of James River Freeway.

They offer: Cardiovascular and weight training equipment, group classes, personal training

Crossfit Provision

Crossfit Provision offers group training sessions with accredited professionals, custom nutrition and meal plans and a supportive community atmosphere.

They offer: Open gym, group classes

CYCLING

MXVE Cardio Club

MXVE Cardio Club is perfect if cycling is your thing or if you would like to give it a try. With energetic coaches and an encouraging community, there is truly something for everyone here.

They offer: cycling, community running groups



ABOUT US

Allison Sports Town's mission is to provide the four-state region with a premier multi-sport complex for the enhancement and development of recreational and competitive athletics for all ages. We are committed to promoting sportsmanship, respect, integrity, self-discipline, and character development.

All throughout the year we offer a variety of opportunities for your sports needs. We have Summer Camps, sports camps, adult leagues, youth leagues, tournaments, birthday parties and more!

CONTACT US

We would love to host your next tournament or event! Reach out to us and let us help you make it happen.

-  417-530-1600
-  209 N Airport Blvd
Springfield, MO 65802
-  www.allisonspportstown.com
-  @allisonspportstown
-  @allisonspportstown



JOIN THE FUN!



Art on the Go

Looking for art in Springfield? You'll find it indoors, outdoors and just around the corner. Here are five ways to enjoy the city's art, no matter where you find it.

BY SUSAN ATTEBERRY SMITH



A glimpse of Sculpture Walk

Take a Walking Tour

Slip on comfy shoes and check out **Sculpture Walk Springfield**. This is your window to an outdoor art museum of sorts where an online map and audiocast tour can guide you as you start a scavenger hunt for more than 25 sculptures in downtown Springfield, Jordan Valley Park and the Rountree neighborhood near Missouri State University. For more information, visit sculpturewalkspringfield.org.

Make a Night of Gallery-Hopping

Since 001, art lovers have looked forward to **Springfield's First Friday Art Walk**, when galleries in the city's downtown arts district open their doors to the public. From 5 to 10 p.m. on the first Friday of each month, you can walk from venue to venue to view the work of a wide variety of local artists, all while listening to live music.

First Friday Art Walk's website has a map and information about upcoming exhibitions and performances. Visit ffaw.org.

Hit All the Selfie Spots

Looking for some artsy selfie backdrops to show off new favorite places? Colorful murals abound in the Queen City. Start with the postcard-like "Greetings from Springfield" mural at the **Discovery Center** (438 E. Saint Louis St.) or walk along the **Ozark Greenways Trails** and stumble upon vibrant butterflies, bees and flowers on the walls of the **Fassnacht Creek Greenway Trail** underpass or spot the fantastical scenes lining the **Systematic Savings Bank** tunnel (318 South Ave.).

On historic **Commercial Street**, stand under vibrant coneflowers or, on your day off, lean with Ferris Bueller against the red Ferrari. At **Dickerson Park Zoo** (1401 W. Norton Road), spread your wings with a butterfly or eagle—or feel even smaller under a gigantic bee at **Farmers Park** (2144 E. Republic Road). Drive by the **efactory** to see the vibrant murals on its building (405 N. Jefferson Ave., Springfield).

Go Old School

If some peace and quiet for contemplating fine art is more your style, the **Springfield Art Museum** (sgfmuseum.org) offers that and more for free—and thanks to the start of a \$25 million renovation. Along with exhibits of objects and two-dimensional art in its permanent collection, the museum hosts special exhibits of works by acclaimed contemporary artists, including Watercolor USA each summer.

Take a Road Trip

Take the windy and scenic roads to **Crystal Bridges** (crystalbridges.org) in Bentonville, Arkansas, where general admission is always free. The museum features American art and stunning architecture, surrounded by 120 acres of nature.



The "Greetings from Springfield" mural at the Discovery Center



Find this colorful mural at efactory



Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art



First Friday Art Walk



Springfield Ballet



Sculpture Walk Springfield



Ozarks Lyric Opera



Springfield Symphony Orchestra



Gallery Exhibitions



Artsfest



Mosaic Arts Collective



Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts



where art lives

Check our website for more information about the arts organizations that call Springfield home.

SpringfieldArts.org

EXHIBITING *Excellence*

Diversity and variety define Springfield culture, and the arts scene is no exception. Here, monthly art walks attract locals and visitors to downtown to take in visual and performing arts. In addition to these monthly events, you can find creativity on the regular at a few unique spots, galleries and museums in the city.

BY JESSICA HAMMER
WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM
EMILY FUGE

First Friday Art Walk (417-862-2787, springfielddarts.org/first-friday-art-walk) offers a free stroll through downtown art galleries, restaurants and businesses with a revolving display of local art 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) has been entertaining Springfield audiences since 1926 and has been restored to its original beauty. 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) is home to more than 10,000 works of art. Special collections include 19th, 20th and 21st-century American paintings, watercolors, sculptures 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) 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.

Springfield Ballet (417-862-1343, 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



Seeing *The Nutcracker* is a beloved tradition by many here in Springfield.



▲ The Ozarks Lyric Opera featured *Black Rider* in one of their performances.

ballet productions to the Ozarks each year, enhanced by professional guest artists.

Springfield Contemporary Theatre (417-831-8001, springfieldcontemporarytheatre.org) performs many productions year-round, such as *Hair*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Nine: The Musical* and *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* SCT produces theater through a contemporary view utilizing intimate staging and guest professionals acting throughout the season.

Springfield Little Theatre (417-869-1334, 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 theatre brings the best of Broadway to Springfield with classics including *Les Miserables*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

The mission of the **Ozarks Lyric Opera** (417-763-5661, ozarksllyricopera.com) 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. Ozarks Lyric Opera seeks talent in Springfield but is also known for casting opera singers from New York City and abroad to bring the best and brightest to the stage.

Springfield Improv (417-840-3932, springfieldimprov.com) guarantees you will laugh louder and laugh more. Located downtown, the group hosts family-friendly and hilarious comedy performances every first Saturday at 8 p.m.

Springfield Symphony Orchestra (417-864-6683, springfieldsymphony.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 Springfieldians at its open-air **Tent Theatre** (417-836-7678, tenttheatre.missouristate.edu), located on campus grounds. Each summer, you can watch students and professional actors perform in three productions.

As one of USA Today's Best New Attractions in 2019, the **Springfield History Museum on the Square** (417-831-1976, 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 on Park Central Square.

Visitors can explore the wildlife at Dickerson Park Zoo.



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 KAREN BLISS WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM EMILY FUGE

THE ARTS

Help your kiddos unleash their artistic side at the **Springfield Art Museum** (417-837-5700, sgfmuseum.org). They offer classes in fall, winter and spring and weekly art camps in the summer.

Springfield Pottery (417-864-4677, springfieldpottery.com) offers weekly, three-hour pottery classes for teens aged 16 and up.

They can even take a class at **Art Zone** (417-224-9816, 840 W. Guin Rd. Nixa) and try out pottery, painting and more.

Woodworking is a great activity for kids at **AR Workshop** (417-429-0803, 1550 E. Battlefield, Ste. N-1).

From picture frames to bowls, **Artistree Pottery** (417-368-0004, 1423 E. Cherry St.) has tons of pottery projects that would be perfect for a parent-child date. Artistree has birthday party ideas for kids of all ages. Tiny tots can paint figures, while young children can paint their own storybooks.

BOWLING

Andy B's (417-883-1234, andybspringfield.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 just young at heart—to let loose.

DANCE

Ann's Performing Arts Centre (417-881-1211, annsdancers.com) is a multi-studio complex offering recreational and competitive classes for children ages 3 and up.

Children can plié their way into classical ballet training at **Springfield Ballet** (417-862-1343, springfieldballet.org). Students can also take jazz, tap and modern dance classes.

If you're looking for something a little differ-

ent, send your tiny dancer to **Pat's Clogging Studios** (417-833-4827) to learn the ancient 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). Swimming lessons are available for children of all ages, including babies.

FARM-STYLE LEARNING

Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park (417-837-5949, parkboard.org) is a 207-acre farm perfect for a day outside with the family. 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. In the fall, head to Harvest Fest, which includes a corn maze, pumpkin patch, hayrides and more.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Young equestrians can learn the ropes at the **Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center** (417-833-8647, parkboard.org). The HorseSHOE Program teaches basic skills on horse safety, grooming, saddling and riding. Serious horse lovers can attend a summer camp, complete with riding lessons, obstacle courses and horse soccer games.

INDOOR FUN

Children of all ages love **Incredible Pizza** (417-501-0826, springfieldincrediblepizza.com). Grab a bite at the pizza bar and spend hours at play with laser tag, go-karts and arcade games.

Fitness meets fun at **Urban Air Adventure Park** (417-210-7889, urbanairtrampolinepark.com). Aside from fantastic trampolines, there are rock climbing walls, ropes courses, virtual reality

games, a zipline, an obstacle course, an indoor playground and much more.

For your imaginative youngster, **Itty Bitty City** (417-202-2025, ittybitty.city) offers creative play opportunities. Kids can roam around The Village, where they can pretend to be veterinarians, firefighters, chefs and more. They can put on a show on Itty Bitty City's little stage, build with giant foam blocks or get a little messy at the Waterworks water table.

MUSIC

Musicians can check out **Ernie Williamson Music** (417-881-1373, erniewilliamson.com), one of the top 100 music retailers in the U.S.

Known for its comprehensive private music lesson programs, **Springfield Music** offers lessons in guitar, piano, vocals, violin, drums and much more.

PERFORMING ARTS

Springfield Little Theatre (417-869-4047, 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** (417-840-3932, springfieldimprov.com) offers improv training for teens ages 16 and older who are with an adult.

SCIENCE

Discovery Center of Springfield (417-862-9910, discoverycenter.org) blends education with fun through science experiments, anatomical models, summer camps and more.

SKATING

Lace up your skates and glide across the ice at **Jordan Valley Ice Park** (417-866-7444, parkboard.org). The indoor rink offers open skating sessions, figure skating lessons and kids leagues.

At **Skateland** (417-881-8011, springfieldskateland.com), roller skating is fun for all ages. It's a wonderful birthday party destination, and you can even rent the entire rink for a private event.


STUDYING THE ANIMAL WORLD

Dickerson Park Zoo (417-833-1570, dickersonparkzoo.org) is a great family outing, and in between visits, children can tap into their wild side with education classes featuring live animal encounters, crafts, stories, games and snacks.

Wild Animal Safari (417-859-5300, animal-safari.com) is a drive-thru animal park that's great in any season, including the holidays with its Christmas light displays. From the comfort of your vehicle, snake through the park and behold bison, African water buffalo, zebra and more as the animals roam free.

SWIMMING

Even in the wintertime, families can splash around at the **Chesterfield Family Center Indoor Aquatics** (417-891-1616) or **Doling Family Center Indoor Aquatics** (parkboard.org/aquatics). During the summer, Republic, Ozark, Nixa and Springfield all have great outdoor community centers with pools and water features.



Guests admire aquatic life at Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium.

How to WOW Your Family

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

BY REN BISHOP

There are tourist attractions, and then there are discovery destinations, which is exactly what Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium (WOW) 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 flagship store (500 W. Sunshine St., Springfield, wondersofwildlife.org). The 350,000-square-foot attraction is unlimited 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. WOW is wheelchair accessible and stroller friendly. Wherever you begin, lace up your sneakers, unfold the stroller and grab your camera—this place 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 and 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. You won't want to miss chilling out with the penguins at Penguin Cove.

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. 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 Wildlife Galleries. 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 project on 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.



Your Future, Our Mission

At The Arc of the Ozarks Autism & Neurodevelopmental Center, we provide a unique, multidisciplinary approach to care, offering comprehensive evaluations, accurate diagnoses, and personalized treatment plans tailored to each individual's needs. Our one-of-a-kind center is dedicated to transforming lives through innovative, compassionate care. When you choose us, you become part of a supportive community that values collaboration and is committed to helping you or your loved one thrive.

Are you a dedicated professional looking to make a meaningful impact in the community? Joining our team means becoming part of a community that values innovation, collaboration, and compassion. Here, your expertise will be valued, and your contributions will make a real difference.

Whether you're seeking services or a fulfilling career, we're here to support your future. Explore opportunities to join our team or learn more about our services by scanning the QR code.



Autism & Neurodevelopmental Center

GET CONNECTED

2864 S. Nettleton Ave. Springfield, MO 65807
417-605-7100 | Monday–Friday 7:00a.m. – 6:00p.m.



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.

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 Daily Citizen

417-837-3666, sgfcitizen.org

This nonprofit, independent, online news outlet covers the economy, education, government, health, recreation, arts and culture in Springfield.

Springfield News-Leader

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.

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.

The Network

202 S. John Q. Hammons Parkway, Springfield

417-862-5567, thenetworkspringfield.com

Connect with Springfield's young professionals.

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.

Springfield Public Schools

1359 E. St Louis St., Springfield

417-523-0000, sps.org

Springfield-Greene County Health

227 E. Chestnut Expressway, Springfield

417-864-1658, health.springfieldmo.gov

Springfield-Greene County Park Board

1923 N. Weller Ave., Springfield

417-864-1049, parkboard.org

Government

City of Springfield

417-864-1000, springfieldmo.gov

Greene County

417-868-4000, greenecountymo.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

Brightspeed

brightspeed.com/local/mo/springfield

TRASH/RECYCLING

GFL Environmental

gflenv.com

Queen City Disposal

queencitydisposal.net

City Recycling Centers

springfieldmo.gov/2081/recycling-centers-

recycling

Republic Services

publicservices.com

WCA Waste Corporation of America

wcawaste.com



**No one
likes to
wait.**

Especially when
you feel ill.

Mercy has been working hard to eliminate the wait for great care. Our online tools make it easy to find the care you need now, so you can get over feeling sick and get on with settling in.

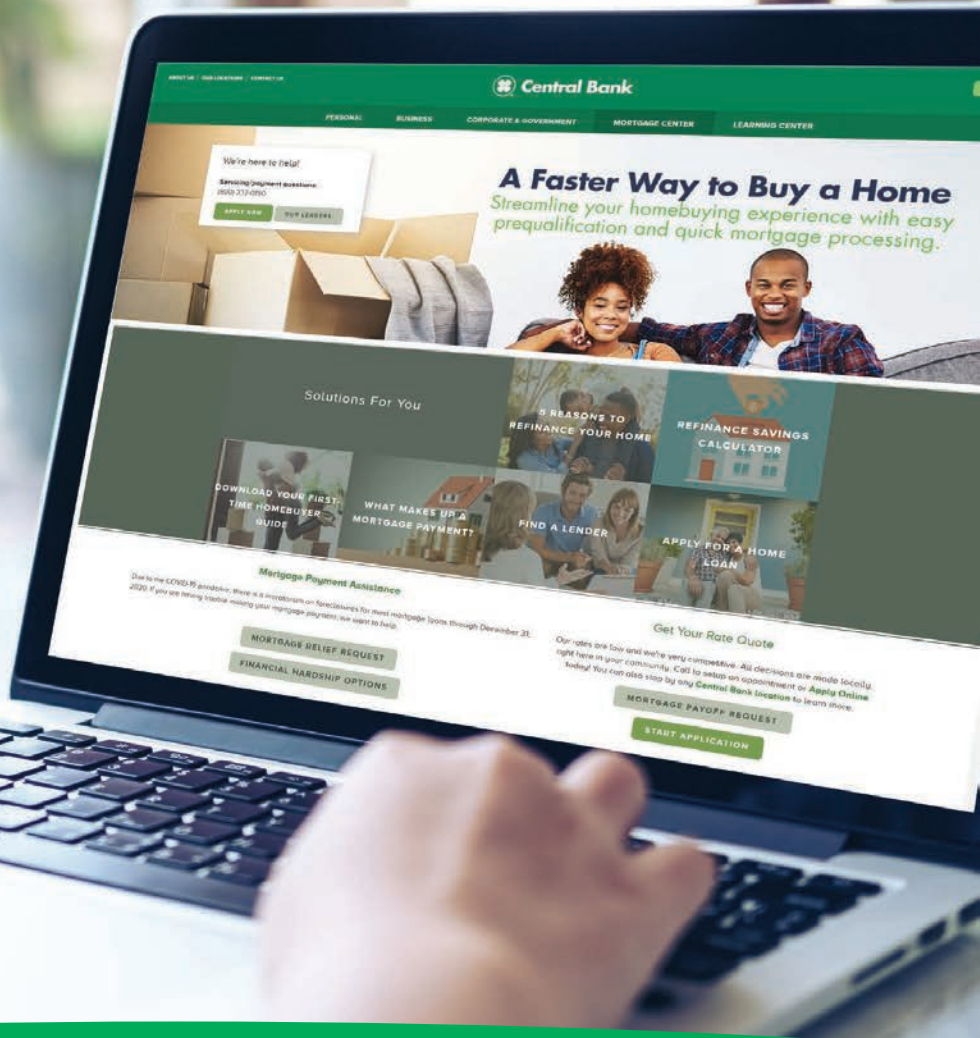
Mercy  Now

Scan to find care now.
Or visit:

[MercyNow.net](https://www.MercyNow.net)



FROM HOUSE HUNTERS TO HOME OWNERS.



YOUR LOCAL HOME LOAN TEAM

Streamline your home buying experience with easy prequalification and quick mortgage processing at our online mortgage center. Start the process today at centralbank.net/mortgage-center. Whether you're looking for a new home loan, building your dream home, or refinancing, one of our experienced local lenders would be glad to help.

3333 S. National Avenue
centralbank.net/mortgage-center
417-881-5100



L to R: Jon Brown (NMLS# 1198819), Eric Meruelo (NMLS# 201548), Matt Graham (NMLS #1727519), Leah Reed (NMLS# 1965148), John O'Haro (NMLS# 991565), Ryan White (NMLS# 488989), Brandon Blackmann (NMLS# 1458213), Tatyana Osenniy (NMLS# 1574807), Davis Neal (NMLS# 712474), Nicole Miller (NMLS# 1684293).



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