

2001 Program Summary

June Program:

Paula Ringer is a communication specialist with Archibald, Cowan, and Ringer Communications. Paula is the current Chair of the Landmarks Board. She is a neighborhood advocate serving the Mid-Town Neighborhood Association.

Paula was actively involved in the development of the Mid-Town Neighborhood Plan and, most recently, has been part of the committee responsible for upgrading Mid-Town's plan and working through the City Council approval process. The biggest challenge in that plan was working with the institutions encompassing Mid-Town homes, such as Drury College.

Paula discussed the necessity of developing and maintaining a neighborhood plan, the process, and issues that should be included in a plan. Each plan should address the individual culture of the neighborhood it represents and include issues unique to that area. These plans give direction to planners and governing boards, such as Planning & Zoning and the City Council, when they address issues in a particular neighborhood.

As far as the 65809 Community Association is concerned, we will need to decide if an area plan will serve us best or if each neighborhood association should write their own plan. We will begin our study period and decide the particulars of logistics as we progress. We will need people from the various neighborhoods who are willing to dedicate themselves to the study of issues. In the final phase of our work, we will develop a draft which will be presented for individual neighborhood evaluation and approval.

July Program:

Ellen Nolte, Anell Hasse, and Aleta Dyer, members of 65809 CO, presented an abstracted review of existing neighborhood plans. A grid of common concerns and issues covered in the existing plans was developed in draft form as further study will most likely reveal more issues to consider.

Reviewing these plans gives us a basic idea of issues facing older neighborhoods. While they demonstrate a struggle for growth space and quality of life issues, we have been in struggles about compatible land use. It appears a lot of open land can create concerns about land use just as the situation where no available expansion space exists. Potential industrial and or institutional intrusion into existing residential areas is a topic to be considered either way. In the older areas, homes are torn down to allow for new development bringing a loss of community.

We can see that issues facing the 65809 zip area will be protecting our environment with respect to our waterways, storm water issues and road system crowding. Identification of historical significance and the definition of "culture" to describe our community will be key to this area's development plan. **For the best possible plan, we need to keep our neighborhood organizations informed and encourage as much participation as possible.**

Comparison of City Neighborhood Plans

Draft-study process ongoing

Most frequent issues addressed:	Mid-Town	Phelps	Rountree	West Central
Safety & Security	X	X	X	X
Preservation of R-SF nature of neighborhood	X	X	X	X
Proper maintenance of homes & buildings	X	X	X	X
Enforcement of codes and ordinances	X	X	X	X
Infrastructure & public improvements	X	X	X	X
Flood control	X	X	X	X
Institutional & commercial intrusion	X	X	X	X
Traffic control	X	X	X	X
Deteriorating housing stock/preservation	X	X	X	X
Parks & Schools	X	X	X	X
Other Common Issues				
Neighborhood image	X	X		X
Preserve Historical Character	X	X	X	
Restrict non-residential land use	X		X	
Compatibility of new developments	X		X	X
Overcrowding & rentals	X	X	X	
Rental registration codes & occupancy permits	X	X	X	
Trash			X	
Legal non-conforming use	X	X	X	
Non legal use	X	X	X	
Streetscape	X		X	X
Signs-commercial			X	
Parking & front yard parking/permits	X	X		
Buffers	X		X	X
Organization & Boards				
Neighborhood organizations	X	X	X	X
Communication boards (committee)	X	X		
Review boards, zoning requests	X	X		
Landmark Board	X			
Historic Preservation	X			

August Program:

Mr. Howard Moore and Mr. Bill Robinette from the Greene County Highway Dept. talked to us about the growth in our area and the impact it has on road systems, plans and budgets. Missouri State Law often prohibits acquisition of anticipated land needed for road development and greatly handicaps the control of growth and sprawl through the zoning process. It appears Blackman Road, between Sunshine & Battlefield, will continue bear the burden for a north-south roadway from east of Hwy 65 to near Strafford. It also appears most of the desirable road ways east of Blackman are now blocked by development. The cost of buying out these newer structures will prove prohibitive to additional easy, direct roadways.

We were glad for the opportunity to get to know Mr. Robinette. Mr. Moore is retiring very soon. We wish him well in his retirement and say a heartfelt THANK YOU for the kind and honest relationship he has demonstrated to residents of the 65809 Community during his years of service to residents of Greene County. Several of our neighborhoods have had the privilege of working with him and his department on projects and have found the experience very positive.

September Program:

Officer Kelly Patton, Springfield Police Dept., Community Policing

Officer Patton did a brief presentation about the new Community Policing Program through the Springfield Police Dept. Community Police officers will be assigned to the city by areas. Their assignment will be to get acquainted with area residents and businesses and find out how they can become useful to the area in solving problems. It is anticipated that when trust builds between neighbors, business people, and the officer, problems will be much easier solved and addressed much more quickly than the present system allows. As of this week, it is not known how many officers the police dept. will be able to retain due to the attack at the World Trade Center in New York. Therefore, it may be that community officers will be reserved for the most needed areas of the city. The 65809 area has not yet been assigned an officer. Officer Patton will be attending our meetings regularly until the situation is better understood and we will know if we will have an officer.

Timothy W Smith, PE, Administrator, Greene County Resource Management Dept. Tim began working with Greene County as a storm water engineer. More recently, he has taken on the duties of Administrator of the Greene County Resource Management Dept. which includes the Environmental, Planning & Zoning, Building Regulations, Building & Maintenance, and General Services Departments.

Tim presented a brief introduction about the various offices and departments of the Greene County government. He stated that several of the County and City departments with similar functions have, once again, begun to communicate concerning project plans. The who, when, why, and how approach was a great beginning. We will need to have Tim back again soon because of the imminent first Presidential address following the attack of 9/11. Everyone was anxious to hear what was in store for our nation.

October Program:

Officer Kelly Patton, Springfield Community Policing. Officer Patton reviewed maps and briefly discussed often confusing city-county boundaries. Confusion about these boundaries becomes a great problem for residents and law enforcement alike. This is especially true when it is necessary for our residents to report an emergency to 911. New officers and new residents are often unaware of the confusion until an emergency occurs. It appears this exercise was very helpful to both city and county people.

Sheriff Jack Merritt, Greene County. Sheriff Merritt first talked about the new Jail that will be beneficial to both Springfield and Greene County. He expressed gratitude to the tax-payers for approving the funds necessary to build the facility.

Sheriff Merritt talked about the recent rash of break-ins in the eastern part of Greene County. He and Officer Patton offered suggestions that residents should implement in order to discourage, or make it harder for, thieves to enter homes and businesses. Sheriff Merritt referred us to the Sheriff's home safety web page: <http://www.greenecountymo.org/> Click on the Crime Prevention link to access the Home Security Checklist. There is a lot of good stuff there.

Neighborhood Policing was one of the workshop topics presented last month at the H.A.N.D.S conference in Kansas City. We will include a page at the web site that has additional home safeguards learned at that conference.

November & December Programs:

There are no 65809 meetings these months--Plan to be back in attendance in January!

Remember we are now meeting the third Tuesday of each month and will re-evaluate the day change in the spring. Please express your preference concerning meeting on Tuesday vs Thursday, we want to schedule our meetings for the best possible attendance and convenience of our interested neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,

Aleta Dyer, coordinator

Happy and Safe Holidays to Everyone!