SPRING 2020 Vol. 59 Issue 2

The League Light THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SPRINGFIELD, MO



WeGotThis. THE JUNIOR LEAGUE



The League Light

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WeGotThis.

Our Mission

The Junior League of Springfield, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Our Vision

Women Building Better Communities

Diversity & Inclusion Statement

The JLS welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of individuals, organizations and communities.

Our Values

The necessity and significance of women exercising leadership throughout the community. Training and education that advance our personal and professional leadership skills.

Advocacy for issues impacting women and children. An environment that encourages diversity of opinions and supports multigenerational engagement.

Each member's unique needs for engagement in the League.

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Spring 2020 Vol. 59 Issue 2



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR



COVER FEATURE



MEET OUR LEADERSHIP



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION INITIATIVE

COMMUNITY IMPACT

s January began and I entered the second half of our League year, I had experienced plenty of unwelcome and unexpected personal challenges in 2019, like I'm sure that many of you have. And just when I felt like I was

gaining ground, the COVID-19 Pandemic hit. This was not what I pictured the second half of my year as President to look like!

This has been a spring like no other. One for the history books. It is amazing how quickly our entire routine, our entire way of life can change. We have all had to scramble to figure out how to do things very differently very quickly. There has been little time to evaluate best decisions. We have been forced to act, comply, accept and prepare.

Fortunately, we are an innovative and imaginative group of women. So when we were faced with the challenge, we just dealt. We swapped out in-person JLS meetings for virtual ones. We met via Zoom and GoToMeeting. We met with fur babies, human babies and significant others lurking in the background of our phones or webcams. We met wearing our PJs. We continued the work of the League to the best of our abilities. Yet we still managed to knock out our day job, care for a loved one, stream some TV (insert favorite channel here) and play some Jackbox. But hey, we are Junior Leaguers and that's what we do.

Because we are women who do, it has been unbearable to just sit and watch the numbers of diagnoses and deaths rise. We do our part to stay home for the protection of ourselves and others but we are not ones to sit complacently. We have tried to spread positivity by incorporating it into our Social Media posts. We are showing kindness by reaching out to friends to check in on them. We are training ourselves by mastering new skills from cooking to gardening to remodeling.

As I write this I have no idea what the future holds for any of us. I am not sure what our new normal will look like. How many local



businesses will survive this? How much more need in the community will there be? I am not sure when we will get back to normal. When will be able to do the things we take for granted in a thriving economy, like get a pedicure or take our child to the orthodontist? It could be weeks or months. I hope it's not months, but I know we are prepared to do whatever it takes.

The pandemic has reminded me of the importance of appreciating the little things. It has left an indelible impression on all of us, which will change the way we view our lives going forward.

The difference that we as Junior League Members make in our community is what we choose to do with that change. My fear is that the number of those in need in our community has grown as a result of this pandemic. My hope is that our League will be able to do more to ease that need.

I look forward to the time when we can meet in person again.

We. Got. This.

Nikki Holden President hank you so much for allowing me to serve as your 2019-20 JLS Management Director. I have enjoyed it immensely, learned a ton and cherished every moment. When we gathered together

back in September full of the excitement and joy that comes with a new League year, I don't think any of us could have predicted we'd be spending the last three months of the League year in quarantine. Unable to see each other, attend League events or celebrate together at our annual meeting. We made the tough decision to cancel Charity Ball for the first time in 61 years, we closed the League office for more than two months and canceled numerous Done-in-a-Day projects.

It would have been easy to throw in the towel and write the year off, but that's not my nature and it's not our legacy. League business did not stop and neither did we. Despite a worldwide pandemic and a state of near constant change we came together and persevered. The Management Team continued to conduct League business remotely, we held budget hearings and placement party online, we awarded grants to fellow nonprofits, we held a training event and prepped next years leadership team – all remotely and always with our members in mind.

When I reflect on the League year, I am in awe at the impact a group of dedicated women can make – on our community and each other. The commitment and support you have shown JLS never ceases to inspire. We accomplished a lot this year! We rolled out a more engaging and interactive general membership meeting structure, we voted to implement a new membership model for everyone that will give our members more freedom to create their own unique JLS experience, we spent over 150 hours volunteering with our community partners



through our Done-in-a-Day projects, we awarded \$6,000 in college scholarships and \$2,600 in discretionary and emergency grants, we executed successful fundraisers and we held our first diversity and inclusion member workshops. We accomplished a lot and should be proud.``

I cannot begin to express my gratitude to the 11 ladies who served with me on the Management Team this year. Their guidance, wisdom, laughter and support kept me sane and I will be forever grateful. Thank you Mary, Brandi, Bridget, Alison, Millie, Ashley, Emily, Cris, Amanda, Michelle and Lisa.

There is nothing more important to say to you than thank you. Thank you for your commitment to JLS, your work in our community, your love and acceptance of one another and your willingness to lead together. It was an honor serving you this year.

> Rachel Fuhrman Management Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With a new League year, comes a change in leadership. Here's a look at the ladies who will lead JLS in 2020-21.



Courtney Hayes President



Allison Robertson President-Elect



Mary Bozarth Management Director



Jami Moore Recording Secretary



Maria Stockton Nominating Chair



Michelle Vespa Treasurer



Lisa Yoakam Sustainer Director



Carrie Brown Active At-Large 2 year term



Rachel Fuhrman Active At-Large, 2-Year Term



Stephanie Hesser Active At-Large, Year 2 of 2



Stacy Schneider Active At-Large, Year 2 of 2



Sandy Howard Sustainer At-Large, 2-Year Term



Heather Tinca Sustainer At-Large, Year 2 of 2

MANAGEMENT TEAM



Mary Bozarth Management Director



Brandi Delleville Management Director-Elect



Rebecca Barrientos Treasurer-Elect



Bridget Lovelle Manager of Community Impact



Samantha Williams Manager of Community Impact-Elect



Amanda Hake Manager of Finance



Millie Schuchmann Manager of Membership



Christy Howell Manager of Membership-Elect



Lacee Blunt Manager of Finance-Elect



Emily Letterman Manager of Communications



Katie Cosby Manager of Communications-Elect



Amie Squibb Sustainer Director-Elect



Rachel Weinhaus Parliamentarian*

*Parliamentarian is not a member of the Management Team



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Buick GMC Cadillac	METALCRAFT.

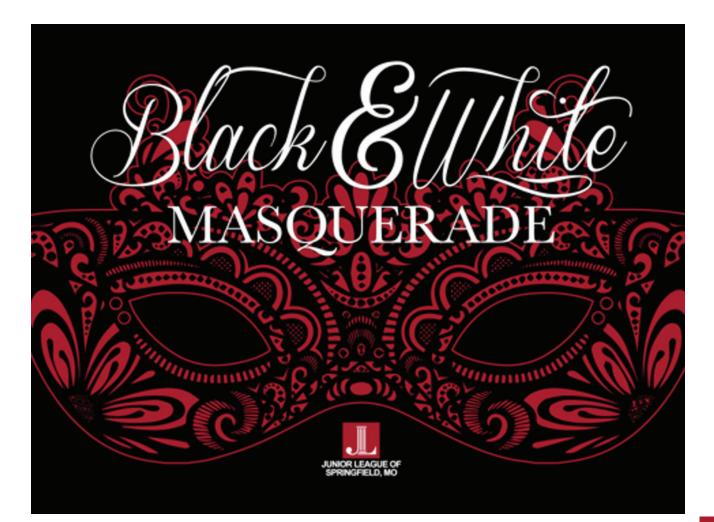






harity Ball 2020, Black & White: Masquerade, was originally scheduled to occur on March 28, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the JLS Management Team and Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel Charity Ball for the first time in our League's history. The decision to cancel our League's largest fundraiser was not taken lightly and was made with the safety of our attendees, members, and community in mind. We are grateful to the Charity Ball committee

for their hard work and understanding. The committee pivoted and turned many of the event's silent auction items into an online raffle, which helped raise \$4,100. Many of our sponsors and attendees elected to make their sponsorship and/or ticket purchase a donation to the Junior League of Springfield. We are grateful for your support. Thank you. Despite the unprecedented circumstances we faced this year, Charity Ball raised approdimately \$20,000 for our mission.



PROVISIONALS SPOTLIGHT









Alex Sheppard Alicia Martin Amanda Johnson Ashlee Robinson Ashley Cross Bethany Talley Bridget Barclay Sudol Carmen Smith Courtney Kitrel Crystal Carey **Emily Hertzog Emily Rapp** Erin Davis Joanna Dettmer Johanna Wood Julia McGuire Katerina Schroeder Kelci Scott

Kelly Sigman Kendal Bengsch Krista Moncado Lauren Cook Lisa Longwell Loretta Guth Megan Kilmer Melissa James Natasha Bays Rachel Gore Samantha Logue Sharesa Parker Sherry Neill Tania Gore Tanner Lantz Tiffany Martin Tylane Garrett Victoria Marszalik

PROVISIONALS SPOTLIGHT









SPRING 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everyone's lives in varying degrees. Nearly all our members have had to change the way they approach work or manage their homes. These members have shown amazing resilience while working in positions that have been significantly impacted by the pandemic. Below are their stories in their own words.

HEALTH CARE



Annie Hayes

I am a Clinical Pathologists at CoxHealth, and I am excited to be working on a clinical trial to help very sick, hospitalized patients with COVID-19. This trial will help show if plasma from patients who have recovered from COVID-19 may help sick COVID-19 patients to fight their own infections. The plasma from recovered patients is referred to as COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma. That plasma contains antibodies that allowed the donor to fight the virus and recover. Those antibodies to COVID-19 may help sick patients get better. CoxHealth has enrolled in a national protocol developed by MayoClinic and the FDA so that the research can be larger-scale, and therefore more informative and conclusive.

Plasma has historically been used to treat other viral diseases, even other diseases caused by Coronaviruses, like SARS. There is a lot of interest nationwide in using the same method to treat COVID-19.

Patients interested in donating convalescent plasma should reach out to their primary care provider or CoxHealthAccountableCare@ coxhealth.com. The provider will confirm that the patient meets eligibility requirements and send documentation to Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO). Eligible donors will schedule an appointment with CBCO to donate, and convalescent plasma will stay in our community for patients with severe COVID-19 infections to potentially benefit.

My connections at Junior League of Springfield are helping make this project more visible to the community. The increased community awareness will help draw in more recovered COVID-19 patients to donate COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma, thereby allowing treatment of more sick patients.



Taryn Arens This pandemic took us all by surprise. Although we were taught in school about the potential of a mass pandemic, it never seemed possible until now. We have all had different experiences and thoughts on the past few months, for me, a healthcare worker, working in healthcare during this time has been both frightening and enlightening.

For healthcare workers, each day of work is frightening as there is a chance you could be exposed to a virus that researchers know very little about. At 36 weeks pregnant, it was unknown at the time if COVID could affect my child, which is any mom's worst nightmare and a nightmare many women are continuing to face today.

Even with all the anxiety and fear, working in healthcare has brought

me a sense of enlightenment about our community. During this time the community has come together and supported the healthcare community. Across the community, meals have been donated, masks have been made and words of encouragement have been left throughout healthcare campus'. All these things have kept healthcare workers energized and a little less frightened walking into their jobs each day.

This pandemic has taught us lessons we will never forget. For me, I have been reminded of how lucky I am to live and work in such a wonderful, supportive community. This community can face a pandemic and continue to thrive. This is a community where I am proud to serve and raise a family!

EDUCATION



Allison Jackson This spring, many area school districts provided alternative methods of instruction for the remainder of the school year. I was following the news and preparing myself for the switch to online learning. As a Reading Interventionist in an elementary school my prep work for this change consisted of learning how to use Google Meet to hold live one-on-one lessons with my Reading Recovery students that I see daily. I felt driven to find the best way to maintain focus on our objectives while uncovering the best way to teach reading, writing, and word work via the computer. A co-worker introduced me to Jamboard on Google, which became the replacement for our hands-on magnetic letters that we normally use to make and manipulate new words.

I discovered that I could provide every

component of our lessons in an online version, but I wondered if my lessons would be as effective. Could this work? My students and I quickly adapted as I made sure our structured lessons were tailored for their educational needs.

A big part of my work is collecting data on student progress and tracking their growth. I'm happy to report that my students made huge gains in closing the deficiency gap in their reading during our online sessions-many of them ending the year at a proficient level. And don't forget that I developed some new computer skills through this process as well. Lots of learning all around. However, the best part of online learning was that I still got to see my students' smiles each day even if it was on a screen.



Shyra Whalon I teach 6th grade math at Republic Middle school, so making the adjustment to online learning wasn't a stretch on the curriculum side. We already have a learning management system called Canvas so the students were used to getting online to see what the assignments were for the day. The hardest part was keeping the students motivated to do the work. I work with 4 other 6th grade math teachers so we decided to each plan a lesson for a day of the week. We were required to provide 20 minutes of math instruction per day. I really liked the fact that each teacher made one lesson for the week because students were able to receive the curriculum in different ways. My colleagues and I were coming up with great content for the students, but the problem was that the students weren't engaging in the content. That says a lot about how important it is to have a teacher in front of students.

Throughout the weeks of distance learning I did receive a couple emails from students, so it was nice to hear from them when they had questions. However the majority of my 6th grade students aren't mature enough to navigate distance learning on their own. I often got emails simply stating "I don't get it"...and it was heartbreaking to see them struggle through this. They were completely lost, and I felt like I couldn't do anything about it. I made videos and answered questions, but it still didn't feel like enough.

During all this the Republic administration has been super supportive. I had weekly Zoom meetings with the 6th grade math department, and we would have weekly staff meetings as well.

Needles to say I'm really looking forward to seeing students face to face in August.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



he Junior League of Springfield was delighted to present Nancy White with the 2019-2020 JLS Lifetime Achievement Award. Nancy joined the Community Service League (CSL) in 1968 and was very involved when the CSL was accepted into the Association of Junior Leagues International in 1976. As a CSL and JLS active, Nancy served as recording secretary, Charity Ball Chair, and Editor of The League Light. She later served as a Sustaining Advisor to the Publications Committee. Nancy also served on the YWCA Board of Directors, the Pi Beta Phi Sorority Advisory Board, and the Drury Women's Auxiliary Board of Directors. Nancy is a native of Monett, Missouri, and a graduate

of Drury University. She is a founding member of Trinity Presbyterian Church (USA) and belongs to P.E.O. and the Drury Women's Auxiliary. Nancy and her husband of 59 years, Mike, take great joy in their family, including daughter and son-in-law, Martha and Scott Crise, and granddaughters Natalie and Cynthia Crise. Nancy is a devoted JLS Sustainer who sings the praises of the organization any chance she gets. Many of her closest friendships were either made or cultivated through the League. Nancy is so proud of JLS's many accomplishments and credits the League with helping her grow and develop as a community volunteer and as a person.







ear members,

The past few weeks have been heavy, not just because of the global pandemic we are living in, but because of the news of another senseless killing of an unarmed black man, George Floyd. This event was tragic, horrifying and wrong.

Racism, violence and injustice continue to affect the communities we live in each day. We have all watched the hurt and anger on display across the country and we have watched cities, including our own, rise up in response to injustice.

As Junior League leaders, we cannot stay silent and sit on the sidelines watching as our community feels the heaviness of grief. As an organization that believes in building better communities and strives for leadership excellence, many of us have asked what we can do.

It is time we all take action and become more aware, more educated and more prepared to take a stance in the conversation of change. We must do the work. We must be willing to be humbled, humiliated and vulnerable. We must speak out and we must be visible. We must know when to listen, and equally important, when to speak up.

Our commitment to equity and inclusion is as important as ever. We are stronger together when we live our values in diversity, community, respect and service. This is only the beginning of what will be a long and difficult conversation of action and change to create a safer community that values human dignity, but know The Junior League of Springfield denounces racism in all forms and is grieving alongside all of you.

United together,

Nikki Holden 2019-20 President Courtney Hayes 2020-21 President Allison Robertson 2021-22 President

Rachel Fuhrman 2019-20 Management Director Mary Bozarth 2020-21 Management Director Brandi Delleville 2021-22 Management Director

For members looking to educate themselves and become engaged, here are some resources: RacialEquityTools.org 75 Things White People Can Do For Racial Justice A Guide to How You Can Support Marginalized Communities

> To speak to someone about our League's efforts you may reach out to our Diversity & Inclusion Taskforce Chair, Allison Robertson.

The Junior League of Springfield has taken the first steps towards increasing cultural consciousness within our membership.

2017-2018

During 2017-2018 league year, we adopted the following commitment statement:

Diversity & Inclusion Statement: The JLS welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of individuals, organizations and communities.

2018-2019

During the 2018-2019 league year:

- JLS board members completed an initial board/leadership assessment
- JLS Board of Directors created a Diversity & Inclusion task force

2019-2020

During the 2019-20 league year:

- Members of the task force met and worked together to identify a starting point for JLS.
- A diversity survey was created, conducted and completed during the beginning of the league year. The results of this survey were shared with the board and the task force.
- Members of the D&I task force met with Francine Pratt, former president of Missouri's Springfield NAACP chapter. Francine is spearheading several diversity and inclusion projects within the community and has also worked closely with the Junior League of Springfield on past projects. The task force worked with Francine to create a plan for JLS and its D&I journey.
- The task force planned and announced a series of workshops for membership to work towards increasing

the league's cultural consciousness. The goal of these workshops is to create a welcoming and open environment for all current and future league members.

- When the COVID pandemic occurred, JLS identified and incorporated a D&I lens when working with all levels of leadership, including the executive, council, and committee levels.
- The first workshop was held in February 2020. The remaining workshops were put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the task force looks forward to continuing these efforts during the 2020-21 League year.
- Released A Message From JLS Leadership reaffirming our commitment to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment.
 Provided resources specific to racism and personal development.

THE PLAID DOOR



@the_plaid_door

#plaiddoor

The Junior League of Springfield is proud to own and operate the Plaid Door Resale Boutique. Opened in 1976, the Plaid Door has assisted JLS in generating more than \$2 million in funds for the Springfield community.



Open second Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

The Plaid Door was dealt a curve ball this year and briefly closed its doors from March to June during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following local ordinances and taking appropriate safety precautions for volunteers and customers, the Plaid Door reopened for the 2020-21 League year on June 6.



2019-20 President Elect, Courtney Hayes, speaks with local media about reopening the Plaid Door during the COVID-19 pandemic.

LITTLE BLACK DRESS INITIATIVE



his year's 4th annual Little Black Dress Initiative not only helped raise awareness about generational poverty but also gave JLS the opportunity to collaborate with 10 community partners. This collaboration helped JLS raise funds for projects supporting those affected by generational poverty. This year saw a change in how we raised funds and introduced LBDI Community Partners. The giving module shifted from individual JLS members crowdfunding to a central giving site and the campaign focused on larger events throughout the week.

The week kicked off on Sunday with Little Black Dress Drag Bingo Brunch at Alamo Drafthouse. Over 100 people attended this popular, memorable event. The week continued with a cookie



decorating class hosted by The Rolling Pin and a Gavyn Sky Paint Night that led attendees through the process of creating their own piece of art. Both events received rave reviews from those in attendance. Our biggest event of the week, Community Day, gave JLS and community members the opportunity to enjoy lunch at the Springfield Art Museum while listening to impactful presentations by Randy Bacon, photographer, and Amy Blansit, founder of the Drew Lewis Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's success as a fundraising participant, as a community partner, as an advocate by sharing the campaign with friends and family, or as a donor – you are the reason for this year's success.



total raised \$5,834



DRAG BINGO

Members attending the Drag Bingo for LBDI

COMMUNITY IMPACT



he latter half of our Done-In-A-Day projects for the 2019-20 JLS vear were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and a majority were cancelled, however we did get to complete two in January and two in February. Despite this setback we were able to still support our community partners financially via our discretionary grant program.











2019-20 COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Big Brothers Big Sisters Boys and Girls Club of Springfield Springfield Regional Arts Council I Pour Life Laura's Home Girls on the Run Safe to Sleep Springfield Dream Center OTC Middle College

2020-21 COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

l Pour Life Laura's Home Big Brothers Big Sisters OTC Middle College Safe to Sleep Boys & Girls Club Girls on the Run of Southwest MO

TOTAL GRANTS JLS HAS AWARDED FOR THE YEAR:

\$150 - Harmony House - iCare \$50 - Harmony House Halloween Run \$700 - Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland \$200 - Sister Circle (Black Girls Rock Awards Ceremony) \$600 - Boys & Girls Club \$600 - Discovery Center \$600 - Diaper Bank of the Ozarks



Ann Short Turner Past President

March 3, 1939-March 13, 2020

nn Short Turner passed away on March 13, 2020, surrounded by her family. Ann was a devoted daughter, wife, sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, bringing great joy to those around her. Ann accomplished much during her life. She devoted herself to working toward bettering the community in which she lived; serving on the Boards of the Junior League of Springfield (JLS President 1978-79), Chamber of Commerce, Reading is Fundamental, Missouri Hospital Auxiliary, Girls Club, Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Library Foundation, Ozark Technical Community College Foundation, and many, many more. In most every organization in which she was involved, she took on a leadership role and was instrumental in providing strong and steady leadership to the organization. Ann served as the Junior League of Springfield President from 1978-1979 and was awarded the Junior League Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.



Judy Jo Johnson Ollis Past President

October 13, 1948-March 21, 2020

udy Jo Johnson Ollis passed away on March 21, 2020. Judy joined the Junior League of Springfield in 1973 and served as JLS President from 1983-1984. As an active member of JLS Judy worked on projects with KOZK, served as Projects Chair, Admissions Chair, Advisory Planning Chair, Nominating Committee, Decorating Committee and Secretary. Outside of JLS Judy was a much loved and dedicated volunteer. She served on the KOZK and YMCA Board of Directors, served as an Asst. Cub Scout Leader and St. Mary Guild Secretary at Christ Episcopal Church. She cherished our community and her loving family. Proud to be a **member** and **supporter** of the Junior League of Springfield!

because we can. because we will. because we are.



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Edward Jones

Mary Blair Financial Advisor 417.725.0414

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CONGRATULATIONS

LEADERSHIP SPRINGFIELD CLASS 39 & 40

Brandi Delleville, Amy Henson, Samantha Williams, Allison Gregory, Carrie Calvery, Elyse Hartley, Kristen Wannenmacher Bright, and Michelle Vespa

BBCS WINNERS

Jolean Hackney and Jessica Lumpkin



CHERI CLARK BOUQUET OF ENTHUSIASM AWARD Christy Howell

SBJ TRUSTED ADVISERS 'UP-AND-COMER' Elyse Hartley



ODI ATTENDEES, ORLANDO, FLORIDA FEBRUARY 21-23, 2020.

Page Viehmann, Courtney Pinkham-Martin, Laura Westfall, and Maria Stockton





THE MARY RILEY WOLFE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Madison Wutke and Haley Fearing each received a \$2,500 college scholarship this year. VISIONARY PARTNER -













POVERTY SIMULATION GMM

The sponsor speaking during the Poverty Simulation GMM

DRAG BINGO Members attending the Drag Bingo for LBDI





DIVERSITY & INCLUSION INTRODUCTION WORKSHOP

Members attend the first Diversity & Inclusion Introduction Workshop



Junior League of Springfield, MO 2574 E. Bennett St. Springfield, MO 65804 jlspringfield.org

