



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Your City at Work for You

SPRINGFIELD, OH—(April 18, 2016)—Throughout the year, the City of Springfield works on numerous projects to ensure the city is safe and beautiful for all community members and visitors.

On March 14, Operations Superintendent Shawn Wilson and City Forester James Wills Jr., both employees in the City of Springfield's Service Department, were awarded by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources with a "bachelor's certificate" for completing the Tree Commission Academy (TCA). This program is specifically designed by Ohio's Regional Urban Foresters to equip local leaders and staff with the tools to effectively manage a city's urban tree canopy.

Both Wilson and Wills successfully completed four "grade levels" for a total of 40 hours of TCA courses to receive a bachelor's certificate. Courses included four class tracts: arboriculture, human relations, municipal government and urban forestry.

"It's important for Springfield to have knowledgeable individuals to keep our city beautiful," said Jim Bodenmiller, Springfield's city manager. "I am fully confident Shawn and James will continue to apply what they have learned and add to the beauty of Springfield."

On Thursday, April 7, Springfield City Service Department was notified of a potential water main break at the intersection of S. Belmont Avenue and Lexington Avenue. The city took immediate action and coordinated with the local Water Treatment Plant, Public Safety, Springfield City Area Transit (SCAT), Springfield City School District, and the Clark County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to resolve the issue.

After 12 hours, water main repairs were complete, with minimal disruption to the neighborhood and surrounding area.

On Thursday, April 28, The City of Springfield will hold its annual Arbor Day celebration at Simon Kenton Elementary School beginning at 10 a.m. During the program, community leaders will join with local school students to promote the value of trees and plant a new tree that will benefit Springfield for years to come.

These celebrations serve as an opportunity to educate future generations on the history of Arbor Day and the value of trees – aesthetic, air quality, economic and social benefits.

"It's always one of the happiest days of the year to be able to see kids excited about the work that we do," said Chris Moore, the City of Springfield's service director. "It's refreshing to hear kids sing songs and get excited about planting a new tree."



Currently, Springfield's Police Division is preparing this year's "SAFETY CITY" summer program. "SAFETY CITY" is a five-day educational course for children, ages five to six, who will be attending kindergarten or first grade in September.

"SAFETY CITY" is designed to teach children traffic safety along with bike, seat belt and fire safety. Additionally, students will learn how to identify and stay away from strangers.

"I encourage all parents to take advantage of this program and register their child," said Bodenmiller. "Speaking as a parent, this is a great way to keep our kids safe and informed."

"Safety City" is a free program sponsored by Springfield Pilot Club. Registration is available online at <https://springfieldohio.gov/live-tiles/featured-activities-for-kids/safety-city-registration/>.

For more information on these projects, please visit www.springfieldohio.gov.

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