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SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

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Ozarks couple celebrates love, fandom with 'Star Wars' wedding



Kim and Duane Nay listen to officiant Aaron Edwards during their wedding ceremony at The Savoy, 224 E. Commercial St., on May 4. Kim Nay is dressed as Padmé Amidala, Duane Nay as Anakin Skywalker and Edwards as Din Djarin, all from the "Star Wars" franchise. PHOTOS BY SUSAN SZUCH/SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH THEM

Susan Szuch
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

Duane and Kim Nay had been in each other's lives for longer than they realized — attending the same churches, working at the same restaurants, sharing the same friends and being members of the same fandoms.

In southwest Missouri, the two seemed to always be orbiting each other, like planets in a solar system, but never crossing the other's path until early in 2025.

Kim Nay had almost given up on online dating but replied to Duane Nay's message on a whim. From there, they talked constantly, solved an

See WEDDING, Page 3A



"Star Wars" stormtroopers greet wedding guests as they enter The Savoy, 224 E. Commercial St., for Duane and Kim Nay's wedding. The self-proclaimed nerdy couple celebrated their love for each other and for the fandom with a "Star Wars"-themed event.

Apartment building project gets council support

Marta Mize
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

With developers adjusting plans yet neighbors still in opposition, Springfield City Council voted Monday, May 4 to re-zone a property in south Springfield and make way for an apartment building that aims primarily to serve medical employees.

The new housing development is planned on about 7.4 acres at 3302 S. Maryland Ave., west of National Avenue near Walnut Lawn Street. The rezoning, approved Monday in a 7-2 vote, changed the zoning to a Planned Development, a unique zoning district that adds additional requirements, including a site plan the developer is bound to follow.

The project — dubbed The Reserve at Medical Mile — includes a U-shaped apartment building that will be four stories high facing Walnut Lawn and three stories high on the east and west wings. The project also includes amenities such as a dog park, pool and a community and fitness space and more than 300 parking spaces.

While originally planned to be four stories all around and contain 198 units, the proposal was adjusted in response to neighboring residents' concerns and reduced to 182 units. Other changes included codifying the inclusion of privacy fences with gates for the rear access of properties on Kings Avenue, reconfiguring the site to be further from the single-family neighborhood property lines and moving one of the access points onto Walnut Lawn from Maryland.

However, residents of the nearby High Meadow East subdivision still opposed the rezoning. With the height of the building among the most prominent concerns, neighbors called for the entirety of the project to be reduced to three stories.

See PROJECT, Page 2A

City Council approves limits to campaign donations

Marta Mize
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

Candidates running for a Springfield municipal office in next year's elections will be limited in the monetary amounts they can accept from donors. With strong support from local groups, Springfield City Council unanimously approved campaign finance limits Monday, May 4, codifying a practice that is already used for state offices and those running for office in St. Louis and Kansas City.

The proposal to limit campaign contributions had been with the council's Plans and Policies Committee for months. When the ordinance finally

The main limit provisions remained the same — prohibiting individuals or political action committees from contributing more than \$2,825 per election cycle to individuals running for Springfield mayor or council seats.

went to the full council, Mayor Jeff Schrag proposed a substitute bill with several substantial changes.

The main limit provisions remained the same — prohibiting individuals or political action committees from contributing more than \$2,825 per election cycle to individuals running for Springfield mayor or council seats. The local campaign limits would not apply to

school board or county seat candidates.

Here are the main provisions that were changed in Schrag's version of the bill:

- The limit amount will be indexed with inflation and adjusted per the Consumer Price Index every four years;
- Potential violations of limits will be reviewed by the already established Citizens' Tax Oversight Committee instead

of a dedicated ethics commission;

- Failure to report was removed as a local violation and left for the Missouri Ethics Commission to address;

- Complaints can only be made by Springfield residents and new complaints will not be accepted within 15 days before a city election;

- If the committee has not made a decision within 180 days of a complaint being filed, it will automatically be dismissed.

Those speaking at Monday night's meeting urged council to approve limits on campaign contributions. Some were concerned with leaving the failure to report violation with the MEC and

See DONATIONS, Page 5A

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