

RETURN TO LEARN

Our workforce pipeline is critical to the success of the many diverse industry sectors here in Lane County. It's an opportunity for industry and education to come together with a common goal of developing a local pool of qualified talent. Career and technical education (CTE) programs are one of our greatest tools for developing skills that align with high wage, high demand jobs throughout the county. Promoting and supporting CTE pathways has become a key economic development strategy for the business community through the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, and in partnership with the City of Springfield and Springfield Public Schools. With increased resource investment in CTE programs, we see higher graduation rates, better skills development for local career pathways, and greater alignment with higher education and training programs for students.

CTE programs have also suffered the most throughout this period of comprehensive distance learning. Teachers have been incredibly nimble and creative, as they transitioned classes like metals, healthcare, engineering, and carpentry to a zoom classroom format. The truth is that an online format cannot impart the skills these students would develop in an actual classroom environment. As a result, we've seen both high school and college CTE class sizes drop. This is cause for concern and, unless corrected, will cause a significant hit to industries relying on the CTE to workforce pipeline.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 4, 2021 –Homes for Good

Homes for Good, the Lane County Housing Agency has recently opened The Commons at MLK, a "housing first" approach to reducing homelessness. The Commons is a Permanent Supportive Housing program with 51 unit studio apartment for people experiencing chronic homelessness located at 2315 MLK Jr Blvd next door to Lane County Behavioral Health. There will be on-site property management and supportive services.



Jacob Fox, the Executive Director of Homes for Good, will discuss these and other agency efforts to reduce homelessness at the March 4 program. Jacob Fox joined Homes for Good in 2013 and became Executive Director in 2015. He is passionate about transforming organizations in order to better serve communities. Jacob began his career in the mid-1990s and is a national leader and advocate for affordable housing.

March 18, 2021 – Mayor Sean Van Gordon

Mayor Van Gordon will outline his program for the next two years.

PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change. For current information, click on the agency name which will redirect you to the appropriate web site.

[City of Springfield Council](#)

225 Fifth Street
Springfield, OR 97477
(541)726-3700

March 1, 2021

Work session 6:00 p.m.

Budget Committee Interviews

Regular session 7:00 p.m.

Interim Councilor Deliberations/Appointment

March 8, 2021

Special Session 6:30 p.m.

Swearing in Ward 1 Councilor

March 15, 2021

Work session 6:00 p.m.

Development Code Update Project

Regular Session 7:00 p.m.

Formal Interpretation – SUB Electric

Budget Committee Appointments

March 22 - April 4, 2021 Council Recess

[Lane County Board of Commissioners](#)

125 Eighth Avenue
Eugene OR 97401
(541)682-4203

March 2, 2021 9:00 a.m.
10 year Safety Repair Plan
Redistricting Discussion

March 9, 2021 9:00 a.m.

March 16, 2021 9:00 a.m.
Evening Public Comment

March 23, 2021 No MEETING

March 30, 2021 9:00 a.m.
Supplemental Budget

[Lane Transit District](#)
3500 E. 17th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97403
(541)687-5555

March 3, 2021 5:00 p.m. Work Session

March 17, 2021 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting

[School District 19 Board of Directors](#)
640 A Street
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 726-3201

March 8, 2021 7:00 p.m. Business Meeting

March 11, 2021 6:00 p.m. Budget Comm. Work Session

[Springfield Utility Board](#)
250 A Street
Springfield OR 97477
(541)746-8451

March 10, 2021 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting

[Willamalane Park and Recreation District](#)
320 S. 32nd Street
Springfield, OR 97478
(541)736-4544

March 10, 2021 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting

[Lane Regional Air Protection Authority](#)
1010 Main Street
Springfield, OR 97477
(541)735-1056

March 11, 2021 12:15 p.m. Board Meeting

The Council interviewed four the applicants at a work session on February 16. Interviews continued at the February 22 work session. The Council anticipates that an appointment will be made at the March 1 meeting of the Council.

Members of the public may comment at the March 1 meeting of the Council, may give feedback by email, send comments by mail or by delivering them to the City Managers office.

Eight individuals applied for the position. They are Troy Allen, Grace Bergen, Tim Canter, Thomas, Lawrence, Kelly Mason, Damien Pitts, Ray Suit, and Michelle Webber. Springfield City Club has invited all eight applicants to a webinar scheduled for noon on February 18. City Club received statements from five of the candidates. They are each reproduced below. Four of the candidates were available for the forum on the 18th. You may view that forum on the City Club Facebook page.

FEBRUARY 4: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE

In 2020 the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce pivoted to a focus on business recovery and resilience. That focus continues today as it supports small businesses trying to recover from the effects of the pandemic. Paige Sharpe, Director of Development and Talent Initiatives and Dani Thompsen Economic Development Specialist, updated City Club members at the February 4 program. The recovery effort included developing partnerships with local businesses and agencies and development of a program to make personal protective equipment available to local businesses in Springfield. That program still has some equipment available, they reported, in case businesses still have needs.



Paige Sharpe

The Chamber offered a September business boot camp to its over 700 members focused on developing or improving an online presence so that business could remain active in the face of restrictions on in person activity. That program included \$500 grants from the City of Springfield used to improve a business's online presence.



Dani Thompsen

The speakers noted that this may be the major change in business practices that will persist beyond the recovery – and online presence will become essential and will enhance a business's ability to pivot as future major events tend to disrupt the business cycle.

No one knows, they said, how many businesses have closed as a result of the pandemic. While business openings tend to be splashy, closures tend to be quiet and not publicized. There has, however, been serious damage done to the hospitality industries in the metropolitan area.

The speakers reported that the Chamber is supporting efforts to offer some sort of liability protection to local businesses, but efforts have not focused on a specific form that might take

FEBRUARY 18: CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL WARD 1

With the appointment of Sean Van Gordon as Mayor of Springfield, the City Council seat elected from Ward 1 has become vacant. Eight individuals have applied to fill the vacancy. The individual appointed will serve until December 31, 2022.

Grace Bergen



Now that we have been in this “new normal” for almost a year we have had to change the way we interact, the way we run our businesses and the way we connect within our community. We have the opportunity to be better for our families and our community. During this time, we have been lucky to have great leaders on City Council. I have the energy and tenacity to keep our city moving in the right direction for citizens and businesses. I served the city on the Planning Commission the past several years where we have made important decisions for the city which makes me ready to serve as a city councilor.

As a Realtor® I know the impact the housing shortage has on our community and businesses. I have met with decision makers in Salem and Washington, D.C. on the impact various legislation would have on communities like ours. Seeing the importance of change is great, taking the steps to make change happen is where a difference is made. This is a pivotal time to lead with integrity.

With your support we can achieve great community growth. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you as to why I’m the right choice for a seamless transition. I ask for your support and ask you to connect with our city councilors to urge them to select the candidate with the experience to keep us moving forward.

With great respect,
Grace Bergen
City Councilor candidate – Ward 1

Timothy S. Canter



My name is Tim Canter. I have lived in Springfield for over 20 years and worked for the Springfield School District that long. Currently I work as a Transition Specialist for Adjudicated Youth and Coordinate the Springfield Safety Net.

I have also been a foster parent for many years, I am a Veteran, I’m a former United States Marine and have volunteered for many agencies. I strongly believe in participating in the community. I have been homeless as an adult in the area for a period of time as well.

The areas I want to work or focus on are supporting small business. Generally but also coming out of COVID. Public Transportation and making the city more bike friendly are also important to me. I also believe we need to continue to work on serving the homeless in Springfield, especially youth and families. I want to see the City and Willamalane partner around their building in downtown Springfield. I think we need to continue to support downtown Springfield but also develop other hubs around the city.

To close, I believe to serve on the City council is a privilege. It is one that I truly desire to do and serve the people of Springfield and Ward 1.

Raymond Suit



I have lived in Eugene/Springfield my entire life and proudly call this community my home. I have been a volunteer for Kidsports for over 10 years serving as the head coach for over 25 youth teams. Also been a volunteer coach, judge, and mentor to high school students in the DECA program that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs to be college and career ready for over 20 years.

I have been employed with NortonLifeLock (formerly Symantec) for 16 years where I have acquired a strong background in financial analytics, risk management, budgeting, and cross-team collaborations. My educational background is in politics and legal. I am also an active member of Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) which is the force behind the regional tech industry.

I strongly believe in the council’s vision of providing leadership through partnerships. My connection through employment, associations, coaching, growing up here, and raising kids has provided me the opportunity to build strong relationships in the City of Springfield.

PROGRAMS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The areas I would like to focus on would be community and police relationships, safe openings of businesses and schools, and park and recreational development specifically bike and walk paths in Ward 1

Michelle Webber

My name is Michelle Webber, and it is with great pride in and concern for Springfield that I have applied for city council.

Thanks to the vision of previous and current city leadership, the Springfield we call home today is vastly different from the Springfield my father covered as a reporter for the Register Guard 40 years ago. Downtown Springfield is safe, vibrant, and welcoming to new businesses. We have improved infrastructure, beautiful parks, and excellent after school programs for our children. As we look to the future, continued focus on all 6 council goals is important but fostering an environment that values diversity and inclusion, strengthening the relationship between police and citizens, and finding a solution for those that live without shelter are of utmost importance. We must seize this opportunity to bring voices from all sides of these issues together, engage in tough conversations and seek solutions that will move us forward together.

2020 was a challenging and pivotal year locally, statewide, and nationwide but we are resilient and passionate. I am committed to courageous leadership, hearing the concerns of all Springfield citizens, and working together to make Springfield a safe, diverse, and prosperous place for all to live, work and raise families.

Damien Pitts



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In person instruction is critical to early childhood education classes, hands on career and technical education programs, and to students experiencing mental and behavioral health challenges related to distance learning. The Springfield School District has already begun bringing lower grade levels back into the classroom in response to recent Oregon Department of Education guidelines. Alongside other districts in our state, Springfield Public Schools spent months putting into place complex logistical plans, individually created for each school in our district. These plans apply statewide health and safety standards to keep students and teachers safe in an in-person learning environment. Let us maintain confidence in our school districts ability to keep teachers, students, and their families safe, while delivering in person instruction to the student populations who need it most.

*Paige Sharpe,
Director*

Minutes
 Board of Directors
 Springfield City Club
 January 5, 2021 – Zoom

Present:

Heather Murphy	Callie Elliot	Kristin Denmark	Bob Fondren
Len Goodwin	Terry Beyer	Merlyn Hough	Nick Nelson
Paige Sharpe			

Absent:

Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m.

On a motion by Nick, seconded by Callie, the minutes were approved as submitted unanimously.

Bob presented the Financial report. Cash is a little low, in part because notices to renew were sent out late. We expect to see a rebound as dues come in beginning next month. Bob will check with Joe to make sure that the note to sponsors went out. On a motion by Len, seconded by Nick, the Financial Report was approved unanimously.

The Board reviewed existing vacancies, which now number two since Mark had to resign following his election to the SUB board. Nick will check with Mark to see if he has contacted Johanis Tadeo. Nick spoke to Mavis Sanchez of Willamalane and she is interested in joining the Board. It is not clear if she would join as an individual or if Willamalane will be able to renew its business membership. The Board discussed the possibility that either the Club or Thorp, Purdy might sponsor her as an individual for a year if there are financial issues. We will try to invite both candidates to the next meeting so that they can learn about the Board's functioning.

The program for this week is all set. Molly Markarian will lead a discussion of the status of the Springfield Main Street Safety Project. Heather will do the welcome and Len will introduce the speaker. Kristin will monitor questions on Zoom.

It looks like it would not be timely to try and invite the new mayor, who will be selected next week, for the program on the 21st. Also, discussions about redistricting have not progressed to the point where it seems a program is feasible. Perhaps that can be done in February. Several possibilities were discussed including inviting Vonnie Mikkelsen to give a business update and inviting Senator Manning to discuss legislative work on BIPOC issues. Heather will reach out to the senator.

Paige suggested an update on the state of COVID19 vaccination program. Len will reach out to Jason Davis to see if that is feasible.

Program assignments for the next few weeks:

- January 7 -- Heather welcome; Len intro; Paige Q&A.
- January 21 -- Heather welcome; Len Intro; Kristin Q&A.
- February 4 -- Heather welcome; Nick intro and Q&A.
- February 18 -- Heather welcome; terry intro and Q&A.

We will continue to go down the list of sponsors identifying one or two in the program background.

No update from statewide consortium

Terry will do a newsletter article on the Springfield Education Association honors for this year.

Len will send out the survey as its currently has been developed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Goodwin,
Secretary,

City Club Board of Directors

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Past President	Kristin Denmark	kdenmark@thorp-purdy.com	(541) 747-3354
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Director	Nick Nelson	nick@nicknelsonrealestate.com	(541) 852-9394
Director	Paige Sharpe	paige@springfield-chamber.org	(541) 746-1651
Director			