

I hope all of you are enjoying a wonderful summer. There really is no place more beautiful in the summer than Oregon.

I am so pleased to be the President of Springfield City Club for the 2019-2020 year. As your President, I have three goals. First, we want to continue to deliver excellent programming to our members. The City Club Board works hard to bring relevant and informative programs to our members. Over the past year we have provided programs regarding ballot measures, legislative and congressional updates, Career Technical Education (CTE) with a tour of Hamlin Middle School, local bond measures, communication in emergencies, a joint City clubs panel regarding Oregon taxes, the Springfield Libraries project, the "Climate Kids" federal lawsuit, the Niceness Campaign, the expansion at McKenzie-Willamette Hospital, the upcoming fire season, and many more. We always welcome feedback, comments, questions, and ideas from our City Club members. Please contact any Board member, or contact me directly at kdenmark@thorp-purdy.com.

Second, the City Club Board has made an effort over the past year to increase and expand our City Club individual and business memberships. Members are welcome to bring a guest, at no charge, to a City Club meeting. Each guest's first City Club meeting is free of charge; after that we ask that you consider joining or to simply pay to attend. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive environment that fosters the communication of ideas and information. To that end, the City Club Board voted to be included with a consortium of City Clubs for a grant application that seeks to enhance diversity among City Club membership. Different voices, points of view, and opinions make our discussions better. We are actively seeking to promote diversity among our membership and welcome your ideas. Better yet, bring a friend or colleague!

Finally, I hope to review our City Club mission statement, bylaws and constitution for consistency and updating, where necessary. Any changes will be brought to the City Club Board, and, if necessary the membership. For example, the Board has discussed allowing members to vote on amendments to the bylaws or constitution via email, but that practice is currently not permitted by those documents. I am hoping to find a little extra time over the course of the year to fit in this organizational task.

Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as City Club President. I am excited for what the year will bring. Please contact me with any questions or comments. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming lunch meetings: August 1: Sustaining the Non-Profit Effort with Terry McDonald of St. Vincent DePaul and August 22: Congressional Update with Representative Peter DeFazio.

*Kristin Denmark
President*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

AUGUST 1 SUSTAINING THE NON-PROFIT EFFORT

The massive changes to federal tax law enacted by the Congress in 2017 have had many effects, both good and bad. One effect that many had predicted, but few looked forward to, was the seriously adverse impact on non-profit organizations. Changes to the income tax reduced, in many cases, the tax benefits of charitable contributions and, as a result, non-profit organizations entered a time of pronged struggle as they tried to keep their finances secure. Terry McDonald, of St. Vincent DePaul, will discuss a model for how a non-profit organization can become and remain sustainable in the new tax environment.

AUGUST 22 PETER DEFAZIO

As a result of the 2018 elections, Representative Peter DeFazio, a Springfield resident, has become chair of the powerful House Transportation Committee. Always a vigorous advocate for transportation issues, and particularly for Oregon and his district, Mr. DeFazio will discuss what has been one of the most fractious sessions of the Congress on August 22.

Public Calendar

All items are tentative and subject to change

Please click on the agency name to see the most current information

[Springfield City Council](#)

225 Fifth Street, Springfield
RECESS THROUGH AUGUST 18

August 19, 2019

Work Session 5:30 p.m.
City Prosecutor Update
Background Check Ordinance
Downtown Design Standards code

Amendment

August 26, 2019

Work Session 5:30 p.m.
TSP Implementation Project

September 3, 2019

Work session 6:00 p.m.
Museum Board Applicant Interviews
Regular Session 7:00 p.m.
Sunset of old BCC's
PH Abatement Warrants
PH Metro Plan Amendment
Zoning Map Amendment

RECENT PROGRAMS

Lane County Commissioners

125 E. Eighth Avenue, Eugene

August 6, 2019 -- No MEETING

August 13, 2019 – No MEETING

August 20, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.’

PH Creswell Comprehensive Plan

Territorial Highway Reconstruction

August 27, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

Lane Transit District

3500 E. 17th Avenue, Eugene (Glenwood)

August 21, 2019 – Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Springfield School Board

640 A Street, Springfield

August 12, 2019 – Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

August 26, 2019 – Planning Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Willamalane Park and Recreation District

320 S. 32nd Street, Springfield

No MEETING

Springfield Utility Board

250 A Street Springfield

August 4, 2019 – Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Lane Regional Air Protection Authority

1010 Main Street, Springfield

August 8, 2019 – Board Meeting 12:15 p.m.

JULY 18 – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Although the 2019 session of the Legislative Assembly ended confrontationally, local Senator Lee Beyer concluded that the session was actually quite successful. Beyer, joined by lobbyist Doug Barber and former legislator Tony Corcoran, pointed to numerous successes in the session when the panel spoke at the Springfield City Club on July 18.



The panel believed that passage of the Student Success Act was a major accomplishment in funding education in Oregon. Beyer said it represents the largest investment in education in Oregon's history. Every legislature since Governor McCall in the 1970's has tried, he said, but none had succeeded.

The Act imposes a business tax, of the same general type as the Washington Business and Occupations tax, at a rate of 0.57% on gross sales in excess of \$10 million. It affects about 15 percent of Oregon businesses, and will generate over \$1 billion in education funding. It

offers benefits to all levels of education, including pre-school and relief nurseries.

Although the bill was vigorously opposed by some industry groups, after the close of the session, manufacturers indicated they would not seek a referral or an initiative to repeal the Act.

The second major success was in the area of health care. As a result of bills passed, 90 percent of Oregonians now have access to health insurance. The hospital tax enacted in 2017 was continued, and new taxes on tobacco have been referred to the November ballot. An attempt to make it difficult for large employers from using Medicaid as their employee health plan did not succeed; our speakers thought the proposal was ill-prepared, and the issue will probably be revisited with an improved version in the 2021 session. The legislature also created a task force to study how to get to single payer health insurance. There is a consensus that such a



program would be less expensive, but there would be substantial costs to be funded in any transition.

The legislature also enacted a paid family leave program. Interestingly, one of the conditions for ending the first Senate walkout was an agreement to adopt a family leave bill. This condition was set out of fear that if the legislature failed to act an initiative would be proposed which would be "far worse."

One controversial piece of legislation was the elimination of proof of citizenship requirements for drivers' licenses. A different approach to the issue had been rejected by the voters in the past. The situation has changed since that, however, Sen. Beyer explained. The federal government has enacted "Real ID" requirements under which Oregon drivers' licenses cannot be used for federal ID purposes. In response, the State has adopted new requirements which will result in a different type of license available to citizens beginning in October 2020. Citizens will have to get this new license, at a greater cost, if they wish to use it for federal purposes.



The legislature also referred a constitutional amendment to the 2020 ballot. This amendment would allow the State Legislature to subsequently adopt campaign reforms and funding limits. The Legislature had adopted limits in the past, but they were struck down by the Courts as violative of the current Constitution.

While the panel noted that over 90 percent of legislation approved is on a bi-partisan basis, the major exception that stood out was the failure to adopt a cap and invest package similar to that adopted in California. It was this bill that sparked the second walkout by Republican senators.

Questioners asked if the challenges in the current session were likely to recur in the 2020 session. The panel noted that since the session is sharply time-limited, legislators are given few opportunities to introduce bills, and that the legislature will have to deal with a tax kicker shortfall, it is quite possible that something like cap and invest, or other highly polarizing issues, might not be on the agenda until 2021.



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