

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### MAY 6, 2021 SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTIONS

City Club has invited seven candidates who are seeking two seats on the Springfield School Board. (While other seats are also up for election, those seats have only one candidate.)

### MAY 20, 2021 GLENWOOD DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

Two development teams have offered proposals for major developments to be designed and constructed on the Glenwood riverfront just north and west of the Springfield bridge.

The City Council and Springfield Economic Development Agency are considering each proposal and hope to make a decision in the very near future. Each development would involve several hundred million dollars in construction and significantly change the riverfront in that area. City Club has invited each development team to make a presentation on their plan.

## 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.

**Many boards continue to meet online as the County emerges from the restrictions on activity. Please see the guide on page 3 for information on how to connect.**

### [City of Springfield Council](#)

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

#### **May 3, 2021**

Work Session 5:30 p.m.

Engineering Design Manual

Master fees and Charges update

Regular Session 7:00 p.m.

FY22 CDBG One Year action Plan

PH: Right of Way Vacation (first reading)

PH: Wastewater and Stormwater Ratification

#### **May 10, 2021**

Work Session 5:30 p.m.

Main Street Safety Project

This month there are a large number of elections for School boards and special districts. In many of these districts there is no contest. However, for the Springfield School Board there are two positions for which several candidates have filed.

For Springfield School District Position 3 the candidates are:

Steven Hadley

Brandy Crosby

Jonathan Light

Anthony Reed

Samantha Alcantar

For Position 5 the candidates are:

Kelly Mason

Ruth Linoz

There are also a number of local measures on the ballot. One measure, which affects all of Lane County is Measure 20-319 -- 4-H and OSU Extension Programs in Lane County. Below is the official description of that measure.

If approved, Lane County would establish a dedicated local option tax supporting Extension Service programs in Lane County. A property assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$5.60 per year. Purpose is to:

Expand existing 4-H and other positive youth development opportunities to rural communities.

Continue volunteer programs such as Master Gardener, Master Food Preserver, Compost and Pruning Specialist, Food Pantry, and Master Woodland Manager

Develop and offer educational programs focused on community emergency preparedness.

Continue to provide food safety and preservation, nutrition, and wellness education

Continue to provide technical assistance to farmers, woodland owners and nursery growers.

Expand educational programming to all communities that encourages high school completion and college access.

Oregon State University, through state and federal funds, provides the majority of funding for Extension experts in Lane County. Approximately 340 volunteers extend their efforts. Program fees, grants and contracts cover part of the costs of local programs and services. This local option tax would continue and expand existing programming, provide additional opportunities for 4-H youth, support volunteer programs, and secure local Extension education positions.

The proposed rate will raise approximately \$1,051,706 in 2021, \$1,034,090 in 2022, \$1,016,769 in 2023, \$1,052,356 in 2024, and \$1,089,188 in 2025 for a total of \$5,244,109. The estimated total cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate.

*MEETINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

SEDA Regular Meeting 7:20 p.m.  
Glenwood Property Purchase

**May 17, 2021**

Work Session 6:00 p.m.  
RV's as Temporary Housing  
Regular Session 7:00 p.m.  
PH: Master Fees and Charges  
PH: Enterprise Zone Designation

**May 24, 2021**

Work Session 6:30 p.m.  
FEMA Program Updates

**May 31, 2021 No MEETING**

**Lane County Board of Commissioners**

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

**May 4, 2021 9:00 a.m.**

Work Session  
Fire Siting Standards  
Regular Session  
PH Old Hazeldell Quarry

**May 11, 2021 9:00 a.m.**

MWMC Budget and CIP  
PH: Signature Gathering on Local Measure Petitions  
Holiday Farm Fire Update

**May 18, 2021 9:00 a.m.**

River Road-Santa Clara Neighborhood Plan  
Evening Public Comment 5:30 p.m.

**May 25, 2021 9:00 a.m.**

PH Local bodies paying County for cost of collecting taxes

**Lane Transit District**

3500 E. 17th Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97403  
(541)687-5555

**May 5, 2021**

Directors Work Session 5:30 p.m.

**May 19, 2021**

Directors Special Meeting 4:00 p.m.  
Directors Regular Meeting 5:30 p.m.

**School District 19 Board of Directors**

640 A Street  
Springfield, OR 97477  
(541) 726-3201

**May 10, 2021**

Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Springfield Utility Board**

250 A Street  
Springfield OR 97477  
(541)746-8451

**May 12, 2021**

Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**Willamalane Park and Recreation District**

320 S. 32nd Street  
Springfield, OR 97478  
(541)736-4544

**May 9, 2021**

Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**May 19, 2021**

Budget Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m.

**Lane Regional Air Protection Authority**

1010 Main Street  
Springfield, OR 97477  
(541)735-1056

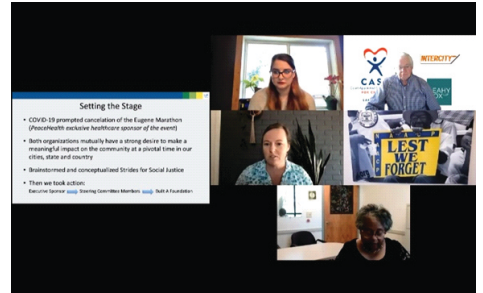
**May 10, 2021**

Board Meeting 12:15 p.m.

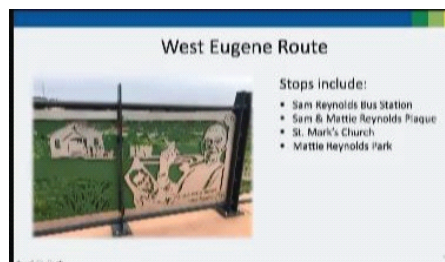
**RECENT MEETINGS**

**STRIDES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE APRIL 1**

Bad circumstances sometimes lead to good results. That's the case with the cancellation of the last Eugene Marathon. While many runners lost the opportunity to run the race, the organizers of the Marathon, working with community leaders, developed an alternative which can reach many more people and have components for exercise, education and fund raising. Strides for Social Justice is a smartphone app that allows anyone to take a walking, running, or bike tour of a series of sites important to the local Black community, get some exercise, and contribute to organizations that support social justice.



Becky Radliff, Director of Event Operations for the Eugene Marathon, Delissa Meashintubby, the Executive Director of Volunteers in Medicine, and Eric Richardson, the Executive Director of the local chapter of the NAACP discussed the new app, how it was developed and what they hope to accomplish at the April 1 Springfield City club program.



The app is available on the app stores for both Android and phones. It offers four routes, with exercise and information at each stop along the route. The routes now available include a downtown route, a south Eugene route, and West Eugene route and a Westmoreland route, each chosen because along that route there are some sites important to the history of the black community in Eugene. The designers are also considering adding routes for Skinner's Butte and the University of Oregon. At the moment the app is available only in English, but the designers are considering developing a Spanish version.

In response to a question, Mr. Richardson said that a Springfield route might be developed, but he noted that given its different history of racial relations and tension, a Springfield route might create both the challenge and the opportunity to have more difficult conversations.

Mr. Richardson touched on a difficult question during the question and answer period. He was asked about the reality the name of his organization, and of other organizations like the UNCF, when fully spelled out contain racist tropes. Pointing toward the recent movement to remove symbols of a racist past, he said he is divided about removing monuments. He added it is important to not forget our history but to learn both the good and bad in our history. "We do not want to have amnesia; we need to have analysis and reflection and learn from our past for the future."

Ms. Radliff says that they have already received inquiries from across the nation on how other localities might create similar efforts to combine physical activity and education. Hopefully, she said, it will spur to many other communities as they develop ways to study their own history. More information about the app, and the organization's plans for the future can be found at their website: [www.stridesforsocialjustice.org](http://www.stridesforsocialjustice.org)

**APRIL 8 SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCILORS**

For the first time in several months the Springfield City Council is at full strength. In November, Kori Rodley was elected to serve as Ward 3 Councilor. Sean VanGordon, Ward 1 Councilor, was appointed at the beginning of the year as Interim Mayor to fill a vacancy. On March 8, Damien Pitts was appointed by the Council to fill the vacancy created by Mayor VanGordon's appointment. Both new Councilors visited with Springfield City Club members on April 8.

Although the two Councilors have widely varied backgrounds, they seemed to have more in common than differences.

Councilor Pitts has had a wide ranging and varied career, including service in the Army in foreign deployments. He studied at the University of Tennessee, spent time in Utah as a career coach and moved to Oregon about 4 1/2 years ago. As only the second black person to every serve on the Council he said people might assume he is a liberal. "But I was in the army and I'm from the south," he said.

Councilor Rodley is a native Oregonian who grew up in Roseburg. She has been involved in the Springfield political process for several years, including service on the Springfield Budget Committee. She has served with Councilor Pitts on the Lane County Equity and Access Board.

Both Councilors pointed to Springfield's ability to support local businesses as an example of what Springfield is doing well. Councilor Rodley added she thought the City was doing well at encouraging different types of housing, and noted she sees less of the NIMBY attitude that she has observed in other cities.

As to challenges, Councilor Rodley noted that current issues with the Police Department and the difficulty of dealing with the fiscal impact of the pandemic. She said a major concern was how to keep residents who are now precariously housed from becoming unhoused and expressed her hope that a coming infusion of one-time federal resources might address that issue.

Councilor Pitts noted his major focus was on dealing with the culture of the City. He said that his observation was that there is fear among the residents that their culture will be lost. He said that was not the case; that adding diversity would, in fact, benefit all cultures in the city, that the community must be open to change and growth. This was a theme he repeated on several opportunities – that his prime focus is on broadening the cultural image of Springfield. Making the community more inclusive and diverse, he added, would have strong economic benefits.

Both Councilors expressed some guarded support for the new development proposals for the Glenwood waterfront. Each noted it was important that the community recognize that Glenwood is not a blank slate – there are

**To view Springfield City Council meetings:** On the Thursday before the meeting, the Council agenda is posted [here](#). The agenda will contain the information to link to the live stream of the meeting.

**To view meetings of the Lane County Board of Commissioners,** go to this [link](#) for connection information

**To view Lane Transit District Board meetings,** go to the [Events Calendar](#) and click on the meeting you want to attend for information on the Zoom link

**To view School District 19 Board meetings:** on the Thursday or Friday before the meeting go to the [Board Meeting Calendar](#), locate the meeting agenda and you will find the Zoom link to join the meeting.

**To listen to Willamalane Board meetings:**

On a telephone or cell phone, dial 541-736-4490  
When prompted, enter the conference ID: 85238 followed by the # sign

**To listen to SUB Board meetings:**

Dial in using your phone: Dial 1.978.990.5373  
Enter the Access Code: 2355961#

**To view LRAPA meetings:**

Below are instructions for participation: Click on this link from your desktop: <https://zoom.us/j/2234449160>



communities there and that it is important that development in Glenwood consider their needs. As Councilor Pitts put it, “Glenwood change should be based on who is there, not on the goals of some outside developer.”

A questioner raised the issue of a national report that suggests that traffic violence disproportionately affects blacks, indigenous people, and people of color. Councilor Pitts cautioned against relying on national statistics which might not be relevant to Springfield. He saw the issues of traffic safety through his cultural lens – that is perhaps no more or less than people not caring about others and being selfish.

Both Councilors pointed to some positive that has come out of the pandemic. With the Council and other boards and commissions meeting virtually, it is easier for the public to engage; there are more opportunities to participate and become involved. While he agreed, Councilor Pitts warned that increased engagement can lead to increased divisiveness. He added that it is important as part of the increased opportunities to make people feel that they have a place at the table, that it is not simple the same people holding positions and rotating through them one after another. Positive change, he said, would come by attracting more new people to the conversation.

Councilor Pitts added that it is important for the Council to get outside of its comfort zone and be accessible, a view that Councilor Rodley shared. She said it is important to help people understand that it is not what is happening in Washington that people should focus on – it is their own local government where things actually happen. While it may be important to pay attention to national events; if your toilet backs up because the local wastewater system needs repair and attention, that has an immediate personal impact.

More generally on the topic of potential new sources of federal funds, both Councilors first thought of how the City can focus on supporting and reinvesting in local businesses. Councilor Rodley added that clearly the City can spend more on infrastructure maintenance and preservation but agreed with Councilor Pitts that bringing more diversity into the community can have the effect of generating more funds to support infrastructure.

#### APRIL 15 – THE COMING FIRE SEASON

No one can predict in advance what a fire season will be like, Eugene-Springfield Interim Fire Chief Chris Heppel told City Club members and guests at the April 15 program. Last year’s devastating Holiday Farm fire was a product of a once in a hundred-year weather pattern of unusually high easterly winds at a time of extended drought. But while that pattern may not recur this year, the program came just as the County had banned backyard burning in April, itself a very unusual event, coupled with a continuation, and perhaps worsening, of the drought Oregon continues to experience.



Chief Heppel was joined by Patence Winningham, the Lane County Emergency Manager, Dan Hurley, the Lane County Public Works Director, who served as recovery manager for the Holiday Farm fire, and Kevin Holman and Ken Vogeney, respectively the Emergency Managers for the City of Eugene and the City of Springfield, reviewing both lessons learned and what they knew about the upcoming fire season.

While Chief Heppel agreed it was unlikely that the Holiday Farm area would burn again soon, he noted that on the perimeter there remain several areas that are still smoldering from last year and cautioned those could reignite. His main concern, he said, was the Oak Ridge area, where limited access and steep terrain make it more challenging to get resources to any fire that occurs. Responding to a question, he said that western Lane County benefits from higher humidity in the Coast range because of proximity to the ocean but reminded all that the Sweet Creek fire occurred there last year, and that the Whittaker fire had occurred over 10 years ago. The County is considered to be in the low to moderate risk range, but that does not mean that the danger of fire is small.

Last year’s event has led to recognition of some important point for this year and the future. Many fires are what Chief Heppel called “escape fires,” where backyard burning or some other legitimate activity escapes from its bounds into wildlands and forests. There are particularly worrisome at the interface between urban land and forests and fields. The County’s FireWise program, which helps residents fund improvements to their property to make homes more defensible, is an important asset. The program for 2021 will open on May 3, and residents may request information by sending an email to [FirewiseProgram@LaneCountyOR.gov](mailto:FirewiseProgram@LaneCountyOR.gov)

More training on how to use the Incident Command System, a national program to provide common procedures and practices in any emergency, is important to get prepared for any event, whether it is fire, which happens every year, or more unusual events like earthquakes or other natural disasters. As Mr. Vogeney explained, that system makes it possible for local, state, and national officials to communicate much more effectively so that resources can be deployed quickly. Although all the fire departments in the area are closely linked – dispatched from the same command center and tied closely with strong mutual aid agreements, communications in an emergency is key. A uniform system which makes it easy for all levels to understand each other is vital.

*PROGRAMS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4*

Unfortunately, it appears there remains some tension between funding, particularly at the federal level, for suppression of fires and management efforts at fire prevention. While a State policy committee recommended changes in the balance of funding between those two activities, it takes a long time for legislation to move, and an even longer time for a change in focus to be effective.

Mr. Hurley pointed out that one thing that the region had not been prepared for was the extent of animal rescue involved in the Holiday Farm event. Rescue workers handled 576 livestock and over 100 domestic animals. Personnel had not been trained on animal rescue and resource management was not well organized. Debris management also proved to be a challenge. While the Lane County landfill had an area set aside for debris management, much of the debris recovered was hazardous waste and needed to be placed in the lined area of the landfill that is used for domestic waste. That has led to some restrictions on haulers disposal to preserve land fill capacity.

Communications in an emergency is always a challenge all the speakers noted. Mr. Vogoney described the multiple tools that exist for governments to get information out. The County is covered by the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, which can send messages to every cell tower in the county, or to only selected ones. Emergency managers can select media outlets for messages (which generate those annoying beeps on your radio whenever a test is conducted). Each city has social media pages which can be used to disseminate information. Mr. Holman said that Community Emergency Response Team members, who are volunteers trained to support emergency services, can reach out to their neighbors. All this communication is coordinated by Joint Information Systems organized under the ICS model to assure that a common and uniform message is passed along. Mr. Hurley urged people to be careful to rely only on information from official sources, noting that misinformation spread by other groups can be very dangerous.

**City Club Board of Directors**

President	Heather Murphy	<a href="mailto:heatherm@casa-lane.org">heatherm@casa-lane.org</a>	
President-Elect	Callie Barry Elliott	<a href="mailto:celliott@columbiabank.com">celliott@columbiabank.com</a>	(541) 984-2270
Past President	Kristin Denmark	<a href="mailto:kdenmark@thorp-purdy.com">kdenmark@thorp-purdy.com</a>	(541)747-3354
Treasurer	Bob Fondren	<a href="mailto:bobf@subutil.com">bobf@subutil.com</a>	(541)744-3610
Secretary	Len Goodwin	<a href="mailto:localcitizenor@gmail.com">localcitizenor@gmail.com</a>	(541)915-8956
Director	Terry Beyer	<a href="mailto:terrybeyer@comcast.net">terrybeyer@comcast.net</a>	(541)746-5889
Director	Tom Boyatt	<a href="mailto:tboyatt@springfield-or.gov">tboyatt@springfield-or.gov</a>	(541)744-3373
Director	Merlyn Hough	<a href="mailto:merlyn@lrapa.org">merlyn@lrapa.org</a>	(541)736-1056
Director	Nick Nelson	<a href="mailto:nick@nicknelsonrealestate.com">nick@nicknelsonrealestate.com</a>	(541)852-9394
Director	Paige Sharpe	<a href="mailto:paige@springfield-chamber.org">paige@springfield-chamber.org</a>	(541)746-1651

**Minutes  
Board of Directors  
Springfield City Club  
March 2, 2021 – Zoom**

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

Guests: Tom Boyatt

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

Heather reported on an email she received from Mark Molina. Mark said he had received a couple of complaints about the handling of the Candidate forum in the newsletter –specifically that Damien Pitts was listed last among the candidates and his biographical statement was not included. Len explained how that had happened inadvertently and the Board agreed that more attention needs to be paid to making sure that individuals are not treated disparately, even if unintended. It was suggested that alphabetical order be used to avoid any appearance of unfairness. It as also agreed that attention needs to be paid to Facebook comments to assure they are responded to quickly. Heather agreed to reach out to Mr. Pitts to assure him that the oversight was unintentional.

On a motion by Kristin, seconded by Callie, the minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

Heather noted that CASA had not received a statement for annual dues. Paige reported that the Chamber of Commerce had also not received a statement. It was agreed that Heather would ask Bean Counter to re-invoice all business members who had not yet been paid, and ask them to include Sanipac, with the invoice directed to Aaron Donley.

Kristin said that she had offered to pay for an individual membership for an organization but couldn't remember who it was. Nick suggested it was for Mavis from Willamalane. Terry reported she had paid for a membership for SAFER, and that they want billing information for next year.

In reviewing the financial report Callie said that she should be shown as paid. That suggested that we should hold on rebilling businesses until after we were sure that everything in the mailbox had been recorded. After some discussion, on a motion by Len, seconded by Callie, the February financial report was approved unanimously.

Nick r3epoerted on filling board vacancies. Mavis Sanchez is interested and we should invite her to the next Board meeting. Sheryl Eyster is not available at this time, but she suggested Dwight Collins, of Newman's Fish, who lives in Springfield. The Board agreed to not approach him until after we had acted with respect to Tom and Mavis' interest.

Tom's interest in the Board was discussed. After discussion, the Board, an a motion by Len, seconded by Callie, unanimously appointed Tom to the Board for a term expiring June 30, 2022.

Programs for March include Jacob Fox on Homes for Good, and the Commons at MLK project on March 4 and Mayor Sean VanGordon on March 18.

Future meeting possibilities discussed included Strides w=for Justice, which is looking at an April Program on the Strides for Social Justice Initiative. Tom agreed to try and set up a program on the upcoming fire season for April 15. Other program ideas included the CHIPs program, the two new members of the Springfield City Council. Senator Manning has reported he is not available to discuss BIPOC issues in the legislature until after the session. Terry reported that there seem to be nothing to present on redistricting until later in the year.

For this month's programs Nick will do the intro and Q&A for March 4 and Paige will do intro and Q&A for March 18.

Len reported that the statewide consortium will not meet until March 15.

Merlyn agreed to do an article for the April newsletter on his retirement from LRAPA. The article will be due by March 26.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Goodwin,  
Secretary