

November 2025 Issue: Forward Together Community Newsletter

< karen@communicationsdepartmentofspringfieldohio.ccsend.com >

Thu, 06 Nov 2025 1:33:17 PM -0500

To "kmr"<kmr@karenrutherford.com>

Tags ■ Newsletter

November 2025

*The official newsletter of the City of Springfield, Ohio, published
for the residents and businesses.*

www.springfieldohio.gov

Learn, Explore, Engage: Springfield's 2026 Citizens Government Academy



By City Manager Bryan Heck

Have you ever wondered how decisions are made in
our City? Or what goes on behind the scenes to



keep our community running smoothly? I personally believe that our best Citizens are our most informed Citizens, so I want to invite you to join us for the 2026 Citizens Government Academy.

This ten-week program is designed to give residents a first-hand look at how Springfield operates under the Commission–Manager form of government. We'll explore everything from policy-making and budgeting to public safety, infrastructure and community development. You'll get to meet department heads, take tours of City facilities, and participate in lively discussions about the challenges and opportunities facing our city. The academy will take place every other Tuesday from 5:30-8:30 PM and kicks off on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Here's a glimpse of what we'll cover:

Week 1: City Government 101

We'll kick things off with an introduction to how your local government works, the roles of the City Commission and City Manager and a bit of Springfield's history.

Week 2: Policy & Decision-Making

Meet your City Commissioners, learn how ordinances and resolutions are created and try your hand at a mock Commission activity.

Week 3: Budget & Finance

Our Finance team will walk you through how budgets are built, where revenue comes from and how we plan for the future.

Week 4: Springfield Police Division

Learn more about our community policing and public safety strategy.

Week 5: Legal Department & Municipal Court Operations

Learn more about how our legal department supports our City and Court operations, including the Prosecutors Office, Municipal Court & Clerk of Courts.

Week 6: Springfield Fire Rescue Division

Learn more about our fire and rescue efforts and how our new fire stations will better serve the community for decades to come.

Week 7: Infrastructure & Public Works

Learn about utilities, public works projects and how we maintain and improve the infrastructure that supports our community.



Week 8: Economic and Community Development

Discover how we attract and retain businesses, support housing initiatives and revitalize our neighborhoods.

Week 9: Leadership in Action

Have a roundtable discussion with the City Manager and Department Heads where you can ask questions and learn more about our opportunities and challenges for Springfield's future, while offering your perspectives on Springfield's priorities.

Week 10: Graduation & Civic Engagement Pathways

You did it! Tonight we celebrate your dedication to learning more about your community and how you can continue to stay engaged and make valuable contributions into the future!

Sign Up Now!

This program is for anyone who wants to understand more about their City and how they can be involved. It's interactive, informative and your chance to connect with your neighbors and city leaders.

Attendance is limited to 25 individuals.

**Click Here to Apply for the 2026 Citizens
Government Academy**

Contact Communications Director Karen Graves at (937) 324-7304 for more information.

I hope you'll join us—come learn, ask questions, provide your insights and see Springfield in a whole new way!

Have a Conversation with the City Manager!

Share your thoughts on the topics that matter to you and get an inside look at our community. Join us on Monday, November 10 at 5 PM at the Roger L. Evans Community Policing Substation (17 W. Johnny Lytle Avenue). We hope to see you there!



CONVERSATION

with the City Manager

Have a conversation with City Manager Bryan Heck! Share your thoughts on the topics that matter to you and gain insights into our community.

Monday
November 10, 2025

Time
5:00-6:30 PM

Location
**Roger L. Evans
Community Policing
Substation**
17 W. Johnny Lytle Avenue



2025 Bagged Leaf Pickup

Saturday, November 8 and December 6



- Use paper or plastic bags
- Bags must contain only leaves
- Bags may be placed at the curb up to 3 days prior to pickup date
- Bags must be at the curb no later than 6 AM on pickup date

Don't miss out on the 2025 Bagged Leaf Pickup! The decades-long tradition is back on **Saturday, November 8 and December 6**. Here's how you can

participate and help the pickup go smoothly:

Bagged Leaf Pickup Best Practices:

- Use **any paper or plastic bags** you have. No need to buy expensive yard bags!
- Please discard of **leaves only**. Including anything else in the bags will cause issues at the composting facility.
- Make sure any and all bag are placed on your curb **no later than 6 AM** on the pickup date.

Why it's important:

- Discarding of excess leaves help keep our **storm water drains and sewers clear**.
- Excessive amounts of leaves on our roadways keep moisture on the asphalt; **causing the roads to deteriorate faster**.
- Cleaning up our yards and roadways **keep Springfield looking beautiful!**

For more information about the impact and benefits of the Bagged Leaf Pickup Program, watch the latest episode of *At Your Service* with Service Director Chris Moore and Communications Director Karen Graves!



Did You Know?

Springfield's Service Crews maintain 284 miles of roadway in the City. That's even farther than the drive from Springfield to Pittsburgh, which is about 232 miles!



Winter Fire Safety: Top Risks and How to Prevent Them

As cold weather settles in and holiday activities pick up, fire risk in our community increases significantly. Nearly one-third of all structure fires in Springfield occur during November and December. Most of these incidents are preventable with simple, proactive steps.

Leading Causes of Winter Fires

Heating equipment — especially space heaters

Portable heaters are one of the top causes of winter home fires. Maintain at least **3 feet of clearance** from bedding, curtains and furniture. Plug heaters directly into the wall (never a power strip), ensure they have tip-over and overheat protection and **turn them off when you leave the room or go to sleep**.

Kitchen fires

Holiday cooking means more activity — and more distractions. Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food. Keep stovetops clear of towels and packaging, and keep lids nearby to smother flames if something ignites.

Candles and seasonal decorations

Decorations can dry out quickly around heat sources. Use **battery-powered candles**, avoid overloading outlets and inspect light strands for cracked wiring or damaged plugs before use.

Fireplaces and chimneys

Creosote buildup can cause chimney fires. Have fireplaces professionally cleaned each year, use a sturdy screen to contain sparks and allow ashes to cool completely before disposal in a metal container.

Simple Prevention Steps That Save Lives

- **Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries twice per year.**
- Ensure you have a working **fire extinguisher** accessible. The Springfield Fire Rescue Division installs extinguishers **at no cost** for residents who need one — call **(937) 324-7600**.
- **Create and practice a home escape plan. Identify two ways out of every room and a safe meeting place outside.**
- Need alarms? **SFRD installs smoke alarms free of charge** for

residents without a working unit — same phone number above.

Small changes make a big difference. By staying aware and following these precautions, you can help protect your family — and your community — throughout the winter season.

Stay warm, stay vigilant and stay safe, Springfield.



Connect with



For general questions or assistance, please call **(937) 328-7228** or connect with us through the Field Trips mobile app using the QR code below.



For questions regarding **Reduced Fare, Paratransit (Field Trips Assist)** or **Lost & Found** items, please call (937) 521-2132.

Thank you for choosing Field Trips.
We are glad to serve you!



Apply, Submit and Track Your Permit Applications Online with Cityworks

The City of Springfield has officially launched Cityworks, a modern online platform for Community Development services.

Now you can:

- Apply for building permits
- Submit zoning applications
- Track code compliance cases

Access the new portal here: https://app05.cityworksonline.com/CLIENT_SpringfieldOH-Public

Need help?

Contact the Community Development Department at 937-324-7380.

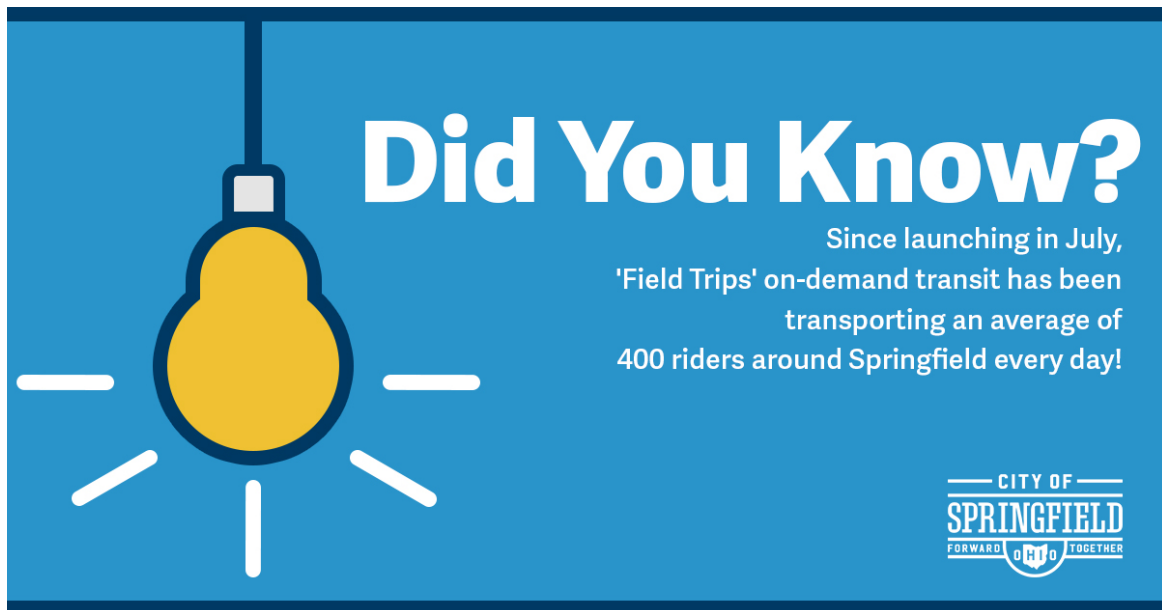
Report A Concern

Make A Service Request Online

See a pothole on the road? Know about a tree stump that needs removed? **CLICK HERE** to visit the City of Springfield website and make a service request!

Ohio Edison Streetlight Hotline

If you see an out of order or damaged streetlight, you can report it to Ohio Edison by calling 888-544-4877 and say "streetlight" after being greeted. For more information, **CLICK HERE**.



City of Springfield Partners with Nehemiah Foundation to Expand Warming Shelters

The City of Springfield is partnering with the Nehemiah Foundation's Faith Community Crisis Response Team, the Salvation Army, Sheltered Inc. and other local organizations to provide a warming shelter this winter for residents needing a safe, warm place to stay when temperatures drop.

Under a proposed agreement between the City and the Nehemiah Foundation, the warming shelter, located at the Salvation Army, 15 S. Plum St., will open when temperatures reach 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below, operating from 6 PM to 8 AM. During single-digit temperatures, the shelter

will operate 24 hours until conditions improve.

Shelter guests will be provided dinner and breakfast daily, and case management services will be available on-site to connect individuals with housing resources, mental health support and other essential services. Separate areas will also be available for men and for women and children.

The City Commission approved about \$28,000 in partial funding for this effort through a grant with the Nehemiah Foundation, supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program.

"This partnership represents a unified community effort to care for our most vulnerable residents," said Logan Cobbs, Director of Community Development. "By opening the shelter at a higher temperature threshold and extending hours during extreme cold, we're taking a crucial step to ensure that everyone in our City has a safe and warm place to stay."

The Nehemiah Foundation's Faith Community Crisis Response Team will oversee shelter operations and coordinate with local agencies including Springfield Police, Fire/EMS and community service providers to ensure a safe and supportive environment

"We're all working together—faith groups, city leaders and community organizations—to meet this need," said Aaron Roy, Director of the Faith Community Crisis Response Team at the Nehemiah Foundation. "Our goal is not only to keep people warm but also to help connect them to long-term solutions."

Volunteers Needed

The Nehemiah Foundation is seeking volunteers to help staff the warming shelter this winter. Volunteers assist with check-in, meal service, hospitality and other supportive roles. Those interested in helping can contact Aaron Roy at aaron@nehemiahfoundation.org or 937-325-6626, ext. 4 for more information."

Food Assistance Resources

Available in Springfield and Clark County.



There are many local resources available for individuals and families who may need food assistance.

Food pantries and community meal programs throughout Springfield and Clark County provide groceries, hot meals and basic household items.

Find a Location

Find a location near you by visiting: theshfb.org

You can also contact Second Harvest Food Bank at (937) 325-8715 for information.

Please help spread the word so that anyone who needs support knows where to turn.



Springfield City Commission takes great pride in serving the community of Springfield by ensuring the delivery of quality services; building relationships based on strong ethics, integrity and public trust; and, fostering transparency to keep our residents informed.





Mayor Rob Rue kicked off the National Advanced Air Mobility Innovation Forum (NAAMIF) at the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence (NAAMCE).

In his welcome, Mayor Rue highlighted Springfield's role in shaping the future of flight, citing the innovative work happening at NAAMCE and its role as a proving ground for technologies that will transform how people, goods and ideas move.

He also thanked JobsOhio, the Dayton Development Coalition and the Advanced Air Mobility Institute for advancing this industry in Ohio. Springfield continues to lead in innovation—from NAAMIF to hosting the historic Pulitzer Electric Aircraft Races!





In October, Commissioner Tracey Tackett joined in Springfield's Community Beautification Committee celebration of Marianne Nave at their annual awards program at the Marriott, recognizing her extraordinary 60 years of service—beginning in 1965, the very year First Lady Lady Bird Johnson launched the “Beautification of America” initiative, which inspired the formation of Springfield's Community Beautification Committee.

Commissioner Tackett read the proclamation and unveiled the sign that will be installed in Marianne's honor, celebrating a legacy of commitment and inspiration that is truly unmatched!

For six decades, Marianne's leadership and passion have encouraged countless volunteers and helped make Springfield a cleaner, greener and more welcoming community. We are deeply grateful for her remarkable dedication!



Mayor Rob Rue and the Commissioners presented a Proclamation to declare the month of November as Epilepsy Awareness Month in the City of Springfield.

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder that affects more than 3.4 million Americans, including 470,000 children, making it one of the most common neurological conditions. Epilepsy Awareness Month serves as a way to increase awareness and education that helps reduce stigma, promote understanding and encourage those living with epilepsy to seek appropriate

treatment.

During the proclamation, the commission heard from Travis Shearing, the owner and operator of the local Texas Roadhouse and organizer of the annual "Community Day" epilepsy awareness fundraiser, Dr. Crystal Hall, the Executive Director of Epilepsy Foundation Ohio and Sharon DeVore, an epilepsy awareness advocate.

Thank you to everyone that is helping raise epilepsy awareness in the City of Springfield!

Springfield Teams Inspires Next Generation of Public Servants!



Our Forestry and Water Treatment teams represented the City at the Junior Achievement job fair at the Clark County Fairgrounds.

James Wills from Forestry and Allen Jones, Eric Hils and Zach Smith from Water Treatment shared insights about careers in public service and connected with students exploring future opportunities.

It was a great day meeting the next generation of talent and showcasing the work that keeps Springfield thriving!

Board and Commission



There are several boards/commissions openings available right now! These openings are for the City Planning Board, House Provider for the Community Grant Advisory Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and an expert in Architecture position on the Springfield Historic Landmarks Commission. If you would like to serve, [**CLICK HERE**](#) to download the application to apply.

You must be a resident of the City of Springfield to be eligible. For more information, contact City Clerk Regina Jeffers at [**rjeffers@springfieldohio.gov**](mailto:rjeffers@springfieldohio.gov) or 937-324-7341.

The 2026 City Commission Calendar Now Available!

Plan on attending a City Commission meeting? [**CLICK HERE**](#) to download the 2026 City Commission Calendar.

Current Job Openings

The City of Springfield has a variety of career opportunities to serve our community! We offer competitive pay, excellent benefits, including state pension and medical and dental insurance, all in a diverse and inclusive work environment.

Drug Court Case Manager (Adult Probation)

Seeking a leader to play a critical role in implementing the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards as outlined by All Rise. This position is at the forefront of client advocacy, ensuring that our participants receive the care and services they need to improve overall quality of life. The Case Manager will coordinate with the Drug Court team and various service providers, monitor progress, and develop individualized care plans tailored to each client's unique situation. This role is pivotal in building rapport and engagement with the Drug Court program while bridging the gap between clients and the resources they need and making a significant impact on their overall well-being.

Financial Analyst

Seeking a team player with a positive attitude who is flexible, reliable and detail-oriented. If you enjoy working collaboratively with a team of dedicated professionals and have a passion for learning, growing and serving others in a fast-paced business environment, this may be the perfect opportunity to join our team. Under the general direction of the Assistant Finance Director, the Financial Analyst will perform a variety of financial tasks across a variety of disciplines such as accounts receivable, general accounting, procurement,

contract compliance, budgeting, grants administration, fiscal management and financial planning.

Neighborhood Services Manager

This position is responsible for overseeing the coordination of federally funded programming – including Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Programs, Emergency Solutions Grants, Shelter Plus Care and related funding. The position will also oversee coordinating neighborhood resources and building relations inside and outside of City government.

Police Officer (Lateral Entry)

Pay tops out at \$85,327 on January 1, 2025. SELECTION PROCESS: The selection process initially requires completion of all application materials. During the recruiting periods top candidates will be identified following a comprehensive review of all such materials submitted.

Police Officer

This role is responsible for the protection of life and property and the enforcement of laws. A variety of duties in patrol, traffic or crime investigation on an assigned shift.

Apply on Our Career Opportunities Page

Event Calendar

Check out just some of the events coming to Springfield this month!
To find more events, visit www.visitgreaterspringfield.com/events/calendar.

November 15, 7:30 PM

Warner Bros. Discovery Present Bugs Bunny at the Symphony, Clark State Performing Arts Center

November 28, 8 PM

Holiday in the City, Downtown Springfield

Forward Together Community Newsletter is published monthly to provide timely and transparent news and information regarding public improvements, projects and events happening in the City of Springfield. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact us.

Karen Graves, Communications Director

Email: kgraves@springfieldohio.gov

Trent Devine, Digital Media Specialist

Email: tdevine@springfieldohio.gov



Social Media

Follow the [City of Springfield, Fire Division](#) and [Police Division](#) on Facebook for more updates to stay informed.

City of Springfield, Ohio | 76 E High St | Springfield, OH 45502-1214 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!