

October 2025 Issue: Forward Together Community Newsletter

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Tags  NewsLetter

October 2025

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

www.springfieldohio.gov

Building a Stronger Future for Springfield's Police and Fire

By City Manager Bryan Heck

This November, Springfield voters will see a proposed amendment to our City Charter on the ballot. While the language of a charter amendment can often sound technical, the heart of this change is simple—we want to make sure our Police and Fire Divisions can recruit and retain the very best people to serve our community.

Public safety is the foundation of a strong community. Like cities across Ohio and the country, Springfield faces increasing challenges in recruiting and retaining First Responders. The traditional hiring processes, while valuable, sometimes make it harder to bring qualified people on board efficiently. This amendment is about modernizing those processes so that we can continue to deliver the level of service our residents expect and deserve.

Here's what the amendment does:

First, it allows lateral entry for the Fire Rescue Division. That means if a Firefighter-Paramedic who is already trained, certified and serving in another Ohio community wants to join Springfield, we can bring them onto the team without requiring them to start over with a lengthy civil service exam process. These individuals already have the skills, credentials and on-the-job experience that our City needs. By opening this pathway, we can fill critical positions more quickly, maintain strong response times and keep our residents safe when emergencies happen.

Second, it designates leadership positions in the Police Division, above the rank of Lieutenant, as unclassified. This change allows us to consider both internal and external candidates for these key leadership roles. It does not

change the competitive promotional process for Patrol Officers and other classified positions that remain. This change ensures that when we hire for leadership roles, we can consider the strongest candidates available to guide and support our Officers. Strong leadership strengthens the entire department and benefits the community as a whole.

These changes are about more than process — they're about people. Our residents rely on Springfield's First Responders to be there in life's most critical moments. To keep that promise, we must give ourselves the ability to hire and promote effectively, to attract experienced talent, and to ensure the best and brightest leadership within our ranks.

I want to be clear — this amendment does not lower standards. Every candidate, whether lateral entry or otherwise, must meet all state certifications, undergo thorough background checks and clearly demonstrate the highest levels of skill and integrity through a rigorous application and interview process. What changes is our ability to move more efficiently and strategically in bringing and promoting these qualified individuals onto our team.

Springfield has a proud history of service and resilience. By updating our charter, we're taking a critical step forward to make sure Our Police and Fire Divisions are equipped to meet the needs of today and into the future.

I encourage all voters to learn more about this issue and make your voice heard on Election Day. Together, we can ensure Springfield continues to be a safe, strong and thriving community.

Springfield 2051 Community Survey Is Now Open!

Visit springfield2051.com and take the Community Survey today! Survey closes on October 30.

Pulitzer Air Race Starts This Weekend!

Ohio is taking off in the world of advanced air mobility and Springfield is right at the center of it! We are home of the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence (NAAMCE) at Springfield-Beckley Airport, making us a major contributor to the third revolution of flight! You can experience this innovation firsthand by attending the Pulitzer Air Races this weekend! Watch this video to learn more about the amazing work happening right here in Springfield.

The 2024 Annual Report is Now Available!

Take a look back and see the progress, projects and partnerships that are shaping our community!

View the full report [HERE!](#)

City Improves Tax Collection Services Through RITA Partnership

The City of Springfield has completed its transition to the **Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA)** for municipal income tax collection. This partnership modernizes Springfield's tax operations—making filing simpler for residents and businesses while ensuring that income tax dollars continue to support essential services like police, fire/EMS, and street paving.

Filing and Payment Information

For Residents:

- All Springfield tax payments and returns (current and prior years) must now be filed with **RITA**.
- Use **MyAccount** to file, pay, enroll in e-billing, and view account history.
- Prefer not to register? Use **FastFile** and **FastPay** to file and pay without creating an account.
- Paper forms are also available at www.ritaohio.com.

For Businesses:

- All **withholding tax payments** for the City of Springfield must now be remitted to **RITA**.
- If your business already files with RITA for another city, simply add Springfield's withholding tax payment to your RITA return (**Form 11**).
- Businesses can use **MyAccount** or download paper forms at www.ritaohio.com.

For All Taxpayers:

Use your **RITA Account Number** (included in mailed notices) when submitting payments or contacting RITA.

Contact RITA

- **Website:** www.ritaohio.com
- **Customer Service:** 800-860-7482
- **Online Tools:** [Welcome New Taxpayers](#) | [Welcome New Businesses](#)

This new system represents another step forward in providing efficient, secure, and user-friendly services for Springfield taxpayers. Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to improve City services for our community.

Now Live: Cityworks – A New Way to Apply, Submit and Track

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

This upgrade is all about improving accessibility, efficiency and transparency in how we serve you.

Features include:

- Real-time email updates
- Digital document submissions
- Online status tracking

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

Need help?

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

Get where you need to go in town with Field Trips!

Field Trips offers all riders the ability to book a ride anywhere in town, right from your phone or computer. Whether it's a quick trip to the grocery store, a ride to work or connecting to school or medical appointments, Field Trips meets you where you are—literally.

Standard rides are only \$2 and Paratransit starts at \$4. Download the app or visit https://fieldtripsrider.onelink.me/1Dxr/s1j7yiei?af_gr=true to get started.

Let's ride!

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](#).

Podcasts Now On YouTube!

Couldn't catch the latest podcast LIVE on Facebook? Now you can watch them anytime on YouTube!

Watch all your favorite podcasts on your time now!

At Your Service - Winter
Weather Preparedness

*Word with the City
Manager* - Parks and
Recreation Highlights

In The Field - Think
Pink Foundation Gala

Want to stay up-to-date on the discussions shaping our community? Now you can!

The City Commission Work Session playlist is now available on YouTube, making it easier than ever to stay engaged and informed.

Catch up on sessions you may have missed or revisit specific discussions—each one is organized by topic for your convenience and available to watch anytime.

Community Health
Assessment

Springfield 2051
Presentation

Wittenburg University
Update

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.

On September 22, the Springfield Police Division proudly swore in Nathaniel Talbert, with Commissioners Dr. David Estrop and Tracey Tackett in attendance for this special occasion. We are excited for him to begin his career with SPD and grateful to have him as part of our team!

On September 26, Mayor Rob Rue joined today's ribbon cutting at the Springfield Air National Guard Base to celebrate the opening of the Space Intelligence Production Center.

This new center of excellence will strengthen operational space intelligence support to the warfighter and play a vital role in defending both Springfield and our Nation.

The Guard has been a cornerstone of our community for decades evolving from F-16 missions to advanced intelligence and space operations. We are proud of the 178th Wing and the 126th Intelligence Squadron for enabling this important mission.

Congratulations to the Space Intelligence Production Center and thank you

to all who serve. Springfield looks forward to the important work ahead.

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.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 to October 15, a time to honor the Hispanic business owners who strengthen our communities. Over the next month, we'll be highlighting those making a difference right here in Springfield!

Making a Difference in Springfield:

Armando Nuñez, Owner of Chido's Tacos

Boler Cuy Castellanos, Owner of Boler's Garage

Jazline Gomez, Manager of La Michoacana Mexican Market #11

Juan Bejarano and Jose Diaz, Owners of JJM Renovations

Cris Lopez, Owner and Operator of Chick-fil-A Springfield

Alicia Mercado, Owner of Adasa Latin Market

Usiel Mendez, Owner of UM Remodeling

Isaac Soto, Owner of Casa Centro Modern Mexican

To learn more about these businesses and their stories, please visit the [**City of Springfield Facebook Page**](#).

New Fire Lieutenant in Town!

On September 2, the Springfield Fire Rescue Division held a promotional ceremony for Lieutenant Scott McLin in the City Hall Forum. Lt. McLin, a 7 year veteran of the Division, was last assigned to Rescue 1/B Unit, and will now take over as the Training Lieutenant for the Fire Division.

Please join us in congratulating Scott on this achievement!

Clark County Beggar's Night on October 25!

Sheriff Christopher D. Clark has officially announced that Beggars Night for all of Clark County will take place on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 6 to 8 PM.

This annual tradition gives families across the county a chance to enjoy a safe and festive evening of trick-or-treating, while bringing neighborhoods together in the spirit of fall fun.

“Our goal is always to help create a safe and enjoyable environment for children and families,” said Sheriff Clark. “We encourage everyone to participate by turning on their porch lights, driving carefully through neighborhoods, and helping make this a positive experience for all.”

The Sheriff’s Office will be increasing patrols during the designated hours to ensure public safety and assist with traffic concerns. Deputies will be on hand throughout the county to support trick-or-treaters and promote a safe evening.

Safety Reminders for Parents and Participants:

- Young children should be accompanied by an adult and stick to familiar neighborhoods.
- Wear costumes that are bright or reflective and avoid masks that limit vision.
- Use flashlights or glowsticks to stay visible in the dark.
- Homeowners should keep walkways clear and well-lit.
- Motorists are urged to drive slowly and be alert for children crossing streets.

The Sheriff’s Office wishes all residents a safe, fun and memorable Halloween season!!

There are many things you can do to keep Springfield a great place to live! One of the best ways to keep Springfield vibrant is by being a good neighbor by following the City’s property maintenance ordinances. To report a violation, contact Code Enforcement at 937-324-7385.

Safety Tips and Tricks for Trick or Treat

Trick or Treat and Beggar’s Night are just around the corner! Here are some tips and tricks to keep you safe this Halloween!

For Trick or Treaters:

- Use glow sticks, reflective tape or stickers on costumes and bags to stay visible in dark conditions.
- Make sure to go with an adult and/or in a large group
- Stay in well-lit, familiar neighborhoods and only visit houses that have their porch lights on.
- Walk on sidewalks, use crosswalks when available and always look both ways before crossing the street.

For Drivers:

- Drive slowly and be cautious in neighborhoods, as children may walk into the street unexpectedly.
- Turn on your headlights to help you see trick or treaters from further away.

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.

Assistant Prosecutor

Responsible for entry-level professional legal work in the office of the Director of Law. Work involves having a firm grasp of legal research and writing, good time-management skills, and a willingness to participate in trials. The successful candidate is expected to be able to prepare cases from initial filing through trial and appeal, possessing the ability to communicate effectively with Court personnel, staff, law enforcement, witnesses, and public officials.

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.

Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic

This position is responsible for the performance of specialized duties in the saving of life and the fighting and prevention of fires. Work involves a variety of duties including firefighting, paramedic work, and property and equipment maintenance on an assigned shift.

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.

Utilities Leadperson

This position serves as a lead worker over a crew of employees involved in maintenance and repair tasks. The Leadperson is also responsible for the safe operation of assigned vehicles, including the operation of sewer-cleaning equipment.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator

This is skilled technical work in the operation and maintenance of a water or wastewater treatment plant. Work involves responsibility for operating, monitoring, sampling, and control of a water or wastewater treatment plant and associated equipment on an assigned shift. Work includes responsibility for adjusting treatment processes to ensure conformance with applicable water quality standards, participating in the maintenance of equipment and facilities, and preparing operating records and reports. Employees of this class may be required to work rotating or nonstandard shifts. Work is performed independently in accordance with established routines and practices and under general supervision of the Plant Superintendent. Work is evaluated for adherence to O.E.P.A. standards and correct responses to situations requiring changes in treatment procedures, and through observation, inspection of facilities, and review of daily reports.

Apply on Our Career Opportunities Page

October 9, 7:30 pm

Vienna Teng at Clark State Performing Arts Center, Clark State Performing Arts Center - Kuss Auditorium

October 25, 9 am

Fall at the Fairgrounds Craft Show, Clark County Fairgrounds

October 24, 6 pm

Downtown Springfield Trick or Treat, Downtown Springfield

November 1, 9 am

12th Annual Standing Up to POTS 5K/2K, Wittenburg University

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.

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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

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