



SPRINGFIELD

DAILY CITIZEN

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY REPORT CARD TO THE COMMUNITY

About the Springfield Daily Citizen

The Springfield Daily Citizen was launched in February 2022 to fill the void left by the decline of newspapers and other local media.

We are different than most other media because we are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Our journalists work for the community, and are funded by local donors, businesses and readers.

A primary focus is producing **regular in-depth reports** that delve into the issues people care most about.

- The biennial Community Focus Report for Springfield and Greene County is a key tool in guiding coverage plans.

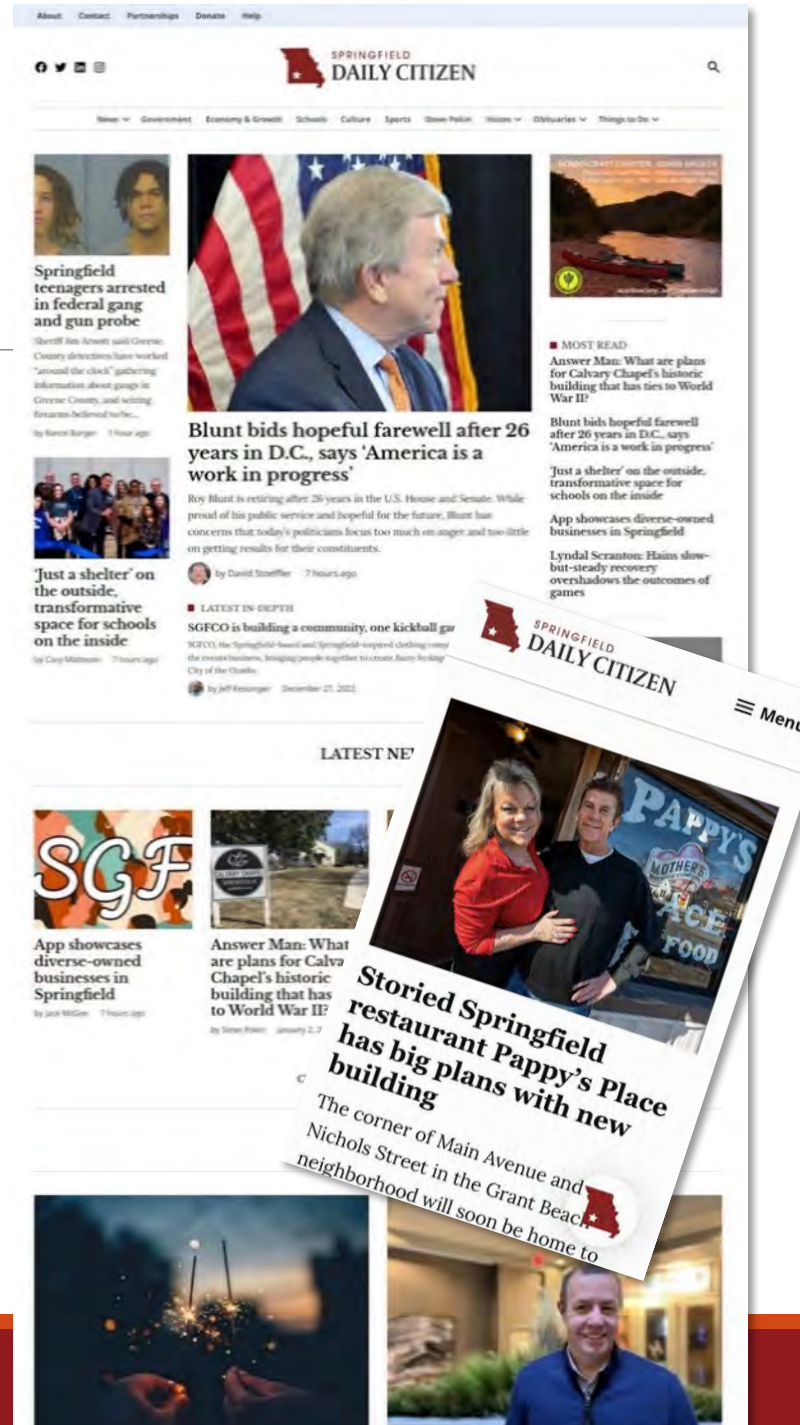
In addition, the Daily Citizen provides “news of the day” and slice-of-life coverage on a daily basis.



Delivering news where you are

Our news team, led by Managing Editor Brittany Meiling, delivers news through multiple digital options:

- With an easy-to-use website accessible on your computer, tablet or smartphone - 24/7.
- Subscribers get unlimited access.
- Through a FREE daily email newsletter thoughtfully created by Jeff Kessinger — delivered right to your inbox.
- On major social media platforms.
- And through podcasts and other mediums.



Reinventing local news

The overall coverage is not designed to duplicate the work of other local media, but primarily to fill gaps left as for-profit media have reduced staff, coverage and publication schedules. We pledge to:

- Tell the stories of our community.
- Remain independent, impartial, fair, and unbiased in our reporting.
- Inspire citizens to take action on the issues that are important to them.
- Help readers connect to their community and discover the best of the Ozarks – arts, culture, food, and the great outdoors.



Helping citizens get involved

The Daily Citizen is committed to helping readers learn about issues, but is especially focused on helping people get involved and become active citizens.

- We are helping readers understand the context, including what information is new, who is affected and what's next.
- Readers learn how to get involved in nonprofit organizations that are making a difference.

***Why Care?** Remote work was most prevalent in a select few professions and industries during the pandemic. Local consensus and national data indicate that it's here to stay, has the potential to spread to other sectors of the economy, impacts real estate and gives opportunities to small businesses and anyone seeking to find a better work-life balance.*

Get connected to volunteer

Connecting Grounds Pastor Christie Love created a Google Sign-Up document to help with volunteers during the arctic snap this week. [Find it here.](#)

If you want to volunteer for the regular Crisis Cold Weather Shelter sites during this winter storm, here is a [Google Sign-Up document.](#)

Community Partnership of the Ozarks has information about how to donate and volunteer for the Crisis Cold Weather Shelter program [on its website.](#) if you are interested in helping beyond this weekend.

And if you are unable to volunteer, consider throwing some money at the problem. The [Connecting Grounds Church](#) and the [Gathering Friends](#) are two organizations that offer immediate help to those who are unsheltered and at-risk of becoming unsheltered.

Highlights: accountability

Jackie Rehwald explored what happened to 27-year-old Sean Winslow, who was tased by a Greene County Sheriff's deputy, fell and hit his head. Winslow was taken to a Springfield hospital where he died a few days later.

“Holding government and elected officials accountable and encouraging — and sometimes demanding — transparency is really the heart of journalism.... [But it also was important] to give Sean's family ... a voice and opportunity to publicly question how law enforcement handled their son's case.”

■ PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY

Two Taser-related deaths in Springfield this year. Why was the public only informed of one?

Sean Winslow, a 27-year-old man, was tased by Greene County Sheriff's deputies, became braindead and later died from related injuries. News of his in-custody death has not been reported



by Jackie Rehwald June 6, 2022 Updated June 22, 2022



Kevin and Carol Winslow look at photographs of their son Sean that were displayed at his funeral. Sean died in Feb., 2022 at age 27 after falling and hitting his head after being tased by Greene County deputy sheriffs in Springfield, MO, on January 28, 2022. (Photo by Jym Wilson)

Revealing profiles

ECONOMY & GROWTH

He's given millions to Springfield causes. But the public knows almost nothing about Bobby Allison

He's Springfield's most mysterious philanthropist. Why do we know so little about a man whose name is all over town?

by Steve Pokin June 14, 2022 Updated September 22, 2022



Bobby Allison sits at the dedication of the new Betty and Bobby Allison gymnasium at the Greenwood Laboratory School in November 13, 2020. (Photos by Bill Sieholm / Missouri State Visual Media)

Steve Pokin wrote an in-depth profile of elusive Springfield philanthropist Bobby Allison, who died less than three months after the profile was published.

“I was drawn to the challenge of trying to write an overview of the life of a man who not only refused to talk to me, but encouraged his friends and acquaintances not to talk to me.”

Steve did similar in-depth profiles of Christie Love, Hal Higdon, Dan Chiles and zookeeper Mike Crocker.

LEADERS

This Springfield pastor feeds, clothes and shelters our homeless — why do some locals fight her?

Pastor Christie Love, of the The Connecting Grounds church, a 'force of nature' for homeless Springfieldians

by Steve Pokin February 16, 2022 Updated September 22, 2022



Insight into key issues

■ HEALTH

Blue lips and frenzied 911 calls: Springfield's growing opioid obsession plagues city

First responders have formed gruesome – and draining – reviving rituals as cases of fentanyl and other opioid overdose deaths climb



by Kathleen O'Dell July 14, 2022 Updated September 22, 2022



Lisa Felz works a shift taking 911 calls at the Public Safety Center in Springfield. (Photo by Jym Wilson)

The Daily Citizen has created a freelance network of longtime Springfield journalists, such as Kathleen O'Dell, who produced this one-of-a-kind in-depth report on the city's opioid crisis and how it is impacting first responders.

Forward-looking reports

Cory Matteson took a deep dive into the pending fate of Hammons Field – and was first to report the city was the most likely buyer.

Rance Burger examined explosive growth in Republic.



SPORTS Could Cardinals leave Springfield? Hammons Field needs new owner and upgrades to keep team from flying

City of Springfield is mum on details, but is considered a likely buyer to resolve mess in wake of 2013 death of John Q. Hammons

by Cory Matteson May 12, 2022



Elections and watchdog reporting

City Council could pause University Heights zoning cases to examine alignment with master plan

Councilman weighing options for administrative delays as dispute continues over Sunshine and N



by Rance Burger January 9, 2023 Updated January 10, 2023



K-12 EDUCATION

In state filings, Springfield Public Schools 'categorically denied' claims of racial discrimination levied now in federal lawsuit

In 2022 response to Missouri Commission on Human Rights, SPS says no specific incident of discriminatory language cited by a Black student was spoken by a fellow Black student



by Cory Matteson January 4, 2023



The sign for Cherokee Middle School on Jan. 3, 2023. (Photo by Shannon Capi)



MOST READ

How Ozarks basketball fans made the Bass Pro Shops Tournament of Champions 'a happening'

'Mind-blowing' drink stop gets permit for drive-thru at Sunshine and Jefferson

As seen on Instagram

Pekin Arsenal: Uplifting town

Could women seeking election turn Springfield entirely blue?

Candidates and observers share views on prospects for Dem and GOP parties in Greene County, where reshaped districts offer new opportunity — and hope — for Democrats



by Jack Moore October 11, 2022 Updated November 1, 2022



Springfield MO Voting Guide: Free access and everything you need to know in one place

Vote Now: It is select people to represent you in county, state and federal governments, plus, decide ballot issues like the Chaffin

reopening in Springfield and whether to legalize recreational marijuana in Missouri



by David Souther November 2, 2022



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Pekin Arsenal: Uplifting town

Being a watchdog on local government, and providing readers with insightful coverage of elections is a high priority.

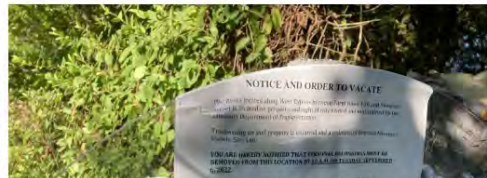
Focus on homelessness

SOCIAL ISSUES

Sheriff's deputies shut down homeless camp just west of Springfield, advocates concerned with how it happened

Sheriff Jim Arnott told KY3 his department doesn't 'jump through any hoops' when it comes to clearing homeless camps

by Jackie Rehwald August 31, 2022 Updated September 22, 2022



This 'house' and order to vacate shopping cart was sitting at the camping. (Photo by Jackie Rehwald)



HOUSING

Opinion: Praying tonight we don't turn someone away from the shelter

In several years as a volunteer, I've never written about my experiences — I'm only doing so now because the need for volunteers is critical this winter and especially this week and into the holiday weekend.

by Jackie Rehwald December 21, 2022 Updated December 22, 2022



United Methodist Church (UMC) is open to all who need shelter. Photo by Jackie Rehwald



MOST READ

'Mind-blowing' drink stop gets permit for drive-thru at Sunshine and Jefferson

Springfield Rep. Crystal Quade files bill to ban foreign entities from buying Missouri farmland

How Ozarks basketball fans made the Bass Pro Shops Tournament of Champions 'a happening'

Jackie Rehwald has her finger on the pulse of the homelessness issues in Springfield. She displayed her knowledge in a series of reports on everything from the sheriff's crackdown on camps to a profile of a well-known street figure who died.

SOCIAL ISSUES

'Caveman,' a beloved, unsheltered man in downtown Springfield, has died

Donnis Helton, known by his friends as 'Caveman,' was well loved for his caring nature and big bear hugs

by Jackie Rehwald

March 25, 2022 Updated July 6, 2022



Featured alongside Donnis 'Caveman' Helton are the founding members of Springfield's homeless community: Whitney Gresham and Brent Sullivan. Helton was a beloved member of Springfield's homeless community. The first photo was taken by Jackie Rehwald.



MOST READ

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Environmental coverage

Cory Matteson and Shannon Cay teamed up to report on how Springfield's landfill is filling up faster each year, shortening the life of the landfill and adding urgency to improved programs for recycling food waste, paper and other materials. An estimated 70 percent of all garbage could be recycled.

■ ENVIRONMENT

Tipping the scales: Springfield landfill filling up faster each year



by Cory Matteson

August 10, 2022

Updated September 22, 2022



Local industries and individuals collectively threw away more than 1,000 tons of trash each day, on average, at Springfield's landfill. (Photo by Shannon Cay)

Why care?

Last year, for the first time since the local landfill opened in 1975, industries and individuals collectively threw away more than 1,000 tons of trash each day, on average. That is shortening the life of the landfill and adding urgency to improved programs for recycling food waste, paper and other materials — an estimated 70 percent of all garbage could be recycled.

Atop a plateau of strategically layered soil and trash at the Noble Hill Sanitary Landfill, there is a machine that looks a bit like a derailed train car. It's called a tipper, and if you hang out at the landfill for about 20 minutes, odds are you'll see why it's called that.

People-centered stories

■ STEVE POKIN COLUMNS

Pokin Around: Uplifting lawn messages at National & Loren will soon end

Scott Sturm wanted to do something simple and kind to help us get through COVID. He's done that.



by Steve Pokin January 4, 2023



Answer Man: Who makes recorded message heard at crosswalks? Why are they different?

Your question about the very thought-provoking question, the company provided a recorded response. It was too robotic.

by Steve Pokin October 17, 2022



MOST READ

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Mind-blowing drink stop gets permit for drive-thru at Sunshine and Jefferson

As seen on Instagram

Pokin Around: Uplifting lawn messages at National & Loren will soon end

New app illuminates diversity, accessibility in Springfield

In 2022, they became aware that the need for a "one-stop-shop" in Springfield expanded beyond just the black community, but all underrepresented communities, leading them to create the app All Things Diverse SCG.

"We talked to communities and several community leaders, and we knew there was a need for All Things Black SCG," Duan said. "But talking to these community leaders and these professionals, we saw a need for growth of all diversity in Springfield, not just the black community."



Duan and Michelle Carter, the founders of All Things Diverse SCG. Photo provided by Duan Carter.

Beyond the need to grow diversity in Springfield, the ideas behind both All Things Black SCG and All Things Diverse SCG were rooted in accessibility. Michelle, a native of Chicago, noticed the problems in minority-owned businesses came to Springfield through Missouri State University.

She found various pre-

Scott Temple: 'It was through him that the life of everyone in our family was changed'

Temple, who died Nov. 1 at age 88, was disfigured by Mustang and abandoned plans to become a lawyer, he found comfort in purpose to life through history

By Mike O'Brien November 21, 2022 Updated November 29, 2022



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As seen on Instagram

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Sherriff leads small operations to close three homeless camps, arrests and jails 11 people Wednesday

Springfield Rep. Crystal Quade dies; bill to ban foreign entities from buying Missouri farmland

Whether it's Pokin Around or Answer Man columns from **Steve Pokin** ... or the lovely Lives Remembered obituaries by **Mike O'Brien** ... or business news and other features by **Jack McGee**, the Daily Citizen puts a focus on people in Springfield and Greene County.

We also offer **free death notices**, collected from area funeral homes.

Springfield culture

We offer slice-of-life features on everything from craft beer to date nights; neighborhood guides and tips for hiking, biking and water sports.



■ SPRINGFIELD CULTURE

Date night in the Ozarks: 5 farm-fresh foodie experiences

The Ozarks has several unique dining experiences that marry fine cuisine with our culturally earthy, laid back vibe

by Juliana Goodwin April 8, 2022 Updated September 22, 2022



■ SPRINGFIELD NEIGHBORHOODS



5 things to do in North Central Springfield — your neighborhood guide

by Sally Hochlander November 16, 2022



5 things to do in South Springfield — your neighborhood guide

by Sally Hochlander September 28, 2022

▼ More neighborhoods (Click to expand)



5 things to do in Northeast Springfield — your neighborhood guide

by Sally Hochlander August 11, 2022



5 things to do in Southeast Springfield — your neighborhood guide

by Sally Hochlander June 24, 2022



5 things to do in Northwest Springfield — your neighborhood guide

by Sally Hochlander April 21, 2022

Being a catalyst for good

Our most ambitious project in 2022 involved our series on the child care crisis in Springfield, produced in collaboration with KY3.

The week-long series of stories helped shine a light on the severe shortage of quality child care slots and got lawmakers and business leaders interested in finding solutions.

- Some added slots have opened.
- A new service was created to help parents find child care providers with openings.
- More businesses have explored ways to get involved – and make it easier for people to return to the workplace.
- Gov. Mike Parson has proposed expanded subsidies for low-income families and new tax credits to spur added availability.



In Our Town podcast, opinions, sports and more



"In Our Town," the Springfield Daily Citizen's first podcast, is a collection of interviews with locals making a difference in the Springfield, Missouri community.

Join host Tom Carlson and his guests to learn about issues facing our region and the future trajectory of Springfield. It's all "In Our Town."



Listen on
Spotify



Listen on
Apple Podcasts



Listen on
Google Podcasts



Listen on
Overcast

■ LATEST EPISODE

PODCAST: Springfield is becoming a city. Meet the guy in charge of setting the tone

What exactly is "quality of place" in Springfield? Tim Rosenbury, director of quality of place initiatives for the city of Springfield, speaks with host Tom Carlson about long-term community development plans in store for our...

by Daily Citizen Staff January 9, 2023



Tom Carlson's "In Our Town" podcast has been a hit, introducing listeners to people making a difference in our community.

We also have a set of regular Voices columnists, plus sports commentary from Lyndal Scranton — and more.

■ VOICES

Column: SAAB in Springfield schools— Who is really discriminatory?

Program provides opportunity for access and inclusion for under-resourced students of all backgrounds, not just...

by Francine Pratt August 26, 2022 Updated September 22, 2022



Members of SAAB pose with Springfield Public Schools Board of Education members at Tuesday night's board meeting. ©Photo: STS

■ SPORTS

MSU basketball great Curtis Perry tells Bears: 'The best thing you can do is make your teammates better'

While the style of play has changed over the years, Perry says one key element has not: teamwork remains the common thread in successful basketball teams

by Lyndal Scranton December 27, 2022

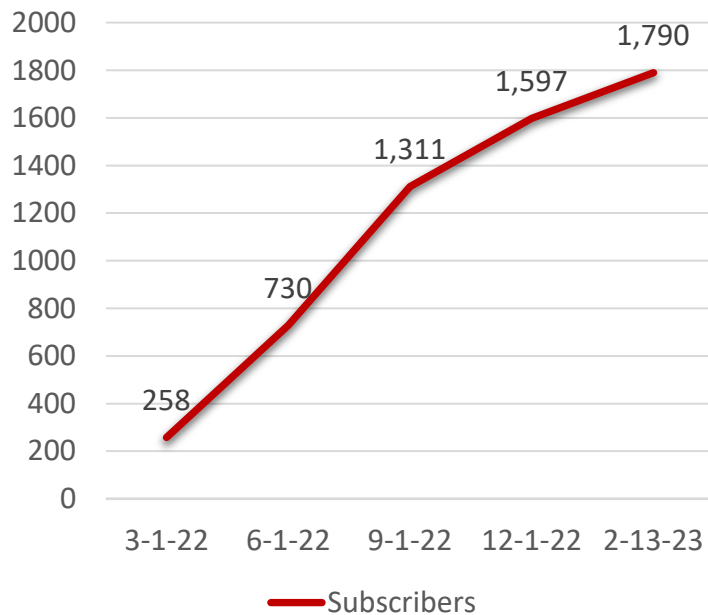


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messengers at National & Loren will soon end

First-year success: we exceeded our goals

Paid Subscribers



Weekday email newsletter subscribers



Key issues and challenges

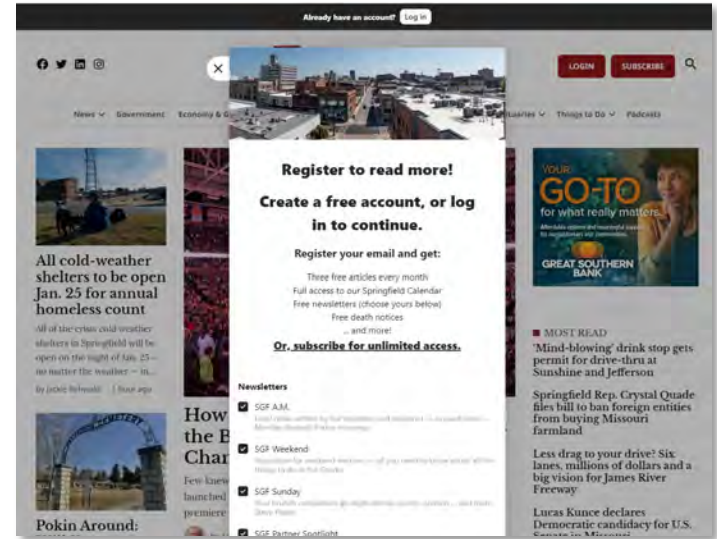
We pride ourselves on having a real person — Timothy Gann — here in Springfield to deal with customer service issues.

Beyond typical start-up hiccups, the key remaining issues involve the user experience:

- Some people struggle with setting passwords and get frustrated by needing to check email to get a verification code.
- People wish we had an “app” for easy use on mobile devices.
- Users who want unfettered access don’t like our system requiring registration to read any article.

Good news!

- We are working on switching vendors to improve our registration and paywall technology.
- We expect to offer an app sometime in 2023.



Goals for 2023 and beyond

We are in the midst of strategic planning and expect to set ambitious goals for readership, paid subscribers and revenue growth.

- We have a strong team and a strong board, giving us confidence as we look ahead for the next 3 to 5 years.
- We continue to evaluate next best opportunities for expanding our content and better serving our community.

We are working on our next major reporting project on a key local issue — including developing our own database to analyze trends and better understand the issue.

- We anticipate working with some community partners to generate more public discussion and action on this critical issue.
- Stay tuned!

Grateful to donors and sponsors

Our start-up fundraising campaign is helping support operations in the first five years.

We completed our first community fundraising campaign and netted roughly \$40,000 in local and matching funds.

More than two dozen local businesses and organizations have become partners/sponsors of the Daily Citizen — because they support our mission.

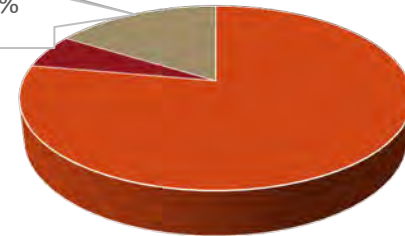
- **The ad value they receive is all delivered without annoying readers with popup ads!**

Start-up fundraising campaign

Goal: \$3.7 million

Raised: \$3.1 million

Remaining to raise, 16%



■ Major gifts/pledges ■ Other gifts/pledges
■ Remaining to raise

We especially appreciate our friends at Missouri State University for hosting the Daily Citizen on campus

5-year plan to sustainability



Start-up fundraising gives us the runway to maintain robust staffing and produce quality work, while building up revenue to put us on the path to sustainability in 2027.

- Our 2023 budget is \$1.37 million (about a 30% increase over 2022) — and our 5-year plan has built in expenses for added staff, compensation increases, etc.



Chief Development Officer Judi Kamien is leading efforts to build multiple revenue streams, with a focus on subscription income and revenue from partners/sponsors.

- In addition, perhaps 20% to 30% of revenue will come from ongoing community donations and grants from foundations who believe in our mission or want to help us expand our community service.

Tax-deductible gifts

The Daily Citizen has received IRS approval of its 501(c)(3) status, retroactive to Aug. 20, 2021, and is able to accept a variety of tax-deductible donations.

Gifts may be made by:

- Checks payable to Springfield Daily Citizen.
- Distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts, allowing the donor to avoid claiming the distribution as income while benefiting the Daily Citizen.
- For other gifts, such as donation of publicly traded or closely held stock, please contact David Stoeffler. Transfers of stock may be made in-kind so the donor does not realize any capital gains associated with the gift.

Donations also may be made to our project fund at the Community Foundation of the Ozarks.





Thank you!

Your feedback and questions are welcome.

Thomas J. Carlson, Chairman

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