



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts: Niel Laudati [541.726.3780](tel:541.726.3780), [cell: 541.221.3686](tel:541.221.3686); Nathan Woods 541-357-3255 x704

### ~ Media Advisory ~

## Nick Symmonds and the City of Springfield Announce the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual World's Only Straight 800m on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

*The Nick Symmonds Springfield 800 Presented by Dole Packaged Foods moves its date to attract the athletes and visitors in the community.*

Springfield, OR (May 12, 2016) – Two-time Olympian, Nick Symmonds, and the City of Springfield are joining forces again for the 5<sup>th</sup> time to host the Springfield 800m Presented by Dole Packaged Foods. This year the event will take place on July 5, 2016, in downtown Springfield, Oregon. The world's only straight 800m road race, also known as "The Straight 8", will bring together community members, elite athletes, and even dogs to this unique road race and community celebration of running.

Started in 2012, the event that is usually in the fall after Symmonds' season is over, is being moved up several months to join the excitement and the festivities surrounding the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials – Track and Field. This year's Straight 8 will be the day after the finals in the 800-meters for both the men and women.

"This is the world's only straight 800m race and we are happy, for the first time, to have it during the best week of track and field," says Symmonds. "I can't imagine a better community and better event to take place the day after I attempt to make my third Olympic team."

Unlike a typical 800-meter race– which is two laps around an Olympic sized track, runners of all levels will be able to test themselves on a straight road course with no turns. Waves of runners will be staggered every 5-10 minutes and will include a youth wave, a walker wave, open men and women, master's men and women, and the Run Gum Elite Men and Women.

For the first time, there will also be a Dog 800 wave, where pet owners and their dogs race to see who is the fastest duo.

The race will join Run Springfield Night and the City's invitation for fans and guests of the Olympic Trials to visit downtown Springfield during the only night off from competition at Hayward Field. For the second time, the event is partnering with CASA of Lane County to raise awareness and funds for abused and neglected children in the area.

"This event not only lets community members engage with elite athletes, while focusing on fitness, it has allowed us to raise money for important non-profit organizations in Lane County all while having a blast!" said Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg.

Festivities will begin at 4:00pm with a street festival featuring local vendors with the races starting at 5:30pm. Registration for the race is \$8 for youth (17 and under) and \$10 for adults. Limited Edition event shirts will also be for sale with registration.

To register and get more information, visit [www.Springfield800.com](http://www.Springfield800.com).

Contact:

Niel Laudati, City of Springfield  
[nlaudati@springfield-or.gov](mailto:nlaudati@springfield-or.gov)  
541-726-3780

Nathan Woods, Run Gum  
[Nathan@getrunggum.com](mailto:Nathan@getrunggum.com)  
541-357-3255 x704

**What:** 5th Annual City of Springfield Springfield 800

**When:** Tuesday, July 5th – Music and food vendors from the Springfield Farmers' Market start [at 3 p.m.](#) – race waves begin at [5:30](#)

**Where:** The road race will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Centennial Blvd and A Street. The Farmers' Market and food vendors will be on A Street.

**Timing:** Waves will be launched every 5-10 minutes starting promptly [at 5:30](#) p.m.

**Can I just watch the race?** Yes! Everyone is welcome to gather along Fifth Street (parade style) or at the Centennial fountain to watch the finishes, enjoy music and food and stay for the Art Walk.

**More information and sign up:** [www.springfield800.com](http://www.springfield800.com)

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## Niel Laudati

Community Relations Manager  
City of Springfield, Oregon  
225 Fifth Street 97477  
541.726.3780 (W)  
541.221.3686 (C)  
[springfield-or.gov](http://springfield-or.gov)



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