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Main Street Shopping

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

BY VANESSA SALVIA

MAIN STREETS. WE LOVE THEM. In smaller towns, that's where the retail center historically was and where old-fashioned character remains. In Springfield, Oregon, Main Street is still the heart of the town. Reinvigorated by public and private investment, downtown Springfield has become an attractive and thriving city center with a plethora of shops, restaurants, art galleries and the renovated, historic Wildish Center.

With most businesses within a short walking distance of each other, Springfield's Main Street is a destination with its own charm well out of neighboring Eugene's shadow.

Start at Haven Home Garden Gift (havenhomegardengift.com), where the owner offers rustic and natural home décor and gift items like jewelry made by local artists. They even offer custom wrapping.

Right next door is L'Ettoffe Fabrics (letoffefabrics.com), offering primarily high-end, exclusive garment fabrics and quilt fabrics by designers such as Cotton and Steel. Open for three years, owner Ina Celaya offers a rare chance for patrons to pick a pattern by Sajou and finger some Prada wool or Chanel trim. "It's really hard to find a local fabric shop these days where you can touch and feel fabric that's high quality," Celaya says. "Fabric people from all over the country find me when they're here visiting."

Five local artists banded together to form Mosaic 331 (you guessed it: 331 Main St.). Each brings their own aesthetic,

hence the name, and the shop offers a one-of-a-kind collection of wall art, textile art, lighting and jewelry. Wooden decorative and functional objects both large and small and Tiffany-style stained glass are just some of the items you can find on this popular Art Walk destination.

Washburne Café (thewashburnecafe.com) changed hands in 2016, and the new ownership consists of three people who have lived in Springfield all their lives. Derek and Mindy Weber and Charlie Hester are well-versed in coffee, and the trio renovated the look of the coffee house from the ground up into a more modern and open space. They make all their flavored syrups, sandwiches and soups in-house.

Visit Plank Town Brewing Company (planktownbrewing.com) for a pint of local beer. Then walk around the corner to 100 Mile Bakery, anchor tenant of the Sprout food hub (sproutfoodhub.org) in a renovated church. Owner Leda Hermecz makes breads, baked goods and a lunch menu sourcing all ingredients from within 100 miles. Local honey and an incredible variety of locally farmed grains and produce mean you're eating as local as it gets.

It's just a mile to The Vintage Industry (thevintageindustry.net). "We are a mall overflowing with antiques, vintage and natural gifts and home décor," says employee Margo Fulton. Here the owner buys decorative items in on-trend farmhouse





and Boho styles. And with 50 dealers specializing in such sought-after items as Pendleton blankets or Rae Dunn ceramics, you're sure to fall in love with something.

If you have a gamer in the family, don't pass up Castle of Games (castleofgames.comcastbiz.net). The friendly shopkeepers here will help you find graphic novels, card games, board games, table-ready miniature gaming scenario items and more.

And, in case you're coming from elsewhere and not aware of what you're walking into... Springfield, Oregon, is the Springfield of "The Simpsons" television show, and there are murals and Springfield-themed art to prove it. The Springfield Museum (springfield-museum.com) is right on the Main Street beat and offers a photo opp with the life-size Simpsons family on the cardboard prop couch used for the movie premiere. Right around the corner is the 15-by-30-foot Twentieth Century Fox- and Matt Groening-approved Simpsons Mural on the side of Emerald Art Center (emeraldartcenter.org), itself a great place to peruse prints, cards, jewelry, pottery, glass and other small items, all hand-crafted by local artists.

Find out more about visiting Springfield, Oregon, at eugeneascadescoast.org/springfield. 🍷

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