

TEAM Springfield

News From Your Springfield Public Agencies

Willamalane Park and Recreation District ★ Springfield Public Schools ★ City of Springfield ★ Springfield Utility Board



New Jail Making a Difference

From the Police Station to the Street, Lower Crime Rate Changes Springfield

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Together, we share ideas, energy and resources to deliver projects that benefit our community.

Since its official opening in January 2010, the Springfield Municipal Jail has helped take a bite out of crime, according to Services Bureau Manager Mike Harman.

"The first three months of 2011, we're noticing the difference now," Harman said.

This change has extended to several areas. For instance, Harman noted that the rate of auto theft was down from 25 cars per month to 9 or 10.

Police officers have also noticed the change in the field.

"According to the police officers we've talked to, it (the jail) has made a difference on the street," Harman said. Harman added that the graveyard shift has also had fewer calls and crimes.



The jail, designed to incarcerate misdemeanor offenders, booked 1,788 people in 2010. Harman said that the "high water mark" for the jail's population was 87, while the numbers lay around 50 today.

Before the jail was built, perpetrators would either be given a citation and release, Harman said, receiving a court date but no incarceration upon arrest; or be taken to the Lane County Jail in the case of more serious offenses.

Aside from dealing with Springfield's misdemeanor offenders, the jail also leases beds to the city of Eugene.

"What we've told them is that we're not going to turn their people away," Harman said. "As long as we've got the capacity, it's fine with us."

Harman added that leasing is "going to be an important source of revenue," with each bed being leased for \$75. continued on page 5

Willamalane Unveils New Route Along the Willamette River District Also Makes Improvements to Clearwater Park

Willamalane Park and Recreation District has opened a new paved path along the Middle Fork of the Willamette River and made improvements to Clearwater Park, near Jasper Road in southeast Springfield.

A new 10-foot-wide asphalt path transports walkers, runners and cyclists along the river for 2.5 miles to Quarry Creek, where they will find a picnic area, bike rack and restroom. The trek offers close-up views of wildlife and wildflowers, along with a new perspective on Mount Pisgah in the distance to the south.

At Clearwater Park, where the path begins, visitors will see an expanded parking lot and a new flush restroom near the Springfield Mill Race inlet. Plans for a new boat ramp and additional boat trailer parking are under way in the 65-acre waterfront park. Plans call for adding more parking at the trailhead, adding a park host site and making other improvements throughout the park.

While this phase of the Middle Fork Path stops at Quarry Butte, Willamalane is working to secure funds for Phase 2, said Bob Keefer, Willamalane superintendent.

The second phase would continue the path for 1.5 miles along the river and through scenic Dorris Ranch, where a new trailhead and parking area would complete the route, Keefer said. Plans call for the full 4-mile path to connect with



Improvements are under way at Clearwater Park, which is popular with boaters.

a future path along the Springfield Mill Race to downtown Springfield, creating an 8-mile loop. With brief sections of on-street bicycle lanes, the path would also connect to an extensive riverfront path system linking Springfield and Eugene.

"Our vision is to see a cyclist or runner follow a designated route from Clearwater Park all the way to the Owosso Bridge in Eugene and beyond," said Greg James, Willamalane's board president. "And someday we'd like to see a bridge built over the Willamette to connect our trail with the trail system at Mount Pisgah," James added.

James said the first phase of the path was funded with \$2.7 million in federal transportation funds and \$300,000 in local matching funds. It was constructed with the coopera-

tion of Springfield Utility Board and the city of Springfield, which, with Willamalane, own the land along the path.

The parking and restroom improvements were made possible by coordinating with the Mill Race Ecosystem Restoration Project and using a \$150,000 matching grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Clearwater Park has served as a public park for over 50 years. The park has been maintained and managed by Willamalane since it was transferred to the district in 1989 by Lane County.

The Mill Race Ecosystem Restoration Project, sponsored by the city of Springfield and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was completed in October.

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Painful Sacrifices: A Letter from Superintendent Nancy Golden

as published in the March 17, 2011 Register-Guard, Springfield Extra section

Dearest Community Members,

With much sadness, on March 8 the Springfield School Board voted to close four of our schools — Camp Creek, Goshen, Mohawk and Springfield Middle — as well as to consolidate Brattain and Moffitt into a retrofitted Springfield Middle.

Each school has a rich history. Generations of families have attended them. Educators have started and ended their careers there.

The decision to close our beloved schools came after months of deliberation and a process that included community members coming together to examine carefully all the issues and explore options and alternatives to determine what course of action would make the most sense for our district and our students.

From there, multiple venues were provided for public comment, which was followed by a thorough and thoughtful analysis and deliberation by the school board.

As the superintendent of Springfield Public Schools, I am responsible for providing the best education possible to all of our students. In so doing, I am always balancing what is fair for the district as a whole while acknowledging the uniqueness of each of our schools.

Smaller schools have always been more expensive to run than larger schools, but knowing they were the center of their communities, we supported them.

But after reducing \$20 million in the last two years and facing another \$10 million reduction



next year, we were just no longer able to sustain them — not when so many other programs and staff have been and will be sacrificed.

In the past few years we have reduced

our health-occupations programs at both of the high schools, at a time when careers in the health care industry are much in demand. We have cut back our foreign language programs, at the same time as we have seen growth in the global economy.

We have scaled back librarians at a time when literacy skills are critical. We have limited our visual and performing arts choices at the same time that we have an Arts Matters Initiative. We also have had to lay off staff, reduce the number of teachers and increase class size.

These are just a few examples of the kinds of sacrifices that other schools have had to make throughout the district. So when I applied the necessary balancing test, I concluded with much heartache that our smaller schools needed to be part of that shared sacrifice.

The closures and consolidations were not just about the budget — the reasoning behind the recommendations evolved as the committee wrestled with issues of declining and shifting enrollment, aging facilities and the high cost of educating students there.

However, without the closures, even more teachers certainly would lose their jobs.

Knowing that we face still more lean times in the coming years, the committee and board also knew they had to create a plan to take us into the future with a strong and solid base. These changes, painful though they may be, will help us use our resources more effectively at the remaining schools, creating a more stable and more sustainable school district.

And so we will all take our time to grieve, but then it is time for us to celebrate the past and act on behalf of our students. Together we need to create a new future that will be every bit as rich as the past.

To do this will mean bringing together students, staff and families to plan and create with the common goal of making the transition as easy as possible.

I know we can do this because I know that the staff members who will be integrating into the new schools have so much to give and so much to gain. I know that all of our staff members went into education because they care deeply for our students. I know they all believe that education is the great equalizer. And I know that they all want to make a difference in the lives of our nearly 11,000 students.

I am confident that they will greet each and every one of our students with open arms, making sure that each student is welcomed and quickly settled into a great new school, all the while holding fast to their commitment to achieving our vision: Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future.

Schools Pave Way for Smooth Closures and Consolidations

School-transition teams are being created to develop a plan related to closure and transition needs for students, staff and parents.

Each school has formed a parent advisory group that will work with the school transition team on plans for closure activities — for example, celebrations of the school's history — and welcoming events such as open houses or mixers at the receiving schools to give students and families a chance to get to know one another.

The goal is to ensure that students are welcomed into a safe and positive environment at their new schools, and that all necessary preparations are taken to make sure they have a successful start to the next school year.

The process for consolidating Brattain and Moffitt will be more like creating a new school, with decisions to be made regarding school name,

mission, staffing and programming.

The goal is to consolidate the two schools to create one with a shared vision, a strong sense of identity and community involvement, and a powerful instructional program that will result in positive educational outcomes for all students.

In the meantime, staff will be working on retrofits to the Springfield Middle School facility to make it ready to accommodate elementary students in fall 2012.

"This is a huge, district wide project," says Jeff DeFranco, director of communications and facilities. "We're seeing a lot of opportunities to relocate available resources, equipment and technology wisely and logically at our schools. Given our budget difficulties, it's been critical to fulfill the receiving schools' needs without additional cost."



School Closures and Consolidations

| Current School | Grades | New School | Effective Date |
|---------------------------|--------|--|----------------|
| Camp Creek Elementary | K-5 | Walterville School | Fall 2011 |
| Goshen School | K-5 | Centennial Elementary | Fall 2011 |
| | 6-8 | Hamlin Middle School | Fall 2011 |
| Mohawk Elementary | K-5 | Yolanda Elementary School | Fall 2011 |
| Walterville School | 6-8 | Thurston Middle School | Fall 2011 |
| Springfield Middle School | 6-8 | Hamlin Middle School | Fall 2011 |
| | 6-8 | Briggs Middle School | Fall 2011 |
| Brattain Elementary | K-5 | New school at current Springfield Middle School site | Fall 2012 |
| Moffitt Elementary | K-5 | New school at current Springfield Middle School site | Fall 2012 |



This newsletter is a twice-yearly publication of TEAM Springfield, a unique collaboration of the city's four public agencies. Together, we share ideas, energy and resources to deliver projects that benefit our community. For more information, visit www.teamspringfield.org.



Springfield SummerFair It's a Party, Springfield!

Willamalane Celebrates Summer with Concerts by Eddie Money, The Lost Boys, Satin Love Orchestra, The Conjugal Visitors and more.



Friday, July 15

Mystery Train

Island Park, 5-6:30 p.m.; gates open at 4:30 p.m.
Wristband admission

Satin Love Orchestra Island Park, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Wristband admission

Saturday, July 16



Ranch & River Run/Walk

Dorris Ranch, 8:30 a.m.
Adults: \$20 (with cotton shirt)/\$30 (with tech shirt)
Youth 11-17: \$15 (cotton shirt)/\$25 (tech shirt)
After July 16: \$25 for adults and \$20 for youths

This 5K trail run and 3K trail walk wanders through the trails of beautiful Dorris Ranch. A 1K kids fun run is free to kids 10 and under. Pick up an entry form at any Willamalane facility, Eugene Running Company or visit eclecticedgeracing2.com.

PetFair Splash! at Lively Park, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. FREE

Cow Pasture Golf Bob Artz Memorial Park, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
\$10 per person

Ages 11+. Spend a Saturday morning with local teens while swinging away at some golf balls. Your goal is to hit the 5-gallon bucket without hitting your fellow golfer. Dress the part, lose the most balls, have the highest score and you could win a prize. This is a mentoring opportunity. Bring your own teen or sign up to golf with one of ours. Fee includes lunch.

FamilyFair Wristband admission
Island Park, 1-5 p.m.

- Visit more than 50 community exhibitors.
- Learn about Springfield history and climb on a big truck.
- Bounce and jam in fun inflatables.
- Balloon clown, face-painting, games and more!

The Lost Boys 5-6:30 p.m. Wristband admission

Eddie Money 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Wristband admission

He's a former New York City police officer who went on to create such memorable hits as "Baby Hold On," "Two Tickets to Paradise" and "Take Me Home Tonight." Hop Valley beer garden, food vendors open.

Sunday, July 17

BroilerFair Island Park

12-4 p.m. FREE

The old Springfield tradition is back! Enjoy games, exhibitors, face painting, a balloon clown, and more.

BroilerFair Chicken

Barbecue

12-4 p.m. • \$7/meal, \$5.50 for Chicken Only

Kids' FishingFair, 12-4 p.m. FREE

Recycled Regatta, Island Park, 1 p.m. FREE

Build your own boat in advance out of recycled materials. On race day, vie against other boats beginning at 1 p.m. The race is open to children of all ages; prizes will be awarded. Registration will take place at the race.

Alder Street All Stars, Island Park, 12-1:30 p.m. FREE

Conjugal Visitors, 1:30-4 p.m. FREE

Ongoing

Springfield SummerFest 3-on-3 Hoopsters

Tournament Meadow Park, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Team fee includes wristband admission

What could be Lane County's largest 3-on-3 basketball tournament happens this summer at Springfield SummerFair. Get a team of four together and be a part of the inaugural 3-on-3 Hoopsters Basketball Tournament. Awards for first- and second-place finishers and all participating players receive a SummerFest admission wristband good for the weekend. Registration forms available at willamalane.org, at all Willamalane facilities or by calling 541-736-4501.

Brackets

- Middle school
- High school boys, high school girls
- 18-35 men and 18-35 women
- 35+ men and 35+ women

Team Fee

- Youth brackets \$100 by June 15, \$115 after June 15
- Adult brackets \$110 by June 15, \$125 after June 15

Registration deadline (no exceptions): July 8

The Great SummerFair Filbert Hunt

Join Willamalane on Facebook for details on the Great SummerFair Filbert Hunt, which runs June 1-July 14. Filbert bags full of prizes will be hidden throughout the community, including at local businesses. Prizes will include free entry wristbands for SummerFair; Splash! and Camp Putt passes; and other great prizes. Two special bags will feature two backstage passes to meet Eddie Money. Check in at facebook.com/willamalane beginning June 1 for details. While visiting be sure to "Like" us!

Admission

SummerFair admission wristbands — good for most Friday and Saturday events — are \$25 per family or \$8 per person. Springfield residents may pick up a coupon at any Northwest Community Credit Union branch good for 50 percent off wristbands. Coupons available through July 1. Wristbands may be purchased at Willamalane facilities. Wristbands also good for \$1 off admission to Willamalane Park Swim Center or Splash! at Lively Park, July 15-24.

Note: No outside food or drinks are allowed at Springfield SummerFair; exceptions are made for those with medical conditions. SummerFair is a green festival.



City's Web Makeover—springfield-or.gov—Keeps It Current

With its redesign, the city of Springfield's website is prepared to better serve our community.

First things first: The website address itself has been shortened to springfield-or.gov, making it easier for residents to locate the city's site.

With a user-friendly layout and vivid, colorful images, the website has found new ways to distribute city information. A new system guarantees that the site's information is up-to-date and consistent as the city seeks to provide the most recent information through this updated tool.

On top of being able to find the proper building permit application or development codes, community members are able to find ways to readily access contact information for city offices and the councilors for their wards. Not only is there important, relevant information for residents, there's more of it.

Now community members can find what they need, when they need it without trying to dig through an out-of-date system.

The website puts Springfield residents in touch with their councilors, mayor, library, city manager and more. By including contact information on the website, communication between residents and the city has never been easier.

Apart from contact and communication, job seekers can easily find information on city jobs as they become available. Postings are updated consis-

tently, providing details on the selection process, salary information and applications.

The city's website also hosts several new features.

With "In Focus," a snapshot of current events happening in the city is provided right on the main page. Currently, residents have the opportunity to view photos of the State of the City address by Mayor Christine Lundberg, as well as read a copy of her speech.

Media advisories are also available on the site, giving residents more details on events happening in Springfield. Found in the "Newsroom" section, the media advisories are available in an easy-to-follow chronological order, each one in a PDF format. Media advisories can include information on library events, committee meetings and many more opportunities.

Statistics and local history are also provided, giving an interesting insight to the city's past, present and future.

During the redesign process, representatives from the City Manager's Office sought comments and ideas from the Springfield community. They then worked on constructing a website that reflects the way residents viewed the Springfield they live in.

While the new website is currently up and running, residents and community members are still encouraged to offer suggestions, ideas and support for the ways the city's site can communicate with and better serve its residents.



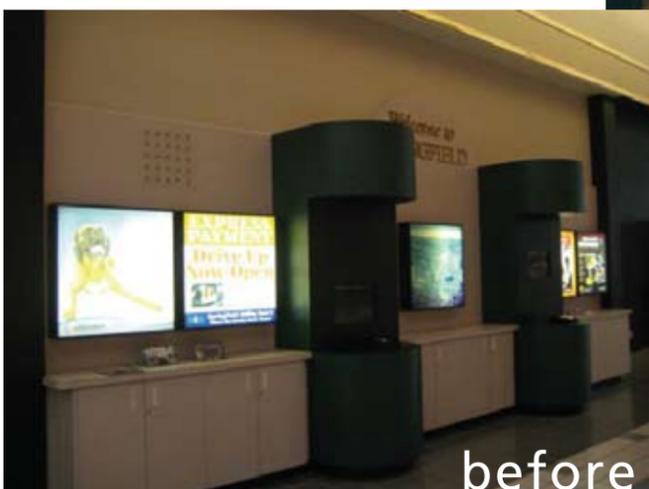
Sports Program Reaches More Kids



Willamalane's Middle School Sports program expanded to serve high school students with the addition of recreational basketball this year. The program is aimed at serving students who don't play in school competition.

New Look for Kiosk at the Gateway Mall

Working together, the TEAM Springfield partners were able to update the aging Springfield kiosk at the Gateway Mall. Replacing the entire structure was cost prohibitive, so we wrapped it, much like a bus wrap. We used photos that focus on downtown, our trail system and (in the photo to the far right) the McKenzie River. These are three areas of pride that our residents noted in our latest community survey.



after

Save Water and Money: Be a Leak Detective!

If your household is like most, at one time or another, your plumbing will spring a leak.

You might notice when you hear the toilet running, or maybe after detecting the incessant drip, drip from a faucet.

Or you might notice once you get your monthly utility bill – your oddly high utility bill.

Why Do Water Leaks Cause High Bills?

First, even a common problem, such as a bad valve in your toilet, can result in hundreds of gallons of water literally going down the drain. That's water you just bought, but didn't even get to use! In fact, a toilet leak can waste 200 gallons of water per day.

And remember, wasted water hits your wallet twice – first you pay SUB for the water delivered to your home, and second, you pay the city of Springfield for the water that went into the sewer system.

That's Why It's Important To Examine Your Water Bill And Sewer Bill Each Month.

(Although SUB provides your water service, and the city of Springfield provides your sewer service, both charges come on your SUB bill. That's because SUB puts the city charges on your monthly utility bill to cut down on the number of mailings you receive, and to provide customers with the convenience of writing just one check.)

So, If You Suspect A Leak, Where Do You Start?

First, locate your water meter. It should be in your front yard, probably close to the street or sidewalk. Write down the numbers shown on all the dials. (For a more detailed look at water meters, see SUB's website at www.subutil.com.)

Second, don't use any water for at least two hours, more if possible. Then check the meter again. If the meter dials have changed, you may have a leak.

The next step is to determine whether the leak is inside or outside your home. You can do this if your particular plumbing system has a water shutoff valve for your

house, usually located either on an outside wall where your waterline enters the house, or near the water heater. (This is different from the valves on your water meter, of which there are two: the street-side valve, which is managed by the utility, and the dwelling-side valve, managed by the customer.)

Go another two hours without water use. If your meter is still whirring away, your leak is likely outside the home, probably in your irrigation system. Check for standing pools of water near sprinkler heads, or soggy sod between heads, which could indicate a leak in one of the irrigation lines.

If your meter doesn't move, your problem is likely inside the house — most likely a faucet, shower-head or toilet.

For a quick check, put paper under your faucets before you leave for work and see if they are wet when you come back — that will catch even slow leaks, which can still add up!



For your toilet, put a few drops of food coloring in your tank. After fifteen minutes, see if it ends up coloring the water in your bowl. If it does, you might have a bad flapper valve. If you have a fill valve leak, the dye test won't catch it. See SUB's website for more detailed instructions on how to determine if this is a problem, and how to fix it.

SUB's website has lots more information on leaks, water conservation and other tips, so the next time you have a few minutes, click on www.subutil.com and learn how to save money on your water bill!

Springfield's ACE Award Winners Bring Home Prizes for Schools

For the sixth year, outstanding teachers, administrators, classified staff and volunteers from Springfield, Eugene and Bethel school districts were honored at the A Champion in Education, or ACE, awards, a collaboration of the Springfield and Eugene chambers of commerce. These four winners were chosen from 39 Springfield nominees to receive \$1,000 prizes for their schools at the banquet on Tuesday, April 26, at the Valley River Inn.



ACE Recipient in Teacher Category: Keslie Down, Hamlin Middle School

"Keslie is creative and committed to putting the students first. She has improved Hamlin's climate, culture and quality of education with her contagious personality. Her students describe her as a person full of joy."



ACE Recipient in Classified Category: Cynthia Nagao, Hamlin Middle School

"As the Family Center Coordinator at Hamlin Middle School, Cynthia takes on many challenges throughout her day. She works with limited resources to make sure the students have adequate care and supplies. Meeting the basic needs of students and their families is extremely important to Cynthia."



ACE Recipient in Administrator Category: John Saraceno, Maintenance

"John has an amazing depth of knowledge on facilities issues and has been an invaluable resource to the school district. He is one of the key people responsible for helping the district and the schools in Springfield function smoothly. He is a strong communicator and is well respected by building principals for his support to their facility needs."



ACE Recipient in Volunteer Category: Ami George, Riverbend Elementary

"With five children, a full-time job and a busy schedule, Ami still finds time to volunteer at Riverbend. She has coordinated Family Movie Night, fall fundraising, Harvest Festival and much more. She has even enlisted 35 additional volunteers to help at Riverbend."

Jail (continued from page 1)

Harman says leasing the beds is important for another reason. "Anything we can do to help the regional criminal justice system is a good thing to do."

Since the jail's opening, Harman said revenue to the Municipal Court has increased. However, he hesitates to give all the credit to the jail.

"We know the picture's better than what it was," Harman explained. "It's hard to pinpoint. Other departments have changed over the last two years, that's made a difference as well."

Harman will say that the jail is running under budget this year, coming in \$274,902 under the \$2.5 million that had been allocated.

The jail is funded in a variety of ways. In 2006, voters passed an operating levy that funds Police Department operations and some jail operations. In 2011, the levy provided \$1.2 million



to the jail. From the general fund, \$673,000 goes to the jail, with smaller portions covered by jurisdictions and the leasing of beds and court conviction surcharges.

"We also started the year with a little over \$1 million in carryover funding from previous years," Harman said.

Harman added that the levy is critical in the operation of the jail. "Without the levy, we would either have had to use general fund dollars to run the jail and cut lots of money out of other city programs, because the general fund hasn't kept up with growth, or we would not have been able to open in the first place."

Aside from revenue, Harman said citizens have felt the positive effects of the jail as well.

"We just completed the results of our citizen survey and 80 percent of the people we asked said they feel the jail is going to make Springfield a safer place to live," he said. "And I think that's pretty high marks for such a new facility."

Meet Springfield Education Foundation's Rising Stars for 2011

Springfield Education Foundation recognized six outstanding Springfield Public Schools seniors at its Rising Stars event on May 3. The event also honored the educators the students said had significantly impacted each of their lives.

The students were chosen by a foundation committee from a total of 20 nominees from all four of Springfield's high schools. All of the students were nominated for their achievement in a particular area.

Congratulations to these outstanding students, to the people who have made a difference for them, and to all of the nominees!



Brandon Chambers, Thurston High School

Future Plans: Attend college; major in psychology and political science

Brandon, who is dual-enrolled at Thurston High School and Lane Community College, participates in various community committees that assist people with mental health issues. Diagnosed with ADHD, ADD, ODD and depression in third grade, Brandon has learned to adapt to these issues and is now motivated to help others under similar circumstances. He has received the American Red Cross Everyday Youth Hero Award and Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and currently works with Eugene's Pearl Buck Center as an employment specialist.

Most Significant Educator: Lisa Moody—former Willamalane after-school program leader at Mt. Vernon Elementary. "Lisa Moody gave me hope when no one else did. She is the one responsible for pointing me in the right direction. My mother and I are gratefully indebted to Lisa

Moody for helping us. She is and always will be our angel."



Hailey Meekins, Springfield High School

Future Plans: Attend George Fox University to study social work

Hailey's nominator called her "a woman of strength, perseverance and integrity." Despite difficult family circumstances including a period of homelessness, Hailey excels in her academics, school leadership, and extracurricular activities (president of the National Honor Society, varsity letterman in tennis and cross country, and an anchor in the Acting Ensemble.

Most Significant Educator: Jim Tyser—SHS science teacher.

"Although science is typically a subject I struggle with? I truly believe that Mr. Tyser values my education....He is not afraid to show the students tough love if it means they will grow as pupils."



Tyler Rutherford, Thurston High School

Future Plans: Attend Lane Community College and transfer to UO

According to his nominator, Tyler is an exceptional painter who dedicates himself completely to the creative process. Tyler has endured a number of personal challenges. Despite his struggles, Tyler continues to help many of his friends stay on track. He has a great desire to go to college and have a fulfilling life.

Most Significant Educator: Erica Gingerich—THS visual arts teacher. "Ms. Gingerich has helped me immensely outside of school with life

issues. Ms. G would also give me some of her lunch when I had no food to eat. This may seem like a simple gesture but to me is a sign that there are still genuinely good people in the world."



Julia Spencer, Academy of Arts and Academics

Future Plans: Attend Willamette University; music composition major

Julia is a successful musician who plays the flute and has created musical scores for film festivals and won awards for composition. While in high school, a tragic car accident left Julia with major damage to her hand, and she feared she could never play the flute again. A teacher, James Olson, helped adapt her flute to enable her to play. Now she continues to student-direct at A3 and assist teachers in music theory.

Most Significant Educator: James Olsen—A3 guest artist. "Before I studied with Jim, I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. Jim put his faith in me and told me I had what it takes to succeed. If I hadn't studied with Jim, I would not still be playing flute."



Johanis Tadeo, Springfield High School

Future Plans: Attend college to become a lawyer.

Johanis has been active in the SHS Multicultural Student Union, Student Advisory Council and district Student Voice project. Johanis speaks openly about his former gang affiliation and how he worked to overcome it. He has spoken at a number of conferences and schools, including last year's

Oregon Leadership Network Spring Institute. Johanis also participates in football, wrestling, soccer and won third place in the International Poetry Contest. Johanis currently works part-time at the Residence Inn to help support his family. His motivation and positive attitude make him an inspiring role model.

Most Significant Educator: Elena Espinoza—SHS multicultural liaison. "Elena Espinoza has given me the voice and motivation towards a path to becoming a great leader.... She got me involved not just in my community but in pursuing my dream in becoming a lawyer."



Amanda Tarango, Gateways High School

Future Plans: Career in Journalism and communications

After enduring the tragic loss of her friend Allyson Archibald last year, Amanda turned grief into determination and turned around her academic career—she now maintains a 4.0 at Gateways. Amanda is an outstanding writer and communicator, and has received an academic achievement award from the school. She will be working on receiving a transfer degree from LCC so she can attend the University of Oregon.

Most Significant Educator: Marie Coonrad, Gateways teacher. "The most important thing I have ever learned from Marie is that no matter where or what you come, from you are the only one with the choice and power to create your own path, but to play hard you MUST work even harder."

Save Time, Trouble and Injury — Get the Scoop Before You Dig

Springtime is prime time for digging into landscape projects. Whether you're planting a tree, setting fence posts, building a deck or adding irrigation, if your project involves digging down more than a foot — and many do — give the Oregon Utility Notification Center a call (just dial 811) at least two days before you wield your shovel.

It's Free, and It's The Law.

"A lot of people are surprised to hear that the Call Before You Dig program isn't just a good idea, but required for projects that excavate more than a foot of dirt," says Ted Jordan, SUB's facilities locator.

The reason is simple. Just about everywhere you go, buried beneath your feet is a web of utility lines — electric, gas, fiber-optic, telephone, cable, water, sewer — all providing critical services. But out of sight should never be out of mind. Hit one of these lines, and you could not only disrupt vital services to yourself and your neighbors, you could get injured.

"People would be surprised to see the damage a simple shovel can do," says Jordan. "And by the time you've hit something, it's usually too late. Call first."

What happens when you call? An operator will ask you several questions to help pinpoint the area of your excavation and determine any utility services beneath.

Within the next two days, locators from the various affected utilities will come to your property and mark your services with spray paint. Usually, they will mark it from your house to where your private service connects to the main system. Two days later, you are free to dig! That's it.

So, avoid fines, avoid disruptions and stay safe. A simple call to 811 does it all.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Summer Calendar

Springfield Farmers' Market, Fridays, 3-7 p.m., Library Fountain Plaza at 5th and A St. Enjoy live music, catch a story with Springfield Public Library every week and learn to cook locally every final Friday. The first Friday of every month is Kid's Day.

Second Friday Art Walks, 5-8 p.m., downtown Springfield.

Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, June 18 & 19, 6 p.m., Island Park, free. The Roving Park Players present a storm at sea, murderous plots, magic, foolery, anger, forgiveness and love.

Springfield Police K-9 Competition, June 26, 12-3 p.m., Silke Field, free. Police dogs from throughout Oregon will run obstacle courses, race and show off skills.

Just for Kids Talent Show, June 28, 12 p.m., Meadow Park, free. Advance registration is required for performers; call 541-736-4544.

Valley Boys Concert, July 1, 6:30 p.m., Island Park, free. Concessions available.

Light of Liberty Celebration, July 4, Starting at 4 p.m., Island Park, \$5 in advance, \$7 At The Gate. Kids 5 and under are free. Springfield Utility Board presents fun, food and fireworks in this annual celebration by the river. Headlining this year are '50s rock 'n' roll legends Sha Na Na, with opening music by blues guitarist Brooks Robertson and Mystery Train. Kids will enjoy the children's area. Fireworks start at 10 p.m.

Kung Fu Panda Movie In The Park, July 8, 8:30 p.m., Island Park, Free.

Springfield Cruz, July 15-16. July 15, 5-10 p.m., Hang-Out at Fin's Drive-In. July 16, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Show & Shine at Briggs Middle School, awards at 3:30 p.m.; 7-10 p.m., Still Cruzin' Cruz, downtown Springfield. For registration info, contact J.E.T.S. Promotions at 541-746-4620.

Springfield SummerFair, July 15-17. A three-day celebration of the season and the city. See related story.

Pride Park Willamalane Social, July 20, 5-6:30 p.m., free. Come to Pride Park and help color a mural with your neighbors.

Fiesta Latina, July 22-23, Island Park. Admission TBA. Viva La Fiesta! This celebration of Latin music, food, art and dance spices up Island Park.

The Goonies Movie In The Park, July 22, 8:30 p.m., Meadow Park, free.

National Night Out Kick-off Party, July 24, 4-7 p.m., Island Park, free. Public safety displays, police and fire vehicles, carnival games, obstacle course, K9 demo, silent auction.

Megamind Movie In The Park, July 29, 8:30 p.m., Island Park, free.

Hot Summer Nites, July 30, 4 p.m., \$5. Meet at the Albertsons parking lot at 5477 Main St. Bring out the classic cars for a cruise through Springfield and Cottage Grove. Call 541-514-8201.

National Night Out in Your Neighborhood, Aug. 2, free. Goody bags for kids, door prizes for adults, fun and refreshments for everyone. Meet your neighbors and greet Police Chief Jerry Smith, McGruff the Crime Dog and police K-9 units. Events run from 5 to 7 p.m. at Guy Lee Park, Meadow Park, Page Park and Willamalane Park. Events run 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Tyson Park, Bluebelle Park and Thurston Park.

Gamebird Park Willamalane Social, Aug. 3, 5-6:30 p.m., free. Play in the water! We'll have a sprinkler and more water games.

Yogi Bear Movie In The Park, Aug. 5, 8:30 p.m., Douglas Gardens Park, free.

Willamette Valley Brews & Blues Festival, Aug. 5-6, Island Park, \$8 plus three nonperishable food items. Kids 13 and under free when accompanied by an adult. Hours are 3:30-10:30 p.m. Friday and 10:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturday. Blues performances, breweries from throughout the Northwest, wineries, artists, comedy and more.

Springfield Education Foundation Golf Classic, Aug. 8, Springfield Country Club, 1 p.m. shotgun start. Call 541-726-3243 for more information.

Mini Golf Movie Night, Aug. 12, Camp Putt, \$6 per person. Play a round on one of Camp Putt's two deluxe 18-hole courses, Then, at 8:30 p.m., catch "Over the Hedge" outdoors on the big screen and enjoy ice cream floats. Golf available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Alice in Wonderland, Aug. 14 and 15, 6 p.m., Island Park, free. The Roving Park Players present Lewis Carroll's classic, upside-down, topsy-turvy, and contrariwise!

Menlo Park Willamalane Social, Aug. 17, 5-6:30 p.m., free. Enjoy an ice cream social with your neighbors.

Bingo at Lane County Fair, Aug. 17-21, sponsored by Springfield Utility Board. Fundraiser for Project Share, which helps low-income residents with winter heating emergencies.

Barbecue & Bluegrass, Aug. 19, 6:30-9 p.m., Dorris Ranch. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the gate, includes dinner. Relax to the music of the Whiskey Chasers and the Coast Fork Bluegrass Band. Food by Hop Valley; beverages an additional cost.

Happy Feet Movie In The Park, Aug. 19, Lively Park, free.

The Wizard of Oz, Aug. 20-21, 6 p.m., Island Park, free. The Roving Park Players present a journey with Dorothy and friends on their adventures in the amazing land of Oz.

Despicable Me Movie In The Park, Aug. 26, 8:30 p.m., Ruff Park, free.

Tyson Park Willamalane Social, Aug. 31, 5-6:30 p.m., free. Join neighborhood friends in fun sports games! Play kickball, badminton, frisbee and more.

Satin Love Orchestra plays Springfield SummerFair on July 15.

Sha Na Na will perform at Light of Liberty on July 4.



Volunteers Dig in for 2011 Springfield Youth Day of Caring



Springfield High students help clean up Springfield's act during last year's Springfield Youth Day of Caring.

For the 15th year running, more than 550 teal-clad student volunteers, 80 adult volunteers and 30 staff volunteers swarmed the city on May 6, taking on service projects as part of the 2011 Springfield Youth Day of Caring.

On this day each spring, students from our high schools — including something like half of the Springfield High student body and all of Gateways — partner with adult volunteers from various businesses and service organizations to perform volunteer projects throughout the community.

“This is a student-driven project,” says Tamara Hume, a Springfield High special ed teacher and the project’s organizer. “Students are involved every step of the way in planning. They’re organizing projects, pulling together materials, contacting volunteers, asking for donations, handling publicity. They really feel a lot of ownership.”

A committee composed of representatives from throughout the community starts meeting each January to provide advice and support for the high school team. Working together, the team iden-

tifies potential projects, teams adult volunteers with student volunteers and works their networks to solicit donations to cover materials costs.

“Yes, we have Rotarians and Chamber folks, but it’s not just businesses,” says Dave Willis, a local State Farm representative and the committee’s informal chair. “There are representatives from city agencies, federal agencies, individuals and corporations, all who believe in building a stronger community, uniting youth and adults in a positive way and pro-

viding leadership opportunities for our kids.

This year’s project list included cleaning books at Springfield Library, removing invasive species at Mount Pisgah, cleaning up graffiti for the city, landscaping for United Way, picking up litter and doing a variety of projects around the high school itself.

“I love this project,” says Hume. “It’s such a great way to help our youth make a positive impact in the community.”

Spray Judiciously and Dry Up Your Water Bill This Summer

Water use skyrockets in the summer, but your water bill doesn’t have to. With a little planning and some know-how, you can keep your garden and lawn green, without draining the green from your wallet.

Try the tuna can trick: Water your lawn deeply (about 1 inch) on a weekly basis to establish healthy root systems. To measure the amount of water you are applying, place a tuna can under the sprinkler and time how long it takes for an inch to accumulate.

Be flexible: If it rains, cut down on your regular watering schedule.

Mulch, mulch, mulch: It retains moisture, and that reduces the need to water.

Know how to mow: Mow your lawn to a height of 3 inches. This is the ideal height for the types of grasses most people grow. Leave the clippings on the grass — they provide nutrients to the soil and keep roots healthy, making your lawn more resistant to drought and disease.

Make the most of your sprinkler: Did you know that watering at certain times of the day can increase the performance of your sprinkler

system? Watering when demand is high (before work in the morning and in the early evening) can lower water system pressure, resulting in sprinklers that can’t distribute water across your landscape. There’s an easy remedy: Just water during “green zone” times shown in the chart.

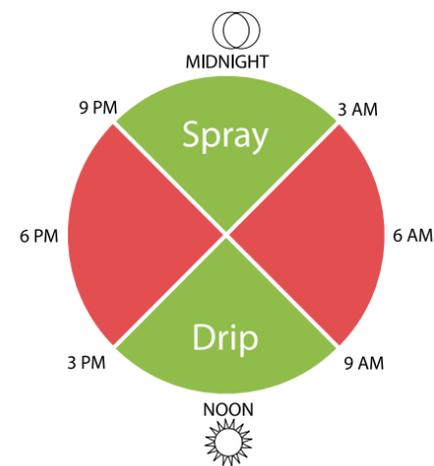
Know the myths: You might have heard that the “best time to water” is early in the morning. But landscape experts say that the Willamette Valley’s dry summertime climate allows us to water lawns at any time, even at night, without the risk of fungal diseases. You might also have heard that watering during the day is ineffective because the water evaporates. This is true — unless you are using soaker hoses or drip systems. These apply water directly to the soil or under mulch, so evaporating spray is not a concern. Best, these types of watering systems can be used during the hottest time of the day when plants need water the most.

Get in the zone: For the best performance, check out the chart to the right and water in the green zone: Spray with sprinkler from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. and use drip/soaker hoses from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Water every other day: If your address ends in an odd number, water on odd-numbered days. If it ends in an even number, water on even-numbered days. By spreading out the demand for water, this helps ensure that everyone can use the water they need without putting unnecessary stress on public water facilities.

Following these simple tips will go a long way toward watering down your water bill this summer!

For more tips, see SUB’s website at www.subutil.com.



Springfield Middle School ‘Represents’ at the Oregon Battle of the Books Regionals

Springfield Middle School’s Book Believers bested Eugene Cal Young’s Hand Lotion team in the final middle school round of the Oregon Battle of the Books Regional Tournament, held at Springfield High in March, advancing both teams to the state tournament in April. Cal Young went on to get its revenge over Springfield, taking third place at state.

The Oregon Battle of the Books, or OBOB, is a reading incentive program that combines reading with the

spirit of friendly competition. OBOB is popular in Springfield. This year, more than 1,700 Springfield students participated, distilling down through school-based battles to 26 teams that would compete at three levels with other schools from the region. This was the second year that Springfield has hosted the regional battles in place of a district tournament.

This year’s competition held a special importance to the Springfield Middle Book Believers team.

“The kids each read many of the books two to three times, taking notes, and quizzing each other in preparation for regionals,” said Diane Chaffee, one of the Springfield Middle team coaches. “We worked especially hard this year because we want everybody to know how wonderful our students are.”

“We wanted to make sure our school is represented before it closes down, and we wanted to go out with a bang!” said Katareanna Coen, team captain.



The Springfield Middle School Book Believers, from left: Jil Dickison, Spanish teacher and co-coach; 8th graders Katareanna Coen, Gypsy Prince, Carolyn Ruiz-Moreno, Armando Martinez, and Joseph Bowsby.