

TEAM Springfield

News From Your Springfield Public Agencies

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



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

Springfield, University of Oregon Partner on Sustainable Cities Initiative

This fall the city of Springfield begins a yearlong partnership with the University of Oregon for the 2011-2012 Sustainable City Year. The Sustainable City Year is a partnership between the University's Sustainable Cities Initiative program and one city in Oregon each academic year. During the course of the partnership, university faculty and students will focus on assisting the city, as well as other TEAM Springfield partners, with sustainability goals and projects. The partnership will involve more than 400 students and approximately 20 faculty members from a range of academic disciplines.

"We are proud to participate in this program and are excited to work as partners with the incredible students and faculty from the University of Oregon," said Gino Grimaldi, Springfield's city manager. "Springfield is always looking to take a step forward and improve the lives of our citizens, and this partnership will take us closer to achieving our mission of making Springfield a preferred place to live and work. I'm energized by the possibilities ahead and look forward to

a continued partnership with the University of Oregon."

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University students will provide a vision of how schools can play a role in sustainable futures.

Willamalane Center's New Look Unveiled

Good things are happening at Willamalane Center for Sports and Recreation, where a remodel and a new floor and Fitness Center are bringing in more people and stoking interest in Willamalane Park and Recreation District's newest acquisition.

Willamalane Center, at 97,000 square feet, is one of the largest indoor community sports and recreation facilities in the Northwest. The center features three regulation-size hardwood basketball courts and several sport court floors used for tennis, roller derby, basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, table tennis, special events and other activities.

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More people are coming to Willamalane Center for Sports and Recreation, at 250 S. 32nd St., for daily workouts and a variety of sports and special events.

New Elementary School Needs a Name

Plans are already under way for renovation of the former Springfield Middle School to make it suitable to house elementary students. Starting with the fall of 2012, Moffitt and Brattain elementary students will be teaming up at the new school. The transition team, headed up by Director of Elementary Education Sara Ticer and the new principal, Shari Furtwangler (who is currently principal at Thurston Elementary School), has begun meeting to determine the curriculum and culture of the new school.

The first step: giving it a name. It's the School Board's decision, ultimately, but the Board is accepting input from a School Naming Committee as well as students, staff and community members. You can share your ideas and input by taking the survey on the district's website at www.sps.name.edu/schoolname.

This is not a popular vote, so there's no advantage to submitting the same name more than once. However, people are welcome to submit multiple suggestions.



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Easing Transition Schools Lay Out Welcome Mat After Others Close

The new school year is off and running — and looking a little different this year. Last year’s budget reductions and school closures have meant a number of changes for some staff and students. But with more than a month under their belts, the schools are reporting that the dust is starting to settle.

The district started the year with a few transportation hiccups that arose from the district’s major route redesign this fall — a massive undertaking for a district of our size. But once those issues were ironed out, both students and staff have been able to settle into their new routines with few problems. Much of the credit, they say, can be chalked up to the groundwork laid at the end of the last school year.

“Things have gone very well here for Goshen kids coming to Centennial,” says Principal Mike Donnelly. “The transition teams worked very hard last spring to make Goshen families and students feel welcome at our school.”

Donnelly noted that students have been placed with other Goshen students as much as possible to help ease the transition.

“It also helped that we had the unique opportunity to allow most Goshen staff to come here, including two educational assistants,” Donnelly said. “It makes a big difference when the kids see friendly and familiar faces all around them.”

Former Goshen teachers also say that the transition has been going well.

“The Centennial staff has been very welcoming,” said teacher Mike Maulding, who taught at Goshen for more than 30 years. “I feel very at home here.”

Maulding noted that Centennial’s PTA welcomed staff with gift baskets that included Centennial sweatshirts and gift cards.

Maulding teaches a blend of fourth- and fifth-graders, not unlike what he had at Goshen. “Yes, it’s a little hard coming from a place where everybody knew everybody, but we’re

working on ideas that will help build friendships between classrooms.”

Donnelly said Maulding was pivotal in helping Goshen families see the opportunity in the transition. “The kids are liking the opportunities they have here, like a better playground



Goshen students took a field trip to Centennial last spring to meet the teachers and check out the school.

with more equipment, more options for curriculum and more equipment for the PE classes,” Maulding said. He said he also appreciates the support that the Family Center provides.

Hamlin Welcomes Goshen Kids

Sixth-grade teacher Mary Larson, who moved to Hamlin this year from Goshen, tells a similar story about the Goshen middle schoolers who moved to Hamlin.

“We got off to a great start last spring with well-organized activities,” she said. “By the end of the year, kids were excited about the new school and feeling good about it.”

Larson said the kids were pleased about the opportunities available at Hamlin. She also spoke highly of staff being supportive of the new members of the Hamlin family. “I have nothing but good things to say,” she said. “Even the move went really well — our staff is terrific. You can imagine how much stuff

I had after teaching for 15 years, but it all made it here.”

“Both the students from Goshen and the group from Springfield Middle School seem to be blending in well,” said Dave Collins, Hamlin principal. “We have a great mix here.”

“We have quite a mix of backgrounds and personalities,” Mather said. “But blending cultures and customs is not a bad thing.”

Events Welcome Camp Creek Kids

In Waltherville, Principal Sarah Lewenberg also gave high marks to the transition teams that coordinated several spring events to introduce incoming Camp Creek students to their new school, including a science night and a carnival, which involved both schools’ PTAs in the planning.

“The kids are making new friends and everyone is getting along just great,” Lewenberg said. “We even have two co-presidents of the PTA, one from Camp Creek and one from Waltherville.”

“When I asked a Camp Creek parent at Curriculum Night how things were going, she said her son’s only complaint was that he missed the real silverware,” she added.

Yolanda Welcomes Mohawk

Yolanda Principal Dennis Gray reports that Mohawk students have for the most part adapted well to the new school. Where possible, students were placed with other students from their old school to help ease their transition.

Gray also pointed to much forethought back in the spring contributing to a smooth start this fall. “It’s great to have some Mohawk parents volunteering and getting involved in our PTO,” he said.

Gray noted that he expected it to take some time for students to really blend in to the new school.

“We are looking forward to incorporating some Mohawk traditions into Yolanda’s culture,” Gray said. He noted that sometimes it’s harder for parents to adjust to big changes like these, but “the kids are much quicker to adapt.”

Staff Ease Transition at Briggs

Another group of Springfield Middle School students moved to Briggs Middle School. Co-principal Jeff Mather, former principal of Springfield Middle School, said that the ability to bring some of the staff over has helped a great deal.

“It’s especially nice for kids and families to have some familiar faces in the front office,” he said.

Mather noted that change can be especially tough for older students, but the kids seem to be working it out.

To help students get to know one another, a number of activities have been planned. The incoming sixth-graders bonded for a day at the district’s SKY Camp facility. A game day brought seventh- and eighth-graders together in a fun atmosphere. The school also plans a “Mix It Up” Day, where kids are randomly assigned tables to encourage conversation.

Springfield Public Library Wins National Award

REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking, has awarded the Springfield Public Library with the Estela and Raúl Mora Award. The award is presented annually to the most exemplary program celebrating El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), also known as Día. This year the library was one of two in the country to win the prestigious award.

El día de los niños/El día de los libros is a celebration every day of children, families and reading that culminates every year on April 30. The celebration emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Día is an enhancement of Children's Day, which began in 1925. Children's Day was designated as a day to bring attention to the importance and well-being of children and is celebrated annually in many Latin American countries. In 1996, nationally acclaimed children's book author Pat Mora proposed linking the celebration of childhood and children with literacy to found El día de los niños/El día de los libros. In 1997 REFORMA endorsed the family literacy

program known as Día and began to promote the celebration in libraries across the country. In 2000 the first Estela and Raúl Mora Award was presented.

Last April, the library held its fifth annual Día Celebration. The day began with author Amy Costales presenting a program of bilingual stories and songs. As children arrived they stopped at a table where they got a raffle ticket for a new Spanish language or bilingual book. Throughout the day numbers were called and excited children ran to the table with their winning ticket to pick out a new book.

Two hundred people gathered in the library meeting room and lobby to enjoy the Día de los Niños/ Día de los Libros celebration. They watched the children's Mariachi group Ballet Folklorico Infantil, enjoyed refreshments, and perused the collection of library, reading and literacy information. Conversations in Spanish and English floated through the air, children played and laughed and the atmosphere was happy. It was a wonderful community gathering.

The feedback from the Día event was very positive. For many in our community it brought back fond memories of their Día de

los Niños celebration as a child and parents were excited to share this tradition with their children, preserving a piece of the culture from their childhood. For others, Día introduced a new celebration, something they say that they will look forward to next year.



The Springfield Public Library will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and the Mora Award plaque to display in the library. The money will be used to continue promoting the connections between children, families and literacy through the annual Día de los Niños/ Día de los Libros celebrations. We invite you to join us on April 28, 2012, and enjoy the Día Celebration firsthand.

District Looks for Keys to Success in High School

To achieve the school district's vision of "Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future" by 2025 — meaning that ALL of our current kindergartners would graduate college- and career-ready— the district has been working on changes at all levels that will help meet the key milestones along the way in the years ahead.

Now it's time for a renewed focus on the high school level. The goal of the proposed changes, which would be implemented by the 2012-13 school year, to improve the graduation rate and better provide students with the tools they need to go on to a career or further education.

To identify and prioritize potential solutions to the district's challenges, the district has formed a high school leadership team comprised of district leadership and principals, teachers and other staff from all four district high schools.

One of the team's goals is to better equip and support 9th- and 10th-graders for the rigors of high school. Studies show the single best predictor of high school completion is achievement at the 9th-grade level. A successful transition from middle to high school is critical, and teachers would work in instructional teams to provide individual students the support and instruction they need, when and how they need it. The high school leadership team believes that targeted support and improved collaboration can help make sure 9th- and 10th-graders are on track for success.

Another overall goal is to maintain comprehensive programs at all schools.

Budgetary challenges can make this difficult, however. One way to expand opportunities available to students is by enabling them to

move freely between schools to take classes that may not be available at their neighborhood school. This has its own challenge, however. The various school schedules would have to be aligned — no simple task. The team will make its recommendation after discussion and input from staff, students and families, and in consideration of budgetary concerns.

The district is also looking at expanding dual enrollment efforts, such as Advanced Placement classes and the College Now program, which allow students to receive college credit for advanced work. This would take advantage of and expand existing partnerships with local colleges, including both Lane Community College and the University of Oregon. Expansion also depends on 9th- and 10th-grade students receiving additional support in developing the skills and behaviors they need to be successful in these kinds of advanced programs. The change initiative is designed to support all students and increase the number of students who are both ready and willing to take on the challenges of Advanced Placement and College Now classes.

Previous strategies for improving student achievement such as Response to Intervention, in elementary schools and restructuring at the middle school level have proven effective in recent years. Middle school test scores have increased across the

board, including major gains in all demographic groups. The focus on high school is the logical next step.

Initial funding for the design and implementation of these changes will come from a \$1 million-plus federal Small Learning Communities grant the district received in 2010. Springfield was the only district in the state to receive such a grant. The Small Learning Communities grants are awarded to give districts the support they need to improve academic achievement in large public high schools through the creation of small learner communities.

The high school leadership team will meet throughout the year to continue to develop and refine the proposed changes. The community will have opportunities for feedback and input as the plans become more defined and are shared with the School Board.



The district's high school leadership team is working to identify strategic changes that will improve our graduation rate and help more students graduate career-and college-ready.

Fall/Winter TEAM Springfield Calendar

Turkey Shoot

Saturday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Willamalane Center • \$2/attempt

Support middle school athletics and show off your basketball skills. Shoot and make as many free-throws as possible in a one-minute round. Prizes for each age bracket include gift cards for a Thanksgiving turkey and more. Call 541-736-4516 for more information.

30th Annual Turkey Stuffer

Thursday, Nov. 24, 8:30 a.m.
Lively Park • \$15 for adults; free for those 14 and under

This 5K (3.1 mile) run/walk is a flat course that loops through a beautiful and quiet residential neighborhood. After the race, spend some time at the Northwest's premier indoor waterpark from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at no additional charge. Register online at runnerspace.com/eclecticedgeracing.

Parade Day Tuba Carol Concert

Saturday, Dec. 3
Richard E. Wildish Community Theater, 12 p.m. • Free

This Springfield holiday tradition is moving to the Wildish Community Theater this year! Unlike the chill of recent years, deep brass tones are sure to stir warm holiday feelings in a toasty interior setting. Donations accepted.

Springfield Christmas Parade

Saturday, Dec. 3 • 1 p.m.
Streets of Springfield

The 59th annual Springfield Christmas Parade will wander through the streets of the city beginning at Olympic Street at 1 p.m. This year's theme is "Through the eyes of a child." Entry and volunteer information is online at springfieldchristmasparade.org.

Holiday Marketplace

Dec. 5-8, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Adult Activity Center, 215 W. C St. • Free admission

A wide variety of choices for local shoppers, from homemade gifts, stocking stuffers and woodcrafts to jams and flavored vinegars. Proceeds support center programs and operations.

Second Friday Art Walk

Friday, Dec. 9, 5-8 p.m.
Main Street in downtown Springfield, between Pioneer Parkway West and 8th Street. Over 25 participating businesses, including NEDCO, the Washburne Café, Emerald Art Center, Springfield Museum and more. Island Park Art Gallery at the Adult Activity Center, 215 W. C St., holds a reception for photographers Chris Mihulka and Roka Walsh. And don't miss the Meet and Greet with Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg at City Hall, 225 Fifth St.

Winter Wonderland

Friday, Dec. 16, 6-8:30 p.m.
Willamalane Center • \$6 ID/\$7.50 OD

Make holiday gifts, ride the Willamalane train, visit the balloon clown, take pictures with Santa and meet his live reindeer! A professional ice sculptor will be there to shape the spirit of the season.

Willamalane Presents Fred Crafts' Radio Redux 'It's a Wonderful Life'

Dec. 16-17, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18, 2 p.m.
Wildish Community Theater • 541-736-4544
Adults: \$13; senior (62+)/student \$10

Holiday cheer and warmth abound in the touching 1930s tale of one man's quest for what's really important in life — and death.

Second Friday Art Walk

Friday, Jan. 13, 5-8 p.m.
Main Street in downtown Springfield, between Pioneer Parkway West and 8th Street. Over 25 participating businesses, including NEDCO, the Washburne Café, Emerald Art Center, Springfield Museum and more. Don't miss the Meet and Greet with Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg at City Hall, 225 Fifth St.

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and March

Monday, Jan. 16.
Student reception, 2-2:30 p.m. Program and awards, 2:30-4 p.m.
Springfield High School, 875 7th St.

Springfield Police Have New Phone App

Have a tip for the Springfield Police Department? Looking for the latest Springfield PD news? Yeah, we've got an app for that. Springfield Police have unveiled the first police department app in Oregon. MYPD is available free of charge and will keep the growing number of Smartphone-using residents in contact with the department.



This app includes features for checking on the latest news, social media postings, directions, department contacts, feedback, questions, department surveys, crime tips and more.

All of the forms can be sent anonymously to the department, though we encourage an email address or phone number if you would like a response. Users also have the ability to upload photos and GPS information with the app forms (for example, a parking issue, graffiti complaint, etc.)

As is the case with our other emails, tip line and social media sites, this app is not for any type of emergency situation. Springfield Police will attempt to review all messages in a timely fashion but do not always actively monitor all messages at all times.

The app named "My Police Department" or "MyPD" is available now for free in the iTunes and Android marketplace.

More information can be found on our website at www.springfield-or.gov/dept_pol.htm and the MyPD app website <http://wiredblue.co>.

Shockingly Easy Holiday Safety Tips

Your credit card bill might shock you during the holiday season, but make sure your decorations don't! These tips from Springfield Utility Board will help you keep your home light, bright and safe.

- **Never use indoor lights on the exterior of your home, or outdoor lights inside. Indoor lights are not waterproof and outdoor lights may burn too hot inside.**
- **Avoid moisture in the sockets of outdoor lights by directing the bulb downwards.**
- **Keep plugs and connections dry outdoors with tape or plastic wrap.**
- **Make sure extension cords have a solid ground. Do not bypass three-prong plugs — they are there for your protection.**
- **Don't use nails and tacks to secure outdoor lights. Insulated staples or decorative hooks are safer.**
- **Never touch tree lights — or any electrical decoration — with wet hands or gloves.**
- **Metal trees and electrical decorations aren't a good match. Faulty wiring can cause the tree to become electrified and give you a shock.**

Online Accounts Now Available Through SUB

Register for an online account with Springfield Utility Board and manage your utility bills right over the Internet. Having an online account gives you tremendous flexibility. With it, you can:

- View your past statements (up to 18 months of statements and water/electric usage information)
- Check your payment history
- Sign up for email reminders
- Pay your bill (residential only; fees apply)
- Receive online statements (in addition to, or in place of, mailed statements)
- Cancel at any time

Enrolling Is Easy!

Just go to SUB's website at www.subutil.com and click on the "Access Your Online Account" link in the lower right-hand corner. From there, click on the "Register Account" link. You'll be asked to enter your account number (located on the upper right corner of your SUB bill) and the home phone number you have on record with SUB. That's it!

Will You Continue To Send Me Bills In The Mail?

The choice is yours! Once you have registered for an online account, you'll have the additional option of going paperless – that is, you can choose to have SUB discontinue your mailed statements and only receive them online. If you prefer, we can continue to mail bills to you, as always. We can even do both.

How Do I Sign Up For Paperless Billing?

After you log into your online account, you'll see a link to "paperless" billing right under the Detailed Statement History heading. You'll be asked to supply an email address that SUB can use to inform you when your bill is ready to see. You can even sign up for various e-mail reminders e-mails to remind you about paying your bill.

Your Information Is Secure and Private



SUB does not sell or lease your information to anyone and shares it only with the professionals who manage the web service. SUB contracts with a third party that specializes in Internet security and complies with industry standards. Special software is used to encrypt your information and protect it during transmission from your computer to ours.

Stocking Stuffers That Come With Their Own Return ... On Investment!

Practical holiday gifts are great — but where's the pizzazz to socks and jammies? Instead, Springfield Utility Board suggests giving the gadget lover on your list one of these energy-wise devices. Some are available locally, some online, and they'll all will net you praise thank you's month-after-month, every time the utility bill arrives.

Programmable Thermostats

Programmable thermostats let you pay only for the heat you need, when you need it. You can set it so your home's heating system powers down just as you leave for work, and it returns your home to a comfortable temperature before you get home. Depending on the number of settings and options you want, you might pay between \$40 and \$100 for your thermostat. On the plus side, the money you save in one heating season can often more than make up for the cost.

Remote-Controlled Appliance Sensors

When looked at in total, small appliances such as televisions, stereos, fans, computers and lamps can make up nearly 10 percent of your energy bill. And, if you have small children or others in your household who forget to turn these items off when they leave a room, you're paying to power items no one is using. Available now are special power strips that use infrared technology to sense movement in a room. Any items plugged into them get turned on when movement is detected, and those same items are turned off if no movement is sensed after a set period of time (you can set to turn items off after between 30 seconds and 30 minutes of inactivity). These items retail at about \$70, but similar sensors controlled by voice command rather than infrared are available for about \$30.

Personal Energy Meters

Looking at your utility bill can tell you how much energy you use cumulatively each month, but it can't tell you which of your appliances are really whirring away the kilowatts. Available on the

market now are individual energy meters that you plug into an appliance to find out how much energy it consumes based on your usage. Measure your consumption for a month, multiply it by SUB's residential kilowatt hour charge (4.63 cents/kwh) and you'll know exactly how much or little the appliance costs to run. The \$40 gadget should uncover the energy hogs and stars in your house.

Shower Timers

Hot water heaters are one of the biggest energy-users in your home, making that 20-minute steamy morning shower costly not only in terms of water use but electricity too. It is important to have a low-flow shower head and an energy-efficient water heater (SUB offers rebates for certain Energy Star models), but shower timers are an effective way to help limit shower time to a reasonable length, and they only cost a few dollars. These waterproof items let you know when 5 minutes has elapsed so you'll know when to start the rinse cycle.

Compact Fluorescent Bulbs

Of course, don't forget to change out your traditional incandescent bulbs with the new generation of compact fluorescent bulbs, especially in fixtures that stay on more than three hours a day. Compact fluorescents provide the same light quality as traditional lighting at about a fourth the energy cost. Bulb prices depend on the type you need, but the new convenient mini lights are available for about \$3.

Other Great Ideas

Don't forget about all those great energy-efficient holiday lights now on the market. Many use LEDs, which are super efficient, and come in a variety of holiday colors. You can even call SUB and purchase a "Warm Up" gift certificate. These little gems can be purchased in any amount and given to SUB customers, who can apply the dollars toward their utility bills. Just call SUB at 541-746-8451 and ask for more information!

Sustainable Cities

(Continued From Page 1)

With over 15 projects included in the Springfield Sustainable Cities work, the city is excited for the opportunity to make headway in areas that may have otherwise been placed on hold due to budget limitations. Springfield projects will involve city staff from many departments, as well as project partners from the Springfield Utility Board, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, United Way, Springfield School District and other community groups and organizations. Projects include:

- A critical analysis of demographics and program gaps in the Brattain neighborhood, focusing on the United Way of Lane County “Promise Neighborhoods” movement. The movement seeks to develop a continuum of “cradle through college and career” solutions to improve the educational and developmental outcome of all children in our most distressed communities.
- An update to Springfield’s Bike/Pedestrian Plan and the creation of a Bike Path Connectivity Plan to be reviewed and potentially adopted into future citywide plans.
- Design and construction of demonstration stormwater sites to promote community access to treatment concepts and public open space areas while sustainably and artistically treating stormwater.
- Urban design and redevelopment concepts for the Mohawk area Waremart property.
- Research and marketing strategy to assist Willamalane Park and Recreation District in marketing Dorris Ranch.
- Redevelopment concepts for the Booth Kelly Center, which includes 17 acres of land and more than 200,000 square feet of industrial business space currently renting to Springfield businesses.
- Design of a conceptual future school site intended to serve future populations in the East Springfield area.

The Sustainable Cities partnership provides the city with an opportunity to continue looking forward and planning for the future. It is an opportunity to partner with some of the brightest academic minds in the country and to analyze, plan and set goals now so that when the economy begins to recover, Springfield is ready to respond. It is an opportunity to broaden the horizon of ideas and concepts helping to define projects. The project will help the city begin looking at development, projects and programs not by what is typical, but by what is possible, sustainable and remarkable.

Don't Throw Money Down the Sewer!

Ways to Save

The best way to save water over the winter months is make sure you have a water-tight house by checking for leaks, and by changing over to efficient, low-flow showerheads, toilets and faucets.

One good way to check for water leaks is to turn all the water off in your house, then note the numbers on your water meter. Don't use any water for an hour or so, then recheck the meter. If the numbers have moved at all, start hunting.

The best place to start is in the bathroom. An improperly functioning toilet can leak 50 gallons a day — that's three month's worth of drinking water for one person! And even a small drip from a faucet can add up to several gallons wasted over the course of just a few hours. Think about it — if your home has one faucet that drips 20 drops per minute, that means it drips 28,800 drops per day — or 694 gallons a year! That's almost 50 gallons a month.

Check It Out For Yourself

Go to <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/mqanda.html>, a website sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey. It has a handy water leak calculator that will show you how much water is leaking from your faucets.

For more information about how to save water, call SUB's Conservation Connection at 541-746-0963.

Willamalane Center's New Look Unveiled

(Continued From Page 1)

Local benefactor Bob Reed donated a new sport court floor for the center. Reed, a tennis pro who has taught tennis for Willamalane for 18 years, funded four regulation-size indoor tennis courts. The Sally Reed Courts, named after Reed's mother, will allow a comprehensive year-round tennis program.



Willamalane is building a climbing program around the 44-foot-high rock wall and shorter bouldering wall.

The facility has a new Fitness Center, new multi-purpose floor, added indoor tennis courts, renewed climbing walls, a new lobby and reception area, and a new youth center called Two50.

Bob Reed donated funds for four new indoor tennis courts at Willamalane Center. A new tennis serving machine sends balls flying at an impressive pace.



Two50 is a place for middle school students to enjoy a row of 3D HDTVs and gaming consoles, play on the new indoor sports courts or scale the climbing or boulder walls. Two50 replaces the old Teen Center on G Street.

The center's hardwood basketball courts have been named after Roy Gray Jr., a longtime physical education teacher, coach and mentor for local students and athletes.

In 2010, the district's board of directors approved spending \$1.5 million to purchase the foreclosed Regional Sports Center from Umpqua Bank.



Work out at your own pace at the new Fitness Center at Willamalane Center.

Be Prepared for Winter Weather Woes

Once the freezing temperatures hit, so do cold-weather-related nuisances, such as freezing pipes and power outages. Being prepared can keep a nuisance from becoming a real headache. Here are some common issues Springfield Utility Board sees every winter, and what you can do to stay ahead of the weather-related problems:

Freezing Pipes

Prevention is definitely the best cure for frozen pipes. Once they freeze, it's best to call a professional, since pipes can burst and cause expensive damage. Luckily, protecting pipes is relatively easy:

Make sure all exposed pipe is insulated. Insulate and wrap outside pipes, faucets, and pipes exposed to cold air under your home. Pipes that are particularly prone to freezing may be wrapped with a special "heat" tape available at hardware stores.

Keep the lid on your water meter to keep the cold out.

Open cupboard doors to expose pipes to warm inside air during long freezing periods. And as a last resort, turn on a thin trickle of water (about the size of a pencil's lead) from the faucet located farthest from where the water service enters your home. The moving water will be less apt to freeze.

Finally, be sure you have winterized your irrigation and backflow devices outside your home. A hardware store can provide the necessary materials. As always, feel free to call SUB at 541-746-8451 with any questions!

Power Outages

Winter weather can cause all kinds of unexpected events that could lead to power outages. Cars skid off slippery roads into power poles, winter windstorms blow trees into poles, and icy weather sometimes damages power lines.



While most outages only last a few minutes, some can be longer and it's best to be prepared. Get a box and put these essentials in it so they are easy to find in an emergency:

- Flashlights
- Battery-Powered Radio
- Battery-Powered Clock
- Extra Batteries
- First-Aid Kit
- Extra Blankets
- Nonperishable Food
- A Two-Day Supply Of Water

And remember that cordless phones and phones powered through an answering machine require electricity to operate, but older style corded phones don't. Keep one stashed away for emergency use.

Street Smarts

Preserving and Maintaining Streets Saves Money in the Long Run

The city's Public Works Department does its best to keep Springfield's streets in good condition. But it's a never-ending battle. Streets begin to deteriorate from the moment they are built due to the effects of automobile traffic, expansion and contraction from temperature changes, the corrosive effects of rainfall, and other environmental conditions. Only good road design and continuous maintenance and preservation practices can prolong the life of streets.

Much like a roof protects your house, pavement protects the road bed. Once the pavement surface is cracked, it's only a matter of time before water seeps in and softens the road's sub-base. Over time, the sub-base material shifts outward, leaving an empty space with nothing to support the pavement above it. Traffic and rain weaken the surface until it cracks. Regular maintenance lessens the impact traffic and weather has on the street surface so cracks don't develop, or, if they do, are fixed before there is extensive damage. If the street surface is not maintained and the subsurface is damaged, the street has to be reconstructed, which is far more expensive than performing routine maintenance and preservation activities.

Every other year the city assesses the condition of street surfaces. In 2008, 85 percent of the streets were in fair or better condition. In 2010, this figure dropped to 41.4 percent in fair or better condition.

What Has Happened?

Every year the city plans a budget to fix streets in poor condition. The money comes from fuel taxes, and other funds such as franchise fees for the use of the public's right of way. No property taxes are used to maintain streets. In recent years, the money coming in has not kept pace with the increasing costs associated with street maintenance. The city has had to reduce spending on the street system, resulting in a backlog of maintenance work and a halt on preservation work. The result is a decline in the surface condition.

Poorly maintained streets create out-of-pocket costs for every motorist. A recent Federal Highway Administration study concluded that driving on poorly maintained

streets costs the average motorist \$134 per year due to damaged tires, increase in wear and tear on their vehicle and reduced fuel efficiency.

According to a 2002 report by the American Public Works Association, every \$1 spent on street maintenance saves motorists \$4 to \$6 in direct automobile operating costs, and saves an additional \$6 in road reconstruction costs.

Springfield's Public Works Department is doing the best it can with the money it has to keep our community's streets safe and in good repair. Our goal is to return Springfield's street system to at least as good as it was in 2008, in 85 percent fair or better condition. If we don't, residents will face much greater costs in the future as more streets deteriorate to the point of needing full reconstruction. Long-term solutions to meet our street maintenance and preservation needs can only come from a committed effort by informed citizens in cooperation with city and state officials. Difficult decisions have to be made, and tough priorities have to be set at the local level.

You can help by becoming informed about these issues. For more information about preserving Springfield's streets, call the Springfield Public Works Department at 541-726-3761.



Springfield Education Foundation Kicks Off with its "Night of 11,000 Stars!"

The Springfield Education Foundation kicked off its 2011-12 fundraising campaign with a gala event at the Springfield National Guard Armory on Oct. 20. ▼



◀ Dotty and Frank Light were among the 330 attendees who lived up to their star treatment at the event. The foundation received more than \$26,000 in pledges that night.



▲ The Springfield Chamber of Commerce revealed that it was donating tailgate proceeds of more than \$11,000 to the foundation. The donation, along with a \$25,000 grant from the Fred Meyer Fund, brings the total raised by the foundation this year to more than \$130,000 — well on the way to achieving the foundation's \$225,000 goal.



◀ Many local businesses showed their support for our community's children by purchasing tables, including Oregon Community Credit Union (OCCU, pictured). Kingsford, International Paper (IP), EPIC and PeaceHealth. OCCU and IP were also among the event sponsors.

Sand Volleyball, Nature Trail Coming Soon to Lively Park

Construction is beginning on new improvements to Jack B. Lively Memorial Park. Willamalane is building a full basketball court, a sand volleyball court, additional parking and more at the popular park in Thurston.

An accessible nature trail and a permanent restroom are also among the improvements.

The project is funded in part with a \$183,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Additional landscaping will help link the playground and dog park that were completed last year with the help of an earlier Parks and Recreation Department grant.

This phase of the project is expected to be completed by fall 2012.

Work Begins on Extension of New Middle Fork Path

Work is under way to extend the new Middle Fork Willamette River Path all the way to Dorris Ranch.

Willamalane recently received a \$1.6 million Transportation Enhancement Program grant to help fund the critical connection around Quarry Butte, connecting the path's first phase – Clearwater Park to Quarry Creek – to the existing path system in Dorris Ranch.

The Dorris Ranch path system is a mix of historic farm roads and accessible soft-surface trails and will be used as temporary access to the Middle Fork Path until funds can be secured for the final section of the 4-mile long path.

When the second phase is complete, path users will be able to travel west from Clearwater Park all the way to the riverfront path system in Eugene, using a variety of paths, bike lanes and bike routes. Construction is planned for next summer, with completion expected by fall 2012.