

SPRING 2010

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TEAM

Springfield

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY

WILLAMALANE, SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD AND SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SPRINGFIELD!

Springfield is 125 years old this year, and the party is just getting started. Springfield is marking the occasion with a new signature sign, a golf tournament, a unique baseball promotion and — coming this summer — the biggest birthday celebration ever. Mark your calendar now for Springfield SummerFest, July 16-18.

“Our city’s incredible spirit was born from Springfield’s roots in our businesses, community groups and residents,” Springfield City Manager Gino Grimaldi said. “It is only fitting that the entire community joins in this celebration of our proud history and bright future.”

Springfield Rotary helped sponsor a new sign going up this month at the entry to downtown. The sculpture, created by artist Devin



Laurence Field, reflects the city’s connection to the McKenzie and Willamette rivers and its drift boat history.

Willamalane Park and Recreation District’s Springfield SummerFest also features a nod to the city’s “proud history” with a look back at the city’s roots, from Indian days to pioneer ways and more. Festival-goers will be able to check out the historic village at Saturday’s FamilyFest, listen to American Idol stars, race all over town in the Ranch to River Run/Walk and eat birthday cake — lots and lots of birthday cake.

And then coming July 30, look for a surprising change to the Eugene Emeralds’ uniforms as they take to the field at P.K. Park. The team will be honoring Springfield’s anniversary and “The Simpsons” TV show the city inspired.

More Anniversary Celebrations

May: A signature sign, created by artist Devin Laurence Field, will be placed at the entry to downtown

June 11: Anniversary Golf Tournament at Springfield Country Club, 541-747-2517

July 30: The “Springfield Emeralds Night at PK Park,” - www.go-ems.com

October 23: Mayor’s Black Tie Celebration, 541-726-3700

October: Celebrating 125 Years of Fire Fighters

SPRINGFIELD SummerFest LINEUP

Friday, July 16

Satin Love Orchestra

Island Park, 7:30-9:30 p.m.; gates open at 6 p.m.

Outdoor Movie: ‘Charlotte’s Web’

Lively Park, 8:30 p.m. • Free

Teens ‘N’ Talent Show

Wildish Theater, 5-6:30 p.m., wristband or \$5 per person

Saturday, July 17

Ranch to River Run/Walk

Dorris Ranch, 8 a.m.

This 5K run and walk starts at Dorris Ranch and ends at Island Park. Pick up an entry form at any Willamalane facility, Eugene Running Company or visit electedgeracing2.com. Sponsored by Springfield Buick and the city of Springfield.

Pancake Breakfast

Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 8-11 a.m. • \$3

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

FamilyFest, Island Park, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Learn about Springfield history in the Historic Village.

- Big Truck Zone

- Boat Race Zone

- Live entertainment, crafts and more.

American Idol Stars in concert,

Island Park, 8-10 p.m.

Sunday, July 18

BirthdayFest, Island Park • 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

“Dig in” to an enormous birthday cake and enjoy crafts and games.

- Inspirational Sounds • 11 a.m.-12 p.m. • Free

- The Sugar Beets • 2-4 p.m. • Free

- Family barbecue • Additional fee.

Plein Air ArtFest, Island Park

The Springfield Arts Commission, Emerald Art Center and Willamalane present an outdoor art contest open to everyone.

Kids’ FishingFest, Island Park, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Filbert Sweet

Treat Contest,

12-2 p.m.

Enter your filbert sweet treat and you could win cash and prizes. For contest rules visit willamalane.org or call 541-736-4544.



July 16-18, ongoing

- Willamalane is hosting the 2010 ASA Regional 12A Girls Fastpitch Softball Tournament at Bob Artz Park. Teams from all over the Northwest will compete for the opportunity to qualify for the national tournament.

Admission SummerFest wristbands — good for most Friday and Saturday events — are \$20 per family or \$5 per individual. (Sunday events are free.) Springfield residents have until July 17 to pick up a coupon at a Springfield Bi-Mart for 50 percent off wristbands. Wristbands are available for purchase at Willamalane facilities. Wristband purchase includes \$1 off admission at Willamalane Park Swim Center or Splash! at Lively Park, July 16-25.

See page 3 for a complete listing of Springfield summer events

Team Springfield

Springfield Public Schools
525 Mill St.
Springfield, OR 97477

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Springfield Public Schools CALENDAR

Here's what's coming up in the SPS calendar:

May 10: Teacher of the year honored at a reception before the Board Meeting, Administration Building, 6 p.m.

May 19: Dedication ceremony for a sign commemorating the history of track and field at Springfield High's Silke Field, 3:30 p.m.

May 24: Special Student Achievement event, Administration Building, 6:30 p.m.

Last day of school: June 16 for kindergarten students, June 17 for all other students.

June 17 will be a half day, as part of the district's budget reduction strategy. Dismissal is at 11:45 for elementary students (they will be provided a sack lunch) and 12:30 for secondary students.

June 28-July 30: Admin Building: Open Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Fridays.

Four-day week: The district will be piloting a four-day work week for five weeks this summer as another budget reduction strategy. All district buildings will be completely closed on Fridays during this period, saving an estimated \$16,500 in air conditioning and electrical costs. The Administration Building will extend its normal operating hours during that period to increase the availability of services.

All district buildings must be completely closed on these Fridays to achieve the estimated energy savings. The Child Center's summer program at Moffitt Elementary and the two-week Safety Town Program at Mt. Vernon Elementary will continue to operate as scheduled. The out-of-district special education programs will also continue as planned, and use of district and school playing fields will not be impacted.

Follow Us On 

Spring Is Here Let the outdoor projects begin!

As the weather turns warmer and drier, thoughts naturally turn to the out of doors. As you pull on those work boots, Springfield Utility Board would like to offer a few practical tips and reminders:

Saturdays Are Ladder Days!

Hauling out the metal extension ladder to attend to weekend chores? Before you clean gutters, trim trees, paint or do other outdoor work, remember to look up before you set up your ladder. Check for overhead power lines that might be low enough to come into contact with your ladder. And remember, if a wooden ladder has residual water in the wood, it can conduct electricity as well.

Call Before You Dig: Dial 811

Digging up new flower beds or setting fence posts requires a call to the Oregon Utility Notifications Center. And it's never been easier to call before you dig. With the center's new 811 number, staying safe is just three digits away! (Alternatively, you can still dial the OUNC at 800-332-2344.)

Just call at least three days before you plan to dig, and OUNC will send out a crew to mark the location of any underground utilities in and around your project area. The service is free and will keep you from hitting power lines and other utilities, which can be buried just a few feet under ground. Remember, striking a power line can cause loss of power – or worse, loss of life.

Go Fly A Kite!

It's kite-flying season. But if you or your child flies a kite – or anything else – into a power line, don't touch it! You might make yourself part of an electric circuit that could electrocute you. Call SUB at 541-746-8451 instead and we'll dispatch a crew to clear the line. And while you have their attention, keep your kids safe by warning them of the dangers of playing on or near electric facilities.

Take A Peek For Sneaky Leaks...

Take a moment to make sure that spring is the only thing that's sprung around your house! If you have an irrigation system, check to be sure the freezing and thawing cycles typical of winter weather didn't leave you with leaky pipes. When you first turn on your system, check all sprinkler heads to make sure they are not cracked, broken or leaking. Also, check for areas where water is pooling or that stay wet and soggy. If pipes run under those areas, you may have a leak. To check, try turning all the water off inside and outside your house before you leave for work. Jot down your water meter dial position then compare it to the dial position when you return. If it has moved, you may have a leak, and a call to a plumber or irrigation specialist is in order.

Springfield Education Foundation News



Ronnel Curry, a Springfield resident for 26 years with two children who have gone through Springfield schools, has been selected to be the first-ever executive director of Springfield Education Foundation (SEF) to help guide the nonprofit organization's support of Springfield Public Schools.

"We are so pleased to find such an experienced and savvy director," says Springfield Superintendent Nancy Golden, who is also an SEF board member. "I'm excited about the increased potential for building partnerships that directly benefit our schools."

Springfield Education Foundation, which is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in 1994 to raise money in support of our schools. Its mission: "Building a bright and successful future for all students through financial support and community involvement." Over the years, SEF has given thousands of dollars in grant funds to schools, enabling educators to implement creative and innovative ideas to broaden students' learning experiences that could not otherwise have been funded. SEF also actively supports the district's efforts to improve student literacy and incorporate the arts into classroom learning by providing funding for programs such as Gift of Literacy and Battle of the Books, as well as the Arts Matter initiative.

SEF's support for Springfield schools is even more critical in these tough economic times, and the organization's structure was reorganized last year with the goal of being able to provide more private financial support to the schools. Its Board of Directors was expanded to include 24 community members who bring a wide variety of skills and expertise to the table. The addition of an executive director is the latest step in SEF's recent reorganization plan to increase community involvement and financial support.

The executive director position is funded by SEF, which operates independently from the school district. Curry's office is currently housed in the school district's Administration Building at 525 Mill St. as part of a cooperative agreement between SEF and the District.

Those interested in building a partnership with Springfield Education Foundation can contact Curry at 541-726-3243, or at ronnel@springfieldeducationfoundation.org.

Rising Stars of Springfield

May 17, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main St.

This inaugural event, hosted by Springfield Education Foundation, will honor the district's most successful seniors who exemplify outstanding achievement in the areas of English, math, science, the arts, and traditional trades and technology. Selected students will also be asked to name an educator or district employee who had a significant positive influence in their lives. Those staff members will also be recognized for their accomplishments.

"Springfield Education Foundation is all about creating successful futures for our students," says Executive Director Ronnel Curry. "This event celebrates our district's amazing students and the programs and people who helped them along the way."

The public is welcome to attend to cheer on these outstanding students and their mentors!



Building a Bright and Successful Future for All Students Through Financial Support and Community Involvement

For more information, visit www.springfieldeducationfoundation.org.

Get Off The Heating Bill Roller Coaster! Sign up for SUB's Average Payment Plan

If you like the idea of knowing in advance what your monthly heating bills will be, sign up for Springfield Utility Board's Average Payment Plan. With the program, you build up a credit in spring and summer that helps pay down higher heating costs in the late fall and winter.

The result? No more big wintertime heating bills – something you'll especially appreciate when those holiday bills start rolling in.

Here's how it works: When you sign up for the Average Payment Plan, SUB continues to read your meters every month. But instead of billing you for your actual usage, SUB bills you each month for the average of your previous 12 months' charges. This kind of billing, called a "rolling average," reflects your average use and SUB's current rates.

Then, each April, you'll get a "catch up" bill. If you used more electricity during the year than predicted, SUB will bill that amount on your April statement. If you used less, SUB owes you and will automatically apply the credit to your account.

You can participate in SUB's Average Payment Plan if:

- Your account is paid in full, and
- You've been at your current address for at least one year.

If you meet these conditions, call SUB for an application, or visit the Web site at www.subutil.com and download a copy. Enrollment ends June 1.

Willamalane News

Volunteers Helping to Build New Playground

Willamalane staff members and park volunteers have been busy this spring constructing a new playground at Willamalane Park.

Volunteers are helping to assemble fun new features, including an overhead merry-go-round, a see saw, swings, a water play feature and about 40 other pieces of equipment.

Willamalane recently removed outdated and aging playground equipment to make room for new play structures tailored to different age brackets.

The playground project cost approximately \$240,000, with half of the funds provided by a grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Construction to Begin on Middle Fork Path

Willamalane is scheduled to begin construction on the first phase of the Middle Fork Willamette River Path in June.

Phase 1 includes a 10-foot-wide asphalt walking and cycling path from Willamalane's Clearwater Park west to Quarry Butte. Path users can bike or drive to Clearwater Park, where the path's eastern trailhead will be located, with parking for 21 vehicles, a restroom and informational kiosk.

After travelling 2½ miles through beautiful scenery, first along the new Mill Race channel and then along the Middle Fork, the paved section of the path will end at a 70-foot pedestrian bridge spanning Quarry Creek. Path users

will enjoy a small picnic area just before the bridge featuring tables, a bike rack, signs and a portable restroom.

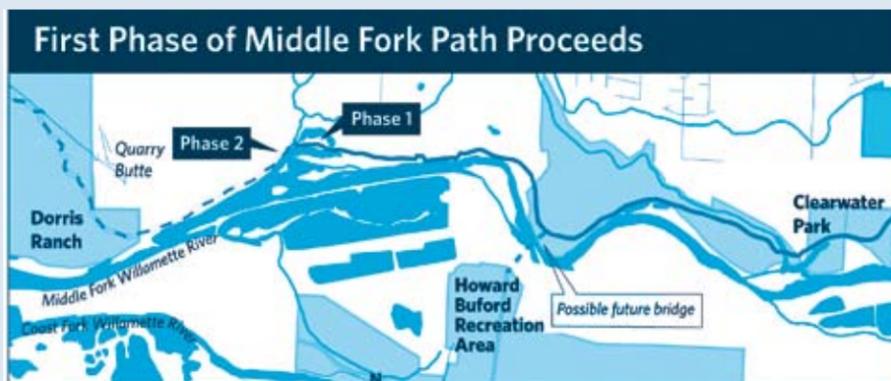
Path users can either turn around there, for a 5-mile round-trip outing, or walkers can continue on foot, exploring a primitive hiking trail that will travel around the butte, connecting to the existing path system in Dorris Ranch.

The cost of the project is approximately \$3 million, with \$2.7 million coming from federal transportation funds and \$300,000 in local matching funds. This section of the path is all on public land, owned by Willamalane, the city, SUB, or jointly by all three agencies. Willamalane would like to thank the city of Springfield and Springfield Utility Board for their cooperation.

Phase 2 of the project is yet unfunded, but acquisition and design work is wrapping up. Phase 2 will include a 21-car trailhead at the entrance to Dorris Ranch and 1.5 miles of a new, 10-foot-wide asphalt path through Dorris Ranch and around Quarry Butte, connecting to the bridge and Phase 1 of the path.

Future plans call for the full 4-mile path to connect with a path along the Springfield Mill Race to downtown Springfield, creating an 8-mile loop. With brief sections of on-street bicycle lanes, the path will also connect to an extensive existing riverfront path system linking Springfield and Eugene. To further enhance the path's regional appeal, a bicycle/pedestrian bridge across the river is also in the future plans, providing access to Lane County's 2,300-acre Howard Buford Recreation Area and Mount Pisgah.

The first section of the path is tentatively scheduled to open by next spring.



TeamSpringfield Events Calendar

Springfield Farmers' Market • Main Street, between 5th and 6th Sts. Fridays, starting May 7. New hours: 3-7 p.m.

Springfield Farmers' Market and Willamalane are excited to partner this season to continue the Music in the Market series and introduce the Farm to Fork program. This season you can stop by the final Friday of every month for a themed cooking demonstration and musical performance. Learn how to cook healthy meals for your whole family from products purchased at the farmers' market and groove to the sounds of the Willamette Valley's finest the last Friday of every month. The cooking demos start at 4:45 and the musical entertainment keeps it hot from 5:30 to close!

The market is your one-stop shop for fruits, vegetables, protein and baked goods from local producers. Enjoy live music, catch a story with Springfield Public Library every week, and the third Friday of every month is Kid's Day. Springfield Farmers' Market is a program of the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation. Check out the events calendar online at springfieldfarmersmarket.net.

Misty River Benefit Concerts for Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main St. • May 6 and 7, 7 p.m.

Tickets \$15 through May 3 or \$20 at the door
541-868-0689 - wildishtheater.com

Mother-Daughter Tea, • May 15, 2-4 p.m. Community Recreation Center

\$24 In-district, \$29 Out-of district
\$10/\$12 each additional girl
Ages 3 and up. Dress up in your prettiest hat and gloves and enjoy a three-course tea. Mothers or other female role models can help girls make a beautiful necklace. Register in advance. 541-736-4544 - willamalane.org

Hershey Track & Field Games • May 27, 3:30 p.m. Free - Silke Field

For ages 9-14. Events include dashes, distance runs, relays, standing long jump and softball throw. Registration begins on site at 3:30 p.m. with field events beginning at 4 p.m. and running events starting at 4:30 p.m.
541-736-4544 - willamalane.org

Willamalane Surf and Turf Duathlon • June 12, 8:30 a.m. - \$20, Willamalane Park Swim Center, 1276 G St.

All ages. Swim 750 yards at Willamalane Park Swim Center and run or walk a 2-mile course in beautiful Willamalane Park. Join as a team or as an individual. Prizes to the top 10 finishers. Space is limited. Registration is required by June 2.
541-736-4544 - willamalane.org

Fred Crafts' Radio Redux: 'Stagecoach' • June 18-19, 7:30 p.m.; June 20, 2 p.m. Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main St.

\$10/\$5 for seniors and students
Corruption! Gunfire! Romance! Be enthralled as the Ringo Kid wards off Geronimo and desperate gunslingers in this Wild West classic.
541-736-4544 - willamalane.org

Light of Liberty Celebration • July 4 - Gates open at 4 p.m. Island Park

\$5 in advance, \$7 at the door
Springfield Utility Board presents fun, food and fireworks in this annual celebration by the river. Kids will enjoy the children's area. Headlining this year is Johnny Rivers ("Secret Agent Man," "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'," "Slow Dancin'"). www.subutil.com

Dog Park to Open at Lively Park Willamalane Also Readies Playground, Large Group Picnic Shelters

Willamalane is getting ready to unveil a big new playground, two impressive group picnic shelters and the first dog park in Springfield — all at Lively Park.

The 33-acre park — home of Splash!, Willamalane's indoor water park — now also includes a 19-foot web-like climbing structure and a sand and water play area. In addition, expanded parking, sidewalks and a portable restroom were added. A 4-acre, fully fenced dog park with a shelter was constructed near the playground area. The dog park includes separate areas for large and small dogs. Construction began in June 2009.

Volunteers from local churches, Rotary clubs and the Boy Scouts helped assemble picnic tables, cleared paths, installed construction fencing and placed gravel.

The park's construction cost is approximately \$1.2 million. A grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Local Government Grant Program paid for approximately half the costs. The remaining costs were funded by donations from Springfield Rotary Club, the Friends of Willamalane foundation, Gwen and John Lively, and Willamalane's Capital Improvements Program, which includes parks system development charges paid by developers of residential developments within the park district.

The picnic shelters, designed to reflect the waves at Splash!, are available to rent on an hourly basis. There are four price levels available based on the type of group renting the structures. For example, nonprofit organizations will pay less than commercial or for-profit businesses. Rental fees range from \$25 to \$40 an hour for one shelter. Special use rentals are also available for groups wanting to rent both shelters for longer periods of time. Each shelter seats 150 people.

For shelter rental information call 541-736-4244.

The improvements will be acknowledged in a ceremony set for May 20 at the park.



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS GOES REGIONAL

Springfield this year played host to the regional Battle of the Books tournament, with 475 students from Lane, Coos and Douglas counties participating. The tournament was held on March 13 at Springfield High, with volunteers and moderators from throughout the community.

"Our program has grown dramatically over the years," says Paul Weill, curriculum coordinator for Springfield Public Schools. "We figured it was our turn to host regionals. For an event of this size with so many logistical issues to coordinate, we are very pleased with its success."

In our district, nearly 1,700 students participated in the literacy incentive program, reading 16 books and competing head to head on their knowledge of the books. The winning team from each school was able to enter the regional tournament.

"We believe it's vital to make reading fun," says Weill. "Kids who enjoy reading become better readers. And better readers have much greater academic success. That's why we do this."

Students competed at the elementary, middle and high school level. The first- and second-place teams in each category went on to the state tournament in Salem on April 10. Springfield advanced two teams to state: Springfield High's The Scribes team and Walterville School's elementary team, Book of Spells, which took first place at regional and second at state, losing by just one question.

"The benefits of Battle of the Books are amazing," says Walterville parent/coach Tiffany Haugen. "I've seen reluctant readers turn into voracious readers, parents that rarely read with their kids interact with them on a higher level, and kids come together socially that otherwise may never cross paths."



The Scribes of Springfield High: from left to right, Heather Polier, Jared Allison, Tori Gatlin, Alicia McGraw (teacher/coach), Michael Silva, and Kenya Crane.



The Book of Spells team from Walterville School: from left to right, Nicole Hatalla, Braxton Haugen, Lauren Veronin, and Bailie Hampton; coach Tiffany Haugen is behind. Alternate Emily Coffman, not shown, competed at state in place of Braxton, who was out of the country with his family.

FAVORITE BOOKS FROM THE WINNERS

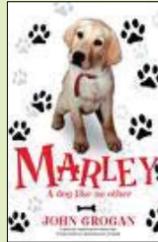
Braxton Haugen, Grade 4:

Gregor the Overlander. "The action in the book was amazing, especially toward the end. The author's writing was so descriptive that I was able to visualize and sense what it must be like to have an underground world. Boots was a funny character and made me laugh many times."



Nicole Hatalla, Grade 4:

Marley: A Dog Like No Other. "It is my favorite book because it involved a dog, which is my favorite animal, and it is also a funny book."

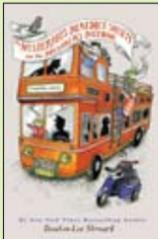


Bailie Hampton, Grade 3:

The Mysterious Benedict Society. "I like mysteries and some of the characters are very smart...and others are either crabby or evil... I guess I like it because it has so many unusual sets and narrow escapes and mazes nobody can solve. It also has trap gardens and all sorts of stuff!"

Lauren Veronin, Grade 4:

The Mysterious Benedict Society. "I'm reading it for the second time. My second favorite book was **Leonardo da Vinci**, which I've read six times."



Emily Coffman, Grade 4:

Gregor the Overlander. "It's my kind of book!"

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

As part of Earth Day 2010, Springfield Mayor Sid Leiken honored six Springfield organizations with the city's second annual Environmental Leadership Awards for demonstrating exceptional leadership in conserving Springfield's community resources while protecting and enhancing our environment.

THIS YEAR'S WINNERS ARE:

Sanipac 1650 Glenwood Blvd.

Sanipac has been instrumental in assisting the city of Springfield with the annual Spring Clean-up event for over the past 20 years. The Spring Clean-up offers residents a convenient location to drop off large and hard-to-recycle items for free. Sanipac covers all costs associated with hauling materials from the Spring Clean-up site to its intended destination. The company provides the boxes, trucks, drivers and fuel. In addition, it provides the portable restrooms and hand-washing station, a certificate for six months free garbage service to be given away through a drawing, and additional resources as needed. Without Sanipac this important community event would not be possible. This year's Spring Clean-up event is May 15.

NEDCO (Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.) 212 Main St.

NEDCO has been instrumental in bringing the Farmers' Market to downtown Springfield. The open-air marketplace provides fresh, locally produced and often organic fruits, vegetables, plants and specialty foods to Springfield residents and visitors. The market is located in the Springfield Museum parking lot every Friday, May- October. May 7 marks the opening date for the third year of the Springfield Farmers' Market.



Amy Chinitz, SUB 250 A St.

Amy Chinitz is the Springfield Utility Board's water quality protection coordinator. Chinitz approaches her job of providing outreach and education to Springfield's businesses and citizens with enthusiasm and passion. Her daily activities help protect Springfield's drinking water supply. On any given day she may provide outreach through the Groundwater Guardian program, work with businesses located within groundwater protection areas and review plans for developing businesses that may have impacts on groundwater. Those who have worked with Chinitz find her dedication to the protection of the local environment inspiring.

Springfield Public Schools South A parking lot

Energy efficient lighting, recycled rubber wheel stops and an infiltration planter in the parking lot behind the Academy of Arts and Academics/ Gateways High School earned Springfield Public Schools this award. The infiltration planter contains a layer of gravel, soil and plants that allows stormwater runoff from the parking lot to filter into the ground slowly. Infiltration planters help reduce runoff flow rate, volume, temperature and pollutants and help recharge groundwater supplies.



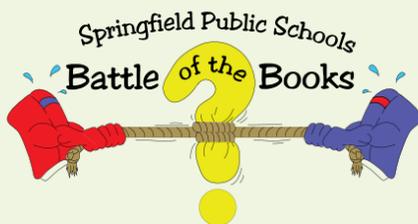
ACME Collision Service 4350 Main St.

ACME Collision is one of two Eco-Biz certified automotive shops in Springfield. Eco-Biz recognizes vehicle service and repair businesses and shops that reach the highest standards in minimizing their environmental impact. In order to become certified, auto shops have to meet all local environmental regulations and take extra, voluntary steps to help protect the environment.



Willamalane Park Services Division 250 S. 32nd St.

Willamalane's Park Services Division continues to make efforts to use native Oregon plants in parks. Native vegetation provides habitat to local wildlife, reduces the need for chemical pesticides and fertilizers and reduces irrigation needs. In addition, Willamalane has been instrumental in the success of the Mill Race Restoration project.



Now online @ www.teamspringfield.org



TEAM Springfield is a unique collaboration of the city's four public agencies. Working together, we share ideas, energy, and resources to cooperate on projects that benefit the community.