

TEAM Springfield

News From Your
Springfield Public Agencies

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

Voter Information on Ballot Measure 20-236

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD | Springfield voters are being asked if they want to renew their current fire levy at the existing rate. The measure reads: Shall Springfield levy \$0.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years beginning 2016-17 to staff a fifth fire engine crew? This measure renews current local option taxes.

In November 2006 voters passed the first Fire and Life Safety Services Local Option Levy to fully staff the community's fifth fire station. Springfield is entering the final year of levy funding, which expires in 2016. Ballot Measure 20-236 would renew the existing levy.

Renewal of the levy would maintain Springfield's current level of

emergency response for fire protection, rescue and emergency medical response by retaining five staffed fire companies (four fire engines and one ladder truck). One fire company is assigned to each of the city's five fire stations which are strategically deployed throughout the area to provide a rapid response. Each fire company also serves as the first paramedic response unit, dispatched with an ambulance, to all life-threatening emergency medical calls for service.

Approval of this measure would renew the Fire and Life Safety Services Local Option Levy that provides funding for personnel to maintain and operate one of the five fire engine crews serving the city. The current 36-cent

continued on page 2



Voters will decide whether to approve renewal of the existing fire safety levy.

The Mill Race Becomes an Outdoor Classroom for Students

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | In early October, about 180 seventh graders from Agnes Stewart Middle School took their science education outside for a day of wetlands exploration.

The wetlands, behind the school on 32nd Street, are a somewhat frequent haunt for Agnes students, who spend time throughout the year on restoration efforts alongside the Mill Race. "The purpose of this day is for students to get a sense of the many values that natural areas provide for our community," said Agnes science/math teacher Carrie Patterson.

On this particular day, representatives from several area agencies, including TEAM Springfield entities, teamed up to bring some expert knowledge to the kids. "It's exciting to be able to tie in this kind

of hands-on education with our TEAM Springfield collaborations on parks and natural space," said Fraser MacDonald, natural resources planner at



Meghan Murphy and Kim Singleton from the City of Springfield show students how water is tested for contaminants.

Willamalane. (See the graphic on page 3 for more about the upcoming Mill Race path project.)

Students split into groups of 10 to 12 and flowed from station to station for hands-on presentations on important topics in wetland ecology. Springfield's Indian Education Program presented on the importance of salmon and native plants to Native peoples, and the McKenzie Watershed Council helped students use maps to chart and plan restoration projects. Willamalane staff guided students to think about how they would plan a park, and representatives of the City of Springfield showed students the science behind water quality issues. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife showed students some of the local

continued on page 3

Residential Customer

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EUGENE, OR
PERMIT NO. 625
ECRWSS

Springfield Public Schools
525 Mill Street
Springfield, OR 97477

What's Inside...

Leaf Pickup	2
New Trailhead	3
Smoke-Free Willamalane	3
Meadow Park Improvements	4
Power Outages	4
School News Briefs	5
Rain Gardens	5
SPS Bond Update	6
Willamalane Inclusion	7
Winter Events Calendar	8

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

Ballot Measure

Continued from page 1

levy expires on June 30, 2016. All five engines are staffed with firefighter/paramedics who respond to calls for emergency medical services and fire suppression. The renewal of the levy at the same rate of 36 cents would continue to provide personnel at one of the five stations. The staffing and operation costs include wages and benefits, safety equipment, vehicle and equipment expenses, dispatch and required fire academy training. The full cost of the operation of the fifth fire engine crew may actually be greater than the resources provided for by this levy.

Data obtained from the Central Lane 9-1-1 Computer Aided Dispatching system shows that when timed from receipt of a 9-1-1 call, emergency responses in Springfield occur in 6 minutes and 34 seconds 80 percent of the time. Decreasing the number of engines from five to four would increase the load on the remaining engines, creating longer response times and a lower rate of response reliability. In addition, remaining engines would have longer drive times to cover for a missing resource.

Election Calendar

Voter registration deadline: October 13, 2015
Ballots mailed and official drop sites open: October 16, 2015
Election Day: November 3, 2015

Exercise Your Right to Vote

Ballots for the 2015 general election on Nov. 6 were mailed Oct. 16, 2015. Voters should mail their ballots several days before Nov. 6, or return them to official drop sites by 8 p.m. Nov. 6
Springfield drop boxes are available at the following locations:

- Splash! At Lively Park, 6100 Thurston Road. Look left of the driveway, just past the front of the building.
- City of Springfield, 225 Fifth Street. Enter off A Street and look at the north end of the covered parking lot between Fifth and Sixth streets.



Find drop boxes in Eugene and other county locations listed online at www.lanecounty.org/Departments/MS/CountyClerk/Elections.
Voters with disabilities can request an alternative format ballot, allowing those who are unable to mark a printed ballot to vote privately and independently at home if they have, or have access to, a computer with a web browser and printer.
Voters who are sight-impaired can request a large print ballot. Any Lane County voter who wishes to request an absentee ballot, large print or alternative format ballot or who wants to come to Lane County Elections to vote on the Accessible Computer Station, or needs assistance, may call 541-682-4234.

City of Springfield Offers Curbside Collection of Bagged Leaves

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD | Autumn is here! And that means leaves. But, what to do with all of them? The City of Springfield is once again offering a curbside collection service for residents within the city limits. If you don't put leaves to good use in your yard as compost or mulch or take them to a commercial yard debris recycler, you can put them in your yard debris container or bag your leaves for this curbside collection.

Place leaves in medium-sized bags without other yard debris. If your leaf bags contain other yard debris, the leaves cannot be used for compost. Place bags at the curbside—not in the street—by 7 a.m. on the Monday of the week your neighborhood is scheduled for pickup. Not all bags will be picked up first thing Monday; it may take several days to make it to your neighborhood for pickup.

Collectors will make two passes throughout city limits following this schedule, weather permitting:

	West of 28th Street	East of 28th Street
First round begins:	Nov. 30	Dec. 7
Second round begins:	Jan. 4	Jan. 11

We appreciate your patience during the week while crews make their way to your neighborhood or if winter weather creates the need to shift the schedule back.

Please do not blow or sweep leaves into the street!

Piles of leaves can create a variety of problems in our neighborhood streets. Leaves blown into the street create a safety hazard for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians. In addition, leaves can block storm drains, which increases the likelihood of localized flooding during the rainy winter.

Pledge to do your part and get entered into a drawing!

Pledge to properly dispose of your leaves and get entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card to a local home improvement store. A name will be drawn on Dec. 7 and Jan. 11.

Two ways to pledge

- Email leafpickupprogram@springfield-or.gov pledging to properly dispose of your leaves and get automatically entered; or
- Cut out and mail the pledge card below to: Development & Public Works, Leaf Pickup Program, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield, OR 97477.

For more information on the leaf pickup program, visit www.springfield-or.gov or call 541-726-3637.



The City of Springfield is once again offering a curbside collection service for residents within the city limits.

I _____, pledge to properly dispose of leaves on my property by doing one or more of the following:

☐ use leaves as compost or mulch in my yard

☐ haul my leaves to a local recycler

☐ use my yard debris container

☐ **BAG** my leaves and take advantage of Springfield's leaf pickup program

Phone Number: _____ only used to contact you if you win the drawing

Entire Park and Recreation District Goes Smoke-free

WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
Visitors to Willamalane’s parks and facilities can now breathe a little easier, thanks to a policy that went into effect Oct. 1. Willamalane’s Board of Directors approved the smoke-free policy for the entire park and recreation district earlier this summer. Willamalane joins 18 other park districts and departments in Oregon to implement nonsmoking or tobacco-free policies.

Superintendent Bob Keefer commended board members for their proactive stance and leadership in making the community’s parks a healthier and more

inviting place to recreate and relax. “This action heightens the positive experience of being outdoors, breathing fresh air and enjoying every aspect and every acre of our park system,” said Keefer. He also noted that the policy benefits children, who are most susceptible to second-hand smoke and tend to model the behavior of others.

The new tobacco policy is also expected to reduce the problem of cigarette butts littering the landscape. Studies show that butts, one of the most common forms of litter, take five to 10 years to fully decompose, all the while leaching toxins into the environment and waterways.

Previous Willamalane policy prohibited smoking in buildings and facilities and within 50 feet of playgrounds and picnic areas, but the new policy covers the entire district. It also prohibits all tobacco products, marijuana use and electronic smoking devices, also known as e-cigarettes. According to a study conducted last year by Lane County Health and Human Services, the majority of those polled welcome restrictions on the use of tobacco outdoors, with 74 percent saying it was either important or very important to be protected from secondhand smoke in outside public settings.



On Oct. 1, Willamalane’s districtwide smoke-free policy went into effect. The policy applies to all tobacco products, marijuana and e-cigarettes.

Mill Race Continued from page 1

macroinvertebrates and native and non-native fish, while the Walama Restoration Project talked about the native plants and reptiles found in the area.

The event kicked off a yearlong STEM (science, education, technology and math) project for Patterson’s students designed to explore the question, “How can we as students educate the public about the value of our local natural area?”

“This type of hands-on exploration of the natural world is exactly the direction we want to go in Springfield,” said Springfield Superintendent Sue Rieke-Smith. “The students are learning the critical thinking skills they will need in the real world.”



An Agnes student gets a closer look at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife tanks displaying native and non-native fish that had been captured from the Mill Race.



Willamalane’s Fraser MacDonald walks students through the thought process of a parks planner.



Trailhead Work to Begin on Mill Race Path

WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT AND CITY OF SPRINGFIELD | Work will begin this winter on the downtown trailhead for the planned Mill Race Path, a 3-mile walking and bicycling path that will meander along the historic Springfield Mill Race, including the portion running behind Agnes Stewart Middle School. The path, a partnership of Willamalane and the City of Springfield, will stretch from downtown to the scenic Middle Fork Path. Willamalane is using funds from the 2012 bond measure to pay for the trailheads and path. The full Mill Race Path is expected to open in late 2016.

Shedding Light on Outages

There's Power in Being Prepared

SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD | Reliably delivering power to homes and businesses is a hallmark service of every public utility. But outages do happen, especially during the winter. Common causes include storms that blow trees or branches into power lines, animals that short out equipment and car accidents that take down power poles.



Because Springfield Utility Board immediately dispatches crews to get the power back on, disruptions in service usually last minutes or hours, not days. But being prepared for a longer outage will give you and your family peace of mind while SUB works to get your power up as quickly as possible. So, if you're in the dark about what to do when the lights go out, read on!

- Have an outage kit ready at home. Include flashlights, a battery-operated radio, extra batteries, blankets, energy bars and a gallon of water for each person in your home (outages can affect well pumps, causing temporary loss of water pressure).
- Keep an extra flashlight in your car. If an outage occurs in the late afternoon, you may be coming home to a dark house.
- Make sure you have a cell phone or a phone with a cord available. Cordless phones need electricity and don't work when the power is out.
- Use surge protectors on all expensive chip-driven equipment, such as computers and televisions.
- Have a backup plan for any family member with special needs. This includes anyone who depends on special health equipment, but also babies and elderly family members who may be particularly affected by cold night temperatures. And don't forget about pets with special needs—for example, tropical fish that need heated tanks.

If you experience an outage, here are a few things you can do to help SUB help you.

- First, check your breaker panel. Turn all of your breakers off and then back on to see if your power comes back on. If this doesn't help, call SUB at 541-726-2395 or 541-746-8451 to report the outage.
- Turn a light on outside your house so SUB will



SUB crews repair most power outages quickly, but for peace of mind everyone should have an outage kit on hand.

- know when your power has been restored. Turn a radio or light on inside the house so you'll know the moment service is restored as well.
- Turn off all other stereos, televisions and major appliances, and turn down thermostats to help prevent overloads when power is restored.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer closed if possible. Food will remain cold for several hours.
- Keep curtains drawn to retain heat.
- Then relax. Power is on its way!

Power (Back to) the People!

Power is delivered to your home following an orderly flow of electricity from generating facilities to various transmission and distribution lines throughout the system. Restoring power after an outage requires that the utility repair the system in that same order. Here's how SUB goes about assessing and making repairs.

1. High voltage transmission lines. First we check with our power supplier (Bonneville Power Administration) to be sure its transmission lines are operating. SUB receives all its power from BPA, so if there is an issue with its system, we won't have power to distribute to our customers.
2. Substations. Scattered around the city, these power stations take the high-voltage electricity delivered by BPA and make it safe for local distribution. Making a repair here can restore power to thousands of customers very quickly.

3. Distribution lines. These "feeder" lines run from substations to various parts of the city. If there is an issue with these lines, we restore power to hundreds of people by repairing it.
4. Tap lines and transformers. Tap lines branch off from the distribution lines to serve several homes in a neighborhood. They run through transformers, which reduce electricity levels to levels used in homes and businesses.
5. Individual services. These are the service lines between your home and a nearby transformer. A problem here might explain why your neighbor has power when you don't. If you are still without power after we repair your service line, the problem will need to be addressed by the homeowner. SUB is not licensed to repair customer-owned circuits, so each customer must arrange for an electrician in this event.

Remember, most outages are resolved very quickly. Even outages that affect thousands of customers can be restored very quickly once the issue has been identified. If you call to report an outage and get a busy signal, we are aware of the problem and are working to fix it. If you still don't have power in an hour or two, try the line again.

Report outages at all times by calling Springfield Utility Board at 541-726-2395 or 541-746-8451

Meadow Park Improvements Begin with Baseball Fields

WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT Willamalane is up to bat in a play for park accessibility. As part of Willamalane's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plans, accessibility upgrades are always ongoing. Sometimes they come in the form of small upgrades: curb ramps or pool lifts, for example. Sometimes the projects are bigger, such as the most recent upgrading of the baseball field at Meadow Park, located at 851 Mill St. in Springfield.

To accommodate the improvements, the baseball field was scheduled to be closed for a week

in October, according to Simon Daws, landscape architect at Willamalane. The dirt and gravel surfaces underneath the bleachers and player benches will have been freshly paved in concrete, and the connection of the pavement to an adjacent sidewalk renders the whole baseball field area ADA accessible.

Visit Meadow Park, located at 851 Mill St. in Springfield.

This upgrade will make the place a welcome home for Little League to use at the beginning of next year's season. The field already sees a lot of action—more than 50 games last year. "It's the first step in making Meadow Park a more accessible place for patrons to enjoy," said Daws.

The work won't stop there. Next year, Willamalane plans upgrades to the playground at Meadow Park, as well as new pathways connecting the playground, restrooms and baseball field. We think these improvements will score a home run.

What's Happening in Our Schools

Full-Day Kindergarten

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | Superintendent Sue Rieke-Smith is hard at work visiting our schools, taking in all the great things that are happening in our classrooms and weaving together her vision for our district's future. One big change being felt in the elementary schools is the addition of full-day kindergarten. Five-year-olds are now attending school on the same schedule as their older siblings.

"We're excited about this opportunity to get more time with our youngest students to help them gain the critical early literacy and socialization skills they need to be more successful in later grades," says Elementary Education Director Suzanne Price. "Teachers can get to know students better and address any learning challenges early—helping get and keep them on track."

To accommodate the increased "seat time," five schools are receiving additional classroom space, thanks to the 2014 bond measure. Most of those classrooms are expected to be ready by January. We appreciate our students, families and staff bearing with us during construction. It will be worth it in the end! You can read more about full-day kindergarten on our website at www.springfield.k12.or.us/fdk.



Springfield teachers believe that having kinders attend school all day will give them a significant jump start in their literacy skills.

Wireless Schools

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | As classrooms settle into their new routines for the school year, bond work continues across the district, with several buildings already receiving full wireless capability and new computers, and work is well underway on the design of the new Hamlin Middle School. (Check out the story about Hamlin on page 6 in this newsletter.)

Mentoring Programs

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | The district continues to broaden its mentoring programs. This year, more mentors are again needed for incoming sixth-graders at Hamlin and Agnes middle schools. Hamlin has also joined the statewide ASPIRE mentoring network, with the intent on making our community the first middle school-to-college mentoring continuum in the state. Joining the ASPIRE network gives Hamlin access to a larger support network and mentoring resources. To learn more or to sign up as a mentor, visit www.springfield.k12.or.us/middlecollege.



Students in Hamlin's grant-funded afternoon STEAM program work on hands-on projects that are outside of the normal curriculum.

Free Lunches

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | Another big change in the schools this year is the addition of free lunch for all students at seven schools, thanks to a federal program. This is an amazing gift for our families at these schools. Qualifying families at our other schools may still apply to receive free or reduced lunch as usual. You can read more on our website at www.bit.ly/1KSr1cJ.

STEAM Programming

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | Free afterschool programming has begun in three schools, thanks to grant funding. Hamlin, Guy Lee and Two Rivers-Dos Ríos are all offering free STEAM+the Arts (otherwise known as STEAM) programming for students, with a variety of hands-on learning opportunities available. Families can expect to hear a lot more about STEAM as our schools strive to incorporate these projects across the district, and as work continues in designing the new Hamlin as a STEAM school.

To keep up on all the exciting things that are going on in our school district, check out our website at www.springfield.k12.or.us and follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Rain Gardens: Real Sunken Treasure, Right in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD + CITY OF SPRINGFIELD + SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | A rain garden is a sunken garden bed that collects and treats rainwater runoff before it can reach our waterways. And that's something to treasure, because rainwater can pick up motor oil, pet waste, fertilizer, pesticides and other pollutants as they

flow over lawns and hard surfaces such as rooftops and driveways.

Runoff then heads toward storm drains that lead to local waterways, including the McKenzie and Willamette rivers.

Rain gardens are built to attract that runoff, where it can then slowly sink into the ground. As that happens,

natural processes filter pollutants from the water before they can reach streams or groundwater.

See a rain garden in action by visiting a great demonstration project at 10th and G streets in Springfield (between Brattain House and Two Rivers-Dos Ríos Elementary School).

The project is a result of a partnership

among several organizations, including Springfield Utility Board, the City of Springfield, Springfield Public Schools and the University of Oregon. It was chosen as part of the Sustainable Cities Initiative several years ago, and is now constructed, planted and dotted with great interpretative signage. Be sure to check it out!



Visit a rain garden demonstration project at 10th and G streets in Springfield.



Here's How Bond Dollars Were Utilized Over the Summer

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | As summer kicked off and schools emptied out, work kicked into high gear on projects funded by the 2014 bond measure. The \$71.5 million bond measure was approved for capital improvements, technology upgrades, safety improvements and the replacement of Hamlin Middle School. Work throughout the district was completed in time to welcome students back to the school year with improvements such as the covered bleachers at Thurston High School and a new cafeteria at Yolanda Elementary that is now large enough to accommodate multiple grade levels during meal time. Here's a breakdown of work that has been completed and our next steps.

BOND PROGRESS

Safety Improvements

- **What's been done:** Perimeter gates
- **What's next:** Camera and security systems

Bond Basics

- **What's been done:** Electrical service at Guy Lee Elementary, Page Elementary School parking lot redesign, Walterville Elementary School parking lot paving
- **What's next:** Boiler upgrade at Guy Lee Elementary and Thurston High School, HVAC upgrades at Briggs Middle School



The redesigned Page Elementary School parking lot will help reduce congestion during student drop-off and pick-up.

Building to Replace Hamlin Middle School

- **What's been done:** Site master plan, schematic design
- **What's next:** Design plan finalized and negotiations of the Guaranteed Maximum Price

Classroom Additions

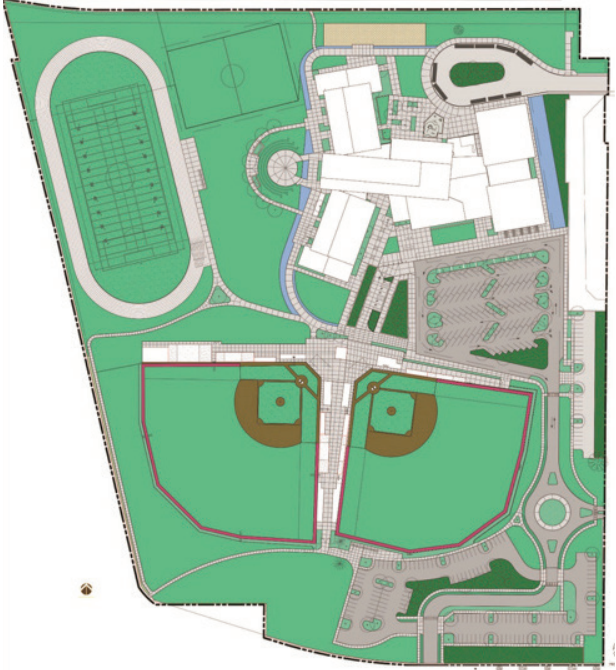
- **What's been done:** Exterior walls placed at Yolanda, Mt. Vernon, Riverbend and Ridgeview elementary schools
- **What's next:** Final phases of construction and move-in to take place at most schools by early 2016.



Thurston High School's newly covered bleachers will also allow additional seating.



Mt. Vernon's addition will add classroom space to accommodate full-day kindergarten this year.



The new Hamlin Middle School is being designed to fit the needs of a 21st-century learning environment.

Hamlin Middle School Construction Update

Following a busy summer of planning and visits to schools in other districts and neighboring states, the Hamlin Middle School design team, led by BBT Architects from Bend, presented the Springfield School Board with a finalized site plan that will guide the overall use of the Hamlin property.

The next step is to work toward an overall design plan. To ensure the best use of space and needs for the entire school, the design team held forums with students, teachers and support staff to receive input and suggestions on how to best maximize design features with an eye towards long-term flexibility that will also accommodate school needs for future generations. Currently, the design process is on schedule, with groundbreaking for the new site to take place in spring 2016 and a grand opening planned for fall 2017. Follow bond updates at www.springfield.k12.or.us/bond.

Willamalane Asks for Input on Thurston Hills Natural Area

WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT Willamalane Park and Recreation District is holding a public meeting in October to gauge opinion on the use of hundreds of acres of natural area set aside for public use in the Thurston Hills.

The meeting, set for 6 p.m. Oct. 27 at Willamalane Center for Sports and Recreation, will help determine parameters for land use in a 10-year management plan for the 700-acre property. The plan will identify approaches to community education, timber management and restoration. In addition, it will meet the requirements of the Bonneville Power Administration, which has two conservation easements on nearly 316 acres within the natural area.

"Willamalane's vision for the ridgeline property is not only to preserve views, wildlife habitat and sensitive natural areas, but to provide excellent walking, hiking and mountain-biking opportunities," said Willamalane Superintendent Bob Keefer.

Willamalane purchased the Thurston Hills Natural Area in 2014. Funding came in part from a Willamalane bond measure passed in 2012, state and federal grants and donations of property value from private sellers.

In addition to hosting a public meeting, Willamalane has created an online survey to address management of the natural area and, specifically, the

nearly 80-acre community forest, which was designated in fall 2014 by the U.S. Forest Service.

The survey is intended for people who live in Springfield and are interested in the recreation opportunities the community forest area might provide. People taking the survey are asked to rank in order of priority a list of proposed activities that would occur outside the conservation easements, including bird watching, disc golf, hiking trails and public education. The survey is located at bit.ly/WPRDThurstonHillsSurvey.



Help decide how to manage the new Thurston Hills Natural Area and what recreational opportunities it might provide.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Public Meeting
Oct. 27, 6 p.m.
Willamalane Center, 250 S. 32nd St.

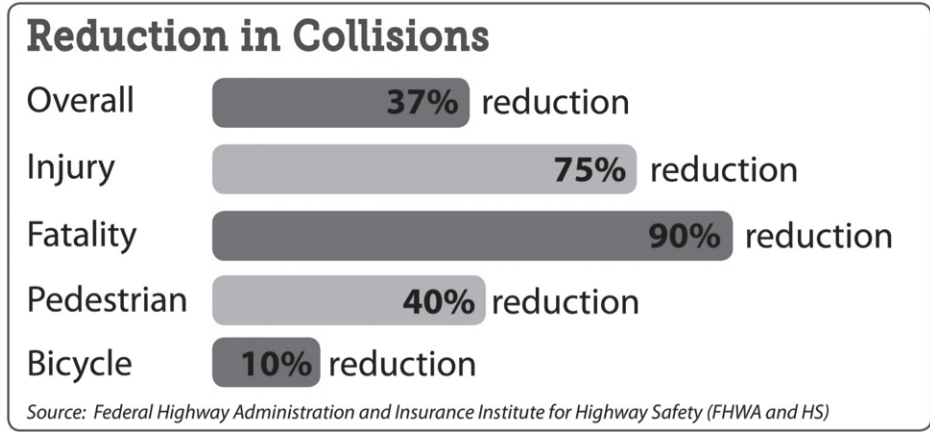
Online Survey
bit.ly/WPRDThurstonHillsSurvey

Roundabout Safety in Springfield

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD | Modern roundabouts are accepted as one of the safest types of intersection design and have been used effectively throughout the world for many years. They reduce collisions and neighborhood speeds in addition to traffic delays and cost for maintenance compared to a signalized intersection.

Safer for Everyone

Pedestrians cross shorter roadway distances in roundabouts, and interact with traffic traveling at slower speeds and moving in only one direction at the crossing point. Drivers travel at slower speeds and avoid head-on collisions within a roundabout. Bicyclists avoid head-on collisions as well.



Safety Results

When comparing a roundabout to a signal, studies show that roundabouts provide up to a 90 percent reduction in fatal collisions, 75 percent reduction in injury collisions, 40 percent reduction in collisions involving a pedestrian, and a 10 percent reduction in collisions involving a bicyclist.

Watch Our Instructional Video

To help increase the community’s awareness and understanding of how to use and observe both one-lane and two-lane roundabouts, the City of Springfield has produced a new instructional video. The video covers the perspective of how pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists should safely share the use of a roundabout and how to observe one another’s movements within each type of roundabout. The video is available on the City’s YouTube Channel or by visiting www.springfield-or.gov.

On a Path to Adventure: Willamalane Hiking Club

WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT | Hiking is a great way to breathe fresh air, experience Oregon’s beauty and get a workout in—all while enjoying the company of others. The new Willamalane Hiking Club opens up the great outdoors to those with an appetite for adventure.

The volunteer-led club ventures to scenic hot spots every two weeks. Excursions fall into the “moderate” category—not leisure walks, but not extremely difficult either. People of most ability levels are able to take part.

The group aims to go on adventures on the second and fourth Sundays of every month. Each month, they plan one hike within Lane County and one hike within a three-hour drive of Springfield.

So far, Willamalane Hiking Club has visited Mount Pisgah, Spencer Butte and Tamolitch Pool (also known as Blue Pool). Their Facebook group is over 450 members strong and growing every day. This fall, the club plans to venture to Silver Falls and Smith Rock, along with return visits to Mount Pisgah and Spencer Butte.

Want to join in? Check out the Willamalane Hiking Club group on Facebook for information on future dates.



Tamolitch Pool

Inclusion for All Kids in Recreational Programs



Tracy Kribs, Adaptive and Inclusion Recreation Supervisor at Willamalane, plays a favorite game with a student at Willamalane Center.

WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT | Most youths want to join their peers and be a part of a group. Willamalane’s inclusion services ensure that children with disabilities can get the accommodations they need to participate in all the programs that interest them. “It’s a way we make our programs accessible to the community,” said Tracy Kribs, Willamalane’s adaptive and inclusive recreation supervisor.

For Sam Lockard, who turned 8 over the summer, inclusion means he gets to go to summer camp for the first time, and maintain the social skills and physical strength he built throughout the school year when he was a part of a mainstream classroom. Sam sometimes needs to use a wheelchair and has some speech difficulties and challenges with social cues and memory—the after-effects of treatment for brain cancer, said his mother, Jen Clayson.

Sam was diagnosed with cancer at age 4, and is in remission now. He needs an aide to help him physically and in social situations, and Willamalane provided that for his six weeks at Camp Kaboom, where he has taken field trips, gone swimming with new friends and made crafts. “He loves it,” Clayson said. Without inclusion services, “this is something he would not have been able to do.”

Inclusion is a requirement of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for people with disabilities. Willamalane offers adaptive and inclusive recreation opportunities for people of all ages. The adaptive recreation program provides

particular opportunities for people with disabilities who are 16 and older. In addition, all children and adults with disabilities can request inclusion and the modifications needed to make any Willamalane program accessible to them. Most requests are made by parents on behalf of their school-age children, Kribs notes. The policy benefits everyone, Kribs notes. People requesting inclusion have the opportunity to be involved in a wide array of programs. People with or without disabilities have an opportunity to interact with each other and share a positive experience.

Inclusion isn’t really a program at all, Kribs explains. It’s an attitude. Through inclusion, participants can recognize that everyone has strengths and talents, regardless of ability. The process is simple.

Parents who would like to enroll a child who has disabilities in one of Willamalane’s classes, camps or after-school programs can complete an Inclusion Service Request and return the form at least two weeks prior to the requested service. Willamalane staff will contact the parents or guardians of the participant for a review and assessment. Then they create an inclusion plan, which could mean ensuring wheelchair accessibility, providing materials in Braille or providing one-to-one staff assistance.

The program has done assessments and intakes for 33 children in the past year. Inclusion helps ensure that all the youth activities in the entire recreation guide are possible for all children. “You’re giving people with disabilities a sense of choice and freedom,” Kribs said.

**CONNECT WITH THE WILLAMALANE
HIKING CLUB ON FACEBOOK:**

www.facebook.com/groups/willamalanehikingclub

Springfield Winter Events Calendar

OCTOBER

City Hall Trick or Treat Friday, Oct. 30, 3:30-5 p.m.

More than 1,000 costumed kids and parents fill City Hall each year to trick or treat from department to department. Entertainment and games are provided in the lobby.



NOVEMBER

Plank Town Presents SpringFilm: "Starship Troopers"

Thursday, Nov. 12, 6:30-9 p.m.
Wildish Community Theater, free

Each film features a unique introduction by a special guest speaker and is followed by a moderated discussion.

Dive-in Movie: "Free Birds"

Friday, Nov. 13, 6-9 p.m.
Willamalane Park Swim Center
\$5 per person, \$16 for a family of 4

Enjoy a fun evening splashing in the pool or relaxing on the deck while watching some of your favorite characters dive in and out of trouble on the big screen.

Noche de Lotería

Friday, Nov. 14, 6:30-8 p.m.
Willamalane Adult Activity Center
\$1, free for children under 3

Enjoy a night of lotería, music and prizes! Bring the family and join the fun! Admission includes chips and salsa, beverages and lotería prizes. The League of United Latin America Citizens is a proud partner of this event.



Enjoy a night of lotería, music and prizes on Nov. 14.

McKenzie Cider & Craft Beer Festival

Friday, Nov. 13, 5-10:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14, noon-10:30 p.m.
Willamalane Center
\$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

Springfield Rotary presents an event featuring live music, great food and the very best of beverages from the West's craft beer and cider producers. Saturday afternoon's festivities include kid-friendly activities.



Run the Turkey Stuffer 5K on Nov. 26 to raise funds for Willamalane's free Summer Playground Program for kids.

Turkey Stuffer

Thursday, Nov. 26, 8:30 a.m.
Lively Park
Adults: \$25 for run and a long-sleeved tech shirt; \$15 for run only
Youths up to 14: \$10 for long-sleeved cotton T-shirt, free for run only

The Turkey Stuffer 5K is a community tradition. Spend time with friends and family while raising money to benefit Willamalane's free Summer Playground Program for kids. Run or walk a flat course that loops through a beautiful and quiet residential neighborhood. This event is open to all ages, so bring your entire family! After the race, spend some time at the Northwest's premier indoor water park from 9-11:30 a.m. at no additional charge.

NO DOGS ALLOWED at this event. Please do not register children in strollers, as they will not need a bib number. Register by 5 p.m. on Nov. 23. After this time participants must register at packet pickup. Deadline for those wanting a T-shirt is Nov. 9. Note: tech shirts run large.

Packet pickup: Tuesday, Nov. 24, noon-7 p.m. at Willamalane Center; Wednesday, Nov. 25, noon-7 p.m. at Willamalane Center. No day-of registration or packet pickup.

DECEMBER

Holiday Marketplace

Wednesday through Thursday,
Dec. 2-3, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Willamalane Adult Activity Center, free

Shop an incredible array of handcrafted gifts and homemade delicacies. You'll find one-of-a-kind woodcrafts, jewelry, fiber arts, decorations and stocking stuffers. With such a large number of community vendors, this is the place to shop!

63rd Annual Springfield Christmas Parade

Saturday, Dec. 5, 1 p.m.
Downtown Springfield

This year's parade theme is "Twelve Days of Christmas." Prior to the event, the Oregon Tuba Association will present its free Tuba Carol Concert at noon at the Two Rivers-Dos Ríos Elementary School.



Don't miss the 63rd annual Christmas parade on Dec. 5.

Plank Town Presents SpringFilm: "Night of the Hunters"

Thursday, Dec. 10, 6:30-9 p.m.
Wildish Community Theater, free

Each film features a unique introduction by a special guest speaker and is followed by a moderated discussion.

Island Park Gallery Reception: "Sketch to Stitch"

Reception: Friday, Dec. 11, 5-7 p.m.
Exhibit: Dec. 2-Jan. 28

Fiber artists Diane English and Sheryl LeBlanc display quilted works and the original drawings that inspired the finished pieces.

Dive-in Movie: "Frozen"

Friday, Dec. 11, 6-9 p.m.
Willamalane Park Swim Center,
\$5 per person, \$16 for a family of 4

Enjoy a fun evening splashing in the pool or relaxing on the deck while watching some of your favorite characters dive in and out of trouble on the big screen.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m.-noon
Willamalane Adult Activity Center, \$6

The Springfield Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association presents a hot pancake breakfast and fun-filled morning. Enjoy crafts for the kids, a visit and photo opportunity with Santa and McGruff the crime dog, as well as a demonstration by the Springfield Police K-9 unit. For information call 541-912-8773. For ticket information and a list of breakfast times visit www.springfieldcpaaa.org.



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.