

The Importance of a Local Newspaper

Over the past year, as I have attended Springfield City Club lunches, I have learned about so many interesting people, businesses and issues that are taking place in Springfield. The vibrancy and growth of the city is indicative of a region that has a lot to offer. That's why it seems a shame that Springfield doesn't have its own newspaper.

When I was growing up in Springfield in the 70's and 80's, the go-to place for information about Springfield was the Springfield News. It was the hometown newspaper and it provided the community a sense of cohesion. Springfielders could find out about new businesses opening, city policies being considered and how the home team did in the latest game.

In 2011, the Pew Research Center conducted a study on the importance of local newspapers to a community. According to Pew, adults rely on local newspapers for a variety of local information including crime, taxes, government, social events and real estate/housing. And newspapers provide more information than a typical half hour of news, with newspapers on average providing 70 – 100 stories a day, with TV news (in a half-hour newscast) provides only 15

(<http://www.pewinternet.org/2011/09/26/part-3-the-role-of-newspapers/>).

So the demise of the Springfield News in 2006 was quite a loss for the community. That is why the Springfield City Club is so important. Although not a news outlet, the programs that the City Club presents are an important source of information for residents. These programs allow all members of the community to come together and learn about a particular issue in a deeper way than they might from a 30-second story on TV.

The newspaper business is in a time of flux, but I think that there is a swing to provide a more local focus on news and

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MEETING CALENDAR

July 5 -- NO MEETING

July 19 – Gerrymandering
Although the Supreme court has shied away from deciding the issue of partisan gerrymandering for now, the issue of how voting districts are organized is still an important issue. Prof. Paul A. Diller of Willamette University Law School will discuss the history and nuances of all types of gerrymanders.

PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change

SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL

July 2, 2018 – Special Regular Session 5:30 p.m.

Primary election Report
Special Procurement for Home Repair Program
Transportation funding

July 3 through September 3 – Council Recess

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JULY 3, 2018 – NO MEETING

July 10, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

July 17, 2018

July 25, 2018

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

July 18 – Board meeting 5:30 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

The agenda for scheduled board meetings can be found at www.springfield.k12.or.us/boardmeetings the Thursday before the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

July 11 – Board meeting 6:30 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD

July 11, 2018 – Board meeting 6:00 p.m.

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hopefully, driven by the uptick in growth, Springfield will get a newspaper again. In the meantime, the Springfield City Club can fill in some of the information gaps with their continued, excellent programming.

*Therese Lang
Director*

Listening to City Club Programs

While we at city club would hope you would attend every program, we know that is not possible. So, beginning with the June programs, all programs will be recorded and available on the Springfield City club web site approximately one week after the program is held. You may find the audio archives here:

<http://www.springfieldcityclub.org/page12.html>

MEETINGS

June 14 – National Association on Mental Illness
Over one-quarter of Americans will face a mental health challenge this year, according to Jennifer MacLean, Executive director of the National Association on Mental Illness in Lane County (NAMI). Ms. MacLean, who spoke to the Springfield City Club on June 14. She added that over 60% of adults, and 50% of youth who identify with a mental health challenge have received no services in the past year, and that even in the case of those who receive services many are misdiagnosed. NAMI is a mostly volunteer organization that offers a range of mental health services to residents without charge. The organization has three paid staff and over 120 volunteers. The \$200,000 annual budget is funded by donations, and by contracts with other health care providers. All support is free, Ms. MacLean said. “We don’t ask for your name or address, or other identification.”

NAMI is a United Way agency and has resource centers at the PeaceHealth University district facility and in Junction City as well as connections to a statewide Help Line at 1(800)343-6264.

NAMI offers free community forums monthly and provides free training to all law enforcement agencies. Ms. MacLean emphasized the importance of this training because, increasingly, law enforcement agencies have become the point of first contact for those suffering mental health crisis events. One of the reasons this activity is increasing, she said, is that a number of services are shutting down because of funding challenges.

June 21 – Lane Transit district: transit Tomorrow

Lane Transit district has begun its first comprehensive operations analysis since the agency began providing transit service in the Springfield-Eugene metropolitan area in 1970. The effort, under the name Transit Tomorrow was previewed at the June 21 City Club program.

Edward McGlone, Director of Public Affairs for LTD, described the effort as seeking to answer two questions: 1) How can LTD help people get to where they are going? And 2) what shape should LTD’s services take in the future? Transit Tomorrow opens with a series of listening sessions conducted throughout the service area, where members of the LTD Board and staff will solicit input from the public. One those questions, and the fundamental issue of how to balance the competing priorities of increasing ridership and increasing access and availability. Those sessions began on June 23 and will run through the end of July. Staff will then take that feedback, combine it with technical analysis of the systems and its operations, and present alternatives for more public input this winter. Response to those alternatives will be analyzed by LTD and system alternatives will be presented to the LTD Board for decision in the spring of 2019.

In addition to the current listening sessions, LTD has created an interactive survey, available at www.LTD.org/Transit-Tomorrow where individuals can make the same sorts of choices that the agency will be making in trying to apply limited resources to create an efficient and effective transit system.

Mr. McGlone illustrated the choices by noting that 90 percent of households in the service area are within walking distance (1/4 to 1/2 mile of a transit stop. Ridership could increase by focusing on main corridors rather than reaching all areas, but that would make it harder to reach a stop by foot. Alternatively, service could expand to make more areas accessible, but that would lead to reduced service on main routes, and declining overall ridership.

Springfield City Club
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2018 – LRAPA Offices

In Attendance:

Joe Leahy, President	Mackenzie Karp	Terry Beyer
Merlyn Hough, President-elect	Len Goodwin	Bob Fondren
Steve Moe, Treasurer	Carolyn Miller	Therese Lang
Dan Egan, Secretary	Nick Nelson	

1. Call to order: The meeting began at 11:30
2. Introductions and Approval of the previous minute: City Club Board members introduced themselves to the newly appointed board members. The previous minutes were approved through a motion by Len Goodwin and a second by Merlyn Hough.
3. Financial Report: Steve Moe said the Club had \$6,526 in the bank – we are in good shape.
4. New Board Presentations: The three new board members each spent a few minutes talking about their backgrounds and interest in City Club.
5. Nominations Committee Report: Terry Beyer presented the slate for approval. The slate was approved through a motion by Dan Egan and second by Len Goodwin. The slate will be forwarded to club members June 1.
6. Programs:
 - a. May 3 – City Candidates
 - b. May 17 – Sexual Harassment – Meredith Holley
 - c. May 18 – Joint with Eugene City Club on Healthcare
 - d. June 14 – Jennifer MacLean on Mental Health
 - e. June 21 – Hamlin Tour
 - f. July 15 – Pricilla Southwell on Gerrymandering
7. Other business:
 - a. Statewide City Club – no report
 - b. Newsletter – will be released after the May 3 meeting
 - c. City Club Pens – Len Goodwin was authorized to buy pens at \$100,00 through a motion by Bob Fondren and second by Carolyn Miller
8. Adjournment: The meeting ended at 12:20.

City Club Board of Directors

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President-Elect	Kristin Denmark	kdenmark@thorp-purdy.com	(541) 747-3354
Past President	Joe Leahy	jjl@emeraldaw.com	(541) 746-9621
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