

So, what is a Library? We all know that it's is a building with a pile of books. Right? WRONG!!!!

Our guest speaker for our February 7, 2019 meeting was Emily David. She is the director of Springfield Public Library. Ms. David has worked for the library for 10 years and has served the library in every position since the beginning of her tenure, including Latino Liaison and Teen Services Librarian.

So, if a library is not just a pile of books, then what is it? The emerging technological changes shaping our world has touched our friendly neighborhood library in profound ways. Imagine if you will, walking into a library where there is a group of teens programming a 3-D printer in one area and a group of seniors being assisted in the completion of retirement or medical forms online in another. A group of High Schoolers are digitally interacting with local business leaders as they learn about the skills that businesses are demanding. There are groups of mothers with their small children picking up "Ready to Read" theme kits containing books, pictures, games, and toys all created to entice the wee ones into the wonderful world of reading. The emphasis is always placed upon encouraging parents and children to interact using all five senses. Other youngsters are using Tinker Tech Kits intended to provide technological tools, e.g. robots, coding, electronic hardware configuration. The library also provides access to Brainfuse, an online tutoring program for students as well as Tumble books, an e-book resource for kids.

How much is our library being currently used? In 2017, there were over **160,000 visits**, over **20,000 computer sessions** were logged, and over **22,000 people** participated in one or more of the 363 Youth and Teens Programs available. All ages participate in these programs including an average of **2,000 youth and teen** participants in the annual Summer Reading Program and **859 adults** involved in more than 55 adult programs throughout the year. (At the current location there is a lack of space to accommodate all the people attending programs and events)

Studies show that a vibrant downtown library leads to increased downtown activity which increases revenue and

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### At the Edge of Climate Tipping Points: The Judicial Role in Climate Recovery

Dr. Mary Christina Wood and Coreal Riday-White are both involved in the "Climate Kids Trial," which seeks to force the federal government to take action to reduce carbon emissions under an expanded version of an established legal principle: the public trust doctrine. The "Climate Kids Trial" is being heard in federal District Court in Eugene and is fiercely opposed by the Trump administration. We will hear what has happened so far, what to expect, and why this matters so much.

Dr. Wood is a Philip H. Knight Professor of Law at the University of Oregon and Faculty Director of the Environmental & Natural Resources Law Center. She is also co-author of Nature's Trust: Environmental Law for a New

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## Public Calendar

All items are tentative and subject to change

Please click on the agency name to see the most current information

### [Springfield City Council](#)

225 Fifth Street, Springfield

#### March 4

**Work Session 6:00 p.m.**

TSP Update

**Regular Session 7:00 p.m.**

#### March 11

**Work Session 5:30 p.m.**

Main Street Safety Project

TSP Update

#### March 18

**Work Session 6:00 p.m.**

CIP Update

Development Project Update

**Regular Session 7:00 p.m.**

#### March 25

**Work Session 5:30 p.m.**

Overnight pArking Program

Downtown Sign Code

Main/McVay Transit Study

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**Lane County Commissioners**

125 E. Eighth Avenue, Eugene  
**March 5 – NO MEETING**  
**March 13 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**March 19 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**March 26 – NO MEETING**

**Lane Transit District**

3500 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Eugene (Glenwood)  
**March 20 – Board meeting 5:30 p.m.**

**Springfield School Board**

640 A Street, Springfield  
**March 11 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Willamalane Park and Recreation District**

**320 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Springfield**  
  
**March 13 – Board meeting 6:30 p.m.**  
**FY 2020 Budget Prep.**

**Springfield Utility Board**

250 A Street Springfield  
  
**March 10 – Board meeting 6:00 p.m.**

**Lane Regional Air Protection Authority**

1010 Main Street, Springfield  
  
**March 14 – Board meeting 12:15 p.m.**

**RECENT PROGRAMS**

**February 7 -- A New Springfield Library?**

It was only a decade ago that pundits forecast that the internet meant the end of public libraries. But, according to Emily David, Director of the Springfield Library, the prediction of the death for libraries is vastly exaggerated.



Speaking to the Springfield City Club on Thursday, February 7, Ms. David said there were over 150,000 visits in 2017. The Library still has its treasure trove of books, but she reeled off an impressive list of new services and programs that are drawing even more people to the Library. "We are busier than ever," she said. Ms. David was joined by Sheryl Eyster, a member of the Library Foundation Board and Linda Mears, the Chair of the Library Advisory Board.

Now, patrons can not only check out books and music, they can download it directly from home. Over 75,000 downloads happened last year. The Library, she said, is becoming a community living room, with uses of technology growing rapidly. Language learning, occupational exam preparation, resume preparation, on line tutoring, even a virtual reality lab are drawing more and more users of library services. Programming is also drawing more patrons. Program attendance has soared by over 500 percent, as the Library offers programs for children, teens, young adults, adults and seniors.

The Library is also taking up the slack caused by the decline in school libraries. Funding issues have sharply reduced the ability of the school system to provide library services; students need to use the Springfield Library as an alternative. The Library has now developed programs of grant funding so that students who live outside the city, and teachers who live outside the City but work in Springfield schools, can have free library cards, rather than pay the non-resident card fee.

The Library is also helping to bridge the digital divide. Ms. David pointed out that 22 percent of Springfield students are at or below the poverty level, and do not have access to advanced technology or the internet. The Library provides connectivity through its own computers and also provides network and power access for individuals who have their own devices. The Library also provides a small business center, where aspiring entrepreneurs can have access to the internet, to printers, copiers and other devices they need to bring their business idea into reality.

But all these services come at a cost. The 35-year old structure is not only deteriorating, but it is cramped and, in some cases, hard to use. There are few quiet areas, where patrons can concentrate. There is an inadequate supply of electrical outlets for those who have communication devices. Because the structure is concrete, the network on power wiring is placed on top of the concrete, right underneath the carpeting the covers the floor. This was painfully apparent when last year a water heater failed, resulting in a flood that, while it didn't do permanent damage to the collections, did force the Library to close for two and one-half days to repair the damage.

Beginning in 2012, with a Sustainable Cities project sponsored by the U of O, the Library began to look at its future. This was followed up by a community needs assessment in 2017. This led to an exploration of the possibility of establishing branch libraries, but that proved to be much more expensive than building a new facility, so the staff and the City Council began to focus on that option.



Ms. David presented a preliminary design for a new structure. It would be located on City-owned property directly across the street from City Hall, property which held the now closed District Court and a number of other agency offices. The design is for a two-story structure, although at the request of the Council staff has prepared a three-story alternative, with retail space occupying a portion of the ground floor. The preliminary estimate is that such a building would cost about \$37 million. A survey recently indicated that about \$1.6 million of that could be raised privately, and the Council is now considering whether to move ahead with a General Obligation Bond issue of about \$35 million to fund the difference. Ms. David said that the current estimate was that such an issue would add about \$0.50 per \$1,000 of valuation to a property owner's tax bill. That obligation would be in addition to existing taxes.



In response to a question, Ms. David said that the various agencies in Springfield have a long history of cooperating to avoid placing competing bond issues on the ballot. She said that if the measure is on the ballot in November, there will be no competing measure offering by Springfield agencies.

A questioner asked if the City had made adequate preparations to fund the operations of a new Library if the bond issue were approved. Ms. David said that they were continuing to study how to fund the anticipated \$1 million in additional operational spending that would be required. She noted that Lane Community College and the Springfield Chamber of Commerce had expressed interest in being a part of the site, and suggested that those, and other agencies or retail establishments, might be asked to contribute to both the construction cost and support of the operational spending needs.

When asked about parking, Ms. David said that will a traffic study has not yet been done, all the existing parking for the Library would remain available. She also noted that the City has, for some time, considered the possibility of a downtown parking structure, although no definite plans exist yet.

### **February 21 – A New Courthouse: Why and How much?**

The Lane County Courthouse was constructed in 1959. In the 60 years since, while the courthouse has served the needs of the community, it has aged and can not only no longer handle the workload of the courts but also cannot function adequately, according to a panel of County officials at the February 21 Springfield City Club Meeting. County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky, Commissioner Joe Berney, Judge Jay McAlpin, and Chief Sheriff's Deputy Cliff Harrold outlined the many issues facing the courthouse structure.

When the building was built, it held five courtrooms; now there are 15. The population of Lane County was one-third of today's, and the workload of the Circuit Court was commensurately smaller. Now there are significant security problems – little or no separation between individuals in custody and the public, no opportunities to provide separate spaces for civil litigants, no private spaces for attorney client consultations, and so on. Some court functions, like the law library, and Jury Assembly have been moved into the neighboring Public Service Building. Other services like the Public Defender, and Pardon and Parole, must be housed elsewhere. In addition, the building's infrastructure is aged and failing. Frequent elevator shortages delay the work of the courts, many spaces are not accessible to persons with disabilities, there are failures in the sewage system, the heating and air conditioning system, even the plumbing.



Not only has the need for court space grown in the 50 years since the Lane County Courthouse was built, but also the nature of how justice is administered has changed dramatically. Judge McAlpin noted that when the first state government official was appointed – a judge – the purpose of the court was to simply decide disputes, who owned a piece of property, who owed another money. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century administration of justice has become much more complex. Now there are four separate and additional courts – a drug court, a youth drug court, a mental health court and a veteran’s court. Each of these is designed to not simply litigate disputes, but to solve the underlying problems. This, he noted is a much more complex and time-consuming task, requiring facilities different from those available in the current Courthouse.

County Commissioners have concluded that it is essential to remedy these failures, and that rehabilitation of the current building will not suffice. Their conclusion: the current courthouse would be replaced by a new courthouse on the block which used to house the Eugene City Hall. The Public Service Building would not be replaced, although some Court facilities – jury assembly and the law library -- would be moved from the PSB to a new seven story courthouse which would house the courts, the sheriff’s office, the public defender, and the district attorney as well as pardon and parole.

The 16 courtrooms would be flexible so that they could handle regular trials as well as the custom courts. They would be designed around a secure core, where a separate area for in custody persons can be kept secure from the public. Space would be made available for the court functions that are housed elsewhere. The current concept calls for a 100 year construction life, and at least a 50 year useful life.

Mr. Mokrohisky discussed both the decision to construct rather than rehabilitate and the timing of moving ahead now with the current Courthouse proposal. He said the Legislature, in 2015, had created a special fund which will pay up to 50 percent of the state-related costs of a new courthouse. This fund was created after vigorous lobbying by Metro Portland legislators who wanted the Multnomah County courthouse replaced. Lane County decided to take advantage of the window created by this new revenue source and move before funding was reduced in the future. Since the land swap with the City of Eugene has closed, making the site available, the County believes it is prudent to move quickly.

Under the special fund rules, the construction must be for a new courthouse, not a renovation, and only the cost of the State-mandated functions will be covered. Thus, for the Lane County Courthouse, while the cost of court facilities could be eligible the cost of providing sheriff space and facilities is not. The current estimate of \$252 million is for all functions, and the maximum eligible amount for Lane County is estimated at \$94 million. Of that amount, \$6.4 million has been appropriated by the state. The balance of \$87.6 million is included in the Judicial budget proposal for the current biennium. The County believes it will be more likely that the appropriation survives the budget process if the County has firmed up the commitment to provide the local share.

That local share is now estimated at \$154 million, after \$4 million in federal funds have been identified. The 20-year bond for that amount would require debt service of \$0.27 per thousand. He said that would result in a tax increase of \$50.49 a year on the \$187 thousand median priced single-family home. Commissioner Berney said that the Board has adopted an ordinance which prohibits selling any approved bonds if the state money does not get appropriated. A questioner asked about that estimate of median price, since the typical price of a county home is much higher. Devon Ashbridge, Public Information Officer for the County, explained that the estimate is based on the assessed value of a home, not the real market value. Although the relationship between assessed value and market value varies considerably because of some of the requirements of Measure 5 and Measure 50, typically, she said assessed value is about 70 percent of market value.

The total estimated price does not include the additional cost of staffing and maintaining the facility. Commissioner Berney noted that many of the building systems, like heating and ventilation, are so outmoded that a new building would result in substantial cost savings for energy, among other things. Mr. Mokrohisky said that there would be no significant additions to staff as a result of the new Courthouse. The County Commissioners are also considering whether to provide for both real time auditing, to manage costs on a current basis, and an independent audit of project costs.

attracts new businesses. A vibrant downtown Library can serve many functions: Added meeting places, educational opportunities (LCC is contemplating a presence in a new facility), job-retraining, internet access, teen activity spots, exposure to new technological advances such as 3-D printing and Virtual Reality experiences (a walk on the moon, perhaps) and finally a place to connect with each other and the world.

The current proposal recommends that the new library be built on the city-owned property at A St. and 5<sup>th</sup>. The cost would be paid through individual donations and a voter-approved property tax bond which is estimated to be approximately 50 cents/\$1,000 of appraised value or approximately \$72.00 for a median-home assessed value in Springfield of \$144,000.

The library generates growth and development for Springfield by promoting access to technology, job skills development, educational tutoring, bi-lingual education, meeting rooms (for old and young, noisy and quiet) and early childhood development. But more than that and in the words of Emily David, "... our Library will become Springfield's living room." Every community needs a place to come together and collaborate, to learn and grow together, to become the family that is our community. We are that *VILLAGE* that can raise our children, comfort the confused, aid our elderly, and bring us together as the nurturing place that has always been Springfield.

Please visit the Website for all the exciting news concerning the new library: <https://newspringfieldlibrary.org/>

*Carolyn J. Miller*  
*Director*

Ecological Age, which sets forth a new paradigm of global ecological responsibility. Dr. Wood originated the legal approach called "Atmospheric Trust Litigation" now being used in cases brought on behalf of youth throughout the world, and central to the Climate Kids litigation.

Coreal Riday-White is the Community Engagement Manager for Our Children's Trust, which supports the Climate Kids litigation. Mr. Riday-White earned a B.A. in Community Studies from USC - Santa Cruz and a J.D. from the City University of New York, School of Law

### **The Eugene-Springfield Cities of Kindness Campaign**

All residents of Eugene-Springfield could benefit from greater kindness, at a personal and community level.

Douglas Carnine, Professor Emeritus of Education at the University of Oregon, and Stan Paine, a retired Springfield School District Administrator, will lead a discussion of the many acts of kindness that are already taking place in Eugene-Springfield, encourage more acts of kindness, engage in more conversations about kindness, listen to what kindness means to all segments of our communities, record 100,000 acts of kindness in 2019, and celebrate our kindness accomplishments in November 2019.

The Campaign is working with schools, faith-based organizations, businesses, neighborhood associations, non-profits, and governmental agencies to share and increase their kindness stories and accomplishments. An overview of the campaign is available at <https://www.spreadingkindnesscampaign.org>.

### **City Club Board of Directors**

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Minutes  
Board of Directors  
Springfield City Club  
February 5, 2019 – LRAPA offices

Present:Merlyn Hough    Kristin Denmark    Joe Leahy            Bob Fondren

Len Goodwin    Terry Beyer            Therese Lang    Carolyn Miller

Nick Nelson

Absent: Mackenzie Karp

Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

Therese announced that she is no longer associated with LTD.

Merlyn noted two corrections to the January minutes. On a motion by Bob, seconded by Carol, the minutes, as amended were approved unanimously.

Bob presented the financial report. He noted that we ended calendar year 2018 with revenue \$300 more than 2017 revenue.

On motion by Len, seconded by Carolyn n, the financial report was approved unanimously.

Len presented a resolution setting membership dues. He noted that the only change from the current structure was that business members would now have four badges for admission rather than three.

On motion by Bob, seconded by Merlyn, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Memberships were reviewed, and a list of potential and current members to be contacted by the Board to remind them to renew was discussed.

The current practice of using Len's cell phone to process payments at programs was discussed. While it was agreed that the risk of loss was minimal, it was agreed that that risk could be reduced by purchasing a card processing machine. On motion by Bob, seconded by Len, Len was directed to pursue the purchase with Banner Bank.

The schedule of upcoming programs was reviewed. Programs for this month are set, with Emily David from the Springfield Library presenting on February 7 and staff from Lane County presenting on the replacement of the Court courthouse on February 21.

The March 14 program is set with Prof. Mary Wood, of the U of O Law School discussing the "climate kids" laws suit. The March 21 program is presently scheduled to be a discussion of an initiative led by Stan Paine, to focus on kindness in relations with others.

On April 4, Nick has secured a commitment from McKenzie Willamette Medical Center to discuss their recent renovation, and on April 18, Len will confirm with the City that they will present a program on the ongoing Main Street Safety Study.

The Relief Nursery has suggested that City club present a program at their facility which will focus on their work with children. That program could occur on one of the dates where the Hilton Garden Inn is unavailable because of previous commitments. Terry will explore that suggestion further.

The January 17 program was reviewed. Callie reported she had received comments that those attending had wished to have more time to ask questions from the tables. Len explained that the format, which had a moderator asking most of the questions, which had been prep-prepared, was agreed to among the state-wide clubs offering the program. It was agreed that in future programs we should act to ensure that there is more opportunity to ask questions from the table. It was also noted that some attendees expressed concern that it was hard to hear in the room.

Carolyn Mille will prepare a newsletter article for the March newsletter. It will discuss the Springfield Library.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Goodwin,  
Secretary