

- Through a partnership between Willamalane Park and Recreation District and the city of Springfield, there will be a new **Veterans Memorial Plaza** on the corner of Mohawk Boulevard and I Street in Springfield. The opening ceremony is 11:30 am Friday, Nov. 11, and will include a new Vietnam Memorial unveiling. Event parking is available on Mohawk Boulevard and on I Street; follow parking signage.

- **Egan Warming Center, in cooperation with Occupy Medical and Rite Aid Pharmacy, is offering flu shots** noon to 3 pm Sunday, Nov. 13, at OM "winter quarters," 509 E. 13th Avenue. OM says, "This effort was made possible by a generous donation from Episcopal Church of the Resurrection." Egan Warming Center is looking for additional funds to help purchase vaccine at a discounted price "to ensure that everyone in our community has access to a vaccination to protect against this winter's flu season; both for the individual and the community." The flu shot is free of charge to low income/homeless/folks in need.

- **Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC)** is celebrating 50 years working for peace, justice, and human rights with a gala event 5 pm Sunday, Nov. 13th, at the UO's Ford Alumni Center, 1720 E. 13th. Michael Carrigan of CALC says, "There will be a buffet dinner and no-host bar, a silent auction, a video about CALC's history and a variety of music. The keynote speaker is former CALC staffer Eric Ward, who is the program officer for the Ford Foundation's Gender, Racial and Ethnic Justice team." Tickets are \$75 and CALC says \$32 of your ticket purchase is tax-deductible (you will receive a receipt at the event). For more information or to purchase tickets go to [calclane.org](http://calclane.org) or call 541-485-1755.

- **Eugene School District 4J is looking to the future with 4J Vision 20/20**, a strategic visioning and planning process to develop a roadmap for the next few years. According to 4J, a draft strategic plan has been developed with community input. Community members are invited to hear an overview of the draft plan and give feedback. A community meeting is from 6 to 7 pm Monday, Nov. 14 at Chávez Elementary School, 1510 W. 14th Avenue.

- At noon Tuesday, Nov. 15, Eugeneans can participate in the **National No DAPL (Dakota Access Pipeline) Day of Action, Rally and March** at the Army Corps of Engineers, 211 E. 7th Avenue in Eugene. Contact: Eugene Stands with Standing Rock on Facebook.

- Lane Community College is offering a **sexual assault/dating and domestic violence awareness/self-defense training series** Nov. 16. Classes run from 9:30 am until 3:30 pm in Building 4, Room 105, on its main 30th Avenue campus and are open to the college and community. Go to [lanecc.edu/newsroom/n/nr2072](http://lanecc.edu/newsroom/n/nr2072) for more information.

- As part of the **Stand Up to Oil Trains** campaign, "Awareness & Resistance," 350 Eugene has organized an expert panel to look at the facts and discuss options. The anti-climate change group says, "Across the Pacific Northwest, residents are talking about the growing risks from oil train traffic in their communities. The numerous derailments and fiery disasters since oil-by-rail became the go-to form of transportation for Bakken shale oil has many speaking out about concerns for public safety and health." The panel is 7 pm Tuesday, Nov. 15, at the First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street in Eugene. A Q&A follows the panel. Panelists include: Tarika Powell, senior research associate, Sightline Institute; Gregory Monahan, Beyond Gas & Oil Team chair, Oregon Sierra Club and Dan Serres, Conservation Director, Columbia Riverkeeper. In the weeks following the panel, 350 Eugene says it will present a resolution opposing oil trains through our community to the Eugene City Council.

- The Eugene City Council has scheduled a 90-minute work session for noon Wednesday, Nov. 16, to discuss the **Rest Stop Program and Opportunity Village Eugene** with city staff. Neighborhood activist Heather Sielicki says, "I am helping to organize a showing of support for expanding local shelter options at the Monday, Nov. 14, City Council public forum." She says, "Supporters from all wards are invited to speak or to stand in support." According to Sielicki, "The urgency for shelter will grow as the temperatures drop. The city-sanctioned Rest Stop Program and Opportunity Village have proven to be successful, safe emergency shelter models that can be deployed rapidly and cost effectively." More details at [bit.ly/2eqAL5f](http://bit.ly/2eqAL5f).

# NEWS

BY BEN RICKER

## LEGO CITY HALL?

Local architect weighs in

**M**onths after ballooning construction costs sent the Eugene City Council back to the drawing board, councilors and city staff continue to thumb through a confusing array of City Hall possibilities.

Without a clue to indicate what the different possibilities might cost taxpayers, the council is taking stabs in the dark. Councilor Chris Pryor likened the muddled process to playing with Legos at an Oct. 19 Joint Elected Officials Work Session.

Architect and *EW* columnist Jerry Diethelm has long criticized city management for its lack of foresight and transparency surrounding the City Hall project. Hoping to ease the cramped City Hall deliberations, Diethelm put in his two cents late last month when he circulated his own plans to city staff, county personnel and consultants at Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architects.

The city hired Cameron McCarthy this past summer after Lane County indicated it was interested in a possible land swap involving the county-owned "butterfly" parking lot and courthouse for some or all of the former City Hall site.

Worried that the process had gotten lost in the weeds, Diethelm says he submitted his own plan in order to help the City Hall project get back on track.

"I don't think you'll find a cheaper, easier, more distinctive Park Blocks-centered City Hall," Diethelm says of his plan. "It's got all the pluses, I think."

Diethelm's plan is similar to some of the options Cameron McCarthy's Larry Gilbert brought to the table in October, though Diethelm's work focuses on a more tightly consolidated campus.

Diethelm, a planning and design consultant who is a UO professor emeritus after teaching for 35 years in the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, wants to see the future City Hall building on the north end of the county's butterfly lot. His plan hinges on the city acquiring and remodeling the existing county courthouse, as well as some of the office space in the Lane County Public Service Building.

Diethelm's drawing shows the two buildings connected by a nifty sky bridge that stretches across Oak Street.

Though the city-county real estate deal remains to be negotiated, Diethelm says it's not far-fetched to imagine the city getting its hands on both the butterfly lot and the existing courthouse.

Eugene Community Relations Director Jan Bohman says the city received Diethelm's plan but declines further comment, noting that the city receives a lot of suggestions from interested stakeholders.

Gilbert of Cameron McCarthy did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Mayor Kitty Piercy says the city is "open to input and appreciates all thoughts and suggestions. In our work with the county, we have looked at a variety of scenarios and narrowed them down to three for the consultants to delve into more deeply. There are absolutely no decisions made yet on a preferred location."

Pryor rejects any plan that involves remodeling the courthouse: "In some cases trying to clean up an old Lego is more expensive than building a new Lego."

"I would prefer to build a new building that does the job than to remodel a building simply because it's remodeling," he emphasized at an Oct. 26 council session, adding: "My admittedly limited experience with building new versus remodeling is that remodeling is more expensive because you discover all of these things you didn't know were there, all of these unexpected things. And that's always been the case."

Diethelm, who advocated for remodeling the former City Hall that was subsequently torn down, argues the courthouse's steel bones are strong and could easily be reinforced and remodeled to meet the city's needs.

"It'll be a little hard for the city to swallow [my plan] after spending \$12 million on the wrong site," he adds, "but they will find this is the best way." ■

