



# CASCADE ECHOES

## CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2014 AND JANUARY 2015

### DECEMBER

**4 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON**, on the topic of System Development Charges, *speakers:* Jon Skidmore, Assistant City Manager, Craig Chenoweth, Development Coordinator and Russ Grayson, City Engineer.

**11 Board Meeting**, 10 a.m. County building, Lyons room

**14 Holiday Party, rsvp by December 8. Invitations sent separately**

**17 First day of Hanukkah**

**25 Merry Christmas!**

### JANUARY

**6 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON, topic TBA**

At **Black Bear Diner (1465 NE 3rd Street, Bend.** 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. See last page for details

**13 Board Meeting**, 10 a.m. County building, Lyons room



League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy

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#### WEB SITES

Local

[www.lwvnet.org/or/deschutes/](http://www.lwvnet.org/or/deschutes/)

State

[www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)

National

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Nationwide Election Information  
[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

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#### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2013 THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

<i>Co- Presidents</i> .....	Geri Hauser.....	541-280-2947
	Dalyte Hartsough.....	541-322-0469
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<i>Membership</i> .....	Bonnie Corley.....	541-330-1752
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<i>Voters Service</i> .....	Susie Penhollow.....	541-382-2724
<i>First Thursday</i> .....	Carol Ann Cary.....	541-306-4832
<i>Public Relations</i> .....	Kim Smith,.....	541-382-2660
<i>Special Events</i> .....	Eve McFarland,.....	541-389-5682

# President's Message

.....cont. Co-President's Message

Get out your mittens and snow boots—winter is here! It's time for cuddling up to the fire, sipping hot chocolate and gathering with family and friends, if you are not out skiing or shoveling snow.

We were all sad to hear of the passing of our former League President, **Nancy Ruel**. Because Nancy had been the principal of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program for many years, the Board decided to make that the recipient of a memorial fund in Nancy's name. If you would like to contribute to the memorial fund for Nancy, please send your check made out to LWV-DC to Sara Langton, 61327 Rock Bluff Ln., Bend, OR 97702.

Our **First Thursday Luncheon on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** will feature three speakers from the city of Bend. They will explain what **System Development Charges** (SDC's) are, who pays them, how much, etc. Come and ask whether the city plans to lower fees for developers who build affordable housing units or how much does Bend Parks and Recreation District get from SDC's. This is your opportunity to learn more about this issue. Bring a friend or neighbor.

Cont. next column.....

Coming soon is our very festive **Holiday Party on Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**. It will be a good time to see League friends and get acquainted with new ones. We hope you can bring something for the Silent Auction and, of course, bring your checkbooks so you can buy some of the fabulous items we'll have there. We will be at Awbrey Glen Country Club again because we enjoyed it so much last year. New members are especially urged to attend. We would really like to get to know you better. And members are also encouraged to bring a friend or two. In case you didn't get your invitation in the regular mail here are the basic details:

Sunday, Dec. 14, 1:00 – 4:00 PM (Buffet Lunch at 2:00 PM)

At Awbrey Glen, 2500 Awbrey Glen Dr., Bend. Send checks made out to LWV-DC (\$20 per person) by Dec. 8 to Eve McFarland, P.O. Box 1134, Bend, OR 97709

Be sure to bring books and items for the Silent Auction with you. Thanks. If you have a question call me or Eve. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving  
Dalyte Hartsough  
Co-President

## IN MEMORIAM

League member Nancy Ruel suffered a stroke last July, and after several months of convalescence, surrounded by family, passed away at her home in the Sunriver area on October 24, 2014, at the age of 71. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Nancy was born in Lincoln, Nebraska on December 19, 1942, and while serving as a nun with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, California, she attended several colleges in Southern California, earning her Bachelors degree in Education. She married Conrad Ruel in San Francisco on June 1, 1978; and worked as the Superintendent of Sundale School in California for many years. After moving to the Central Oregon area in 1994, she worked as the principal of the National Guards' Oregon Youth Challenge Program in Bend. Nancy was Vice President of the League of Women Voters and First Thursday Chair from about 2007 to 2011; and President from 2011 to 2013. She enjoyed reading, traveling, was President of the DRRH Neighbors Club, and a past board member of the Sunriver Library.

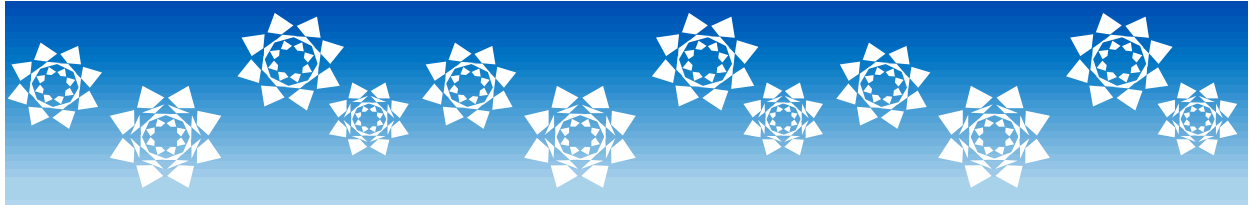
**First Thursday Luncheon Topic**

**System Development Charges (SDCs)**

What are they? What are they used for? Are they 'Fair'?  
Housing prices are rising again in Bend and part of that cost is  
SDCs. Come get informed.

Our speakers will be:

- Jon Skidmore, Assistant City Manager**  
**Craig Chenoweth, Development Coordinator**  
**Russ Grayson, City Engineer**



**CHILDREN AT RISK – restudy update**

The LWV of Oregon [LWVOR] has a long-time position on Children at Risk. But with many changes in state policies, and how they are carried out, this position is now being restudied. Material put together by the LWVOR committee will be available to us by early March and we will plan a meeting to discuss the questions that are raised. I hope that some of you may be interested in working on this as we get closer to those dates. *Let me [Marie Gibson] know at [jpgmjg@gmail.com](mailto:jpgmjg@gmail.com).* It may involve a couple of local interviews and/or reading more material and presenting it at our meeting.

In the meantime, some background on what the focus will be, and what recent changes are happening statewide, can help us begin to think about this issue.

First of all, the definition of an “**at-risk child**” means a child who is at risk of not entering school ready to learn due to factors, including but not limited to:

1. Living in a household that is at or near poverty, as determined under federal poverty guidelines;
2. Living in inadequate or unsafe housing;
3. Having inadequate nutrition;
4. Living in a household where there is significant or documented domestic conflict, disruption or violence;
5. Having a parent who suffers from mental illness, who engages in substance abuse or who experiences a developmental disability or an intellectual disability;
6. Living in circumstances under which there is neglectful or abusive care-giving;
7. Having unmet health care and medical treatment needs; and
8. Having a racial or ethnic minority status that is historically consistent with disproportionate overrepresentation in academic achievement gaps or in the systems of child welfare, foster care or juvenile or adult corrections.” (ORS 2013 Edition Chapter 37, Section 12)

The League’s study examines how the most vulnerable children in our state are identified and receive early intervention services that may enhance their chances to thrive in life.

A major development is that three years ago Oregon had just adopted its ambitious 40-40-20 goal, and an Early Childhood Family Support Transition Team put forth a set of recommendations to significantly improve the way our state approaches early childhood education.

This bipartisan team of educators, doctors, advocates, service providers, elected officials, parents and policy makers recommended, among other things, that Oregon organize early childhood services using “accountability hubs.”

Here in Central Oregon, the lead agency is the Wellness and Education Board of Central Oregon [WEBCO], which was established in April 2011. Its Board consists of a Commissioner from each of Crook,

Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties as well as the Superintendent of the High Desert ESD. This group applied to the Oregon Early Learning Council in January, 2014 to become the Early Learning HUB demonstration project for this region.

The following material is the first part of the Executive Summary of the “Early Learning Hub Report to the Legislature” that was made in February, 2014.

**Executive Summary**

Three years ago the state adopted the ambitious 40-40-20 goal: by 2025, 40% of adult Oregonians will earn a bachelor’s degree or higher, 40% will earn an associate degree or post-secondary credential and 20% will earn a high school diploma or equivalent. To achieve this goal we must dramatically transform the way our education system does its work.

Historically, Oregon has spent almost \$400 million each biennium on services for children ages 0 through 5 and their families. Although these funds go to support programs and services that do good work, they have traditionally worked in isolation from one another and from state services, creating a disjointed approach to the early care and education of our children that is not integrated, cost-effective nor accountable for results.

As a result, a significant number of Oregon’s children enter kindergarten without the early literacy, early math and social/emotional behavioral skills necessary for academic success. Consider the results of Oregon’s first year of statewide kindergarten assessment, administered in the fall of 2013:

Early literacy: 33% of entering kindergarteners could name five or fewer letters and 14% could not name a single letter. Additionally, 37% of the state’s entering kindergarteners could not identify a single letter sound. Early math: 53% of entering kindergartners answered at least half the questions correctly. However, only 43% of African American and Native American students, and 38% of Hispanic students answered at least half of the questions correctly.

Approaches to learning: Based on teacher observation, approximately 25% of entering kindergartners did not regularly complete skills such as completing tasks or following directions. Research indicates that a child’s ability to self-regulate is predictive of future reading and math achievement. The numbers show that the seeds are being sown for Oregon’s high school drop-out rate in these early years. Oregon’s longstanding, disjointed approach to early learning and care has not yielded the results necessary to prepare children for school. For the past three years the Legislature, the Early Learning Council and communities across the state have engaged in a significant reform effort to build a system that is more coordinated and to achieve higher levels of readiness for school.

In recognition of the challenge and the ineffectiveness of the status quo, beginning in 2011 Governor Kitzhaber and the Legislature put in place – through SB 909 (2011), HB 4165 (2012) and HB 2013 (2013) – the policy direction and performance expectations for outcome-focused, regionalized, cross-sector, community lead structure for organizing early learning, now known as Early Learning Hubs.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

**FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON**

*DECEMBER 4, 2014*

HOUSING PRICES ARE RISING AGAIN IN BEND  
PART OF THE COST OF HOUSING IS SYSTEM  
DEVELOPMENT CHARGES (SDCs)  
WHAT ARE THEY? WHAT ARE THEY USED FOR? ARE  
THEY FAIR?

OUR SPEAKERS WILL BE  
JON SKIDMORE, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
CRAIG CHENOWETH, DEVELOPMENT COORIDINATOR  
RUSS GRAYSON, CITY ENGINEER

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm  
at **Black Bear Diner**, on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Olney Streets in  
Bend.

There is a separate dining room for our use. There is no cost to hear the speakers; however those wanting lunch should arrive about 11:00 a.m. and order off the menu. The speakers will begin at noon and allow time for questions from the audience. **No reservations are needed.** This event is open to the general public.