

City's public outreach remains old-fashioned

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Somehow I had missed the Salem City Council's decision not to put a bond measure on the November ballot for a new police facility and upgrades of the Civic Center and library.

There was a lot of misunderstanding about the city's proposal, as well as what action the council might take last week.

That illustrates how the city's public-outreach methods are old-fashioned instead of innovative, as I wrote about in my March 9 [column](#).

Architect Geoffrey James was among those who spoke to the council on Monday in opposition to the city plan. I don't agree with James' viewpoint, but I was quite impressed with his patient, gracious and thoughtful demeanor as he responded to council members.

He set a fine example for anyone who testifies.

Assorted other thoughts:

- Barbara Curtin-Miles, who retired Friday from the Statesman Journal, is a brilliant journalist. More important, she is an outstanding person.

I've known Barb for several decades. Much of my career success, I owe to her.

When I grow up, I want to be like her (except I never expect to retire).

- In his lengthy remarks about the First Data investigation into Cover Oregon, Gov. John Kitzhaber spoke from handwritten notes. I continue to love the relative lack of pretentiousness among Oregon politicians.

- "Awarded" is not an exact synonym for "honored," despite what vehicle advertising agencies think. In grammar-speak, "awarded" is a transitive verb and requires an object.

The "most-honored" vehicle received the most awards. The "most-awarded" vehicle was the one that was awarded to recipients the most times. Every time I see an ad promoting the most-awarded truck, I wonder when I'm going to be given mine.

- One of my favorite grammar books is from 1984 — Karen Elizabeth Gordon's provocative "The Transitive Vampire: a Handbook of Grammar for the Innocent, the Eager, and the Doomed."

- If you're running for office, or running a business, don't put lawn signs in the public right-of-way or — unless you have the owners' permission — on private property. Otherwise, you're just making yourself look bad.

— Dick Hughes