



WEST LINN UPDATE

Fourth Quarter, 2016

From the City Manager: New Community Development Director Hired



City Manager Eileen Stein

I'm pleased to announce the hiring of John Williams as the new Community Development Director. Mr. Williams has over 25 years of planning, community and economic development experience in local and regional government in Clackamas County. He will bring a wealth of resources to the position and to the West Linn community.

Mr. Williams served as the Community Development Director for the City of Canby from 1998 to 2008. In that role he managed the City's short and long range planning, personnel, risk management, budgetary and operational functions for the department (including planning, building and public works), as well as the City's urban renewal agency. He was responsible for economic development, bringing new commercial and

industrial opportunities to the city, generating significant new funding for transportation projects, and creating a new local transit system for Canby. He attributes these accomplishments to a successful relationship with the mayor and city council, and by developing partnerships with neighborhood groups, schools, the business community, and other government agencies.

In 2008, Mr. Williams was recruited away from local government to serve as the deputy director for planning and development at Metro. In this role, he oversees some of the broadest and most complex regional land use matters. This position has enabled him to develop relationships with government and agency staff, elected officials and business groups from across the region. His regional experience will be valuable as the City moves forward with planning for the West Linn waterfront, the Willamette Falls Heritage and Locks projects, Highway 43 corridor, and other important projects to the region and state.

On a personal note, Mr. Williams previously lived in West Linn and has watched the City evolve over the years. He has enjoyed working at the regional level, but desires to return

his career to local government and community-based work.

I look forward to John bringing his extensive experience and intergovernmental networks to the position of West Linn Community Development Director and in engaging with the community to advance West Linn's interests in the region and around the state. He will be a great addition to the city leadership team."

Mr. Williams will begin work in early January.

-Eileen Stein



West Linn's New Community
Development Director John Williams

What's In A Name?

West Linn will soon prepare a Master Plan for the region near and along the Willamette River corridor between the Willamette and Arch Bridge/Lower Bolton areas. This long-range planning project should have a name that reflects the character of the region and the vision and values of our community. The planning effort is expected to honor the Willamette Falls

As this project will be rooted in valuable public input and reflect West Linn's desires and vision for this region, we want your feedback on a name for the planning project. Suggestions are being accepted between now and Dec. 23. Name ideas can be sent to: cflynn@westlinnoregon.gov. After the closing date a panel of city representatives and volunteers will choose



Heritage Area, build on economic opportunities around tourism and related business appropriate for the West Linn community and create a welcoming space for citizens, along with our neighbors near and far.

a submission that reflects the nature, character and vision of West Linn's waterfront area.

The winner will receive a \$20 gift card to a local business.

New West Linn City Council To Be Seated

Come January 2017 West Linn's Mayor will remain the same while two new Councilors will be ushered in.

According to the official results from the Clackamas County Elections Department, Russ Axelrod won 56 percent of the vote for his current Mayoral seat; opponent John Carr received 44 percent of the vote. For the two open council seats, of the five candidates, Teri Cummings received 30 percent of the vote, Richard Sakelik received 22 percent of

the vote, Beth Smolens received 21 percent, Keith Morris received 16 percent and Gail Holmes received 11 percent of the vote. Cummings and Sakelik will fill the seats of current councilors Jenni Tan and Thomas Frank, both of whom chose not to seek re-election. All seats are four year terms.

Also, Measure 3-513, which asked voters whether or not they want to prohibit medical marijuana processors, medical marijuana dispensaries, recreational marijuana

producers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers in West Linn, was approved with 63 percent of the vote. This means such businesses are prohibited in the City.

2017 West Linn City Council

Mayor: Russ Axelrod

Councilors:

- Teri Cummings
- Bob Martin
- Brenda Perry
- Richard Sakelik

TIS THE SEASON

On Dec. 2 the City kicked off the holiday season with its annual Tree Lighting Ceremony with a newly planted tree in the plaza in front of City Hall. With dozens of citizens in attendance, along with Santa, members of City Council and the Old Time Fair Court and entertainment by the Corner Children and Youth Choirs.



Following the tree lighting families were invited to decorate cookies and ornaments, have their face painted and visit with Santa.



A Moment with Mayor Russell B. Axelrod

I don't know about you, but I can't believe it's already December! It struck me last Friday as our community gathered, children sang, and Santa helped light the City's tree. This year the tree is in the small plaza across from City Hall, and the lighting at night is simple and impressive with a frosty hue - check it out.

It's also hard to believe that this is my family's 25th Christmas in West Linn. Twenty-five years in one place sounds like a long time, but somehow time can also pass so quickly. I look at my grown daughters and realize the change that has been, and I wonder and hope about their future.

We seem to have a lot of new families and children in West Linn, and it's very comforting. As I enjoyed the holiday crowd last week it struck me that we have so many caring people in our community, and like me, they want the best for their partners, their friends, their town, and of course their children.

The children for me are also a reminder of what is most important in life and in community. To reach out and care for each other, and especially for those less fortunate. To take the time to celebrate life, to offer kindness to a stranger, to be better stewards, and to be compassionate to all people.

Upcoming Closures

The alternative work schedule at City Hall will continue into the New Year. Below is a list of Friday closures for the first quarter of 2017. The day prior to and the day of each closure this information will also be communicated on the City's website and on the City's social media accounts.

City Hall and Public Works Operation

- December 23
- January 6
- January 20
- February 3
- February 17
- March 3
- March 17

Holiday Closures (All Offices Closed)

- December 26: Christmas holiday
- January 2: New Year holiday
- January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 20: Presidents Day

Neighborhood News

Not sure which NA you live in? Visit WestLinnOregon.gov to find out! You can also sign up for an email newsletter about your NA meetings!

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association

Savanna Oaks NA had its elections recently. All four officers were re-elected. SONA members discussed speakers the neighbors would like to hear presentations from in the coming months. A Master Recycler was scheduled for the December meeting and a Firewise Community expert is planning to present early next year. There have been many fundraisers for the White Oak Savanna; two more are scheduled for the next two months:

- Burgerville in West Linn will have a partnership night from 5 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 14 with 10 percent of all of the proceeds going to the Savanna.
- McMenamins in West Linn will have a Friends and Family Night on Monday, Jan. 23, from 5 p.m. until closing, with 50 percent of the proceeds being donated to the Savanna.

Be Prepared

This winter, be prepared with emergency contact information in the event of a heavy storm or another unexpected event.

Emergency Information

Non-Emergency Police Line: 503-635-0238

PGE: 503-464-7777 @PortlandGeneral

SANDBAG LOCATIONS:

Behind Old Bolton Station on Failing Street
(6000 Failing Street)

Willamette Park Playground/Picnic Area
(1100 12th Street, 97068)

Check for driving conditions @ tripcheck.com

Follow us:
[Facebook.com/CityofWestLinn](https://www.facebook.com/CityofWestLinn)
[@WLUpdate](https://twitter.com/WLUpdate)

Boat Ramp Work Delayed

During construction of the Cedaroak Boat Ramp, a large subgrade soft area was discovered on the upstream side, near the mid-point of the boat ramp, causing the ramp to settle unevenly. This has impacted construction and the timeline for completing the project. City Staff, the consultant engineers, the geotechnical engineering firm and the Oregon State Marine Board are currently working with the contractor and permitting agencies to resolve the site conditions before the ramp can be completed and re-opened.

A solution to the issue has been developed and implementation will begin soon. The City was just granted a variance for the in-water work to resume.

The new project completion date is expected to be in mid-January of 2017.

In the event of additional setbacks, our commitment remains to ensure we have at least one lane of usable ramp in place for the upcoming Spring Chinook Salmon Fishing season.

