

City Manager's Report

Date: December 23, 2020


To: Mayor Axelrod and City Council, City staff, and West Linn community

From: Jerry Gabrielatos, City Manager [JG](#)

Calendar notes

- **December 25 and 31/January 1:** City offices are closed.
- **January 4:** Council Special Meeting to declare a Council vacancy and swear in new Mayor/Council.
- **January 11:** Council Regular Meeting. Election of Council President, CAG/Council liaison appointments, Cornwall Subdivision public hearing, emergency extension, Police Accountability Task Force joint meeting.
- **Late January/Early February:** Council Goal Setting being planned.

Informational updates

- **Sahallie Illahee Park.** The new nature play area has been installed at Sahallie Illahee Park! Thanks again to voters for passing the 2018 GO Bond and to Oregon State Parks and Recreation for providing a grant to fund this project. Please make sure to follow social distancing and mask wearing guidelines when visiting this new park. 
- **Parks and Recreation Events.** Parks staff have been busy working on new, creative and safe events during this season. Here are a few highlights:
 - Candy Cane Lane Holiday Drive Thru. Our Candy Cane Lane Holiday Drive Thru event had an overwhelming turn out! Despite traffic issues due to high participation, we received a lot of positive feedback and are proud to report that the West Linn Food Pantry received over 1,240 pounds of donated food during the event. Thank you to all those that patiently waited and brought food to donate!
 - Big thanks to the 40 volunteers who attended the Solve event at Sahallie Illahee Park on December 12th. They planted and mulched 392 shrubs and trees. Just 18 months ago the area was a thicket of blackberries, ivy, and holly. This volunteer group made a huge difference in improving our local ecology for both our community and wildlife for years to come.
 - Elves from the North Pole Community Center) recently cookies to seniors in our so happy for the quick visit of continued isolation.  (AKA The West Linn Adult made doorstep deliveries of fresh community. Our local seniors were and special treat during this time

- Police Department Community Events.** We greatly appreciate all the efforts of our Police staff in giving back to the community during this season. Here are just a few recent events they have participated in:

 - Collection of 549 pounds of food donated around Thanksgiving by our wonderful community and delivered it to the West Linn Food Pantry. Collection bins remain available at the PD and TVFR Fire Stations and we hope to add to this total significantly.
 - Staff had a great time at the Candy Cane Lane Christmas Event at the ACC. The “Grinch” was captured while trying to steal Christmas and his heart grew three sizes after seeing all the smiles. Check out the PD’s fun [Grinch video](#) on Facebook if you haven’t already.
 - WLPD Annual Season of Giving Event co-sponsored with the LTP Non-Profit Foundation sponsored nine West Linn families of children fighting cancer with extra support for the holidays.
 - PD assisted in coordinating toy donations and delivering to “Angels in the Outfield,” a local Clackamas County non-profit supporting children affected by trauma, abuse, or crime. Around 500 families signed up to receive toys this year. We are so grateful to our neighborhood associations that worked cooperatively this year to provide a huge donation of toys!
- A group of four police officers in uniform are standing behind several large brown paper bags and boxes filled with food donations. The bags have various logos, including one for 'Linn's'.
- Two police officers are standing next to a car that is heavily decorated with colorful Christmas lights. One officer is wearing a full-body Grinch costume.
- Library Programs.** The Library continues to entertain and educate through numerous outstanding online programs, events, and Take & Make activities.

 - Over 100 kits were distributed for a recent STEM Take & Make program and dozens of patrons participated in a new Spice Club.
 - Library staff are also working hard to keep up with demand for curbside holds pick-up. In a recent month, 2,350 patrons picked up 16,421 items! In that time, patrons borrowed 4,933 e-books and e-audiobooks, streamed 287 films via Kanopy, and 132 new users signed up online for library cards.
 - Librarians are also launching a new Letters for Community program. This is an all-ages, community-wide event that will collect hand written letters and wellness cards to deliver joy to those in West Linn living in isolation, such as residents in assisted living and homebound individuals. It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on kindness, and the impact that simple acts of kindness can have on others. Stay tuned for program launch dates and community drop-off locations.
 - The Library’s Holiday Food Drive continues, with drop offs welcomed at the Burns Street entrance Mon.-Tues 1:00pm-6:45pm and Wed-Friday 11:30am-4:30pm through at least the end of the year. Monetary donations can be sent directly to westlinnfoodpantry.com
- A circular logo for the 'Letters for Community' program. It features a white envelope with a colorful heart made of puzzle pieces inside. The text 'WEST LINN PUBLIC LIBRARY' is at the top and 'LETTERS FOR COMMUNITY' is at the bottom.
- Oregon State Marine Board Rulemaking.** The OSMB is in the process of rulemaking that would affect the Willamette River from the Hawthorne Bridge to Willamette Falls. The proposed rules would add a pass-through zone (no towed watersports certain times of the year) creating a complete pass-through zone section from Hawthorne Bridge to Waverly Marina (near the Sellwood Bridge), in addition to additional restrictions on towed watersports activities from Waverly Marina to Willamette Falls. A fact sheet on the proposed regulations can be found [here](#), details on the rulemaking and how to provide public comment can be found [here](#).

- **Willamette Main St. Update.** Trees are returning to Willamette Falls Drive! 76 trees will be planted over the next few weeks. To access tree wells parking spaces will be temporarily closed, but will reopen as work is completed. Each tree weighs roughly one ton, and crews will be working with heavy equipment to install them. Ten varieties of trees are being planted: Shantung Maple, European Hornbeam, Katsura Tree, Black Tupelo, London Planetree, Swamp White Oak, Shumard Oak, American Elm, Elm Hybrid, and Japanese Zelkova. Electrical conduit and wiring is also in the process of being installed for tree lighting.



Staff are concurrently working with the Historic Willamette Main St. Group to acquire temporary tents and heating for outdoor dining and work through any permitting and construction issues. At this point this will likely include two tents in parking areas that would be shared by several restaurants. We are hoping this helps our local businesses and ask that people continue to shop and order take out as much as possible to support them.

- **ODOT I-205 Tolling Project.** ODOT closed its public comment period in October and have read through 4,600 questions and comments to discover trends and assess their public outreach methods. ODOT is now working on responses and how to incorporate the feedback into the Project. More than half of the comments came from people that live in Clackamas County and fear of traffic moving to local streets was a common concern that is shared by Council. ODOT's Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee is working on the next phase of outreach to better reach currently and historically excluded and underserved communities. To see all the comments and for more details read the [I-205 Toll Project Engagement Summary](#) or visit the [Project website](#).

I wanted to take this opportunity to again sincerely thank outgoing Mayor Axelrod, Council President Sakelik, and Councilor Cummings for their years of dedicated service to the community, especially now during these difficult times. The passion the entire Council shares for the community is evident in the work you have accomplished together. We look forward to your continued participation in making West Linn the best place to live, play, and enjoy.

Best Holiday Wishes to all the Community,

Jerry