



WEST LINN UPDATE

Second Quarter, 2016



Welcome Eileen Stein

On May 31, the City welcomed Eilneen Stein to the post of City Manager. She was chosen after an extensive and inclusive search was performed by Prothman and Associates. In beginning this position Stein brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience. She holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from the University of California Irvine and has worked in local government in Oregon for more than 25 years. Most recently, she served as city manager in Mt. Angel for the last three years, and prior to that she was the City Manager in Sisters for 11 years.

Below is a Question and Answer piece with Stein.

Q: Why did you choose a life in public service?

A: I've always gravitated toward public affairs. I was one of those student government leaders in middle and high school. As an undergraduate student in political science, I was most attracted to government at the local level because I wanted to work where I thought I would have the most impact on people's quality of life and community well being.

Q: What interested you the most about and why are you excited to work here?

A: I've been familiar with West Linn since coming to visit friends here when we first moved to Oregon. That was over 20 years ago and the city was quite pastoral at the time. The city developed just as predicted. This has given me insights on what feelings there might be about such rapid transformation in such a short period of time. We experienced this in Sisters too after the city's sewer system was installed. The very features and nature of the community that make it attractive to a few make it attractive to all. Yet, West Linn has grown and developed in such a way that earns it recognition as one of the best places to live. I'm excited to get to be part of this and make

a contribution to this great community.

Q: What qualities should a strong community possess?

A: Gosh, there are so many ways to answer this question and so many facets of what makes a community strong. One answer is recognizing that there are many different viewpoints, some expressed more strongly than others, but all valid. A strong community finds a way for all viewpoints to be heard and considered. It looks for ways to honor and respect the opinions that are brought forth. A strong community understands that at the end of the day there needs to be a plan of action for forward progress after all viewpoints have been considered. I appreciate that there have been tough issues for West Linn city government to sort out in recent years, but this is what makes a community strong. I am excited to bring my skills in community building, citizen engagement, and intergovernmental relations to the job.

Q: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

A: I'm an extrovert by nature and get my energy from being around people. But I also need down time, which I use to recharge and reflect. This usually involves taking

walks, hikes, bike rides, kayak trips and ski trips. It also involves reading, meditating, praying and taking time to be with family.

Q: What is your favorite quote and why?

A: I find myself constantly inspired by John F. Kennedy's call to ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country. This is actually a biblical principle. Find something to improve upon and just do it. There is much work to do (to build a strong community) but the laborers are few. I hope to be able to help people figure out how to effectively participate in civic life.

Q: What are your initial goals as you enter this position?

A: My initial goals are to get to know the city council, the organization and the community. Despite whatever initial impressions I have about West Linn, there is so much more to learn and know. I'll be spending a lot of my first year just listening, observing and building upon my insights.

To remain updated on news related to the City of West Linn please visit our website at WestLinnOregon.gov and our social media sites.

Meeting Our Goals

In February of 2016 the City Council created a list of new goals to embark on, with the ultimate mission being to best serve the residents of the community. We are now six months into 2016 and want to take a moment to review what has been completed thus far:

Hire a New City Manager

- Eileen Stein officially began her post as West Linn City Manager on May 31.

Refine Arch Bridge Area Master Planning and Assess Potential Property Acquisitions

- The Council has discussed this project at two work sessions and set a new direction for completing the plan. The initial phase has three elements: refinement of the transportation plan if needed because of new plans for I-205 widening, development of a financial roadmap giving a solid financial picture of the potential project and a strategy for funding needed infrastructure and acquisitions; and holding new discussions with area property owners to reassess needs and opportunities. Once this work is complete, which is anticipated by Fall, the plan draft will be refined and finalized following new opportunities for public involvement.

Research the Feasibility of a West Linn Fiber Network

- A Request for Proposal to hire a consultant to research the feasibility of this goal is currently being drafted. The RFP is expected to be made public this month.

Become an Active Regional Partner on Transportation Issues

- West Linn City Council members have attended the Jointed Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation, along with the Oregon Transportation Forum and other transportation related meetings.
- A 2018-2021 State Transportation Improvement Program grant application was submitted and made the first cut. The application focuses on improvements along the OR43 corridor.
- The Council unanimously supported a federal grant application the Oregon Department of Transportation submitted to widen I-205 over the Abernathy Bridge.

Address Community Development Code and Comprehensive Plan Changes

- The city Planning Department is currently updating code languages to best reflect the needs of the community as a whole.

Resolve and Define the Best Uses for Underutilized City Properties

- The city owned property at 21395 Willamette Drive will be turned into a pocket park. The City Council approved this action unanimously at their March 28 meeting.

Prioritize Community Outreach and Communications

- The Committee for Citizen Involvement held its first meeting on April 26; future meetings can be found on the City website.
- Interviews for the inaugural class of the West Linn Youth Advisory Council were held on May 25 with 34 applicants. The YAC will officially begin meeting at the beginning of the 2016-17.

Digging into 60 Years of Tradition

The West Linn Old Time Fair has been a pillar of tradition for 60 years now, but its roots date back to smaller gatherings meant for only a select few. The event was birthed out of the Willamette Grange Hall #888 in the early 1950s after the Clackamas Pomona Grange District #1 approached them to start a small summer affair. For several years small Grange related fairs were held at local churches, but it was in 1956 when these growing events pivoted into what was then known as the Community Fair (this eventually became the West Linn Fair). What caused this shift? The interest of

including the entire community!

From the sounds of it, the first full-on fair was certainly a community event! The high school band played, locals showcased their gardening and “handy” skills and bumper stickers promoting the event were made available to about a quarter of the city’s entire population.

Flash forward to 2016 and while fair rides have been updated and the event has become a function of the City, the essence of the Community Fair remains the same. We are a small city with a big heart, and we see this every day with our high

volunteerism rate. Your support is valued, but we also want everyone to take a moment to come together to enjoy this tradition.

So, let’s make a point to ensure we celebrate 60 years of fun at the Old Time Fair this year. The celebration begins at 5 p.m. on July 15 and runs through July 17.

Oh, and to honor this extra special year, we’re going to let you in on a little secret...there will be fireworks on the night of July 15!

Information for this article was provided by Larry McIntyre.



RESIDENTS FILLED IN ON BOLTON RESERVOIR



On May 20 the residents of West Linn were invited to attend the Bolton Reservoir Open House, which was held in conjunction with National Public Works Week. About 60 residents came to discuss the progress of the project, which is tentatively scheduled to be complete at the end of the 2017 calendar year. The sidewalk installation on Skyline Drive is expected to be complete in August of this year.

Thus far in the Bolton Reservoir Project, 3,000 linear feet of new 24-inch waterline has been installed, the 100 year old reservoir has been decommissioned and demolished, and excavation for the new reservoir has been completed.



A Moment with Mayor Russell B. Axelrod

Summer is just around the corner and I can't wait. I especially love the summer mornings for early walks or long bike rides into the countryside. Fresh garden veggies and bbq's (charcoal please). It's also time for one of my favorite West Linn events - our summer Concerts in the Park. They seem to get bigger and better every year. And, be sure to check out the new Wednesday Farmers Market in Willamette, along with our many other summer events and activities on the city calendar. This summer we are also gifted with the arrival of our new City Manager, Eileen Stein. I can't express how excited I am to have Eileen join our team. She brings great experience and a sincere interest in community building. With this milestone we continue our efforts for the city to improve efficiency and better serve the great citizens of West Linn. Please join me in welcoming Eileen to our great community!

Parks & Rec Summer Events

Street Dance: July 9, 5 p.m. in the Historic Willamette District

Music in the Park: 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Tanner Creek Park

- July 28: Curtis Salgado
- August 4: The June Bugs
- August 11: Sabroso
- August 18: Wil Kinky
- August 25: Paul Creighton Project-Stevie Wonder Tribute

Movies in the Park:

Movies will begin at dusk (around 8:30 p.m.).

- July 8: Robinwood Park
- July 22: Midhill Park
- July 29: Marylhurs Park
- Aug. 19: Tanner Creek Park
- Aug. 26: Hammerle Park

Friends of the McLean House Birthday BBQ: August 7, 11 a.m.

Great Outdoor Adventure: August 13-14 at Mary S. Young Park

Library Summer Events

Presto the Magician: June 21, 2pm and 4pm

Teen Movie Night: June 22, 6:30 pm

Call for Artists: June 23 deadline. The West Linn Public Library is calling for artist applications for exhibits.

OMSI: Make It Yourself: June 23, 2pm and 3:15pm

Uke Can Do It: June 27, 3 pm

Mad Science Olympics: June 28, 2pm and 4pm

OMSI Crime Lab: June 30, 2pm and 3:15pm

Trivia Night: July 11

Magic Workshop with Presto the Magician: July 14, 2 pm

En Taiko Drumming: July 21, 6:30pm

Easy Oragami: August 1, 3pm

Best Outdoor Ad Parks & Rec Summer Events

We Want Your Input

Help guide the City of West Linn's economic development discussions by taking a short survey at surveymonkey.com/r/WLEconDev. Hard copies are available at City Hall, the West Linn Public Library and the Adult Community Center; they can also be returned to these locations. By participating you will be providing the City valuable data on how to enhance the livability of West Linn.

The deadline to complete the survey is **July 31, 2016**.

Results will be posted in Fall of 2016.

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!

Neighborhood Associations (NAs) are citizen engagement groups organized by the City of West Linn. Participating with your NA is one way to share your ideas and concerns with the city.

Marylhurst Neighborhood Association

Meets at 7 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month, currently at Robinwood Station in West Linn. MNA website is westlinnoregon.com/marylhurst and email is MarylhurstNA@westlinnoregon.gov. Please come to a meeting and let us email you neighborhood information!

We continue to pursue transportation improvements and safety for our neighborhood and have successfully upgraded plans to a higher priority for the city. Further work remains on Valley View in relation to Marylhurst Heights Park development.

The Labyrinth clean-up was held May 14 and was a great success. Many weeds met their demise and some new plants have been given a start. Please help us when you visit the Labyrinth and pull a few weeds or pinch back a plant. It too can be meditative and it would be greatly appreciated! We accomplished about half the work and will be soon having another Labyrinth Clean-up Day.

Our neighborhood sign was generously restored by a neighbor and the city will soon be erecting it. Look for it in a new location that better demarks our neighborhood boundary.

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association

The past three months have been a busy time for the Savanna Oaks NA.

- SONA continues to work on the preservation and restoration of the White Oak Savanna Park, for which our NA is named.
- We are planning our 2016 Ice Cream Social for the summer. It will take place at Douglas Park once again.
- We are working to make sure any proposed development in our neighborhood adds to, and does not detract from, the character and livability of the Savanna Oaks NA as outlined in our Neighborhood Plan.
- We pledged to acquire a bench for the White Oak Savanna when the lower six acres are purchased as a natural park and added to the upper 14 acres.
- We updated the Bylaws of SONA with a committee of members and then a vote taken at a SONA meeting.
- We worked with neighbors and local Girl Scouts on an Earth Day event to remove invasive species in the riparian and lower meadow portions of the White Oak Savanna.
- Our President continues to work on the Neighborhood Association Presidents' committee.
- We continue to inform the members of any and all issues and events that might be of interest to them.

We hope that you will join us for our next meeting.

Parker Crest Neighborhood Association

The Parker Crest NA (PCNA) has seen several development applications take place over the last few months. These developments will be coming up for review and submittal to the Planning Commission and annexations will take place through the voter approval process. Minutes and updated plans have been posted to the City of West Linn website, along with minutes from recent PCNA meetings. The proposed development and annexations are listed below:

- 1.A 50 unit subdivision and Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 1270 Rosemont Road.
- 2.A Proposed Annexation, Zoning Map Amendment and PUD/Subdivision at 3015 and 3001 Parker Road.
- 3.A Proposed Annexation at 3800 Ridge Lane.

The PCNA would like to put in place a working committee to assist in developing a plan to maintain portions of the natural areas near Tanner Creek and the adjacent public access walking trails. Please contact PCNA President Bill Relyea at wrelyea@comcast.net if you have an interest in joining the committee.

The PCNA has a Facebook page and announcements for meetings and other matters of interest are posted on that media site.

Sunset Neighborhood Association

Our annual summer picnic will be Sunday, June 26th 1 – 4 pm at Sunset Park. Music and food will be provided, free of charge, so come out and meet your neighbors. We are also looking for officers. Elections are slated for our next meeting, September 27th, however, if you are interested, you may contact us at: SunsetNA@westlinnoregon.gov.



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