



WEST LINN UPDATE

Third Quarter, 2016

From the City Manager: City Hall Operation Survey Results



In October 2015, the City of West Linn began a year-long trial of a new “9/80” work schedule for City Hall and Public Works field operations. The new schedule changed the hours of operation from 7:30 a.m.

to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, then the same Monday-Thursday hours the following week, followed by a Friday closure. The aim of the experiment was to create days when City Hall was open for longer periods to maximize public access, and yet still meet state labor laws and collective bargaining agreements.

In June 2016, a public survey was conducted, via Survey Monkey, to gain a better understanding on how this schedule has been beneficial to citizen access to the services offered at City Hall. The survey was distributed digitally through various means and physically available at City Hall, the West Linn Public Library and the Adult Community Center. Digital settings only allowed for the survey to be taken once from the same device and responses were anonymous. The survey was open from June 29 to August 16 and yielded 356 responses. We greatly appreciate those who took the time to complete it.

The survey revealed that most people come to City Hall to pay a utility bill or citation, register for a recreation program, or submit a permit (planning or building). The survey revealed that most respondents (56.4%) did not even know

that City Hall was closed on alternating Fridays. The survey also revealed that most residents (61%) did not notice a change in accessibility of city staff as a result of the schedule change. This is probably because most residents were not aware of the schedule change. The survey indicated a slight preference (46%) for the traditional 8 to 5, Monday-

Friday workweek, over those who enjoy accessing City services earlier or later (41%). More specifically, 27 percent prefer to utilize city services from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., 31 percent prefer to do so between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and 27 percent prefer 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday is the most preferred day of the week to access City Hall (51%) and Thursday the least preferred day (26%).

In the commentary section, people commented frequently that trying to remember which Friday City Hall was closed was problematic with the new schedule. Others commented it would be nice to have at least one day of the

week when City Hall was open early and closed late. Others commented that the City could be more responsive through a better website or more timely response to inquiries. Still others want to make sure the schedule at City Hall is consistent and reliable.

The results do not show an overwhelming desire by citizens to return to the traditional work week, in fact people appreciate being able to access City Hall early or late in the day. The results indicate we may want to continue to “tweak” the hours at City Hall and/or find a way to better inform the public of the Friday closures. If you have ideas please let us know. Again, I appreciate all those who took the time to complete the survey and give us your opinions and ideas.

Friday Closures

City Hall and Public Works Operation

- September 30
- October 14
- October 28
- November 10 and 11**
- November 23, 24 and 25**
- December 9
- December 23

**City Hall will be closed on these dates as the typical Friday closure falls on a holiday.

New Stop Sign Installed

On August 22 a 4-way stop sign was installed at Willamette Falls Drive and Ostman Road to better regulate traffic. This sign was approved under the City's Transportation System Plan. An engineering field study was then conducted prior to the placement of the stop sign and it was further determined there was a need to control left turn conflicts, control vehicle/pedestrian conflicts, provide adequate site distance for cross traffic, and regulate the nature of an intersection of a collector (Ostman) and minor arterial (Willamette Falls Drive).

For more information visit westlinnoregon.gov.



Bolton Reservoir Moves Along

Work is still underway at the Bolton Reservoir. The major cement pours for the 4 million gallon tank took place in August. These four cement slabs serve as the base for the tank. Overall, work continues to remain on schedule, with an estimated completion date of Spring 2017.

While work continues at the Reservoir, motorists and pedestrians alike are able to enjoy Skyline Drive again. The street opened to the public on September 2, and with that the new sidewalk on Skyline Drive, taking pedestrians from the top of the hill to the high school, opened as well.



The Queen Has Been Crowned

On July 15 West Linn's four Old Time Fair Princesses stood before the community, each eagerly awaiting to be named Queen. While only one could receive the honor, each has and continues to represent this community with respect, honor and dignity. The four Princesses vying for Queen were: Allison Ingle, Emily Swenson, Kendall Shanklin and Mikayla Simon. Allison Ingle was crowned Queen, with her peers readily and enthusiastically supporting her. Queen Allison, along with the Princess Emily and Princess Mikayla will attend West Linn High School this fall and Princess Kendall attends Wilsonville High School. Each girl has dedicated countless hours giving back to the community they call home, making it an honor to have them represent West Linn throughout the region.

Pictured: Queen Allison, along with Princesses Emily, Kendall and Mikayla and Junior Princesses Jillian, Ruby and Bianca viewed the floats before the Parade.



Go Paperless, Go Green

The City of West Linn is encouraging you to go paperless for your utility billing. To adopt this eco-friendly practice simply follow these steps:

1. Send you billing contact information to gogreen@westlinnoregon.gov;
2. Include your email, account number, name and service address in the email;
3. Start receiving your monthly utility bill via email.

Residents can also pay their utility bills online at municipalonlinepayments.com/westlinnor/utilities.



Join the Challenge

The City of West Linn is kicking off its Green Power Challenge this month to promote and achieve sustainable energy use. To do this we are asking the residents and businesses of our community, in conjunction with our own pledge, use electricity derived from clean energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal. Our overall goal for the City is to have an additional 200 residents and 20 businesses enroll in this PGE program.

PGE's Renewable Power Program is an option residents and businesses can opt into with the company.

By participating in this program we hope to help foster the growth of sustainable practices that support local job development, improve domestic energy security and reduce carbon emissions.

Get Up, Clean Up

Spend a day helping clean up Cedar Oak Island to help ensure it is safe and enjoyable for all West Linn residents. This event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on September 24 at Cedar Island. Work will include removing trash, cutting back overgrown paths and removing derelict fishing platforms.

Clean Water Tips

Protecting our groundwater is important, especially since about 70 percent of the state's residents rely, at least partially, on it for drinking water. This is why we must keep our groundwater clean by:

- Preventing oil and fluid leaks with proper vehicle maintenance;
- Picking up pet waste;
- Never dumping any type of waste into gutters, catch basins or into the street.



A Moment with Mayor Russell B. Axelrod

Pesticides and herbicides are present in many products used by residents in the garden and around their homes. Many homeowners are unaware of these chemicals found in everyday products that can be purchased at the local hardware/garden store. When used in the garden or exterior of our homes, these chemicals can be transported in runoff and accumulate in our creeks and waterways – of which there are many in West Linn. For example, a recent sampling of metro area creeks by the U.S. Geological Survey found high concentrations of bifenthrin (ant killer) and fipronil (insect killer), in Tanner Creek in West Linn. The USGS study was not comprehensive of all drainages and conditions, but the results highlight a growing concern for environmental contamination and its potential ecological affects.

The West Linn Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) is in the process of documenting these and other chemical uses in our City as part of the Sustainable West Linn Strategic Plan passed by the City Council in 2015. The City and SAB also see an opportunity here to educate the residents of West Linn on the use of pesticides and herbicides by homeowners on their property, and to inform the community on alternative (eco-friendly) approaches to such chemical uses. The City has engaged an expert on alternatives to pesticides with the goal to explore steps the City and homeowners can take to help educate our community to reduce chemical uses and better protect our environment. These steps may include one or more community workshops or other outreach approaches. As more information is available we will update you on the opportunities being developed to educate each of us on alternatives to chemical uses around our homes.

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!

Marylhurst Neighborhood Association

Ice Cream Social- Saturday, September 17, 2-4 pm at Marylhurst Heights Park Shelter. Sundaes and fun for all ages!

Meeting- September 27, 7 pm at WL Adult Community Center. Nominations for MNA board and other important business.

Meeting- October 25, 7 pm at WL Adult Community Center. Elections for MNA board and other important business.

See agendas and minutes and sign-up for monthly emails at westlinnoregon.gov/marylhurst or contact President Karie Oakes at MarylhurstNA@westlinnoregon.gov or call 503-675-9697.

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association

Savanna Oaks NA continues to support the White Oak Savanna Natural Park and Significant Wildlife Habitat. Upcoming events include:

1. Approximately 50 visiting students from Japan, Taiwan and Korea volunteered at the Savanna on August 24th from 10 a.m. to noon.
2. The 6th Annual Festival at the Farm was held on September 10th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Fiala Farm, 21231 Johnson Rd., West Linn. This is a benefit for the Savanna. It included Lion's BBQ burgers and veggie burgers, music, artist's booths, fun things for kids to do, and farm fresh veggies, fruits, and dahlias. It also included a hay maze and a corn maze on this beautiful 56 acre farm.
3. Baja Fresh will be having a benefit for the Savanna from 10:30 am to 10 pm on September 25th at 17805 SW 65th Ave., Lake Oswego. Fifteen percent of your eat-in or to-go order will be donated to the Savanna if you say "Savanna" or "Park."

West Linn Wins



The West Linn High School Lions took the win in the 96th Battle for the Bridge on September 2. In the home opener for West Linn, the top-ranked Lions took down the Oregon City Pioneers with a score of 55-27. Not only was September 2 the Battle of the Bridge football game, but it was also deemed Oregon City-West Linn Rivalry day by the respective city councils. Pictured above are Oregon City Mayor Dan Holladay (left) and West Linn Mayor Russ Axelrod at the West Linn-Oregon City Rivalry Breakfast. West Linn High School and Oregon City High School have competed in the sport of football since 1921; at that time West Linn High School was known as Union High School. The game may be over but we are already looking forward to partaking in the tradition next year.

Robinwood Neighborhood Association



On August 27 the Robinwood Neighborhood Association held their summer picnic. It was well attended and offered a variety of activities, including music, food and, of course, ice cream! In addition, the picnic was a minimal waste event.

The Robinwood Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of the month at Robinwood Station. The NA can be contacted at RobinwoodNA@westlinnoregon.gov