



WEST LINN

UPDATE

November 2019

A Moment With Mayor Russ Axelrod Honoring our Perspectives

Our Fall weather has been particularly beautiful - I love this season of transition. I don't know if the colors are richer this year or if perhaps I am just seeing them from a different perspective?

Perspective is everything. As an example, I recently experienced a few health scares, wakeup calls if you will, that certainly caught my attention - and my perspective! Not to worry as my health is in great shape overall, and I'm very grateful for it, but health threats or health impacts are, and should be, life shaping.

It is sometimes easy to take our health for granted until it is challenged in some way. In reality, our health is so vital to our individual well-being, and it's critical to our connections with our loved ones and families, and to our community values and relations. This health awareness helps us frame meaningful perspectives on life, and it affects how we interact with others and the activities we engage in daily.

In whatever health challenges we might face, we also need compassion to care for and heal our loved ones, family, friends, and neighbors – in essence, care for our community. In my opinion, compassion and empathy are two of the most powerful emotions and characteristics we can demonstrate to build healthy communities, both locally and globally.

Compassion and empathy are also critical to healthy and effective public or civil discourse. We have observed lately at the federal level what unhealthy civil discourse looks like, and the consequences and impacts are full of dysfunction, disrespect, and even hate at times. But that is not the form of discourse we need or want in our community or nation. We are better than that, and we should set a better example at the local level for our community, especially for our children and their future.

Last year our City Council passed new guidance on civil discourse to improve public engagement, policy decisions, and processes. You can view this guidance on the City's website at westlinnoregon.gov/citycouncil/council-guidelines-civil-discourse. Civil discourse is basically mutually respectful, courteous, constructive and orderly communication.

When communicating we should assume the best in others. We should be tolerant and welcome different opinions by debating the issues and not attacking each other. Very importantly, we must listen better, be open to compromise, and remember that we all want what we believe is most important or valued in/for our community.

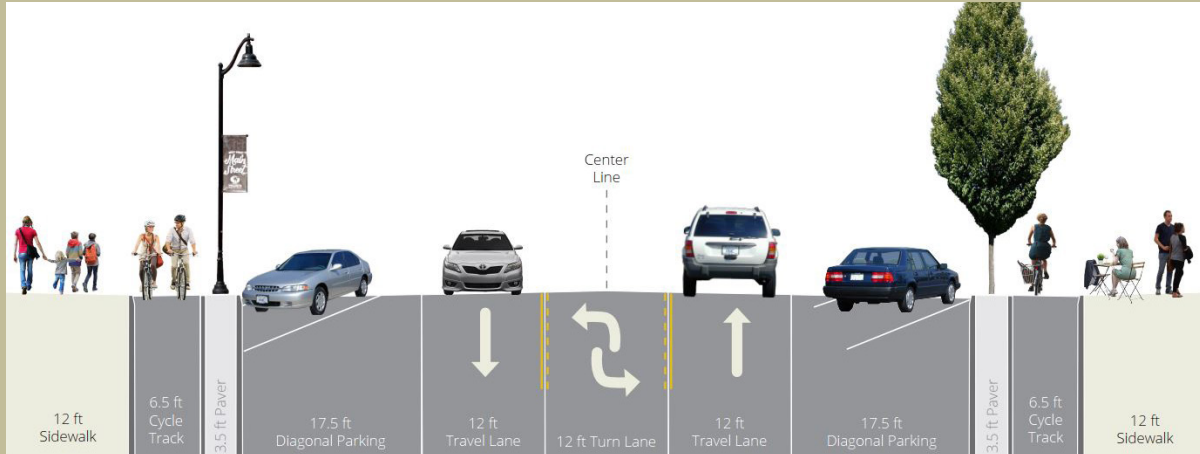
In the upcoming holiday period we will celebrate gratitude, appreciation, and thankfulness. Let us also embrace civil discourse and improve our communications by acknowledging and embracing our different ideas and opinions. We have so many great things to work on in our community – whether it be public safety/transportation projects, Main Street redevelopment, Post Office relocation, Waterfront Master Planning, parks renovations, rebuilding our schools, or acknowledging and embracing our cultural differences as we did at the successful Equity Summit recently. Let's be kind to each other and embrace our unique orientations toward issues – let's celebrate our different perspectives.



2018 GO Bond Updates

On May 15, 2018, the voters of West Linn approved Ballot Measure 3-527 authorizing the issuance of up to \$20 million in general obligation bonds to improve roads, parks, and city facilities. Here is an update on some of the GO bond Projects that have been in the works.

Historic Willamette Falls Drive



One of the most exciting GO Bond projects taking place in early 2020 is the redesign of Historic Willamette Falls Drive from 10th Street to 16th Street. The purpose of the project is to enhance the "Main Street" character of Willamette Falls Drive by refocusing the space to a pedestrian scale, while also accommodating biking, parking, and vehicle travel. The design will feature much wider 12-foot minimum width sidewalks, family-friendly bike facilities separated from vehicle traffic, improved decorative street lighting, enhanced landscaping, and safer intersections that accommodate handicap accessibility.

At the time of publication, a construction contract has not yet been awarded, so exact construction dates are not yet available. However, utility work in advance of construction will begin this winter. Demolition of existing landscape medians and curbs is projected to begin in January of 2020, with construction proposed to be significantly complete in June 2020. Utility, lighting, and landscaping work will continue throughout the 2020 calendar year based on weather, contractor availability, and lead times on equipment and materials. Willamette Falls Drive and all businesses will remain open during construction – be sure to shop local and show your support for our Willamette businesses!

National Fitness Court



On Saturday, September 24th, West Linn Parks and Recreation celebrated the grand opening of the National Fitness Court at Tanner Creek Park! Over 60 people participated in the two fitness classes that were offered that day, and an impromptu class was added for those who arrived later due to the demand. If you haven't already, we encourage you to download the Fitness Court App for iOS and Android, and check out the weekly classes added by Parks & Recreation on the app!

Sunset Fire Hall



Renovations to this heavily-utilized building called for updating restrooms, removal of lead paint, and new exterior paint. With minimal disruption to the facility's busy schedule of classes and events, all exterior renovations were completed on time and under budget. The fresh paint, wood trim accents, and necessary replacement of rotting wood give this building a new, crisp appearance. Interior renovations, which include updating restrooms and removal of lead paint, are expected to begin soon.



LIBRARY OF THINGS

WEST LINN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library of Things

The Library of Things is a unique collection of items available to borrow at the West Linn Public Library. This wide range of non-traditional items includes technology, arts & crafts, and home & garden tool items. Since launching in September, the most popular item that has been checked out is a film-to-digital converter! Stop by the Library to see what they have to offer, or view the Library of Things catalog online at westlinnoregon.gov/library.

Robert Moore Award

The Robert Moore Award was created by the West Linn City Council in 2013 to recognize individuals who contribute to the quality of life in our community without reward or recognition. Named after the founder of West Linn, Robert Moore, the award commemorates Moore's selfless decision to name the town he founded after his friend and mentor, Dr. Lewis Linn.

West Linn would not be where it is today without people like Robert Moore and the volunteers who take time out of their busy schedules to make our community a warm and welcoming place. If you know someone who spends his or her free time volunteering, helping their neighbors, making a difference in the lives of those around them or simply sharing acts of kindness with others, we encourage you to nominate them for the Robert Moore Award.

Nominations are due by Friday, December 27th and a winner will be announced and recognized in early 2020. Nomination forms are available on the West Linn homepage - westlinnoregon.gov.

Upcoming City Events

There are many fun things to do in West Linn around the holidays! Here are a few upcoming events for you and your family to attend and dates City offices will be closed:

- November 16 - January 1: Lighting of Maddax Woods
- November 28 - 29: City offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 6: Community Tree Lighting
- December 14: Ugly Holiday Sweater Dash
- December 14: Holiday Parade
- December 25: City offices closed for Christmas Holiday
- January 1: City offices closed for New Year Holiday



From the City Manager:

The City Manager's Role in Local Government

Recently I was invited to the Rosemont Summit Neighborhood Association (RSNA) to speak about the role of a city manager in local government. RSNA is doing a series called "Getting to Know West Linn City Government" and was interested in hearing about the history of the city manager in local government.

Professional city management is rooted in onset of the industrial age. In the late 1880's, new inventions and technology created new classes of super wealth in Europe and the United States. By the early 1900's, Chicago became the focal point of the political battle between labor and capital in the Gilded Age. The revelation of scandalous working conditions in the Union Stock Yards caused endless friction between business titans and labor forces. Political machines became the way of the working class to win the economic struggle, but they also gave rise to political patronage.

Government Should Run Like a Business

Industrialization led to new forms of work organization, development of the factory system, and formation of business corporations funded by issuance of stock (shareholders), governed by a board of directors and administered by a chief executive officer. In 1908, Staunton, Virginia appointed the first "general manager" to professionally oversee the administrative functions of the municipal government. In 1912, Sumter, South Carolina adopted the first council-manager form of government.

In 1914, the first meeting of the new International City Manager's Association (ICMA) was held with 32 participating local governments in the United States and Canada which had adopted the council-manager plan. Today there are over 3,000 "council-manager" local governments officially recognized by ICMA, including West Linn, with thousands more that hire city managers/administrators, but are not officially recognized.

Professional city managers and ICMA members are expected to follow a 12-Tenet Code of Ethics which includes maintaining the highest ideals of honor and integrity, being dedicated to the concepts of effective and democratic local government, and refraining from engaging in political activities. According to Moody's Bond Rating Service, two-thirds of AAA rated (the highest municipal bond rating) cities have the council-manager plan in place.

City Manager Position in West Linn

The position and powers of the West Linn City Manager are established and spelled out in the West Linn City Charter. The City Council is the legislative body of the City. The Council sets goals for the City, approves the budget, and determines the policy direction of the City. The City Manager is the chief administrative officer and carries out the policies, programs, and projects on behalf of City Council with the budget they approve. The simplest distinction between the two is that the City Council sets policy and the City Manager carries it out.

Prepare for Winter Road Conditions

Winter is upon us and the changing of the season brings the possibility of hazardous road conditions. The Public Works Department's Snow and Ice Removal Plan places equipment on designated principal routes throughout the City. These routes are designated to enable the accessibility of emergency vehicles, school buses, and residents to all major areas of the City. The Public Works Department, along with the West Linn Police Department, determines the condition of roadways and whether or not they should be closed. In a severe storm, only primary routes are maintained. When the storm subsides, and conditions are safe for sanding crews, route maintenance is expanded to additional roadways.

Several of the City's streets with steep grades are especially hazardous, and will likely be closed when snow and ice accumulate. They are:

- Marylhurst Drive from Hillcrest to Lower Midhill
- Hidden Springs from Bluegrass Way to Cottonwood Court
- Pimlico Drive from Palomino Way to Willamette Drive
 - Summit Street from Rosemont Road to Skyline
- 12th Street from Tualatin Avenue to Volpp Street
- Skye Parkway from Troon Drive to Hillside Drive

When these roads are closed, motorists are advised to use Rosemont Road (within City limits) to Summit Street to Cornwall to Sunset Avenue. Another route is Rosemont Road (within City limits) to Salamo Road to 10th Street. Pimlico Drive will be included as an access route unless conditions become too hazardous for travel. These routes will be a priority for sanding and plowing to assure available routes from the upper areas to the lower areas of the City and freeway.

The City's main goal is to maintain streets for your safe commute during hazardous weather conditions, but snow tires and/or chains may still be needed to safely navigate City streets. Stay up-to-date on road conditions by following the City on Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, and by visiting the City website at westlinnoregon.gov.



Neighborhood News

Not sure which Neighborhood Association you live in? Visit WestLinnOregon.gov!

Marylhurst Neighborhood Association

Marylhurst Neighborhood Association's purpose is to maintain and improve the quality of life for residents of our neighborhood. Our members gather together to form and support this association because they recognize that they may effectively and positively influence activities that affect their quality of life by acting collectively rather than individually. We seek to serve the neighborhood by having individuals and families of diverse needs, interests and backgrounds and beliefs, and will strive to respect that diversity.

Check us out at Westlinnoregon.gov/Marylhurst and sign up to get our newsletter. Our members are all residents in the approximate area of Marylhurst Dr. above View Dr., Hillcrest Dr. and Suncrest Dr. to Carriage Way and their feeder streets.

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association

Savanna Oaks NA conducted the following business during the last quarter:

- Firewise certificate renewal was approved for SONA which means that we met the requirements to help keep us safe from wildfires.
- Scientists working on their Masters and PhD theses visited the White Oak Savanna and documented the various species of Gall wasps which lay eggs in the galls which they induce on the oak trees. This is a symbiotic relationship between the wasps and trees and does no harm to the Oaks.
- SONA passed a resolution stating that any Natural Play Area constructed in the park should be compatible with a natural wildlife habitat.

- Plans were made for a group of Adult Girl Scouts to visit the White Oak Savanna in October.

Rosemont Summit Neighborhood Association

The Rosemont Summit NA meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the West Linn Adult Community Center. Join us at one of our volunteer opportunities, taking place the second Saturday of every month from 9am-12pm at Sahallie Illahee (SI) Park. We're also involved in the clean-up efforts at Wilderness Park, which takes place the fourth Saturday of the month at 9am. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at rosemontsummitna@westlinnoregon.gov.