

# THE OWL

*The official newsletter of the City of West Linn*



Tualatin River, West Linn ©Swiftshore

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US THIS SPRING!**

**BE 2 WEEKS READY FOR  
EMERGENCIES\***



*Rory Bialostosky*

## Dear West Linn Residents,

As we welcome the arrival of spring, I want to take a moment to update you on some key initiatives that your City Council has been working on.

This year, our focus is on ensuring the adoption of two significant planning projects that will help improve our quality of life: the VISION43 Plan and the Waterfront Plan.

The VISION43 Plan aims to chart our community's collective vision for the future of the Highway 43 corridor. Our work on VISION43 is setting the stage for the City to be able to pursue funding for improvements to the roadway itself. I am committed to working with our partners to secure funding to improve Highway 43.

We are also working on finalizing the Waterfront Plan, which will guide the future of the critical area surrounding Willamette Falls. We are all excited about the potential to enhance access and opportunities around one of our region's hidden gems. Did you know that Willamette Falls is the second-largest waterfall in the United States by volume? Visit [yourwestlinn.com](http://yourwestlinn.com) to learn more about these two projects.

Lastly, we will be engaging with the community regarding critical City infrastructure needs and how to fund these investments. Things like vital improvements to our city's water system, traffic and pedestrian safety projects in neighborhoods and on our busy streets are things that are top of mind. This conversation can be daunting, as our City's needs will always outpace available funding. That said, it is also exciting and important.

**Mark your calendars for my *State of the City Address* at the West Linn Public Library on Tuesday, May 6th at 6pm, reception to follow!**

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

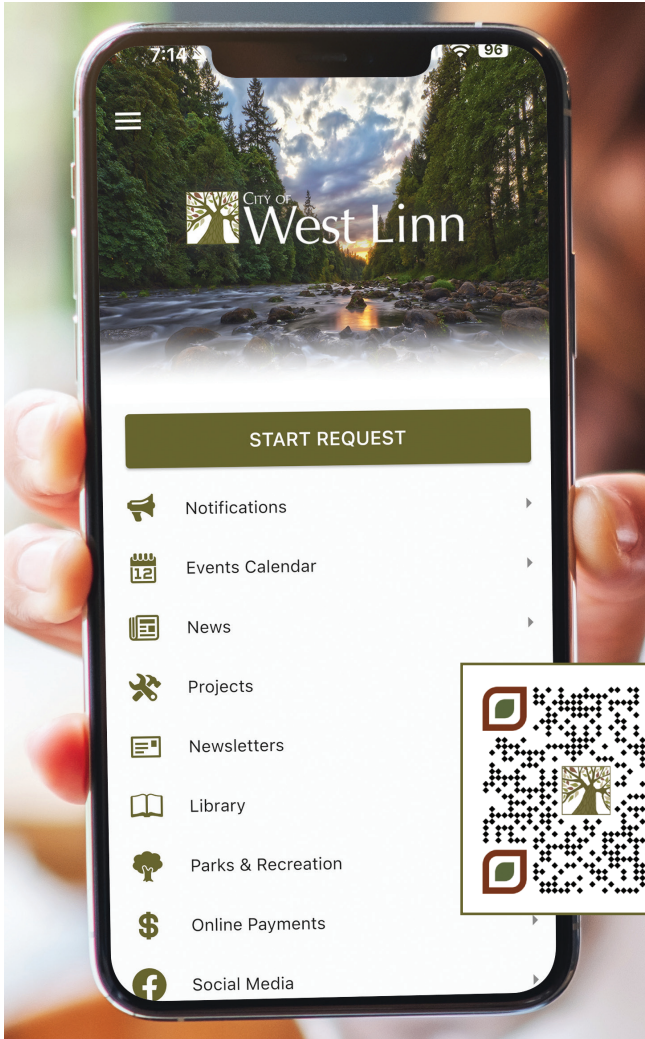
– Mayor Rory Bialostosky WLHS '18





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Linn**

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



## LET'S CONNECT ON THE WEST LINN APP!

West Linn Connect, the smart-phone app by the City of West Linn, is now available to download for free on Apple and Android devices at [onelink.to/westlinnconnect](https://onelink.to/westlinnconnect). The app lets users submit service requests for issues like potholes or clogged storm drains, and provides automatic notifications when requests are completed. Push notifications keep users informed of emergencies, including road closures and shelter openings, while the app also offers access to community events, staff Q&A, and improved website search features.

## Library Speakers Consortium

Did you know the library offers three live virtual author events per month? These talks feature a vibrant mix of best-selling authors and Pulitzer Prize winners on a wide range of interesting topics. Books and authors selected cover a wide range of fiction and non-fiction genres including historical fiction, contemporary fiction, romance, Own Voices, poetry, business, personal growth, social justice, history, art, culture and more. Visit [libraryc.org/westlinnlibrary](https://libraryc.org/westlinnlibrary) to see past recordings and to sign up to view upcoming talks.

## PUPS & PODS



Meet our newest library dog, RYDER! He and GUNNAR (right) will eventually be part of our Tales to Tails program.



### GRAB A POD: HERON, ORCA, OTTO or OWL

The library now offers two single-person pods and two two-person pods for studying, virtual meetings, phone calls, and more. Usage rules are similar to those of the Trillium Room—each user can have one active reservation at a time, bookings are available up to 28 days in advance, and reservations are held for no more than 15 minutes after the start time. Visit [westlinnoregon.gov/library/rooms](https://westlinnoregon.gov/library/rooms) to make a reservation using your LINCC library card.





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# LOCAL EVENTS



*Summer is just around the corner, bringing plenty of fun with it! Get ready for an exciting season filled with activities you won't want to miss!*



*This Spring & Summer the West Linn Parks & Recreation Department would like to challenge you to help #FreeTheTrees! Help the trees on your own property by following the steps below or join in at a work party where you can volunteer to help our precious trees.*

As a Tree City USA, The West Linn Parks & Recreation Department actively engages in efforts to combat invasive ivy and other non-native species in the city's parks and natural areas. In partnership excellent volunteers, the department hosts regular volunteer events to remove ivy and other invasive plants.

Removing invasive English ivy (*Hedera helix*) from trees in West Linn, and throughout the Pacific Northwest is crucial for maintaining the health of our urban and forest ecosystems. This aggressive non-native plant has spread extensively and poses significant threats to trees and native biodiversity in our region.

## VOLUNTEER WITH US:

[westlinnoregon.gov/parksrec/mary-s-young-park](http://westlinnoregon.gov/parksrec/mary-s-young-park)

**1st Saturday of the Month** - Mary S. Young Park  
**3rd Saturday of the Month** - Burnside Park  
**3rd Saturday of the Month** - Maddax Woods  
**3rd Saturday of the Month** - Willamette Park  
**3rd Sunday of the Month** - Fields Bridge Park

**Protect our greatest asset: the trees!**



## POLLINATOR WEEK CELEBRATION

June 20, 2025 | 4-7pm  
 Mary S. Young Pollinator Garden

## WEST LINN OLD TIME FAIR

July 11-13, 2025  
 Willamette Park

## MUSIC IN THE PARK

July 24-August 21, 2025 | 6:30-8:30pm  
 Thursdays at Tanner Creek Park

## MOVIES IN THE PARK

August 5-19, 2025 | Dusk  
 Tuesdays at Willamette Park

## FALL FEST IN THE FOREST

October 18, 2025 | 11am-2pm  
 Mary S. Young Park



Scan the  
 QR code to  
 see the full  
 list of  
 Community  
 Events!

# SPRING INTO READING: SAVE THESE DATES!

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM starts June 15th.** Kids and teens read at least 20 minutes a day for 25 days for a total of 500 minutes. Adults can participate too using our Bingo log. Once you reach your goal, you'll receive a ticket to enter into our grand prize raffle.

Visit [westlinnoregon.gov/library](http://westlinnoregon.gov/library) for more opportunities.

**TERRIFIC TUESDAY Events for Kids** will be held at the main stage at Willamette Park every Tuesday in July. We offer two programs, at 10am and 11:30am. Bring your picnic, a blanket, and your library card so you can check out books while you are there.

**KINDERGARTEN CARNIVAL starts October 8th**, with registration opening in September. Kindergartners will meet the Book Fairy, plus take home a free book, an activity packet a STEAM Kit for hands-on exploration, a 3D printed object, and a token for late fines.





# TOOLS & TIPS



*Embrace the changing seasons in our vibrant city by planning ahead and stepping into new opportunities fully prepared.*

## LET'S GO!



Oregon has experienced a recent cycle of emergencies and disasters, including floods, drought, wildfires, ice storms, excessive heat, and a pandemic. Disasters can happen anywhere, at any time and it could take days to weeks for first responders or supplies to reach you. That's why everyone should take steps to "Be 2 Weeks Ready." Being 2 Weeks Ready means having an emergency plan



and enough supplies for you and everyone in your household to survive for at least two weeks following a disaster.

The *Be 2 Weeks Ready* Program has been adopted by the City as a fun and accessible way to enhance community and household preparedness. The Program is delivered via the Be 2 Weeks Ready Tool Kit. This program is organized into eight user-friendly lessons and an activity book filled with helpful hints, fun projects and resources to help you prepare for a disaster. Individuals can work through the lessons alone at your own pace, or with a group lead by a local Community Host. Working together is a great way to build community resilience and get to know your neighbors so you can support each other, as well as help elderly and vulnerable neighbors near you during an emergency. Visit our website for more information:

[westlinnoregon.gov/westlinnready/be-2-weeks-ready](http://westlinnoregon.gov/westlinnready/be-2-weeks-ready)

By the end of the program, you'll be confident and prepared when the next disaster strikes!



The City of West Linn works with fire specialists, such as our partners at Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R) and Oregon Department of Forestry staff to assess and reduce wildfire risk in City spaces. Now is the best time to start preparing your home for wildfire season. Small fires become large incidents when dry fuels are left near the home, in gutters or on roofs and become ignited by fire embers. Even far-off wildfires can impact air quality and affect public health, especially for those with chronic health conditions. Learn how to prepare your home for wildfire season and find resources to reduce the health effects of wildfire smoke at our Heat and Wildfire Safety Website: [westlinnoregon.gov/communications/heat-wildfire-safety](http://westlinnoregon.gov/communications/heat-wildfire-safety)



### STAY INFORMED:

The City of West Linn utilizes Clackamas County's Public Alerts system to notify residents of critical emergency issues affecting life and health safety. Emergency messages could include notices to evacuate, shelter-in-place, boil water or other extremely important information. Please sign up now to ensure you receive urgent emergency messages via email, text, or phone at [clackamas.us/dm/publicalerts](http://clackamas.us/dm/publicalerts)

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

From water main breaks to downed power lines to gas leaks, here is a handy list of who to contact during an emergency.

**EMERGENCY:** Call 911  
**NON-EMERGENCY:** (503) 635-0238  
**POLICE BUSINESS OFFICE:** (503) 655-6214

**FIRE? CALL TVF&R:**  
 Emergency: 911  
 Non-Emergency (503) 649-8577

**POWER OUTAGE OR POWER LINE ISSUE:**  
 PGE - (503) 464-7777  
[portlandgeneral.com/outage](http://portlandgeneral.com/outage)

**SMELL GAS? CALL:**  
 NW Natural - (800) 882-3377  
[nwnatural.com](http://nwnatural.com)

**WEST LINN PUBLIC WORKS:**  
 (503) 656-6081 - 7AM - 4:30PM  
 (503) 635-0238 - After Hours

**HIGHWAY 43/TRAFFIC SIGNALS:**  
 ODOT - (888) 275-6368  
[oregon.gov/odot](http://oregon.gov/odot)

#ClackCo   
 PublicAlerts



## Ask the CITY MANAGER



WITH JOHN WILLIAMS

City of West Linn



# IT'S BUDGET SEASON!

Every two years, the City of West Linn adopts a municipal budget. The budget determines how many employees we hire, what equipment we buy, what construction projects we work on, and much more. The budget also provides transparency into City finances, so the community knows how public funds are spent. The budget to be adopted by June covers the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027. Here are three things you need to know about our budget process:

### 1. West Linn's budget must be balanced, and it's binding.

Cities in Oregon must have balanced budgets, with expenses matching revenues. If revenues go down, our expenses must go down as well unless we dig into our limited savings. The budget is binding

once adopted unless amended by formal action of the City Council.

### 2. West Linn's budget process is public.

Right now, staff are working to develop a proposed budget for community and Council consideration. We'll address City Council priorities, tackle infrastructure needs, and propose staffing levels, and put it all into a draft budget that will be released around May 15.

After that, public review starts. The public has access to all budget information and can provide ideas and comments to decision-makers. The first step is Budget Committee review. The Budget Committee is the Mayor, City Councilors, and five community members, and will meet in May or June (check the City's website for dates). All meetings are public and public comment

is encouraged!

The Budget Committee sends a recommendation to City Council, which must hold public hearings and adopt the budget by June 30th.

### 3. How to learn more and get involved.

Our Finance Department staff do an amazing job making the City's budget easy to understand and monitor. The City's website has copies of the current and previous budgets, an easy-to-use financial dashboard offering insight into all our funds, staff contact information, and more. Simply search online for "City of West Linn budget" to learn more.

If you have questions please reach out by email or phone, or just drop by City Hall. All your ideas and questions are appreciated!

We'll be including information about the budget process in our electronic newsletter (I hope you're signed up for that?) and on our social media (ditto). We'll try to make it easy for you

## WEST LINN WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WONDERING WHAT'S UP IN WEST LINN?

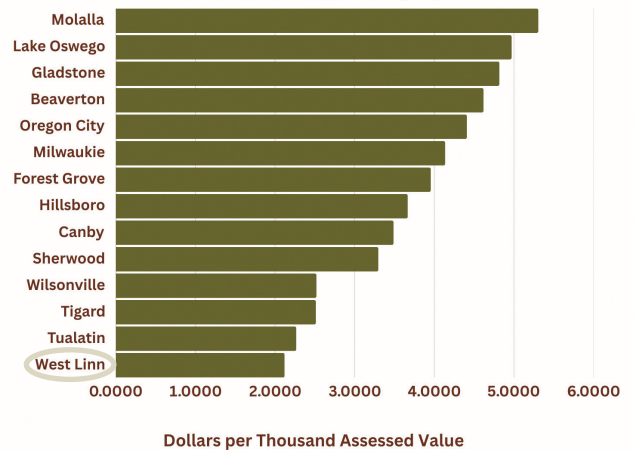
*Sign up for our free weekly digital newsletter by scanning this QR code with the camera in your phone, then clicking the link.*

The City of West Linn also uses social media in a variety of ways to communicate and connect the West Linn community. Find all of them in one convenient, mobile-friendly interface at [linktr.ee/westlinn](https://linktr.ee/westlinn)



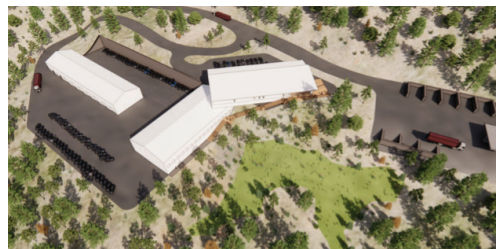
## Permanent Property Tax Rate Comparison\*

\*For general illustrative purposes. Graph does not fully account for differences in services (such as Fire/EMS).



to follow along and stay informed. Budgeting is just about the most important thing we do, and I'm proud of the work our elected officials, volunteers, and staff do. Hope to see you at one of our meetings this spring!

## OPERATIONS CENTER



The new facility will accommodate the City's Public Works, Park Maintenance, and Building Facilities Departments and will provide them with ample work and material storage space. The current facility does not have heated garages or storage facilities, does not have a space for crew trainings, and has inadequate bulk goods storage. As a result, crews must winterize equipment after each use and store some equipment outside, train separately, and are unable to reduce cost of materials by buying them in bulk.

The City has acquired 32 acres of property from the Oregon Department of Transportation adjacent to Salamo Road and overlooking I-205 with the intent of building a new operations complex, replacing the City's existing two-acre site located near Sunset Avenue between Sussex and Norfolk. The City has begun initial design work and this Spring brought on an Owner's Representative to assist in finalizing design, aiding in the procurement of construction services, and provide construction management.



# KEY HOUSING GAPS

While West Linn is generally considered an affluent community, not all households are wealthy. About 40% of households in the city earn less than \$100k and nearly 20% of households earn less than \$50k per year. Like many communities across the country, homeownership costs have risen significantly, creating affordability challenges for many residents.

The Housing Capacity Analysis (HCA) projects that West Linn will need approximately 1,000 new housing units over the next 20 years to meet future demand.

## KEY HOUSING GAPS IDENTIFIED INCLUDE:

- **Affordable housing for low-income households**
- **Expanded housing options within neighborhoods, such as middle housing (duplexes, town homes, cottage clusters)**
- **Affordable homeownership opportunities for middle- and low-income households, including small single-family homes and condos**
- **Multi-family housing and housing in mixed-use development**

A working group appointed by City Council played a key role in shaping the plan, ultimately proposing 12 strategies focused on increasing housing diversity, improving affordability, and supporting long-term growth. The Housing Production Strategy (HPS) Report highlights West Linn's most pressing housing needs and summarizes public engagement efforts that helped shape the recommended strategies. The plan also emphasizes the importance of fair and equitable housing outcomes, particularly for low-income households, communities of color, people with disabilities, and other state and federally protected classes. Finally, the HPS outlines how the City will track and monitor progress to ensure the recommended strategies are implemented effectively.



Neighborhood Associations (NAs) are a vital part of West Linn, bringing neighbors together to shape the future of their communities. Unlike Homeowners Associations, NAs are open, volunteer-driven groups that foster connection, collaboration, and meaningful civic engagement. With eleven NAs across the city, residents, property owners, and local businesses have the opportunity to get involved, share ideas, and make a real impact on neighborhood livability. Join your NA today and be a voice for your community! Learn more at [westlinnoregon.gov/neighborhoods](http://westlinnoregon.gov/neighborhoods).



## EXPLORE A CAREER AS A FIREFIGHTER

**Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue invites young women ages 16 to 22 to apply for the Portland Metro Fire Camp, an immersive experience designed to build confidence, leadership, and teamwork.** Participants will receive hands-on training in essential firefighting skills, including hose and ladder techniques, vehicle extrication, search and rescue, live-fire operations, and emergency medical response.

Professional female firefighters from multiple agencies will provide mentorship, career insights, and guidance on physical fitness, nutrition, and interview preparation. **This free camp takes place June 20-22 at TVF&R's Training Center in Sherwood.** Applications open March 3, with space for up to 50 participants. The deadline to apply is May 12 at midnight. Learn more and apply at [portlandmetrofirecamp.com](http://portlandmetrofirecamp.com).

## WEST LINN IS PARTNERING WITH BE SMART TO PROVIDE SAFE GUN STORAGE OPTIONS AND BRING AWARENESS TO GUN SAFETY

Very soon, West Linn officers will be carrying gun locks (provided at no cost to us) in their patrol cars so they can be issued to families if and when an unsecured gun is encountered in a home.

**BE SMART** will also partner with us at the Old Time Fair to provide information and gun locks to those who need them. We will have the **BE SMART** poster and information up in lobby and we can also issue gun locks to those who need them.

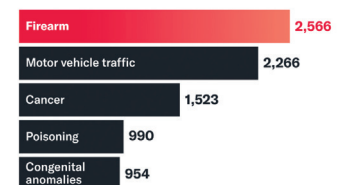
### Here's how to Be SMART and protect your family:

- S** **Secure** all guns in your home and vehicles
- M** **Model** responsible behavior around guns
- A** **Ask** about unsecured guns in other homes and vehicles
- R** **Recognize** the role of guns in suicide
- T** **Tell** your friends and neighbors to Be SMART

BeSMARTforKids.org



Firearms are the **leading cause of death** for American children.



BeSMARTforKids.org

CCC, WONDER, Underlying Cause of Death, 2003, Ages 1-17







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Linn**

# WHAT'S AHEAD



*Designing impactful projects that cultivate growth, ensure sustainability, and strengthen our vibrant community.*



## McLEAN HOUSE ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The City is proud to announce that the Dr. Edward and Anne McLean House is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places! This designation recognizes its historical and architectural significance, ensuring its preservation for future generations.

Built in 1927, the 4,500-square-foot Colonial Revival home was constructed by Dr. Edward H. McLean, a respected Clackamas County physician, and his wife, Anne. Dr. McLean lived there until 1969 before moving to a nursing home, passing away in 1972.

In 1969, Dr. McLean sold the property to the City for \$27,500—well below its appraised value—to be used for outdoor recreation. The McLean family initially intended to donate the home, reflecting their commitment to its preservation. Designated a local historic landmark in 1984, the house has

long been a cultural site for Native Americans, early pioneers, and the West Linn community.

For over 40 years, the City partnered with the Friends of McLean House, a nonprofit that restored and managed the home as a venue for weddings and events. The group disbanded in 2022, returning management to the City. The home remains closed due to the Abernethy Bridge construction.

Dr. McLean was a key figure in local health-care, founding the Physicians Association of Clackamas County (PACC), which played a major role in mid century healthcare and provided services to West Linn mill workers.

## WEST LINN'S NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTIES

The McLean House joins West Linn's Historic City Hall as a City-owned National Historic Landmark. Other listed properties include:

- **Willamette Falls Locks**
- **Willamette River Arch Bridge No. 357**
- **Willamette Historic District**
- **Nicholas O. Walden House** (1847 5th Avenue)
- **Lewthwaite-Moffat House** (4891 Willamette Falls Drive)

A community celebration of this historic recognition is planned for spring. Share your memories and photos of the McLean House on the City's engagement page via the QR code.



The City is continuing to actively seek public input. Additional open houses, neighborhood meetings, and outreach events focused on the proposed mixed-use zone code option are planned for Summer 2025 to ensure broad community input helps shape the final Vision43 Corridor Plan. Learn more at [yourwestlinn.com/vision43](https://yourwestlinn.com/vision43)



*Scan the  
QR code  
to see the  
Full Updates  
of the Latest  
Projects!*

## WATERLINE REPLACEMENT

As part of ensuring a safe and reliable water distribution system, crews will be replacing sections of water main throughout the City. Locations were determined based on water main condition, material, and functionality within the broader system. Replacement will modernize water mains and make future repairs and maintenance easier and less disruptive to residents. Sections of water main on Upper Midhill Drive, Arbor Drive, Reed Street, Sunset Avenue, Parker Road, Dollar Street, Santa Anita Drive, and new services across HWY 43 will be replaced this spring with construction lasting into the summer.



Following completion of water main improvements, the City's summer Road Program will repave the sections of roads impacted by the water main projects. By first replacing underground utilities and then repaving the full width of the road, motorists will have a smoother ride and there will be fewer trench patches, which helps to reduce the likelihood of new potholes forming.



WEST LINN  
**WATERFRONT**  
PROJECT

## WEST LINN WATERFRONT VISION PLAN MOVES FORWARD

*The Vision Plan will be brought forward for adoption by City Council later this year. The next phase of the project includes zoning and transportation analysis, development code changes, and a financing plan.*



**RETURN TO:**  
City of West Linn  
22500 Salamo Rd.  
West Linn, OR 97068



Willamette River, West Linn



# GET IN TOUCH

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(503) 657-0331  
[westlinnoregon.gov](http://westlinnoregon.gov)  
22500 Salamo Rd.  
West Linn, OR 97068

# OPPENLANDER UPDATE



**WEST LINN, OR – February 25, 2025**  
After careful consideration and extensive discussion, including public meetings on February 18 and February 25 which followed years of dialogue between City Council and community stakeholders, the City Council has decided not to pursue a new bond measure this May to cover the increased cost of purchasing the Oppenlander Property from the West Linn-Wilsonville School District. This unanimous decision comes after a serious consideration of the City’s present realities, including an uncertain economic climate, the very short timeline requested by the School District, and the increased asking price of \$7.875 million—all of which must be responsibly weighed against the City’s many existing budget and Council priorities. Instead of a new bond measure, the City will actively pursue a compromise in the form of a public-private partnership (such as purchasing a portion of the property to remain a park rather than all ten acres). Oppenlander news can change quickly. For the latest updates, scan the QR code to the left or visit [westlinnoregon.gov/citycouncil/oppenlander-property](http://westlinnoregon.gov/citycouncil/oppenlander-property)