

THE WL

The official newsletter of the City of West Linn



Tualatin River, West Linn
Photo by Bill Jack Waterman



John Williams
City Manager

HELLO WEST LINN!

Welcome to the 5th edition of our OWL newsletter—landing in about 10,000 mailboxes twice a year. We love hearing how much you enjoy the OWL, thank you for the comments and suggestions. Special thanks to one of our school-age readers, Marie D., who asked us to include games and activities for kids. Marie, check out the Owl on page 2 just for you!

While this print newsletter comes out only twice a year, don't forget you can stay even more connected through our weekly e-newsletter and social media (details on the next page).

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BUDGET NEWS

This summer the City Council adopted a new two-year budget—the roadmap for how we provide services and invest in our community. We know there are things you'd like to see more of: safer crosswalks, more traffic enforcement, better upkeep of natural areas, and new projects to make West Linn even more walkable. But here's the challenge: for every property tax dollar you pay, the City only receives about 13 cents—which makes it tough to fund everything the community would like.

A SHOUT-OUT TO SUMMER FUN

From the Old Time Fair to Movies in the Park, the Wednesday Summer Market, and Music in the Park—it's been a packed summer of community fun. None of it happens without the energy of great volunteers and our amazing city staff. If you enjoyed those summer events with friends, music, and good food, be sure to join me in thanking the folks who made it happen!

Now get ready...fall and winter community events are just around the corner. Check out some favorites on page 3.

See you around town,
John



CITY OF
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Linn**

CITY DETAILS & UPDATES



WELCOME STEVE!

We're excited to announce **Steve Koper** is West Linn's new *Community Development Director*. Steve comes to us from the City of Tualatin and has 18 years of experience helping Oregon communities grow safely and thrive. He'll be leading planning, building, housing, and economic development efforts—plus moving forward big projects like Vision43 and the Waterfront. We're lucky to have him on the team!

Fall is HERE!!!

It's Time to Turn Off Your Outdoor Irrigation Systems

Plants are going into their dormant stage which means they do not need any supplemental water. If you haven't already done so, it is time to turn off your outdoor irrigation systems and drain them for the winter to prevent freezing.

Putting Your Irrigation System to Bed for the Winter

Water left in the pipes of your irrigation system can freeze over winter, causing damage to the entire system. You owe it to yourself to make an annual habit of winterizing your irrigation system. That means removing the remaining water from the pipes so there's nothing to expand when temperatures dip down below freezing.

There are three basic methods for draining water from your irrigation system. Which method you should use will depend on the type of irrigation system you have.

MANUAL VALVE SYSTEM

Some irrigation systems are equipped with manual drainage that allows you to empty excess water from the system by simply opening a valve. If you have such a system, shut off the supply of water to the system, look for the manual valves at the ends and low points

of the piping. Open all of the valves and drain the water from the system, including the backflow assembly.

AUTOMATIC VALVE SYSTEM

Other irrigation systems are equipped with valves that will automatically drain water out of the pipes if pressure falls below a certain number of pounds per square inch (PSI). These can be activated by turning off the water supply and briefly running one of the sprinkler heads to relieve the water pressure in the system. You may still need to drain the water between the shut off valve and the backflow assembly. If the sprinkler heads are equipped with check valves, you will need to empty those separately.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM BLOW-OUT

The final method of winterizing your irrigation system is to force compressed air through the system to discharge excess water through the sprinkler heads. This method is potentially hazardous, both to the wrong types of irrigation systems and to anyone who attempts to do this without taking the proper safety precautions. If you've never worked with compressed air or have blown out an irrigation system, we highly recommend you hire a licensed landscape professional for assistance.

Winterizing your irrigation system is a critical part of annual irrigation system maintenance. It can save you from having to pay for the repair of costly leaks and water line breaks in the spring. Visit the Clackamas River Water Providers website at www.clackamasproviders.org for more information about how to protect your home water systems from freezing and more indoor and outdoor water conservation tips.

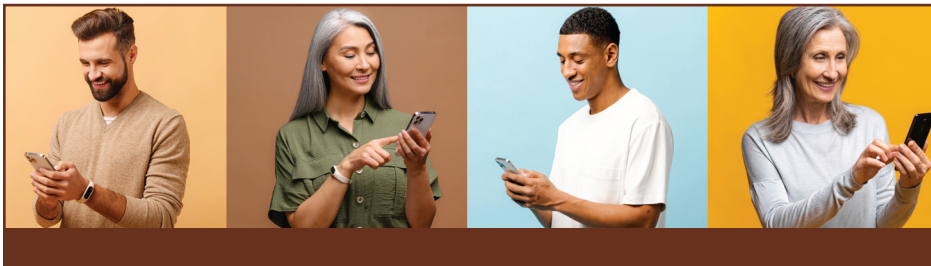
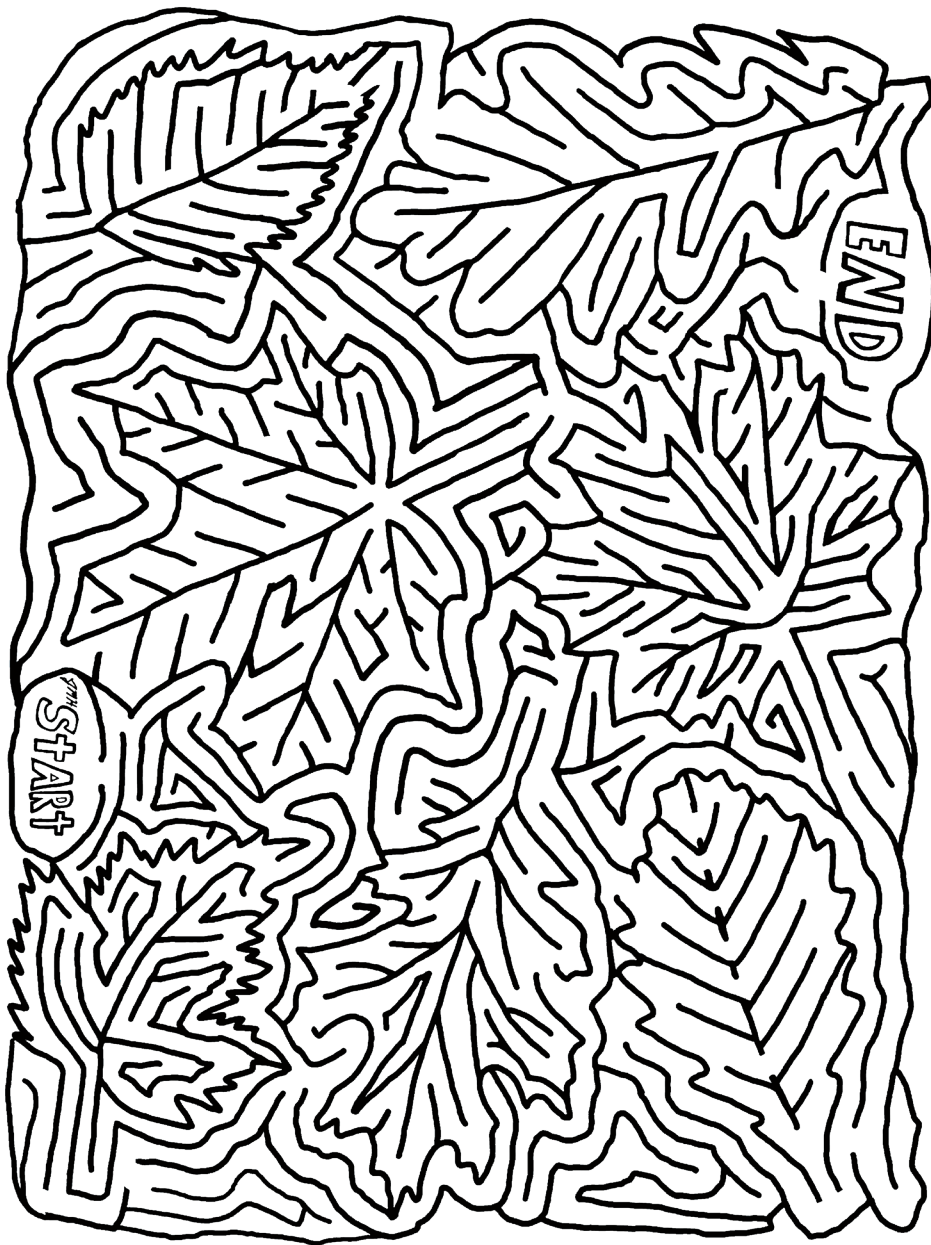


WONDERING WHAT'S UP IN WEST LINN?

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





DISCOVER MORE ON THE WEST LINN APP TODAY!



Stay connected with West Linn like never before with the new West Linn Connect app, now available for free on Apple and Android devices! From reporting potholes to receiving real-time emergency updates, this app puts the city's services at your fingertips—read on to discover how it can make life in our community even easier.

A LIBRARY OF OPPORTUNITIES



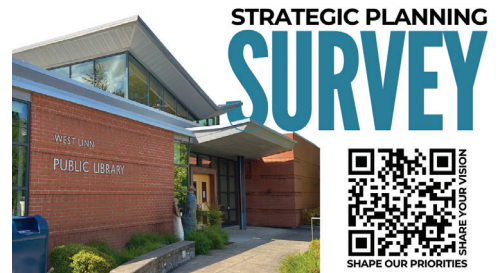
GET COOKING WITH LIBRARY CHEF

The library now offers Library Chef for West Linn cardholders. This resource includes cooking videos for kids, teens, and adults, along with insights from professional nutritionists and guest chefs from around the world. Enjoy three live classes each month, plus a library of past recordings available at your convenience. Get started at westlinn.librarychef.com. (Tip: when registering for a free account, put your West Linn zipcode in the Library Card field.)



AV CONVERSION STATION

Preserving old media is easy with the library's do-it-yourself AV Conversion Station! Our equipment allows you to convert audio cassettes, records, and VHS home videos into easy-to-share digital files. The self-service station is located in the library's computer lab and is available first-come first-serve during library hours. Conversion happens in real-time; a two-hour video will take two hours to convert. Please note that the library cannot guarantee original media will not be damaged when using this equipment.



STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY

We're gathering feedback as part of our next strategic planning process to better understand your experience with the West Linn Public Library. Your input will help us improve our collections, programs, services, and spaces to ensure the library continues to meet the evolving needs of our community. **The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and will run from Tuesday, September 2 through Monday, November 3rd.** All responses are confidential and will be used solely to guide improvements. We appreciate your participation and support in helping us make the library even better for everyone!

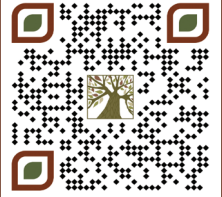


LOCAL EVENTS



Autumn is here, and with it comes a season of fun in West Linn!

Join us for exciting events and activities the whole community can enjoy. Don't miss the chance to celebrate the season!



FALL FESTIVAL IN THE FOREST

October 18 | 11am-2pm

Mary S Young Park

Set among the trees of Mary S. Young Park, Fall Fest in the Forest is a charming, family-friendly celebration of all things autumn. This event blends vintage autumn vibes with seasonal fun, featuring trick-or-treat stations, live entertainment, cozy fall décor, and activities for all ages. Visitors can enjoy, festive treats, and interactive experiences while soaking in the crisp fall air and vibrant foliage. It's the perfect way to welcome the season and gather as a community in a magical forest setting.



HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

December 5 | 6-8pm

West Linn City Hall

West Linn's Holiday Tree Lighting and Community Celebration brings neighbors together for an evening of festive cheer at City Hall. Enjoy live caroling, cocoa, crafts, treats, and a special visit from Santa, culminating in the magical lighting of the community tree.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

November 15 & 16 | 9am-3pm

West Linn Adult Community Center

This event is free and will feature over 40 local vendors with unique and gift worthy handcrafted items - just in time for the holidays! Homemade cinnamon rolls will be available for purchase!



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

SMELL GAS? CALL:
NW Natural - (800) 882-3377
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

STAY INFORMED:

The City of West Linn, the West Linn Police Department and the West Linn/Wilsonville School District use FlashAlert for emergency notifications.

FlashAlert is one of the best ways to get informed of road closures, emergencies, press releases, and other urgent information. Receive updates for West Linn here:
flashalert.net/id/CityofWestLinn

STAY IN TOUCH:

Sign Up for West Linn's Weekly Email Newsletter -
westlinnoregon.gov/e-news
Clackamas County Public Alerts -
clackamas.us/dm/publicalerts



HOLIDAY PARADE: A JOLLY GINGERBREAD JUBILEE!

December 13 | 5pm

Historic Willamette Main Street

Join us for a magical evening at "A Jolly Gingerbread Jubilee" Holiday Parade in historic downtown Willamette! Starting at 5:00 PM, this joy-filled celebration will light up the streets with festive floats, cheerful music, and the spirit of the season. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the sights and sounds of the holidays—let's spread some warmth and kindness together!



SWEETHEART FAMILY DANCE

February 14 | 6-8pm

West Linn Adult Community Center

Bust a move with the whole family! Twirl the night away with your favorite little one—dance, sparkle, and make memories under the disco lights!



WILLAMETTE RIVER PLUNGE

January 3 | 12pm

Bernert Landing Boat Ramp (Willamette Park)

Plunge into the New Year with this cool community event! Enjoy a warm fire, warm food, and sweet treats before and after taking a quick refreshing dip in the Willamette River.



CITY OF
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COMMUNITY & MORE



110 YEARS OF RELIABLE WATER FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

BY WYATT PARNO | CEO, SOUTH FORK WATER

Did you know the water flowing from your tap originates from the pristine Clackamas River? The river begins on the slopes of Olallie Butte, a High Cascade volcano located within the Mount Hood National Forest. We enjoy fresh mountain water today because, back in 1915, the visionary leaders of West Linn and Oregon City understood the critical importance of securing a clean, abundant drinking water source and recognized the power of cooperation. Together, the two created the South Fork Water Board, an organization with a single mission: produce clean, safe, high-quality drinking water for the benefit of both communities.

For 110 years, South Fork Water has been a dedicated steward of this invaluable resource, proactively investing over the years in the infrastructure neces-

sary to ensure continuous access to high-quality drinking water.

Today, South Fork Water is planning for the next century of reliable water service. That means preparing for the challenges posed by extreme weather events, wildfires, natural disasters such as earthquakes, and evolving drinking water regulations. Our commitment to making generational improvements is clear: to ensure a reliable water supply, maintain a resilient system that can withstand disasters, and operate a treatment plant equipped to meet rigorous water quality standards.

For over a century, water has connected the communities of West Linn and Oregon City. As we look to the future, that connection remains strong, linking our shared history, our daily lives, and our commitment to resilient and thriving communities.

As our planning advances, I look forward to sharing regular updates with you in future newsletters. To learn more about South Fork Water, please visit our website: sfwbwbor.gov





WEST LINN POLICE SOLVE 46-YEAR-OLD COLD CASE HOMICIDE

Thanks to the exceptional investigative work of members of the West Linn Police Department (WLPD), a forty-six year old homicide case has been brought to a close.

The case (WLPD 78-782389), involving the murder of 20-year-old Diana Kuhn in December 1978, had remained unsolved but was recently re-opened after another review of the cold case. During reassessment of the case file, the potential for more investigation was recognized, and a more in-depth follow-up was conducted.

WLPD Detective Sergeant Todd Gradwahl performed a comprehensive review of all available reports and investigative records. Simultaneously, case materials, including physical evidence and photographs, were re-examined by WLPD Property and Evidence Technician Nicole Hedley. A critical piece of evidence that had not been previously tested was discovered and submitted to the Oregon State Police Crime Lab by Hedley, which proved instrumental in advancing the case and ultimately led to key breakthroughs. Through DNA, a previously identified person of interest was confirmed to be the suspect in the homicide. The identified suspect, David Lawrence Atkeson (dob 08/28/1945), died in February of 1989.

The case was forwarded to the Clackamas County District Attorney's Office for review. The DA's office "strongly believes" that if David Atkeson were still alive today, he would be indicted, tried and subsequently convicted on charges of the Sexual Assault and Aggravated Murder of Ms. Kuhn.

The West Linn Police Department applauds the professionalism and dedication shown by Detective Sergeant Gradwahl and Property and Evidence Technician Hedley throughout this investigation. This case serves as a powerful example of how persistence, teamwork, and modern investigative methods can breathe new life into old cases and deliver long-overdue justice.

CONGRATULATIONS SRO JOHNSON!



School Resource Officer Jabral Johnson has been chosen to receive the 2025 NASRO Award of Excellence for Region 9, which includes Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, Alaska and Hawaii. The award ceremony will occur on Monday July 7th during opening ceremonies at the National School Resource Officers Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Jabral has been the SRO for West Linn for the past 4 years and has done an amazing job! He is loved by the students, teachers and administration and has been a positive influence and mentor to many West Linn youth over the years.



2025 ROAD PAVING PROGRAM

Contractors will be repaving various sections of roads throughout the City. Rosemont from Wild Rose to Summit St, Hidden Springs from Santa Anita to Bluegrass Way, Santa Anita above Rosemont, and Lower Midhill Drive are all a part of this project. Roads were selected based on their condition, level of use, and type of road repair required. Work will continue through the fall, as weather permits and if necessary, finish in the spring. Crews will also improve ADA ramps and crosswalks on repaved roads.



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WHAT'S AHEAD



WATERFRONT VISION PLAN ADOPTION

After years of community engagement and feedback, and recommendations from the Project Working Group and West Linn Planning Commission, the West Linn Waterfront Vision Plan is ready for final review and adoption by City Council.

The goal of the plan is to represent the community's vision for future land uses and activities along the Willamette River from the I-205 interchange to the Willamette Neighborhood. It will also provide the context



for developing the framework and tools to implement the vision. This will include potential comprehensive plan/zoning/development code changes, a review of the West Linn Transportation System Plan, and developing partnerships and a financing plan to bring the plan from vision to reality.

To find more information about the plan please visit the project website (yourwestlinn.com/waterfront-community-vision). If you wish to attend upcoming meetings and provide feedback, specific dates are also available on the project website.



HISTORIC SURVEY OF ROBINWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

With a grant from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the City of West Linn is conducting a historic property survey of the Robinwood neighborhood.

The West Linn Historic Review Board identified the Highway 43 corridor north of Mary S. Young Park as an area of the City where there is limited documentation about the history and potential landmark properties. The project evaluates about 625 residential and commercial properties built before 1975 through drive-by observations.

The survey will produce a report that documents neighborhood development, architecture, and historic significance. It

will also identify potential landmark buildings and provide recommendations for more detailed evaluations in the future.



In early fall, the City will meet with the Robinwood Neighborhood Association to review the survey results and discuss the area's historic importance. Residents will be invited to participate in the discussion. A final report will be available in December.

Click on the QR code to read frequently asked questions.

Find out more by visiting yourwestlinn.com or contacting **Lynn Schroder** (lschroder@westlinnoregon.gov) in the Community Development Department.

VISION43

The City of West Linn is making steady progress toward adopting a long-term vision for the Highway 43 corridor—one of the region's most important north-south transportation links. Since launching the VISION43 planning effort in 2023, the City has been working with community members, stakeholders, and local officials to reimagine the corridor as a vibrant, mixed-use area with housing, workplaces, retail, and green spaces.

The next significant milestone in the VISION43 project will come this fall, when the City will present the draft Mixed-Use Code and draft Mixed-use zone boundaries through a series of open houses, neighborhood meetings, online survey, and other outreach events. We're eager to hear what the community thinks about the new zoning and development regulations. The adoption process for the final Vision Plan and new Mixed-Use Code is expected to begin after incorporating additional public feedback sometime in the Spring of 2026.



Public Encouraged to Weigh In on Highway 43 Vision Plan and Mixed-Use Code

You can email the Project Team, share your ideas and comments, ask a question, and find events by scanning the QR code.

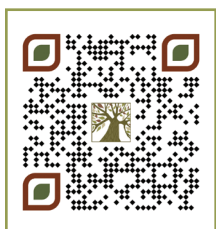


CEDAROAK BOAT RAMP
Willamette River



GET IN TOUCH

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(503) 657-0331

westlinnoregon.gov

22500 Salamo Rd.
West Linn, OR 97068

City of
West Linn
Arts & Culture Commission

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR THE

Fall Art Show

October
2-30

West Linn Public Library

Open to the public during
regular library hours