



PENDLETON

Working every day to be the premier city in Eastern Oregon

December 2020

Goodbye, 2020!



Everyone I know is ready to put 2020 into the history books. It has been a year of stress and hardship as we suffered through a record-setting flood in February, the beginning of a worldwide pandemic in March, another near flood in April, and state-wide summer wildfires. The side effects of the pandemic have been significant: businesses shut down, students kept from the classrooms, loss of tax dollars, and the cancellation of major tourism events like the Round-Up. Many of us have experienced isolation from our family and friends and have lost the ability to have gatherings to say goodbye to lost loved ones.

In spite of all this, most of us have figured out ways to carry on. Working from home and meeting via Zoom, we have continued to complete our daily tasks. We wonder if we will ever go back to business the way it was before the pandemic. The movie industry is moving away from theaters and towards live streaming directly to homes. Millions of Americans have learned how to be effective telecommuters, and in recognition of this, there seems to be a migration away from crowded cities and towards more open rural areas where housing is not as expensive. Americans have always been noted for their innovative spirits, and new ideas have become prominent.

We are also a generous nation where neighbors help their neighbors and 2020 has highlighted this trait. Non-profit organizations like CAPECO, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Neighbor to Neighbor, churches, and civic organizations have expanded their efforts to help the less fortunate. The City of Pendleton, with significant help from Umatilla County, the Chamber of Commerce, and GEODC has coordinated grants to businesses totaling at least a million dollars. The Round-Up CARES project has generated almost a million dollars in other grants.

The coming year holds much promise, especially with the prospect of successful vaccine supplies becoming generally available by spring. We need to remain vigilant and careful for another four or five months, but we can see our eventual way out of the pandemic. Hopefully, we can return to the classroom in the second half of 2021 and the normal large tourism events will take place in the summer months.

Progress has been made in City projects. The price of oil has allowed our street repair projects to come in with lower than expected bids, allowing us to pave more streets than we projected a year ago. The Governor's draft budget for the upcoming biennium has \$13.7 million for the FARM II project and \$1.8 million for renovating the County Jail. The Airport received \$16.8 million in CARES Act funding which, when added to last year's \$3 million EDA grant, will allow our debt-free regional airport to expand the UAS Test Range, build new hangars, buy sorely needed heavy equipment, and renovate our aging terminal. As of December 1st, we had issued 77 permits for new housing units, with the prospect for hundreds more in 2021.

As we prepare to enter a new year, let's all resolve to see the good things in life around us and show compassion for those in need. We are not out of the COVID emergency yet, so wear your mask and limit your social engagements....not only for your health but for the health of our entire population.

Happy Holidays!

Stay Safe, *Mayor Turner*

COUNCIL MEETINGS

January 5, 2021

City Council 7 pm

January 19

City Council 7 pm

PDC Meeting 6 pm

February 2

City Council 7 pm

All meetings in the Council Chambers

FOR A FULL LIST OF MEETINGS VISIT

<http://www.pendleton.or.us/>

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Turner	Mayor	541-922-8605
Jake Cambier	At Large	541-969-2252
Steve Campbell	At Large	541-379-0130
Kevin Martin	Ward I	541-969-6744
Carole Innes	Ward I	541-276-0644
McKennon McDonald	Ward 2	541-969-3345
Sally Brandsen	Ward 2	503-351-6624
Dale Primmer	Ward 3	541-240-1117
Linda Neuman	Ward 3	541-969-1188

CITY OF PENDLETON

Administration	541-966-0201
Airport	541-276-7754
Attorney	541-966-0206
Convention Center	541-276-6569
Community Dev.	541-966-0203
Facilities	541-966-0201
Finance	541-966-0207
Fire	541-276-1442
Library	541-966-0380
Municipal Court	541-966-0209
Parks/Rec/Cemetery	541-276-8100
Police	541-276-4411
Public Works	541-276-3078



Umatilla County has been directed under the Governor's order to PAUSE

City offices are closed to help efforts in slowing the spread of the virus.

Here is a list of phone numbers to assist you, as we are still working it just looks differently with some employees working from home.

You may also log onto our website, see below

WATER BILLING	541-966-0207
COURT	541-966-0209
COMMUNITY DEV.	541-966-0203
PUBLIC WORKS	541-966-0202
ADMINISTRATION	541-966-0201
LIBRARY	541-966-0380

WWW.CITYOFPENDLETON.COM

And the people stayed home.

And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

—Kitty O'Meara

COFFEE with the 
8-10 am CITY

Meeting will be via ZOOM

Information found under meetings.



CITY COUNCIL

In 2016, nearly half of the City Council and the Mayor positions changed to new leadership. With that transition came multiple community conversations and goal planning sessions. I know it's no surprise to the readers of this newsletter that infrastructure, specifically streets, rose to the top of citizens' priority list. In the following weeks and months, the Mayor and City Council worked with city staff to fully understand the scope of the needed repairs and what funding resources were needed compared to what had historically been applied to street maintenance and repair. At that time, it was determined that the City has a \$40 million backlog of street maintenance that had been deferred over multiple decades. This was not a new problem for the City of Pendleton.

The Pavement Condition Index, a tool designed to provide an aggregate measure of street quality, indicated the estimated cost was increasing due to street degradation occurring at a faster pace than repairs could be made. To arrest the problem, dedicated street maintenance funding needed to be increased to \$1.2 million annually to maintain the status quo, and to \$2.2 million annually to bring Pendleton streets up to what is considered "good" road condition over 10 years.

At the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, the City Council through the **Save Our Streets Political Action Committee** began the process of increasing the dedicated revenue to achieve that \$ 2.2 million goals. There were on-going conversations with major event planners related to a ticketing fee, increases in the lodging fees were on pace for change, and there was an effort to get a gas tax on the ballot for voters to consider.

Then came COVID-19. Due to the economic damage and what was clear to be a long-term issue, these attempts for increased revenue were either stalled or abandoned - at least in the near term. That said, streets remain a priority for the City and over the is past year have been moving forward. A long-term project in a portion of S.E. Byers has been nearly completed, with the sidewalk work occurring as I write this. (As a side note to the COVID impact has been a dramatic fall in oil prices. When oil prices fall, so does the cost of asphalt. Thus, the project as initially envisioned came in under budget, which allowed the city to add several blocks of reconstruction to the S.E. Byers project without an increase to the budgeted amount for this project).

Currently, the Council and the Pendleton Development Commission are having conversations related to the use of Urban Renewal District (URD) funds for street repair in the URD. This concept has general approval with the specifics continuing to be worked out. The general concept is the reconstruction of the streets within the downtown core from S.E. 3rd to S.W. 3rd. Discussions on other streets and projects within the URD continue to be discussed and the price tag varies from approximately \$6 million to over \$12 million, depending on the yet to be determined scope of work. The dedicated use of these funds will become clearer in the coming weeks and those projects will begin when the weather changes and paving season arrives. The benefit of using PDC funds within the URD for street construction is it allows the dedicated \$1.2 million I spoke of earlier to expand projects to the parts of the City outside of the URD.

At the most recent Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Virtual Conference, held in October 2020, the 8th Street Bridge Project was recognized as the best Oregon structures project in the \$5 million to \$25 million categories. As a way of reminder, the 8th street bridge replacement was made possible through a 90% funded federal grant, as well as partnerships between the City and County. The completion of this project removes the weight limitations that will allow the use of agricultural transport as well as public safety apparatus to more easily access those residences across the river on the Northeast side of town. Water and sewer infrastructure was also installed across the bridge, allowing for future development on the north side of the Umatilla River. This project is also being advanced for the National American Public Works Association award consideration in summer 2021.

To conclude Congratulations to our Publics Works Department on their hard work, especially in a year full of challenges. We must keep our eye toward the future, as the backlog of deferred street maintenance remains and it will require continued focus for the City.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ROMAN MARTINEZ & BAILEY WEINKE

The City's Parks and Recreation Department has enjoyed the volunteer services of two locals who are pursuing their advanced teaching degrees at Eastern Oregon University; **Roman Martinez** and **Bailey Weinke**. Their time and skills have enhanced "Day Camp", a new program started this fall offering distance learning supervision to meet the needs of the community. We recently had them answer a few questions, highlighting a couple of volunteers that are making a difference!



ROMAN MARTINEZ



BAILEY WEINKE

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO VOLUNTEER AT THE CITY OF PENDLETON?

Roman: *I'm always looking for opportunities to work within the community and give back. Considering the fact that I'm currently going through my Master's (Teaching) Program, I figured working with youth would be the best use of my time. I had also previously worked for the Parks & Rec Department in the past so choosing this opportunity was a no brainer.*

Bailey: *My volunteer work has mostly revolved around kids and I love the thought of stepping in and being a leader for them. Kids are the future and I strive to be someone that they can look up to and be their role model for. I feel satisfaction that I am not only helping the kids I work with, but that I am also doing my part in helping the community. In my experience, the city, kids, and other that I interact with are always so thankful and appreciative for the help and make me feel that my volunteering is important and needed.*

WHAT DO YOUR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AT THE CITY INVOLVE?

Roman: *My volunteer experience involved running PE classes for the Parks & Rec Fall Day Camp Program. With students being forced to sit in front of a computer screen all day for school, it was my job to maximize physical activity time in the short amount of time I had them each week. We played numerous fun games and activities that were similar to the ones they are used to in school. It was a great opportunity for them to get those "CDL jitters" out and feel a sense of normality considering everything going on.*

Bailey: *Currently I am working with the Day Camp through the Parks and Rec department and I lead students in physical education activities about two days a week. I am working on a Master's degree in physical education so this volunteer work is right up my alley and provides me with the experience I need to become a teacher. The kids are always so excited to get up and move in the afternoon, so it is an amazing opportunity to provide them time to participate in games and exercises.*

WHAT MAKES THIS VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE A MEANINGFUL USE OF YOUR TIME?

Roman: *This volunteer experience was meaningful in the sense that for some of these students, it was their first live PE experience, let alone participation in strenuous physical activity, since the March COVID shutdown. It felt rewarding to provide them that experience and it was also gratifying to see them have fun again. Lastly, it offered a glimpse moving forward to how students behave and interact with each other since missing out on the classroom experience. This year hasn't been fun for anyone and I hope those kids return to the classroom sooner than later.*

Bailey: *As I am working on my degree to become a physical education teacher, this experience has given me an opportunity to practice my skills. Working with the kids, I get feedback on my instruction and learn to tailor it to the kids wants and needs. It is such a fun experience to get to know the kids and give them a chance to be active, interact with other students, and learn important skills. I would encourage anyone that is looking to get experience in a variety of forms to contact the city and see what volunteer opportunities there are. They have a such a great selection and work tremendously to find something to fit your goals and schedule.*

VOLUNTEER CONTINUED

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE IMPACT OF YOUR VOLUNTEERING AT THE CITY?



Roman: *For me personally, it emphasized my desire to pursue education and become a teacher. I really enjoy working with kids and feel the need to stress the importance of physical activity to all the kids I can't. This experience helped develop my skills as a future educator and provide me with experiences that I will learn from. Like I said, I always enjoy volunteering in the community and I hope one day I can come back and teach in Pendleton. I urge everyone to volunteer when they get a chance!*

Bailey: *I think when I or anyone volunteers with the city, a domino effect of positive events follows. Pendleton is always so thankful for their volunteers. I feel like it takes a load off the city's shoulders knowing that a project or opportunity is being carried out. The city needs volunteers to keep programs such as the Day Camp going and not put pressure all on any one individual. It takes a team to accomplish a goal and by volunteering, I am doing my part to achieve and create a better community.*

Thank you, Roman and Bailey. While you are paving your path to a teaching career you are inspiring others through your service to the community. The City is grateful for volunteers like you that share your time and talents.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING BUT NOT SURE WHERE? We can help find a good match for you. Call 541-966-0244 and speak to our Volunteer Coordinator Tiffany Hegarty. City of Pendleton volunteer applications are available at the library, City Hall administrative offices, or can be downloaded [HERE](#).

UMATILLA COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Wearing a face covering, maintaining six feet of physical distance, and regularly washing your hands protects you and those around you in public. It is possible to spread the virus before you are exhibiting symptoms, so precaution at all times is recommended.

If you're sick, staying home from work, shopping, and other social engagements is the only sure way to protect others and will help your own recovery.

Keeping social gatherings to 6 people and limiting the number of gatherings per month will significantly slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect your loved ones.

COMMUNITY GOALS

The COVID-19 vaccine will begin to protect essential workers and our most vulnerable residents in early 2021, but reopening schools and businesses can only be achieved by significantly reducing the spread for the entire population.

Reopening schools is critical to the well-being of our students, families, and workforce. If we can slow the spread and lower the number of new cases of

COVID-19 in our communities, our schools can reopen.

RECOVERY

Contact tracers are local professionals who provide resources and information to people who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone who has. Sharing information helps protect your loved ones from an outbreak.

Umatilla County, Oregon, and the U.S. will be in a position to recover once we have stopped the rapid spread of COVID-19.



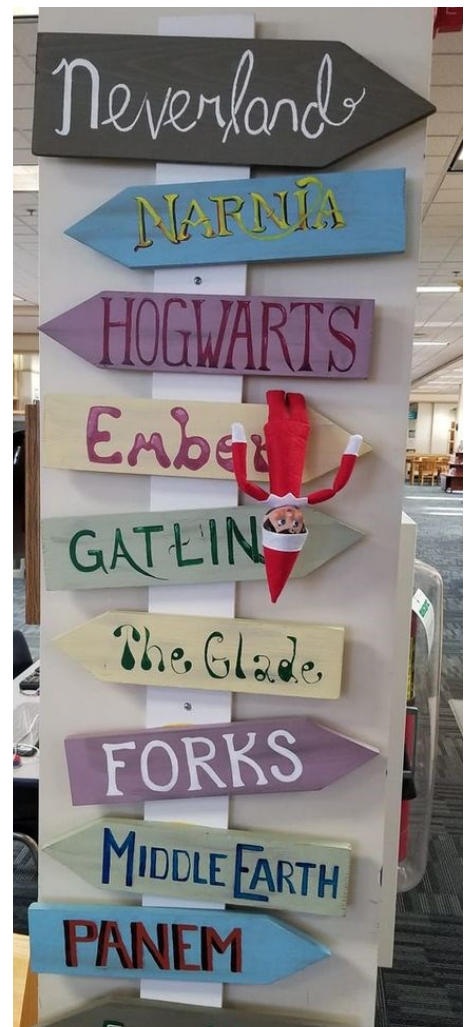
Sorry, we're
CLOSED

As a safety measure against the spread of Covid-19, the Pendleton Public Library along with City Hall is **has extended our closure until December, 16th.**

Curbside Delivery remains available as well as Mystery Packs. There will be no browse appointments or computer appointments during this time.

*Subject to change according to enhanced community quarantine guidelines.

Please call 541-966-0380 for Curbside Delivery



WINTER RAFFLE TO SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY

Like most non-profits in the area Pendleton Friends of the Library were unable to host their annual fundraisers as a result of COVID-19. In an effort to raise money for the library while maintaining safe measures, PFOL has put together a fun winter raffle! For all the details click [HERE](#)

Winner will be drawn on
DECEMBER 23rd!

Pendleton Friends of the Library *Winter Raffle*



\$5 for 1 ticket
\$20 for 5 tickets

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE LIBRARY

A WINNER WILL BE DRAWN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD



After this last year,
we could all use some
holiday humor!
Merry Christmas!

