



PENDLETON

Working every day to be the premier city in Eastern Oregon

May 2020

HOW THE COUNTY WILL GRADUALLY REOPEN

Public Health is handled by Umatilla County, so over the past three months the City of Pendleton has followed the County's lead in how we are dealing with COVID-19. The County, in turn, tries to follow the Federal and State Guidelines. Some of our citizens have commented to me that they didn't think the City was aggressive enough in telling people what they should be doing. I am sure it was always possible for the City, and me, to have done more to communicate but we honestly thought there was plenty of guidance out there in the form of Facebook posts, web-site information, newsletters, posters, radio interviews and EO articles.



Accordingly, I want to talk this month about how we might begin emerging from our current isolation. Re-opening the County economy will not be like turning a light switch. Instead, it will take place in a series of gradual measures that are likely to happen over the next four or five months. The Governor's guidelines show the relaxation of self-isolation coming in three phases:

Phase One will take place after the County Commissioners certify that we will continue to adhere to physical distancing, that the hospitalization rate of COVID cases is beginning to decline, that we have sufficient personal protective equipment, and that our hospital intensive care capacity is sufficient. During phase one we will encourage vulnerable people to stay home and maintain procedures for the health and safety of employees. Visits to friends and relatives in hospitals and nursing homes will not be permitted, and non-essential travel will be discouraged. Right now, the target date for beginning Phase One is May 15th.

What will be allowed in Phase One? We will be allowed organized gatherings of 25 or less with social distancing required. Gatherings will be limited to 10 if social distancing measures can't be met, and/or elderly residents or those with pre-existing conditions are participating.

City parks and playgrounds will remain closed. Large venues such as sporting events, church services, and movie theaters will remain closed. There will be a limited re-opening of restaurants and bars, provided arrangements can be enforced for physical distancing. The Governor has a committee working on this specific issue and is expected to provide more guidance soon. Personal service businesses and retail outlets will be permitted to reopen as long as they take measures to enforce physical distancing and take extra measures to keep their businesses sanitary.

Phase Two will not take place until Phase One has been in effect for a minimum of 14 days (most likely longer). County health officials will look at how much of a COVID spike takes place during Phase One and right now are predicting that we can move into Phase Two sometime in June. During Phase Two, social gatherings of up to 50 people would be allowed. Parks, playgrounds, gyms, and schools could open. Non-essential travel could resume.

After a Minimum of 14 Days, Phase Three might take place in late June or early July. Social gatherings of up to 250 people would be allowed, but at a press conference on May 7th, the Governor announced that gatherings of more than 250 would probably not be allowed until the end of September. During Phase Three, restaurants and bars would be allowed to offer additional seating.

While a very few citizens have demonstrated poor judgement and negligent behavior in the past two months, the vast majority of our citizens have demonstrated remarkable restraint and responsible behavior during this COVID emergency and they should be proud of their accomplishments. Let's continue to work together productively as we ease into Phase One in the coming days.

Stay Well,

Mayor John Turner

SOCIAL
DISTANCE
DOESN'T MEAN
WE AREN'T
TOGETHER



Will Trade
Toilet Paper
for CHALK
LOL

#IN THIS
Together



Find
joy
in
the
ORDINARY

Stronger
Together
(But 6' apart)



CITY RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING 2019 VOLUNTEERS DURING VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week is recognized each year the third week of April, and the City of Pendleton did not want to miss the opportunity to celebrate our volunteers despite a pandemic shutting down City Hall amid stay at home orders. Volunteer Coordinator Tiffany Hegarty presented the annual Volunteer Report to city councilors at the April 21st council meeting utilizing teleconferencing technology.

In 2019 City of Pendleton volunteers, including 120 individuals and 29 community and business groups, contributed 4,345 hours of volunteer service in seven city departments. Working alongside city staff, volunteers expand and deliver quality programs and services to make a difference in our community. Their impact is seen through activities such as helping to maintain the city's parks and parkways, serving at community events like the Halloween Carnival, Daddy Daughter Dance, and the inaugural Wild West Beer Fest, coaching for youth sports, and assisting in the library. Departments citywide utilize the talents and skills of volunteers to support their programming and operations.

Check out all the good work volunteers did in 2019 in the annual [Volunteer Report](#) (PDF) on the City of Pendleton website.

Each year city staff nominate volunteers who have shown outstanding commitment to volunteering. Congratulations to City of Pendleton 2019 Volunteer Award recipients!

Youth Volunteer of the Year: Julianne Jones (Library – Teen Council and Programs)

Volunteer Group of the Year: ALTRUSA (Little Re(a)d Bookshelf, Reading Programs)

Volunteer of the Year: Michael Cisneros (Recreation Department – Open Gym and Youth Basketball Coach)

Mayor's Leadership Award: Judy Zoske (Walking for Wellness Program)

Civic Engagement Award (For volunteers who have served on a board, committee or commission): Charles Denight for outstanding service on the Pendleton Arts Commission.

Also receiving awards based upon the hours of service committed in 2019, the following volunteers received the Presidential Service Award – a national award given to volunteers who have completed a required number of hours:

William Gamer (Airport – UAS Range Summer Intern)
Chase Kubesh (Airport – UAS Range Summer Intern)
Landon Thornburg (Airport – UAS Range Summer Intern)
Joseph (Sepp) Williams (Airport – UAS Range Summer Intern)
Tikhon Gilson (Library – 9th time awarded)
Linda Senter (Library – 5th time awarded)
Linda Wagner (Library – 5th time awarded)
Sherry Zweig (Police Department – 3rd time awarded)



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities*

**all volunteer activities are on hold until the "Stay Home" order has been lifted*

New volunteers are required to complete an application and consent to background check. For more information contact the Volunteer Coordinator tiffany.hegarty@ci.pendleton.or.us

Ongoing: Document Scanner: Digital file archiving (Library, City Hall Administration, Community Development)

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](#).

INTERLIBRARY LOAN UPDATE



THE COURIER THAT COMMUTES OUR ILLS ACROSS THE STATE IS SHUT-DOWN. FORTUNATELY FOR US, OUR LOCAL COURIER IS STILL RUNNING STRONG!

YOU MAY STILL RECEIVE HOLDS FROM THE FOLLOWING LIBRARIES:



ADAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BMCC LIBRARY
ECHO PUBLIC LIBRARY
HELIX PUBLIC LIBRARY
HERMISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
STANFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
MILTON-FREEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY
UMATILLA PUBLIC LIBRARY

CALL FOR ASSISTANCE:

541-966-0380



Pendleton Public Library strives to be the center of community involvement. An educated, informed, and involved citizenry creates a vibrant, livable community. The library stocks books, audios and videos for check out and hosts fun and informative programs for all ages.

The website provides 24/7 access to a wide range of databases as well as access to the patron's account.

Visit your libraries website [HERE](#)

Or phone 541-966-0380

ATTENTION!

PENDLETON EARLY LEARNING CENTER EXPLORERS

Just because you can't look for the PELC animals in the library doesn't mean our adventure is over!

Fill out a mystery pack order on our website or over the phone and receive a sticker to put on your reading log in place of the PELC animals.

Story Time



When:
Thursdays & Fridays
10:15 am

Join us weekly for stories, songs, and crafts with Ms. Briana!

GOAL 2: INCREASE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Pendleton enjoys a far more diversified economy than most citizens realize. Major employers include Keystone RV, Interpath Labs, Hill Meat Company, Barhyte Specialty Foods, Atkore CRMP (pipe manufacturer), Newly Weds Foods, GrainCraft, Pendleton Woolen Mills, and Eastern Oregon Correction Institute; most of which the City has assisted in major expansions or investments into plant and equipment over the last six years. However, Pendleton's lowest hanging economic fruit has always been tourism; a \$180 million per year industry in Umatilla County, much of which can be directly attributed to Pendleton. The City's colorful history, authenticity, attractions, and abundant accommodations, combined with great eateries and unusually large event spaces, making it ideal for tourism and event production.

The newest and maybe most exciting economic driver has been the development of the Pendleton UAS Range (PUR), headquartered at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport. The range has created over 65 high-paying aerospace jobs in the last two years, expected to double by the end of 2020. It is solely responsible for attracting international unmanned aviation pioneers like Airbus, American Aerospace Technologies Inc., Insitu, Cubic ISR, PAE ISR, PNNL, and Yamaha. Activities at the range have garnered international publicity and have included a healthy balance of commercial and defense applications, everything from flying taxi cabs to atmospheric analysis. The Urban Air Mobility market alone has been estimated at between \$500m and \$1.5 trillion by 2040 (NEXA Advisors, 2019). Our UAS range is particularly well-positioned to take advantage of this growth and we are rapidly becoming one of the top test ranges in the United States. Since 2014, the City has received over \$2.5 million in grants, and in fall 2019, the range was awarded another \$3 million from the Economic Development Administration, the largest grant amount they award. Thanks to the many grants, the initial range startup costs were under \$500,000. The range continues to experience rapid annual growth and it remains profitable without the help of grant funding.

The one-two punch of recent natural events caused by the historic 500-year flood and COVID pandemic has had a dramatic effect on Pendleton's economic development activities. The flood caused an estimated \$30 - \$40 million in damage to Pendleton but brought some economic relief in the form of a \$7.5 million grant from the State. This money will be used to expedite the purchase and installation of affordable housing, provide rehousing funds to address immediate needs, provide long-term housing development funds pending finalization of a sustainable community plan, and will provide low or no-interest loans to pay off new homes for amounts not covered by insurance. Work is under way by City Manager Robb Corbett to put these plans into effect.

The flood also resulted in a declaration of Umatilla County as a major disaster area by President Trump on April 3. This triggered the release of federal funding opportunities through FEMA and the SBA to help with recovery efforts. Help with housing assistance and answers to questions on filing a claim is available by contacting FEMA at www.disasterassistance.gov. Persons filing a claim will be assigned a registration number that will stay with them through the process. To date, 90 claims have been accepted, and \$740,574 has been approved for individual assistance.

The economic impact brought on by the COVID closure of public and private business, has had a catastrophic economic effect on our entire community and state. Due to the volume of claims being filed, support for businesses has been slower than hoped for by the SBA Payroll Protection Plan (PPP), and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) programs. A limited number one-time grants of \$1,000/each, for small businesses located within Umatilla County were available from the County, and for small businesses located within the Urban Renewal District one-time grants of \$2,000/each were awarded by the Pendleton Development Commission. By law, funding for the Urban Renewal District is separate from funding for the city and can only be used within the defined district. It would have been preferable to extend the \$2,000 grants to any small business within the city, but was not possible because of these restrictions and city funding is expected to be dramatically impacted by mandatory closures. **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

COUNCIL MEETINGS

May 19

City Council 7 pm
PDC Meeting 6 pm

June 2

City Council 7 pm

April 16

City Council 7 pm
PDC Meeting 6 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
Paul Chalmers	At Large	541-276-7111
Becky Marks	Ward I	541-276-9147
Carole Innes	Ward I	541-276-0644
McKennon McDonald	Ward 2	541-969-3345
Chuck Wood	Ward 2	541-310-7306
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

500 SW Dorion Ave. Pendleton, OR

[Click the logo](#)



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GOAL 2: INCREASE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

We can expect a prolonged significant economic impact to the entire community by the closure of businesses, cancellation of events, dramatic drop in tourism, delayed opening of recreation activities. Many entities including, the city, Umatilla County, Pendleton Chamber of Commerce, Pendleton Downtown Association and Travel Pendleton are doing their best to find funding, provide resources and ensure that businesses have the most up-to-date information. The Chamber is one of two chambers appointed to the Governor's EO Regional Economic Recovery Team, as well as the Small Business Subcommittee of Governor's Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council and has been working closely with Umatilla County Health Department to coordinate a limited reopening plan which could begin as early as May 15 and slowly phasing in as the summer progresses.

A bright spot from the COVID economic impact has been the way in which citizens have been patient with the challenges we all face and have supported local businesses and are encouraged to continue to do so. Another bright spot has been the recognition by Congress of its effect on the airline industry. This resulted in the Pendleton airport being awarded a \$16.9 million stimulation package. Funding will be distributed on a reimbursement basis over a four-year period. Specific plans are being developed over the next several months, and is expected to include the retirement of \$2.5 million in debt, investment in deferred maintenance, purchase of major necessary equipment, and investment in major projects focused on building for future growth.

Submitted by Chuck Wood and Dale Primmer.



COFFEE with the 
8-10 am CITY

Will resume upon the lifting of social distancing by Governor Brown, We will not be meeting in May