



PENDLETON

Working every day to be the premier city in Eastern Oregon

December 2019

Fixing Pendleton's Streets



The top priority of Pendleton's citizenry is to fix Pendleton's deteriorating streets and to provide sustainable funding to keep the streets in good condition. In response, the City Council has reached agreement on a solution to this difficult and expensive problem.

The Council has been studying street maintenance for two years, trying to understand the extent of the problem and to determine how much money it will take to provide sustainable repairs. For decades, the City spent only its share of gas taxes on street repair. This was typically about \$350,000 per year. Over time this has resulted in about \$12 million dollars in deferred maintenance. The problem is getting bigger every year and is estimated to become a \$26 million backlog in ten years at the current rate of spending.

Over the past four years the amount budgeted for street maintenance has been gradually increased by using a new in 2015 street utility fee, marijuana tax receipts, cuts to other parts of the General Fund, and increased state gas tax money. In the current fiscal year, Pendleton will spend about \$1.2 million on its streets. Engineering studies show, however, that the City really needs to spend \$2.2 million each year for the coming decade if it expects to get its streets into a condition that can be affordably sustained. So, the task has been to determine the best way to come up with an additional \$1 million per year for street repairs.

The Council put together a list of hypothetical ideas on how to raise this revenue and made some 30 presentations to civic groups and citizens to get their reaction. The most popular of the ideas presented were to increase hotel taxes, begin a city gas tax, and charge a fee for large events. At the City Council session on Tuesday, December 3rd, the Council voted to approve a way to move forward by:

Asking voters to approve a 4 cent gas tax that would expire after ten years. This tax is estimated to raise approximately \$440,000 per year and would be on the ballot in May of 2020.

The Council approved a hotel room fee or tax equivalent to \$2.00 per night. This is estimated to raise about \$306,000 per year. State law requires that 70% of the revenues generated by this fee or tax to be used for tourism or entertainment related activities, so these new revenues will be used to replace General Fund dollars that are used to support these types of activities, freeing up \$306,000 to be used for street repair.

The current street utility fee of \$5.21 per month will increase by \$3.00 per month, resulting in about \$250,000 in new revenues annually. There will be a provision to exempt low income families from paying this new fee.

The City will make cuts to its general fund in order to raise another \$110,000 annually for street maintenance.

The idea of charging an event fee was endorsed, but there remain quite a few questions on how this fee will be administered and what events will be required to collect it. The Council will work with a joint committee of representatives from the larger events and the education community to determine the best way to administer such a fee. The leaders of the Round-Up, Happy Canyon, and the Music Fest have declared their willingness to work with the City on this issue. Once the questions can be answered, the goal will be to raise at least \$95,000 a year from an event fee. This committee will begin meeting in January.

A precise date for implementing the new hotel fee or tax and the increase in the street utility fee has not been set, but residents can expect to see them started in time to impact the 2020-2021 budget which begins on July 1st, 2020. The Pendleton Development Commission recently approved a one-time contribution of \$1.4 million for street maintenance within the urban renewal district, which will also help reduce the overall deferred maintenance backlog.

The Council knows that new fees or taxes are rarely popular and it will require tremendous moral courage and resolve to stand up to the criticism that always comes with any new project of this size. We are showing our citizens that we are doing what you are telling us to do. So, when the vocal minority of keyboard warriors start writing letters about government waste and its insatiable appetite for new dollars, please remember we are going down this path in order to fix a decades-old problem.

Mayor John Turner

TIM ALLEN

MARTIN SHORT

Disney's
**SANTA
CLAUSE**
THE ESCAPE CLAUSE **3**



Vert Auditorium

480 SW Dorion Ave, Pendleton, OR 97801

Free Christmas Movie Saturday December 21, 1:15 PM popcorn & refreshments will be served free of charge. Children under five should be with older sibling or adult.

Sponsored by City of Pendleton Parks & Recreation & Facilities.

Christmas Display

Presented By City of Pendleton

Tune to 89.3 FM
Display Music

Sponsored By

**Creative Signs • Gordon's Electric • Grahams Photos
Platt Electric • Zimmerman's Hardware**

COUNCIL MEETINGS

December 17

City Council 7 pm
PDC Meeting 6 pm

January 7

City Council 7 pm

January 21

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
Scott Fairley	Ward 2	541-240-1825
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](#)



From the Convention Center Manager



I have had the good fortune to have traveled enough in foreign countries to realize that towns and cities of all sizes have a central area that brings people together for meetings and fun community events. In Mexico that area would be known as “zocalo” and in France it would be “lieu de rassemblement”. Those places are the “heart” of their community. In Pendleton, I like to think that place would be the Pendleton Convention Center. It is our community’s “gathering place”.

The Convention Center plays such an important role in Pendleton. It brings events that fill motels, Air B n B’s, restaurants and local businesses. The Convention Center’s purpose is to bring new events, be the home to long-standing local events and encourage attendees to explore Pendleton. With that in mind, here is the Convention Center’s Mission Statement “The Pendleton Convention Center was created to increase tourism and quality of life in Pendleton, Oregon.” By hosting events, the Convention Center infuses the local economy with tourism dollars and brings events that enrich the lives of those that live in Pendleton. The Convention Center is committed to bringing events with an emphasis on overnight stays in Pendleton. The Convention Center’s highest purpose and best utilization are to serve multi-day, overnight events and when not booked for those things it should be scheduled in the best interest of the Pendleton community hosting educational, cultural, religious, athletic and entertainment events. Its primary purpose is as a tourism facility to enhance the quality of life for the community it serves.”

My role as the manager is part facility manager, salesman, concierge, customer service director and tour guide for Pendleton. My job is customer service, but it is primarily tourism. Lodging Room Taxes (LRT) fund the majority of the Convention Center’s budget so it is imperative to the financial well-being of the Convention Center. The Convention needs constant maintenance and updates to stay relevant. Growing Lodging Room Taxes ensures that we can maintain the building.

It’s crucial that new events book here, and general tourism is bringing new people to get to know how special it is in Pendleton. Local businesses count on the Convention Center’s attendees. Our lodging partners and restaurants especially look forward to new events and returning events like the OSAA State 2A Basketball Championship and Eastern Star. Both events have been booking the Convention Center for over 30 years. There are over 120,000 attendees of 190 events.

Umatilla County (and largely Pendleton) “harvests” \$160,000,000.00 in direct spending from tourism. I see a lot of opportunities for Pendleton businesses. Pendleton’s economic health is tied to events and tourism. There is connectivity between tourism and the Pendleton business’s vitality.

The Armory became the Pendleton Convention Center in 1992. Since that time the City of Pendleton has hosted the northwest here and introduced thousands of people to Pendleton’s heritage, history, and hospitality. I am thankful for the opportunity to work each day with the wonderful people and organizations that bring their events to the Pendleton Convention Center our “gathering place”.

Merry Christmas!
Pat Beard

Join City Staff at Hamley’s Café on Monday, Jan 6

City Manager, Robb Corbett invites community members who have concerns, questions or simply want to engage in conversation regarding happenings in our community to join him on the first

Monday of each month.



DIY: CONCRETE SNOWMAN

Tuesday, December 17th
6:00pm



Come make an adorable outdoor piece of holiday cheer!
This class taught by Heather
Registration Required

Twas the Night Before Christmas Story Time

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH @ 6

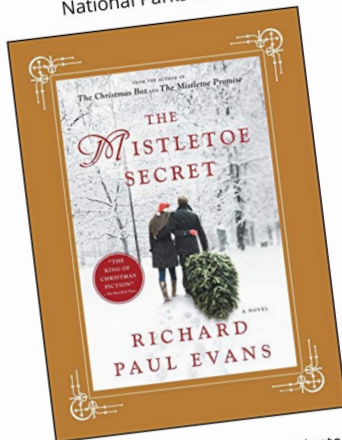
COME TO THE LIBRARY AS
WE READ
Twas the Night Before
CHRISTMAS.

WEAR YOUR JAMMIES,
AND RECEIVE A SPECIAL
GIFT!



Book Art: Read and Paint Night

Wednesday: December 18th
6:00pm
National Parks Area



Pick up your free copy of *The Mistletoe Secret* and participate in an evening of Holiday card painting, Christmas music and community. Registration is required for this event so please call soon to claim your spot!

This event sponsored by: Umatilla County Cultural Coalition

Free Children's Activity

CRAFTERNOONS

Tuesdays @ 4:15

December 3rd

December 10th



December 17th

Holiday!

Story Time



When:
Thursdays & Fridays
10:15 am

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

DO YOU HAVE A
LIBRARY CARD?

Pendleton Library
500 SW Dorion Avenue
Pendleton, Oregon
541-966-0308

PENDLETON URBAN RENEWAL KEEPS HISTORY AND ECONOMY THRIVING

Pendleton's urban renewal program is funding more projects in downtown Pendleton, with a concentration on restoring the upper stories of historic buildings. Some 14 of the city's historic buildings, the heart of the downtown, have empty, unused upper stories. Formerly boarding houses--some later became bordellos. These upper stories are a tremendous resource.

If they are restored as living units, it is estimated that 60 to 75 apartments could provide housing for 100 or more downtown residents. Living downtown, these people would more likely shop, dine and entertain themselves downtown. That leads to more success for our downtown retailers and restaurants, which provides economic benefits for Pendleton. The values of the buildings could more than double.

Already in 2019, funding from the urban renewal agency, the Pendleton Development Commission, has resulted in 18 new apartments and over 20 new downtown residents. A new grant, provided in November, will support the restoration of five additional apartments to become available in the first half of 2020.

Pendleton's 15-year-old urban renewal program began with a goal on improving the appearance of downtown. The initial funding program, façade restoration, has tackled over 40 building projects, nearly all of them historic commercial structures on or within a few blocks of Main Street. While those projects polished the appearance of the buildings, they also have had an impact on Pendleton's economy. In the early years of the urban renewal program, the occupancy rate for downtown retail storefronts was in the low to mid 70% range. In annual surveys over the past several years, storefront occupancy rates have moved up to the low 90% range.

Apart from adding shine to historic buildings, urban renewal has helped business owners start and expand in downtown. A survey of Pendleton residents in 2018 showed that the majority of downtown shoppers are now shopping for meals. That's right, Downtown Pendleton has evolved from primarily a retail shopping district with dining to primarily a dining and entertainment district with shopping. In the past 10 years, Pendleton's urban renewal program has assisted 14 restaurants, food stores or entertainment facilities with startup or expansion expenses in the urban renewal district. And despite the fickle nature of the restaurant business, all but two of them are still in business.

Most recently, the Development Commission approved a housing improvement program. For 15 years the focus has been on historic commercial buildings--making them look better, helping to ensure they survive for another 100 years by occupying them with healthy, profitable businesses. But there are also many historic houses in the urban renewal district, many of which have seen better days. The new housing improvement program will leave historic homes looking better and more livable. This helps ensure those homes survive as part of the city's historic building stock.

Why the emphasis on historic buildings? Pendleton's economy is becoming increasingly dependent on the visitor industry. We have big visitor events such as the Round-Up, more recently the Pendleton Whiskey Fest and Bike Week. Our visitor trade also benefits hugely from the spillover from the nearby Wildhorse Resort & Casino operated by the CTUIR. But the folks who are visiting Wildhorse and drop into Pendleton, the tourists who wander through Eastern Oregon and decide to spend some time in Pendleton—they all need a focus, what tourism consultant Roger Brooks of Destination Development calls a community's "Lure".

While our major events are a tremendous shot in the arm to our economy when they take place, we also need a "lure" that attracts those who visit between the big events. That's our downtown. And what makes it special? All of those historic buildings, the reminders in the present of Pendleton's amazingly rugged past. Our most successful, longest-running and year-round attraction is the Pendleton Underground Tours, built entirely on the history and historic structures of our town. Thousands of visitors annually take the tour and enjoy the vicarious thrill of speakeasies and bordellos in a genuinely historic environment. But the buildings only survive as long they continue to provide economic benefits to their owners. Urban renewal has contributed to making that possible.

Charles Denight
PDC Associate Director

VOLUNTEERS

Pendleton Lights Up for the Holidays



The holiday season officially kicked off in mid-November with the installation of decorations and lights around the city. Volunteers from several local businesses and organizations worked together with staff to decorate the community in the spirit of the season. VFW members helped to drop off decorations at various spots for volunteers from Gordon's Electric, Palmer's Roofing, Pendleton Electric, and Pacific Power to utilize their equipment and manpower to install the lighting and décor. Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors helped to insure everything was in working condition before being sent out into the community. It's a group effort that takes over 120 total man hours to pull off. Thanks to the generosity of these volunteers, Pendleton is dressed for the holidays!



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

Jan-Feb Youth Basketball Coaches: Youth basketball program needs coaches for Boys 3rd/4th and 5th/6th grade divisions for fall, and 1st/2nd grades and Girls 3rd -6th starting in January. Previous experience is helpful but not a requirement – there will be a coaching clinic. (Recreation)

Feb 8th Daddy Daughter Dance: Annual dance for fathers and daughters. Assist with registration, hosting, set up/cleanup.

Feb 29th Me and My Superhero Dance: Annual dance for mothers and sons. Assist with registration, hosting, set up/cleanup.

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

THANK YOU
Volunteers!
We couldn't do it without you

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Darren Hughes, Aaron Gillespie, and
Donna Krueger

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. [Volunteer Applications Available \[HERE\]\(#\)](#), [Return to the Administrative office at: 500 SW Dorion Avenue.](#)



Thank you Santa for stopping in Pendleton for breakfast and fun with local kids.
And thank you VFW for cooking!



REGISTER FOR UPDATES

Parents - have you signed into your family's Park and Recreation account lately? This is the quickest way to update any outdated information, register for activities, and purchase passes.

Follow the link below to log into your account. Your login is always your email address, and if you aren't sure, give our office a call! First time user? Enter in your email address and select forgot password.

https://apm.activecommunities.com/pendleton.../ActiveNet_Login

January 20, 2020 Noon - 3pm Ice Rink at Roy Raley Park



ICE CARNIVAL *Parents it's a no school day!*
 Bring your kids to the Ice Rink for a free skate day. There will be games and prizes with lots of free time to skate.

Pendleton Parks and Recreation staff will be there to watch and provide activities.

Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Cost: Free Age: All

DROP IN SKATE LESSONS

Does your kid enjoy ice skating? Do they need a little help with the fundamentals? We have an intro to ice skating lesson. This one 30 minute lesson will show them the basics of skating.

Lesson can be adapted to skater skill set. *Lessons may be semi private depending on request.*

Register for #6709 Cost: \$10 at Ice Rink All ages are welcome.

Meet at the ice rink
 12:00 pm on the
 following Saturdays
 December 16, 23 & 30
 January 6 & 13



ICE RINK Is OPEN at Roy Raley Park



Open Skate: Monday - Thursday 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
 Friday 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday 12:00pm -8:00 pm

Open Hockey Skate:

Friday Nights 6:30pm - 9:00 pm

Family Hour Saturdays, 5:30-8pm

Fees:

\$2.50 with personal skates

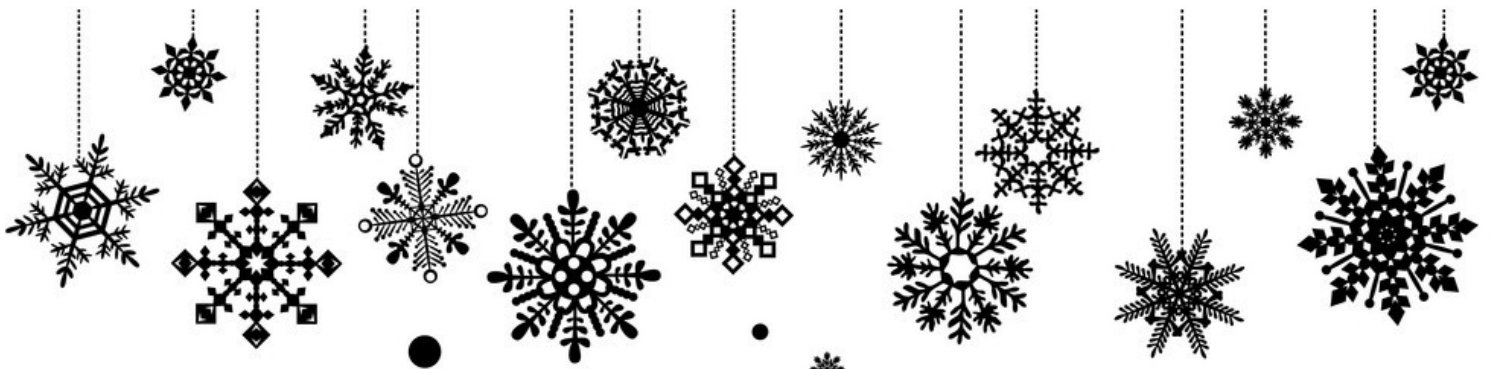
\$3.50 includes skate rental

Family up to 5 - Includes Rental, Admission, Hot Drink \$15.00

Punch Cards \$28.00 Admission Only

Punch Cards \$38.00 Admission + Skate Rental

**Holiday Break Hours
 December 21 — January 4
 12:00pm -8:00 pm**



MERRY CHRISTMAS

*Non-Essential City Departments will be CLOSED on
Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday December 25th
Tuesday December 30th and Wednesday January 1st
So our employees may enjoy the holidays with family & friends.*

Happy New Year ~ 2020 ~

WORDS OF WISDOM FOR THE NEW YEAR

“The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you’re not going to stay where you are.” —J.P. Morgan

“Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one.” —Brad Paisley

*“Your present circumstances don’t determine where you can go. They merely determine where you start.” —
Nido Qubein*

“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.” —Vern McLellan

“And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.” Rainer Maria Rilke