Perspective

It’s been over a month since the Governor declared a state of emergency over the coronavirus and I am feeling the angst of self-isolating. I am not complaining, as I do not have small children to care for at home, but I am feeling the desire to be around people. I miss my kids and my granddaughter's touch very much. I also admire, respect and have great empathy, for parents who are struggling to balance work, school and home life right now. Our Library is trying to engage with folks virtually to help break up the day and others in the county are offering various online exercise classes to help us get through the stress of self-isolation.

I must say, I am proud to witness many folks in town adhering to the “social distancing” message, no matter how hard it is for all of us, both personally and professionally. I am also enjoying seeing more folks walking, running and/or biking throughout town. You are being mindful of the social distancing measures and for that I thank you. Now, some of us are taking this situation more seriously than others; our necessary shopping trips have provided us with a glimpse of those who are and are not listening to the message. Personally, I have had a few very stressful trips to the grocery store, however, I am happy to report no COVID-19 in the Lenahan household to-date. Regardless of where you stand with this, we need to stay the course with the statewide ‘Stay Home, Save Lives’ mantra.

I have often written about random acts of kindness in my Mayor’s Corner. Lately, I have witnessed some amazing acts of kindness from people who are sewing masks for neighbors, making and distributing hand sanitizer to neighbors, texting each other to borrow eggs or boxes of macaroni. These acts of kindness are what makes us a community.

Support our Buy Local Club! I can’t encourage you all enough to remember to support our local businesses. I have checked in with a few of them and they have reported that you are! So, for them, THANK YOU!

If you have friends, family members or neighbors who are First Responders, show them love wherever or however you can. Spring is here, offer to mow their lawn, push their garbage cans to the curb or walk their dogs. We are in this together, and if we stay the course and do what we need to do to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, we will celebrate on the block one day soon.

Find safe and smart ways to stay connected with each other, check on the aged community members, and please Stay Home, Save Lives.
My crystal ball isn’t working, so I can’t tell you when we will ‘re-open’ but I can tell you that we will get through this and be stronger together.

Thinking of you,
Mayor Teri
@cityofnfp on Facebook
@LenahanNorthPlainsMayor on Facebook

Library News

Proposed Levy for Countywide Library Services, Measure 34-297 on May 19, 2020 Ballot

Since 1976, public library service in Washington County has been provided through a partnership of the County, nine cities and three nonprofit organizations. Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) is the primary source of funding for public library operations countywide. Additionally, WCCLS’ central support and services link city and community libraries together into one system, creating access to books and other library materials for all county residents. About 40% of WCCLS funding currently comes from a local option property tax levy that will expire June 2021.

If passed, what would Measure 34-297 do?

Measure 34-297 would renew a five-year levy that will be expiring in June 2021. The levy would, if passed, have the same fixed rate of $0.22 per $1,000 of assessed value and would continue to provide about 40% of WCCLS funding. The proposed levy would run from July 2021 through June 2026. If passed, the levy would maintain current levels of countywide library service for another five years, which would include the following:

- Funding for public library operations: Measure 34-297 would provide funding to maintain open hours for libraries that serve all county residents. Libraries saw 3.8 million visits in fiscal year 2018-19.
- Reading programs for children: Measure 34-297 would provide funding for children’s reading events that average about 285,000 participants each year. This includes annual summer reading programs for youth and literacy programs for preschoolers. In addition, libraries provide reading and learning programs for students, including online homework and tutoring services for all children in Washington County.
- Book purchases: The measure would provide funding for the continued purchase of books, e-books and other materials that are available to all library users. If passed, the levy would fund the continued purchase of additional copies of in-demand books in order to keep wait times down.
- Resources for jobseekers: Measure 34-297 would allow libraries to continue to provide information, resources and instruction to assist those looking for jobs or career development.
- Central support and services that link libraries together: Measure 34-297 would maintain central support and services, which include the following: central sorting and book delivery between 16 libraries seven days a week, allowing all county residents to access the shared collection of 1.6 million books and other materials; shared library inventory management and online request system; the wccls.org website; shared library events calendar; and book deliveries to county residents who are homebound or living in care facilities.

If passed, how would the levy affect a homeowner’s taxes?

Measure 34-297 would renew a five-year levy that is expiring in June 2021. The levy would maintain a fixed rate of $0.22 per $1,000 of assessed value, and would run from July 2021 through June 2026. In 2021, typical homeowners with an assessed value of $300,000 (not market value) would pay $66 per year.

What would happen if the levy does not pass?

Reductions in service levels would occur, including reductions in hours, book purchases and events, as well as reductions in countywide services such as the countywide online catalog and book delivery. In addition, if the levy does not pass the tax would not go into effect and homeowners would not be assessed the tax of $0.22 per $1,000 of assessed value.

This information, except for the website link(s), was reviewed by the Oregon Secretary of State’s Office for compliance with ORS 260.432.
May Calendar

All items on this calendar are taking place virtually. Please visit www.northplains.org/calendar for information on how to join in.

05/04 City Council 7 p.m. with work session at 6 p.m.
05/05 Virtual Mind Your Yoga 4:30 p.m.
05/07 Virtual Mind Your Yoga 4:30 p.m.
05/11 Parks and Recreation Board 6 p.m.
05/12 Virtual Mind Your Yoga 4:30 p.m.
05/13 Planning Commission 7 p.m.
05/14 Virtual Mind Your Yoga 4:30 p.m.
05/18 City Council 7 p.m.
05/19 Virtual Mind Your Yoga 4:30 p.m.
05/21 Virtual Mind Your Yoga 4:30 p.m.
05/25 Memorial Day City business will resume 05/26
05/26 Virtual Mind Your Yoga 4:30 p.m.
05/28 Virtual Mind Your Yoga 4:30 p.m.

Police Department

Proposed Measure 34-296:
Washington County Public Safety Levy 2020

Washington County voters will be asked to consider two, five-year local option levies on the ballot this May: a proposed renewal of the Library Levy and a proposed Public Safety Levy. If passed, Measure 34-296 would replace the five-year Public Safety Levy that will expire in June 2021.

Washington County provides public safety services to all cities, urban unincorporated neighborhoods and rural communities in Washington County. These services include prosecution, jail and other incarceration services, probation and parole supervision, juvenile crime prevention, special law enforcement teams and other law enforcement services, such as forensics and investigations.

The current, expiring Public Safety Levy has provided funding for 16% of these services for all Washington County residents. The proposed levy, if passed, would continue to provide 16% of the funding for the County’s public safety services and would run from July 2021 to June 2026. The proposed levy would provide funding under two categories:

- Continue the current level of services based on population growth, inflation, equipment costs and other expenses associated with forecasted growth. These services include:
  - Countywide prosecution services,
  - Compliance monitoring for registered sex offenders,
  - Supervision and treatment of juvenile offenders,
  - Victims’ assistance and emergency shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence,
  - Special law enforcement teams such as mental health response teams of deputies and mental health professionals helping people in crisis get medical assistance instead of going to jail.

- Provide additional funding for staff and services which would include:
  - An additional prosecutor to address an increase in child abuse cases,
  - Four additional probation officers to supervise an increase in domestic violence offender caseload,
  - Four additional jail deputies allowing the jail to operate at full capacity and reduce early release,
  - Contracted services to divert eligible, non-violent juvenile offenders to community-based intervention programs.

The levy would, if passed, have a five-year, fixed rate of $0.47 per $1,000 of assessed value, which would be an increase of $0.05 per $1,000. If approved, this would be the first rate-increase since the original levy in 2000. In 2021, typical homeowners with an assessed value (not market value) of $300,000 would pay $141, or about $20 more than they paid in 2020.

If the levy does not pass, there would be a reduction in services in Washington County affecting prosecution, law enforcement, supervision, corrections and emergency shelters likely to begin in 2021. In 2021, the tax would not go into effect and typical homeowners, based on an average assessed value of $300,000, would see a $126 per year reduction in their property taxes.
For additional information about Measure 34-296—the Washington County Public Safety Levy—please visit www.co.washington.or.us/levies or call 503-846-8685.

This information, except for the website link(s), was reviewed by the Oregon Secretary of State’s Office for compliance with ORS 260.432.

Buy Local Club

The City would like to thank our residents for participating in the North Plains Buy Local Club! In the last four weeks, we’ve enjoyed seeing the program expand to include more local businesses for North Plains residents to shop and earn water bill credits in the process. The program now includes:

- Hits the Spot Cafe
- Teninty's Pizzas & Subs
- The Rogue Brewpub
- Robinson's FTD Florists
- Hobson Fitness: A new business member of the Buy Local Club. Gift cards available!
- Abbey Creek Winery: A new business member of the Buy Local Club. Wine, stemware, and other merchandise!
- Claey’s Catering: Just Added! The folks at Claey’s Catering now offer pre-cooked gourmet meals for families of four

The end of April will mark the end of the first month of the Buy Local Club. New cards at all businesses will begin May 1, so get your purchases in now to earn up to $50 off of your City water bill! See www.northplains.org for program details and contact information for all of our participating local businesses.

City Manager Update

City Meetings Have Gone 'Virtual'

Even with public building closures and physical distancing, the business of a local government must go on. Not only does that apply to utility services, answering the phones, new library programming, and public works projects, but the sentiment also pertains to holding public meetings. The City Council, Planning Commission, and our other volunteer boards and commissions typically meet in-person at the Senior Center or the Public Library. However, given the COVID-gathering restrictions, North Plains has adapted like all of our peer communities by going online to host virtual public meetings on the Zoom platform.

What does this mean? In one sense, it gives people easier access to participate in their local meetings by being able to attend over their phone or computer, rather than physically going somewhere. Concerned citizens can give public testimony in the same manner, virtually, or can submit it in advance of all meetings to info@northplains.org, where advance testimony will be read into the record. Zoom meeting call-in instructions are included on all of our meeting agendas, and all meeting packets are distributed and available several days before the meetings take place.

Virtual meetings are going to be our new normal for a while, and we as a City want to make sure we can still hear from our citizens and businesses. If you have any advice on how we can do better, please let us know!

- Andy Varner, City Manager
At Teninty’s Pizza and Subs, our number one concern is always the health and safety of our customers and our staff. We want to let everyone know that we are on top of the safety precautions we need to take to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). We have taken great measures to keep our restaurant super clean constantly throughout the day. For your safety we have also established three different ways for you to order and receive your food order and maintain social distancing.

**Contact-Free Delivery**
When placing your order whether through our website or over the phone, let us know where to leave your food at your door (ex. on a chair). Our delivery driver will knock on the door and then step a few feet away to maintain six feet distance. After you open the door and we verify you receive your food, we will thank you and leave. We are currently offering free delivery.

**Carry Out**
Come into the restaurant and carry out your food order. We have removed the tables and chairs out of our restaurant and placed markers on the floor to ensure 6ft social distancing. We sanitize the credit card machine and pen after each use. We then place your food order on a staging table and step away so you can grab your food order and still maintain a 6ft distance from our associate for the purpose of social distancing.

**Curbside Pickup**
The third option is curbside pickup. Pre-pay for your food order over the phone or order online and give us a call when you arrive to the restaurant, and one of our associates will run your food order out to your car.

We also want you to know you can eat our pizza with confidence. Our pizza is baked to perfection in a 500 degree oven. Hands free after bake from oven to box to your door!

Thank you all, we so love to serve you, we so appreciate all your support and we look forward to coming out of this stronger than ever.

The Teninty Team
503.647.5761
www.tenintyspizzaandsubs.com

*We are currently offering free delivery for all online orders!*
50 YEARS OF HEALTHY WATER FOR ALL

With your support, Clean Water Services and our partner cities keep our communities and habitats thriving.

See how we protect the water we all depend on at cleanwaterservices.org.

Invested in thriving communities & habitats

Due to the financial stress many families and businesses are feeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, Clean Water Services is recommending sanitary sewer and surface water management rates remain at their current levels in the new fiscal year beginning July 1 and defer planned rate increases until economic activity in the region recovers. We will manage our budget by delaying planned operating and capital investments.

You’re welcome to attend our June 5 Budget Committee meeting and June 23 Board of Directors public hearing where we’ll present our Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 budget and proposed rates. To learn more about how you can participate, please visit cleanwaterservices.org/budget.

Once the economic activity in the region recovers, we will implement the proposed rate increases to restart delayed investments. Our FY 2020-21 budget includes a provision for a delayed 4.2% combined increase for the average household. The sanitary sewer rate would increase by $1.84 (4%) a month, and the surface water management fee would increase by $0.50 (5%) per month. These rates are shared proportionately by CWS and partner cities, which may charge additional fees to meet local needs. For more information on these added fees, please contact the City of North Plains.

Rates support our work in protecting water resources as we look beyond this pandemic and keep up with changing needs. This requires additional investments in aging infrastructure, ensuring our long-term water supply and meeting stricter federal and state pollution control rules.

For 50 years Clean Water Services has produced clean, healthy water and created a sustainable watershed for the people and businesses of Washington County. In this unprecedented time of COVID-19, we continue to keep your safety and health at the forefront — so all of us have clean water for drinking, washing our hands and helping prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Healthy water & healthy communities
In 2019, your investments helped:

- Create 24 billion gallons of clean water
- Generate 19 million kWh of renewable energy
- Restore 141 miles of riverbanks

Combining science and nature, we work in partnership with our Tualatin Basin cities to safeguard the river’s health and vitality, ensure the economic success of our region, and protect public health for more than 600,000 residents and businesses in urban Washington County.

May 2020