

WARRENTON

Your Home Town

A Publication of the City of Warrenton, Oregon



Winter 2017

From Mayor Mark Kujala:



Warrenton is open for business! As Mayor of Warrenton, I am gratified to see that creating an environment where businesses can succeed has led to the continued growth of our city during the last year. That doesn't just apply to new businesses locating here, but to the expansion of existing businesses and the success of local entrepreneurs, as well. Warrenton will have a focus in 2017 on sustaining this progress, while insuring livability and recreational opportunities are both maintained and enhanced. Here are a few priorities I see for the coming year:

- Establish improved maintenance programs for public facilities such as levees, tidegates, and ditches to protect residents from flooding and increased flood insurance costs.
- Continue the improvements to the commercial docks at the Warrenton Marina, and update the master plan for the Hammond Marina.
- Make the Warrenton downtown a more inviting and vibrant location; starting with the relocation of the Warrenton Library in the downtown corridor.
- Complete improvements to the Hammond water line and review development code so that constraints to building in Hammond are relieved.
- Facilitate improved communication in the community, amongst Clatsop County leaders, and with state and federal government.

I want to thank the numerous volunteers who have worked in various roles on boards and community groups to make our city better in 2016. I also want to thank our dedicated city staff for all they do to keep our city moving forward.

You are all invited to "Mayor's Coffee" at 9:00 a.m. every Monday at City Hall to share your ideas and feedback about life in Warrenton.

The Warrenton City Commission meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m., and you are welcome to come hear all the things our city is doing. Thanks for making Warrenton your home, and have a great 2017!

Improvement projects continue at Warrenton and Hammond Marinas

2016 was another busy year in the Warrenton and Hammond Marinas.

Phase 2 for the Hammond Marina bank stabilization project was completed in February 2016. The project is being completed in three phases with the final bank stabilization stage to begin in early 2017.

The City is continuing to work with the United States Army Corp of Engineers for the acquisition of the Hammond Marina with the expected transfer of property to take place in 2018.

The August Buoy 10 fishery was another busy one. The lack of fish showed a slight decline in the Hammond launch ramp and parking revenues but for the most part we were as busy as always. Everyone was in great spirits and seemed



to have a good time. Many of the customers commented, "The fish are an added bonus. We just love coming here."

August also brought the retirement of Harbormaster Keith Pinkstaff. Keith retired on August 14th after 18-plus years working for the city. Thanks to Keith for his contributions to the marina over the years. We wish him a happy and relaxing retirement!

October brought us the start of commercial F-Dock replacement in Warrenton. This project is being funded by the Urban Renewal Agency and is expected to be completed in spring of 2017. The commercial fleet has been great in helping us to adjust to the temporary loss of 26 slips and we thank them for their patience. It has been very exciting to watch this project take place and we hope that this is just the start of many upgrades to come.

We have a lot of enthusiasm around the marina these days; we have an excellent crew and we all are striving to make 2017 better than ever.

Photos: The replacement of F-Dock in Warrenton is nearing completion.

"The fish are an added bonus. We just love coming here."



Warrenton Fire Department welcomes 2017 with training and a new ladder truck



A new 107-foot ladder truck (similar to above) will be on duty in Warrenton early this year.

The Warrenton Fire Department ended the year with 1,129 calls for service. These include fires, emergency medical requests and motor vehicle collisions. These calls are staffed by a crew of 40 highly trained volunteers who drop whatever they are doing at home and respond to the fire station to help someone in need. Our call volume happens in a 50/50 mix of daytime versus nighttime responses. About 85 percent of the calls we respond to are requests for emergency medical assistance. They range in severity from people who aren't breathing to people who may need assistance getting up from a fall.

We are anxiously awaiting the delivery of a brand new 107-foot ladder truck that is being custom built in Appleton, Wisconsin, by Pierce Manufacturing for us. The new ladder will close a gap that the City has had in the fire protection that we are capable of providing to our larger commercial structures. It will also be a force multiplier for us in combating smaller home fires as it will allow us to do more with fewer people. Pierce has been working on the truck for 11 weeks and should be getting ready to fit the aerial ladder on top by the time of this publication.

Training within the fire department during the first few months of the new year is primarily focused on fulfilling our mandatory training requirements. We are currently working through blood-borne pathogens training and being fit-tested to wear our self-contained breathing apparatus masks. This also includes performance of an obstacle course and operation working in a self-contained breathing apparatus. We also review our procedures for things like taking care of one of our EMT's who might have been stuck with a contaminated IV needle.

Warrenton Police Department celebrated community and recognized local heroes in 2016

2016 was a year of change, partnership, and community celebration for the Warrenton Police Department. The Warrenton Budget Committee and Warrenton City Commission approved the purchase of body-worn video cameras for all police officers and mobile video cameras for all patrol vehicles in the 2015-2016 budget year. After extensive preparation and infrastructure was put in place, officers started wearing the body cameras and using the mobile cameras in April 2016. So far, the cameras have been used in numerous cases leading to many guilty pleas. The footage has also been used to vindicate officers who were accused of wrong or inappropriate actions. The cameras offer the ability for citizens, the courts, and administration to get a first-hand perspective during events and citizen interactions.

During the end of July 2016, the department started receiving numerous reports of bicycles being stolen in and around the Fort Stevens State Park. Officers stepped up patrols but were not able to catch anyone taking bicycles. The department reached out for community help through social media and the media. The WPD Facebook page exploded with comments and information. Officers were able to follow-up and develop information through investigative leads ultimately leading to three named suspects and three arrests. Besides recovering fifteen bicycles, several other items of stolen property were recovered helping to solve WPD and other agency cases. Two of the three suspects were sent to an Oregon state prison and the third took a plea deal and served time in the county jail. This was a great showcase of police/public cooperation to solve a crime as well as demonstrating the value of social media as an investigative tool.

The WPD celebrated the accomplishments of several citizens and officers by presenting commendations at two separate ceremonies at City Commission meetings. On March 22, the WPD honored Air National Guard members Ryan Smith and Beth Rowley and citizen John Meiners who helped during a motor vehicle crash where a toddler was run over by a van. During that same meeting Reserve Officer James Rankin was honored for over 30-years of service to the City of Warrenton as a reserve officer. At the May 24 City Commission meeting Rite Aid Manager Chris Mayer was recognized for stopping an elderly woman from sending money to a phone scammer, Farmers Insurance Agent Darlene Warren, along with Officers Aaron Berndt, Richard Kraynak, and Robert Wirt were honored for helping a suicidal woman armed with a knife. US Coast Guard personnel Daniel Withers and Travis Addison were also honored for their help during a robbery of an elderly woman in the Fred Meyer parking lot. The WPD is committed to recognizing citizens and personnel for their efforts to make Warrenton a wonderful and safe community.

The WPD ended the summer by hosting the first annual Family Movie Night. The free event was held on the large grassy areas at 3rd and Alder. It was estimated over 250 people attended with free popcorn being provided by the Home Depot. *Zoo Keeper* with Kevin James was shown on a large inflatable screen using the department projector and sound system. Officer Robert Wirt was the brainchild of the movie night and is planning to have one every summer just before school starts.

The WPD is proud to be part of our community and to partner with the City of Warrenton and citizens to make a great place to live!



Top photo: Air National Guard members Ryan Smith and Beth Rowley and John Meiners.
Below: Rite Aid Manager Chris Mayer.



Top photo: Darlene Warren, along with Officer Aaron Berndt, Richard Kraynak, and Robert Wirt.
Middle photo: Daniel Withers and Travis Addison.
Bottom: WPD Chief Mathew Workman and Reserve Officer James Rankin.



Warrenton library is a center of activity

2016 began with the loss of several long-time board members, who felt that it was time to move on. We were saddened to lose Diane Collier, Kathi Merritt and Jan Ganaway who were not merely on the library board but were founding mothers of the library itself. New members Kelsey Balensifer, Rochelle Coulombe and Natalie Duggan have a hard act to follow!

We also began the year by attempting to get our overdue items returned. I'm not positive, but I think if I look back, I'm pretty sure we begin EVERY year trying to get our books and movies to come home!

February was the intended date of the first ever Little Free Library Auction, a fundraiser for Reading in Clatsop County (R.O.C.C.). As it turned out, it didn't happen until April. However, some sweet little structures were built by participating county residents and some sweet members of the community purchased them so that R.O.C.C. can continue its mission to place a library card into the hands of every child in Clatsop County.

Also in February, we held a Volunteer Appreciation Tea at Serendipity Café. With an "Alice in Wonderland" theme, nearly everyone channeled their inner Mad Hatter resulting in a fantastic array of chapeaux! I wish every month we could do something appreciative for our fantastic volunteers because without them there would be no library.

It's been quite an up and down year. In the spring, we began preparing for the upcoming summer reading program and we discovered that our building was in worse shape than we had realized. We also held the First Annual Book Sale at the Warrenton Community Center.

The summer reading program, *On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!* Kicked off with a party at Library Park. Volunteers led warm-up exercises, and manned play stations such as hopscotch, tunnel crawl, bubbles, and hula hoops. Main Street Market donated a fruit platter and drinks; there was a popcorn machine and a beautiful cake. The Warrenton Calvary Church was the site for our entertainment programs including *Leapin' Louie*, *Angel Ocasio*, and *Charlie Brown*. This was the first year of a county-wide community reading challenge of which Warrenton was the winner! We were also a free lunch site again.

A search was begun to find a temporary home for the library because of our building woes. There was a public meeting and a committee was formed with the task of finding one. Suffice it to say, we hope to be relocated on Main Street some time in 2017.

As a result of the public forum, a friends of the library group was formed and they are always on the lookout for more members. Please call the library to find out how you can be a friend to the library too.

Many of our patrons took advantage of Amnesty Month during November. No overdue fees were charged during the month and quite a few items found their way back to where they belong.

We ended the year on a high note; Warrenton Community Library was the recipient of a grant from the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition. We received money to purchase Spanish language books and books about Hispanic Culture. Wherever we wind up, we WILL have a Spanish/English section.

Know what to do and where to go in the event of a tsunami

Do you have questions regarding Tsunami Evacuation Routes or preparedness? Other emergency services? The City works with Clatsop County's Emergency Management Division to provide information for all sorts of natural or human-caused disasters. Go to the County Emergency Management Division website at www.clatsopEMD@co.clatsop.or.us for additional information.

Warrenton recently received notification that the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) completed tsunami evacuation modeling which includes Warrenton, Hammond, Fort Stevens State Park and Camp Rilea. For more information, including tsunami evacuation routes and evacuation neighborhoods from every location in

Your Public Works Department is ready for stormy weather

Your Public Works Department has been busy this year preparing for inclement weather and working hard day and night during storms. The Department needs to keep pumps running if the power goes out, clear streets of storm debris, check levees and tide gates, and clear catch basins. There are a lot of things we do when the weather gets frightful. Here is a brief list of our severe weather activities:

- We stage backup generators for our sewer pump stations, all fueled up and tested to make sure they work.
- We have "High Water" signs available if needed
- Chainsaws ready

During a large scale event like earthquake or the 2007 Storm, help out by placing this sign in a prominent place to enable first responders and volunteers to quickly identify who needs urgent assistance. "HELP" tells first responders you need assistance; "OK" lets them know they can move on to others in distress. Signs are available at City Hall.



our community and estimated walking times to safety, go to www.oregonsunami.org.

Of course, you can contact us at City Hall if you have questions. We have maps and signs that let emergency workers know if you are "OK" or if "Help" is needed. The City of Warrenton is planning a community evacuation drill in the near future. Stay tuned for more information. City website: www.ci.warrenton.or.us. City Hall phone: (503) 861-0823.

- By-pass pumps ready
- We adjust our Waste Water Treatment Plant to handle more flow
- Crews clear catch basins, drainage culverts, and ditches
- We make sure stormwater pumps checked and working
- Heavy equipment at the ready—dump trucks, backhoes, etc.
- Stand-by generator for Public Works is operational
- Clearing streets and ROW as needed
- Crews check buildings and other facilities
- Check levees and tide gates

Warrenton receives Business Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) funding

The Public Works Department has been busy this year. We have received funding through Business Oregon IFA for several projects. This funding is critical for our community to pay for large projects and it helps us keep utility rates low.



HAMMOND WATERLINE Approx. 10,000 feet of 18 inch waterline along Pacific Dr.	\$1,645,000: 40% loan, 60% debt forgiveness
Industrial User Agreement for Pacific Seafood Group Helped determine costs and feasibility of Pacific Seafood's request to connect to the Sewer Treatment Plant	\$46,580 Grant: \$8,220 Match, total \$54,800
I&I STUDY This study will help reduce the inflow of groundwater and surface water into the sewer system	\$90,000 total: \$35,000 loan, \$20,000 grant, \$35,000 match
CORE CONVEYANCE This project includes rebuilding the sewer pump station at E Harbor & Ensign and boring a force main under the Skipanon River	Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan through DEQ \$1,920,304: \$500,000 debt forgiveness
WATER METER REPLACEMENT Replace old obsolete meters with an automated reading system	\$460,000 loan, \$640,000 debt forgiveness
WATER MASTER PLAN 20 year update for our water Master Plan	\$20,000 Grant



More growth in the year ahead

It has been another banner year for development in Warrenton! 2016 continued the trends in both commercial and residential activity established over the last few years.

The North Coast Retail Center, which started with Costco opening in 2009, is all but built out. Astoria Ford has moved to town and opened its doors for business in December, as did the Panda Express Chinese restaurant. Other commercial activity includes a building housing Guild Mortgage Company, Sweet Scoops ice cream and yogurt, Beyond Nail and Pedi Spa, and Ben's Computers. And, after a series of land use entitlement and building permit extensions, Wal-Mart recently broke ground for its superstore.

Just to the east of the retail center, Clatsop County is continuing to pursue the environmental permits for the North Coast Business Park for industrial activities. Big Beams LLC acquired about ten acres of this site for a future warehouse/distribution facility for Fort George Brewery. Rumor has it there will also be a tasting room and outdoor recreation facilities.

Residential construction has been equally exciting—it seems that we are issuing building permits for new single family homes almost as soon as final subdivision plats are recorded. All lots in Pacific Ridge are now built out, as is G Gramson Estates north of Anne Marie Park. With the extension of Willow Drive to Highway 105 in Forest Rim which provided necessary emergency vehicle access, the city resumed issuing permits for duplexes and multiple family projects. We've also seen some creative use of existing lots in the older parts of town for infill projects. In total, the city has issued permits for 18 single family homes, four duplexes and one triplex, and five multiple family projects in 2016.

We look forward to 2017 continuing these trends.

City offers convenient bill paying options

2016 has been a busy year for the Finance Department, but this is nothing new. We have had some staff changes in the past couple of years; new hires and promotions. I believe we have put together a great team and we are looking forward to 2017 with a full staff. The finance department is made up of four full-time positions and one part-time position. In addition to assisting our citizens, providing support to other departments, budget preparation, and processing all financial data, our department receives payments for Utility Bills, Municipal Court Fines, Building Permits and Planning Fees, Business Licenses, Transient Room Tax, Lease Payments, Franchise Fees, and other miscellaneous payments. We also process payments to employees and vendors for all departments in the City.

During the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016, we mailed 39,309 Utility Bills, processed 27,273 check, cash and credit card payments, processed 4,558 payments to vendors and employees, issued 548 business licenses and 663 burn permits.

Additionally, 6,045 payments were made through our website, approximately 300 people received their bill electronically each month and 520 people made their monthly payments through our Auto Pay Program.

The City offers several convenient ways to pay your utility bill. You can sign up for our Auto Pay program and your payment will automatically be pulled from your checking or savings account on the due date of the bill. The form to sign up is available on our website or at City Hall. Just fill it out and attach a voided check and return it to our office. It takes one to two billing cycles to take effect and you will know it is working when your bill says, "Auto Pay, Do Not Pay." No more late fees, stamps, or trips to City Hall!

You can also make your payment on our website at www.ci.warrenton.or.us. To fully utilize the website, you can use your bill to sign up with an email address. This will allow you to make your payment, save payment information, sign up for an electronic bill, or review your account history. If you prefer not to sign up, you can choose the "Quick Pay" payment option. Using these methods of payment saves time and money for both you and the City!

THE CITY WISHES TO MORE EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE WITH THE COMMUNITY.

The City of Warrenton's website is: www.ci.warrenton.or.us. Here you can access a variety of information including City Commissioner contact information, City Maps, Municipal Code/Development Code, permits and forms, as well as project information and other announcements. The Warrenton City Commission meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Each meeting's packet is uploaded to the site the Friday before each meeting. The public is encouraged to attend. Find out what is happening in YOUR town!

If you have a concern or complaint, you may submit it via the City's webpage. We will make sure it gets to the right department, or feel free to call City Hall at (503) 861-3927.



Monday Morning Coffee with the Mayor

Have a question, comment or suggestion about what's going on in your city? Join Mayor Mark Kujala at City Hall Commission Chambers to discuss a variety of topics about how the city can best serve the public.

Every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m., residents are encouraged to voice their opinions on what's going on in Warrenton. Come on in, have a cup of coffee, and let your city leaders know what's on your mind.



CITY OF WARRENTON

WARRENTON CITY HALL
225 S. Main Avenue, P.O. Box 250
Warrenton, OR 97146
www.ci.warrenton.or.us

CITY HALL DEPARTMENTS

Administration/Finance

Linda Engbretson, City Manager

April Clark, Finance Director

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. -5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

City Manager: (503) 861-3927

Finance/General Information: (503) 861-2233

Deputy City Recorder: (503) 861-2233

Building/Planning

Skip Urling, Community Development Director

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-Noon; 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Planning/Building permits questions: (503) 861-0920

Fire Department

Tim Demers, Fire Chief

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Emergencies: 911

Other Fire Business: (503) 861-2494

Police Department

Mathew Workman, Chief of Police

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Emergencies: 911

Other Police Business: (503) 861-2235

Fax: (503) 861-2863

Email: policechief@ci.warrenton.or.us

Municipal Court

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

General Information: (503) 861-0792

PUBLIC WORKS

Jim Dunn, Public Works Director

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

General Information: (503) 861-0912

After-hour Emergencies: (503) 325-4411

MARINAS (Warrenton/Hammond)

Jane Sweet, Interim Harbormaster

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Warrenton Office: (503) 861-3822

WARRENTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Nettie Lee Calog, Site Manager

861 Pacific Drive, Hammond

Hours: 1-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-Noon Saturdays

Library phone: (503) 861-3919