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CITY OF NORTH BEND

BUSINESS BULLETIN

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2020

Striving to support a strong local economy and the unique character of the North Bend community.

Quarterly Message from Mayor Rob McFarland

Dear North Bend Residents,

Our community has persevered through this whirlwind year. It's hard to believe we are entering the final quarter of 2020 – a year marked by snow, floods, a worldwide pandemic and recently, unprecedented western Washington wildfire smoke.

While this year has required us all to roll up our sleeves and push through in new ways, our town is very resilient. Your Councilmembers, City staff and I have been working to maintain a sense of normalcy by pursuing goals that align with our mission statement to create a highly livable community.



With that goal guiding our work, we were able to accomplish many positive things during the 3rd quarter of 2020 and we wanted to share some highlights with you.

Supporting Local Businesses and Managing COVID-related Budget Impacts

As of last month, the North Bend Rapid Relief Program provided emergency financial assistance grants to approximately 45 small businesses and nonprofits impacted by the Covid-19 crisis. The City used just over \$180,000 in federal CARES Act funding to launch the program.

Our Finance Department has also addressed COVID-related challenges with dedication, ensuring CARES funding made it to those struggling local businesses and nonprofits; managing PPE costs and complex work schedules; keeping transactions moving; and tracking reimbursable COVID costs.

The city budget is significantly dependent upon sales

tax revenue. With a future economic rebound unclear and pandemic-related revenue losses impacting local companies, government frugality is increasingly important. While lean staffing levels and spending reductions have provided some relief to our 2020 budget, we continue to tighten our belts, think outside the box

and get creative to ensure that we meet residents' needs and expectations. On a positive note, sale tax revenue has bounced back some over the past few months.

New Legislation, Infrastructure Improvements

Over the summer the City Council adopted a Water Conservation Ordinance (WCO) as an effort to conserve

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(425) 888-7669



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Quarterly Message from Mayor Rob McFarland

(continued from page 1)

a limited natural resource and protect the Snoqualmie River. Citizens' conservation efforts are apparent and appreciated by Council and City Staff.

Public Works crews have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. While others can work from home, our crews have worked in-person to provide sewer, water, storm drainage and street/landscaping services.



Public Works Team
replacing broken fire
hydrant

Crews replaced 260 of the approximate 2,600 citywide water meters to improve water efficiency. The city also launched a downtown drainage feasibility study.

A pavement overlay project from Ballarat Way to the new Park Street Roundabout was recently completed. The new roundabout is awaiting undergrounding of utilities by PSE to officially be complete. This new pavement, combined with the Park Street roundabout and street frontage median improvements near new



Park Street Roundabout

Phoenix Plaza, have improved traffic and the appearance of this section of North Bend Way.

The City was recently awarded a \$1.38 million grant to install another roundabout at the Mt. Si Blvd and Bendigo Blvd (SR 202) intersection and will soon enter the design phase. Upon completion, traffic flow in this busy area near I-90 is expected to improve.

A Pavement Condition Index (PCI) Study was completed during the 3rd quarter, with good results compared to other King County cities. Permitting through King County to provide a new mitigation water source at the Cascade Golf Course well is underway.

Progress continues on the North Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade project. Another 10% of Phase 1 work was completed this quarter, moving it



to 75% complete. The WWTP also received the 2019 Outstanding Performance Award, which marks the 3rd straight year receiving this honor from the Department of Ecology.

The City received an approval recommendation for its Water System Plan (WSP) update from the King County Utilities Technical Review Committee (UTRC). The UTRC also approved moving the National Guard's proposed Readiness Center project from the Sallal Water Service Area to the City of North Bend's Water Service Area. Grant work is being explored for a new pipe system to serve the commercial area on the eastern edge of the City.

City staff also continues to work with the Sallal Water Association to resolve water data sharing issues that will allow us to continue charging City sewer customers residing in the Sallal service area the most accurate and fair rates.

Community Projects

You may have noticed that clearing and grading work has begun on the future Snoqualmie Valley Athletic Complex located at the corner of NW 14th Street and SR 202. This project has been in the works for nearly 5 years and will provide needed field space in the Valley, as well as an economic boost to local businesses.

A collaboration with the Si View Parks District is constructing a missing Tanner Trail Connection between Cedar Falls Way and Maloney Grove Ave. This new paved trail section should be complete by the end of October.



Tanner Trail, between Cedar Falls Way and Maloney Grove Ave.



There was an important addition to our new city hall. Through another collaborative effort - with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion - a Veteran's Memorial Garden was installed outside City Hall. A special commemorative Memorial Stone was dedicated and unveiled this month.



Veterans Memorial at City Hall

Planning for Fiscal Stability

In September the Community and Economic Development (CED) Department received new leadership: Rebecca Deming was hired as the CED Director and Jesse Reynolds was promoted to Economic Development Manager. The CED Department is working on significantly updating the City's Economic Development Plan for Council consideration. This update is intended to guide commercial development and create long-term fiscal stability for the City.

Last week your City Council also began work to increase housing diversity. Often called The Missing Middle, the Council is examining potential ways to bring more housing options beyond high density apartments and expensive single-family homes to our City. The goal is to offer a variety of housing price points and create more affordability. The Council will continue discussions on this topic in the coming weeks.

As you can tell, your City Council, myself and all City staff continue working to serve residents. For a small community, we are incredibly busy and optimistic about our future. We are extremely lucky to have a top-notch, dedicated staff and a very supportive and engaged City Council.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rob

Local Entrepreneurs

"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do." -- Steve Jobs

New to Downtown, But Not the Valley: Chez Toi Design & Boutique



On July 1st Chez Toi Design and Boutique opened in Downtown North Bend, located at 111 West North Bend Way. Julietta Harding, owner, shares the address with Sharon Hockenbury, owner of Twin Peaks Nutrition and Wellness. Chez Toi offers beautiful clothing, handmade incense and perfumes, soy candles and jewelry.

Harding is also an interior designer, with many years of high-end residential and commercial design experience. To make an appointment for an interior design consultation, visit cheztoidesign.com.

"I am so happy to be back home in the valley, and am looking forward to serving the residents through my interior design expertise and little boutique. My kids grew up in the valley (my daughter is now the owner of Twede's diner) and I have many, many good memories of living here," Julietta said.



Julietta Harding, owner at Chez Toi



Welcome, Chez Toi Design & Boutique!

WANT TO SHARE SOMETHING INNOVATIVE YOUR TEAM IS DOING?

Email: bkeveren@northbendwa.gov

2020 Virtual Candidate Forum

OCT 22
The Sno Valley Chamber of Commerce is hosting a free Virtual Candidate Forum for the WA State General Election, Legislative District 5. The Candidate Forum will be moderated by Dr. Robert Manahan, Superintendent of the Snoqualmie Valley School District. Register snovalley.org.

31 OCT

Quarantine-O-Ween Triple Treat Trek

OCT 31
Thank you to the many businesses who are participating in the North Bend, Snoqualmie and Fall City TRIPLE TREAT TREK, from noon to 6:00 p.m. on Halloween. Costumed, masked participants will embark on a scavenger hunt to find the elusive "Fall Fox," pick up merchant-made goodie bags, and stop by a few photo ops - all outside, in a socially distanced, continually moving atmosphere! Questions? Email BkBurrows@msn.com.

North Bend Theatre is OPEN!

The North Bend Theatre reopened Friday, October 9, after SEVEN MONTHS of mandatory closure. With capacity now allowed at 25 percent and available for private rentals, the community was welcomed with open arms for a weekend filled with Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse and A Nightmare On Elm Street. More curated classic movies are on the way each week. Newly added to the schedule will be 2:00 matinees on early-release Wednesdays for only \$5.

This iconic, historic landmark is surrounded by a community that appreciates it, and owners that were determined to keep it alive and relevant when restrictions prevented gathering, one of the essential (and fun) components of movie-going. Here are a few ways the Theatre continued operations through the COVID-19 pandemic:



The North Bend Theatre Team

- To-go popcorn and concessions for curbside delivery;
- Online gift card sales in preparation for reopening;
- Virtual movies from independent filmmakers;
- Movie trivia on large popcorn bags;
- Sunday free "new candy" giveaways;
- Their marquee "Name That Movie" challenge with a one-word clue;
- Kept their social media upbeat, encouraging and busy;
- Participated in streaming film events, like the North Bend Film Festival's NIGHTSTREAM event.

The North Bend Theatre has enacted extra precautions as movie-goers re-engage in person, such as social distance indicators, mandatory mask use for staff and patrons, rigorous cleaning and sanitizing, socially distanced seating, online ticket sales and their new order-from-seat concessions. For more information, visit northbendtheatre.com.

We look forward to heading back to the movies, North Bend Theatre team!



Enrichment at The Village



Ignite & The Village



Ignite Dance and Yoga continues to offer exceptional live online classes via Zoom, and are now offering small, in-person adult and youth classes in their studio at the same address! Visit ignitedanceandyoga.com for more information.

"This has been an incredible partnership with a shared passion for supporting kids and families. Creating this special community during this challenging time has been a gift both personally and professionally," said Ignite owner, Katie Black and The Village owner, Anne Granderson.

Thank you, Ignite Dance & Yoga and The Village!



A Letter from Your Downtown Foundation

Greetings North Bend Friends and Neighbors,

Fall is officially upon us, with the full display of North Bend wind, rain and brilliant in-between bursts of sunshine. Mt. Si has its head in the clouds again, and we all know our deciduous trees will soon be popping with color!

That is one wonderful thing we can count on right now, as we continue to work our way through an historic pandemic and every single illness and economic repercussions that comes along with it. Seasons will continue to change. Summer has turned to fall, and we still get to revel in that fresh, crisp beauty that is literally right outside our storefronts and homes.

With the arrival of this fall 2020, your NBDF is also looking to add new color to our board: We are in search of three new board members, in preparation for a fresh start to 2021. With a total of three years of commitment to this organization, and many more outside of it in helping our downtown thrive, we will greatly miss Beth Burrows, Nancy Wray and Debra Landers. BUT they aren't moving! They will still be present, and I bet we will see them at many future



LET'S LIGHT UP OUR DOWNTOWN!

North Bend's downtown holiday lights will be going up early this year! Plans include a fully lit up downtown by the second week of November. Will you help light up town by decorating your storefront with lights, and happy winter and holiday decor?

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As Seen on Brooks

On a sunny morning in August, Brooks Running had fun in North Bend.

Models went for a run downtown in new Brooks gear, and were photographed jogging all around town.

Senior Producer Christina Harp wanted to give a special shout-out to our local business, including Volition Brewing, the North Bend Bakery and Twede's Cafe for their hospitality and kindness.



NBDF events and meetups.

So, that brings us to a question: Do you or someone you know want to join this fantastic, local business-loving, community event creating, Downtown Foundation?

We will have applications ready by November 10th, and they will be posted to our Facebook page, as well as emailed to you, our North Bend business group. In the meantime, please help us spread the word and do connect back with questions or let us know you are interested! Email NorthBendDowntownFoundation@gmail.com.

Lastly (*but in no way least*) we are so excited to share with our community a new Halloween-inspired trek that we, along with businesses and organizations in Snoqualmie and Fall City are co-hosting: Quarantine-O-Ween TRIPLE TREAK TREK! From noon to 6PM, on October 31st, we will be handing out goodie bags at specified candy distribution tables, and leading a search for the illusive Fall Fox in Downtown North Bend. More information can be found at our Facebook event page!

The following businesses are helping us put on the show, both with storefront Halloween decorations, and goodies for the community:



- North Bend Theatre
- Si View Metro Parks
- Pro Ski & Mountain Service
- North Bend Bakery
- Clarity Eyewear Boutique
- Red Oak Residence
- Encompass
- Pioneer Coffee
- A&P Barbershop
- The Healing Garden
- Williamson Team, Real Estate Brokers
- JTM Confections
- Z Ultimate Self Defense Studios
- The Swirl
- Blue Prints Plus
- Erika Laureano Design
- Singletrack Cycles
- North Bend Art & Industry

We wish you peace this fall season, and encourage you to connect with us for ideas, discussion and anything local business!

Sincerely,

Your Downtown Foundation

Beth Burrows, Erin Craver, Debra Landers, Nancy Wray, Craig Glazier, Mary Miller, Erik Alston, Gaila Gutierrez & Lucas Haines



Small Business Saturday

28

Shop Small is a nationwide movement created to celebrate small businesses and help communities thrive. It is always the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and the NBDF will be working with you to encourage people to get out, and shop local, just in time for the holidays!



Updates from the City of North Bend

Please Join Us in Welcoming CED Director, Rebecca Deming, to the City of North Bend



On Tuesday, September 1, 2020 the North Bend City Council unanimously approved the hiring of Rebecca Deming as the City's new Community and Economic Development (CED) Director. She begins her new position in October.

Deming is the current Community Development Director in Desert Hot Springs, CA. Prior to that she served as the City of Beaumont (CA) Assistant Director of Planning/Community Development Director for over a decade. She holds a Bachelor of Science Planning degree from Cal Poly University and a master's degree in Public Administration from Cal State Dominguez Hills.

"I'm excited to relocate from California to Washington and start this new chapter of my life and career with the City of North Bend. It's an honor to join the City as the new Community and Economic Development Director and I look forward to serving the community," said Deming.

"Rebecca's experience and education are a great fit. I am impressed with her communication skills and the level of research she conducted to get to know our community during the recruitment process," commented City Administrator David Miller. "City staff, department heads and the Council were all involved in her selection and all concluded that her talent and personality are a great fit for North Bend. I am looking forward to working with Rebecca and experiencing her leadership in our Community and Economic Development Department."

David Miller currently serves [jointly] as North Bend City Administrator and Community Development Director. When Deming begins, Miller will focus solely on his City Administrator role.

NOV 29 **Artist Sunday**
Artists Sunday is an art-focused shopping day the first Sunday after Thanksgiving, and is a nationwide movement created to celebrate artists and help communities thrive. The NBDF will be working with our art community to showcase gorgeous local art!

DEC 05 **Holly Days**
The City of North Bend is working hard to create something that celebrates our valley, while also keeping our community safe as we continue to work through the COVID-19 pandemic. Please stay tuned for more information.

JAN 21 **Business Outreach Meeting**
Sponsored by the City of North Bend, Business Outreach Meetings serve as a direct avenue for business owners like you to meet up, to be informed of actions the City is considering which impact commercial and business property, to discuss other important topics that relate directly to North Bend business, and to communicate with your local government. Email bkeveren@northbendwa.gov for more.

City Council Work Study: An Economic Development Plan for Fiscal Stability, Balanced City

This month, the North Bend City Council convened for a Work Study Session to begin the process of updating the City's Economic Development strategy. This initial planning work by the Council is critical in developing long-term fiscal stability for the city, as well as a balanced community.

Under new leadership, the City's Community and Economic Development Department is focused on meeting Council policy direction by essentially creating a master plan for future commercial activity, with the goal to create more local, family wage jobs and produce goods and services to better meet residents' needs.

This City Council Work Study Session was just the first of many meetings to guide the City's Economic Development Plan that will become the roadmap for future commercial development in North Bend.

During the session, Council and Staff discussed the importance of balance so that all pieces of the plan fit together to create a healthy, livable community. While an Economic Development Plan will guide commercial activity, Council and Staff recognized other components should continually be addressed, including infrastructure to support new companies interested in calling North Bend home and housing diversity so those working in the City can also afford to live here.

The City sees the commercial Employment Park (EP) zoning areas east and west of downtown as the primary future commercial zones. This includes a new Utility Local Improvement District (ULID) in the works for the Meadowbrook area west of downtown, which will bring long-awaited sewer service. If approved, this ULID #7 will be timed with the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades, which will bring the plant up to modern standards and provide required treatment capacity by around 2023.



The City also continues to work on multiple water mitigation strategies, to meet water system constraints related to mitigation requirements, and a robust transportation improvement plan to serve the community. With infrastructure needs addressed, the next component for a balanced community is ensuring diverse housing options. Currently the City's predominate residential zones are Low Density (LDR), High Density (HDR) and a

"Cottage" zone. In response to diverse needs, City staff has been working on drafting an additional residential zone beyond dense apartments and expensive single-family homes.

At the work study, staff presented councilmembers with the new medium density residential zoning concept. A new "missing middle" zone would allow for duplexes, triplexes and courtyard apartments occupying the same footprint of a traditional single-family home. The potential zone is proposed for only a few areas of the city situated closer to commercial hubs.

The middle zone could provide smaller and more affordable housing options for today's workforce than currently exists in North Bend. Councilmembers expressed a desire to plan for future housing options that could create more affordability, but also wanted to carefully consider any unintended consequences.

After over two hours of conversation, Councilmembers decided to continue these discussions at a future work study.

Creating this important Economic Development Plan is expected to take many months - requiring more City Council work sessions, Council Committee meetings and Public Hearings - before a final draft is considered for adoption by Council.

COVID-19 Business Resources

We are researching resources for our local businesses with the intention of sharing helpful, actionable information. We are doing our best to learn and share information in this uncharted territory with our business community. Questions or suggestions? Email bkeveren@northbendwa.gov.

PPE RESOURCES FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Free, reusable masks - The City of North Bend received an inventory of cloth face coverings, thanks to our King County Council Representative, Kathy Lambert. These masks are available free to you and your employees, while supplies last. Interested? Email EOC Coordinator, Erin Mitchell, at emitchell@northbendwa.gov.

'PPE Connect'- AWB Rebound & Connect is an organization concentrating on getting Washington employers prepared to safely reopen, under new protocols and safety measures. They are providing a free online service right now that can connect businesses to much-needed PPE. For more information, visit reboundandrecovery.org.

SEASONAL, HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES OPEN TO PUBLIC MUST COMPLY WITH SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

FROM KING COUNTY LOCAL SERVICES - Seasonal events like pumpkin patches and small festivities, even if operated by nonprofits, must comply with relevant business activity (visit.tinyurl.com/y5kzjco6 for more information).

WORKPLACE POLICY FAQS:

FROM THE WA STATE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER - May Employers Require Employees to Quarantine if They Leave the State or Country?

While there is no legal requirement of quarantine after leaving the state or country, the state recommends that travelers commit to a 14-day quarantine upon return, especially after returning from high-activity regions. Employers must avoid adverse employment action against workers returning from out of state travel. Remote work should be accommodated when possible.

May Employers Require Testing or Screen Employees Before Allowing Them Into a Workplace?

According to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the ADA requires that employee testing be "job-related and consistent with business necessity." Applying this standard to COVID-19, because an infected individual poses a direct threat to others, employers may take steps, including testing, to determine whether employees entering the workplace have COVID-19.



OTHER CITY OF NORTH BEND RESOURCES

Check out and sign up for the City of North Bend's new COVID-19 Emergency Alerts, at tinyurl.com/rlyvfm9.

UTILITIES - HELP

Visit the City of North Bend's website for a constantly updated Open Business list, at tinyurl.com/razmzuy.

Visit the City of North Bend's Business Resource webpage often for updates: northbendwa.gov/282/COVID-19-Business-Resources.

City of North Bend will suspend shutoffs and late fees / penalties for City utility customers who become delinquent due to financial hardships during COVID-19. Suspension includes service for potable water, storm water, and sewer for utility customers served by North Bend. Questions? Email utilities@northbendwa.gov.

NEW, RELAXED GUIDANCE ISSUES FOR SOME ACTIVITIES

FROM THE WA STATE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

- Although all Washington counties remains in their current phase, Governor Inslee's announcement this week significantly expands the following permissible activity:

- Libraries - some indoor activity now permitted at 25% capacity in Phase 2.
- Youth/Adult Sports - many school and non-school sports now permitted based on risk criteria.
- Movie Theaters - operation permitted in Phases 2 and 3 with capacity, distancing, and masking requirements.
- Restaurants - household member restriction lifted, maximum table size expanded to 6 in Phase 2 and 8 in Phase 3, alcohol service extended to 11 p.m.
- Wedding Receptions and Funerals - capacity extended to 50 people in Phase 3, alcohol service and receptions can now go until 11 p.m.
- Retail Events - outdoor retail events such as holiday bazaars now permitted with up to 200 people in Phase 3 counties.
- Real Estate - open houses now permitted and up to five people permitted at viewings, inspections, etc.
- Outdoor Races - new guidelines established for organized outdoor events
- Water Recreation - permits operation of water recreation facilities on an appointment basis, including hotel and HOA pools, except for those with play features.

See supplemental guidance to determine occupancy limits (doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/WaterRecOccupancy.pdf).

CDC UPDATES GUIDANCE ON HOW COVID-19 SPREADS

FROM THE WA STATE JOINT INFO CENTER - COVID-19 is most commonly transmitted by respiratory droplets among people in "close contact". Close contact generally means direct interaction at a distance less than six feet. The CDC also maintains that spread is possible through surface transfer and potentially through airborne particles in poorly-ventilated spaces. CDC transmission guidance may inform safety practices at your workplace (cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads).

24th annual WASHINGTON STATE BIZ FAIR An All Virtual Event

PRESENTED BY:
SCORE | For the life of your business

Greater Seattle



Navigating the New Normal
Tuesday, November 10, 2020
7am - 5pm



This year's Annual Washington State Business Fair is going virtual, with a new theme, too: Navigating the New Normal. The WA State Small Business Liaison Team and the WA Delegation of SCORE, ESD, L&I and Greater Seattle are inviting small business owners and managers to join this free event on Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 7:00 to 5:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.bizfair.org. Register at tools.eventpower.com/reg/pre_search_user?show_id=2043