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CITY OF NORTH BEND

BUSINESS BULLETIN

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

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

2023 State of the City



Mayor McFarland delivered a 2023 State of the City at the March 7 North Bend City Council meeting. Read on for highlights, achievements, and more. Watch the recording [here](#).

When I took office in 2020, our community was just beginning to grapple with what swiftly became a global pandemic. Folks were scared. I was scared. Not only for potential illness or worse but for what this could do to our community and our local businesses. And sure enough, over the next two years, we witnessed high rates of infection and economic whipsaws as the virus spread throughout our community and the world.

To be frank, it was an incredibly challenging start to my term, addressing big unknowns from practically day one. I'm sure you can recall the collective feeling of uncertainty and fear, combined with new communication roadblocks. Truly, it felt like an uphill battle for all of us. Yet with great support from Council and our wonderful staff, we made the best decisions we could to adapt.

And look at us now. Here we are in 2023, the start of my fourth year in office, and the message is resilience, continuity, and perseverance; just like



"Walking" Burt Mann

seeing Burt Mann as he continues his daily walks through town.

At City Hall, many changes occurred during this time including organizational changes, and process and technology upgrades for flexibility. For nearly a year now, our staff has been back providing in-person customer service and we recently expanded service hours. Our public works team not only keeps multiple infrastructure projects moving but, in some instances, has stepped up delivery on projects years in the making. And our most recent upgrade is new financial software which will improve both financial reporting and provide cost efficiencies. This will in turn provide budget savings.



Colin Mercer, Building Official

And our core downtown business district not only held its own but is thriving, owing to three years of extra perseverance; blood, sweat, and tears by our local businesses and nonprofit organizations. North Bend, your community – as so much of our Valley – cultivates a small-

A year in review

town sense of care and fellowship that is one-to-another, honest-to-goodness interest in the welfare of our next-door neighbors and extending beyond.



Mayor, Encompass' Nela Cummings, Friends of Youth's Paul Iwali, Empower Youth Network's Laura Smith

It involves care at many levels, be it the Snoqualmie Tribe's stewardship of the greater Snoqualmie Valley and beyond from time immemorial; be it our city's innovative environmental and conservation focus; be it the many human services organizations that continually step up to ever-increasing needs. This community of care runs through the veins of North Bend – whether you've lived here your whole life, or 2022 marked your first year. It is within this context that I look forward to sharing with you some of the highlights and milestones of this past year and upcoming changes.

“North Bend, your community – as so much of our Valley – cultivates a small-town sense of care and fellowship that is one-to-another, honest-to-goodness interest in the welfare of our next-door neighbors and extending beyond.”

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2023 State of the City

...continued

Fiscal Stability



Councilmembers Rosen, Elwood, Gothelf, Pro Tem Koellen, Mayor, Loudenback, Miller, Joslyn

This past year we worked to deliver our city's Biennial Budget, guiding services to our citizens and investments in our collective future. After many months in the making with Council input and guidance, the budget was approved in December. This budget continues to echo our tradition of fiscal prudence, as I and Council recognize the necessity of providing for fiscally sound and sustainable city operations while reflecting our investment in community priorities and showcasing multiple ongoing and new infrastructure improvements, some of which I have the pleasure of sharing with you.

Shortly we will launch a comprehensive study of Fiscal Sustainability for the coming 20 years. Here, we will identify strategies for long-term city economic development and fiscal sustainability. This study will in part build on other forward-looking work in assessing housing needs, such as our first-ever broad-based community survey and an Economic Development Action Plan. These plans and several more will likely result in the years 2022 and 2023 as being the most concentrated period of looking holistically at the big picture of where and how we will meet your expectations over the next several decades.

Planning for our future

Planning for a sustainable future requires more than a financial roadmap. Forward-looking planning on a variety of levels is essential to laying the groundwork for a sustainable future:

- The City's Comprehensive Plan, our 20-year vision and underlying guide for land use and the built environment, is in its renewal cycle. This plan is required by the Growth Management Act and County-wide planning policies and it builds on the work done over decades. Council has already approved the draft Transportation Element Update, our Parks Commission is wrapping up its recommendation to Council on the Parks Element Update, and staff is tracking anticipated new requirements from the state and County which will need to be incorporated into other elements of the Plan. The complete Plan update is required to be approved by year-end 2024. It's a monumental task.

- We are finalizing our first true Economic Development Action Plan. This advisory document is intended to build on the City's Mission and Vision; and to incorporate a myriad of factual and statistical data into a set of recommended actions that will guide us toward sustainable investment, family wage jobs, and further goods, services, and amenities to better meet residents' needs.

2 That work began with Council approval in June of 2022, with the authorization of the contract for its development by experts in the field. Its development is

the result of an extensive outreach for input to citizens at large, business leaders, and property owners along with several Council feedback sessions.

- Council also approved the updated Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program for 2023 through 2028. Known as the TIP, it lays out projects for improving and maintaining our multi-modal transportation infrastructure and prioritizes projects by need and availability of funds. It is one of the clearest examples of the dependence our city has on regional, state, and federal funding for the improvements we all want.

- And the City recently completed an update to our Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. This internally focused document is the City's guide to responding to and managing emergencies in their many forms, be it a wildfire, an earthquake, or a major flooding event.

Public Safety

Public safety continues to be a top priority for the City. In fact, well over half of general fund revenues are spent on police and fire services. These past years have been difficult for not only you but for our public safety personnel too.



New Police staff, with Mayor

Last year, North Bend and Snoqualmie partnered to add a Behavioral Health Specialist to the Snoqualmie-North Bend Police Department. Officer Butler began in September and immediately brought immense value to the community in her work with police, firefighters, EMTs, and social service agencies in responding to crisis calls involving people with behavioral health needs. And we are actively following and giving input to our legislative leaders on refinements to policing and safety laws for all. In July, we welcomed Captain Brian Lynch. In all, our Police Department added eight officers to the team this past year, filling a large gap in staffing.



ESF-R held open houses in 2022, expanded emergency planning, added staff, and completed their 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. Pictured here are ESF-R staff, board members, Councilmembers Gothelf (also Board Chair), Miller, Pro Tem Koellen at a Station 87 open house

Community Development

A highly livable community is one that provides a diverse array of housing choices by location, type, size, and of course affordability. It is no surprise that North Bend, like communities across the state, is short on housing that meets the needs of many; especially those who work in



Mayor, at a Tyler Town welcome event

This challenge is very present in my and your councilmembers' minds. It is a complicated and controversial topic and we are responding along multiple fronts.

This past year, North Bend took the lead agency role for a \$135,000 subregional housing assessment and housing action plan grant funded by the state Department of Commerce. The needs assessment portion of the study has wrapped up and the housing action plan recommendation portion is now underway. A key finding, not unexpected, is that we need housing to serve a wider range of incomes, particularly in the lower Average Median Income (AMI) ranges. This does not mean we need to add more housing than our already adopted targets. Rather, it is the mix of housing that is out of balance and needs some course correction.

I believe economic and housing diversity is good for our community and our local economy and will do all I can to see this gap addressed. This Action Plan, when completed, will inform our update to the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Speaking of housing, this past year we witnessed the groundbreaking of the first significant multi-family housing being built in town since the early 90s. These new home projects comprise both townhomes and apartment flats, both for rent and for sale. While not solving the shortage, these **River run apartments** homes are a step in the right direction to address the shortage of housing diversity in our community.



Of note on the new business side of changes in 2022, the Planning Commission recommended and City Council approved revisions to the City's Hotel Development Standards to better enable modern hotel design within the City's Interchange Commercial Zone, and I'm pleased to announce that an application for a Wyndham branded LaQuinta and Hawthorne Suites Hotel to be sited at the outlet mall was recently received.



Wyndham branded LaQuinta Hawthorn hotel design

Staff will be working with the owners to expedite processing with a stretch goal of seeing site work start late this year. From the time I arrived in our community over 25 years ago, I've been hearing the communities' desire for new hotel services.

This facility will be a big step toward

meeting this long-awaited need in North Bend.

This past year we also had the pleasure of welcoming literally dozens of new businesses to our community. They span the gamut from retail shops and professional services, to contractors and included the new Columbia Factory store at the mall and many in the downtown core like Arete Coffee Bar, North Bend Trading Co., and Pressed on Main organic juices. We may also see the opening of our first distillery before long.

And finally, in regard to community development, we launched the first-ever Citizens Academy – a multiple-week short course on how local government operates. I'm thrilled to report that the response was overwhelming, and all feedback thus far says that class members are deeply engaged in learning.



2023 North Bend Citizens Academy grads

Infrastructure and Transportation

Our commitment to maintaining our small-town character while enhancing your quality of life shines through all city projects. One of the ways we do this is by investing in critical infrastructure and 2022 saw huge strides in some of our biggest projects.

The Meadowbrook Sewer Utility Local Improvement District formation, was approved by Council in August following literally years of planning, petitioning by property owners, and lots of citizen engagement. This action was followed a few months later by the Council's authorization of a contract for engineering plans and permitting. This project has long been part of the City's Comprehensive Plan and the underlying zoning of these properties.

When public sewer connections become available in a few years for the western portion of town, individual property owners will finally be able to fully realize the underlying value and opportunities that these properties have been promised for so long. As many of these properties are zoned for business uses, we anticipate it will in turn provide a robust commercial tax base. Business-generated revenues lessen the reliance on residential property taxes for meeting the City's operating budget needs.

Those connections are of course dependent on the completion of the virtually all-new Wastewater Treatment Plant. I am pleased to report we made significant progress, passing the 65 percent completion stage. This \$35m+, multi-year improvement is a long-term investment in North Bend's critical infrastructure.



A Citizens Academy Wastewater Treatment Plant tour in March

2023 State of the City

...continued

Once complete, the treatment plant will provide protective redundancy to systems, decrease plant odor, double treatment capacity, improve employee safety, and most importantly, meet stricter state environmental requirements that all combined, are designed to protect the Snoqualmie River, our health, and the general environment. We anticipate being completed by the time I'm reporting to you next year.

Of course, this major construction project is being done while the treatment plant continues to operate. Council and I applaud our incredibly hardworking team who make sure it's doing its job 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This team received the Most Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant Award from the Washington State Department of Ecology for the fourth year in a row. That's quite an achievement.



Don Deberg, P.E., City Engineer and Jeff Leamon, WWTP Manager

Before water needing treatment exits your home it enters as fresh and safe, clean water. Water is a precious resource and we recognize that a big part of responsible water use is wise use. We must minimize waste and conserve this resource. With that, this is the third year of our formal water conservation program, and it was one in which Western Washington experienced a later-than-normal, dry heat, with record-setting conditions. By making common sense, proactive measures to conserve water we stayed within usage goals and exited the conservation period, having met our obligations, in late November. Thank you for continuing to set a positive example for the entire region.

Your steps for wise use along with the City's continued work to upgrade North Bend's Water Distribution System by replacing aging water mains, aggressively fixing leaks, and a 100 percent replacement of water meters in the City all work together to protect our river



2nd Street Watermain Replacement Project

environment and the natural flora and fauna it feeds. Last year we replaced degraded water mains in NE 6th Street and 2nd Street. Next up is a return to the Silver Creek neighborhood for work along Ogle Avenue NE, Merritt Avenue NE, Thrasher Avenue NE, and Pickett Avenue NE.

All this talk about water is likely not a surprise to you. Our collective lifeblood depends on it. As your city leadership it is our fundamental duty – and state law – that we serve you clean, safe water.

For over 50 years the City of North Bend and the Sallal Water Association have been the primary providers in our area of the valley connecting property owners, residents, and businesses to water. Both

systems have water with constraints.

So, the problem is not solved. While Sallal has determined it has some remaining capacity, it is far short of that needed to serve all property owners within their service area. Likewise, the City has limitations, albeit for a very different reason and further in the future, to serve full buildout. While convoluted, adequate water resources to serve property owners and residents remain the bottom line for all.

Here it is – Every citizen, every business owner, every property owner inside or outside the City needs to understand that the City has a fiduciary duty to serve, codified by state law and guided by the equal application of rights for all property owners. Therefore, we must find solutions to ensure that all property owners, within both the City and Sallal water service areas, have access to water.

You may know that Sallal and North Bend have attempted to reach a Water Supply Agreement for over 15 years now. This effort has received renewed effort in the past few months, and I will say I'm as optimistic as I've ever been that we may find a path to agreement. The City remains highly concerned about water availability and discussions continue as we work with Sallal to help ensure we can supply all property owners. Other options remain available, but no one would be happier than I to reach an agreement and not have to turn to alternatives.



April 18: G&O consultants Russ Porter, Mike Johnson presenting on North Bend/Sallal Inter tie & Mitigation Operational Conditions

Another integral component of a highly livable community is reliable, consistent solid waste collection. It is a necessity for residents and businesses. North Bend experienced a major service outage last winter, starting off with a record-setting snowstorm which not only kept people home, but it halted collection. Worse, however, is that as the weather cleared our waste collector halted service due to a garbage strike which together meant no collection for between three and five weeks, depending on your location. In response, I issued an Emergency Health and Safety Order, and our Public Works crews took on solid waste operations with the help of a separately contracted vendor.

Not only were customers paying for service not received, but the City also incurred unbudgeted costs to provide collections. It was a major disruption. I remind you of that experience as I share that it also happened at the tail end of a decade-long contract. There's nothing like an experience of this nature to focus us on service expectations as we entered the process of evaluating proposals for a new solid waste contract.

This spring, Council approved a new solid waste and recycling services contract with Recology, with a new focus on

recycling and composting to further our environmental ethic. Recology rated highly in customer service and contract compliance.



On the transportation front, the TIP mentioned earlier continues to guide us through a series of re-paving projects, removing sidewalk and trail gaps, general safety enhancements, and new roundabouts.

Have I mentioned I love roundabouts! This also included major progress on our sidewalk reinvestment program, with crews repairing more than 50 sidewalk hazards in Forester Woods and downtown North Bend and the completion of a sidewalk along SE North Bend Way and 436th RAB North Bend Way between Ballarat Avenue and Park Street thus filling that gap in connectivity.



SE North Bend Way and 436th RAB

Looking forward, I'll call your attention to two grants received by the City for important traffic flow and connectivity projects. One is for the design work for a North Bend Way / Mt. Si Road roundabout and the other is for the design of a new pedestrian bridge across the Snoqualmie River South Fork. The former will alleviate traffic congestion at the increasingly busy Mt Si Road intersection for both local traffic and those visiting the community to hike areas of Mt Si and Mt Teneriffe. The latter is an exciting addition to our trail connectivity which will vastly improve biking and walking safety between the downtown area and Tollgate Farm Park, and beyond.

This administration and your Council are continually engaged in seeking ways to improve all alternatives for moving in and around our town to bring greater connectivity, safety, and overall health benefits to you.

One of the biggest planning efforts currently underway is looking at how to transform what, in decades past was a highway corridor, into a more esthetically pleasing, safe, and functional travel route that meets the diverse needs of both you and the businesses you want to reach. Known as a "Complete Streets Corridor Plan," this effort, funded by a \$300,000 Transportation Improvement Board Grant, is evaluating our main spine of North Bend Way from city limits east to west.



This plan will guide future improvements all along the North Bend Way corridor including formal sidewalks, pedestrian and biking paths, traffic flow,

parking, landscaping, lighting, utility undergrounding, and more – essentially all aspects of how we interact and use the public right of way to get where we're going in all our travel modes.

You'll be hearing more about Complete Streets soon as we enter the community feedback stage to get your input on the conceptual alternatives that have been developed. These concepts are built on a foundation of best practices across the country, local constraints and opportunities, and the guidance provided by our Comprehensive Plan and its underlying development standards and design codes. We're shooting to bring the best elements together which serve our community best, and your feedback is essential to that.

Parks

Integral to a healthy community is accessible parks and open spaces that meet the diverse needs of residents and visitors alike. When I speak of parks and open spaces, I'm also talking about public corridors. Earlier this evening, I mentioned a variety of trail and path projects. Those, along with our general approach to landscaping are part of that. We've made a lot of progress on park planning and implementation in 2022, consistent with our Parks Element, and often in partnership with our great local Si View Metropolitan Park District. The fruits of all this planning and activity will continue to bloom in the coming year and beyond.

In addition to several upgrades and repairs made at existing city parks under the guidance of the Parks Commission, highlights include:

- The Tenant Trailhead Park, a new city park with a regional reach, had a groundbreaking this year, and under the stewardship of Si View Metro Parks, the first phase is now under construction;
- A second new city park, the Dahlgren Family Park, was designed and permitted in coordination with the Department of Natural Resources. Starting construction later this spring, this park will connect with the neighborhood and provide further connectivity to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail and the King County Tanner Landing Park with its river access. Soon you will be able to walk or ride from downtown along North Bend Way and then cross directly to river access.
- Farmstead improvements, a cricket pitch, and more continue at the City's Tollgate Farm Park in partnership with and under the professional management of Si View Metro Parks;

• And as we celebrate the first 25 years of stewardship of the Meadowbrook Farm open space, I am excited to share that we anticipate a new management framework in partnership with the Snoqualmie Tribe, the City of Snoqualmie, Si View Metro Parks, and the Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association to take us through the next 25 years and beyond.

2023 State of the City ...continued

Finally, and coming back to community input, after extensive research and engagement with many interested residents and groups, conceptual design work is underway for a fully redeveloped Taylor Park and the first true improvements of Riverfront Park along the South Fork Snoqualmie next to Bendigo Boulevard. Engagement will continue as plan alternatives are vetted.



Community attending Parks Planning events, discussing Taylor and Riverfront.

In closing

The themes throughout my comments have been of community engagement, of connectivity, and much about grant-funded projects.



Councilmember Rosen leading Girl Scouts on a tour of City Hall

Let's see if I can tie it together. First comes basic services – we are dependent on water, on waste handling, on having shelter and food, and being safe in our community.

With these basics met, we look to how we move about our community whether by car, bike, walking, or other. And much of that movement is to get to the store, the retail shop, the restaurant...and to the parks and open spaces we so cherish. It's

all tied together and dependent on the other.

Most fundamental of which, from a thriving community standpoint, is that we need to meet our obligations in the basic services category – for water, for waste, and especially doing our part for housing a growing society. The grants that feed improvements in our roadways and the development of the park and open space we desire start with eligibility because we



Mayor honoring citizen Ron Crouch at the April 4 City Council meeting for many years of volunteer service

must responsibly meet our obligations to provide service. We all know we live in an interdependent world, and this is one reflection of it.

I love our community. All our community. And for as long as I'm your mayor, I'll continue to work for the best outcomes and future of the whole community. That's my promise to you.

Thank you for the opportunity to reflect on this past year and share our future direction with you. I and City Council are here for you, and we could not do it without the hard work and dedication of our staff, and you, our residents.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rob



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Meet up with the Mayor, at the Trail Youth Coffee Home

Community members are invited to join North Bend Mayor McFarland for a cup of coffee from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Trail Youth Coffee Home, located at 226 E North Bend Way. Bring your questions and chat over coffee and snacks. Learn more by visiting www.NorthBendWA.gov.



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Pressed On Main Ribbon Cutting

Join the SnoValley Chamber of Commerce and lots of community as they celebrate the opening of Pressed On Main, located at 208 Main Avenue S. Learn more by visiting www.PressedOnMain.com.



Spring Food Truck Series, at Si View Park

• May 25: Lucky Luciano's
• June 1: Wiseguy
Every Thursday through June 1,
4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

North Bend City Council helps expand behavioral health support for local youth

The North Bend City Council recognizes that a healthy community is one that invests in a variety of services that support its residents.

The City has selected three local nonprofit organizations providing direct aid for youth to receive a total of \$150,000 of funding from the 2023 ARPA funding cycle. Encompass NW, Friends of Youth, and Empower Youth Network will use these funds to support and sustain a variety of programs for youth, from elementary to high school.

- Encompass will use funding to provide full-day mental health counseling at North Bend Elementary and Opstad Elementary, the two Snoqualmie Valley School District (SVSD) elementary schools in North Bend.
- Friends of Youth will use funding to provide case management and counseling services for youth to support access to care and to deliver outpatient services to those who are unable to afford it. In addition, the organization will provide parenting groups that support communication.
- Empower Youth Network will use funding to provide suicide prevention training for youth-to-youth engagement, as well as training related to stress and depression. In addition, the organization will use the funding to grow #BeKindSV, a program dedicated to supporting and reinforcing a positive school climate.

"These funds represent a once-in-a-generation investment in our community," commented Mayor McFarland. "Council's approval of this portion of the ARPA spending plan provides an exciting opportunity to strategically invest in organizations that have an incredible impact on the long-term health of our residents."

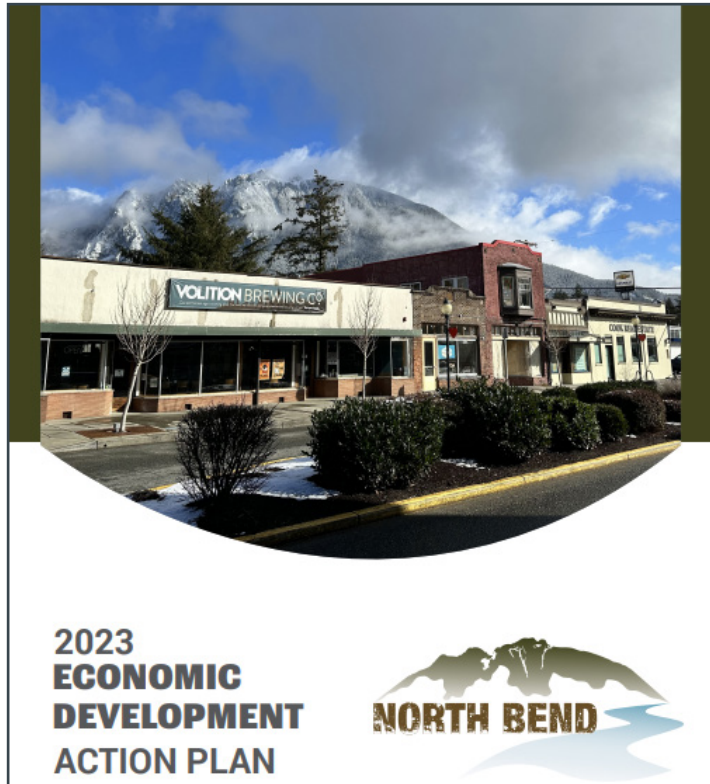


Mayor, Encompass' Nela Cummings, Friends of Youth's Paul Iwali, Empower Youth Network's Laura Smith

STAY UP TO DATE ON CITY NEWS

One of the easiest ways to keep up with City happenings and breaking news is to follow us on social media, and sign up for "NotifyMe" at northbendwa.gov. We are active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and NextDoor. Stop by and follow the City of North Bend.

North Bend nears completion of the Economic Development Action Plan



After nearly one year of data analysis, stakeholder outreach, and strategic discussion with key partners, North Bend is nearing completion of its [Economic Development Action Plan](#).

The Action Plan will guide city staff and elected officials in addressing existing challenges to economic development, attracting targeted and intentional economic growth, and improving overall community well-being.

The development of the Action Plan has been guided by the Economic Development Commission and City Council. Stakeholder outreach included six focus groups with at least 24 individuals representing small business owners, commercial property owners, and other local and regional partners, such as the SnoValley Chamber of Commerce and North Bend Downtown Foundation.

The Action Plan is currently awaiting final approval from City Council. For questions, or if you would like to learn more, please contact Economic Development Manager [Mark Noll](#).

Economic Development Action Plan Timeline



Mural Apprentice Program and mural unveiling

A Pinch Different invites you to join them as they celebrate the unveiling of a mural on Main Ave, and the Two Rivers Mural Apprentice Program, in collaboration with North Bend Art and Industry. Learn more by visiting www.NorthBendArtAndIndustry.org.



The Clean House, by Sarah Ruhl

A whimsical and touching romantic comedy about love, loss, change and redemption. Featured on Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays. For times and dates, visit www.ValleyCenterStage.org.



Farmers Market and Si View Summer Concert Series

Farmers Markets: 4 - 8 p.m.
Si View Summer Concerts:
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Every Thursday, June 8 through September 7

City of North Bend welcomes new staff to the team Public Works, Information Technology, and Finance

The City of North Bend recently welcomed four new staff to their team. For nearly a year now, the City has returned to providing in-person customer service, and, as of March 1, expanded service hours at City Hall.

Alex Bourlin is the City's new Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I. He joined the team on April 10. "North Bend is the place I've grown up in, it's my home," he said. "The mountains, trails, and my family has made this place my home since I was very young." On his off-time, he enjoys hiking, playing video games, and is learning how to make kombucha and hard ciders.

Alex is growing his wastewater treatment skills with a knowledgeable, welcoming team.

Phillip Davenport began working as the City's IT Manager on May 1. He brings a wealth of experience in technology and technical support, including engineering in environmental controls, lighting control, fire alarm integration, and supporting common office and business IT challenges.

Ivanna Misuik joined the Finance Department as a new Accounting Assistant on May 1.

She graduated with a Master of Science in Accounting - Accounting Agriculture and Industrial Production from



the Ternopil National Economic University in Ukraine. Ivanna's experience includes working for the Tarakaniv City Hall in Western Ukraine as a general accountant, Government Move Services, LLC, and H&R Block tax services.

When not working at City Hall, she loves to make memories with family over dinner at North Bend restaurants. Ivanna also enjoys tending to her vegetable garden. "This summer, we are looking forward to a plentiful harvest of tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, peppers, and several herbs," she said.

Heather Pollock is the City's new Accounting Operations Manager. She joined the Finance team on March 17. Heather brings the City nine years of experience as a finance lead for the City of Pacific and 15 years of experience as an office manager/accountant for real estate offices. During her off-time, Heather enjoys camping, spending time with her four daughters, watching football, and cheering her daughter on at her softball games.

What she appreciates most about North Bend? "I love being nestled between the mountains," she said.

Curious about employment opportunities at the **5** City of North Bend? Keep an eye out for jobs by visiting our [Employment Opportunities page](#).

Local Entrepreneurs

"A small business is an amazing way to serve and leave an impact on the world you live in." — Nicole Snow, founder and CEO of Darn Good Yarn

Main Avenue is abuzz in North Bend! New businesses and business relocation, organizations, and an eye-catching North Bend-themed mural are bringing renewed vibrancy to this portion of downtown.

The mural on the south side of the building at 208 Main Avenue - now the home of Pressed on Main - is part of the Mural Apprentice Program, the first of its kind to be offered at Two Rivers School. Developed and led by Sarah Hughes, owner of A Pinch Different, students learned how to research, design, receive feedback, choose supplies, and paint a mural for permanent display.



North Bend Art and Industry (NBA&I), a local nonprofit, served as a partner in helping raise the funds needed for the mural program. They are thrilled to be creating a new home inside 209 Main Avenue, just across the street from the mural, with a dedicated space for makers, creators, and writers to meet, collaborate, and hone their craft.

Pressed on Main opened in April and has quickly developed a dedicated customer base with its menu focused on cold pressed juices and breakfast items.



At 209 Main Avenue, Twin Peaks Nutrition & Wellness and Quill and Ink Tattoo, recently relocated from North Bend Way, and Wildflower Boutique have opened storefronts, bringing renewed energy to the building that also houses Meadowbrook Urgent Care.

Mt Si Physical Therapy opened in February. Owner Dr. Kaeli Gockel-Beckham specializes in orthopedic and pelvic physical therapy. As a mountain athlete herself, she is thrilled to be able to serve the Snoqualmie Valley community by helping them recover from injury and rediscover their body's capacity and potential.



All this new energy builds upon other openings along Main Avenue in recent years, including Huxdotter Coffee's new building at the corner of Main and Park Street, Erika Laureano Design at 107 Main Avenue N, Sweet Honey Esthetics at 213 Main Avenue N, Pearl and Stone Wine Company at the corner of Main Avenue and 2nd Street, and nearby Arete Coffee Bar at 112 W 2nd Street.

All of these openings highlight North Bend's growing array of local businesses and entrepreneurial spirit that are expanding the vibrancy of downtown North Bend.



Flying Wheels Century Bicycle Ride, with Cascade Bicycle Club

A recreational bicycle ride throughout the Valley. The local route will include:

- 428th Street
- NE 12th Street (108th)
- Ballarat Avenue
- 3rd Street
- Bendigo Boulevard
- Boalch Avenue



Opt Outside 5K, with the Blake Pottle Foundation

The Blake Pottle Foundation is hosting their second annual 5K event. It includes a 1K kid's run and a 5K family walk/run, followed by post-race activities at Meadowbrook Farm. Learn more by visiting www.EventBrite.com.



SnoValley Innovation Center and Business Workshops

- Virtual Innovation Meetups: Every Friday, 12 - 1 p.m.
 - Business Workshops: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 12 - 1 p.m.
- Learn more at snovalleyinnovation.com

Mountain Rescue Center coming soon to North Bend

This summer, North Bend will be home to its first-ever Mountain Rescue Center (MRC).

In 2020, Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR) began renovating a dilapidated building that was not fit for use, with the dream of one day transforming it into a fully operational, year-round rescue center. After three years, thousands of volunteer hours, and financial support from Washington State and private donors, the nonprofit organization's dream is becoming a reality.

SMR chose the location of the rescue center carefully. "Having a central location near where we respond to a bulk of needs makes sense," said Interim Development Director Annie Walters. "A great deal of missions are along the I-90 corridor, and North Bend provides ready access."

Ms. Walters added, "North Bend's mountain town vibe fits well with our mission, and of course, our team."

SMR is a volunteer organization that relies heavily on expertly trained, highly skilled alpinists that donate many hours with little to no notice, and help outdoor enthusiasts, many of whom are on and near local trailheads. The nonprofit began in 1948 with a mission of saving lives through search, rescue, and mountain safety education.

location, but it will also support the very volunteers that make SMR a reality, offering a safe place to decompress, connect with one another, and store equipment. In addition, it will serve as an education center in conjunction with their partner organizations, and a repository for historic SMR artifacts. "This building will help us do the best we can to ensure that everybody comes home from the backcountry," said Ms. Walters.

The City helped the MRC get to the finish line by working with SMR through the permitting process, in addition to providing a letter of support to Washington State from Mayor McFarland. To learn more about the MRC, visit www.seattlemountainrescue.org/building.



The new Mountain Rescue Center is located in North Bend, in close proximity to local trails.



Volunteers devoted many hours to building the Mountain Rescue Center



A letter from the North Bend Downtown Foundation

You may have heard the whispers and the rumors around town... So do you want the low down on our community's biggest kept secret? The North Bend Downtown Foundation is here for YOU - local, small businesses!

It's true. The Foundation is here to help your small business flourish in our beautiful mountain town of North Bend. We are a 501c3 nonprofit and have been around since 2014. Each year brings new opportunities to shine and to help you build your own fandom.

We want everyone who visits or lives here to fall in love with your business. The Downtown Foundation encourages visitors, new families, and long-time residents to explore and get to know the many unique and special businesses that we are happy to support our downtown area.

The Foundation is on a mission to promote the delights of our downtown specifically, and North Bend generally. One of the ways we share our town is by hosting five annual events:

- Sip Suds and Si, on May 20 and September 9
- Block Party, on July 15
- Trick or Treat Street, on October 28
- Holly Days, on December 2

Based on last year's attendance numbers, these events brought in a total of 10,000 interested and "ready to love you" people to your storefront. How did it go? Was this a first date or are you ready to put a ring on it? We can help you seal the deal by sharing successful tactics to make the most of these events.

Beyond events, we serve as your advocate and representative with the City of North Bend and the SnoValley Chamber of Commerce. We feel fortunate to enjoy strong and long-term working relationships with these two stellar organizations in addition to the many local community groups we individually volunteer with and support.

No one succeeds alone. You are welcome and encouraged to send us an email. Join our email list by [emailing us](#), and get news and announcements. We will walk that too often lonely path of entrepreneur and business owner with you because we understand you. We know the challenges. We hear you. We are you.

Sincerely,

Your Downtown Foundation



SIP SUDS & SI



BLOCK PARTY



TRICK-OR-TREAT STREET



HOLLY DAYS



Upcoming City Council meetings

Two City Council meetings are coming up in June. Meetings always start at 7 p.m., and are located at North Bend City Hall: 920 SE Cedar Falls Way. Visit the [Calendar](#) for more future dates, and follow the [News](#) section for upcoming meeting agendas.



North Bend Trading Co. Ribbon Cutting

Join the SnoValley Chamber of Commerce and lots of community as they celebrate the opening of the North Bend Trading Co., located at 111 E North Bend Way. Learn more by visiting their [Facebook page](#).



North Bend City Council approves funding to support Downtown Foundation's work in economic development



North Bend Downtown Foundation Board President Beth Burrows presenting at the May 16 City Council Meeting.

In 2021, at the recommendation of Mayor McFarland, the North Bend City Council reserved \$250,000 of the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation with the intended use as seed money in support of the North Bend Downtown Foundation (NBDF) and their work to achieve Main Street Community accreditation.

Over the past year, the NBDF worked with staff to develop the appropriate scope and contract and at the May 16 meeting, City Council unanimously approved a motion authorizing a contract with the NBDF. The foundation will receive these funds over a period of three years and the funding will be used primarily to hire an executive director to guide all foundation work in following their mission of supporting and strengthening downtown businesses, managing community events, beautification, and delivering high-level communication support between the City and the local businesses.

Mayor McFarland expressed support for the foundation's plans. "I am very excited about this finally launching," said the mayor. "This is putting the power in the community, in the business owners' hands, with the seed money and a plan for how they can continue that moving forward. I think it's fantastic."

Next steps include hiring an executive director, said Board President Beth Burrows. In her presentation to City Council, she shared the foundation's plans for North Bend to attain the Main Street Community designation. The Washington State Main Street program is an approach to city revitalization through the celebration of a community's unique heritage and attributes. Main Street Community designation provides clear and proven guidance to success, with more access to grants and other forms of assistance that will help the foundation be self-sustaining as they grow. The NBDF hopes to make North Bend Washington State's 39th Main Street Community.

"I love our town," said Ms. Burrows. "I've lived here for 34 years, and I think that's a common thread that binds all of us on the board, all of us on the City Council. We all want to see our town succeed. I believe a strong partnership between the City and the [foundation] will really ensure that success."

Celebrating new businesses with the SnoValley Chamber

The SnoValley Chamber of Commerce sure knows how to welcome new and growing businesses to North Bend! Joined by Mayor McFarland, City Councilmembers, business neighbors and friends, ribbon cuttings celebrate local businesses and add energy to our mountain town.



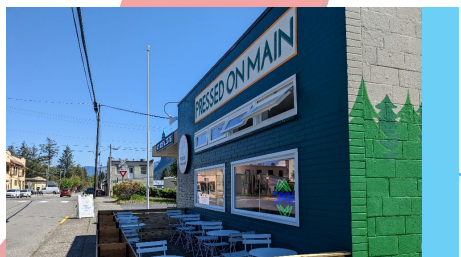
March 18: Michael Kunz and team celebrated opening The Line, at 1130 E North Bend Way. Services include bike/gear rental, instruction area, and guidance.



April 6: The South Fork team celebrated opening South Fork, at 14303 436th Ave SE. Services include food, beverages, outdoor entertainment and more.



May 17: Owner Dr. Kaeli Gockel-Beckham, DPT, celebrated opening Mount Si Physical Therapy, at 103 Main Ave. S. Services include orthopedic and pelvic PT.



May 25: Owner Haley Raff will celebrate opening Pressed On Main, at 208 Main Ave S. They offer cold pressed juices and gluten-free food items.



June 8: The Trading Co team will celebrate opening the North Bend Trading Co, at 111 E North Bend Way. They offer Pacific Northwest inspired merchandise.



June 21: Many businesses that are new to the Sunset Garage will celebrate opening together in one fun event, at the corner of Bendigo Blvd and North Bend Way.

National Outlet Shopping Day, at Premium Outlets

The North Bend Premium Outlets invites you to join them as they celebrate National Outlet Shopping Day, June 10 and 11. Enjoy giveaways, sweepstakes, special deals from local businesses, and more. Learn more by visiting www.PremiumOutlets.com.

Artist Alley, with Volition Brewing Co

Volition Brewing Co. is hosting an artist market in the public alley near their brewery, located at 112 W North Bend Way. The alley will be closed to pedestrian traffic for much of the day, with the art event running from 2 to 6 p.m. Learn more by visiting Volition Brewing's [Event Calendar](#).

Frisky Girl Farm Stand
Fresh veggies, grown right here in North Bend! The farm stand is now open Saturdays and Sundays, but check their social media (@friskygirllfarmstand) to make sure.
Learn more at www.friskygirllfarm.com

Downtown Block Party returns on Saturday, July 15



Downtown Block Party is a FREE summer event that brings together Snoqualmie Valley, with a popular music festival and performances, the Encompass Kid Zone (always fun and fully free), a locally sourced Downtown Foundation Beer and Wine Garden – and COMMUNITY – in the heart of North Bend's Historic District. Shopping in Snoqualmie Valley is fun, and Block Party highlights that with our street vendor fair, featuring a colorful array of local merchants, artists, crafters, and businesses.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Similar to previous years, North Bend Way, between Bendigo and Ballarat will be closed all day and much of the night on July 15. The North Bend Downtown Foundation (NBDF) will guide vendor set-up on Saturday morning along North Bend Way. The big stage will be back on Main Street, butting up to North Bend Way, with the NBDF Beer Garden across from the stage, on Main Street.

If you are a business on North Bend Way or Main, Avenue, you have the opportunity to claim a free 10'x10' booth space! [Here](#) is a link to the application. Interested in a great marketing opportunity while also supporting a fantastic nonprofit organization? Apply to be a sponsor [here](#). Follow the NBDF on social media, [here](#).

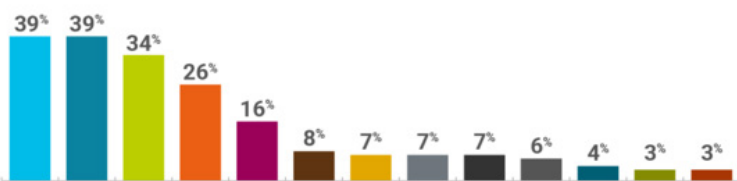
Housing in North Bend

As a highly livable small town that values community, the City of North Bend agrees that every city should share the responsibility for achieving equitable distribution of diverse housing to meet the needs of a wider range of incomes. Here is what North Bend is working on.

Housing is a topic that affects everyone and every business. Ensuring access to housing is one of the fundamental functions of effective planning.

In North Bend, 26% of all households spend more than 30% of their income on housing-related costs. Spending more than this proportion of income on housing defines a household as cost burdened according to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. This issue is especially pronounced among North Bend renter households, who are more likely than homeowners to spend more than 50% of their income on housing-related costs.

The state of Washington conducted a survey and Housing Costs, Homelessness, and overall cost of living are the most important problems facing Washington. In the survey, four times more people rated the cost of housing as a top issue compared to transportation and traffic. Additionally, 76% of the 6,000 respondents said they were directly impacted or knew someone directly impacted by the cost and availability of housing, and 49% said it was difficult or very difficult to find affordable housing. Two-



thirds of respondents believed their communities need more diverse and affordable types of housing.

Digging deeper, 58% thought this should include “middle housing,” such as triplexes, in single-family zones if the new units met the zone’s standards.



Tyler Town, a Habitat for Humanity affordable housing project in North Bend

Free Duct Tape Wallet-Making Class with NBA&I

North Bend Art and Industry (NBA&I) is hosting a free duct tape wallet-making class at the NBAI Studio, located at 209 Main Ave N. Join them from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Keep it for yourself or use it as a gift for Father's Day! Learn more by visiting www.NorthBendArtandIndustry.org.

Sunset Garage Summer Solstice Ribbon Cutting

Join the SnoValley Chamber and lots of community as new businesses in the historic Sunset Garage celebrate their opening together. Learn more by visiting www.SnoValley.org.

NBA&I Open House on Main Avenue

North Bend Art and Industry has found a home for art! Visit their new space for makers, creators, and writers, located at 209 Main Ave N. Learn more about NBA&I by visiting www.NorthBendArtandIndustry.org.

The City has also been preparing a Housing Action Plan which included public engagement process.

The purpose of this public engagement process is to gather input from the community which can inform the construction of the HAP document. The public outreach allows residents to participate in the long-range planning of their housing conditions and helps determine what strategies will be used in the HAP. The method of Outreach included stakeholder meetings with service organizations, public survey, elementary school engagement, and community member interviews.

For the survey, the city issued a press release, posted to the city website, advertised through all official social media accounts, and posted on a Nextdoor account. Handout sheets were distributed throughout the city, including schools, libraries, post offices, churches, dentists, coffee shops, retail, fast food, grocery, outlet, and hardware establishments. Paper copies of the survey were available as well for community members.

This survey effort collected responses to 28 questions from 514 individuals. However the survey respondents did not proportionally represent the population of the City in terms of income, age, or housing type.

Respondents were asked to identify challenges they may have encountered when trying to buy a home. All survey respondents, including those who do not live in North Bend, were asked whether they have tried to purchase a home in North Bend. Almost eighty percent of all the survey respondents have tried to buy a home in North Bend. Most of the respondents, 61%, said that they have tried to purchase a home in North Bend, did not encounter any barriers to finding a home or found the question “not applicable.” One-quarter of respondents could not find a place they could afford in North Bend. The second most common barrier respondents faced was that they did not have enough money for a down-payment.

Respondents agreed that homes were too expensive, the permitting costs to build were too high, and noted a mismatch between the housing stock available and their needs.

Renters and owners with mortgages in North Bend face different levels of cost burden: according to the recently issued North Bend Housing Needs assessment, while 47% of renters are cost burdened, only 16% of homeowners are.

This was evident in the Housing Survey as well, where renters report more difficulty affording and finding suitable housing options. While 4.3% of renter respondents did not pay their last month's rent on time, only 1.2% of homeowners didn't pay their mortgage on time. Similarly, homeowners report higher confidence that they will be able to pay upcoming housing costs on time than renters. While 93% of homeowners report high confidence they will be able to pay their next mortgage on time, only 87% of renters are highly confident they will be able to pay their next rent payment. Twice as many renters indicated moderate confidence in their ability to pay rent on time than homeowners indicated just moderate confidence to pay their mortgages on time.

