

# COMMUNITY

## City manager: 2020 Work Plan prioritizes safety, infrastructure, and communication

By **EMILY FITZGERALD**  
News staff writer

Community safety, community infrastructure and community identity continue to be the City of Hood River's priorities going into 2020.

For the second year, the City of Hood River organized their project goals for the upcoming year as a comprehensive work plan, and City Manager Rachael Fuller presented highlights of that plan to Hood River Rotary during the club's Feb. 6 meeting.

"All the services that we do, they generally fall into these three buckets," said Fuller. "Community safety, that's going to be of your insurance policy, the people who show up when things aren't looking good; community infrastructure, that's the database services that really allow us to live in close proximity with each other; and then community identity — who we are, what's important, and what we'd like our built environment to look like."

The city is working on ad-



Photo by Emily Fitzgerald

**CITY Manager Rachael Fuller** presents at Hood River Rotary's Feb. 6 meeting.

ressing the "enormous pressures" put on police and fire services by growing tourism, and adapting those services to meet additional challenges such as wildfire response and homelessness rates. "I think the challenge is to adapt to meet these needs within existing resources and this will be an

ongoing community conversation," Fuller said.

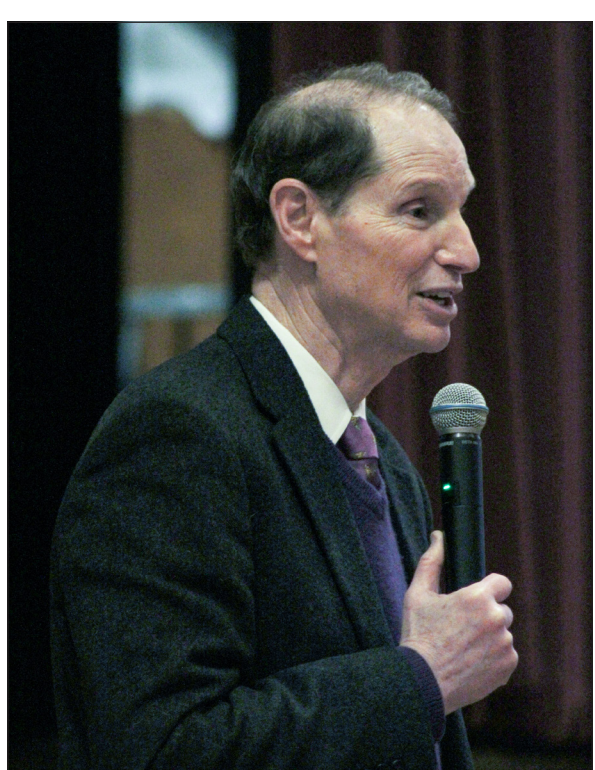
Aging infrastructure is causing problems in the city's water and sewer lines, as old clay pipes start to break down. "The city council has prioritized this effort on the 2020 workplan and this will be a long-term project," Fuller said. She added that the city successfully got \$1.7 million to help repair a broken stormwater line on the waterfront, but generally, federal and state funding for infrastructure projects is declining, making it harder for cities and developers to fund infrastructure projects.

Other projects going into 2020 include developing a long-term plan to become more energy efficient, a communication and community engagement study, and developing affordable and attainable housing on a seven-acre property the City of Hood River has purchased on Rand Road. Rotary members asked the most questions on this project following Fuller's presentation; and Fuller said that the city is still working through the details of what the

project will look like, but funding — including state money reallocated from the Morrison Park project — has been set aside.

Regarding community identity, Fuller referenced tensions that have "played out in some very divisive ways over the last few years," partially due to the fact that Oregon's land use system prioritizes productive farm and forest land, and how that comes into play with a city's task to provide sufficient housing and jobs within a community. "How cities do this is where there can be a conflict, because these conversations elicit questions about who we are as a community and who we want to be," said Fuller. "So we'll need to navigate these conversations together, and that's hard work, because these conversations are ultimately about deeply-held values, about how people want to live their lives."

The full 2020 work plan is available online at [cityofhoodriver.gov/administration/city-council/hood-river-city-council-goals](http://cityofhoodriver.gov/administration/city-council/hood-river-city-council-goals).



File photo

### WYDEN VISITS ON SAT.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden will hold a town hall in The Dalles on Feb. 15 at 11 a.m. at Fort Dalles Readiness Center, 402 E. Scenic Drive. This is the Portland Democrat's fulfillment of his pledge to hold at least one town hall each year in each of the state's 36 counties. "Open-to-all town halls in every nook and cranny of our state are essential to the 'Oregon Way' of civil discussions about important issues," Wyden said. "I look forward very much to hearing Oregonians' ideas, concerns, questions and priorities in these upcoming town halls."



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

### 'WAGON WEDNESDAY'

Hood River resident Aparna Ramachandran enjoys a "mocktail" at the Jan. 29 "On the Wagon Wednesday" at Slopeswell Cidery, while enjoying the music of Megan Alder.

### 'UPLIFT, UNFILTERED'

## Women's network event debuts Feb. 20

*Women in the workforce can connect at new Chamber event*

The female focused Chamber of Commerce program, "Uplift, Unfiltered," is specifically geared towards all who identify as women in the workforce. Its focus is an unfiltered platform for conversation, connection, and education, with the intention to hold space and provide support for women in the workforce, according to Kate Schroeder, executive director of the Hood River County Chamber of Commerce, in a press release.

"The Hood River Chamber has shifted its focus towards advocacy, connection and education, and this group accomplishes all three goals. We see the opportunity to connect working women with each other and we want to provide the platform for working women to grow personally and professionally through leadership, education and networking support," Schroeder said.

The inaugural event will be held at Naked Winery's "Barrel

Annex" space, at their winery location at 13th and Wasco streets, on Feb. 20 at 5 p.m.

The event will feature the stories of Jeanie Vieira, CEO of Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, and Kim Salvesen-Pauly, owner of Windermere Realty. Attend this event to hear their "unfiltered storyTime" will also be provided to share, learn, and identify, woman to woman, Schroeder said. Complimentary appetizers, sponsored by BBSI, and wine, hosted by Naked Winery, will be served.

The event is free to Chamber members and \$25 for non-members. RSVP by calling 541-386-2000, or email [maryellen@hoodriver.org](mailto:maryellen@hoodriver.org).



**Bernie Dittenhofer**  
Senior Loan Officer-Branch Manager  
Company NMLS #2550 NMLS #114231

*New ensembles Canticum, GALS, CGCC join CGOA on Feb. 21 and 23*

the Columbia Gorge Community College.

One of the highlights of the concert is the world premiere of a new choral piece written by Joan Szymko. Based on a text by Wendell Berry, "Circle of Lovers" was commissioned for the Voci choir by CGOA, as part of its annual MacMillan Prize for female choral

composers. Based in Portland, Szymko is one of America's most respected and often performed choral writers, according to Music Director Mark Steighner.

In addition to the choral performances the audience will get to join the choirs for an extended singalong. Last year's audience sing was a much-

loved highlight of the concerts.

The Gorge Sings II concerts are Feb. 21 (7:30 p.m.) and 23 (2 p.m.) at Wy'east Middle School Performing Arts Center. The concerts are free with donations accepted.

Tickets are available at [gorgeorchestra.org](http://gorgeorchestra.org).

In the past few decades, there has been an explosion of interest in the physical and mental health benefits of singing with others. Study after study has reinforced what singers already know: that joining with others in song makes people feel happier, less stressed and less alone. The result has been a proliferation of community choral groups all over the world.

Here in the Gorge, choral singing remains a popular pastime and so once again, the Columbia Gorge Orchestra Association has invited a number of choirs to come together for The Gorge Sings II. On the programs are the CGOA Voci Choir (now in its 15th year), Canticum (a new small ensemble), the award-winning HRV Chamber Singers, the CGOA Youth Choir and GALS, which stands for the Gorge A Cappella Lady Singers. Also on the program will be the newly formed Choral Union from

## 2020-2026 STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN OPEN HOUSE

**Thursday, February 20, 6-8PM**  
*Port of Hood River Conference Room  
1000 E. Port Marina Drive, Hood River*

**We want to hear from you!**

The Port of Hood River will host a drop-in style open house to receive public comment to inform the Port Commission on community needs, sentiment, and priorities for the development of its 2020-2026 Strategic Business Plan, the guiding policy document for the Port. There will be a brief presentation about the project, then attendees will have multiple opportunities to share information, ask questions, and provide feedback on project choices.

**Can't attend? Please take our survey online at:**  
<http://bit.ly/porthoodriver> or write to us at [porthr@gorge.net](mailto:porthr@gorge.net).

For more information please visit [portofhoodriver.com](http://portofhoodriver.com).

**1000 E. Port Marina Drive, Hood River, OR 97031**

### WEATHER FOR HOOD RIVER, OR | FEBRUARY 12-18, 2020

| Today                            | Thursday                                      | Friday  | Saturday  | Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday                           |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
|                                  |   |   |   |   |   |                                   |
| <b>52°</b> /33°<br>Mostly cloudy | <b>47°</b> /36°<br>Cloudy with spotty showers | <b>48°</b> /37°<br>Morning snow showers; cloudy | <b>44°</b> /37°<br>Cloudy with a chance of rain | <b>46°</b> /38°<br>Cloudy with a chance of rain | <b>50°</b> /35°<br>A couple of showers possible | <b>50°</b> /39°<br>Turning cloudy |

#### Actual High/Low

| February 5-10 |       |
|---------------|-------|
| Wednesday     | 55/34 |
| Thursday      | 57/52 |
| Friday        | 63/44 |
| Saturday      | 50/41 |
| Sunday        | 52/29 |
| Monday        | 52/31 |

Updated 2.10.20, 9:05 AM PDT  
Data from Accuweather.com

WEATHER SPONSORED BY:

**541-386-1123**  
3140 W. Cascade, Hood River

**Stop in today for your FREE BATTERY CHECK**

**50**  
MONTH WARRANTY

**84**  
MONTH WARRANTY

**72**  
MONTH WARRANTY