



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Isn't it time to recalibrate?

My outside thermometer died a few weeks ago. So I began a study of thermometers. Many people look at their thermometers daily. Feb. 2 was such a day.

I've let Punxsutawney Phil share a bit of space today, since he fits in with a story about weather.

Most people know that Punxsutawney Phil lives in Gobbler's Knob, Punxsutawney, Penn. The legend since the 1700s is that Phil can predict the weather. He saw his shadow on Feb. 2, was frightened and scurried back inside his burrow. If his predictions are correct, winter will continue with a vengeance, driving us to look at our thermometers more often for the next six weeks.

I ordered a new thermometer, which proved to be too small for my street-facing porch. So I installed it on my patio, which faces the courtyard.

In desperation, I enlisted the help of my wise, big-city son-in-law. He studied the situation, took measurements and I took pictures as he did.

We did FaceTime, too. Long story short, he sent me the perfect specimen of a thermometer a week later, after I'd about given up. My big porch proudly displays the bigger thermometer and it made me happy, especially on Feb. 2.

A page of important hints arrived with the thermometer. There were all kinds of hints easy enough for me to understand. The only words I had to look up in the dictionary were calibrate and re-

calibrate (both were covered under calibrate).

I guess *they* figure if you can calibrate you can recalibrate. I learned that I can recalibrate any thermometer by putting it in the refrigerator for five minutes. For small recalibration problems, there is a button on the back of the thermometer.

Well, that got me to thinking. Do we need a button on the back of us? Could we possibly need to recalibrate our lives as changes land upon us? Just think about it! For instance, this past year when an adorable little cat named Holly entered my world, I had to recalibrate. After a year, I still find recalibration thoughts or actions necessary.

And yes, I have even had to talk to the Lord in prayer about "us." At times, it actually gets that serious!

She still tries to jump into the refrigerator, but at least now I know why. Maybe she thinks she can recalibrate if she can remain in there for five minutes? I know that works with a thermometer, but what if it made her even smarter than she is now? Maybe I need to take her temperature?

Many of us have had to recalibrate due to the pandemic. Changes.

As seniors, we face many changes in our lives calling for recalibration. And no, I am not suggesting time in the refrigerator.

But maybe too often we calibrate instead of looking at the directions (our Bible) to learn just how to recalibrate. Food for thought.



Mayor's Message

by Henry Balensifer III

Warrenton is a town of contributors

Emergencies come in all shapes in sizes. They are stressful and chaotic. The city of Warrenton faced such an emergency on Jan 6.

We had been monitoring the very high tides and snow melt, which was making the tides higher than the tide tables, which kept our 35 tide gates closed longer than usual earlier that week.

In looking back on the events leading up to the Jan. 6 flood, we had what was considered a 700-year storm event! Places that didn't require FEMA flood insurance — and didn't have it — flooded, and other places we'd never seen inundated got inundated.

When I declared an emergency, we activated our Emergency Operations Center, which coordinated the efforts and got information out. I have to say, it was impressive to see it in action.

Our public works staff had been on shifts battling the problem since the heavy rains earlier that week, and they continued in exhausting conditions to keep water flowing.

When it was clear we were not going to be able to stave off widespread inundation without additional resources, an emergency was declared. Quick as a flash, we had volunteer firefighters working with Oregon Military Department wildfire teams sent from Camp Rilea and Salem augmenting public works to pump water from inside the city to out.

All told, there were three fire trucks and even a converted Jet Ski, as well as trash

pumps deployed to assist our struggling stormwater pumps.

It was a team effort, but between the exhausted staff, fresh crews from the Oregon Military Department, and the great turnout of our volunteer fire department, we kept the flooding minimized.

Now what does "minimized" mean in this situation? I realize many will find that a bad description, but let me put it in perspective.

Just a half inch of difference in the water level would have been the difference from about 50 to 70 properties flooded to several hundred.

The difference in water elevation of that half inch means that instead of a garage being flooded (the most common issue), your crawlspace would be.

I'm pleased that the city had

a debrief of the event with the City Commission and we are going to be putting additional emphasis on stormwater infrastructure going forward.

The most critical issue is getting a massive pump on Alder Creek, which, when overwhelmed, floods the Hammond and old-town Warrenton districts.

I want to thank our public works, fire and police staff, volunteer firefighters, and the Oregon Military Department for their efforts. It was a team effort!

I also want to thank all the citizens who offered up assistance from generators to strong backs. We truly live in a great community!

Taking what we have learned, our next effort as a city will be to improve investments to stormwater infrastructure.

Letter to the Editor

Praise for Public Works staff

Thank you to our Public Works Department, who came out immediately after I called them to remove a mattress that was dumped in a ditch off of Second Street.

They provide service with a smile and it is very much appreciated!

Lori Beth Kulp
Warrenton

PUBLIC NOTICE WARRENTON CITY COMMISSION CANCELLED MEETING – 02/08/22

The Warrenton City Commission regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m. has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

The Warrenton City Hall is accessible to the disabled. An interpreter for the hearing impaired may be requested under the terms of ORS 192.630 by contacting Dawne Shaw, City Recorder, at 503-861-0823 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting so appropriate assistance can be provided.

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