

Public invited to meet top city candidate

The city of Warrenton's next top executive could come from the sunny eastern side of the state.

Benjamin Burgener, the city of Stanfield's city manager, was named the top candidate in the search to fill the shoes of City Manager Linda Engbretson, who is retiring.

Burgener was one of two finalists chosen by the City Commission last week. The second candidate, who lives in the Midwest, withdrew after mulling over the move.

City leaders still want community members to have an opportunity to meet the finalist before he's hired during a virtual online reception at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 5. Those interested can join the session at bit.ly/WarrentonCM.

Burgener has experience in the public and private sector, according to Jensen Strategies, the company that conducted Warrenton's job search and initial interviews.

He holds a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in recreation management from the Marriott School of Business at Brigham Young University.

Prior to his job in Stanfield, a town of just over 2,000 residents in Umatilla County, Burgener was city administrator in Ada, Minn. He also has held administrative positions with Utah Department of Transportation, the real estate marking firm CirclePix, the bulk foods company Emergency Essentials, and Wells Fargo Bank.

"Mr. Burgener says that he is self-driven and will work to create a healthy workplace that aligns with the community's vision, takes care of its staff, has a solid direction, achieves growth, is innovative, and has a healthy culture," according to the city.



Burgener

Neighborhood waits... and waits ... for city improvements

BY CINDY YINGST

The Columbia Press

One of the city's last areas remaining without sewers could get a connection to sewer service soon.

City commissioners last week agreed to put the project out to bid after years of talk and little action.

Residents there have gotten their hopes up before.

"I'm not going to hold my breath," said Dixie Black, 82, who has lived on Seventh Place since 1962. "I told my kids I don't know that I'm going to live long enough to see the improvements."

The neighborhood of Northwest Seventh Place and North Main Avenue – a triangular area where North Main turns into Northwest Warrenton Drive – includes 17 properties expected to tie into the new sewer service. Many more have suffered living along the city's most pock-marked road.

The city's stance has always been to wait until sewer lines are installed before any major repairs or repaving.

"The state of that road is nothing short of appalling," Mayor Hen-

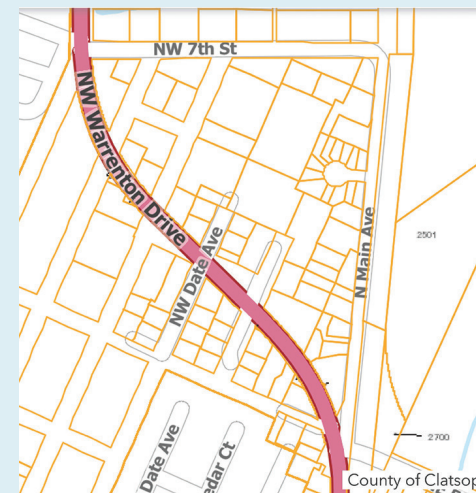


Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

ry Balensifer said Tuesday. "I just walked it today and the road literally is so soft and crumbled that when you jump up and down on it, if you don't break your ankle in the process, you can feel the reverberations of your landing, especially on the Seventh Street portion."

Technically, the sewer project hasn't been postponed, said Collin

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Second COVID vaccine booster now available statewide

Federal agencies authorized a second booster dose for people older than 50 and Oregon health officials made the shots available this week.

Oregon has plenty of COVID-19 vaccine supply to meet increased demand, Oregon Health Authority announced. The second booster also is available for certain immunocompromised people.

Oregon Health Authority on Wednesday updated and distributed its standing immunization protocols

for vaccine providers a day after the joint announcement by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup.

According to the protocols, those older than 50 and those who are immunocompromised can receive a second booster as long as it has been at least four months from the initial booster dose. Pfizer and Moderna are available.

Adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine at least four months ago also can now receive a second booster dose using either of the two available mRNA boosters.

Booster doses of the mRNA vaccines have been shown to increase immune response among individuals who completed primary doses of the shots as well as prevent severe disease among those infected with the

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