



The Talk of the Town

Your Oregon City Government Newsletter

A Message from the Mayor and City Commission



Dan Fowler, Mayor

The Oregon City City Commission would like to express our sincere appreciation to the residents and business owners of our city for pulling together during the recent flood. There are many stories of

compassion and examples of the pioneer spirit that have left an indelible mark in our memories. We can be very proud of the way we pulled together, but we should not forget those who still suffer from the effects of the flood. Let us extend the same effort to those who need our help now.

We would also like to thank our City Manager, the department heads and city staff for responding to this crisis in a timely, professional and quality manner. We are fortunate to have dedicated and

capable public employees serving the interests of our city.

The flood has inflicted significant damage to the commercial district of the North End. The extent of flood damage done to the entire city is being assessed at this time. We will keep you posted. There are two good pieces of news that we can report to you. The Washington Street Bridge is now open and South End Road is open to car traffic.

We will be working on damage assessment and future mitigation plans for some time to come, but we wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteered their help during this time of crisis. It is our hope that we can build on this sense of common purpose and apply it to every aspect of our community.

Citywide Cleanup Date Scheduled

The annual Jon E. Storm Memorial Citywide Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April; 20, 1996, between 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. The event is in conjunction with Earth Day and will be coordinated with Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV). Oregon City residents will have the opportunity to drop off trash, yard debris and tires at the old Chamber of Commerce site on Washington Street across from the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Senior citizens

and the disabled are eligible for curbside service. They can make a reservation by calling 657-8241 by 2:00 pm on Friday, April 19, 1996.

Due to the recent flood, this year more than ever volunteers are needed to help cleanup flood debris areas. Those interested should report to the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at 7:30 am for registration and orientation. As an expression of gratitude, lunch will be provided to all volunteers.

LIBRARY NEWS

Self-Check System Now Available

Patrons may now check out their own books without the assistance of staff at the Oregon City library. Working very much like a bank ATM, the new 3M Self-Check features a color monitor with on screen instructions that guide the user through the process. After "reading" the bar codes on the patron's library card and the book to be checked out the system compares the information with the data base. If everything is okay the books are checked out and may then pass through the security system. At this time the system can check out only books - videos, tapes, and CDs will need to be taken to the loan desk. Along with providing complete privacy during the loan transaction, the self-check unit will help reduce the time library patrons spend in line at the loan desk.

April Events For Kids

April 2 10:15 am
Special "Salute to the Uniformed Services" storyhour - featuring SFC Rick Anstine, US Army.

April 3 10:15 am
Bring your baby (up to 18 months of age) for a lapsit storytime and presentation on choosing books for babies.

April 9 10:15 am
Last "Uniformed Services" storyhour - features SK1 David Bauld, US Navy.

April 10 10:15 am
"Baby and Me" music program for parent and babies up to 18 months. Featuring Ann Clark.

April 15 10:15 am
Regular storyhour schedule resumes for 3-5 year-olds. Storyhours are held each Monday and Tuesday at 10:15 am and again on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

April 17 4:00 pm
Guest storyteller Will Hornyak returns. You've seen the rest, now experience the best!

April 18 10:15 am
Regular schedule resumes for 2 year-olds. These "toddler" storytimes are

held each Thursday at 10:15 am

April 22 & 23

Storyhours for pre-schoolers (age 3-5) at 10:15 am and again at 7:00 pm on Tuesday evening.

April 24 10:30 am

Craft Program. Limited to 25 participants to advance sign-up is required.

April 25 10:15 am

Toddler storytime.

April 29 & 30

Storyhours for pre-schoolers (age 3-5) at 10:15 am and again at 7:00 pm on Tuesday evening.

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Friday & Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sundays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Telephone: 657-8269

Library Concerts Continue Through Spring

The next library performance of the Willamette Falls Symphony Quartet is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th. These performances run from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Everyone is welcome, there is no cover charge and the ambiance is strictly informal.

Monday Booksales Feature the Best

Sales at the Monday booksales continue to increase as more people discover the combination of low prices and good books. These books represent the cream of the crop from donations and library discards with prices around \$1.00 for most items. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library the Monday sales run from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

News from the Library's Friends

A wide variety of activities exist for volunteers at the library. Examples include book and AV repair, applying bar codes, staffing the Monday book sale, home delivery to shut-ins, and shelf maintenance. If you would like more information about volunteer work at the library, contact Janie Burns at 655-1642.

Along with volunteers, attracting new members and renewing existing memberships in the Friends organization is important and most welcome.

The purpose of the Friends is to support and assist the library in serving the citizens of our community and your help is needed. Recent projects funded by the Friends have included the CD-ROM information center and the monthly classical music performances. If you would like more information about the Library's Friends, contact Ruth Black at 656-8787.

Book Group to Talk

William Faulkner's "As I Lay Dying" is the subject of the library book discussion group that meets on April 2nd. The group meets at 9:00 am on the first Tuesday of each month in the reference department. Everyone is welcome to these lively, informal sessions of exploring good literature.

Time is Running Out - Tax Forms are at the Library

Both Federal and State forms are available. If an individual form is not available there is usually a reproducible copy available for photocopying. Please remember that the library is only a distribution point for the materials - our staff can't advise you in any way in these matters although we do have some good ideas as to where your refund check can be sent.

What's New in the Reference Department

Each month the library adds between 500 and 700 new items to its collection. We thought you might find some of the recent additions to the reference collection of interest.

Human Services Director for Clackamas County - Who to contact for everything from employment training and legal services to self-help groups and volunteer opportunities.

1996 Internet Yellow Pages - Where to go in cyberspace for e-mail addresses, news groups, world wide web sites, and more. Over 800 pages of listings.

Almanac of American Politics, 1996 - Here's a great source for tracking the records of elected officials at the national level. It identifies officials

from every state and provides voting records and elections results. Of related interest is *William Safire's New Political Dictionary* which provides a "...definitive guide to the new language of politics..."

Civilizations of the Ancient Near East - This multi-volume work presents a variety of perspectives on this part of the world where history began. It reconstructs the cultural contexts of ancient near eastern civilizations based on archeological findings and evaluates the impacts of these civilizations on succeeding cultures.

Atlas of Endangered Species - Every day, every hour, every minute, entire species of animals and plants across the world are becoming extinct - at an accelerating pace. Packed with absorbing case studies and lavishly illustrated this is a great source of information on an important issue.

Encyclopedia of Multiculturalism - This work examines American history and society through the experience of diverse groups who have been an integral part of the making of our nation. In addition to portraits of particular groups, it explores intergroup relations and the multicultural implications of seminal events from the Pueblo revolt of 1680 to the Los Angeles riots of 1992. Additional topics include prejudice, discrimination, gender and sexism, and cultural pluralism.

Meals On Wheels Drivers and Substitutes

Being a MOW (Meals on Wheels) driver can be a very rewarding experience. You, the driver, may be the only personal contact the senior may have that day. Personal contact is very important for us all. The meal is also important, but without that friendly smile, it may not really mean as much. Call Barb Halverson at 657-8287 if you can help the Pioneer Community Center by delivering meals.

Data Entry Volunteers

Sharpen those computer skills! We are in need of experienced volunteers to enter statistical information into our computers. Call Barb Halverson at 657-8287 at the Pioneer Community Center.

Oregon City Civic Improvement Trust

The next meeting for the Oregon City Civic Improvement Trust is Wednesday, April 24th. The meeting will be held at 6:30 pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. This will be a regular meeting of the Trust. For any further information, contact Mary Palmer, Community Involvement Coordinator, at 657-0891 ext. 155.

Oregon City Fire Department

The Oregon City Fire Department provided tours of the Clackamas County Children's Safety House at the Oregon City primary schools in the month of March.

The Fire Department's goal is that every 3rd grade student in Oregon City will go through the Safety House every year. This means every primary school student will eventually go through the Safety House.

During their tour, the 3rd grade students learned about fire safety and, specifically, they learned about the use of smoke detectors and how to set up an escape plan for their own homes. This plan of safely escaping fire should it strike the home is called E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills In The Home).



The exit drills include: *How To Survive* by installing a smoke detector and

by considering the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system, as well as making an escape plan and practicing it routinely; *Plan Your Escape* because when fire strikes, there is no time for planning; *Draw a Floor Plan of Your Home* which includes drawing a picture showing two ways out of every room - especially bedrooms; *Agree on a Meeting Place* outside your home where everyone can gather after escaping a fire; *Practice Your Escape Plan* which includes having a fire drill at home at least twice a year; *Be Prepared* which makes sure that everyone in the home can unlock all doors and windows quickly, even in the dark.

When your children bring home this information, please spend time with them to reinforce what they have learned. Also, if you have no children at home, call or stop by the Fire Department and we will be happy to provide you with this information in greater detail. Call us at 657-1365 if you have any questions.

Oregon City Swimming Pool Spring Lessons

The Spring swimming lessons at the Oregon City Pool, 1211 Jackson Street, Oregon City, are ready to begin! The charge for customers inside the water district is \$15.00. The charge for customers outside of the water district is \$25.00. All the lessons offered are American Red Cross learn to swim levels.

Session 2 April 15 - May 3 MWF

6:15 pm — 1, 1, 1½, 2, 2½
6:45 pm — 1½, 2 & 2½, 3 & 3½, 4, 5 & 6
7:15 pm — Teen/Adult, 1½, 2, 2½, Diving

Session 3 May 6 - 24 MWF

6:15 pm — 1, 1½, 2, 2, 2½
6:45 pm — Water Babies, 2½, 3, 3½, 4 & 5
7:15 pm — Teen/Adult, 1, 1½, 2 & 2½, 3

Session 4 May 29 - June 14 (\$13.35 / \$22.25)

6:15 pm — 1, 1½, 2, 2½, 3
6:45 pm — 1, 2½, 3 & 3½, 4, 5 & 6
7:15 pm — Teen/Adult, 2, 2½, 3 & 3½, Diving

Saturday lessons March 30 - May 29

11:00 am — 1 & 1½, 2 11:30 am — 2½, 3

What are Cross-Connections and Why are They a Problem?

A cross-connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a pollute source. Here is a common example. You are going to spray weed killer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the weed killer. If the water pressure drops at the moment you turn on the hose, the chemical in the sprayer would be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. This would seriously pollute the drinking water system. Most water suppliers have cross-connection programs. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Public Works Department at 657-8241 or stop by at 122 S. Center Street, Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Public Works Street Division

The cost of fuel for an average passenger car traveling 100 miles at 55 mph was \$4.36, while at 75 mph it was \$6.64. The difference was even greater for light trucks. For an average light truck traveling 100 miles at 55 mph, the fuel cost was \$6.07, but at 75 mph, this cost increased to \$9.01. Fuel consumption increases steadily above 45 mph.

Public Works Water Department

It's safe to say that the recent "cold snap" caught us all somewhat unprepared. Should there be a reoccurrence, here are a few simple steps, which when taken will prevent pipes or other plumbing from freezing.

- Insulate or heat crawl spaces and attics, block vents, open cupboard doors, etc.
- Properly insulate all exposed pipes or fixtures, such as hose bibs or outside stand pipes. This may include using heat tape.
- When you know the temperatures will drop below freezing, allow a small stream of water both hot and cold to run in a sink or bathtub.
- Please do not use torches or similar devices on water meters, they have soft parts which are easily damaged by excessive heat. "Please", call us.
- Prior to having a water related emergency, family members should all become familiar with shutoff valve locations. If you do not currently have a shutoff valve near the house, it would be prudent to have one installed.
- During extremes of cold temperatures we may be very busy, however, please be assured that we will respond as quickly as possible. *Customer relations is our number one priority.*

Oregon City Public Works Sanitary Sewer Division

Domestic sewer lateral tips:

1. Know where your piping is before planting a tree over it, or setting fence posts. Most sewer problems are caused by root intrusion, grease build up, products other than toilet tissue, and broken pipe. Some storm and sanitary sewer easements go through private property, so before you plan to build any permanent structures or plant trees on your property you should notify Public Works.
2. Know where your clean out access is in case you need to call a plumber. Make sure clean out caps are not left off.

3. Don't let heavy trucks or other equipment cross your lateral without bridging material.
4. New homes have test wires laid with the piping for a quick electronic locate of the pipe. The wire tends to get buried during landscaping and is hard to find when you need it. When sewers are installed, the test wire is wrapped around the neck of the clean out.

If you have any further questions, contact your Public Works Department at 657-8241.

7th Street Corridor Design Plan

The Oregon City Urban Renewal Agency has decided to move ahead with the 7th Street Corridor Design Plan. The adopted urban renewal plan calls for a project of "traffic management improvements . . . street scape, and parking improvements . . . facade/building rehabilitation assistance will improve this local commercial corridor. Improvements to public areas will also enhance the area."

This will be a public process beginning with the appointment by the urban renewal agency of an Advisory Committee to get things started. The Advisory Committee will be asking for public input through public meetings and the use of a "perceptionnaire", which is a questionnaire dealing with what people think rather than just yes/no questions.

The end result of the 7th Street Corridor Design Plan will be recommended alternatives for improvements on the corridor, which will describe architectural elements and include cost estimates. Watch for it!



City of Oregon City Phone Numbers

Emergency Services (Police, Fire, Medical)	911
Police Business	657-4964
Animal Control (Clackamas County)	655-8628
Fire Business	657-1365
City Hall	657-0891
Planning/Zoning/Building Permits & Inspections	657-0891
Code Compliance/Historic Preservation	657-0891
Municipal Court	657-8154
Public Works	657-8241
Library	657-8269
Pioneer Community Center	657-8287
Swimming Pool	657-8273
Water/Sewer Billing	657-8151
Cemetery/Parks (Repair & Picnic Reservation)	657-8299
Campgrounds & RV Park	650-6399
Carnegie Center	557-9199

Meeting Dates

City Commission	1st & 3rd Wednesday	7:00 pm
Civic Improvement Trust	As Announced	6:30 pm
Urban Renewal Agency	As Announced	
Budget Committee	As Announced	
Planning Commission	4th Thursday	7:00 pm
If continued	2nd Tuesday	7:00 pm
Historic Review Board	Last Thursday	7:00 pm
Library Board	3rd Tuesday	3:30 pm
Pioneer Community Center @ the Center	4th Monday	10:00 am
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee	4th Monday	7:00 pm
Parking Advisory Board	As Announced	