

THE TROUTDALE CHAMPION

MARCH / APRIL 2024

The Status of Troutdale's Police and Fire Protection

by Ray Young, Troutdale City Manager

Two of the most important services that local government provides its citizens are police and fire protection. The City contracts with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office for police services, and with the City of Gresham for fire and emergency services. Both contracts were for 10 years, and both will be expiring on June 30th, 2025. Your City Council, and citizen groups, have been hard at work investigating what is best for our safety beyond that date. The cost of both is over 7 million dollars annually. It is paid from our "General Fund". That cost represents more than all of the property taxes you pay into the General Fund.

In this article, I will cover our situation with fire and emergency services. While Gresham Fire and Emergency Services does a good job, we have absolutely no control over the quality of the service,

level of service, budget, and who the fire chief is. Additionally, another political entity, Fire District 10, owns the one fire station in Troutdale. We also have no say in their operations.

This is different from our police situation since Troutdale citizens get a direct vote on who our Sheriff is (Nicole Morrissey O'Donnell) and who our Multnomah County Commissioner is (Lori Stegmann). But with our fire protection, we have no say in how it is provided. And it will likely cost a lot more in the future. In public meetings, the Gresham City Council has been threatening to substantially increase our cost for fire and emergency services, by millions of dollars.

In addition to continuing with Gresham Fire, the City Council is exploring other options for fire services. The most common one, the one most cities in the metro

area have decided to do, is to join a fire district. Most of you have heard of the Tualatin Valley Fire District. They provide fire protection and emergency medical services to the cities of Beaverton, Durham, King City, Newberg, North Plains, Rivergrove, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin, West Linn, and Wilsonville. Joining, or creating a new fire district, will cost us more,

but it will ensure that we get a vote, and some control, over how our fire service is provided. This is no small matter as Troutdale citizens call for help from Gresham Fire on average over 120 times every month.

Over the next 18 months your City Council is going to be working hard to come up with the best way to ensure that we are protected, and also have a say in how that service is provided. Please reach out to City staff, or your City Council, if you have any questions or concerns.



Gresham Fire Station #75, at 600 SW Cherry Park Road

If last month's severe weather taught us anything, it's that information moves quickly and staying up to date with everything happening in your community can have a big impact on your well-being.



@troutdaleoregon

@cityoftroutdale

STAY IN THE KNOW!

The City of Troutdale strives to keep its citizens aware of everything happening through both physical and digital methods. An easy way to stay on top of things is to be sure you are following us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Nextdoor. These pages are all regularly updated with news, event information, traffic updates, and much more.

You can also keep up with everything happening behind the scenes on our official YouTube channel! All our public meetings are recorded via Zoom and posted to YouTube – usually within 24 hours. Agendas and any available meeting materials are available along with each video so you follow along with the discussion. You can also find a transcript of each meeting by clicking on the "Show Transcript" button in the video description.



The Troutdale City Council is looking for dedicated citizens and business owners that would like to volunteer their time, enthusiasm, and knowledge to serve on one of our Committees. Our volunteers will be working to help shape the City's policies, projects, programs, and services for current and future generations. We are currently accepting applications for:

- Budget Committee
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Planning Commission
- Town Center Advisory Board
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Parks Advisory Committee
- Public Safety and Equity Advisory Committee

Application Deadline is 5pm, Friday, April 26, 2024
 Application packets are available at:
 City Hall – 219 E. Historic Columbia River Highway
 Online – www.troutdaleoregon.gov/joinacommittee
 Call 503-674-7237 to request that one be mailed to you

See Page 3 for details about our
TROUTDALE SPRING CLEANUP EVENTS

City Council Considers Permitting Leashed Dogs in Neighborhood Parks

If you'd like to comment on this matter, come to the Council meeting, or email comments to info@troutdaleoregon.gov

City Council Meeting
April 9, 7 p.m
Kellogg Room
Troutdale Police Community Center
234 SW Kendall Court

For many years, Troutdale Municipal Code 13.20.160, Domestic Animals, has generally prohibited dogs and other domestic animals from City parks. Nonetheless, dog walking has been a common occurrence in most City parks. Citizen responses to a survey conducted for the 2023 Parks Master Plan indicated that formally allowing more dog access in City parks was a top-ranked priority among the community. To that end, the City constructed an off-leash dog park at Columbia Park that

opened last October, and during the second half of 2023 the Troutdale Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) and City Council began discussing changes to the Troutdale Municipal Code to enable more parks to be opened to dogs. On December 12th, 2023, City Council adopted changes to the ordinance, laying the groundwork for the Council to designate certain parks to allow leashed dogs. Concurrently, the Council formally designated Sunrise Park and the Beaver Creek Greenway as permitting dogs on-leash, as well as a limited allowance at Columbia Park only to the extent necessary to access the new off-leash dog park. Dogs are still strictly prohibited from entering the sports fields at Columbia Park, as well as the playground at Imagination

Station, and at present dogs are prohibited by code at all other City parks pending additional designations by the City Council. Following on that initial step, the PAC is recommending to the Council that the parks (see box at left) also be formally designated to permit dogs on-leash.

The City Council held an initial discussion about this recommendation at the January 23rd Council Meeting. The Council will consider a formal resolution to designate these parks as allowing dogs on-leash at the April 9th Council meeting and the public is invited and encouraged to provide input either prior to or at the meeting. The City Council would be glad to hear how you feel about having on-leash dog access to Troutdale's neighborhood parks to best inform their final decision.

Should leashed dogs be allowed in:

- Woodale Park
- Weedin Park
- Kiku Park
- Lewellyn Park
- Sandee Palisades Park
- Helen Althaus Park
- Cannery Park
- Sweetbriar Park
- CP Park

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City of Troutdale
 219 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy
 Troutdale, OR 97060

The City of Troutdale is thrilled to welcome Erika Palmer as our new Director of Community Development. In addition to her extensive background in planning, she brings with her a passion for serving small communities like ours.

In fact, small town life is all but embedded in her DNA. Erika speaks proudly of her upbringing in

and most recently, Sherwood. Among her career highlights has been in-depth work on multiple Comprehensive Plans within those jurisdictions.

“I think I have written and helped develop more Comprehensive Plans than any planner in the state of Oregon,” Erika notes. “I believe my total is now seven.”

New Community Development Director Brings Experience

Florence, Oregon, and knows firsthand the joys of living in a community blessed with natural beauty and a charming downtown. She spent her college days in a small community in northern Wisconsin before returning to Oregon to participate in the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) program that is sponsored through AmeriCorps and the University of Oregon.

Erika first dipped her toes in local government by spending a service year working for the City of Cascade Locks. That experience led to her pursuit of a Masters of Community and Regional Planning at the University of Oregon.

Over the course of her two decades in the planning field, Erika has spent 17 years helping to shape the narrative of small cities in the Portland metro area including Fairview, Damascus,

for guiding growth, development, and land use. They are developed through a collaborative process involving input from local government officials, community stakeholders, residents, businesses, and other relevant parties.

This is a talent that will come in handy as Troutdale looks to update its own Comprehensive Plan – which was last updated in 2014. “I really enjoy the relationship building in community planning,” Erika says, “And I’m looking forward to working with the residents and businesses in Troutdale.”

She is also excited about collaborating with the city’s staff. “Troutdale has amazing city employees that truly care about YOU (the residents),” Erika says. “I know this because I’ve been listening to their stories firsthand, these past two weeks on the job.”

These plans are the documents cities create to serve as blueprints



“I really enjoy the relationship building in Community planning, and I’m looking forward to working with the residents and businesses in Troutdale.” Erika Palmer

While not toiling in the planning world, Erika enjoys spending time with her husband and two rescue dogs, hiking in the Gorge, and exploring different parts of her home state. She also says she looks forward to exploring everything Troutdale has to offer and finding her own favorite spot in our city.

Make Your Voice Heard on Public Safety/Equity Issues



PSEAC meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Kellogg Room at Troutdale Police Community Center.

The Public Safety and Equity Advisory Committee (PSEAC) is a collaborative effort between the City of Troutdale, its residents, and the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO). The committee meets the first Thursday of every



month to discuss public safety topics and hear from Troutdale Chief of Police, Captain

Doug Asboe, on the previous month’s calls for service in the city, discuss crime trends, and answer any questions.

For MCSO, the meetings are a great opportunity to get input from the community we serve and better understand how our work directly impacts Troutdale residents.

“The connection is critical,” says Captain Asboe, “as it allows us to work together, with the community, to identify those challenges that are unique to the City of Troutdale and develop strategies to address public safety concerns.”

The committee was originally created in 2005 and was revised and renamed in 2020. The members of the committee make recommendations to the city that may be necessary to ensure that all public services are provided in a fashion that ensures equity.

The members are passionate about their efforts and the city they call home. The group is working on a community safety and equity survey, along with a safety fair in 2025.

Public attendance and comment at committee meetings are encouraged. Agendas, minutes and audio of previous meetings are available online.



(Click QR code to visit the PSEAC web page.)



A WALK IN THE PARK with Jona Jacobsen

Spring is in the air in Troutdale, and as the world wakes from its cold dark winter slumber, the Troutdale Parks team is preparing to welcome you to our City parks and greenways to watch the landscape come back to life. A couple announcements as we head into the growing season;

As plants begin to flower, pollinators (including honeybees) will begin seeking food. Please be conscious of them if you plan to treat any flowering plants or trees on your property with pesticide products, especially any containing chemicals in the neonicotinoid group. It is especially important to remind any landscaping con-

tractors who are working on your property of this. In Wilsonville in June 2013, a landscape contractor sprayed flowering Linden trees with neonicotinoid pesticides, resulting in the deaths of over 50,000 bees. Use of neonicotinoids on Lindens was subsequently banned by ODA, however they are still sold and can harm pollinator insects if sprayed on any actively-flowering plants.

Speaking of trees, **Troutdale Parks is continuing a partnership with Friends of Trees in 2024, with the goal of increasing planting density and replacing street trees that have been removed in past years.** Through Friends of Trees, Troutdale Residents will be able to choose a nursery tree from an approved planting list and plant it at their residence for as little as \$35. Trees, but specifically street trees, offer us valuable environmental services beyond just capturing carbon dioxide; they provide shade that reduces the urban “Heat Island” effect in summer, they reduce storm water runoff and flooding

during the rainy months, and they protect pedestrians by slowing traffic speeds and creating barriers between the sidewalk and the street. If you are interested in learning more about Friends of Trees and upcoming planting events in Troutdale, please email us at info@troutdaleoregon.gov or visit friendsoftrees.org

As spring moves into summer, we should all keep in mind the need to prepare for the possibility of wildfire. **Troutdale Parks will be hosting a series of fuels reduction events, funded by a grant award from the Oregon State Fire Marshall.** These clean-up events will primarily be focused on neighborhoods adjacent to Beaver Creek Canyon and the Sandy River. Please look out for event announcements here in The Champion and on our social media pages later this summer. You can also check out some excellent community wildfire preparedness resources at www.oregon.gov/osfm and at www.readyforwildfire.org

BRIEFS

Metro Hazardous Waste events coming up

Metro will be holding neighborhood hazardous waste collection events this spring (both free), and two will be held at Mt. Hood Community College (March 9, and May 4). Check www.oregonmetro.gov for event details.

Will there be Smelt?

Will there be a Smelt dipping Season on the Sandy River? We don’t know! But you can check with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for updates at www.myodfw.com/fishing

May 21 Oregon Primary

The Primary Election is on May 21, 2024. The **last day to register to vote** in this election, or make changes to your party affiliation, is **April 30th**! For more information, go to www.oregonvotes.org

WHAT? NO SPRING CLEANUP EVENTS?



Not to worry! Our staff is hard at work preparing for a great selection of clean-up and recycling events. Please keep an eye out for the May/June issue of the Troutdale Champion for full details, or check online at www.troutdaleoregon.gov/cleanup for updates. In the meantime, please find the coupon for the Yard Debris Drop Off event at right. In addition, you'll want to check out our Facebook pages, website, and Instagram. Stay tuned!

For information on year-round recycling resources, please visit our website at www.troutdaleoregon.gov/publicworks/page/recycling-resources. There is information on general recycling, food waste, hazardous waste and medications, and additional information and resources.

Yard Debris Drop-off May 11, 8 AM – 4 PM

at Allwood Recyclers, Inc., 22800 NE Marine Drive, Fairview

With this coupon, Troutdale residents may bring up to two cubic yards of clean yard debris for free disposal at Allwood Recyclers. Allwood Recyclers reserves the right to refuse non-residential customers and those who present multiple coupons at their first or repeat visits.

NOT ACCEPTED: Dirt, sod, rock, concrete, garbage. Also excluded is painted, stained or pressure-treated wood.

YOU MUST PRESENT THIS COUPON TO RECEIVE FREE DISPOSAL!



HERE COMES THE FUN!

Look for Troutdale's Spring/Summer 2024 Recreation Guide in your mailbox the week of March 18!

Help support THS with this Benefit Event

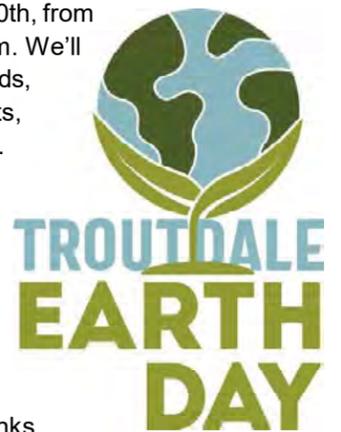
On April 30th, please join the Troutdale Historical Society (THS) for a benefit at McMenamins Edgefield Power Station Pub during the "Half Night." It's a delightful way to support THS while relishing good food, a couple of beverages, and spending time with friends or family. We invite you to be part of this wonderful evening. 5 p.m. until Closing

Up for a couple rounds?

Enjoy a round of disc golf this spring at Troutdale's Confluence Pop-Up Disc Golf Course! Visit www.facebook.com/disc.golf.troutdale for news, a course map, and additional details!

Let's get together for a special Earth Day clean-up event

Please join us at Columbia Park for our 2024 Annual Earth Day Event, Saturday, April 20th, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. We'll pull invasive weeds, plant native plants, and pick up litter. Volunteers will be served lunch following the event.



Columbia Park is located at 1900 SW Cherry Park Road. Thanks to our sponsors East Multnomah County Soil & Water Conservation District, and SOLVE (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism), Reynolds Learning Academy, Safeway and Black Rock Coffee Bar.

Want to help? You can sign up at www.solveoregon.gov, or just come to Columbia Park on the day of the event.

"There is no planet B. We have to take care of the one we have."

Richard Branson

Ready, Set... Garden!

Nineteen Community Garden plots available March 1st



In the spring of 2012, the City's first Community Garden opened with space for 15 plots at Sunrise Park. It was so popular that another four plots were added the following year. The Sunrise Park Community Garden provides an opportunity for residents to grow vegetables, fruits and flowers in a community setting.

Beginning March 1st, Troutdale residents can reserve one of 19 available spaces, by submitting a registration packet **in person** to Pepper Ann McAllister at City Hall,

located at 219 East Historic Columbia River Highway. The cost is just \$25 for your own 9' x 4' space, and the City will provide water, two hoses, and all the mulch you'll need to grow your produce and flowers.

There is a limit of one (1) plot per household until April 1, when unreserved plots will also be made available to non-Troutdale residents. It's first-come, first served, so don't miss out!

Questions?

Call Pepper Ann at 503-674-7225.

The Sunrise Park Community Garden is a project of the Troutdale Citizens Advisory Committee.

Spring Gardens Can Manage Stormwater. Who Knew?



Did you know what you plant and how you manage your yard can affect the amount of run-off and pollutants that enter our streams,

rivers, and groundwater? As you plan for spring gardening and yard work, consider how you can help manage stormwater on-site!

Stormwater refers to the water run-off during a rain event from roofs, sidewalks, driveways, and other impervious surfaces that enter the city's storm sewer system. This journey across impervious surfaces means stormwater can pick up pollutants such as pesticides, fertilizers, bacteria, and hydraulic fluids that eventually enter a stream, river, or groundwater. In addition, large amounts of precipitation may overwhelm the storm sewer system and increase

the risk for localized flooding and erosion. These consequences can be mitigated by small actions you can take in your yard!

Take the first step and plan for what plants you might consider adding to your yard this spring! While trees are the best at capturing and absorbing stormwater, native shrubs and ground cover also help with stormwater management. Native plants have more extensive and deeper root systems compared to ornamental plants and grasses. These root systems allow for more water to be absorbed, filtering pollutants out through the soil, and mitigating flooding and erosion risk.

If your yard has a lawn, consider removing a section of it and replacing it with native plants. This will not only increase the amount of stormwater

that gets absorbed into the soil and help minimize run-off, but it may also lower your water bill since native plants require less water in the long term. Native plants also attract beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife that often struggle to find habitat space in urban/suburban areas.

Don't know where to start? Sign up for the Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP)! After enrolling, one of our skilled habitat technicians will schedule an in-person site visit for your yard and provide site-specific recommendations on what to plant where, as well as identify invasive weeds, and talk in more detail about stormwater management options for your site, how you can reduce pesticide use, and wildlife stewardship options. Residential sites under one



acre and community sites (e.g., schools, places of worship, multi-family housing units etc.) of any size are eligible for the program!

The Columbia Land Trust and Portland Audubon have collaborated since 2009 in the BHCP. Troutdale's first BHCP participant enrolled in late 2020, and to date, 26 Troutdale residents have received a site visit from us! Join this community by enrolling online at backyardhabitats.org or by using the QR code. Happy Planting!



A Man who knows his History: Meet Chris Garza



Raised on the East Coast, Chris Garza came to Troutdale by way of his job. As the owner and a participating worker in his HVAC company,

Chris won a contract to install the HVAC on several large vessels constructed at now-defunct Sundial Marine. In his spare time, he and his wife explored the area and fell in love with it. As he noted, "...it took my wife less than a day to say she wanted to live here..."

Chris ultimately sold the HVAC business and found himself pursuing his interest in the history of the local Masonic Lodge. That led him to the Troutdale Historical Society (THS) and some in-depth information.

On Halloween, while trick-or-treating with his daughter, he suddenly learned that THS was looking for a Director,

and that the application deadline was October 31st. At home after the trick-or-treating, he rapidly composed a cover letter and resume and managed to submit it on time. It proved to be a good thing.

Chris began as Troutdale Historical Society's new Director the last week of January. With a degree in business management, he already is proving to be a great fit.

Please stop by the Barn Museum* and introduce yourself to Chris. If you're not a member, please take the opportunity to join. You, like Chris, may find the in-depth information you've been seeking.

*Troutdale Historical Society | 732 East Historic Columbia River Highway | 503-661-2164 | Open Hours: Thursday through Sunday, Noon-3 p.m.

Raider Days Spring Carnival: Bringing Fun and Families together!

Raider Days Spring Carnival will return to Reynolds High School beginning Friday, March 22 through Sunday, March 31. Partnering with Davis Shows Northwest, the carnival will bring rides, games and the carnival foods you love to eat! This event is open to the public. Purchase tickets starting the last week of February at the school's main office for **\$27 per**

person, per day, and select the day you plan to attend. The price increases to \$32 on March 22. Note that **your ticket allows you free unlimited access to all the rides, but only for the day you choose.** Food is charged separately. Reynolds High is located at 1698 SW Cherry Park Road, and **funds from the carnival will support high school activity programs.**



Photos courtesy of Reynolds High School

Get ready, here it comes! March 22 through March 31



June 8 - 9 / Downtown Troutdale

The weekend begins with First Friday and continues with Troutdale Arts Festival on Saturday and Sunday. This juried show features different artists and entertainment from First Friday, so you will want to be sure you return! The event brings thousands of people into Troutdale to enjoy the artistic community and support local businesses.

Artists can register at bit.ly/49M0HEC. Those interested in sponsorship should email Shannon@SRCCCommunityConsulting.com. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Martha at MarthaDenham@gmail.com.

TroutdaleArtsFestival.org

TROUTDALE COMMUNITY
Easter Egg Hunt & Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 30
Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Park
1002 E Historic Columbia River Hwy.

Enjoy a hearty breakfast from 7:30am - 11:00am
Adults \$7 | Ages 6-12 \$5 | Ages 5 and Under Free
The Easter egg hunt starts at 10 am sharp!

Get a picture with the Easter Bunny

Find more information at ColumbiaGorgeKiwanis.org

Music at the Market

Farmers Market booths and live music at Mayors Square returns each Tuesday during July and August. Grab some dinner downtown, pick up produce and locally made products and enjoy the music. For information on participating or attending: Shannon@SRCCCommunityConsulting.com or call 503-750-3785.

City Meetings

City Council Regular Meetings
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 7 P.M.
March 12, (March 26, cancelled)
April 9, (April 23, cancelled)

View Council meetings live on Comcast Channel 30 or Frontier Channel 38 at 7 p.m.; rebroadcasts are Fridays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 p.m.

Planning Commission
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 7 P.M.
March 13, April 10

Town Center Advisory Board
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 6 p.m.
Please refer to the website for information: www.troutdaleoregon.gov/calendar

Parks Advisory Committee
Sam Cox Annex (Glenn Otto Park) - 7 P.M.
March 20, April 17

Citizens Advisory Committee
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 7 P.M.
March 6, April 3

Historic Landmarks Commission
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 7 P.M.
March 28

Public Safety and Equity Advisory Committee
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 6:30 P.M.
March 7, April 4

Public Safety Services Delivery Working Group (PSWG)
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 7 P.M.
March 4, April (check our website for details)

Urban Renewal Agency
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 7 P.M.
March 19 (if needed), April 16 (if needed)

Budget Committee
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 6 P.M.
April 15, April 17

Find meeting agendas, Council packets and audio/video of Council meetings at www.troutdaleoregon.gov

City Hall, Main Office	503-665-5175
Public Works (Water & Streets),	503-674-3300
Recreation Program	503-674-7206
Water/Sewer - Billing Questions	503-674-7232
Water/Sewer - Open/Close Acct.	503-674-7225

MARCH

1 First Friday, downtown Troutdale, featuring our local galleries, businesses and restaurants. Featured artists, demonstrations, live music, wine and small bites. More information at www.troutdalefirstfriday.com

1 Registration begins for Community Garden plots at Sunrise Park, see Page 3 for details

11 McMenamins Edgefield History Pub / Troutdale Historical Society present "Sea Otters of the Oregon Coast", all ages welcome, tickets \$5. Doors open at 6 p.m., program begins at 7 p.m. Blackberry Hall at McMenamins Edgefield, 2126 SW Halsey, Troutdale

March 12
Little Trout Play Park, 10-11:30 a.m. October through March. Last playpark until next October!

March 22 - March 31
Raider Days Spring Carnival returns! See details above

28 Free Food Market, (date changed), 1:30-4:30 p.m., at Reynolds High School, across from Imagination Station. No ID required, everyone welcome. Bring bags or boxes.

30 Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Pancake Breakfast, see notice above

APRIL

3 Spring/Summer Recreation registration begins at Noon! Check your Rec guide for more information. Don't have one? Pick one up at City Hall, or call 503-665-5175 and we'll send you a guide!

5 First Friday, downtown Troutdale, featuring our local galleries, businesses and restaurants. Featured artists, demonstrations, live music, wine and small bites. More information at www.troutdalefirstfriday.com

20 Join us for an Earth Day clean-up event, followed by lunch, at Columbia Park, see details Page 3

26 Last day to apply for a spot on a City Committee! See Page 1 for information

30 Free Food Market, last Tuesday of each month, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Reynolds High School, across from Imagination Station. No ID required, all welcome. Bring bags or boxes.