

State of the City Address 2011

City of Troutdale

Troutdale has experienced some very encouraging growth patterns this past year. During the 2010 construction period we have added over \$1.3 million in residential value and over \$4.6 million in commercial property to our tax base. These improvements include Beaver Creek Cottages which are period homes designed after our former mayor, Herman Blaser's English Tudor residence. Three of those homes have already been purchased.

On July 12, 2010 the county opened its first library in Troutdale. This 6,000 square foot facility has already experienced 71,788 visits to date. The county expects to have 125,000 visitors by their anniversary. Over 125,000 items have been checked-out of our branch.

Harvest Christian Church undergoing construction on 257th is a 36,000 square foot facility. Their amenities will include an auditorium, gymnasium and classrooms. It will be open and accessible to all the residents of Troutdale.

Fed Ex had their official grand opening on October 2010 which was the two year anniversary of their ground-breaking. This 445,000 square foot facility will be home to 750 employees. They expect to increase to 660,000 square feet in the near future. This \$129 million plant will generate a \$57 million dollar payroll within five years and provide over 1,000 jobs.

We had made strides on our urban renewal property which is the former site of our sewer treatment plant. The federal Environmental Protection Agency has just completed a \$50,000 study to identify contamination that will have to be cleaned-up. This location has received international recognition when Germany selected our property to providing planning and environmental assistance. Business Oregon has furnished the funding to market this site. Metro Local Share has targeted this property with \$295,000 for a river esplanade. This trail system and river viewing improvements will be located next to the scenic Sandy River. We have received considerable interest from national and local developers who are

watching closely as we prepare this location for future development. Our transportation partner Oregon Department of Transportation is working closely with our city to provide an easement on the north side of our property. Also Union Pacific has given us a tacit agreement on the trail and cage system that passes underneath their rail right-of-way. We appreciate all of our partners helping us to get this property back on the tax rolls and open to the public for business and recreational uses.

We have had a plethora of economic development successes in this calendar year. First is HM3-Energy Inc. which chose to locate their research and development facility in our city. They will provide employment for six engineers and a number of technicians as they diligently work to provide a replacement of coal through processed wood waste. Through our economic development director David Eatwell, we now have the only searchable source of information on commercial and industrial properties. Also this website provides information about development incentives and links to our economic development partners in the metropolitan area.

Our city responded to the transportation needs to our new employer FedEx and the Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park future partners by initiating and writing a \$250,000 grant for the Tri-Met Job Access Reverse Commute project. This will help employees get to and from their jobs in that area.

Our downtown merchants enjoyed an additional \$75,000 in retail sales as a result of a coordinated effort on the part of the city and the West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce. Since we are on the subject of Chamber of Commerce they have expanded their capacity to offer services to the general public and our merchants by hiring a full-time event and tourism coordinator.

Troutdale has been very supportive of the relocation of the USS Ranger to Fairview. Although this project is outside of our borders the projected 325,000 visitors annually will certainly add to our local economy. This \$15 million dollar project would greatly boost tourism in our area and provide much needed jobs.

The first annual Fall Foliage Open Studio Tour brought hundreds of visitors and art lovers to Troutdale over two weekends in October. As a result of the major success of this event, they are already in the planning stages for this year's event. It was the experience of one of the artists who shared that he had over 80 people in his studio in the course of an afternoon.

ODOT Maintenance group is looking at three locations in order to stay in Troutdale. They include Culpepper's, I-84 Corporate Park and the Troutdale Thriftway location. We are working closely with them to keep these jobs in our community and to fill up the available office space.

We worked with our economic development director to offer assistance to Advanced Aircraft Systems, Inc. who was considering moving to Hillsboro Airport. Through our assistance they were able to receive business planning, financing and the purchase of a hanger. Their building repair investment was over \$60,000. Troutdale wants to work closely with small business to keep our jobs close to home.

Troutdale has been working aggressively to give opportunities for small business owners to expand. While the economy has some challenges this is the climate when new businesses start up and is particularly attractive to entrepreneurs wanting to take advantage of lower start up costs. The city has implemented the Troutdale's Open for Business Plan which amounts to a fee holiday for expanding or starting a new business. Our local Italian Restaurant, Ristorante de Pompello has jumped on the cities' fee holiday train and will be expanding their business with \$40,000 worth of improvements. Also HM3-E also was attracted to our city because of the Troutdale's Open for Business Plan.

Activity has increased for our Fire and Emergency Medical Services which has set another record year in providing services to our community. There were over 1,200 incidents they responded to including 862 EMS and rescue calls and surprisingly 34 fire calls. We appreciate the dedication and professionalism of our emergency responders.

In cooperation with Multnomah County Emergency Services the City of Troutdale was the first service to implement the 911 Reverse Call Systems in the county. This provides another avenue to communicate directly with our residents in case of an emergency.

We are grateful for the passage of our police bond measure that allows us to have a new police facility. The Troutdale Community Police Center will increase our efficiency and support citywide crime prevention strategies. In support of that we have just recently hired our project manager who will coordinate each phase of design and construction. Progress on this development can be monitored by visiting our website at www.troutdale.info.

Our police department is actively engaged in the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team. This multi-agency task force continues to arrest gang members and seize weapons in East County. Our department is evaluating the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program as a means of reducing gang activity. We are in the process of expanding our Neighborhood Watch Program in order to build crime resistance in individual neighborhoods.

A new program of Problem Solving Patrol Districts is now in place in which officers and sergeants are assigned specific geographical locations to better solve livability and crime problems. In coordination with that we now have a new software program that tracks criminal activity and targets hot spots that need our officer's attention. This \$21,000 Federal program has proven successful in our community.

Our department has added four new reserve officers who are currently in training. They will be added to the nine volunteer reserve officers who supplement our patrol operations. Due to the success of this program we continue to recruit and hire reserve officers.

In order to maintain one of the measures of livability in our community we hired a new code enforcement officer John Copeland who has 20 years of experience in Troutdale. After all who would know this city better than a retired police officer with that many years of experience?

We are very proud of our police officers who along with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office collected 177 barrels of toys during the Christmas Toy Drive. We appreciate the participation of our community partner Wal-Mart and volunteers such as Jorgan Shaw and members of our city police committee. Also our department raised \$21,987 for the Oregon Special Olympics. There were 52 law enforcement agencies that participated and Troutdale placed 6th in fundraising. We want to thank and applaud the generous donations of our community.

The Centennial Arch dedication culminated in years of funding raising and volunteerism. The arch, now completed at the entrance to our city provides a welcome mat to our residents and visitors. Through the generous donations of the downtown merchants the arch came alive with Christmas lights, this holiday season. The commemorative plaque and time capsule are now in place at the arch.

Troutdale's recreation program, the only one in East County proved very successful with over 3,000 taking part. They participated in recreation classes, camps and programs for children in our community as well as in surrounding cities.

We are in the process of updating our comprehensive land use plan to comply with state requirements. One of the subjects that will be addressed is the downtown revitalization and density and design. This will provide a plan for growth and development over the next 20 years.

There are two major transportation planning studies currently underway. An Interchange Area Management Plan by ODOT will determine the improvements that should be made to the Troutdale Interchanges and north and south frontage roads to increase their capacity and reduce congestion.

Metro is conducting a study known as East Metro Connections Plan to identify improvements to corridors between Highway 26 and I-84. The results will help to more efficiently move passenger cars and commercial truck traffic between the four corridors and provide safety improvements for pedestrians.

In a move to save the city thousands of dollars in permitting requirements the Sedona Park Storm Sewer Dry Well project was completed. Over 1500 linear feet of storm sewer pipe has been connected to the storm drainage system on 257th. In order to provide money saving efficiencies a study is being completed in order to save energy at our sewer treatment plant. This facility uses nearly \$200,000 in electrical energy on an annual basis.

Our Tri-Met bus service has improved through our downtown to Glenn Otto Park which currently serves as a layover location. This has increased bus ridership to our park and provided additional service to riders in the outlying areas.

City hall is showing its age. At 89 years old the daily use of this building as office space has brought some challenges. The roof is in need of repair and sections of the council chambers have been cordoned off for safety reasons but the council is committing to making do with what we have.

The final story is the unbelievable flood event we recently had on the Sandy River. We are very thankful that there was no loss of life or major property damage within the city of Troutdale. ODOT, Multnomah County Emergency Management and Hamilton Construction worked together to take measures to protect our residents. The work bridge deck was removed and many bridge piers were capped in order to allow floodwaters to pass through on the east side of the river. Currently thousands of logs that built up against the existing piers are being removed so we can be fully prepared for the next storm event.

Troutdale has a very bright future as we continue to make terrific improvements throughout our city. We are excited about the possibilities to insure the livability and the safety of our fine city. May God bless us in the new year.