
City of Wood Village January 2015

The Village News

2055 NE 238th Drive • Wood Village, OR 97060-1095 • (503) 667-6211
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Wood Village had a wonderful year, with a lot of work provided by the dozens of volunteers that help make our community great. Wood Village is in great financial shape, with the Council and management of the city limiting expenditures through the downturn in the economy to make sure our City remained in solid financial condition as we are exiting the recession.

This article will list a lot of accomplishments in the last year. One about which we are particularly proud, and pleased with our staff performance, is the transition of our financial and utility billing software to a new system. The software the City was using was out of date, and becoming difficult to keep running. We acquired new software, and unlike the disasters at the State and Federal level with new software programs, the City installed the system on budget, ahead of schedule, and with many of the potential costs anticipated not incurred due to the great work of a diligent staff.

We have great employees serving our residents. With the direction of an excellent team of elected officials, Wood Village has made a lot of strides over the last year. The listing of accomplishments in this article is not in any order of priority, it is organized by topic. We just want to share with all of you what some of the key accomplishments are for your home town.



1. ITEMS OF NOTE

- ✘ The City received its 11th consecutive Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Award. Our finances are in excellent shape, and we work hard to be very cost effective. Due to staff's great work, we are in a much better position than most cities today. Peggy Minter, our Finance Director works very hard at this and it shows.
- ✘ Staff has been working to help designate the City as a bike friendly community. Staff met with several businesses to help give them recognition by the state as a bike friendly business. This designation will help the City and businesses capture the \$400 million in bicycle related tourism that comes into Oregon every year. We are the base camp for all Gorge and Mt. Hood activities, and we want to world to know it. Time to dust off the old spandex and climb on the bikes!

2. PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- The City continued to enhance the arboretum located in the park with several new trees. While the arboretum is a multi-year project, you can really start to see it come together with the various tree and shrub species. Over the years, the arboretum will be a real showpiece in Wood Village. Our park is a little jewel in our town.
- While no direct work on the playground occurred this year, Wood Village did secure grant funding to enlarge the area, and add new equipment to the playground. The grant will also pay to refurbish the basketball court area with a new sport surface and hoop, and to the extent there are remaining funds, work on restoring the irrigation system in the park. Look for these improvements to be made this spring. The park will be ready this summer for all the families that make use of it. It's a joy to see all the children having fun in our park.
- We are also in the beginning stages of developing a new Parks Master Plan. This plan will be developed with lots of public input, and will help guide the future of the park over the next decade.
- We had hoped to enhance the trail system and expand it into Troutdale, the Cherry Park Shopping Center, and McMenamín's Edgefield. We were successful in receiving a grant from Metro for the project; unfortunately, the remainder of the project was contained in a state grant that we did not receive. We will try again. This will be a great trail, connecting in Troutdale and making a route available all the way to the Sandy River.

A lot of time and discussions occurred on potential code and master plan revisions for the Town Center. A developer proposed building a multi-family development north of Lowes, but the project required several code revisions. After many public hearings and meetings, the code revisions were denied. The Council, Planning Commission and members of the community will have an opportunity this coming year to help redefine and revise the codes for the Town Center area to help make it a viable economic and residential hub of the City. We received a \$100,000 grant to complete this work, and we are all very excited about the possibilities. It would be nice to see some recreational family type businesses move into that location.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Three new homes were constructed at the Morgan Estates development off Glisan at NE 237th Place. As of this writing one home has sold, and one more is in the initial construction phase. Wood Village housing boom!

Brasher's Cascade Auto Auction has applied for a building permit to construct a new building at their location north of Sandy. The new building qualifies in the Wood Village Enterprise Zone, and will receive a tax abatement to honor the investment in our community. Brasher's will be adding a minimum of 12 new jobs and expanding their business in Wood Village. They are also a great community partner.

Wood Village welcomes America's Best Contact and Eye Glasses, Fabulicious Cupcakes, State Farm, and a new Yoga Studio. Fred Meyer has also started the construction on their new fueling station at the Town Center. A great success story from this past year is the continued expansion of Pressure Safe LLC. This business keeps on expanding, and has invested about \$9 million to grow the business and employment. We have a "meet or beat" concept when it comes to adapting regulations for new businesses. We get things done faster than many larger cities can, and businesses value that. We will continue that concept into the future. So often businesses are frustrated by obstacles in city processes when they are trying to establish themselves. That doesn't happen in Wood Village.



4. CITY EVENTS

◆ This year marked the 26th Annual Easter Egg Hunt. We had over 13,000 eggs and several hundred prizes. The Easter Bunny flew in by helicopter to greet the over 3,000 people who attended the event. We had wonderful volunteers from several organizations to help make this event a great success. This is the largest city Easter egg hunt in all of East County, possibly the state. And the volunteers make sure that all the children leave with lots of candy and good memories.



◆ With the help of the Wood Village Baptist Church, Waste Management, and the volunteers from several area businesses we were able to collect over 12 tons of waste, and over 1 ton of scrap metal at our annual Cleanup Day Event. This event is a great way for people to clear out their homes and yards of unwanted items, and we are looking forward to having it again next spring.

◆ We hosted the first Citizen's Police Academy for teenagers this year. We had a great class of about 20 students primarily from Reynolds and Corbett High Schools. This program informed the students on the many areas of the Sheriff's Office, and avenues for them to take if they wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement. We are in the planning stages to bring this program back in the spring. It's so refreshing to see young people learning about law enforcement with a possible goal of making that a career.

◆ We held our first Brush Up Wood Village event this year. City staff and volunteers from Walmart spent the better part of a Saturday this summer painting the home of a resident along Arata Road. The work greatly improved the appearance of the home, and the owner was very appreciative. We plan on doing this event again in the upcoming year.



◆ Our 15th Annual City Nite Out was once again full of free food, activities for kids, live music, and lots of police demonstrations. The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office along with the Wood Village Baptist Church and the City work to make this the most successful 'Nite Out' in the area. We even had free bicycle helmets for kids. A great free family night out event. We have the biggest and best night out in Multnomah County, maybe all of Oregon. And yes, I did get my cotton candy this year!

◆ The ever popular Citizen's Police Academy had another full class this year. This 11 week program informed people about the different areas of the Sheriff's Office, and all the training and education that each deputy has. We will be offering this program again next fall. If you have not attended the Academy yet, try to make it a priority next year. You will certainly have a new understanding of law enforcement work afterwards.

◆ We once again lit up the largest tree in the region for the City's 5th Annual Tree Lighting event. The Reynolds High School Expression's Choir sang songs of the season, and Kohl's handed out free books to children. It was a fun evening, and we hope you were able to enjoy the tree. You can see this tree all night from the freeway. It is bigger than the City of Portland's and just gorgeous. A little girl pushed the button to light the tree, and it was awesome to see the look on her face when the tree lit up.



Just a wonderful time of year.

5. UTILITY CHANGES AND ROADWAYS

- Crack sealing, asphalt repair work and slurry of the roadway were completed in the upper village area as well as in the Riverwood neighborhood. This work which was funded by the street utility fee completed the slurry phase of our road improvement projects. We will now coordinate water/sewer repairs with complete roadway rebuilds to ensure that we have good roads for a great community.
- 14 water valves along Arata Road were replaced. It was discovered that these valves were no longer functioning properly. We replaced them before Arata Road is rebuilt this coming year. This project not only improved our water system reliability, but made sure that we do not have to cut into the new road once it is built.
- Along with the valves on Arata Road, we also replaced the valves in two of the City's three water reservoirs. In order to accomplish this project we had to drain both reservoirs to remove and install new valves. While inside the tanks we inspected and cleaned them as well. This project also helped to improve the function of our water system.
- We updated our Water Master Plan which will help guide the City's infrastructure improvements over the next ten years. The good news is that the City is essentially ready for the full build out of the community. The main projects to take on include updating and replacing aging pipes and facilities.
- While the following two roadway projects were not completed by the City, we still want to acknowledge the work that Multnomah County did on our roadways. Not only was 238th from Glisan to Sandy repaved, but brand new road was built as well. The Wood Village Blvd extension from Arata to Halsey has greatly increased connectivity for vehicles and pedestrians, and will help with the build out of our Town Center. A big thank you to the County for all this great work!

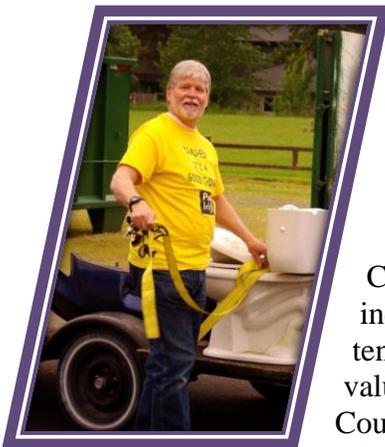


FAREWELL COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARK CLARK

Councilor Mark Clark elected not to run for re-election in 2014. He has served on the Wood Village City Council since 2007, and has been the City Council President as well as serving on a variety of liaison positions. Councilor Clark has been the regional representative to the Port of Portland Noise Advisory Committee and Airport planning committees, service that he will continue to provide to our region.



Every member of a City Council brings unique perspectives and special skills. Councilor Mark Clark brought a great deal of expertise to the Council, including his service as a Public Works Director in Texas, water and wastewater expertise, as well as passion for community infrastructure. He was the one person on the council who could take a 2” thick report, and not only read every word, but explain it to the rest of us. Councilor Clark frequently expressed his vision for our future community, and his combination of vision and expertise was deeply valued.



Along with the volunteer work completed by Councilor Clark, his wife, Mary, served on the Wood Village Planning Commission and Design Review Board. Mary has submitted her resignation, and her services will also be deeply missed. She combined a vision and heartfelt set of beliefs in how the community should progress, and her guidance was valued throughout her service.

Councilor Mark Clark talked at the City Council meeting on December 9, 2014, indicating he had hoped to accomplish a number of specific things during his tenure on the City Council. From how employees of the City are treated and valued to specific infrastructure improvements and inflow and infiltration work, Councilor Clark felt the City has progressed and most of his goals as an elected official have been met.

All the remaining members of the City Council have expressed their gratitude to Councilor Clark, and our staff want to join in the recognition of great work in the years he has served, and positive outcomes he has helped to achieve. Councilor Clark will be missed. We do hope residents that see Mark in the grocery store or around town will express their thanks for great service to our home town.



TREE OF LIGHTS

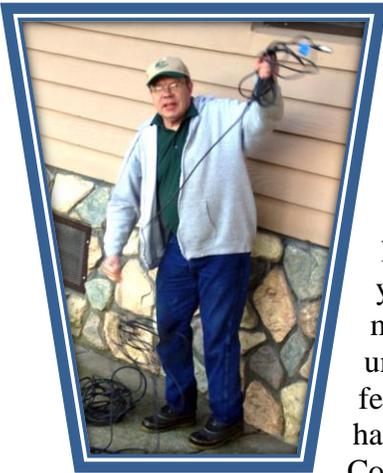
City Hall was once again transformed into a winter wonderland this past December. On December 6th the lights to an 85’ tree, as well as several smaller street trees were turned on to celebrate the 5th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. It was a beautiful evening for the event with no wind or rain. The record crowd was invited inside City Hall where all the children received a free book and stuffed animal from Kohl’s. Free cookies and candy canes were provided by Walmart, and U.S. World Class Taekwondo provided free hot chocolate. The Reynolds High School Expressions Choir sang songs of the season before Santa arrived. Unfortunately, the wind storm that struck in early December damaged the lights and tree, and it remained dark for the remainder of the month. This event would not have been possible without the help from Kohl’s, Brasher’s Auto Repair, Wal-Mart, Reynolds High School, Barlow High School, Gresham Fire, and NW Arbor Culture.



FAREWELL CITY COUNCILOR STANLEY DIRKS

Originally appointed to fill the unexpired term of a resigning City Council member in 2007, Councilor Stanley Dirks ran for election in 2010. He elected not to file for re-election in 2014. Councilor Dirks has been the City Council champion for graffiti abatement, park improvements, and has been a consistent voice for community livability issues.

Councilor Dirks has a wonderful sense of humor, and was the source of many of the great evenings where the Wood Village City Council actively laughed and united around issues through a developed comradery. His "T" shirts are well known on the Council, from his tuxedo T to the great T shirt he designed to commemorate the "event that never happened", he kept the Council lively and full of fun.



He was a one man crusade against graffiti. He never let an opportunity to report graffiti slip by. He cares so passionately about his community that he took graffiti scribbles as a personal affront. Woe to the artist if Councilor Dirks had ever caught him.

Councilor Dirks also has a very well developed sense of the future vision. As he stated in a recent issue, the decision needs to look at the impacts in thirty years, not next year. Whether the conversation was about fueling stations, multifamily housing, or project development, Councilor Dirks would bring a unique perspective to the conversation. Advocating for ideas like programs to feed the youth in our area and quality after school programs, Councilor Dirks has added a community service perspective to the deliberations of the City Council. His active and positive role will be missed.



The Brush Up Wood Village program is back! As you may remember from last year, the Brush Up Wood Village home beautification program was started to help lower income, elderly or disabled homeowners repaint the exterior of their home. We painted our first home along Arata Road this past summer, and it really looks great. Homeowners in any part of the City can apply for the program as long as they meet at

least one of the following criteria: at least 60 years old, disabled, or within HUD's income guidelines.

The City Council will select one home this year based on the information contained in the application packet which can be found online, or at City Hall. The application deadline is February 13th, and the Council will review all applications at their meeting on February 24th. You can learn more about the program on the City's Website, or stop by City Hall. This program is made possible by Metro Paint, and dedicated community volunteers. Let's Brush Up Wood Village!





THE GRAFFITI FREE ZONE

2014 was full of highs and lows in terms of graffiti in the City. The low point was the repeated tagging that we saw this past summer. Several homeowners and businesses spent hundreds and even thousands of dollars to remove the graffiti. The high point was the arrest of a tagger the other month. Graffiti has declined dramatically since the arrest. While we did see a lot of graffiti this year, we also saw the community come together to remove graffiti and help make the City a better place. We will continue to offer the free graffiti removal kits in 2015, as well as other low or no cost graffiti removal and prevention items. Remember, you can always report graffiti on our website using our online reporting tool. A big thank you to all those who took the time to clean up graffiti, and here's hoping for a graffiti free 2015!



GORGE HUB IN THE BASE CAMP

Being the Base Camp for all Gorge, Mt. Hood and PDX activities is more than just being the jumping off point to go to these destinations. It is about providing information, and a world class experience. That is what we hope to achieve by adding a Gorge Hub to the Donald L. Robertson Park. This joint effort with ODOT, Oregon State Parks, Travel Oregon, and other communities of the Gorge will add a unique and one of a kind experience for residents and travelers through the Gorge along the historic Route 30 highway and trail.

While each hub along the route will be unique to the host community, there will be some unifying features. The preliminary plans for our hub include making a new plaza area at the entrance of the park with interpretive panels of the Gorge and Hub network. Additional enhancements include adding planters at the entrance of the park, and a large mural depicting the history of our great community. There will also be more bike racks, and additional park signs. Our next step in this process will be to add

these potential enhancements to the Park Master Plan work that is occurring. While it may take a few years to construct all the elements, this Hub will really anchor our City as the Base Camp for all Gorge activities.

COMMUNITY GARDEN OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Wood Village Community Garden is open for registration, and once again the plots are free! That's right; you can have a 10' x 10' garden plot free of charge. The garden is located adjacent to City Hall, and you can get a registration form on the City's website, or at City Hall. The garden has all the materials you need to start growing a great garden. From quality soil to plentiful water, all you need to bring is a shovel, plants/seeds and garden dreams.

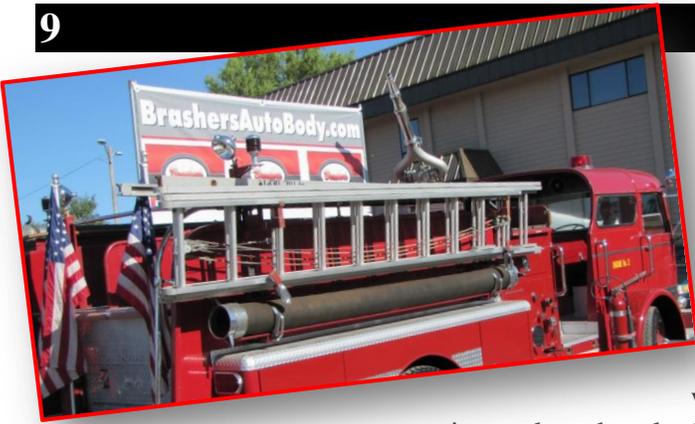
Being part of the Community Garden not only allows you to grow your own fruits and vegetables, but you get to meet great people as well. The plots filled up quickly last year, so act fast if you want a plot. There is a limit of one plot per household, and please see our website for full details and rules. Come in today to get your free plot, and Let's Get Growing!

BECOME A MEDIATOR AND HELP IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNITY!

Are you interested in becoming a mediator? Volunteering with East Metro Mediation? Want to learn how to improve your community? Or need continuing legal education hours? Then sign up for EMM's Basic Mediation Training Course, now pending approval for 42 CLE hours. The course will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays (6pm-9pm) and Saturdays (9am-5pm) starting February 10th, 2015 through



Tuesday (6pm-9pm) March 3rd, 2015. Applications are due January 16, 2015, and scholarships are available! Call 503-618-3247 or visit www.greshamoregon.gov/mediation for more information. Hurry as space is limited.

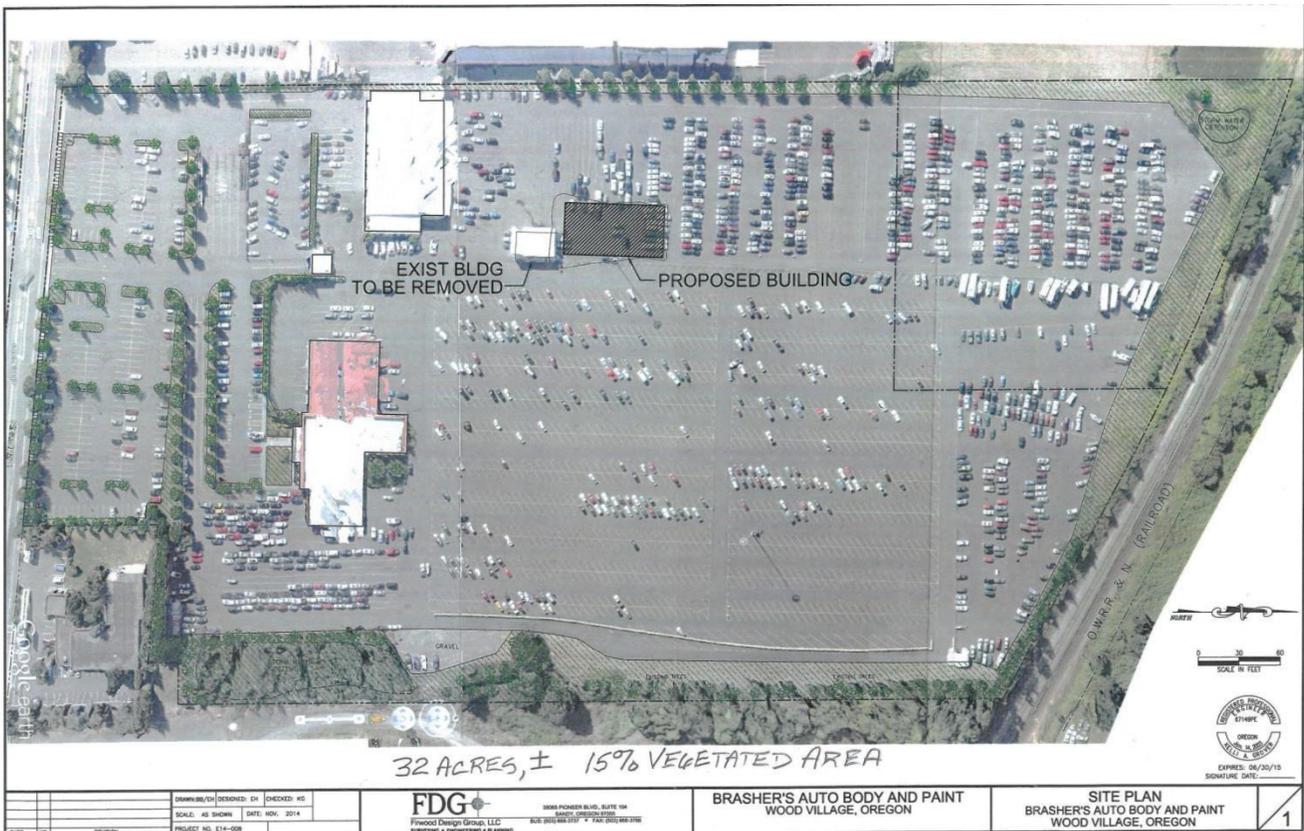


Can you guess the firm in Wood Village with the highest gross annual sales? If you guessed Walmart, you would match most individuals. While Walmart is a great community partner and the largest employer in Wood Village, they are not the highest grossing business in Wood Village. That honor belongs to Brasher's Cascade Auto Auction. This company specializes in the wholesale automobile market, and conducts weekly

auctions where hundreds of used cars are sold to dealers throughout the United States.

Jerry Hinton, the General Manager for the Wood Village branch of Brasher's, serves on the Gresham City Council, has served on the Wood Village Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors, and is an active participant in the community. Jerry recently announced an expansion and sought Enterprise Zone benefits. Brasher's is an ongoing sponsor for our community events, including the Nite Out, Easter Egg Hunt, and our Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. As a great community partner, it is wonderful to see Brasher's determine to add a building to their campus in Wood Village.

Brasher's is located at 23585 NE Sandy, literally right across the street from Walmart. They will add a nearly 11,000 square foot building to house their mechanics, auto detail, and provide office and meeting space. The new building has been approved by the Wood Village Design Review Board, and has qualified for the Wood Village Enterprise Zone.



This pre-engineered metal building will be accented with a wainscot of colored concrete to match the other buildings on the Brasher's Campus. The company will invest about \$1,200,000 in the new building and equipment for this location. The business expansion will also provide a minimum of 12 new full time equivalent jobs at Brasher's, bringing their total employment to over 160.

The Enterprise Zone will provide a property tax exemption for the new Brasher's building for three years. This economic development tool was adopted in Wood Village in 2008, and Brasher's is the second firm to benefit from this program. The other firm receiving Enterprise Zone benefits is Pressure Safe, LLC, a firm affiliated with Morasch Meats. Like Brasher's, Morasch Meats is a wonderful community partner and a real success story.

Our City Council adopted a resolution thanking Brasher's for their determination to invest in Wood Village and help to expand the jobs available to area residents. We look forward to the continuing success of Brasher's, and to their continuing support for our community and area residents.

FLYING OUR FLAG

The City recently held a flag design contest. The idea behind the contest was to have residents design a flag that would serve as a symbol of the past, present, and future of our great community. We received two designs from students at the Reynolds High School Graphics Arts program. While the Council appreciated the efforts, the designs were not quite what they had in mind for a flag. Staff concepts, and the Council, with the help of the audience at the December Council meeting, selected our new City flag. An image of the flag is to the right, and it incorporates our logo as well as a star for each Councilor. You can expect to see this flag flying soon at City Hall!



developed some meeting, selected our as well as a star for

TRANSPORTATION GROWTH MANAGEMENT GRANT WOOD VILLAGE TOWN CENTER

What should the Wood Village Town Center be when it grows up? Ever ask yourself that question, or do you have a vision for what the Town Center should be? We will have an opportunity to take a long look at the future for the Wood Village Town Center through a Transportation Growth Management grant the City of Wood Village has received from a combination of the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

The work plan for this project includes community visioning meetings, discussions with land owners, discussions with the individuals near and adjacent to the Town Center, and a market evaluation to determine the character and types of development that can be supported in this economic environment and in this community. The combination of outcomes will then be compared to the existing regulations to determine if the long term future plan or the law governing the Town Center should be changed.



We will have multiple community meetings, special committees of citizens and technical advisors, and multiple meetings with the Planning Commission and the City Council as we work our way towards the development of a future vision, and comparing that vision to what is currently in place for the area.

Plan to help us late this spring and into the summer as we work on what Wood Village's future may hold.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?



Multnomah County and the cities of Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village are developing a combined Hazard Mitigation Plan to meet the 5-year update requirement (44 CFR §201.6(d)(3)). The cities must have approved updates completed and adopted by January 26, 2016. Oregon Office of Emergency Management and FEMA Region X must review the updated plan prior to this date. Taking into consideration the review period and time it will take to adopt the plan within our jurisdictions, our target completion goal for a final draft of the combined and updated plan is by August 31, 2015. The plan update must include Fairview, Troutdale, Wood Village and the County since these plans are all due for updates. As much as possible, however, the plan will be modified to be a countywide plan.

YARD DEBRIS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

OPEN ENROLLMENT – MARCH/APRIL/MAY

What Is The Curbside Yard Debris Collection Program?

In order to keep yard debris out of landfills, the State of Oregon requires all cities in the metropolitan area to establish yard debris recycling programs for their residents. The cost of providing this service is included in the basic garbage rate of all residential customers. The City requires that all yard debris that is collected at the curb be delivered to a recycling facility by your hauler.

What Is The Yard Debris Exemption Program?

If you home compost or use the services of an approved landscaping/yard maintenance company and do not use curbside collection for yard debris, you may apply for a yard debris program exemption. To qualify for this exemption a customer must compost or manage their yard debris on-site, or contract with a landscaper who does. Exempt customers will receive a credit of \$3.10 per month on their solid waste bill. (This amount is evaluated annually and may change from year to year.)

What Happens If I Put Yard Debris In The Garbage Can Or Out For Curbside Collection?

After you receive an exemption, if yard debris is placed out for the yard debris curbside collection program or found in your garbage can more than one time, the charge will be added back to your garbage bill. You may not apply for an exemption until the following open enrollment period (March – May each year).

What If I Decide That I Want To Start Using The Curbside Yard Debris Collection Service Again?

If after receiving an exemption, you find that you want to use the curbside yard debris collection service, you can call your hauler to reinstate the service and the monthly collection charge. You may not re-apply for an exemption until the following open enrollment period..

How Do I Apply For Exemption From Yard Debris Collection?

Pick up an application at Wood Village City Hall or online at the City's website, which will include:

- **A description of the program.** Please read this carefully before filling out the application.
- **An agreement that lists the program requirements.** Please read this before signing.
- **A Compost Exemption application or a Landscape Maintenance application.** The Compost Exemption will require an appointment for a site visit to verify your composting system.

After you have completed both sides of the application and signed the application, mail it with a check made payable to **The City of Wood Village** for the Application Fee. This is a one-time non-refundable fee for application processing. We will notify you of the date you can expect the exemption to take effect.

CITY OF WOOD VILLAGE
2055 NE 238TH DRIVE
WOOD VILLAGE, OR 97060-1095

PAID BY STANDARD MAIL
PERMIT #75
WOOD VILLAGE
97060

VOLUNTEERS WANTED
BUDGET COMMITTEE

THE VILLAGE NEWS ♦ JANUARY 2015

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Emergency Management
Yard Debris Exemption

City Council Meetings:
Jan 6th 6:00 PM
Jan 27th 6:00 PM

City Services:		Emergencies	911
Wood Village City Hall		Mult County Sheriff	503-823-3333
Water & Sewer	503-667-6211	Gresham Fire Dept	503-618-2355
Building Permits	503-667-6211	Abandoned Vehicles	503-823-3333
Other Services:		DEQ Burning Info	503-618-3083
Waste Management	503-249-8078	Animal Control	503-248-3066
Frontier	800-921-8101	Reynolds School District	503-661-7200
PGE	503-228-6322	East Metro Mediation	503-618-3247
Power outages	503-464-7777	Multnomah County Commissioner:	
Streetlight outages	503-736-5710	Diane McKeel, District 4	503-988-5213
NW Natural	503-226-4212	City of Wood Village Contacts:	
City Administrator Bill Peterson		BillP@ci.wood-village.or.us	503-489-6856
Mayor Patricia Smith		PatriciaS@ci.wood-village.or.us	
Councilor Timothy Clark		TimC@ci.wood-village.or.us	
Councilor Scott Harden		ScottH@ci.wood-village.or.us	

Mayor Patricia Smith ♦ President Mark Clark ♦ Stanley Dirks ♦ Timothy Clark ♦ Scott Harden

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