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# City of Wood Village January 2012

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## The Village News

2055 NE 238<sup>th</sup> Drive • Wood Village, OR 97060-1095 • (503) 667-6211  
Fax (503) 669-8723 • [city@ci.wood-village.or.us](mailto:city@ci.wood-village.or.us) • [www.ci.wood-village.or.us](http://www.ci.wood-village.or.us)

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# A WONDERFUL YEAR!

## WOOD VILLAGE 2011

By: Mayor Patricia Smith



I am very proud, and still, a little amazed that in 2011, I became the Mayor of Wood Village. During the year, I met some very interesting and committed people, and renewed acquaintances with others I had met briefly in my past council days. I would like to thank all the people along the way who have explained things to me and helped me understand just a tiny bit of all the workings that go into the government of our city and state. There is so much to absorb and I am doing my best. Prayers are greatly appreciated!

Wood Village has had a very good year, economically, probably better than most cities. We have had several new businesses move in, some existing businesses expand, and others who will be moving in this year.

We adopted a business friendly attitude of "meet or beat" other cities' offers to business within our city's constraints and regulations. This seems to be working, along with our Enterprise Zone and Urban Renewal District. We thank all our businesses for choosing Wood Village as their home.

We hired a new City Manager this year, Bill Peterson. He is a dynamic, driving force for new business and a great asset to our city. He is well liked in the community and at City Hall. Also, and this is important to me, he has a great sense of humor. Wood Village was fortunate to get him before another city did. Thanks for choosing us, Bill!





Peggy Minter, our Finance Director, received the prestigious CAFR Award again this year. This is an award for budget preparation that is a very high honor for a city. She was also instrumental in moving our banking to Wells Fargo Bank so that we could start earning more interest on our money. Our money is in good hands with Peggy and her staff. Thank you!

Randy Jones, our Public Works Director, manages the workers who keep our water flowing, toilets flushing, roads maintained, and park well groomed. Public Works also assures building, planning, and community development function well. His staff makes our city a beautiful, functioning place to work and play. Good job!



Greg Dirks, our City Recorder/Events Coordinator, has made the city events of this past year the best and biggest ever. We saw planning that went smoothly from start to finish, and events that were enjoyed and talked about by the people who attended. We continue to learn from past events and will refine them a little next time. Keep up the good work!



Our main event was the Easter Egg Hunt, held in the park, where the Easter Bunny, who was Mary Clark Jr., daughter of Councilor Mark Clark, arrived by helicopter to the delight of about 3,000 children and adults. Wal-Mart, our great community partner, sponsored this event and we thank them and manager Jim Maynard for all they do for Wood Village. We had 13,000 eggs out on the field and over 1,000 pounds of candy. It was a huge success and we will do it again next year.

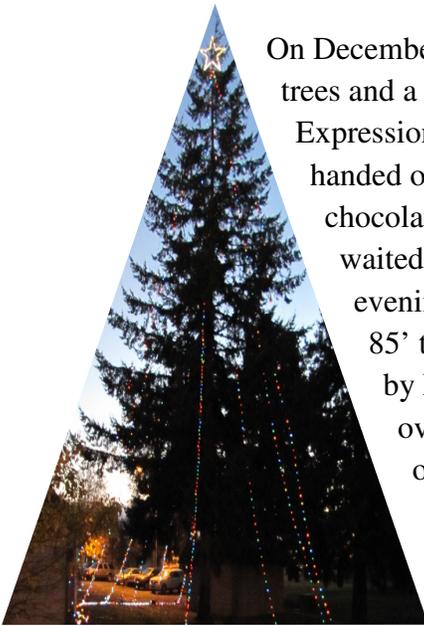




The Wood Village Night Out was held again at the Wood Village Baptist Church in July. This event was sponsored by another good community partner, Comcast, and we appreciate their contribution to our city. Pastor Bill Ehmann, the wonderful volunteers from the church, and the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department made this, once again, a memorable and exciting event. Food and drinks were free, booths were informative, games and rides for children were fun, things were blown up in the field by the Deputies, and the "shoot, don't shoot" was awesome. You had to be there, and, if you weren't, you missed a really good

time. I got my cotton candy and I was happy!

Our Oktoberfest in the park was held in September and this was only the second Oktoberfest we have done in Wood Village. Yazzi's ran the beer garden and various vendors were lined up to show their wares. We had free rides for the children and free cotton candy, popcorn, and water. Bands played into the evening and we hosted about 1,000 people. The sky that night was a mix of purple, pink, and blue, just gorgeous. Thanks to Brasher's Auto Body and the Wood Village 76 Station for their contributions!



On December 2<sup>nd</sup> City Hall was transformed into a winter wonderland with decorated trees and a visit from Santa Clause, a snowman and the Reynolds High School Expressions Choir. The choir sang songs of the season while Kohl's Department Store handed out free children's books and stuffed animals. Guests enjoyed the free hot chocolate, cookies and candy canes that were donated by Fred Meyer while they waited for the Gresham Fire Department to deliver Santa. The big highlight of the evening was the lighting of an 85' tree. The tree was decorated by Portland Tree Care using over 3,000 LED lights, many of which were donated by Lowe's. The trees of City Hall remained lit through December welcoming all who live in and visit the

City. It was a wonderful event and we hope to see you there again next year.



Our Wood Village Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in December was a grand event. I was a little nervous, my first dinner, but everyone had such a good time that I got over it quickly. I called the city councilors up to help me, Mark Clark, Stan Dirks, Tim Clark, and Scott Harden. We all took turns talking about the slide show that Greg had put together. It was nice to get their personal views on the pictures. We even had audience participation! The dinner was catered by Always Perfect Catering and it was perfect. Mayor Dave Fuller and Cherie Fuller attended and we presented him with a plaque, one of which will go on the new park gazebo when it is built next year, honoring him and his years of service to Wood Village.



It is a privilege for me to work with the four men on the Council. We can talk things out and come to a common decision, without any hard feelings or anger. I believe that we have the best working council because we genuinely like and respect each other. I wish more people would attend our meetings to see how well we work together to make things happen. You are all invited to see us in action, second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 6PM.

Wood Village was the recipient of a Flex Funds grant from Multnomah County last year. With that money, Arata road will get the attention it has needed for a long time, with sidewalks and bike paths. This has been a safety issue that will finally be resolved. We have also put some safety material down in the park playground and will repair and extend some park trails with Metro park grant money. The gazebo will be built by the West Columbia Gorge Rotary Club as a service project. Our own Bill Peterson was the driving force behind this, and that cut the cost of it considerably. The gazebo kit was also paid for by grant money.



I would like to thank the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department for keeping our city safe. I do believe we have the best law enforcement team that there is, right here in our city. They do a spectacular job at the Night Out, and when you call 911, they come quickly. They patrol



our streets, attend neighborhood watch meetings, and are happy to talk with you when you see them.

They give us detailed crime reports at our council meetings and answer any questions we have. Deputy James Erikson puts on a Citizens Academy each fall which showcases all the many facets of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. If you have never attended, you are missing something unique, something that is a real education. Look for more information in the newsletter this summer and plan to attend. It will open your eyes to police work and make you grateful that Wood Village has the Multnomah County Sheriff for law enforcement in our town.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers who put in long hours, worked in the hot sun, set things up, tore things down, put up signs, worked in the wind and rain, arrived early, stayed late, gave directions, answered questions, smiled constantly, and never complained. You know who you are and I thank you! We always can use more of these unsung heroes, so if you could volunteer, even for an hour or two on any given event, contact City Hall and sign up. You will have fun, I guarantee it!

Well, I have all the presents wrapped, cards sent out, fruitcake made, cookies made, doggie treats made, candy made, outside lights up, and tree decorated. But I try to remember that it's not about the presents and all the holiday trappings, because so many people are without even the basics this year having lost jobs and income. Contributions to food drives and toy drives should be a top priority this year, even if it's a small donation. Then be thankful for family and friends who love you. May the peace of God be with you all at Christmas and all year through. Merry Christmas!



# A YEAR IN WOOD VILLAGE

By: Bill Peterson, City Administrator

My first year in Wood Village has been a wonderful experience. While I have been a City Manager in three other communities and have managed cities for over 30 years, Wood Village is a unique and special place. You have a wonderful group of elected officials that not only value Wood Village, they value one another. I have seldom had the opportunity to work for such a high functioning elected board, and it is an absolute delight.

I have worked in Cities ranging from 7,500 to over 30,000 people in Wyoming, eastern Oregon, and southern Oregon. Nothing in that history equipped me for working in a city of under 4,000 like Wood Village. This place is a special challenge. Since we live in the Metro region, we have all the sophistication and complexity of a major City, while having the ability to function like a small town. This is a great combination that allows Wood Village to be different.



Wood Village describes itself as a city that CARES, meaning a city in which Courtesy, Action, Respect, Enthusiasm, and Services are valued. In my first year, I find this is not a slogan; it is a way of working and valuing one another. It makes working here fun, and it makes sure you receive a great value and high level of service as a citizen of Wood Village.

As part of my “getting acquainted” with Wood Village, I have met with business owners, operators, and managers throughout the community. Wood Village has a diversity of great businesses creating products that not only serve our needs as residents, but provide product to our State and the world. We have a great business community, and folks operating our local commercial operations that really care about the future of our town, and our region.

I recently had the honor of providing Wood Village employees with awards for money saving activities that improve our local government. Ideas that were implemented saved a total of over \$100,000.00 and made sure you are receiving better service in a way that is more efficient. A great work force and great elected leadership makes our town someplace special, a place I am glad to call my home town.

In December we celebrated the volunteers and employees that make this town so special. The Budget Committee members and their assurance of fiscal restraint, the Planning Commission and Design Review Board members that are working to keep this a well-planned and attractive place, the Parks and Recreation Committee, the volunteers that get this newsletter in the mail and all of the business leaders and residents that volunteer direct support for Wood Village were celebrated. It was a wonderful event that really brought home to me what a special thing we have happening in Wood Village. This is a great town, and I am glad to be part of your community. I am looking forward to 2012 and the opportunity to continue my service to our great community.



# Community Pride Award Winners!

These five properties were selected by the Parks and Recreation Commission to win the prestigious Community Pride Award for December.

104 Cedar Lane



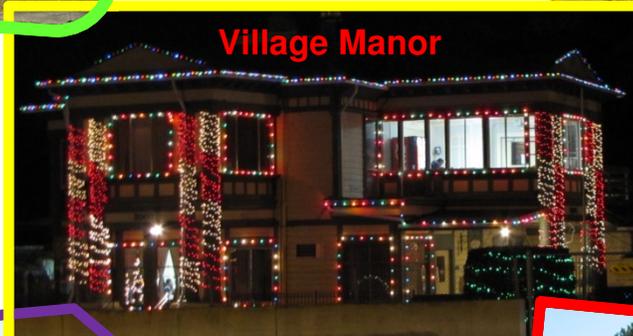
115 Maple Blvd



The winners were selected from a large group of properties that were nominated by area residents, and were selected to win based on their exceptional yard and

exterior home improvement, maintenance, and in some cases, seasonal decorations.

Nomination forms are available at City Hall and on the website.



The next set of awards will be given out in April. A beautiful home and landscaping is a great way to show your community pride.



1570-1572 NE 236th

Thank you for all the nominations, and congratulations to our winners!



23200 NE Sandy #6

## Negotiation Training

East Metro Mediation will be teaching "Negotiation for Win-Win Solutions" at Troutdale's City Conference Building, 223 S. Buxton, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15. Trainer Anndy Wiselogle commented: "Everyone gets stuck in dilemmas, and this is a smart way to come up with the best solution that maintains good relationships." There's no cost for residents of Wood Village, Troutdale, Fairview or Gresham; others pay \$15.

Pre-register by February 13 at 503-618-3247 or at [Mediate@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:Mediate@GreshamOregon.gov).

## Utility Billing Cycle Changing Soon

The water and sewer billing cycle will be changing from the current bi-monthly billing to a monthly billing system starting with the month of **May, 2012**. Residents will begin receiving monthly water and sewer bills in **June**. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and messages on your bills.

**Mediation Training  
Applications Due February 27**

Wood Village residents are invited to learn mediation at East Metro Mediation’s training which will be held on Tuesday evenings and all day Saturdays during April. Mediation skills are useful to anyone in their work, home or other

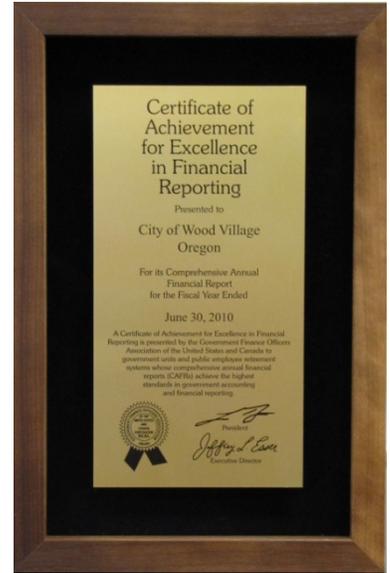
activities; and of course are required for mediators. People who want to volunteer their mediation skills for one year pay a reduced fee or may apply for a scholarship. Applications for the training are due February 27, and may be found at <http://greshamoregon.gov/mediation> , or [mediate@greshamoregon.gov](mailto:mediate@greshamoregon.gov); or 503-618-3247.

**Protecting your Financial Interest in the City**

The City of Wood Village is required to provide an annual audit of all transactions to the State of Oregon. Along with a number of other local governments in Oregon, Wood Village chooses to take this audit requirement to a different level, applying for the highest possible potential governmental honor available for quality reporting and accuracy of information, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reporting award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

This audit requirement submits the Wood Village annual financial reports to a panel of experts nationwide to evaluate. The panel reviews our statements for content, quality, accuracy and disclosure, assuring we have an absolutely transparent financial process that any resident can view and evaluate. Achieving this award sends a very positive signal to all the local governments we work with, to the State of Oregon, and to the banks and potential bond rating firms of the quality and accuracy of financial statements in our home town.

Wood Village has applied for, and received, this award annually since 2003, constantly improving the reporting and responding to any comments or suggestions provided by the professional review panel. Wood Village’s finance system, budget, and reporting are excellent, and we will be applying for our ninth certificate with the audit recently completed for fiscal year 2011.



If you are interested in our financial reports, audits, or budget information, please contact Peggy Minter, Finance Director, at 503.667.6211 and let us provide you with information.

**The Key  is Connectivity**

As reported to you in November, the Transportation System Planning (TSP) process is underway. This round of planning is focusing on

*connectivity* for pedestrians, bicycles, mass transit and automobiles.

As transportation systems have developed over the past 60 years, a lot has been learned about how to make them more efficient and convenient for the traveler. A key lesson learned has been in the area of connectivity. To evenly spread traffic, be it pedestrian, bicycle or vehicles, over a grid of connected streets has been found to be more effective than to force traffic to use larger and increasingly more congested collectors and arterial streets. We designed systems with cul-de-sacs, dead end streets, and limited connectivity to any street other than a collector or arterial. Time has proven this strategy to be an error.

In Wood Village we have two very clear examples of poor connectivity. One impacts bicyclists and pedestrians trying to get from Arata Road to Halsey Street between NE 238<sup>th</sup> Drive and 223<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. In that entire distance of nearly a mile and a half there are only two places for a bicyclist or pedestrian to get from one to another without trespassing. That means people are walking or riding long distances out of direction to get to their destinations. The other example is west of 236<sup>th</sup> Avenue and east of Wood Village Boulevard between Arata Road and Glisan Street. On the east side of 236<sup>th</sup> Avenue there are east/west multimodal routes (NE Glisan St. and NE Halsey St.), but vacant land and a large manufactured home park to the west keep those routes from

connecting often forcing travelers out of direction and onto more congested streets to reach their destinations. Another example that has been discussed is the safety of pedestrian and bicycle traffic as it moves on NE 238<sup>th</sup> Dr.,

specifically between NE Arata Rd. and NE Glisan St.

It would be nice to think that once you identify opportunities for better connectivity you could just go out and fix them. Unfortunately it doesn't work that way because some structures, businesses or uses existed before the need to extend the grid system was understood. We don't want to displace people or businesses and besides, it would simply cost too much. What we do instead is get the public involved first to simply get as many opinions, ideas, options and alternatives on the table as possible. Then the local legislative process



starts by systematically analyzing these and determining the most effective, user friendly and economical plans anticipating an opportunity to take advantage of changes when they happen over time. A roadway connection on the plan will make it possible to become a real connections benefit when future redevelopment or changes take place.

If we start now it will take many years to create an ideally connected grid system, but we will never get there if we don't make a plan to do it.

As we plan for the best possible transportation system for Wood Village, we are seeking your ideas to help us make good decisions. Please send us your thoughts and ideas, or attend a public meeting to discuss them in person. The

meeting times and locations will be posted on the City’s Website. We encourage you to participate in this very important phase of the planning process. It ultimately dictates the direction the City takes to improve livability.

Protecting Our Watersheds

We have included in our newsletter several articles over the years about protecting our watershed. The cleaning up of the storm water and nuisance run off from our roadways and properties has been a major effort in Wood Village, as well as throughout the Portland Metropolitan area. Together we have made a major difference in the water quality of our area streams, from Arata Creek and Fairview Creek to the Columbia Slough, water quality has improved in the last decade.

Actively managing and cleaning up storm water has a real cost. In Wood Village, we have installed two storm water cleaning manholes and constructed a wetland to help clean the run off before it flows into our streams. We also have an active program to clean storm drains, maintain retention and detention ponds throughout the community, and to monitor the private water retention facilities to assure they work to protect our environment.



These actions, along with testing and reporting, are all part of the requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit to the City of Wood Village. The cost of storm water compliance in our neighboring Cities is paid through a storm water utility. This is a monthly fee added to the water and sewer bill to provide the funds to pay for storm water compliance.

Fees are in place in Gresham, Troutdale and Fairview.

The highest fee in our region is levied by Portland to help resolve their continuing issues with storm water.

The City of Wood Village is considering the possibility of a utility fee in our city. We have two big issues to solve, the funding of our roadway maintenance and the funding of storm water compliance. We are working now to develop a potential program for combining storm water and roadway maintenance in a single fee.

The Citizen Advisory Committee assisting in the study of “Funding Good Roads for a Great Community” is working to determine whether this is a good idea, and what cost and format any utility structure may have. Residents are encouraged to contact the City Administrator if they have comments or concerns, or if they are looking for more information about a potential utility

## Urban Renewal Funding: 101

Some local residents have called with questions about the Wood Village Urban Renewal Agency and their property tax bill. Since the formation of the Urban Renewal District, taxpayers in Wood Village will now see what appears to be a tax charge on their tax bill. This is **not** a new tax on your property and it does not change the amount of taxes that you are required to pay. The reason it appears on your tax bill deals with the way the law is written and what the County Assessor has to do to calculate the tax paid to the Wood Village Urban Renewal Agency.

Rather than try to explain the system, we have taken quotes from Assessor's in Marion and Curry Counties. They have explained to the residents in their respective counties the new line on the tax statement much better than we could.

### MARION COUNTY EXAMPLE (Doug Ebner, County Assessor)

**Q: I noticed something new on my tax statement this year. What's Urban Renewal?**

A: If you live in Salem, Keizer, or Woodburn, you will see a line on your tax statement that refers to Salem, Keizer, or Woodburn Urban Renewal. Urban Renewal allows taxing districts to establish areas within their boundaries that they consider to be blighted. Although it appears to be a new tax, it's really not. What happens is a portion of the taxes that you pay to districts that overlap an urban renewal district are used to fund the urban renewal projects that are put in place to improve the blighted areas. If you're within the city of Salem or Keizer boundaries, you have been paying a portion to urban renewal all along, but because of a new law implemented last year, it is now being displayed on the tax statements. The city of Woodburn will be seeing the urban

renewal on their tax statements for the first time this year.

### CURRY COUNTY EXAMPLE (Jim Kolen, County Assessor)

Property owners within the City of Brookings will also notice changes on their property tax bills due to the formation of the Brookings Urban Renewal Agency (URA). The URA was approved by the City in August of 2002. They will see an amount on their tax bills that they are paying into the URA for the first time this year.

"The Urban Renewal Agency does not increase the property tax of any property owner within the City of Brookings," said Kolen. "Urban Renewal Agencies receive their money from the amount taxpayers would have paid to other taxing districts and shifting that amount into their agency," Kolen added.

Kolen explained that the computations and procedures for the funding of a URA are extremely complex. The purpose for this URA is to provide funding to eliminate blight within a defined area of the City of Brookings. The amount of funding the URA will receive can be no more than what the assessed value increase of that area would have produced in property taxes.

"The thing to remember about the Brookings Urban Renewal Agency is that it does not increase taxes," said Assessor Jim Kolen.

Wood Village taxpayers will see the new tax amount on their tax bill. Please remember the amount is derived by reducing the tax payable to other jurisdictions, and distributing that amount to the Urban Renewal Agency. No tax rates are increased, altered, or modified by the formation of an Urban Renewal Agency.

CITY OF WOOD VILLAGE  
 2055 NE 238<sup>TH</sup> DRIVE  
 WOOD VILLAGE, OR 97060-1095

PAID BY STANDARD MAIL  
 PERMIT #75  
 WOOD VILLAGE  
 97060

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**Planning Commission and Parks Commission**  
 Call 503-667-6211 for more information

**THE VILLAGE NEWS**

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*City Council*

Patricia Smith, Mayor  
 Mark S. Clark, President  
 Stanley Dirks  
 Timothy Clark  
 Scott Harden

City Councilors are volunteers who do not keep regular office hours but messages can be left at City Hall at 503-667-6211.

Regular Council meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

**25% SENIOR RATE DISCOUNT:**

If everyone living in your household is 65 years and older, and you are directly billed by the city, you may be eligible for the discounted base sewer and water rate fees. For more detailed information and to acquire the application, please see the City's website or call 503-667-6211.

**Planning Commission  
 Design Review Board**

Planning Commission/Design Review Board meetings are normally held the last Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

All meeting agendas are available at City Hall and on the City's website.

**City Services**

**Water & Sewer:** Wood Village City Hall:  
 503-667-6211

**Building Permits:** Wood Village City Hall:  
 503-667-6211

**Trash & Recycling:**  
 Waste Management: 503-249-8078

**Phone: Frontier** – 1-800-483-4000

**Electric:** PGE – 503-228-6322  
 503-464-7777 (power outages)  
 503-736-5710 (streetlight outages)

**Gas:** NW Natural: 503-226-4212

**Abandoned Vehicles**  
 503-823-3333 (*non-emergency number for Sheriff's Office*)

**DEQ Burning Information:**  
 503-618-3083

**Multnomah County Sheriff:**  
 503-823-3333 (non-emergency)  
 9-1-1 (emergencies)

**Gresham Fire Department:**  
 503-618-2355 (general information)  
 9-1-1 (emergencies)

**Multnomah County Animal Control:**  
 503-248-3066

**Reynolds School District:**  
 503-661-7200

**East Metro Mediation:**  
 503-618-3247

**Multnomah County Commissioners:**  
 Jeff Cogan, County Chair  
 (503) 988-3308

Diane McKeel, District 4  
 (503) 988-5213