



GRESHAM

WINTER 2023

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS

Looking forward, reflecting back

With a new year and a fresh start upon us, our goal remains true: You Belong. The City of Gresham will faithfully work to protect, inspire and encourage opportunity for all in the community we love.

1. City expands Homeless Services team, who help 179 people find housing or shelter.



2. Rockwood Market Hall fulfills community gathering place and small business dreams.



3. Youth Services elevates fun, mentoring and violence prevention with partners.

4. Historic one-time funding for public safety adds police and firefighter jobs, 12-person Fire Academy.



5. Hitting the Streets paves the way in neighborhoods.



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE
 Winter weather resources, *Page 5*
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
 See the tree lights through Jan. 3
 Arts Plaza, 401 NE Second St.,
 Historic Downtown Gresham

Travis Stovall reelected Mayor

Gresham voters chose Mayor Travis Stovall to continue leading the City for a second term. He ran unopposed in the November general election.

Mayor Stovall ran again, he says, "To help make Gresham a safer, more prosperous community. Gresham is a special place. I want to be part of the positive efforts toward Gresham achieving its full potential while honoring everyone in our community."

His priorities include community safety, homelessness assistance, housing affordability and economic mobility.

Mayor Stovall made history as Gresham's first Black mayor. Both here at home and in any major city in the Portland metro area and across the state.

Sworn in as Gresham's 28th Mayor on Jan. 5, 2021, he is serving the rest of former Mayor Shane Bemis' term through 2022. His new four-year term



Gresham Mayor Travis Stovall at City Hall. Get Mayor Stovall's Monthly Update by subscribing to the City's YouTube channel. His Facebook Live chats are monthly, the second Tuesday at 3 p.m.

starts on Jan. 3, 2023.

His life experiences and leadership continue to guide the City and community forward when unity is important.

Mayor Stovall's New Year's Resolution for Gresham is, "To continue to work toward a united, inclusive, and prosperous community."

A longtime Gresham resident, he is the small business owner of

eRep, Inc. His lengthy history of service includes serving on the City's Community Development and Housing Subcommittee; past Gresham Task Force on Housing to help create affordable housing units; Charter Review Committee chair; and former vice president of the TriMet Board of Directors.

Contact Mayor Stovall at Mayor@GreshamOregon.gov or 503-618-2584.



Want more for Gresham? Join us

Calling all Gresham community members. Do you want to make a positive difference and be part of building a brighter future for Gresham?

Join us and be a champion for Gresham! You'll be invited to participate and take action toward achieving a safe, thriving and welcoming community for all including opportunities to:

- Participate in Champion Gresham roundtables with the City Manager and other community members.
- Share your ideas on important City initiatives.
- Collaborate with other community members and local organizations.
- Expand your knowledge of civic matters.

This is a great way to get involved without a longtime commitment.

Sign up at GreshamOregon.gov/Champion-Gresham.

For more information, call the City Manager's Office at 503-618-2346.

Welcome back, City Councilors

Voters on Nov. 8 reelected two members to the City Council: Eddy Morales, Position 2, and Janine Gladfelter, Position 6. Voters also elected former Council member Jerry Hinton – Position 4, back to service.

Rounding out the City Council are Mayor Travis Stovall; Councilor Dina DiNucci, Position 1; Councilor Vince Jones-Dixon, Position 3; and Councilor Sue Piazza, Position 5.

We wish all the best to departing Councilor Mario Palmero, with deep gratitude for his 10 years of service to the community and diversity leadership.

The seven-member City Council is the policy-making body of the City, representing the interests of residents and responsible for the direction of City operations.

The elected Councilors will be sworn in to serve four-year terms on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023.

For more information about the City Council, visit GreshamOregon.gov/Mayor-and-Council or call 503-618-2871.



Eddy Morales – Position 2

Council President Eddy Morales was first elected to a four-year term for Council Position 2 in November 2018 and sworn into office on Jan. 8, 2019.

"My vision for Gresham includes prosperity and opportunity for everyone who lives here. I want to bring my experience, skills, determination and compassion to the Gresham City Council to help tackle issues like housing, transportation, economic growth and education."

A small business owner and community organizer, Council President Morales spent the last two decades working for multiple national organizations dedicated to community change including Morales Public Relations, a business he started.

His work has allowed him to collaborate with policymakers from around the country enabling him to give back to the community that has given him so much.



Janine Gladfelter - Position 6

Why I ran for Council: "Gresham has been facing real problems, public safety, homelessness and budget shortfalls. It has been an honor to serve and begin the work on these issues and feel the importance to see the work through."

Top priorities: Public safety through properly funded and staffed Police and Fire departments. Address homelessness with compassion and accountability while keeping our streets clean. Long-term financial planning to give Gresham a stable future.

New Year's Resolution for Gresham: "Gresham has always come together in tough times, my resolution 'wish' is that we all work together to build a better future for our city that we call home."

Councilor Gladfelter has served on the City Council since 2017. She was Council President in 2020.

She is a business relationship manager.



Jerry Hinton - Position 4

Why I ran for Council: "To give back to the community I love and to help increase the collective quality of life for all."

Top priorities: Public safety, homeless mitigation and economic development.

New Year's Resolution for Gresham: "Fully staff the Gresham Police Department!"

Councilor-elect Hinton served for two terms on the Gresham City Council from 2013-20. He was voted Council President in 2019 and 2015. While on Council he founded the City's annual Green and Clean Day of Service.

His past government experience includes serving on Gresham's Citizen Involvement and Finance committees, Planning Commission, East Multnomah County Transportation Committee and Metro Policy Advisory Committee.

Councilor-elect Hinton and his family have lived in Gresham since 2003. He is an industry consultant.

Invest in Gresham: May 2023 levy

Our top priority is keeping Gresham safe



Left: Gresham Fire and Police respond to a traffic emergency. Photo by Greg Muhr. Top right: Homeless Services Specialist Willie Shaw, left, helps client Eddie move into housing. Bottom right: Gresham Police meet the community at the Arts Festival.

On the May 2023 ballot, we're going to ask our community to vote on a levy option to make an investment and build the foundation for a safe and thriving community.

City Council directed staff on Nov. 15 to pursue a levy with resources for Gresham Police, Fire and Homeless Services. Details on related costs will be forthcoming in January.

Gresham's needs are urgent. For example, Gresham Fire is maxed out on real-time calls for one apartment fire and one medical emergency. We depend on Portland for backup.

To do this, we're focusing on

- ▶ **Hiring more police officers** and non-sworn positions.
- ▶ **Hiring more firefighters** and deputy fire marshals.
- ▶ **Expanding our homeless services response** to include evenings and weekends.

While Police are focused on addressing crime and violence, Gresham, like many cities, has a police officer shortage.

Making Gresham a safer place

requires investments now. Let's work together to create a vibrant community now and for future generations.

Our levy goals

- ▶ **Stabilize services** through more adequate staffing.
- ▶ **Pilot an expanded service model** to address homelessness.
- ▶ **Avoid layoffs** by minimizing the forecasted 2023-24 budget deficit.

If you would like to be part of the solution, City Manager Nina Vetter is looking for residents to Champion Gresham, see Page 2.

Scott Lewis named Gresham Fire Chief

The City is excited to announce Scott Lewis is Chief of the Gresham Fire Department. Chief Lewis joined Gresham Fire in January 2003, and recently served as the interim chief.

"I am humbled to have the opportunity," Chief Lewis said. "We have assembled one of the finest groups of firefighters, fire officers, deputy fire marshals, and staff members in the state. Every day they serve with courage and compassion, and it is a privilege to work alongside them."

Since joining the Gresham Fire



Fire Chief Scott Lewis

Department, Chief Lewis has held a variety of roles including operations deputy chief, deputy chief, division chief, and assistant chief.

"Scott Lewis has been an integral part of the Gresham Fire Department

for nearly 20 years," said Deputy City Manager Corey Falls. "We are grateful for the thoughtful leadership, integrity, and selfless commitment Chief Lewis brings to this community."

Chief Lewis began his career in his hometown of Fairborn, Ohio. He served the Fairborn Fire Department for 20 years, in time rising to the role of operations deputy chief.

Though it is not a requirement of the position, it is important to Chief Lewis to live in the community he serves. Chief Lewis and his wife, Linda, and their Lhasa Apso Lucy have happily called Gresham their home for 20 years now and we are pleased that they will continue to do so.

Gresham's funding challenges and solutions

You've likely heard it before: Gresham has some serious financial challenges.

But why?

The answer may seem complex, but it comes down to a few things.

- Rising costs
- Flat fees
- State limits on property taxes

We've all seen it – prices from gas to milk have gone up over the years. City costs have gone up too, but the money we receive each year doesn't cover rising costs.

Stretching our dollars

We are doing everything we can to stretch our city dollars further. Staff apply for state and federal grants to help cover what the City can't afford and to maximize the budget.

We're proud to say the City of Gresham is recognized with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. For years, we've been able to do more with less.

Funding the future

While we've found ways, with less money, to provide you with basic public safety services, the City is at a critical point in our ability to avoid cutting Police and Fire services and staff.

In the past couple of years, we've temporarily balanced the City budget by extending the \$15 Police, Fire and Parks Fee and using one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) pandemic funds. Those funds are expiring, and the City faces a projected \$9 million budget shortfall next year.

To fund the future, the City Council acted and approved a long-term Financial Road Map this year.

Learn more at

**GreshamOregon.gov/
Funding-Challenges-and-Solutions** or call the City Manager's Office at 503-618-2346.



INSIDE CITY HALL

Mayor

Travis Stovall 503-618-2584

City Council Office 503-618-2871

City Council

Eddy Morales, Council President

Dina DiNucci

Vince Jones-Dixon

Janine Gladfelder

Mario Palmero

Sue Piazza

Abandoned Vehicle Reporting 503-618-2248

Animal Services (Multnomah County) 503-988-7387

Building Permits 503-618-2845

Business Licenses 503-618-2370

Code Compliance 503-618-2248

East County Resolutions 503-618-3247

Fire/Police Non-Emergency 503-823-3333

Garbage/Recycling 503-618-2525

Housing Resources Coordinator 503-618-2721

Parks 503-618-2626

Planner on Duty 503-618-2780

Small Business Center 503-618-2872

Utility Billing 503-618-2373

City of Gresham 503-618-3000
1333 NW Eastman Parkway
Gresham, OR 97030

Pay a City bill online
GreshamOregon.gov/Pay-Your-Bill-Online

In-person customer service hours

Building on Duty
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays

Permit Services
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays

Planner on Duty
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays

Utility Billing
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

City Hall is virtually open for all services, online or by phone, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

GRESHAM is produced quarterly by the City of Gresham for its residents.

Questions, comments and suggestions should be directed to Sarah Cagann at 503-793-4167, or Sarah.Cagann@GreshamOregon.gov.

Issues are available for viewing at GreshamOregon.gov/City-Publications

The information in this newsletter is current as of the publication date. Call the City at 503-618-3000 to verify meeting dates and status of events, or visit GreshamOregon.gov/Events

© City of Gresham

Grants coming for community projects

Make some grand plans this winter! The City's Community Enhancement Grants offer an exciting way for residents to contribute to the quality of life in Gresham.

"Whatever your great project idea is, we want to hear about it," said Michael Gonzales, Neighborhood Services Manager.

Eligible projects improve neighborhood appearance, enhance public safety, provide arts and recreation, or benefit underserved populations.

The grant application opens on Feb. 1, 2023.

Who may apply: nonprofit and charitable organizations, neighborhood associations, schools and institutions of higher learning, faith-based groups, and local government advisory committees,



Digital media camps, MetroEast Community Media.

departments and special districts.

Metro gives the City \$1 per ton for all solid waste collected at its Gresham station, which funds the grants.

Learn more at GreshamOregon.gov/Community-Enhancement-Grants.

For more information, contact Michael.Gonzales@GreshamOregon.gov or call 503-618-2482.



Mural, Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden, Main City Park.

Examples of eligible activities

Park programs and events

Youth and senior programs

Safety, cleanliness or appearance updates

Gresham history heritage and preservation

Preserving wildlife and recreational areas for public enjoyment

Sound familiar?

- 1) I don't get paid for a week. A little flexibility would help.
- 2) I live on a fixed income.
- 3) I'm unemployed and looking for a new job.

CITY OF GRESHAM

Utility bill help

People who need help paying their utility bills may apply for a new round of aid. The City Council approved \$120,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the community.

The new program may cover up to three bills - two with ARPA funding and one paid by the City's utilities assistance program.

"We continue to see people struggling post-COVID, the need is still there," said Ann Travers, Financial Operations Manager.

"For this new program, people who qualified before are welcome to reapply again," Travers said.

And the income levels are more generous. A family of four earning less than \$67,000 may qualify. A single

person earning less than \$40,000 a year may qualify.

Qualifications

- Customer must have a Gresham utility bill account.
- Customer must verify income.
- Help applies to various housing types.

How to apply

- Apply online: GreshamOregon.gov/Utility-Financial-Assistance.
- Pick up an application in the box outside City Hall.
- Spanish and Russian languages available.

Your Utility Team is here to help. If you are experiencing or expect hardships with your utility bill, call us for payment options at 503-618-2373. Learn more at GreshamOregon.gov/Utilities.

Utility rates increase Jan. 1

Last year, the City adopted utility rates for a five-year span starting on Jan. 1, 2023. Utility rates pay to run the City's public water, wastewater and stormwater services, plus the maintenance and future replacement of these infrastructure systems.

Utility rates also pay to expand our groundwater system through the Cascade Groundwater Alliance. Groundwater will be the primary source of Gresham's drinking water starting in 2026.

While it costs more in the short term to invest in this system, the payback comes swiftly with much lower water costs over time.

- This rate will increase in January 2023.
- The average household on City of Gresham water can expect a monthly increase of approximately \$8.30.
- Drinking water: 9.3% increase
- Wastewater: 6.8% increase
- Stormwater: 9.45% increase

We know utility rate increases may be difficult for our customers to afford. The City offers financial help with bills, plus flexible payment options.

Our Utility Billing team can answer questions about qualifications or bill options. Please call 503-618-2373.

Housing for All: community feedback

Housing for All is a Gresham Strategic Plan priority. The goal is to identify how the City can better support all community members to find and stay in housing. See *What is a Housing Production Strategy?*

Over the summer, the City asked you about your experiences with housing and you answered.

Thank you for engaging with us and giving us a better understanding of the community's experiences and needs.



Left: Urban Design and Planning staff, pictured at the Gresham Arts Festival, asked the community about housing needs at local events including Juneteenth and I Heart Rockwood. Right: Housing in Gresham's Civic Neighborhood.



What is a Housing Production Strategy?

The City is required by the state to have a Housing Production Strategy. This is a six-year plan that sets housing policy to support housing development, especially middle and low-income housing.

Gresham needs more housing

- Gresham doesn't have enough housing for its population of over 114,000.
- The city is expected to grow by another 6,229 households by 2041.
- Housing is not affordable for many of Gresham's residents.

Online open house

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023
6-7:30 p.m.

Details at GreshamOregon.gov/Housing-Production-Strategy

Staff will ask the community to weigh in on potential strategies to encourage the development of a variety of housing to meet our community's needs.

For more information, or to provide comments, contact Terra.Wilcoxson@GreshamOregon.gov or call 503-618-2610.

Housing help

Call our housing resources coordinator who can refer you to vital housing services, 503-618-2721.

What we're hearing

- **Cost is a barrier to housing** for people community-wide.
- **Barriers to housing are different** for different communities. Some people face language challenges. Others find the down payment or credit score requirements a problem. Not all landlords know about fair housing laws.

- **Priorities in housing are different** for different communities. While parks and open spaces are important to many, living close to family or grocery stores can be more significant to others. There is a lack of small housing and units accessible to people in the disabled community.
- **The City should be a part of the**

housing conversation. Residents want the City to help connect people looking for housing with providers, advocates and nonprofits. Many people would like to see more variety of housing types in neighborhoods.

Find more information at GreshamOregon.gov/Housing-Production-Strategy.



Winter weather tips

Winter means wind, rain and snow. Stay safe, warm and dry with these local resources.

Save 911 calls for life-threatening emergencies only.

Flooding

To report broken City mains, a rain hazard or flooding in the public right-of-way, call the Operations Center at **503-618-2626** between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours or on weekends, call **503-661-3906**. The Operations Center, located at 2123 SE Hogan Road, features a fill-your-own sandbag station for residents. Bring a shovel. Bags provided.



Winter road operations

The City's winter response route consists of three categories: Priority 1 (hospital and emergency routes, arterial streets and bridges); Priority 2 (steep grades, through and collector streets); and Priority 3 (residential streets, cul-de-sacs and dead ends).

If bad weather persists, crews may be required to stay on Priority 1 and 2 streets until weather improves.

Use the City's interactive plow map to see if your street is a Priority 1, 2, or residential street at GreshamOregon.gov/Severe-Weather/#RoadOperations.

Fire safety reminders

Do not use indoors: generators, barbecues, gas-supplied heaters, propane, or any type of appliances that produce carbon monoxide. Using a space heater? Let your space heater have its space, a minimum of 3 feet between heater and combustibles. Plug space heaters directly into the wall, not an extension cord.

Recycling tips for wind

Place carts out in the morning by 6 a.m. instead of the night before. Fill recycling cart only 1/2 or 3/4 full, and place heavier items on top to prevent loose recycling from blowing out. Do not strap down lids or place rocks on top or carts cannot be serviced with our automated collection vehicles.

Police car theft prevention tip

Never leave your unattended car running. Vehicles left running to warm up are especially obvious in cold weather.

Safety

- Severe weather information GreshamOregon.gov/Severe-Weather
- Smoke alarm assistance Gresham Fire Department, **503-618-2355**
- Power outages or downed lines PortlandGeneral.com/Outages or **503-464-7777**
- Cell phone emergency and service alerts. Register at PublicAlerts.org/Signup
- Preparedness information GreshamOregon.gov/Emergency-Preparedness
- Find food and emergency shelter information by calling **211**.
- If your home's water pipes freeze, call a plumber.
- Follow the City on social media for weather tips and alerts.

Deicing tips for home

Plan ahead for safety and success to protect yourself, your pets and our water

Before the storm

- Have a bucket of sand and gravel, and a shovel, on hand.
- Buy cleats that fit over your shoes for walking safely on icy surfaces.
- Apply sand and gravel to icy surfaces for traction.
- Avoid using table or rock salt. It's corrosive to concrete and toxic to soil, plants and streams.
- Use deicing products with magnesium, potassium or calcium sparingly. Mix with sand for best results.
- Use a tarp or sheet on your car's windshield. Or apply a 3:1 vinegar-water solution.

After the storm

- Sweep up all products and put in the trash.
- Shovel snow into your yard, not into the street.

Learn more at GreshamOregon.gov/Severe-Weather/#Deicing or call 503-618-2525.



Winter Wag 'n Walks

We've got some pawstively jolly news: Winter Wag 'n Walks. This is an opportunity for dog owners to connect in our well-lit City parks.

Turn an ordinary task into a fun one while walking in Gresham and learning tips and tricks for training along the way.

These free recreation walks are hosted by Gresham Parks and Recreation in partnership with Trainer Avery at Hounding Around, a local professional walker and trainer.

Wag 'n Walks schedule

- ▶ **Pat Pfeifer Park**, 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 17
- ▶ **Aspen Highlands Park**, 4 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023
- ▶ **Gresham Butte Saddle Trail**, 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 (meet at SE 16th Court and SE 15th Street to park)
- ▶ **Bella Vista Park**, 4 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023
- ▶ **Kirk Park**, 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023

For more information, visit GreshamOregon.gov/Events or call 503-618-2300.



New indoor activities coming winter 2023

We're excited to announce a partnership with PlayEast! to provide youth with extra recreation opportunities this winter in Gresham.

Kick it, swish it, paint it

- ▶ **Just 4 Kicks** indoor soccer classes for ages 4-11.
- ▶ **Lil' Shots** indoor basketball classes for ages 3-13.
- ▶ **Art classes** for ages 5-12.

Winter youth activities will run from late January through March 2023.

"We have a lot of demand for high-quality, affordable youth recreation programs in Gresham, but no community center. Thanks to our partnership with the Gresham-Barlow School District and PlayEast!, we can begin to meet some of the needs using our schools as hubs for recreation," said Joe Walsh, Parks and Recreation



manager.

PlayEast! has provided youth recreation in Fairview and Wood Village for the past several years.

With this new partnership, PlayEast! will expand its offerings into Gresham with the hope of providing even more Gresham-based programs in the future. Classes are fee-based, but scholarships are available for those in need.



Register at playeast.org or scan QR code with your phone's camera.

Find parks and recreation information at GreshamOregon.gov/Parks or call 503-618-2300.



Night basketball for youth

The City offers free basketball on Friday and Saturday nights for middle and high school boys and girls in grades 6-12.

Attend free basketball practice, learn new skills, make new friends and play ball. Adult supervision is provided.

▶ **Friday Night Basketball** for grades 6-12 is offered at the H.B. Lee Middle School gym. Grades 6-8 play from 6-8 p.m. Grades 9-12 play from 8-10 p.m.

▶ **Saturday Night Basketball** for grades 6-12 is held at the Friends of the Children gym. Grades 6-8 play from 8-10 p.m. Grades 9-12 play from 9 p.m.-midnight.

A signed waiver is required. To print a registration form, visit GreshamOregon.gov/Basketball. For more information, call Youth Services at 503-618-2642.

News Briefs



Sign up for Gresham Lilac Run

Give the gift of health! The City's Gresham Lilac Run, presented by Unitus Community Credit Union, returns on April 22, 2023.

The event's 5K run/walk, 10K and half-marathon courses begin and end at Main City Park. Travel through historic downtown and visit at least one of Gresham's scenic trails.

You'll be running for a great cause. All registration fees benefit Thimbleberry Collaborative Farm and its efforts to get youth outside, using their hands and learning how to grow food, plants and more!

Register for early bird rates by Dec. 30 at GreshamOregon.gov/Gresham-Lilac-Run.

Little Lilac Run

Make it a family affair and sign up children ages 12 and younger for the free 800-meter Little Lilac Run. Everyone receives a running bib and medal.

Register by email at LilacRun@GreshamOregon.gov or call 503-618-2264. Include the child's name, age, and guardian's name.

Late winter lawn care

Winter is a good time to prep for spring lawn care. Environmental Services staff recommends getting your blades sharpened in February/March. Spend 15 minutes each week popping out weed starts before they take hold and raking away sticks.

Find more tips from turf experts to get the lawn that fits your maintenance goals at whatsyourlawnstyle.org. Learn more ways to enhance your yard by taking one of the many free classes offered at emswcd.org.



Apply! Gresham Arts Festival

We're looking for talented artists to show and sell at the 21st annual Gresham Arts Festival on Saturday, July 15, 2023.

The artist application will be available Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, at GreshamOregon.gov/Gresham-Arts-Festival.

Categories include pottery, metalwork, jewelry, photography, woodwork, fiber, recycled art, mixed media and more.

Apply by Sunday, April 2, 2023. For more information, contact ArtsFestival@GreshamOregon.gov or 503-618-2264.



Letters to Santa

Two mailbox locations

Children and families may drop their letters to Santa at the North Pole through Dec. 31. No postage is necessary!

1. Rockwood Market Hall (inside), 458 SE 185th Ave.

2. Arts Plaza, 401 NE Second St.

Santa, Mrs. Claus and elves at Gresham's nonprofit Secret Santa Charities read each letter and will do their best to write back.

Strategic Plan update

When the City asked you to "Imagine Gresham," you showed up! Earlier this year, we gathered thousands of comments and suggestions through months of engagement to learn what you love about Gresham, what you hope to see in the future, and your highest priorities for City action.

Now we have a shared vision, and a Council-adopted Strategic Plan outlining what we'll focus on to reach our goals. We're looking forward to sharing an update on our progress with Council and community in early 2023.

As we've continued to focus on the community's top priorities, we've made some strides in the last year. These recent actions are moving Gresham closer to its strategic goals:

Community Safety

- Launched Safe Gresham - a comprehensive community crime and violence reduction strategy.
- Invested \$5.2 million ARPA



(American Rescue Plan Act) dollars into public safety.

- Added firefighter positions and a 12-person Fire Academy.

Housing for All

- Expanded the City's Homeless Services team to address immediate needs.
- Completed the middle housing project to support a variety of housing types and costs long term.

Thriving Economy

- Extended the Urban Renewal District (with no change in taxes to residents) to ensure \$34 million

public investment can positively impact the community.

Community Vibrancy

- Opened the Rockwood Market Hall.
- Planned Gradin Sports Park Phase 2 construction for late 2023.

Financial sustainability

- Began implementing a Council-adopted, comprehensive Financial Road Map for the City.

Read the 2022-23 Action Plan at [GreshamOregon.gov/Strategic-Plan](https://www.greshamoregon.gov/Strategic-Plan). For more information, contact the City Manager's Office, 503-618-2346.

Holiday garbage service

Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Sundays, so there are no changes to Gresham's weekly garbage and recycling pickup days.

Tips for tree recycling

Apartments and businesses: Contact your property manager for tree disposal options.

- Houses:** Cut trees to fit inside the yard debris cart for no charge. The lid must close.
- No flocked trees, ornaments, wires, tinsel, etc.
 - Whole, natural trees less than 6 feet may be set at the curb for an extra \$3.91 fee.
 - Trees over 6 feet tall must be cut into sections less than 6 feet in length. Each section at the curb is a \$3.91 fee.
 - Set flocked trees, less than 6 feet, out for garbage for a \$5.50 fee.
 - Flocked trees taller than 6 feet must be cut into sections less than 6 feet in length. Each section at the curb is a \$5.50 fee.

For more information visit [GreshamOregon.gov/Holiday-Recycling](https://www.greshamoregon.gov/Holiday-Recycling) or contact your garbage hauler.



Why Recycle?

For many people, recycling is a way of life here in Gresham, but why? Recycling has a lot of benefits: it saves natural resources, reduces pollution and litter, and creates jobs.

At its core, the purpose of recycling is to reduce the amount of materials used to manufacture products. By recycling materials like paper, plastic, metal, and glass, you are helping to reduce the amount of materials that need to be extracted from our Earth.

Recycling metal cans reduces air pollution by up to 95% and water pollution by up to 97% when compared to using new metals.



How much Oregonians recycle is equivalent to taking 690,000 cars off the road!



Recycling and reuse creates at least 9 times more jobs than landfilling.



Waste prevention, reuse and repair

While recycling is great, preventing waste is even better. Using less "stuff" is the key to waste prevention and has greater environmental impacts than recycling. This is because waste prevention reduces the environmental impacts over all stages of the material's life cycle including resource extraction, manufacturing, transportation, and disposal.

While recycling redirects discarded material away from the landfill and back into manufacturing, waste prevention is about not making the waste in the first place. By changing how and what we use we can prevent waste and help conserve natural resources, and even money. Learn more at [GreshamOregon.gov/Recycle-at-Home](https://www.greshamoregon.gov/Recycle-at-Home).

Here are 4 quick waste prevention tips

► **Refuse** – Purchasing products with less packaging is a simple way to reduce how much waste you generate. This includes actions like buying in bulk and avoiding items with excess packaging.

► **Reduce** – Use reusable items like water bottles, coffee mugs, plates, cloth napkins, etc. Just about all reusable items use fewer natural resources than disposables, even when accounting for the water and energy needed to wash them.

► **Repair** – Repair what you have whenever possible. Sewing a button back on or repairing a torn seam are easy ways to extend the life of your clothes. You can also take items to local Repair Fairs to potentially be fixed by volunteers.

► **Share** – Borrow or rent a tool (or whatever else) you might need infrequently instead of buying your own.

GET INVOLVED IN GRESHAM

City Calendar

DECEMBER

- 17 **Wag 'n Walks**, Pat Pfeifer Park, 10 a.m., GreshamOregon.gov/Parks
- 17 **Saturday Night Basketball**, Grades 6-8, 6-10 p.m.; Grades 9-12, 10 p.m.-midnight; Friends of the Children, GreshamOregon.gov/Basketball
- 26 **Christmas observed**, City Hall closed

JANUARY

- 2 **New Year's Day observed**, City Hall closed
- 4 **Wag 'n Walks**, Aspen Highlands Park, 4 p.m., GreshamOregon.gov/Parks
- 10 **Tuesday Night Dance with live music**, \$6, Gresham Senior Center, 5:30-7:30 p.m., 503-988-4870
- 13 **Friday Night Basketball**, Grades 6-8, 6-8 p.m.; Grades 9-12, 8-10 p.m.; H.B. Lee Middle School, GreshamOregon.gov/Basketball
- 14 **Saturday Night Basketball**, Grades 6-8, 6-10 p.m.; Grades 9-12, 10 p.m.-midnight; Friends of the Children, GreshamOregon.gov/Basketball
- 16 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, City Hall closed
- 20 **Friday Night Basketball**, Grades 6-8, 6-8 p.m.; Grades 9-12, 8-10 p.m.; H.B. Lee Middle School, GreshamOregon.gov/Basketball
- 21 **Wag 'n Walks**, Saddle Butte Trail, 10 a.m., meet at SE 16th Court and SE 15th Street to park, GreshamOregon.gov/Parks

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Wag 'n Walks**, Bella Vista Park, 4 p.m., GreshamOregon.gov/Parks
- 4 **Saturday Night Basketball**, Grades 6-8, 6-10 p.m.; Grades 9-12, 10 p.m.-midnight; Friends of the Children, GreshamOregon.gov/Basketball
- 7 **Travel Presentation**, Gresham Senior Center, 3 p.m., 503-988-4870
- 14 **Tuesday Night Dance, with live music**, \$6, Gresham Senior Center, 5:30-7:30 p.m., 503-988-4870
- 18 **Wag 'n Walks**, Kirk Park, 10 a.m., GreshamOregon.gov/Parks
- 20 **President's Day**, City Hall closed
- 21-22 **Book Sale**, Gresham Senior Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 503-988-4870

MARCH

- 10 **Choral and Small Ensembles Concert**, MHCC Theatre, 7:30 p.m., mhcc.edu/PerformingArtsEvents
- 11 **Fashion Show and Luncheon**, \$20, Gresham Senior Center, 12:30 p.m., 503-988-4870
- 15 **Evening of Jazz**, MHCC Theatre, 7:30 p.m., mhcc.edu/PerformingArtsEvents



For a complete list visit GreshamOregon.gov/Events.

Neighborhoods Spotlight Hiroshima Peace Tree Dedication

Neighbors, community partners and volunteers planted Oregon's 35th peace tree in September at Ebetsu Plaza in Main City Park.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) awarded Gresham a special Ginkgo tree grown from seeds that miraculously survived the Hiroshima atomic bombing in 1945.

Japanese native and Oregonian Hideko Tamura-Snyder survived the bombing and helped ODF obtain the seeds to support her wish for peace trees to be planted across Oregon in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing. To date, 32 communities in Oregon have planted 47 peace trees.

We're grateful for the meaningful efforts of the Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association, Gresham Urban Forestry Subcommittee, and Friends of Gresham Japanese Garden.

Urban Forestry Subcommittee members Steve Stevens and Jim Buck designed and prepared the Peace Garden location at Main City Park with volunteers this past summer.

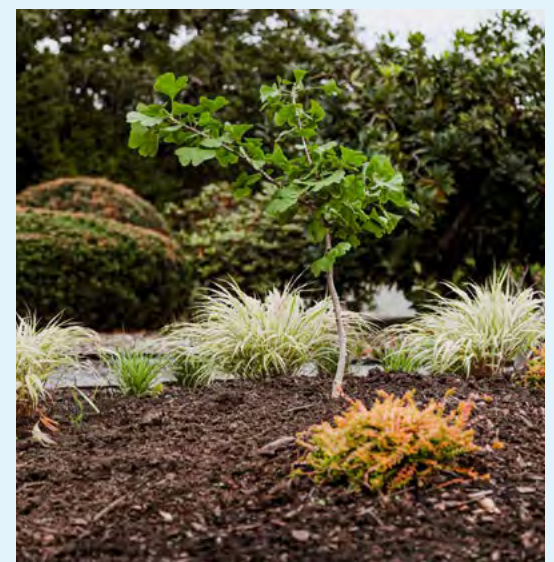
The Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association used a City Neighborhood Matching Grant to cover site materials, a plaque and dedication ceremony. President Jim Buck picked the tree up in Salem.

We hope you'll visit the peace tree and Gresham Japanese Garden.

Neighborhoods with community projects in mind may apply for City grant money on Feb. 1, 2023. See *Community Enhancement Grants*, Page 4.



Steve Stevens, Tomiko Takeuchi, Jim Card, Jim Buck.



Hiroshima Peace Tree at Ebetsu Plaza, Main City Park.

See the tree lights

Happy holidays! The skies in Gresham are twinkling with holiday spirit. Grab your hat, mittens and loved ones for a visit to see our community holiday tree, lit through December at the Arts Plaza, 401 NE Second St.



JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Every neighborhood in Gresham has a City-supported Neighborhood Association. Connect with your neighbors, discuss City projects and review development coming to the neighborhood. All are welcome. Come to the next meeting!

Neighborhood Association Information

Meetings may be virtual or in-person. See neighborhood meeting agendas posted at GreshamOregon.gov/Neighborhoods.

CENTENNIAL

Mary Edmeades, President
centennialhood@gmail.com

CENTRAL CITY

For more information:
Michael Gonzales,
503-618-2482 or
Michael.Gonzales@GreshamOregon.gov

GRESHAM BUTTE

Jim Buck, President
503-830-2344 or
jimbuck22@comcast.net
Monthly meeting Sept. through May, every second Wednesday, 7 p.m.

GRESHAM PLEASANT VALLEY

For more information:

Michael Gonzales,
503-618-2482 or
Michael.Gonzales@GreshamOregon.gov

HISTORIC SOUTHEAST

Phil Svabik-Seror, President
HistoricSoutheast@gmail.com
Feb. 2, 7 p.m.
Gresham Public Library,
385 NW Miller Ave.

HOLLYBROOK

Mark Cage, President
Cagefam97080@gmail.com

HOGAN CEDARS

Matt Callison, President
hogancedarsna@gmail.com

KELLY CREEK

Charles Teem, President
503-663-5066 or
KellyCreekNA@gmail.com
March 1, 7 p.m.

NORTH CENTRAL

Mary Gossett, Interim President
503-314-3167 or
gossettmary@hotmail.com

NORTHEAST

For more information:
Michael Gonzales,
503-618-2482 or
Michael.Gonzales@GreshamOregon.gov

NORTH GRESHAM

Michael Elston, President
503-753-7932 or
mkelston@comcast.net

NORTHWEST

Kat Todd, President
trevkat@hotmail.com
Feb. 6, 7 p.m.

POWELL VALLEY

Nancy Inglehart, President
powellvalleyyna@gmail.com

ROCKWOOD

Catherine Nicewood, President
503-285-6587 or
rockwoodpresident@gmail.com
Third Mondays of March (20),
June, Nov., 6 p.m.

SOUTHWEST

Julie Miller, Vice President
juliesadultcare@comcast.net
Jan. 19, 7 p.m.

WILKES EAST

Kris Freiermuth, President
503-709-9564 or
www.wilkeseastna.org
Second Mondays of March (13), Aug., Nov. 7 p.m.

COALITION OF GRESHAM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

Carol Rulla, Co-President
503-663-1466
Jim Buck, Co-President
503-830-2344
GreshamNeighborhoodCoalition@gmail.com
Monthly, every second Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Call the neighborhoods office at 503-618-2482 or visit GreshamOregon.gov/Neighborhoods.