

GRESHAM

SPRING 2016

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS

GOING BEYOND



From the City's trailblazing rental inspection program to its energy net zero plant, we strive to serve this community in ways that are collaborative, practical, nimble and inventive. Our pledge is service Going Beyond.

#GreshamPRACTICAL

If you have a business dream, we want you here. That's why our **Garage-to-Storefront 2.0** program exemplifies Going Beyond. We waive City fees to help small businesses fill vacant storefronts. Incentives available through June 30.

Visit GreshamOregon.gov/SmallBusiness

#GreshamINVENTIVE

Gresham Fire is on fire, figuratively speaking, while Going Beyond to provide emergency services. Its cardiac arrest survival rate is 40 percent on service calls, four times the national average. Our new Gresham CARES program partners staff with student nurses from OHSU, who connect 9-1-1 callers with chronic non-emergency medical needs to community health resources.

#GreshamCOLLABORATIVE

We won't stop Going Beyond when it comes to collaborating with visionary partners on new opportunities for at-risk youth.

Young Rockwood leader Ricki Ruiz, along with other community members, brought brand-new futsal courts to Vance Park, and Friends of the Children helped us expand our Friday Night Basketball program to include Saturday night basketball at its brand-new facility. Details at GreshamOregon.gov/FridayNightBasketball.

See more stories about #GreshamGoingBeyond on our Facebook page.

COLLABORATIVE • PRACTICAL • NIMBLE • INVENTIVE

City of Gresham photos

- GreshamOregon.gov
- Facebook.com/CityofGresham
- Instagram.com/CityofGresham
- Twitter.com/CityofGresham
- YouTube.com/CityofGreshamOregon

PRESPORT
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POSTAL CUSTOMER
 *****ECRWS*****

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Get ready for
Green & Clean
Page 5





City of Gresham photo

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

'When it comes to jobs, 2015 was a good year for us'

Mayor Shane Bemis delivered his annual State of the City address on Feb. 17, with a focus on economic development, community livability and safety in Gresham.

The City's economic progress is "cause for great optimism," Bemis said, noting last year Council and staff worked to deliver 22 industrial expansions, eight new manufacturing buildings, 291 business licenses (a 27% increase over the previous year) and 16 new traded-sector companies – including Subaru, the second-largest construction project in the entire Portland metro region in 2015, second only to Intel's expansion.

"In 2014, we had a healthy \$71 million in new business projects added to Gresham," Bemis said. "In the past year, 2015, we saw that number more than double to \$155 million in business project valuation.

"That gives you some idea of the magnitude of the year we had."

While there are bright spots on the



City of Gresham photo

"We will change, we'll innovate, we'll adjust and evaluate as we go. But we will not stop in our pursuit of optimal services, optimally delivered." – MAYOR SHANE BEMIS

growth front, Bemis said, City Hall will focus on long-needed opportunities for our youth, homeless prevention and law enforcement, and neighborhood livability.

The Mayor highlighted many additional resources City Hall is dedicating to improve quality of life in 2016, including: a new Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team; a Quick Response Vehicle pilot program to respond to urgent medical calls; working to free up existing resources for residential street maintenance; applying a modest appropriation from Multnomah

County toward homelessness to provide a balance of social work, clean-up and law enforcement service, and rehabilitations; and offering Garage to Storefront 2.0, a second round of waiving City fees and charges for new and expanding businesses.

"What Gresham has lacked in public resources and stable funding, it has always more than made up for in character, comradery, a sense of place and purpose, a willingness to help one another," he said.

"More than anything, I'm betting on that right now."

To read a full transcript of the 2016 State of the City address, visit GreshamOregon.gov/SOTC.

City employs new strategies on homelessness

Homelessness is a complex issue that is a top priority for the City, which has implemented a number of new strategies since last fall's public Council Listening Session.

One strategy is protection of our natural areas. Increased foot traffic and camping has resulted in serious environmental

damage in Gresham Woods. This 60-acre parcel along the Springwater Trail has been temporarily closed to all human activity to allow this area to recover. Our new efforts are in conjunction with the City's pre-existing programming, including:

• **Creating** a Council subcommittee on homelessness. Mayor Bemis created a Task

Force on Homelessness to act on many of the key points brought up at the Council Listening Session.

• **Securing** Multnomah County funding for two new programs. The Clean Team program helps keep trails and open spaces clean while also employing individuals coming out of homelessness. The other program will provide an in-house social worker to work with the homeless and coordinate with service providers.

For more information about the Task Force on Homelessness, call Joe Walsh, Senior Manager, Neighborhood Prosperity & Youth Engagement, **503-618-2372**.



Additional information about the City's homelessness response is online at GreshamOregon.gov/Homelessness.

NEAT tackles neighborhood issues

Abandoned properties, homeless camps, chronic nuisance calls - these types of neighborhood livability issues are challenging. Enter NEAT, the City's new Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team.

This cross-departmental team of law enforcement, rental housing, code compliance and others work together to enhance the quality of life for residents with an on-the-ground, hands-on approach.

"Our residents expect creativity, expedience and collaboration in the services they receive from the City of Gresham. With NEAT, that is exactly what we are delivering," said Mayor Shane Bemis.

Many citizens are familiar with the City's popular Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET), a police department focused effort that addresses livability issues within neighborhoods. The NET program continues, but now works hand-in-hand with colleagues from across the City through NEAT to address the most challenging cases.

Citizens can still call NET officers, rental housing or code compliance to report issues. However, when it isn't evident who to call, contact the City at **503-618-NEAT (6328)**, or report the issue via the My Gresham app. GreshamOregon.gov/MyGresham

Cascadia Rising: Are you ready?

It's not a matter of if the "Big One" hits – it's a matter of when. Scientists say a magnitude 9.0 earthquake off the Pacific Northwest coast could strike at any time. Here's what the City is doing to get ready and what you can do, too.

A CITY PREPARES

Planning: The City is continually strengthening its response to natural and manmade disasters through planning, education and exercising.

For example, after the historic rainstorm last December, the City's Emergency Manager Kelle Landavazo gathered staff who worked the storm to ask, "What worked? How could we have done better?" The group included public works crews, GIS mapping experts, police officers, transportation engineers, communications staff and department managers.

"Our City emergency response team is engaged, passionate, and comes to the table with ideas on how to respond the next time citizens need help," Landavazo said.

During an earthquake or other disaster, the City will convene these professionals in its Emergency Operations Center to assess damage, respond faster to emergency calls from citizens, communicate with the public, and coordinate teams in the field responding to public safety, fire, flooding, road closures, water distribution, etc.

Practice is key, and the City is participating in the Cascadia Rising regional exercise in June.

Water: In a disaster, water is vital. The City's Emergency Water Distribution System can be transported and provide a method of distributing potable drinking water if an event compromises the water supply.

"While the system can be up and running within an hour during 'normal' circumstances, no one can predict how

long it might take to provide water during an earthquake that severely damages our buildings, pipe system and roads," Landavazo said.

Experts recommend storing 3 gallons of water, per person, at home, to last three days. To help, the City is distributing discounted emergency water supply containers, see sidebar below.

Resources:

During and after a major disaster, communications will be disrupted, and access to water, food and medical help will be limited. The City's "Neighborhood Ready" guide helps you and neighbors get prepared and connected. We recommend keeping a booklet at home with your emergency supplies. Download it at GreshamOregon.gov/EmergencyManagement or pick up a hard copy at City Hall.

Want extra help? The City will co-host "Get Ready Gresham" with NW Natural, a free disaster preparedness event, on Sept. 17 during National Preparedness Month. Details to come.



City Emergency Manager
Kelle Landavazo



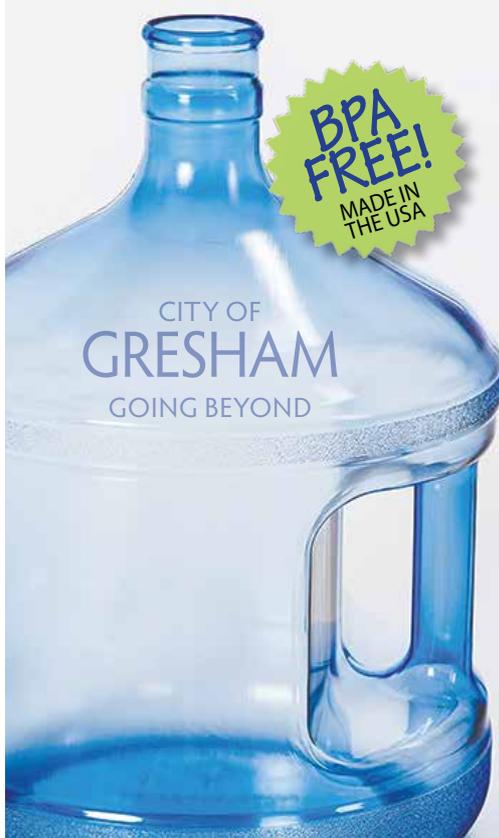
#GreshamReady: Just one thing

Getting prepared doesn't have to be overwhelming. Tackle just one thing at a time.

- **Family contact:** Establish an out-of-state friend or relative to be the relay point to share information.
- **Meeting spot:** Select family meeting spots in the event you can't meet at your home: one in your neighborhood and one outside the area.
- **Stock up:** Add one item every few weeks to your shopping list.
- **Water:** 3 gallons per person for three days.
- **Portable radio** with batteries (or crank for charging).
- **Flashlights** for every member of your household with batteries or other charging mechanism.
- **Solar cell** phone charger.
- **First aid kit** and first aid manual.
- **Canned goods** and manual can opener.
- **Medications.**
- **Don't forget your pets!** Pet food and water, carrier, collar, leash and ID.



GOT WATER? GET PREPARED



In an emergency,
you'll need **3** for **3** :
3 gallons per person for
3 days

Order your 3-gallon emergency water bottle today for only \$5.
\$1 from each sale will be donated to the Red Cross. Supplies are limited.
Offer good for all utility bill customers; one bottle per account holder.
Bottle retail value \$15.
Pre-order required: E-mail UtilityBilling@GreshamOregon.gov, subject line: Water Bottle Order. Include your name, utility property address and contact information.
Pick up your pre-ordered water bottle at City Hall on May 4 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

1333 N.W. Eastman Parkway | Gresham, OR 97030 | 503-618-2525 | GreshamOregon.gov/YOU

NEWS BRIEFS

PULSEPOINT APP SAVES LIVES

Join Gresham Fire in using PulsePoint. "It's a tool that connects citizens willing to help with those who need it," said Chief Greg Matthews, Fire and Emergency Services.

Residents can download the PulsePoint app, which sends a cell phone notification when somebody nearby needs CPR in a public place. Users quickly locate the victim and perform CPR while help arrives.

Download the PulsePoint app for free on any mobile device. For more information visit www.pulsepoint.org

WANT TO LOWER YOUR STORMWATER BILL?

Homes that manage at least 50 percent of the property's impervious area may receive a discount on the stormwater portion of the City's utility bill.

One step is to disconnect your home's downspouts. This summer, Environmental Services is offering free parts and labor for downspout disconnection onto a home's lawn or landscape. This helps reduce impacts to local streams and recharges groundwater.

For more information, call Community Liaison Keri Handaly, Environmental Services, at **503-618-2657** or visit GreshamOregon.gov/DownspoutDisconnection

INSIDE CITY HALL

Mayor Shane T. Bemis, 503-618-2584
City Council Office, 503-618-2871

City Council

Karylinn Echols
Kirk French
Jerry Hinton
Mario Palmero, Council President
Lori Stegmann
David Widmark

City Hall Main Line, 503-661-3000

City Employee Emails

First.Last@GreshamOregon.gov

BRAKE FOR FUN

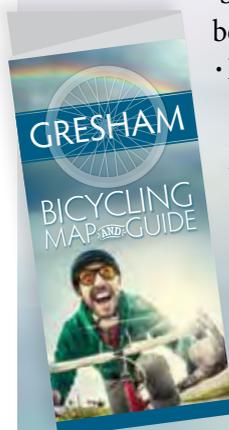
May is National Bike Month, and Gresham is ready to pedal with more than a dozen bike-related activities for the community.

Don't miss the Transportation Safety Fair and Bike Rodeo on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on the Arts Plaza, 401 N.E. Second St.

Free fun at the City's bike fair includes:

- Bike helmet and booster seat fittings and giveaway; bike raffle.
- Bike safety checks with a mechanic.
- Safety information booths.
- Bike activities for youth.

The Gresham Bike Map and other state bike maps will be available at the event.



10 WAYS TO GET IN GEAR

APRIL 26

May Bike More Challenge Kick-Off

APRIL 28

Bike Wash Workshop

MAY 4

National Bike and Walk to School Day

MAY 14

Transportation Safety Fair and Bike Rodeo
Bring your bike!

MAY 16

How to Fix a Flat Workshop

MAY 18

Bike Appreciation Day at City Hall

MAY 19

Bike Ride and Lunch

MAY 20

Bike Appreciation Day and Bike to Work Day

MAY 21

All Level Bike Ride

MAY 22

Expert Bike Ride

For more information about Bike Month and volunteer opportunities visit GreshamOregon.gov/BikeMonth or call Sandra Doubleday, Transportation Planning, at **503-618-2816**.



For the complete list of free events and details, visit GreshamOregon.gov/Calendar.

Paint the town fun at Gresham Arts Festival

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, July 16, when the City turns downtown into a giant art gallery with the 15th annual Gresham Arts Festival.

Artists: We're looking for new and exciting artists to exhibit their work.

This is a juried event. Spaces are limited in each particular medium. Application deadline: May 1. Apply online at GreshamOregon.gov/ArtsFestival.

Sponsors: This fun community event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Sponsorships are dedicated solely to the production and promotion of the event. Affordable packages are available starting as low as \$100. More information at GreshamOregon.gov/ArtsFestival.

Volunteers: Looking for a fun way to help your community and enjoy amazing art? We need volunteers to help throughout the day. Sign up by contacting Shannon Chisom, Arts Festival Coordinator, at **503-750-3785** or Shannon.Chisom@GreshamOregon.gov.



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

Questions, comments and suggestions should be directed to Elizabeth Coffey at **503-618-2247**, or Elizabeth.Coffey@GreshamOregon.gov.

Issues are available for viewing at GreshamOregon.gov/CityPublications.

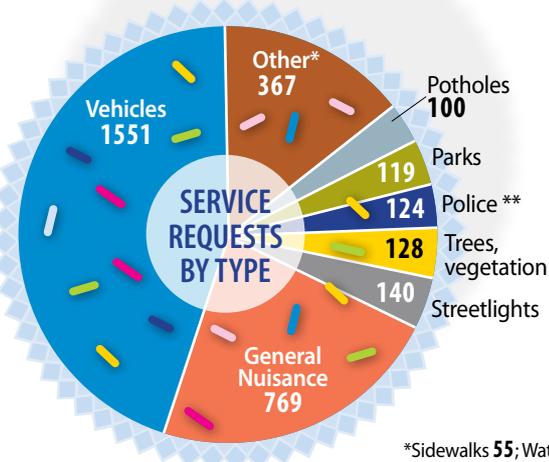
The information in this newsletter is current as of the publication date. Call the City at **503-661-3000** to verify meeting dates and status of events.

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MY GRESHAM: 1-YEAR MILESTONE

FROM MARCH 2015-16



GreshamOregon.gov/MyGresham



*Sidewalks 55; Water, Storm, Sewer 49; Ask Gresham 54; Traffic Signals 43; Street Signs 40; Graffiti 37; Road Debris 29; Rental Housing Inspection 29; Domestic Animal Abuse 17; Fire Dept. (General Information) 13; Residential Marijuana 1

** General information



LEARN MORE

Friends of the Children

424 N.E. 172nd Ave.
and Glisan Street
503-281-6633
<http://friendspdx.org/>

Open School East

S.E. 165th and Stark Street
503-488-5200
<http://openschoolnw.org>

Rockwood Boys & Girls Club

S.E. 165th and Stark Street
503-232-0186
<http://bgcportland.org/catalyst/>

Fun at the new Friends of the Children facility. City of Gresham photo

Rockwood Rising: Helping kids thrive

New opportunities for children and families are on the rise in Rockwood. “If you start to watch some of the critical mass of progress we have been making in the greater Rockwood area ... you can see the hope we have for the years to come,” said Mayor Shane Bemis in his annual State of the City address.

Friends of the Children: This nonprofit recently opened its doors to a beautiful new facility. Friends strives to eliminate generational poverty, one child at a time, by providing each child in the program with a salaried, professional mentor, from kindergarten through high school graduation. The facility includes a basketball court, gardens, media room, kitchen and quiet study rooms to provide a safe, stable place for children to gather. The City partnered with Friends by leasing them the land for \$1 per year.

Open School East: Under construction, this college

prep school for grades 7-12 will work with at-risk kids, who are most likely to drop out of public schools. The school is committed to helping every student graduate, go to college and pursue a meaningful career. Within a year in Open School’s programs, students on average jumped two grade levels in reading and math. Open School purchased land from the City and is scheduled to open in August.

Rockwood Boys and Girls Club: Boys & Girls Clubs plans to locate a new Rockwood facility next door to Open School East, creating a community educational campus for an estimated 900 children in the neighborhood. The 30,000-square-foot building will include learning and technology spaces, an arts room and separate program areas for younger children and teenagers. A capital campaign is underway with plans to purchase the land from the City this year.



Friday, June 3, 3-8 p.m.
Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Plaza del Sol, 18535 S.E. Stark St.
www.rockwoodnation.org

Experience the youngest, most diverse neighborhood in the city during Rockwood’s fourth-annual festival. Enjoy family fun, yummy food, and access to life-changing resources from local social service organizations, schools, government agencies and businesses.

Festival favorites

This colorful, two-day block party was attended by more than 2,000 people in 2015. Don’t miss:
Friday, June 3: **Feast of Nations Dinner** at 6 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: **Kids Parade** at 12 p.m.
followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m.

‘Rock Your Body, Rock Your Brain!’

This year’s event will focus on underlying themes of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and physical fitness. Kid-oriented activities at Rock the Block includes free:

- Healthy snacks • Science experiments
- Technology and engineering demonstrations • Toys, balloons and exotic animals • Puzzles and games

Interested in participating? Event organizers are looking for sponsors, volunteers and entertainers. Contact Brooke Crews at 503-797-7222 or bcrews@portlandoic.org. The event is organized by POIC and RAHS.



CITY OF GRESHAM Third Annual Green & Clean DAY OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 | 9 A.M. TO NOON

Come together as a community
A day of service promotes community action and celebrates our parks and trails.

GreshamOregon.gov/GreenandClean

Sponsored by the City Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement and Friends of Nadaka

Individuals and organizations should register online beforehand or call 503-618-2482.



Everyone is invited to help beautify Nadaka Nature Park with activities for all ages and fitness levels. Join Gresham City Councilors for trash pick-up, planting seedlings and ivy removal.

PIZZA PARTY TO FOLLOW Noon-2 p.m.

St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church,
next to Nadaka Park
17405 N.E. Glisan St.

MORE RECYCLING RESOURCES

GREAT Businesses

A free program connecting businesses in Gresham with opportunities to reduce waste, water and energy usage – often saving money in the process.

Schedule a consultation with a GREAT BUSINESSES program educator today.

Contact 503-618-2206 or

GreatBiz@GreshamOregon.gov

GreshamOregon.gov/GreatBiz



Plate to Power is a City program that transforms food scraps destined for the landfill into renewable energy and compost.

Schools and businesses can combine recycling, Plate to Power and food donation to save money on their garbage bills.

Learn how to get your first month free. Call 503-618-2206.

GreshamOregon.gov/PlatetoPower

18th ANNUAL

Earth Day

RECYCLING EVENT

Saturday, April 23, 2016, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Gresham City Hall, 1333 N.W. Eastman Parkway

COLLECTION ITEMS

- Paper for shredding • Block Styrofoam • Fluorescent bulbs & tubes
- Cell phones • Large rigid plastics • Plastic bags • Small appliances and electronics (both working and broken)

THIS YEAR!

Small appliances and electronics will be accepted. A nonprofit will collect working items on site.

GUIDELINES

- **Gresham and Wood Village residents only**, limit one car load per household.
- **Businesses may only recycle:** fluorescent lights (limit 30 bulbs).
- **Rigid Plastics** (lawn chairs, buckets, trays, cups, etc.); full list online.
- **Clean plastic grocery bags.**
- **Block Styrofoam** (no squishy foam, food-related, tape or labels).
- **Paper for shredding** (limit two grocery bags per household).
- **Cell phones.**
- **Small appliances and electronics:** Full list online.
- **Plastics** must be clean and dry, without metal pieces.

Items NOT accepted:

Batteries, hazardous waste, soft plastics, curbside recyclables, televisions.

For complete guidelines visit GreshamOregon.gov/EarthDay.

CITY OF **GRESHAM** GOING BEYOND

shred northwest Metro | Making a great place

E-waste collected and processed by **Green Century Electronics Recycling**

GreshamOregon.gov/EarthDay or 503-618-2518

EXAMPLE OF SMALL APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS

- Computers
- Monitors, Keyboards
- Toasters, Cellphones
- VCR/DVD players
- Radios, PDAs
- Phones, Laptops
- Cable boxes
- Cameras, Stereos
- Printers, Scanners
- Fax, Copier

Volunteers needed! Details online.





YES, YOU'LL WANT TO CUT ME OUT!

What to put in. . .What to leave out!

IN

MIXED RECYCLING

OUT



PAPER & CARDBOARD

- Newspapers • Magazines
- Phone books • Opened junk mail
- Office paper • Cereal and shoe boxes
- Shredded paper • Milk, juice soup cartons (*rinsed and drained*)
- Flattened cardboard boxes



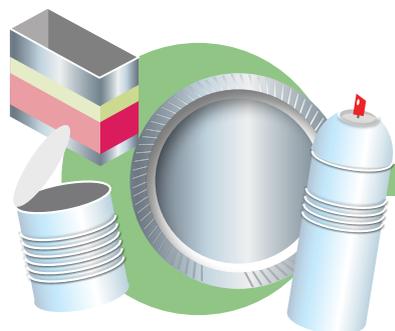
- Paper with food on it (such as pizza boxes) • Plastic or foil-coated paper • Paper with "wet strength" (such as frozen food boxes, coffee cups, paper plates) • Napkins
- Paper towels and tissues



PLASTICS

- Rinse all containers.*
- Plastic bottles and tubs (6 ounces or larger)
 - Buckets (5 gallons or smaller)

- Plastic bags • Lids • Clamshell (to-go) containers • Flatware • Cups
- Bottles that have come in contact with motor oil, pesticides or herbicides
- Styrofoam



SCRAP METAL

- Rinse all containers, place metal lids inside cans and crimp closed.*
- Scrap metal smaller than 30 inches in all directions and less than 30 pounds
 - Metal cans • Foil • Pie plates, trays
 - Empty aerosol cans

- Metal that has plastic, food, or other non-metal materials attached
- Sharp metal such as knives, razors
- Too large to fit in roll cart



GLASS

RECYCLE SEPARATELY IN YOUR CURBSIDE BIN

- Rinse all containers*
- Bottles and jars (recycle separately in your yellow curbside bin)

- Glass shards • Plates • Glassware
- Cookware • Vases • Lightbulbs
- Mirrors • Picture frames
- Window glass • Caps or lids



MOTOR OIL

Curbside customers should put oil in transparent jugs and place at the curb for pickup by haulers. Apartment residents need special pickup. Call Metro at 503-234-3000.

WHERE TO TAKE RECYCLING YEAR ROUND *A fee applies at this location.

NON-CURBSIDE PLASTICS
Far West Recycling NE,
12820 N.E. Marx St., Portland 97230

PLASTIC BAGS
Grocery stores and Far West
Recycling, all locations

FLUORESCENT LIGHTS & BATTERIES
Batteries Plus,* 2438 S.E. Burnside, Gresham;
Total Reclaim,* 6427 N.E. 59th Place, Portland
97218; and Orchard Supply, 4030
N.E. Halsey St., Portland 97232

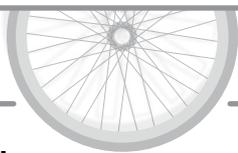
PAPER FOR SHREDDING
Accushred, * 2131 N.W.
Birdsdale Ave., Gresham

STYROFOAM
Call Metro for options
503-234-3000

SMALL APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS
Far West Recycling, all locations;
Total Reclaim, 6427 N.E. 59th
Place, Portland 97218



For more information about where to take recyclables year-round call Metro's Recycling Hotline at 503-234-3000 or visit OregonMetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling



GET INVOLVED IN GRESHAM

City Calendar

April

1 Steel Magnolias, Sandy Actors Theater, through 4/24, sandyactorstheater.org, 503-668-6834

5 26 Years of Breathtaking Hubble Images, MHCC Planetarium, 6 and 7:15 p.m., 503-491-7297

12 Artists' Reception – Juried Show, Visual Arts Gallery, Gresham City Hall, 5:30 to 7 p.m., 503-618-2871

16 Gresham Saturday Market opens, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Mt. Hood Community College, 503-912-4122

16 Gresham Clean & Green, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Nadaka Nature Park, 503-618-2482

18 Readers Theater "Belles" Gresham Chapel & Event Center, 7 p.m., 503-668-6834

19 City of Gresham Budget Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall Conference Center, 503-618-2890

23 Earth Day Recycling Event, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Gresham City Hall Parking Lot, 503-618-2518

23 SOLVE IT Cleanup, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Nadaka Nature Park, register: FriendsOfNadaka.org, 503-956-8558

26 Gresham Redevelopment Commission Budget Meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall Conference Center, 503-618-2890

26 Gresham Bike More Challenge Kickoff, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Hoppy Brewer, 328 N. Main Ave., 503-618-2816

28 Bike Wash, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., City Hall loading dock, 503-618-2816

30 Beavers in Gresham, 9-11:30 a.m., meet at City Operations Center, 503-891-4882

May

1 Columbia Symphony Orchestra, American Innovations, 3 p.m., Mt. Hood Community College, 503-234-4077

3 Mercury Across the Sun; Mars at its Closest Too!, MHCC Planetarium, 6 and 7:15 p.m., 503-491-7297

4 National Bike and Walk to School Day, 503-618-2816

7 Gresham Farmers' Market opens, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., N.W. Miller & Third Street, 971-303-2248

14 Transportation Safety Fair and Bike Rodeo, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Arts Plaza, 506-618-2816

14 Walk & Talk – Plant Identification, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Nadaka Nature Park, 503-956-8558

16 E-Bike Workshop and Test Ride, 12-1 p.m., City Hall Conference Center, 503-618-2816

16 Readers Theater "Belles" Gresham Chapel & Event Center, 7 p.m., 503-668-6834

19 Lunch Ride, start at City Hall, 12 p.m., 503-618-2816

15 Mt. Hood Pops Spring Youth Concert, Mt. Hood Community College, 3:30 p.m., 503-669-1937

20 Bike to Work Day free breakfast items, various locations, 6:30-9 a.m., GreshamOre-

Hats off, neighbor

Name: Jim Card

Years in Gresham: 34 in the area

Neighborhood: Gresham Butte

Volunteer cause: Tsuru Island, Gresham's Japanese Garden in Main City Park, 219 S. Main Ave., managed by the Gresham-Ebetsu Sister City Association.

A retired professional landscaper, Jim led the volunteer rebirth of Tsuru Island, a tranquil oasis in the middle of Main City Park that was restored and reopened to the public in 2014.

What I do and why I love it: Fostering Tsuru Island, Jim says, "Is the opportunity to share with others what I've had the privilege to learn in my lifetime. To let others



Volunteer Jim Card at Tsuru Island, Gresham's Japanese garden.

City of Gresham photo

enjoy working with plants, aesthetics, and sharing the therapeutic aspects of the garden and what it does for people.

"One of my mottos is, 'It doesn't matter how much knowledge you have. It's how much knowledge you're willing to share.'"

Jim's vision is to establish the garden as a platform

for education, to share the Japanese aspects of pruning, culture and tradition, and to experience a unique way to enjoy nature.

He's in the garden most days teaching others how to maintain it, or next door remodeling the Resource Center, aka the Shoebox, which will soon offer public activities and classes on all

matter of delightful topics.

www.greshamsistercity.org/japanese-garden

For more information about the City's volunteer program, contact **Aaron Abrams**, manager of the Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement (ONCE), **503-618-2482** or visit GreshamOregon.gov/Volunteer

gon/BikeMonth for details

21 All-Level Group Bike Ride, 10 a.m. start at Main City Park, GreshamOregon.gov/BikeMonth for details

22 Experienced Riders Bike Ride, 10 a.m. start at Main City Park, GreshamOregon.gov/bikemonth for details

25 Bikes for Humanity Bike Donation Drop-off, 3-7 p.m., Main City Park, 503-618-2816

30 Children's Fountain on the Arts Plaza opens

30 Memorial Day observed - City Hall closed
June

3 Gresham Grey Wolves baseball season opener, 7 p.m., Oslund Field-MHCC, GreshamGrayWolves.com

3 Rock the Block Community Event, Plaza del Sol, 18535 S.E. Stark St., 3-8 p.m., 503-797-7222

4 Rock the Block Community Event, Plaza del Sol, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., RockwoodNation.org

12 Rockwood Farmers Market opens, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Plaza del Sol, 18535 S.E. Stark St., 503-221-1054 ext. 215

14 Artists' Reception - Industrial, Visual Arts Gallery, Gresham City Hall, 5:30 to 7 p.m., 503-618-2871

18 Nadaka Tea Fundraiser, 12-2 p.m., St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, FriendsOfNadaka.org or 503-956-8558

For the most current events, please visit GreshamOregon.gov/Calendar

City Council Business Meetings are the 1st Tuesday at 6 p.m. and 3rd Tuesday at

3 p.m. City Council agendas are available at GreshamOregon.gov/Agendas the Wednesday afternoon prior to the meeting.

Planning Commission meetings are the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30 p.m., agendas are available a week in advance of the meeting at GreshamOregon.gov/PlanningCommission. Location varies; call 503-618-2401 for location information.

Gresham Redevelopment Commission meetings are the 3rd Tuesday immediately following adjournment of the 3 p.m. Gresham City Council Business Meeting in the Council Chambers. Commission agendas are available at GreshamOregon.gov/UrbanRenewal the Thursday afternoon prior to the meeting.

Neighborhood Association Information

Centennial

Marlene Byrne, President 503-491-9384 or lwvoremco@gmail.com May 11, 7-9 p.m. Portland Adventist School 3990 N.W. First St.

Central City

Inactive. For information: 503-618-2482

Gresham Butte

Jim Buck, President 503-830-2344 or jimbuck22@comcast.net Monthly meeting (Sept.

through May), every second Wednesday, 7 p.m. Gresham City Hall

Gresham Pleasant Valley

Stan Bohnstedt 503-255-9339 or dr.bohnstedt@comcast.net

Historic Southeast

Al Fogel, President 503-381-7939 or fogel56@yahoo.com

Hollybrook

Dori Stewart, President 503-805-9766 or doristewart@zoho.com

Kelly Creek

Charles Teem, President 503-663-5066 or teemmate@yahoo.com May 18, 7 p.m.

Gordon Russell Middle School 3625 S.E. Powell Valley Road

Mt. Hood

Inactive. For information: 503-618-2482

North Central

Maggie Anderson, President 503-665-0553 or magipdxtal@aol.com Monthly, every first Thursday, 7 p.m. Gresham City Hall

Northeast

Inactive. For information: 503-618-2482

North Gresham

Kathy Schwabe, President 503-901-5617 or ngreshamna@gmail.com April 4, 6 p.m.

Round Table Pizza 750 N.E. 181st Ave.

Northwest

Kat Todd, President 503-666-5150 or trevkat@hotmail.com April 25, 7 p.m. Gresham City Hall

Powell Valley

Pete Showler, President mackemontour@hotmail.com 208-669-0378 April 21, 7 p.m. Greater Gresham Baptist Church

Rockwood

Catherine Nicewood, President 503-285-6587 or rockwoodpresident@gmail.com June 20, 7 p.m. Rockwood Building, 124 N.E. 181st Ave.

Southwest

Dennis Ogan, President 503-577-5303 or dennisogan@outlook.com Third Thursday of April, July, Jan., 7 p.m. Gresham City Hall

Wilkes East

Kris Freiermuth, President 503-255-7685 or www.wilkeseastna.org Board meetings, monthly, every fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m.

Simmon's Foster Care, 17104 N.E. Oregon St.

Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations

Carol Rulla, President 503-663-1466 or jlctr@juno.com Monthly, every second Tuesday, 7 p.m. Gresham City Hall

Find your neighborhood at GreshamOregon.gov/Neighborhoods or call 503-618-2482.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS E-NEWSLETTER

Recycle a broken toaster for free and get the scoop on the City Council's priority projects for 2016. Stay in touch when you sign up for our monthly e-newsletter. To get Neighborhood Connections, call 503-618-2420 or visit GreshamOregon.gov/NeighborhoodConnections.