

SHERWOOD CENTER FOR THE ARTS

VOICES FOR CHANGE GALLERY EXHIBIT

This show is dedicated to supporting the voices of POC artists and performers within our community. YAC's mission is to uplift traditionally underrepresented voices and create paths to equity for all people. This art exhibit provides a welcoming space for people from all walks of life to enjoy beautiful art and music from new perspectives to bring us all together. This gallery exhibit will be displayed through March 15, 2024. Stop by to support local artists and the beautiful diversity of our Sherwood community.

Gallery Hours: Monday - Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

2024 FAMILY MATINEE SERIES

The Sherwood Center for the Arts is excited to host our 9th Annual Family Matinee Series! This favorite family tradition brings unique cultural experiences to the Sherwood community. Explore a diverse and highly entertaining season of performances from all around the world.

MURRAY IRISH DANCE - MARCH 17 | 3:00 P.M. | \$5/ALL AGES

Celebrate this St. Patrick's Day with Portland's top Irish dance performance troupe, accompanied by live Irish music and song. Know for their high-energy performances and vividly attractive costumes, get ready for toe tapping, foot stomping and hand-clapping in the spirit of Irish culture, music and tradition.

OREGON BALLET THEATRE 2 (OBT2) - APRIL 28 | 3:00 P.M. | \$5/ALL AGES

Oregon Ballet Theatre's junior ensemble (OBT2) features dancers who are on the cusp of their professional careers. Enjoy traditional to contemporary pieces from this prestigious company's wide repertoire.

MONDAY MIC NIGHT - MARCH 18 | 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. | FREE | SIGN-UPS BEGIN AT 6:30 P.M.

Calling all poets, writers, actors, musicians and artists alike -- of all ages! Come share your talent(s) with a live audience. Are you a student in need of a live audience to rehearse your monologue or solo piece for an upcoming college audition or show? Are you a poet or writer in need of some feedback for that upcoming novel? Are you a musician wanting to share your next big hit/single, but need to work out the kinks? Are you a comedian with a handful of laughter to share? We would love to support you! Share your gifts in a safe and welcoming environment.

Not interested in performing? That's fine too! Come support your community as part of the live audience and cheer for these emerging talents.

LUNAR NEW YEAR LANTERN FESTIVAL 2024 - FEBRUARY 4 | 2:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. | FREE

Join the Center for the Arts and the Sherwood Cultural Arts Commission for our 3rd annual Lantern Festival celebration. Enjoy delicious boba tea, crafts, dragon dance performances, treats and interactive activities as we usher in the Lunar New Year! A big THANK YOU to our event sponsors: Presenting Sponsor: MORE Realty - Casey Chen & Andre Hage Supporting Sponsor: Quailhurst Vineyard Estate Community Builder Sponsor: Dr. Yu Integrative Chiropractic

WINTER ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

It's never too late to revisit a hobby or try something new! Come create a beautiful tablescape, custom scented candle, decadent desserts, art and home décor - just in time for the holiday season.



We are excited to introduce and welcome a handful of new instructors, mediums and classes this fall. Dive into floral art, candlemaking, ukulele, guitar, piano, baking, painting, acting, ceramics and MORE. With new classes offered each session, you are sure to find a class that inspires your creativity. We offer small group weekly

classes, as well as interactive workshops for children, adults, and families. Visit our website at SherwoodCenterfortheArts.org to view the full winter class schedule and to register.

PLANNING NEWS

Sherwood West Concept Plan

The 1,291-acre Sherwood West area is one of Sherwood's four designated "urban reserves." Urban reserves are areas that the Metro Regional Government, in coordination with its partner cities, has designated for potential urbanization over the next 50 years. An urban reserve designation does not change a property's current zoning or restrict a landowner's currently allowed use of their land. It does, however, provide greater clarity regarding expected long-term uses of the land, allowing public and private landowners to make long-term investments with greater assurance. Communities that plan for growth have the best chance of managing their own destiny.



Every six years, Metro reviews and reports on the region's land supply in an Urban Growth Report, which includes a 20-year forecast of regional population and employment growth. Metro may adjust the regional urban growth boundary ("UGB") if necessary to accommodate the growth forecasted for the next 20 years. During this review cycle, cities may request their urban reserve lands to be brought into the UGB. In order to make a request, a city must have an accepted concept plan for the area.

The Sherwood West Concept Plan is a long-range plan that sets the stage for future development by identifying an overall community vision for the area, a high-level plan for long-term land uses, public infrastructure (roads, sewer, water, etc.), parks, open spaces, school and additional public/institutional land for services. The Sherwood West Concept Plan sets the state for a UGB expansion request to Metro and will help guide future community decision-making.

The City of Sherwood intends to make a proposal to Metro to include Sherwood West into the UGB to provide for future population and employment growth. A formal proposal to Metro for a potential UGB expansion is due by April 5, 2024. Metro will decide on a UGB expansion by the end of 2024. If Sherwood West is brought into the UGB, additional planning of the area will occur. All public facility plans will need to be updated (water, sewer, storm, transportation), and the area will need appropriate zoning designations and be master-planned.

This comprehensive planning work may take up to three years to complete. Once the area is sufficiently planned for urban services, properties will need to be annexed into the City boundary before City zoning can be applied and development can occur.

The City does not force properties to annex - it is up to property owners to make an annexation request, which will ultimately be reviewed and approved by the Sherwood City Council. Once a property's annexation is approved and a zoning designation is applied, a property owner can put together a development plan that provides for public infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, etc.) and plans for the area's overall design.

These processes-from the time a property is brought into the urban growth boundary to its annexation into Sherwood City Limits, and finally, to site planning development-can take many years. This is why Sherwood West may take 50+ years to develop completely.

The Sherwood City Council will consider a resolution supporting a UGB expansion proposal to Metro in March 2024. To review the Sherwood West Concept Plan, please visit the project webpage: sherwoodoregon.gov/planning/page/sherwood-west-preliminary-concept-plan-re-look

MARJORIE STEWART SENIOR CENTER

It is already 2024 and we have a lot to look forward to here at the Marjorie Stewart Senior Community Center! This month we are introducing two classes - Refresh & Renew and Cardio Drumming. We're excited to welcome back Caz when she leads us in Nia Movement this month as well! Bunco will be back in February as will the Cognitive Impairment Support Group.

Cardio Drumming - Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. - FREE

Are you looking for a new way to get a workout? Is your exercise routine getting boring? Are you plain just not excited to work out? Boy, have we got a class for you! Join this upbeat and irreverent class as we beat rhythms on yoga balls along to music. It's a bit silly and a great workout! Seated or standing options.

Refresh & Renew - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. - FREE

A class to start the new year off right! Take stock of your past with your eye on the future to help set you up for your best 2024! This four-week course uses principles of identification and problem solving for personal growth, helping you to find who you want to be. We'll spend four weeks working at what we want for ourselves this year, creating a cheat sheet to refer to over the next twelve months, and helping to keep you on track. After the four weeks there will be an optional monthly gathering to meet up with the Refresh & Restart coach and other participants.

MSSCC Mystery Monday Book Club - First Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m.

If you are a fan of mysteries, this is the book club for you! This year we're reading mysteries from all over the world, with selections from different mystery genres - cozy to gritty, Scandi noir to what some may argue is the first mystery written in modern literature. We're trying something a little different - we're reading books that are some of people's favorite or have been on our want-to-read list for a while. Join us to have fun and talk about some of these beloved books.

There are a limited number of MSSCC book club books reserved for checkout behind the front desk of the Sherwood Library starting the day of the prior meeting (for example, March's book is available to checkout Feb. 5, etc.). We look forward to reading with you!

February 7 at 4:00 p.m. - *Still Life with Crows* by Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child

March 4 at 4:00 p.m. - *The Marlow Murder Club* by Robert Thorogood

Check our website or stop by the Marjorie Stewart Center for a full list.

Let's Talk

Let's Talk offers a setting for open, honest, and facilitated discussion on topics unique to people over the age of 60. These interactive conversations provide a forum for discussion as well as an opportunity to explore new possibilities, resources, and connection. In partnership with Cascadia Health. FREE

Wednesday, February 7 at 10:30 a.m.
New Wisdom/ Life Lessons - Many challenges frequently accompany aging and sometimes increased wisdom is part of the process. Join us for a conversation about the wisdom you have developed over the years and share with others what you have learned "the hard way."
Wednesday, March 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Let's Talk About End of Life Decisions - Considering end-of-life realities can be overwhelming and easily set aside. Let's talk about making plans and asking questions about these decisions. Note: This conversation will not provide legal advice but instead offers a safe environment to explore and share feelings, fears, and thoughts that surround end-of-life issues.

Coming Soon: AARP Tax Assistance

As of January 16, you can make your appointment for free tax preparation from trained AARP volunteers! Appointments will be every Thursday starting February 1 and running through April 11. Not available for all tax situations.

If you have questions about any of these activities, please call 503.625.5644 or visit sherwoodoregon.gov/marjoriestewartcenter. If you need resources or meals for an older adult, or have rental inquiries call 503.625.5644 or email the Marjorie Stewart Senior Community Center manager, Maiya, at burbankm@sherwoodoregon.gov.

THE Sherwood ARCHER

FEBRUARY 2024

WWW.SHERWOODOREGON.GOV

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Community Enhancement Program

The Community Enhancement Program (CEP) is an exciting opportunity for citizens to participate in making Sherwood a place where families and businesses thrive.

The grant program is open to non-profit groups, organizations, and City advisory committees. We encourage you to let us know your ideas for enhancing the community.

The information and application for the grant program can be found at sherwoodoregon.gov/finance/page/community-enhancement-program-committee shewood. Please read the grant information to make sure your project qualifies for the program. The application can be filled out electronically by saving the file to your computer. Once you've completed the application, submit it by mail or deliver to City Hall, 22560 SW Pine St, Sherwood Oregon 97140, or electronically to finance@sherwoodoregon.gov.

Applications are available beginning January 5 and the application deadline is April 15, 2024. Whether you have big ideas, small ideas, or ideas somewhere in-between, you can be sure they will be considered.

Please contact the finance department at finance@sherwoodoregon.gov for any questions.

Community Enhancement Program

Grant \$\$\$ available to local groups and non-profits. Go to www.SherwoodOregon.gov/CEP for complete details and to apply. Application period ends April 15th.

SPOTLIGHT ON CITY STAFF

Welcome back to Spotlight on City Staff!

Each edition we want to put the spotlight on some of Sherwood's hardworking City Staff and what they do! In this edition we want to introduce you to one of our Telecommunications Utility Workers, Colton Crawford and Sherwood PD Captain, Jon Carlson. Below are some questions and answers from Colton and Jon.

Colton:

- Q: How long have you been working as a Telecommunications Utility Worker?
A: 2 years
- Q: How long have you been with the City of Sherwood?
A: 2 years
- Q: What does an average day look like for you?
A: An average day usually consist of hydro excavating, directional drilling, and often installing service drops to customers houses.
- Q: What are some of your favorite things about working for the City?
A: The people that I work with, we have a really great work schedule, and getting to work in different settings and scenarios often.
- Q: What are some typical challenges of this position?
A: The main challenge is to not hit other utilities while drilling, hard and rocky ground also makes our job harder.
- Q: What advice would you give someone who is just beginning in this role?
A: Be willing to learn from your coworkers because there are a lot of small tricks that we have picked up over time that make the job a lot easier.
- Q: What experience do you feel helped prepare you for your current role?
A: I think my prior construction experience prepared me to be able to work hard and help me better understand what was going on when I was first learning the trade.



Home of the Taalutin River National Wildlife Refuge

SPOTLIGHT ON CITY STAFF Continued

Jon:

- Q: How long have you been working in law enforcement?
A: Total of 32 years.
- Q: How long have you been with the City of Sherwood?
A: Just shy of 29 years.
- Q: What does an average day look like for you?
A: Since being promoted to Captain in 2018, it's a lot of administrative work. I oversee and mentor detectives, SRO's, evidence, and records. I answer emails, attend department meetings, public meetings and work on special projects and programs.
- Q: What are some of your favorite things about working for the City?
A: The people I work with.
- Q: What are some typical challenges of this position?
A: Staffing would be a big one. One of my tasks is overseeing the recruitment and hiring of police officers. Hiring an entry level police officer usually takes around one year from recruitment to solo status. We run a lot of our shifts at minimum staffing at just two officers. When shifts are at minimums, having a single officer tied up on any call is a huge deal and can tie up an officer for hours leaving just one officer working the road.
- Q: What advice would you give someone who is just beginning in law enforcement?
A: You get out of it what you put into it, never stop training, studying, and learning, don't be afraid to promote, find your niche, don't be too proud or afraid to ask for help, and develop a life and friends outside of police work.
- Q: What experience do you feel helped prepare you for your current role?
A: Working in law enforcement for the past 32 years. Working in several different assignments, from patrol officer, K9 officer, patrol sergeant and now captain. As well as being in a leadership position for the past 22 years.



The City of Sherwood is now Hiring!

- Building Inspector/Plans Examiner
- Building Permit Specialist
- Lead Maintenance Worker
- Planning Manager
- Finance Manager

Coming Soon:
Seasonal Maintenance Worker

For a full list of open positions and to apply please visit: governmentjobs.com/careers/cityofsherwood or scan the QR Code below!



(Positions will update as recruiting needs change)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

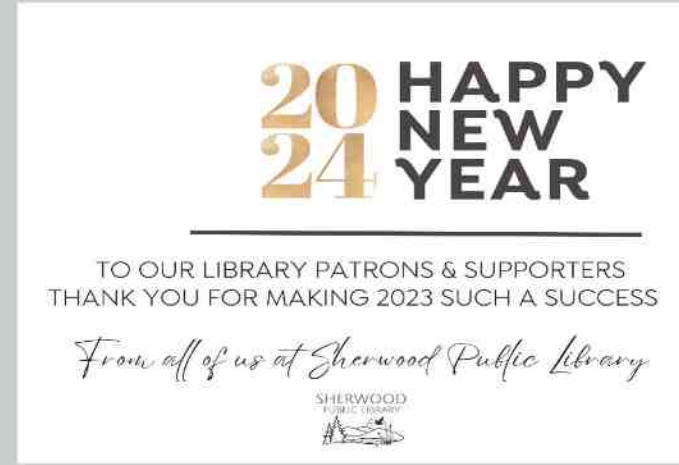
February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	February 1	2	3 City Council Goal Setting 9:00 a.m.
4	5 Parks & Recreation Board 7:00 p.m.	6 City Council 7:00 p.m.	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.	14 Senior Advisory Board 5:00 p.m.	15 Police Advisory Board 7:00 p.m.	16	17
18	19 Cultural Arts Commission 6:30 p.m.	20 City Council 7:00 p.m.	21 Library Advisory Board 6:30 p.m.	22 Traffic Safety Committee 6:00 p.m.	23	24
25	26	27 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.	28	29		

LIBRARY NEWS
Welcome to 2024

22560 SW Pine Street 503.625.6688 www.sherwoodoregon.gov/library

You're invited to visit us in person and online for enrichment and life-long learning. Below are highlights of upcoming events and activities.



All Ages:

STEAM Saturday

Drop in for a dose of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) fun on the last Saturday of every month. Explore stations at our pop-up event including VR headset (ages 10+), a robot station, Snap Circuits, 3-D pens, and craft station. Drop in on February 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Puppet

Do you think you'd be a good puppet parent? The library needs to rehome some puppets. They've been to the groomers and are ready to live with you. Tell us why you would be a good puppet parent by February 3.

Applications are at the library and at sherwoodoregon.gov/library. Help us give new homes to all 22 of our sweet puppets from Angela the Butterfly to Timothy the Flying Squirrel.

Events for Adults:

Citizenship Classes / Clases de ciudadanía

Volunteers from Mission: Citizen offer free citizenship classes in English, and presenters can answer questions in English, Spanish, and other languages. Each drop-in class covers a different topic. Thursdays through March 21, 5:30 p.m. // Voluntarios de Mission Citizen ofrecerán un curso gratis. El curso es en inglés y los presentadores pueden responder preguntas en inglés, español y otros idiomas. Cada clase cubre un tema diferente. Las clases tienen en persona lugar todos los jueves desde el 21 de marzo.

Adult Book Discussion

Join us for a discussion of *About Grace*, by Anthony Doerr. The first ten to register receive a free copy of the book, courtesy of the Friends of Sherwood Public Library. On February 14 at 6:00 p.m. Every month we discuss a different book.

Adult Winter Reading Challenge

Expand your reading life this winter. Read a book in each of our three challenges by February 29, 2023, for a chance to win a \$25 gift card. 1) Read a book by a PNW author, 2) Read a historical fiction book, 3) Read a book of poetry. Details at sherwoodoregon.gov/library and in the library.

Events for Youth:

Storytimes
Join us for an interactive session where we read books, sing songs, and play action rhymes.

- Baby Storytime: Thursdays 10:15 a.m. Designed for ages 0-12 months, and their caregivers.
- Fun for Ones: Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. Designed for walking youth, ages 12-23 months, and their caregivers.
- Toddler Storytime: Tuesdays 10:15 a.m. Designed for youth, ages 24-36 months, and their caregivers.
- All Ages Storytime: Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Designed for youth, ages 0-6 years, and their caregivers.

Read to Mia the Dog

Build reading confidence and improve reading skills by reading to a dog. Mia and her trainer will listen with compassion and without judgment as you read to her. Sign up for a 20 minute session. Registration required. Every second Saturday of the month, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sessions fill up far in advance.

All library events are free and open to the public. Library cards or ID are not required to attend. See more events and activities, and registration information, at sherwoodoregon.gov/library. Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at sherwoodoregon.gov/library/newsletters. Contact us at askusSPL@sherwoodoregon.gov or 503.625.6688

Sherwood Public Library is a Washington County Cooperative Library Services member library. Hours: Mon-Thu 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Fri-Sat 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sun 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR UPDATE
Keeping the Water Turned On

Have you ever stopped to think about how amazing it is that we can turn on the faucet and get fresh, clean, and safe water? It's all thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Public Works staff, who keep the water flowing day in and day out.

It's also important to acknowledge that the public works department heavily relies on the community's support. In the case of Sherwood, the community voted in 2005 to use the Willamette River as a long-term water source. A water plant and pipeline was constructed that would provide water to our community for the next 100 years. Ensuring we have a reliable water source. Thanks to forward-thinking leaders and a supportive community, we secured our water future and established a maintenance, seismic readiness, and expansion funding mechanism. This is a luxury that many communities across do not have, and are scrambling to find funding to replace aging infrastructure.

Over the last year, our public works team, in partnership with the City of Wilsonville, have been working on the first substantial upgrade to the jointly owned treatment plant in Wilsonville, a project that will be completed this summer. This upgrade will increase our portion of the plant's capacity from 5 million to 6.7 million gallons a day. We also improve backup generators, increase resilience, and upgrade infrastructure to withstand potential natural disasters. This, in combination with our water rights of 20 million gallons a day and a pipeline that was sized from day one to support that volume, has significantly reduced the costs to bring this added capacity online for Sherwood. (This is not the same project that is happening on 124th Avenue, that is for the Willamette Water Supply Program and not part of Sherwood's water infrastructure)

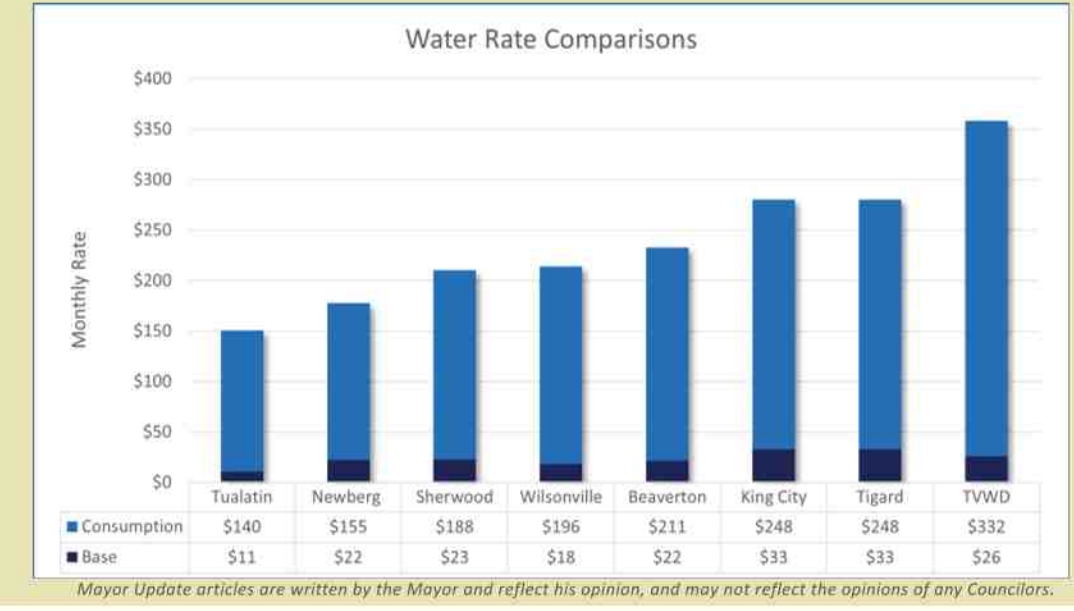
We achieved our goals without increasing water rates or requesting additional property taxes from our citizens. We created a fund specifically for maintenance and capital water-related projects; the funding for this investment account is built up over time by taking a small portion of each month's water bill. This forward-thinking funding mechanism is not only funding the current project but will fund expansion projects into the future. Our next major upgrade of the treatment plant is currently programmed for 2035.

Let's take a moment to discuss our water rates. According to our charter, we have a policy of not increasing residential water rates by more than 2% per year. I compared my September water bill with the same water consumption in neighboring cities and districts to assess our current water rates. Sherwood's water rates are similar to Wilsonville, but significantly less expensive than those of Beaverton, King City, Tigard, and

the Tualatin Valley Water District. Those cities purchase significant amounts of their water from other providers and are subject to the rates they are charged. Since we, in partnership with Wilsonville, own our own infrastructure we have more control over our costs.

While we would all prefer to pay less for water, it's important to note that providing safe water to our community comes at a cost, and so far, the state and federal governments have yet to offer any assistance to Sherwood. Our rate-setting policy ensures we can provide safe water now and, in the future, and approach our engineering and capital projects to maximize the value we receive from our tax dollars.

In conclusion, Sherwood's commitment to providing safe water is underscored by its proactive approach, community support, and innovative funding mechanism. With ongoing infrastructure upgrades and responsible rate-setting policies, we ensure the sustainability of our water services without overburdening our residents. The dedication of our Public Works staff, the support of our community, and the forward-thinking leaders over the last 20 years in Sherwood have collectively secured our water future for generations to come.



Mayor Update articles are written by the Mayor and reflect his opinion, and may not reflect the opinions of any Councilors.

YOUR MAYOR & CITY COUNCILORS



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FEBRUARY IS EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS MONTH

This is a great time to assess your preparedness efforts for an earthquake or any emergency in general. As we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, emergencies can take many forms and often occur unexpectedly.

By spending more time at home you may already have a better idea of your level of preparedness and supplies on hand. This month we encourage you to think about what you need in your home to make sure that you are ready for an earthquake. Particularly in the Northwest region, we must all be prepared for "The Big One."



At the top of the list of priorities is to make sure you have an emergency kit and water! You need enough water to last 14 days. The goal should be to have one gallon of water per person per day. You should know how and where you can store your water, where to get more water in an emergency and how to treat it. Experts predict a big earthquake

will take water services and other vital services off line.

Gathering supplies for your emergency kit does not need to be expensive nor difficult. Some important items to consider when gathering your emergency kit is water, food, medications, medical supplies, warmth and sanitation. Only include things you know you would use. There are resources online that will provide you with details about water emergency preparedness and how to build and emergency kit with an easy to follow checklist. A wonderful resource for a checklist and other tips is the following web site: regionah2o.org/emergency-preparedness. and publicalerts.org/supplies

Sign up for City of Sherwood alerts: If you have not already, another critical step in preparedness is to sign up for our notification system. It will provide you with immediate information and warnings in the event of an emergency. It's a free service that will keep you up to date with current events, news and emergency alerts. It can be opted into via phone calls, text messages or email alerts. Please log onto mycallnow.com to create a personal account.



20495 SW Borchers Drive 503.625.5523
www.sherwoodoregon.gov/policedepartment

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Oregon E-Bike Regulations

Many community members have reached out to us about E-bike regulations. E-bike regulations in Oregon are a bit of a moving target right now. There are federal E-bike laws, State of Oregon E-bike laws, and different cities have a variety of their own city ordinances regarding E-bikes. Sherwood currently does not have an ordinance specifically regarding E-bikes.

The state of Oregon defines E-bikes as a bicycle that has two or three fully functional pedals equipped with a motor that does not exceed 1000 watts and is designed with a maximum speed of 20mph. E-bikes in Oregon are not considered motor vehicles but are actually considered a bicycle by the Oregon Vehicle Code and can ride on any roadway, lane, or path that is approved for bicycles (except Class 3). However, Oregon State Parks considers E-bikes as motor vehicles; Oregon Park trails are governed by Oregon Administrative Rules which define "motorized vehicles" as "any vehicle being powered by an engine or motor which is capable of transporting a person". Therefore, there is a blanket prohibition of E-bikes in Oregon state parks.

Under Oregon law, E-bikes cannot be ridden on sidewalks, riders have to be 16 years old or older, and E-bikes do not have a helmet requirement by law (including teenage riders). Recently, a 15-year-old was killed in Bend while riding an E-bike without a helmet. The City of Bend is looking at changing local ordinances regarding E-bikes after that incident.

There are three classes of E-bikes and simply put, they differentiate between the top speed an E-bike can go, and the components involved.

Class 1 E-bikes has a maximum speed of 20mph and is equipped with an electric motor without throttle that works when the rider is pedaling, also known as pedal assist. This means the E-bike's drive system is only activated once you start pedaling.

Class 2 E-bikes provide assistance when pedaling and has a maximum speed of 20mph with a throttle. A throttle is a feature that comes in a grip-twist or button the rider holds down to make the bike ride without pedaling.

Class 3 E-bikes feature pedal assist only and has a maximum speed of 28mph. They can go faster than 28mph if the bikes are modified. Due to the higher power of these bikes, they are considered motor vehicles and not bicycles.

Traffic Officer C. Pierce called a local bike shop and asked if there is a way that law enforcement could tell if an E-bike was Class 1, 2, or 3 as it's riding past us. They said no, and that the only way to figure out the class is to physically inspect the e-bike to see what voltage the electric assist motor is. This particular shop has a Class 3 bike that has been heavily modified with 12,000 watts and has been clocked at 80 mph on radar.



COUNCIL CORNER

Keith Mays, City Councilor
Happy 2024!!

As 2023 ended, I couldn't help but want to express my thanks to all Sherwood staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication for our community, our families, and our businesses.

I hope everyone had a fun spending time with friends and family and are excited for 2024! I know I am.

This is my first time writing a piece for the Sherwood Archer in over a year and I am writing it as a Councilor, not as Mayor or Council President. Different, but I like it.

In 2023, I really enjoyed being a Councilor and not the Mayor. I think my joy was a result of me being able to spend more time at work and with friends/family (I took an actual vacation) and because (IMO) Mayor Rosener did a great job in his first year as Mayor. I had high expectations for him, and he has exceeded them. After being Mayor, I had asked City Council to let me serve one year as their President and select someone else in 2024. I am happy that Kim Young was elected by City Council to be Council President on Jan 2.

City Manager Keith Campbell resigned at the end of last year. We thank him for his service and wish him only the best going forward. Craig Sheldon was selected by City Council to serve as interim City Manager - he has been Sherwood's Public Works Director for more than 25 years. He is doing a fantastic job.

This year we will see construction start on the pedestrian bridge over 99W!! While it won't be done until end of 2025, it is wonderful to have it begin.

Before winter 2024, we are expected to see the end of construction on Roy Rogers Rd and Tualatin-Sherwood Road in Sherwood City Limits. And some of us thought it would never get finished... it has been a long project so far.

As a friendly reminder, when you are around construction projects and traveling at night - please remember to drive slowly, watch out for pedestrians and cyclists. I am happy to see more pedestrians in safety clothes, reflective clothes or just something other than all black so you are visible. Those who like to wear black (or other dark colors) assume drivers can't see you.

In 2024 you will see more city neighborhoods accessible to Sherwood Broadband as construction continues. A great alternative service from the City for your internet needs. Consider signing up when our service is available in your neighborhood. Sherwood Broadband is local service, local employees and the money stays local.

On a sad note, a few days before Christmas, Adrian C. Emery III, unexpectedly died. He was just 64. Adrian is survived by his wife Amy and two children. Adrian served on the Sherwood Planning Commission for about a decade when I was Council President and Mayor the first time. Adrian was Chairperson for part of that time and played an important role in shaping how Sherwood developed during a very busy period in Sherwood's history. He will be missed, his life celebrated, but he will not be forgotten.

Please reach out to me with ideas, questions, or concerns you might have. I'm happy to talk over coffee, over the phone or via email: MaysK@SherwoodOregon.gov or 503.625.4222.

My contact info will not change in 2024.

FEATURED PARTNER: TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Secret Life of the Refuge at Night

Each day when the sun sets, darkness drapes over the refuge little by little; shadows from trees grow larger and larger, and our eyes begin to adjust to the inevitable dim. There is a noticeable change in the air, as the temperature drops in the absence of the sun's rays. Less cars drive on the nearby highway as most people reach their destination and settle in for the night. Once visitors leave at dusk, a calmness settles over the refuge, but doesn't last for long, as a whole new set of wildlife just begin their days. These nocturnal creatures fill the air and waters at night, going about their lives catching prey, building their homes, and foraging for food, all the while we humans sleep. As much as our understanding of the inner workings of the natural world has advanced, the night still holds an air of mystery - there is a collective excitement as we continue to peel back the layers and shed light on nocturnal activities. The secrets of the dark hold a power and inspire a sense of awe, in a way that is completely unique and amazing.

Each night at the refuge, great horned owls, silent, but ever-alert, wait high up on their perches in the dense coniferous trees for their prey to scurry underfoot. With their huge eyes, they can see well in the dark, moving their heads from side to side to spot the most minuscule of movements on the forest floor. The lack of light gives them some advantage, but their true advantage lies in their almost silent flight, as they swoop low to catch their food.

Bats emerge just as the sun is setting, flocking to bodies of water such as wetlands or streams, to catch the insects that linger in the air. They are elegant in their flight, often flying so fast, they are easy to miss, or might be mistaken for a tiny bird. These winged mammals are the unsung heroes of the night, quietly consuming many of the insects that humans tend to avoid. They hide away during the day, but swoop and fly all over with the sunset as their background.

Beavers swim out of their lodge at dusk, and won't return until dawn. Throughout the night they are busy reacting to the sounds of rushing water from streams and creeks; they work to dam these waters by piling branches and packing squishy mud. Their teeth, specially designed for this, are up to the arduous task of cutting through the many layers of bark. These "busy beavers" will work quickly and efficiently through the night.

All too soon, activity dies down; there is a moment when it becomes inarguably dawn, and night begins to transform into day; it is a feeling so tangible and definite, but is difficult to articulate; it could be when the songbirds first start calling, or when the faintest of light begins to shine. Soon, the sun rises and illuminates on the water that fills our wetlands. Beavers swim back to their lodges, bats have long since returned to their tree cavities, and many owls tuck in for the day. Eagles once again soar over the refuge and waterfowl uncurl into the warming hours. Upon closer inspection, there is evidence of activity - maybe a freshly constructed dam or pile of feathers underneath a tall tree; but for now, the nocturnal beings that ruled the night are once again, asleep.

To find refuge events and other information, visit: fws.gov/refuge/tualatin-river. Refuge trail hours: daily, dawn to dusk Refuge Visitor Center hours: Tues-Sun from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

While the refuge is open daily from dawn to dusk, our annual Creatures of the Night Event offers a chance for visitors to experience the refuge during the evening hours. We hope you can stop by this year (October 2024) to get a glimpse of the secret life of the refuge at night.