



Durham News Notes



Spring 2019

Free Bulky Waste Disposal Day May 4



Do you have something you want to get rid of but it's too big to fit in your roll cart? The City has scheduled a FREE bulky waste pick up day for Saturday, May 4, 2019. Pride Disposal will pick up and haul away big stuff such as mattresses, appliances, microwaves, dismantled swing sets, planting pots, plastic patio furniture, and small amounts of wood not longer than 5 feet at no charge to you. Prohibited materials include:

- ◆ all hazardous waste material
- ◆ all construction, remodeling or demolition materials
- ◆ TVs, personal computers or electronics,
- ◆ metals larger than 3' x 3',
- ◆ propane bottles,
- ◆ regular garbage or recycling, or
- ◆ residential yard debris and trimmings.

Go ahead! Get rid of your space-hogging furniture and broken-down appliances! Have your items out at the curb by 6:00 am. If you're unable to get the item to the curb, their drivers can also remove items from your house or garage for an additional fee. Call Pride 503-625-6177 for a reservation.

TVF&R Will Ask Voters To Renew Local Option Levy For Emergency Services

Voters will see Measure 34-286 on May ballot

On May 21, voters will decide whether to renew TVF&R's local option levy to maintain emergency response services and personnel hired since 2000.

Measure 34-286 proposes to renew the existing TVF&R levy rate at 45 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for five more years. The current levy expires in June 2020.

If the levy renewal does not pass, funding that pays for at least 92 of 432 TVF&R firefighters and paramedics would be lost.

If the levy passes, levy funds will maintain firefighter, paramedic, and some staff positions that support operations. Levy funding will also be used to purchase land for future fire stations, fire hose, firefighting tools, and medical equipment to ensure effective emergency response.

TVF&R voters first approved a 25-cent per \$1,000 assessed valuation local option levy in 2000 and renewed it in 2004 and 2008. In 2014, voters approved a replacement levy with a rate of 45 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The 2014 replacement levy provides 22 percent of the fire district's funding.

While the district has made strides to reduce response times and improve outcomes, increasing call volume, traffic congestion, and development remain challenging.

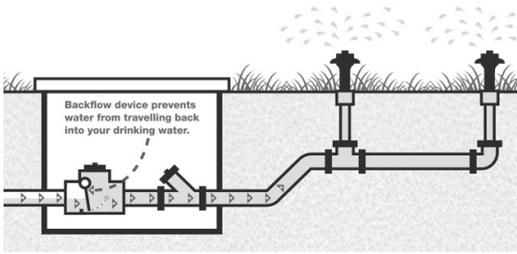
If the levy is not renewed at the existing rate before it expires in June 2020, reductions in staffing and operations will be required.

If approved, the levy renewal would appear on the November 2020 property tax statement at the same rate of 45 cents per \$1,000 AV and be identical to what currently appears on individual tax bills.

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Protect Your Drinking Water – Sprinkler Test Due June 1



Homeowners with automatic irrigation system are required to have their backflow prevention device tested each year by **June 1**.

Why should I bother getting my system tested?

Backflow prevention devices protect our water supply from contamination! Backflow prevention devices have internal parts that can wear out causing water to flow back into the drinking water supply from your irrigation system. If the backflow prevention device is broken, water coming out of your tap could be contaminated with lawn care chemicals, driveway runoff, and micro-organisms. To prevent this contamination, the Oregon Health Authority requires these devices to be tested annually.

Who do I call to schedule a test?

Backflow testing is done by certified, private companies who set their rates. Test cost range from \$25 to \$50. A link to certified companies can be found on the Tigard Water website.

What do I do with the test results?

The test providers will submit the results to the Tigard Water Department within ten days. If your backflow device is broken, you will need to repair it immediately and retest the device.

How to Dispose of Hot Tub Water

Hot tub owners have an important role to play in protecting our water, wildlife, and plants. Hot tub water contains high levels of chlorine and other contaminants that should never be dumped into the street or storm drains. Street runoff and storm drains flow directly into Fanno Creek. The untreated water degrades water quality and is harmful to fish, invertebrates, and plants.

The best way to dispose of the dirty water is to discharge the water in your yard. If you do this, you must ensure that:

- ◆ the water will not flow into a stream, storm sewer, street, or onto your neighbor's property, and
- ◆ the water will not pond for a prolonged period. Take measures to prevent nuisance conditions such as odors and fly and mosquito breeding conditions.



Before draining the dirty water, you will need to remove the chlorine. Either shut off the chlorination system or stop adding chlorine for two weeks before draining the hot tub. Leave it open to allow the chlorine to evaporate. Alternatively, you can remove the chlorine by using dechlorination chemicals. Use test strips to check that the chlorine is gone. Once the water is

chlorine-free, drain it to an area on your property where it will soak in.

Plant Your Mitigation Trees Now for Best Success

If you were required to plant a replacement tree as a condition of your tree permit last fall or winter, now is the best time to plant. By planting in this month, the new tree will have time to establish roots and will be better able to withstand the hot summer days to come.

Once the tree is planted, email a photo of the tree to assistant.cityofdurham@comcast.net. City staff will follow-up on the replacement tree in 2 years to determine if it is growing well. Replacement trees that fail will need to be replanted.

Durham's Work Commute

What does commuting to work look like for Durham residents?

- ◆ 48% of Durham residents are employed.
- ◆ 81% commute by car or other vehicle to work
- ◆ 66% commute less than 30 minutes to work
- ◆ 67% drive alone
- ◆ 5% use public transportation
- ◆ 11.4% work from home

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016

Summary of Recent Activity

- Councilors elected Gery Schirado to serve as Mayor and Chris Hadfield to serve as Council President for 2019.
- The City Council established a privilege tax for utilities operating in the City of Durham rights of way.
- The Planning Commission fined a Heron Grove homeowner \$535 for cutting down two trees without permits.
- The Planning Commission began an update to the Comprehensive Plan.
- The Durham Budget Committee will meet April 23 and May 28, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Durham City Hall.

**Monthly Meetings
City Council—4th Tuesday of the
Month**

**Planning Commission—1st Tues-
day of the Month**

**Both meetings start at 7:30pm at
Durham City Hall.**

Former Durham Mayor Mary Taylor Passes

Former Durham Mayor Mary Taylor passed Feb. 11, 2019. She suffered from Alzheimer's Disease for many years but passed peacefully and without pain. Mary Taylor served on the City Council from 1966 to 1992 and was Mayor from 1991-1992. She also served on the City's Planning Commission for many years and was the City's representative to Metro.

Mary graduated from the University of Idaho in 1954 and received her doctorate from the University of Illinois in 1959. Soon after, she and her husband, Herman Taylor moved to Durham where they raised two daughters. Mary was passionate about nature and the environment. When the City incorporated in 1966, she ran for Durham City Council because of an interest in health and environment.

Dr. Mary, as she was fondly known, was a Professor of Microbiology at Portland State University for over 37 years. She was active in The Campfire Girls with many referring to her as The Nature Lady. Mary volunteered at local high schools to help science teachers, was active in the Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, as well as local hiking group and Portland's arts.



Be Alert To IRS Telephone Scams

As the April filing deadline approaches, the IRS warns taxpayers to be alert to tax time phone scams where aggressive criminals pose as IRS agents in hopes of stealing money or personal information. "Taxpayers should be on the lookout for unexpected and aggressive phone calls purportedly coming from the IRS," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "These calls can feature scam artists aggressively ordering immediate payment and making threats against a person. Don't fall for these."

The IRS also reminds taxpayers that scammers often change tactics. Tax scams can be more believable during the tax filing season when people are thinking about their taxes. Here are some things the scammers often do, but the IRS will NOT do. Taxpayers should remember that any one of these is a tell-tale sign of a scam. The IRS will never:

- ◆ Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- ◆ Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- ◆ Demand that taxes be paid without giving taxpayers the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.
- ◆ Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- ◆ Call about an unexpected refund.

If you receive a phone call demanding money, do not give out any information. Hang up immediately. The longer the con artist is engaged; the more opportunity he/she believes exists, potentially prompting more calls.

You can find information about the "Dirty Dozen" scams that taxpayers encounter on the IRS Consumer Alerts webpage.



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www.durham-oregon.us

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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Prescription Drug Take Back Event

Saturday, April 27, 2019 - 10:00am to 2:00pm

The Tualatin Police will host a **Pharmaceutical Drug Take Back Day**. This is an opportunity for citizens to bring in unwanted or expired prescription medications (liquid or solid) and over-the-counter medicines and dispose of them in a way that is safer for the environment and our community.

The drive-thru drop off in the parking lot of the Tualatin Police Department with no questions asked. The following items will be accepted:

- Expired or unneeded prescription medications
- Expired or unneeded over-the-counter medications
- Expired or unneeded pet medication

The unwanted drugs can be in the original container or placed in and/or combined in another container or bag. The labels from prescription containers may be removed or covered with a permanent marker if desired. TPD cannot accept thermometers, syringes or needles, medical waste IV solutions, lotions or creams.

Mushroom Discovery Hike

April 27 & 28, 2019 am & pm sessions
Oxbow Regional Park or Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area



Discover the fascinating and weird world of mushrooms! Join local mushroom guide Leah Bendlin on this woodland hike. Learn about the ecological roles of fungi, their forms, how they eat and reproduce, and how to identify mushrooms. Field guides will be provided.

Class cost: \$6/person, \$11/family. No dogs.

Parking: \$5/car

All ages but geared towards adults.

Difficulty: easy

Advanced registration is required. Four 2.5-hour sessions are offered.

Registration is handled through the Oregon Zoo, a service of Metro.

Contact: Metro Nature Education team at 503-220-2782