



# Durham News Notes



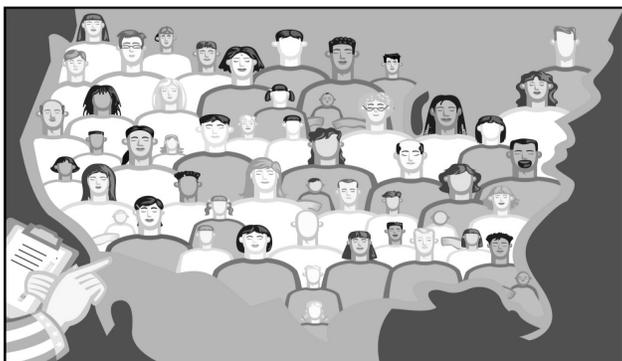
Winter 2020

## THE CENSUS

Did you know the census is the US government's largest peacetime operation? The 14th Amendment, Section 2 of the US Constitution states: "Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State..." The census first took place in 1790 under the general direction of Thomas Jefferson, the Secretary of State. US marshals took the census in the original 13 States, plus the districts of Kentucky, Maine, and Vermont, and the Southwest Territory (now Tennessee).

In the 2010 census, more than one million census workers counted roughly 310 million people across the US. The census questionnaire in 2010 was one of the shortest in history, with only 10 questions relating to a person's name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether a person owned or rented a home.

The 2020 census will rely more heavily on the internet than paper to collect data for the first time. There will be different ways to participate, including online, on smartphones, and via phone or mail.



### *Here are some things to know about the upcoming 2020 census:*

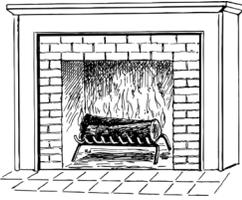
- ◆ Participating in the 2020 Census is a civic duty and good for your community. Census results affect legislative district lines, road and transit construction, as well as how federal funds are distributed across the country.
- ◆ There are multiple ways to be counted in the 2020 Census. In mid-March 2020 you should receive a postcard with instructions to participate online, but you can also respond via phone or mail.
- ◆ Your Personally Identifiable Information is protected by law and cannot be shared outside of the Census Bureau. Your response can only be used to produce statistical data and your personal information can not be seen or used by other government agencies or the courts.
- ◆ Data security is the highest priority for the Census Bureau and extensive protections are in place to protect the integrity of the 2020 Census.
- ◆ English language proficiency is not required to participate in the 2020 Census. The complete online questionnaire and telephone responses will be available in 12 languages besides English, paper forms will be in English and Spanish, and language guides will be available in 59 non-English languages and braille.
- ◆ If you don't have access to internet in your home you can still be counted. The online questionnaire can be completed on a smartphone and at desktop internet kiosks which may be available at the post office, library, and other community centers.

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If you want to learn more about the Census or stay up to date with the latest Census news, you can visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). There, you can access local data and learn about your community, read stories of how the Census Bureau is working to make sure everyone gets counted, and explore historical data from surveys they have conducted over the years.

## BURNING WOOD SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY



Did you know burning wet wood (over 20% moisture content) increases wood stove emissions and has a greater impact on air quality? Burning dry clean wood makes wood stove start-up much easier and is healthier for children, older adults, and people with heart and lung conditions. Do not burn treated, painted, or finished wood as this can lead to harmful fumes and pollutants being released.

For more resources on burning wood safely and efficiently you can visit [www.EPA.gov/Burnwise](http://www.EPA.gov/Burnwise). If you have an old wood stove that you use for heat, you may be able to trade it in with Wood Stove Exchange for a new, more efficient, and cleaner heating device. Visit [www.WoodStoveExchange.com](http://www.WoodStoveExchange.com) for more information.

## SAFETY TIPS FOR THE NEW YEAR

With the New Year and resolutions on everyone's mind, now is the time to think about some personal and home safety steps that can help carry you and your family safely into and through 2020, as well as save you time and money by avoiding winter-related damage to your home or business.

### Keep these things in mind to minimize your risk of personal injury:

- ◆ Be extra careful on icy surfaces around your home — use kitty litter or sand to increase traction.
- ◆ Make sure to dress appropriately for outdoor activity; dress in layers with hats, gloves, and waterproof boots.
- ◆ Be aware of the wind chill factor, which can often lower the temperature by several degrees.
- ◆ Avoid traveling when the weather service issues storm advisories.
- ◆ If you must travel, make sure someone knows where you are going, what time you expect to arrive, and the route you plan to take.
- ◆ Pack extra water, food, blankets, and clothing in case of an unexpected emergency or delay.

### There are also steps you can take to improve the safety of your home this winter.

- ◆ Have your home heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside.
- ◆ If you are heating with wood, inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- ◆ **Always** discard ashes in a metal container away from combustible materials.
- ◆ Check your smoke alarms to ensure they are working properly.
- ◆ Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies by installing a CO alarm in your home.

You should also take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the water shut off for your home/business if you haven't done so already. For the past several winters, TVF&R firefighters responded to hundreds of calls for frozen water pipes that burst and began flowing water. Knowing how to shut off your water and calling a professional can prevent significant damage to your home. For more information visit [www.tvfr.com](http://www.tvfr.com).

## DRIVING IN SNOW AND ICE



The weather in Oregon changes very quickly and being prepared for all types of weather will help keep you safe. Driving can become hazardous when visibility is reduced or when road surfaces are covered with snow or ice. Allow **extra time to get where you're going** when conditions are bad and be aware GPS devices and apps may not have the most updated information. ODOT crews work continually to keep state highways safe, but during certain conditions, such as blowing snow and freezing temperatures, **you may want to avoid travel altogether**. Don't forget to turn on your headlights at all times of the day so other drivers can see you easily. Also, when driving in snowy and icy conditions watch for danger spots such as bridges or shaded areas. Roads will be more slippery when the temperature is near the freezing point rather than below freezing. Drive safely this winter season!

## CHANGES AND VACANCY ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Julie Atwood, Jeffrey Anderson, and Laurie Volm have resigned from the Planning Commission. The City appreciates all the hard work the Commissioners did during their time on the Planning Commission. Atwood worked to make the Commission's findings organized and clear, Anderson used his engineering background to find creative alternatives, and Volm focused on preserving the integrity and wooded characteristic of the neighborhoods.

Joining the Planning Commission is Matt Winkler and Joshua Drake. Both of them are residents of Kingsgate and have been involved in the community in various ways. They are excited to serve their community here in Durham and create positive and lasting change.

The City is seeking a resident to fill the third vacancy. The Planning Commission meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm at Durham City Hall. Anyone interested should contact City Hall or fill out a Citizen Committee Application, available on the City's website



## BUDGET COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Joan Pasley has retired from the Budget Committee after serving for 3 years. The City appreciates all of her hard work and her willingness to take on outside projects and research different options for the City to consider. The City is seeking a resident to serve on the City's Budget Committee for Fiscal Year 2020-21. The Committee meets twice a year, once in April and once in May. Both meetings are held at 6:30 pm at Durham City Hall. Committee appointments are made for 3-year terms. Anyone interested should contact City Hall or fill out a Citizen Committee Application, available on the City's website.

## DURHAM TREE ORDINANCE

Trees are an asset to the community for both their aesthetic value and their ecological benefits. Like many cities in Oregon, Durham requires a permit to cut down trees on private property. The purpose of the Tree Ordinance is to preserve the wooded character of the City and to protect the environmental benefits trees provide. If you are considering removing trees on your property, you should review the City's regulations first.

**Do I Need A Permit?** If you plan to cut down a tree with a trunk diameter of 5 inches or greater, measured at 4.5 feet above the ground, you will need a Tree Removal Permit.

**How Do I Apply?** To apply for a permit, fill out and submit a complete application with photos of the proposed tree to be removed and pay the \$25 fee. Permit applications can be downloaded from our website or picked up at City Hall. Public Notices for tree removal applications that will be heard at the Planning Commission meetings are posted on the website in the "News Updates" section.

**What About Hazardous Trees Or Emergency Situations?** For trees that are obviously dead, diseased, or dangerous, removal permits may be approved administratively. A tree that presents an imminent danger should be immediately reported to the City. If a dangerous tree must be cut down to prevent loss of life or property outside the City's normal business hours, the property owner must report the tree removal to City Hall as soon as possible.

**What Are The Penalties For Illegally Removing Trees?** The Planning Commission will impose a fine of up to \$720 per tree for trees removed without a permit.

**What Should I Do If I Think A Tree Is Being Removed Illegally?** If a property owner is removing a tree and you suspect that a permit was not issued, first check the list of approved tree permits on the City's website in the "Notice of Land Use Actions" section. All approved tree removals are posted there. If the property owner does not have a permit, call City Hall.





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[www.durham-oregon.us](http://www.durham-oregon.us)

Durham News Notes is written and published by City staff. We welcome information and contributions that may be of interest to Durham residents. The newsletter is published by the 15th day of the first month of each quarter. Deadline for inclusion is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Archived newsletters are available online or at City Hall.

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**MYN UPDATE**

We are pleased to announce that the Durham City Council recently approved purchasing equipment for a Durham Emergency Disaster Communication Hub. This hub will enable Durham to communicate with emergency services and Washington County via a powerful HAM radio system, should an emergency or disaster disrupt phone communication. Two of our local CERT members, Judy Arthur and Barbara Bracken (both licensed HAM radio users), are assembling this kit. If you are a licensed HAM radio operator and would like to be trained to use this equipment or if you would like to become a licensed HAM radio operator, please contact Barbara Bracken at: [TualatinReadyMYN@gmail.com](mailto:TualatinReadyMYN@gmail.com)



**FRIENDS OF TREES, MARCH 28TH**

Friends of Trees invites volunteers to plant trees in Durham City Park. No prior planting experience is needed. Volunteer leaders with planting expertise will guide small groups of volunteers, demonstrate how to plant, and help throughout the morning. The event will be Saturday, March 28th from 9 am to 1 pm.

**PUBLIC ALERT SYSTEM**

PublicAlerts is a system that sends emergency alerts via text, email, or voice message to individuals. It's for anyone who lives, works, or visits the Portland-Vancouver Region. Washington County 911 will use PublicAlerts to inform citizens about hazardous situations and suggest appropriate actions. Most landline phone numbers are already included in the PublicAlerts system, but if you would like to receive alerts on your mobile phone or at an email address you should register through the PublicAlerts website [www.PublicAlerts.org](http://www.PublicAlerts.org) or through the Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency at [www.WCCCA.com/PublicAlerts](http://www.WCCCA.com/PublicAlerts).

**NO MORE PLASTIC BAGS**

Starting on Jan. 1, 2020, Oregon retail stores and restaurants can no longer provide single-use checkout bags. This is to help reduce the number of bags that are used once then thrown out. Many of these thrown out bags cause problems in Oregon's recycling systems and the environment creating unsafe situations for everyone.