



Durham News Notes



Summer 2020

Painted Rocks Around Kingsgate

If you have taken a walk through Kingsgate recently, you may have noticed some cute little painted rocks lying about. We don't know who painted them, but they do brighten up the neighborhood. The rocks, which can be found throughout the neighborhood, are varying sizes and hand painted with pictures of hearts, flowers, animals, and characters.

It is clear we have some very creative and talented artists in our city! Have you been able to spot all the rocks?



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Wildfires Can Happen Here – Take Steps Now to Reduce Risks

It's important for property owners to take steps to help protect your home and land from potential wildfires this summer. During a wildfire, time is crucial and resources are limited. What you've done before a fire strikes may determine whether firefighters are able to save your home and other structures on your property. This is the perfect time to create a 30-foot defensible space or safety zone around your home that may help firefighters safely protect your home from an encroaching fire. To create this space, homeowners are encouraged to take the following steps:

- De-limb trees at least 10 feet up from the ground and cut back tree limbs hanging over your roof.
- Trim branches that are within 10 feet of a chimney.
- Consider replacing wood shakes or shingles on the roof with non-combustible or fire-resistant materials.
- Remove leaves, brush, and other debris from your gutters, rooftop, and underneath decks and crawlspaces.
- Regularly mow and water lawns and other green belts on your property. Keep your landscaping well pruned and watered.
- Plant low-growing, fire-resistant plants such as groundcover, perennials, and annuals near your home. Plant individual shrubs and hardwood trees at least 10 feet from your home and other structures.
- Store firewood and other combustibles at least 100 feet from your home.



Ensure firefighters can quickly find your home by posting your address at the beginning of a long driveway. Access to your property is also crucial. To ensure crews can safely respond, cut back low-hanging tree limbs and clear dense vegetation and debris from the road or driveway. Driveways should be 20 feet wide and have a minimum clearance of 15 feet overhead. For more information about wildfire safety tips and additional preventative measures, visit www.tvfr.com.

Is Your Sidewalk Broken?

Paved sidewalks provide people with a safe space to travel around the neighborhood away from cars and trucks. As in most cities, property owners in Durham are responsible for keeping sidewalks and planting strips abutting their property in good repair and condition, even if the sidewalk is on the other side of your fence, such as sidewalks along Upper Boones Ferry Road.

Property owners should keep sidewalks free of obstacles, overhanging obstructions, tripping hazards, and protruding objects. By regularly cutting back vegetation that grows onto the sidewalks, property owners safeguard

pedestrian access and limit safety problems. Property owners should also attend to seasonal hazards such as leaf debris, snow, and ice.

Damaged or uplifted sidewalks that may cause pedestrians to trip should be repaired promptly. Generally, when surface conditions degrade to a point where tripping hazards exist or cross slope conditions make routes inaccessible, you should fix your sidewalk. As a property owner, you can repair a damaged sidewalk yourself or have a contractor do the work. Either way, you will need to get a sidewalk repair permit to ensure the repair work meets City standards.

2020 Census: Its Not Too Late!

Have you filled out your 2020 Census yet? If not, its not too late! You can still fill out the Census either online at 2020Census.gov, by phone, or via the paper form that has been mailed to your house. If you need assistance with filling it out, there are videos and phone numbers available at 2020Census.gov.

The Census is very important because it determines how many seats Oregon gets in the House of Representatives and how much federal funds your community, county, and state will receive for the next 10 years. Completing the Census is a civic duty and is good for your community now and for the foreseeable future!

Did you Know?

Many countries, along with the US, celebrate their Independence Day during the month of July! These countries include Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, the Bahamas, the Maldives, and Venezuela!



2020 City Council Election

Three positions on the Durham City Council are up for election this fall. Any residents interested in running for City Council have until August 21, 2018 to file a petition to be placed on the November Ballot. The General Election will be November 3, 2020 and Councilors Gifford, Jehnke, and Van Meter have stated they will be running for re-election.

Filing Qualifications and How to File:

- Registered to vote in Oregon.
- Durham resident continuously since November 3, 2019. Councilors must continue to live in Durham while in office.
- To be placed on the ballot, potential candidates need to be nominated by a petition signed by at least ten Durham registered voters. The required forms must be filed at City Hall by 10:00 am on August 21.

If you are interested in running for office, contact City Hall to review the process, paperwork, and deadlines for filing a prospective petition. Prospective Petitions must be filed with the City Recorder by 10:00 a.m. on August 21, 2020. There is no filing fee for City Council offices.

About the City Council:

The City Council includes five councilors. Positions are nonpartisan. Councilors also serves on the City Budget Committee along with citizen appointees. Councilors are elected at large for a four year term beginning January 1, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2024. The Council meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm at Durham City Hall. Councilors must file an annual Statement of Economic Interest with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission.

Monthly Meetings:

Planning Commission

1st Tuesday of the Month

City Council

4th Tuesday of the Month

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



COVID-19 Contact Tracing Calls

As Oregon begins to reopen, local county health departments will be making contact tracing calls to people who may have come into contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. This is a tool the state is using to help prevent the spread of the virus in Oregon.

Contact tracers will ask identifying questions and questions to allow them to provide more equitable services. Also, they will ask about COVID-19 symptoms, if you need a place to stay or have any needs to help you stay home, and if they can contact you daily to monitor your symptoms. All of this information will be treated as confidential public health records and will **not** be shared with any other agencies, including immigration.

Individuals who have been diagnosed or who have had contact with a person who has been diagnosed will get a call. If there is no answer, the contact tracer will leave a message clearly identifying themselves and information for you to call them back. If you suspect the call is fraud, hang up. Contact tracers will NEVER ask for the following information:

- Your Social Security Number
- Your Immigration Status
- Your Credit Card Number, Bank Account or Billing Information

If you would like to learn more about the contact tracing program visit <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-Contact-Collaborative>.



Giving Back During COVID-19

Do you want to give back to your community, but don't know how? Here are some ideas of ways to help during the Coronavirus pandemic. You can donate personal protective equipment (PPE), volunteer at a food bank or meal delivery organization, shop for homebound and vulnerable people, or join a litter clean up. There are many organizations that are in need of volunteers, due to a drop in volunteer numbers because of COVID-19. Organizations are taking social distancing precautions to help their volunteers stay healthy during the pandemic.



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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.

Map Your Neighborhood Update

Data collected during the first round of MYN cluster meetings showed that only 52% of Durham households owned a functioning fire extinguisher. Therefore, a year ago the MYN Committee identified our first city-wide goal... to have every household own at least one FUNCTIONAL fire extinguisher. Have you done your part to help keep your home, family and community safer by making sure you have at least one? If not, better late than never! This year's goal is to have each household store enough water to last at least 2 weeks (a minimum of 1 gallon per person, per day, or 56 gallons for a family of 4). In the event of a major earthquake essential services in Washington County will likely be offline for extended times - water and sewer for 1-12 months, electricity for 1-3

months, police and fire stations for 2-4 months, top priority highways from 6-12 months, and healthcare facilities up to 18 months. Additionally, major disruptions to fuel are expected.

We encourage MYN clusters to get together on a regular basis (at least annually), to get reacquainted, update contact, supplies and skills information and to set an annual cluster goal. This can be done in creative, safe and socially distancing ways, especially during the summer. Yard, cul-de-sac and park gatherings are encouraged! Zoom meeting are also an option! August 4th is the date of this year's Nation Night Out program and several clusters have identified this night as their annual get together.



Taking Care of Our Parks

Per the Governor's orders, the playground and equipment in Durham City Park is still closed under Phase 1 of reopening, but the trails and grassy areas are open for people to enjoy while following social distancing guidelines.

Many residents of Durham and visitors from neighboring cities are enjoying our park. It is important to keep the park clean and free of litter. Please dispose of your dog waste bags in the provided receptacles at both entrances to the park. You can also encourage non-Durham visitors to dispose of their trash as well. The dumpster in the park's parking lot will remain open for people to throw the waste away without having to touch the lid, but please ensure all trash and waste end up in the dumpster and not on the ground outside or inside the enclosure.