



# DURHAM NEWS NOTES

Spring 2023



## FREE Bulky Waste Pickup Day - April 29th

**PRIDE** will pick up large items like:

Mattresses \* Appliances (including washers, dryers, stoves) \* Microwaves \* Dismantled Swing Sets \* Planting Pots \* Plastic Patio Furniture \* Small Amounts of Wood (less than 5' long)

**Prohibited items include:**

Freon Appliances (fridges, freezers, air conditioners) \* Hazardous Waste \* Tires \* Construction, Remodeling, Demolition Waste \* TVs, Personal Computers, Electronics \* Metal (larger than 3'x3') \* Propane Bottles \* Regular Garbage, Recycling, Yard Debris

If you are unable to get your items to the curb, drivers can help remove items for an additional fee. Call 503-625-6177 to schedule a reservation. **Please have items on the curb by 6:00 AM**

## Have a Sprinkler System? Annual Backflow test due June 1

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

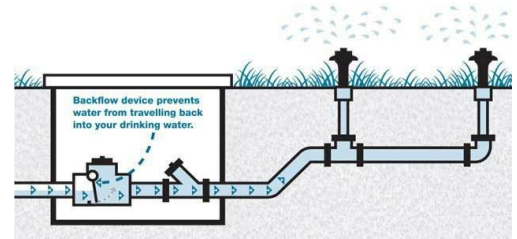
### Why should I bother getting my system tested?

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.

### Who do I call to schedule a test?

Backflow testing is done by certified, private companies who set their rates.

Test costs range from \$25 to \$50. A link to certified companies can be found on the Tigard Water website. <https://www.tigard-or.gov/your-government/departments/public-works/water/backflow-prevention>



### 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.

## What to do with Hazardous Waste?

Metro schedules free household hazardous waste collection events across the Portland area during spring and fall. If you have items to dispose of, such as gasoline, paint, pesticides, propane, sharps, pool and spa chemicals, etc., check out Metro's website for more info: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling/neighborhood-collection-events/2023-neighborhood-collection-event>.

Better yet, download Washington County's free Garbage and Recycling Day app! <https://webapps.washingtoncountyor.gov/garbage-and-recycling-day/>

### Inside this issue:

TVF&R Fire Camp	2
Tualatin SWCD/Juanita Pohl	2
City Council Public Comment	3
Budget Committee News	3
Community Op-Ed	3
Emergency Preparedness Fair	4

## Young Women Have Chance to Explore a Career as a Firefighter

Applications are being accepted for Portland Metro Fire Camp for young women ages 16 to 22. This camp is an all-encompassing introduction to a rewarding profession. The camp is designed to instill confidence while building leadership and team skills.

Participants will learn what it takes to be a firefighter while completing hands-on training in hose and ladder skills, vehicle extrication, search and rescue, ropes and knots, live-fire operations, aerial ladder climbs, forcible entry, emergency medical skills, and other firefighting tasks. They will also receive instruction from professional female firefighters from multiple agencies on how to prepare for interviews and gain insight on what it's like to have a career in the fire service as well as the importance of good nutrition and physical fitness.

This **free** fire camp will be offered twice this summer on two weekends.

The first camp will be held July 14, 15, and 16 at the Portland Fire & Rescue Training Center, 4800 NE 122nd Ave., in Portland.

The second camp will take place July 21, 22, and 23 at Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's Training Center, 12400 SW Tonquin Road, in Sherwood.

The deadline to apply for both camps is May 1 at midnight. Space is limited. Applications and more information are available online at

<https://www.portlandmetrofirecamp.com/about>



## Tualatin SWCD Spring Workshops

Tualatin SWCD is hosting an array of workshops, both virtual and in-person, this spring. Learn how to design a garden with native plants, learn about soil, manage common weeds, or how to report invasive species.

**All workshops are free!** Details and registration can be found on their website:

<https://tualatinswcd.org/get-involved/event-calendar/>



## Juanita Pohl Center Mental Wellness Fair

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! The Juanita Pohl Center invites you to help reduce stigma around mental health and raise awareness around loneliness, depression, and more at their 5th Annual Mental Wellness and Stress Management Fair! This year's fair will take place over three days, May 15-17, and will feature presentations on how attitudes around aging can affect your mental health, yoga for beginners, anxiety-reducing therapy animal visits, and a frank discussion about suicide and how to get help for yourself or others who may be struggling. Durham residents are able to participate in the fair for free, but some programs do require pre-registration on the Juanita Pohl website. Hope to see you there!

## Clear Your Fire Hydrant! Save Lives!

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue reports that obstructed fire hydrants have been on the rise. Hydrants obstructed by parked cars and/or overgrown vegetation can cost precious seconds and put lives at risk!

These obstacles are entirely preventable. The property owner is typically responsible for maintaining space around a fire hydrant.

Residents, homeowners, and business owners should evaluate their fire hydrants and remove debris and vegetation. If you don't have a fire hydrant on your property, but see one that needs attention, you may want to contact your HOA. You may also offer to help someone clear a hydrant on their property who may be unable to do so themselves.



## Invitation for Public Comment

At the Council Meeting scheduled for April 25th, 2023, the Council will consider the criteria to be used in the selection of a new City Administrator to replace Administrator Linda Tate, who will be retiring at the end of December. The public is invited to comment on the criteria used to develop a profile for the preferred candidate that the Council will use to evaluate candidates during the interview process.

## Two Join Durham Budget Committee

The City of Durham is pleased to welcome two new faces to the Budget Committee!

Martha Rainey grew up in Tigard, but has lived in Durham on Kingfisher Way since 1999. She and her husband raised their three (now adult) children here, and currently have a Bernese Mountain Dog named Bella. Martha has spent the last 16 years in the parks and recreation industry as a park and playground design consultant and a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. Having worked with the City of Durham on the playground at Durham park in 2019, Martha says it is an honor to serve on the Budget Committee this year.

David Streicher grew up in Portland and moved to Durham in 2006. Now retired, he worked at CPA firms for two years and then practiced law for over 30 years, specializing in tax planning, business, real estate and estate planning. Hobbies include pickleball, hiking, biking, kayaking and travel.

## Keep Durham Beautiful: Switch to Electric Leaf Blowers

Op-Ed by Durham Resident, Forrest Boleyn

With its awe-inspiring canopy of towering trees above and meticulously cared for homes below, our little sylvan community makes for a spectacular sight. It's too bad that sight is so often muddled by the wall-penetrating roar and toxic smell of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. If only there were a better way to keep our yards tidy...

Thanks to advances in clean energy, there is! The newest electric-powered leaf blowers keep our yards and roofs just as clean, without the assault to our other senses or the dangers to our health.

You see, not only are those gas-powered blowers extremely loud, they're extremely bad when it comes to releasing toxic fumes. According to a study by Edmunds.com, in just 30 minutes a 2-stroke gas-powered blower (the one you may be hearing now) spews out as many hydrocarbons as a Ford-150 Raptor pickup truck would over a 3,000-mile-drive. Chemicals known to lead to increased risk of asthma, heart and lung diseases—especially for the workers being asked to use them.

Conversely, electric leaf blowers don't spew out any toxic fumes, are multitudes quieter, and best of all—they pack all the power needed to get the job done.

Let's keep Durham beautiful to all the senses by proudly championing clean and safe electric power. In doing so, we can boast a community that respects its natural backdrop, its neighbors' and workers' health, and increases the value of living here.

**Note:** I just picked up an EGO Electric Leaf Blower which gives me up to 75 minutes of cordless power, and I do mean POWER. My neighbors and their respective lawn crews are welcome to it any time.

## Monthly Meetings:

### Planning Commission

**1st Tuesday of the Month**

### City Council

**4th Tuesday of the Month**

\* Please note that monthly meetings are available via Zoom. Links are provided upon request. Information as to whether the meetings will also take place in person is posted on the website.





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Find out more on our website:  
[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 (Jan, April, July, Oct). Deadline for inclusion is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Archived newsletters are available online or at City Hall.

# SAVE the DATE

**What:** Tualatin Emergency Preparedness Fair

**When:** August 5th, 2023

**Where:** Tualatin Community Park

### Durham is a No Backyard Burning Zone

A friendly reminder, since there are many new residents who may not know, that open burning of yard debris or household waste is prohibited in Durham per Oregon Department of Environmental Quality regulations.



Recreational burning in fire pits is allowed as long as there is not a specific burn ban. Please be considerate of your neighbors and don't share your smoke. Report illegal burning by calling your local DEQ office at 503-229-5263.

### Don't Forget the Leash!

Durham dogs are lucky to have a great off-leash area in Durham City Park!

However, while walking the trails or city streets, please make sure to have your dog properly leashed for the enjoyment and safety of all.

Washington County Animal Control can issue a ticket for up to \$500 for dogs not properly leashed in public spaces and on city streets.

