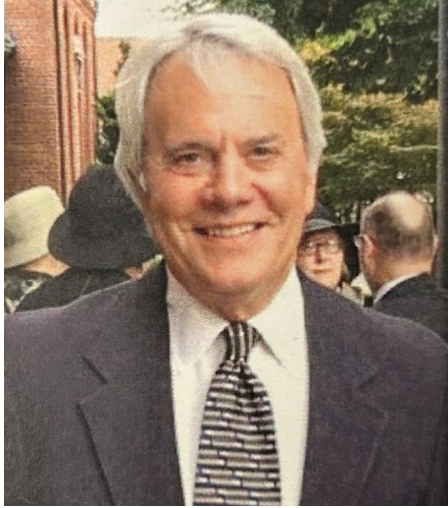




# DURHAM *NEWS NOTES*



## Honoring Mayor Gery Schirado

On January 8, 2024, the City of Durham's beloved mayor, Gery Schirado, passed away. Gery moved to Durham in 1975 and raised a family with his wife, Patti. He began his service to the Durham community as a member of the Planning Commission in 1977. He remained on the Commission until 1988 and served as Chair for many of those years. In 1993, Gery began his service on the City Council and was selected by members of the Council to serve as Mayor each year since 1997. At the time of his passing, Gery had the longest tenure of Oregon's serving mayors, with 27 consecutive years. Gery was known for bringing a sense of balance and fairness to meetings. He will be fondly remembered for his exceptional service to his country, our city, and for his impeccable sense of humor. A flagpole and plaque have been installed outside of City Hall in his honor.

## January's Severe Winter Storm

2024 began with freezing temperatures and record winds that caused chaos around the Metro area. In Durham, a number of tree failures were attributed to the storm, notably disrupting electrical service for up to four days to parts of the City. Five homes were also reported as suffering from moderate to severe damage due to tree failures. While this caused much anguish and anxiety, fortunately no Durham residents were seriously physically harmed. The repairs to homes due to storm damage and burst water pipes is a solemn reminder of the need for emergency preparedness against the brute force of mother nature. Please visit the newly launched [publicalerts.org](https://publicalerts.org) to receive advanced notification of extreme weather events and to learn more about how to prepare for a number of emergency situations we could face in the future. The key to surviving and thriving through emergency events begins with preparation and looking out for those around us who could use a helping hand.



## Ki-a-Kuts Bridge Work

This summer, the Ki-a-Kuts Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge, which crosses the Tualatin River along the Fanno Creek Greenway Trail, will undergo construction. Northbank Civil Marine, Inc. will be installing a galvanized jacket system to prevent premature corrosion of the bridge supports. This work is anticipated to start mid-July and is projected to take four weeks to complete. Trail users can expect short duration, temporary closures while work is being done, however, extended closures are not anticipated. The City of Durham has a 5% stake in the ownership of the structure and will contribute a proportional amount to the maintenance work, which is anticipated to total about \$500,000. The Bridge Partners are comprised of the Cities of Tualatin, Tigard, and Durham, as well as Clean Water Services. David Evans and Associates are advising the Bridge Partners on this project.



Ki-a-Kuts Bridge over the Tualatin River. Photo credit: Josh Kulla



## Juanita Pohl Center Mental Wellness Fair

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month!** Join the Juanita Pohl Center in reducing stigma around mental health and raising awareness around loneliness, depression, and more at the 6th Annual Mental Wellness and Stress Management Fair on May 21st! The Fair is free, but some programs require pre-registration on the Juanita Pohl website.

### Schedule of Programs for Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024:

- ♦ **Resources for Mental Health & Stress Management in Our Area:** Explore the various mental health and stress management resources in our area including caregiver support, veteran resources, and more. 10:30 am-12:15 pm, FREE
- ♦ **Whiskers & Tails Therapy Bunnies:** Hop in for some stress relief with a dozen adorable bunnies from Whiskers & Tails! Animal-assisted therapy has been shown to boost mood and reduce signs of pain, anxiety, depression, and more. 11am-12pm, FREE
- ♦ **Lunch & Learn:** Research tells us that our beliefs about aging impact how well and how long we live. In this program, start to uncover and reset your own internalized negative age beliefs by debunking negative age myths and get an easy-to-use tool to become a champion of aging. Pre-registration required. 12:15-1:15pm, FREE
- ♦ **Forest Bathing:** Conceived in Japan, Shinrin-yoku (Forest Bathing) provides a means for deepening the intrinsically therapeutic experience of engaging with the natural world. Join us for an immersive guided forest bathing experience in Tualatin Community Park. Pre-registration is required. 1:30-2:30pm, FREE

Call 503.691.3061 or visit [TualatinOregon.Gov/Recreation](https://TualatinOregon.Gov/Recreation) to register. Hope to see you there!

## Make Your Home Safe and Help Prevent Injuries, Especially in a Natural Disaster!

Take a room by room tour of your home to address these four things:

### 1. Identify Home Hazards

#### Preparing for an Earthquake:

- ♦ Fasten or relocate heavy pictures and mirrors over bed. Strap down heavy furniture and electrical components.
- ♦ Prevent rolling or tilting of refrigerators by applying appliance straps.
- ♦ Know how and where to shut off utilities. Ensure gas appliances have flexible connections.

#### Preparing for and Dealing with Fire:

- ♦ Make sure address is visible day and night—high contrast color to background, 6" high, unobstructed.
- ♦ Replace 10+ year-old smoke detectors (every bedroom), CO detectors (one per floor) and fire extinguishers (one per level of home). Have family members practice using an old extinguisher outside.
- ♦ Clean dryer lint traps and exhaust pipes.

- ♦ Check that extension cords and circuits are not overloaded.

- ♦ Store chemicals separately in plastic containers.
- ♦ If you live in a two story home, make sure you have an escape ladder (out of its box).

### 2. Identify in Each Room Where to Drop, Cover, and Hold.

### 3. Review Family Escape Plan from Each Room. Identify Two Ways Out if Possible.

- ♦ Review your outside meeting place.
- ♦ Review your escape plan with frequent guests (grandchildren, neighbors, friends).

### 4. Take Photos/Videos of Each Room, Inventory Items for Insurance Purposes. Store in the Cloud or Somewhere Safe.

**ACTION  
ALERT!**



## Join the Tree Committee!

The City of Durham is forming a committee made up of three Planning Commissioners and four members of the public to review and update the City's Tree Code and Tree Removal Application process. If you are interested in being considered to serve on this committee, please fill out a Citizen Interest Form and drop it off at City Hall or email it to [assistant.cityofdurham@comcast.net](mailto:assistant.cityofdurham@comcast.net). The Planning Commission and City Council will evaluate applications and make appointments at a future meeting.

You can access the Citizen Interest Form from the City's website at <https://tinyurl.com/DurhamOR> or by scanning the QR code.



## Monthly Meetings:

The City Council meets at 7:30 pm on the following dates:

April 30, 2024

May 28, 2024

June 25, 2024

The Planning Commission meets at 7:30 pm on the following dates:

May 7, 2024

June 4, 2024

July 2, 2024

All meetings are held at Durham City Hall, but can be accessed and attended remotely by requesting a link for the Zoom meeting. Please email [cityofdurham@comcast.net](mailto:cityofdurham@comcast.net) by the day before each meeting to request this link.

## Welcome Mayor Keith Jehnke!

At the January City Council meeting, Keith Jehnke was chosen by fellow Councilors to serve as the City's Mayor. Mayor Jehnke has served on the City Council since 2010 and has been Council President many of those years. He has been a resident of the City since 1996 and also spent three years on the City's Planning Commission. Thank you, Mayor Jehnke, for stepping up to serve Durham! Councilor Joshua Drake was appointed by Council to serve as Council President for 2024.

## Congratulations to Councilor Gary Paul and Commissioner David Streicher!

The City of Durham is pleased to welcome new faces to the City Council and Planning Commission!

Gary Paul was appointed by the City Council to fill the seat left vacant when we lost Mayor Gery Schirado in January. He has been a resident of Durham for more than twenty years and has served on the Planning Commission since 2018. He also served on the Durham Park Committee. Councilor Paul enjoys giving back to the community by volunteering with his church and as a youth soccer coach (when his kids were younger). Professionally, he is a licensed land surveyor with over thirty years of experience. He has worked on a Federal Highway Project on the east coast and works locally consulting with developers on condominium and subdivision developments.

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. His hobbies include pickleball, hiking, biking, kayaking and travel. Commissioner Streicher also serves on Durham's Budget Committee.

## Kingsgate Utility Work Complete!

Thank you for your patience as the repair to the underground electrical service for Kingsgate is now complete! The original underground electrical service was directly buried in the ground, causing numerous service interruptions as the wires' coating deteriorated. The PGE project area included part of Rivendell and Woody End St., as well as Brickhollow Ct., Brandyshire Ct., and Thistlebrook Ct. Contractors installed approximately 2,500 feet of conduit and 2,000 feet of both primary and secondary electrical service lines to limit electrical outages for Durham residents for years to come.





## City of Durham

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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.

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## COMMUNITY

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### Living with Wildlife in Neighborhoods

Here in Durham, we are lucky to be surrounded by nature while still having close access to bustling suburban centers. Every once in awhile, a daring coyote will make its way into the more residential areas of the City. Oregon Fish and Wildlife offers these suggestions for avoiding conflicts with coyotes:

- Do not leave small children unattended outdoors if coyotes have been frequenting the area
- Feed pets indoors and do not leave pet food or water bowls outside. Supervise pets when they are outside; if possible, keep them leashed. Do not leave pets outside after dark.
- Secure garbage and garbage cans in an area inaccessible to wild animals (use bleach as necessary to remove odors that could attract coyotes)
- Never leave food or water out for feral animals or wildlife
- Trim and clear vegetation that provides cover for coyotes or their prey
- Remove birdfeeders. Coyotes are attracted to them and the birds and rodents that use the feeder
- Secure compost piles
- Clean barbecues regularly



[https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living\\_with/coyotes.asp](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living_with/coyotes.asp)

### FREE Bulky Waste Pickup Day - April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### 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 Pride Disposal at 503-625-6177 to schedule a reservation.



**Please have items on  
the curb by 6:00 AM**