



DURHAM *NEWS NOTES*

Winter 2025



Hats Off to Chuck Van Meter and Keith Jehnke for Their Service and Dedication to Durham

As we move into a new chapter for the City of Durham, we want to take a moment to express our deep gratitude to two outstanding individuals who have given so much of their time, expertise, and passion to our community. Chuck Van Meter and Keith Jehnke have both made remarkable contributions to Durham, and we are thankful for their tireless service.

Chuck Van Meter's Legacy of Service

Chuck's journey with Durham began in 1999 when he first joined the Planning Commission. In 2007, Chuck was appointed to the City Council and was elected the following year. With his experience gained from his employment as President and CEO of Interactive Northwest, Inc., Chuck added a wealth of business administration knowledge to City Council.

Chuck also served as the city's representative to the Washington County Coordinating Committee for Transportation and Land Use, as well as the Washington County 911 Agency. His volunteer leadership extended beyond the Council chambers in the time he has given to local non-profit organizations. Chuck's vision and commitment to Durham have been invaluable, and we are grateful for his many years of service.

Keith Jehnke's Dedication to Durham's Growth

Keith Jehnke's dedication to Durham has been equally profound. Keith moved to Durham nearly 30 years ago and served three years on the Planning Commission before joining the City Council in 2010. In January 2024, Keith was elected Mayor by his fellow Councilors, taking the helm during a stormy time, following the passing of Mayor Schirado.

As the founder and former owner of AKS Engineering & Forestry, LLC, Keith brought his expertise in civil engineering, land surveying, forestry, and natural resources to his role in local governance. The future of Durham is bright, in no small part thanks to Keith's stoic leadership and fiscal conservative beliefs.

A Grateful Community

Both Chuck and Keith have played vital roles in shaping the future of Durham. Their leadership, dedication, and vision have helped make our city a better place to live, work, and grow. As Chuck and Keith move on from City Council, we are reminded of the incredible impact that thoughtful, dedicated public service can have on a community. On behalf of the entire City of Durham, we extend our heartfelt thanks to both Chuck and Keith for their years of unwavering service. Their contributions will continue to be felt for years to come, and we wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

Thank you, Chuck and Keith, for all you've done for Durham!

Welcome to Durham's Newly Elected City Council Members and Long-Serving Leaders



Durham City Council welcomes newly elected Councilors Sean Lee and David Streicher. Both bring unique skills, experience, and dedication to our community, and we look forward to their contributions in shaping Durham's future.

Sean Lee is honored to serve on Durham City Council, a community he's called home for the past four years. He is the CEO of OpenDrives, a technology company dedicated to solving complex data challenges for the media and entertainment industry. With a background in technology and leadership, Sean offers an innovative approach and valuable insights and that will be an asset as we work to enhance city services.

David Streicher was elected to the City Council in November 2024. A lifelong Oregonian, David has lived in Durham since 2006 and brings with him over 30 years of experience as a lawyer and CPA in Portland. As a volunteer at the Cat Adoption Team and with a history of serving on nonprofit boards, David is committed to modernizing communication between residents and City Hall, protecting Durham's parks and natural areas, and ensuring the continuity of essential services as our city evolves.

They will join Gary Paul, who was elected to the City Council after his appointment in March of this year. Gary's dedication to Durham and its residents has already made a significant impact, and we are excited to see him officially take his seat alongside the other Councilors.

We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to Leslie Gifford on her reelection to the City Council. First elected in 1997, Leslie is the city's longest-serving Councilor. Her wisdom, experience, and leadership continue to guide us with unwavering commitment.

Together, Sean, David, Gary, and Leslie will work alongside Councilor Josh Drake, who holds the fifth city council seat, to guide Durham into the future. Durham's elected officials bring a wide range of perspectives and expertise that will help ensure Durham remains the desirable community we all love and enjoy.

Please join us in congratulating our newly elected and reelected leaders. We look forward to the great work they will do for Durham in the years to come!

Thank You, Volunteers!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the incredible group of volunteers who came out on November 2nd to help beautify the City's treed lot as part of our collaborative event with SOLVE. In a few short hours, this hard-working crew made great strides in removing invasive plant species and helped to restore the natural beauty of the City's treed lot. The path is now wider and brighter with the removal of a drop box worth of ivy and laurel. It's inspiring to see so many residents come together to protect and enhance the beauty of our local environment.

Special thanks to Mallory Fuller for arranging the event, to Pride Disposal, who generously provided drop boxes for disposing of the invasive plant material, and to SOLVE for helping organize tools and volunteers.

Events like these are a reminder of the strength of our Durham community. Your commitment to preserving the natural beauty of our city is truly appreciated. Thank you once again for giving your time and energy to make Durham a better place to live. We look forward to future opportunities to work together and continue making a positive impact.

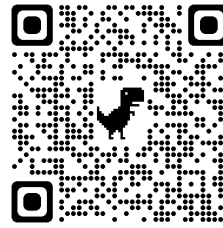
2025 Planning Commission and Budget Committee News



Congratulations to Durham resident Pat Saab, who has been re-appointed for an additional 4-year term on Durham’s Planning Commission. Thank you, also, to Kelly Garlick who stepped up for a 3-year re-appointment on the Budget Committee! The City appreciates the time you volunteer to make our community a better place!

If you are a resident of Durham and are interested in serving your community by volunteering on a board or commission, please fill out a Citizen Interest Form and mail, email, or drop it off to City Hall.

<https://durham-oregon.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Citizen-Interest-Application.pdf>, or scan the QR code.



Monthly Meetings:

Planning Commission
1st Tuesday of the Month

City Council
4th Tuesday of the Month

Both meetings start at 7:00 PM at Durham City Hall.

* Zoom links available upon request.



New Meeting Time for City Meetings
Please note the City has a new meeting time start time for 2025. Meetings will now begin at 7:00 PM.



City of Durham Delays Adoption of Comprehensive Plan Update

The City of Durham has decided to delay the adoption of its updated Comprehensive Plan. Originally anticipated as an administrative update, the city has chosen to pause the process to allow for more public input and visioning. This decision reflects the City's commitment to ensuring that the plan aligns with the community's needs and aspirations.

While the Planning Commission had planned to consider the final draft at the December 3rd, 2024, meeting, the City is now taking additional time to engage residents and stakeholders more fully. This will provide an opportunity for further discussions, feedback, and a deeper exploration of the city's future direction.

Durham remains dedicated to crafting a comprehensive plan that reflects the vision and priorities of the community and will continue to work toward a collaborative and thoughtful process. More updates will follow as the city moves forward with this next phase of planning.

Heron Grove Has a New Sign!

A giant thank you to Stuart Skaug of Heron Grove, for organizing the replacement of the Heron Grove monument sign. It looks beautiful and we appreciate all he did to make this refresh happen!





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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 (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.

Put a Lid on Cooking Fires

Last year, more than one-third of the residential fires that Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue responded to, began in a kitchen. TVF&R crews encourage you to minimize your risk of a fire by organizing a safe kitchen and practicing these safe cooking tips:

- Keep a watchful eye on what you are cooking — never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep your cooking area clean, including the stovetop, oven, and exhaust fan.
- Keep dish towels and pot holders away from the burners on your stove.
- Watch your sleeves to prevent them from catching fire or getting caught on pan handles.
- Cooking oil can ignite quickly. Heat oil slowly and watch it closely.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen. Store it in an easy-to-reach location and know how to use it. The discharge of a portable fire extinguisher only lasts between eight and 10 seconds.



Put a lid on it.

The easiest way to extinguish a small pan fire is with a pan lid. Turn off the burner and carefully slide a pan lid over the pan from the side. The lid will “smother” the fire, while turning off the burner removes the heat. If you do not have a pan lid, you may also use a baking sheet or pizza pan. Never transfer a burning pan from the stovetop to the sink or out an exterior door. The fire may grow in size and burn you or spread to a countertop, cabinets, or curtains.

Grease and water do not mix.

Never pour water on a grease fire. Water causes these fires to explode as the burning material stays on top of the water, causing it to spread and putting you at severe risk of getting burned. If the fire is large and/or continues to grow, do not attempt to extinguish it. Quickly get everyone outside and immediately call 911 from a cellphone or neighbor’s house.