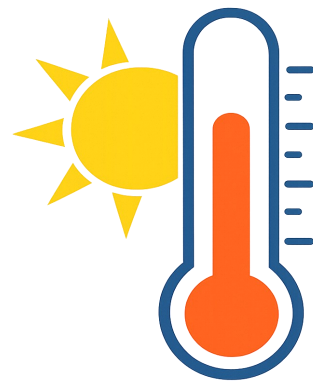




DURHAM NEWS NOTES *Summer 2026*



Tree Code Update

On March 24, 2026, the Durham City Council adopted Ordinance 273-26, updating the Municipal Tree Code for tree removals on private property not associated with land development. The revised code aims to improve public safety, simplify procedures, and protect Durham's tree canopy. A regulated tree is now defined as a woody plant with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of six inches or more, or any City-required mitigation tree. The ordinance also establishes clear permit categories for hazard trees, dead or declining trees, property damage, emergency removals, removals related to issued building permits, and one tree per year between 6- and 10-inches DBH.



The new code replaces the previous process with more objective standards and requires City Arborist review of tree removal permits. Hazard trees must meet established risk criteria, and property damage requests must consider reasonable alternatives before removal is approved.

The ordinance also sets review timelines: emergency applications are to be reviewed within two business days, hazard tree applications within ten business days, and the others within fifteen business days. Mitigation is required for permitted or unauthorized removals through replacement planting or, when planting is not feasible, payment of an in-lieu fee.

Residents may now submit tree removal permit applications digitally through the link on our website, although payments will still be made by cash or check. Anyone considering tree removal should review the updated Municipal Tree Code and application materials. Please don't hesitate to reach out to City Hall with any questions!

Get Durham News Notes by Email!

Receive Durham News Notes by email by visiting <https://durham-oregon.us/> and clicking "Subscribe to Receive Durham News and Digital Newsletter" in the green banner on the homepage (See image to the right →).

Enter your email and you will receive future newsletters, and any important information the City may need to communicate.

The City does not intend to eliminate printing the newsletter, and so your printed copy of Durham News Notes will still arrive by post.

City Hall is located at 17160 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd., Durham, Oregon 97224

Office Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Phone: (503) 639-6851

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Radon Awareness

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that forms from the breakdown of uranium in soil and rock. Because it is colorless, odorless, and tasteless, radon can enter homes without being detected. Long-term exposure to elevated radon levels is the leading cause of lung cancer in the United States among non-smokers. Radon can be found in homes of any age, size, or construction type, including those with and without basements.



The only way to know if your home has elevated radon levels is to test for it. Radon test kits are widely available through home improvement stores, online retailers, and some local health agencies. If high levels are detected, proven mitigation systems can significantly reduce radon concentrations and improve indoor air quality. Residents are encouraged to learn more about radon and testing options by visiting the Oregon Health Authority's Radon Program website or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's radon resources.

Beat The Heat This Summer

Hot summer temperatures can pose serious health risks, especially for older adults, young children, and people with certain medical conditions. During periods of extreme heat, stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, limit strenuous outdoor activities during the hottest parts of the day, and seek air-conditioned spaces whenever possible.



Never leave children or pets unattended in a parked vehicle, even for a few minutes. Watch for signs of heat exhaustion, including dizziness, headache, nausea, and excessive sweating, and seek medical attention right away if symptoms worsen, do not improve after cooling down and drinking water, or if signs of heat stroke appear, such as altered mental state or very high body temperature. Remember to check on neighbors, family members, and friends who may be vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. Taking simple precautions can help everyone stay safe and comfortable throughout the summer months.

Celebrate the Fourth of July Safely

As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue reminds everyone to be safe and obey the law.

Oregon law bans fireworks that fly, explode, or travel more than six feet on the ground, including bottle rockets, roman candles, firecrackers, and M80s. Only buy fireworks from licensed Oregon stands; items purchased online, in Washington, or on reservations may be illegal here. Even legal fireworks like sparklers, which can reach 1,200 degrees, can cause severe burns.



Key safety tips:

- Only adults should light or handle fireworks and supervise children closely.
- Use fireworks outdoors on a paved area away from buildings, cars, and vegetation.
- Never re-light a dud or aim fireworks at people, pets, or structures.
- Don't alter fireworks or make your own.
- Don't mix fireworks with drugs and/or alcohol.
- Keep a hose nearby and soak used fireworks in a metal bucket.
- Store fireworks, matches, and lighters out of children's reach.

To report emergencies, call 911. For non-emergency concerns about illegal fireworks in TVF&R's area, call 503-629-0111. Law enforcement may seize illegal fireworks, issue citations with fines of up to \$500 per violation, and individuals may be held financially responsible for any resulting damages.

Find more safety information at www.tvfr.com.



2026 City Council Election Deadline

Are you interested in serving your community as a City Councilor? Durham City Council consists of five councilors and meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at Durham City Hall. Positions are nonpartisan. Councilors also serve on the City Budget Committee along with citizen appointees.



Tuesday, August 25th, 2026, is the deadline to file a petition to be placed on the November ballot. There are two Council positions up for election this Fall. These seats are for four-year terms, beginning January 2027, and expiring January 2031. Qualified candidates must be registered Oregon voters and have been a continuous resident of Durham for at least one year prior to election day. Councilors must continue to live in Durham while in office. More information will be available on the City's website under "News Updates."

How to File:

- ⇒ Pick up an Elections Packet at Durham City Hall. To be placed on the ballot, potential candidates need to collect the signatures of at least 10 Durham registered voters.
- ⇒ Completed forms must be filed at City Hall by 10am on August 25, 2026. There is no filing fee for City Council offices.

Monthly Meetings:

Planning Commission
2nd Tuesday of the Month
at 7:00 PM

City Council
4th Tuesday of the Month
at 7:30 PM

Unless noticed otherwise, meetings are held at Durham City Hall

* Visit durham-oregon.us to verify dates

* Teams links are available upon request

Summer 2026 City Hall Holiday Closures

Durham City Hall will be closed on the following days:

Juneteenth
Friday, June 19, 2026

Independence Day (Observed)
Friday, July 03, 2026

Labor Day
Monday, September 07, 2026

Durham Turns 60!

The City of Durham is proud to celebrate 60 years since its incorporation on February 25, 1966. Named after the Durham family, who settled in the area in the 1850s, the city grew from a rural farming community into one of Oregon's smallest incorporated cities, covering just 0.4 square miles and home to nearly 2,000 residents. Located at the confluence of Fanno Creek and the Tualatin River, Durham is known for its strong sense of community, natural beauty, and active civic involvement. Over the past six decades, residents and community partners have worked together to preserve the city's unique character while creating a welcoming place to live.

To commemorate this milestone, the City will host a 60th Birthday Celebration at Durham Park on Saturday, July 4, 2026, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The community is invited to join in the festivities, connect with their fellow residents, and help celebrate six decades of the City of Durham!

Keep an eye on www.durham-oregon.us for additional details about the celebration in the coming weeks. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date!





City of Durham

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Find out more on our website:
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 typically published by the 15th day of the first month of each quarter (Jan, April, July, Oct). Deadline for inclusion is the 1st of the month prior to publication (Dec, Mar, Jun, Sept). Archived newsletters are available online or at City Hall.

NEWS NOTES

Emergency Preparedness

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Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

During emergencies such as severe weather, flooding, hazardous material incidents, missing persons cases, public safety threats, or other urgent situations, local agencies use several methods to provide timely information to residents.



Stay Informed During Emergencies

One of the best ways to stay informed is to register for Washington County's emergency notification system. By signing up, you can receive emergency messages by phone call, text message, and/or email based on your preferences. To enroll, visit the Emergency Management page on the Washington County website and click on the “Public Alerts – Sign Up” link, or scan the QR code to the right. Registration is free and only takes a few minutes.



Where to Get Information During an Emergency

For emergency updates, rely on official sources such as Washington County websites and social media, local emergency agencies, TV and radio stations, Wireless Emergency Alerts, Emergency Alert System broadcasts, and National Weather Service alerts. Residents should monitor these sources regularly during an incident and follow any instructions provided by emergency officials, including evacuation orders, shelter-in-place directives, road closures, or safety recommendations. Response from emergency services and other resources may be delayed depending on the severity and extent of the emergency.

Taking time now to sign up for alerts and knowing where to find reliable information can help you and your family stay informed, prepared, and safe when emergencies occur.