It takes a village in times like these

by Mayor Casey Ryan

The last several months have been a challenging time for the citizens of Troutdale, and peoples across the globe. This is truly a shared experience by everyone, everywhere. Many of us, and our friends and families, have experienced serious illness from the Coronavirus, and possibly death. Many more have experienced the loss of jobs and income. No one person has escaped the impact of this virus. But this is not the first time Americans have been challenged by difficult times. Whether it was the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918, or the Second World War, Americans make it a habit of pulling together and recovering from strife and disease. This Pandemic will be no different. Over the last several months there have been amazing acts of selflessness and service. I thank the many people who go to their “essential” jobs every day to help and serve our communities. Especially the first responders, healthcare workers, delivery service employees, grocery store employees, city employees and financial services employees. Of course there are many more! Many people have come together to serve food to the many who have lost their jobs. I am thankful to the Reynolds School District for continuing to serve food, to SnowCap Community Charities for all their great work, and our faith-based communities who are always there to step up and serve in any way they can.

Things will be different this summer. The Gorge is still beautiful and the Oregon summers are a great time to get out. However, we will continue to live with a new reality. Hand washing, face masks and social distancing will still be part of our daily lives for awhile.

DO I QUALIFY? If you are interested in running for Troutdale City Council, you must be a registered voter who has resided in the City of Troutdale during the six months immediately preceding the election. That would mean that you would have to be both a resident and registered voter on or before May 3, 2020.

How long is the term of office? All positions are a 4-year term beginning January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2024.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR CITY COUNCIL? Do I qualify?

A person may be a candidate for only one office to be filled during a single election. All successful candidates are required to file an Annual Verified Statement of Economic Interest form as required by ORS 244.050.

Other important information to know

A summary of the process is available by visiting the City’s website at www.troutdaleoregon.gov. Filing packets with all the filing forms and reference materials will be available for pick up in May. If you would like to schedule an appointment to pick up a packet or to ask questions about the filing process, please contact Sarah Skroch, City Recorder, by email at sarah.skroch@troutdaleoregon.gov, or by phone at 503-674-7258.

The City of Troutdale Community Enhancement Program (CEP) has an exciting opportunity for qualified groups to apply to receive grant funds for qualifying projects that rehabilitate or enhance the City of Troutdale. These grants are funded by a Metro imposed per-ton fee that is collected from solid-waste transfer stations and given back to communities with transfer stations within their city limits to help mitigate their impacts. To learn more about the CEP grant program including eligibility requirements, examples of projects that could qualify, and to download an application packet, visit www.troutdaleoregon.gov/bc-cepc.

While stores, restaurants, theaters and playgrounds will be opening soon, we will still be slow to return to normal, if ever. SummerFest, a fixture for decades in Troutdale, is canceled. Summer Recreation Programs will be delayed and modified to protect our health. In general, the “reopening” of our lives and economy will occur in fits and starts, and it will be months before anything feels “normal”.

My prayers go out to all of you who are suffering. This will all be over soon but the effects of lost lives, jobs and businesses will stay with us all forever. It breaks my heart when I visit with people and see first-hand the effects of the stay at home orders on the economics of a family.

Thank you, citizens of Troutdale, for doing your part to follow the stay at home orders. By staying home, it has helped stop the spread of COVID-19.

With gratitude,
Casey
It’s been a rather interesting couple of months in the world of code compliance. Here are a few topics of interest that we’ve been working on this winter and into spring.

**Report Code Issues Online!**

We’ve been working to make improvements to our website, that we can better share information with the public. One of the new features we offer is the ability for citizens to report a code issue online! Here is the link to do so: [https://tinyurl.com/TroutdaleCodeIssue](https://tinyurl.com/TroutdaleCodeIssue)

**Street Trees**

With all the COVID-19 quarantine restrictions, everyone has cabin fever and is getting restless! It is a great time for some spring cleaning in the front yard. Maybe some tree pruning is in order! Here’s the code language for your reference:

*TMC 13.10.140 - Height and projection guidelines.*

Limbs of trees may project over the sidewalk area at an elevation of not less than 7.5 feet above the sidewalk, and where parking has been prohibited, limbs of trees shall be trimmed to a height of not less than 14 feet above the street level.

**Waste Drop-Off event WILL NOT be honored**

Waste Management, Inc. This is the only event scheduled to occur that is a part of the Spring Cleanup. The schedule may change due to unforeseen events but is up to date. Call 503-674-3300 for information.

A British gentleman by the name of Joseph Whitworth took street cleanliness seriously and in 1843, invented the horse-pulled street cleaning machine. The United States followed with their own version in 1894.

**Household Garbage in Parks Receptacles**

It has been brought to my attention that people are placing their household garbage in various Park garbage receptacles. It has occurred more since people have stayed home to combat the COVID-19 virus.

Troutdale has a City Ordinance against taking your house- hold garbage and putting it in City park trash receptacles. Please respect our City parks and use them as intended.

**May 6th, at your curb**

**What:** Additional Garbage Curbside Collection

**Who:** Waste Management

**When:** Wednesday, May 6, by 6 a.m.

**Where:** At your curb

Waste Management will collect, at no additional cost to Troutdale community members, up to five (5) bags (total weight not to exceed 45 pounds per bag) of non-hazardous household and non-yard debris household garbage on the regularly scheduled Wednesday curbside pick-up. Garbage must be bagged and loose garbage will not be collected.

**Spring Cleanup Update**

**Extra Bag Pickup still on for May 6th**

Please be aware all of the Spring Cleanup events have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic with the exception of the May 6th Extra Bag Pickup conducted by Waste Management, Inc. This is the only event scheduled to occur that is a part of the Spring Cleanup. This means coupons for the Yard Waste Drop-Off event WILL NOT be honored by Allwood Recyclers, Inc., at this time.

For up to date information, please continue to check the city’s social media accounts and the city’s Spring Cleanup webpage. The city hopes to reschedule the remaining Spring Cleanup events at a later date when it is safe to do so according to public health guidelines.
Troutdale Residents are Our Priority

Commander Travis Gulberg
Chief of Police – City of Troutdale
Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

This time last year I wrote an article to help promote distracted driving awareness month. Every year thousands lose their lives to motor vehicle accidents as a result of distracted driving, and even though the distracted driving campaign was postponed due to the unprecedented health crisis, it is important for the Sheriff’s Office to keep public safety a top priority. So please drive safely!

In this time of uncertainty, the Sheriff’s Office wants the community to know that we remain steadfast in our commitment to public safety. While many things have changed for all of us, and police agencies across America are seeing a reduction in overall calls for service because of the shutdown to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, many things remain the same for public safety. What has not changed are our concerns for crimes such as child abuse and domestic violence and the importance of efforts we take to address community livability issues such as vandalism, speeding and trespassing. What also has not changed is the fact that we continue to respond to 911 emergencies and actively patrol our community streets in order to keep the peace, and we still need the public’s help in fighting crime. The plain truth is that very little has changed about our approach to public safety except to mitigate exposure risks for our staff and the people we serve. We continue to see people speeding, and maybe even more so with fewer cars on the road. However, our deputies are still out on the streets and highways everyday enforcing traffic laws. We continue to address crime complaints and take reports of thefts, frauds and shopliftings.

We are still encouraging our citizens to be our eyes and ears and report crimes and suspicious activities. Make no mistake; little has changed, and while operationally we have had to adjust to ensure the safety and health of our staff, the same number of committed deputies remain on the front line every shift to respond to emergencies and enforce the law.

As always, we will continue to work with city officials, the community and our many system partners to ensure we fully investigate crime complaints, respond effectively and efficiently to emergencies, and address safety concerns such as speeding and texting while driving, which we know are leading causes for traffic accident-related deaths. We also want Troutdale citizens to know our deputies are completing extra patrols, business checks, premise checks and performing community-policing activities like checking the welfare of our most vulnerable populations...we care deeply about the City of Troutdale.”

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We provide police services, and we care deeply about the City of Troutdale. Whether through changes in technologies or operational procedures, know that the Sheriff’s Office is resolute in its commitment to public safety and building the public’s trust, and we very much appreciate the support from our community.

To do your part, we remind Troutdale citizens to, “do the right thing and stay home.” Please practice good physical distancing, and find ways to enjoy the outdoors around your home, including using your own backyard as a place to practice your outdoor skills. Finally, please know that the public’s safety and trust are still our number one priority, and together, we will overcome this crisis.

Is it ok to have a garage sale?

We know the spring and summer months are popular times to hold your garage sale, but these should be postponed until the “Stay Home, Save Lives” order, issued by Governor Kate Brown, has been lifted. It’s rather you be safe, and put those sales off until later in the fall season would be a great time to plan for one!

Have you responded to the 2020 Census yet?

While field operations for the 2020 Census have been suspended since March due to the coronavirus pandemic, you can still complete your questionnaire either online, by phone, or by mail. Please note that if your mailing address is a P.O. Box, you would not have received any Census mailings and should have received an email. If you have not yet completed your survey, please check your inbox first, then go to: https://2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020 for more information.

Why complete the Census? Census results can have a big impact in your community, and the results, collected once a decade, help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year.

Reporting abandoned grocery carts in your neighborhood

First, please remove the cart from any area where it might create a safety hazard. Then call Northwest Grocery Association Cart Retrieval Service at 1-888-552-2787. You’ll speak with a live operator who guarantees pickup of the reported cart within 72 hours. Please be very specific in describing the location of the cart (ex. on Buxton Avenue at the NE corner of 6th & Buxton).

Our City parks remain open, but please note that all play structures are off-limits, and no tennis, basketball or other team sports are allowed until further notice. Remember to practice physical distancing between you and other parkgoers. Enjoy!

BRIEFS

Update on Pickleball Courts

We know that times are tough for everyone due to the coronavirus pandemic and the disruptions that have come along with it. As it stretches on, everyone is longing for life to return to normal - school, work, social activities and more.

Though we haven’t been able to offer onsite programs, please know that the Troutdale Recreation Department is alive and well and we look forward to offering new programs again as soon as it’s safe to do so. The next Recreation Guide has been delayed, but we plan to issue a Summer Guide by mid-June. Wondering about Movies in the Park? As of now we hope to offer them, but programs are subject to change based off safety guidelines due to COVID-19. The best place to stay up to date on the latest information is the City’s website at www.troutdaleoregon.gov.

One quick note is that the Stoller Strides® program continues to run, albeit virtually, and new participants can sign up now. The 60-minute strength, cardio and core workout is designed for moms (and dads too!) with kids in tow. Single drop-in classes are $10, but you can try your first one for free! Please visit www.troutdaleoregon.gov/rec for more information.

Given our current situation dealing with the Coronavirus, it has given me a moment to write about a topic I have been wanting to tell you about. Every year the City of Troutdale provides our residents with a new and fun exercise option. If you are familiar with the game, Pickleball is a game played with two to four players on a court similar to a tennis court but slightly smaller. Players use a paddle slightly larger than a ping pong paddle and a perforated polymer ball. Currently, at Llewellyn Park, we have one-half of an tennis courts taped off for a pickleball court—so if you have a portable net and paddle, you can play.

Because of the growing popularity of this sport, City staff is proposing to permanently re-mark one of the tennis courts at Llewellyn Park into two pickleball courts. This will provide our residents with a new and fun exercise option. Another possibility is to convert both tennis courts into four Pickleball courts. We are asking for your input so that we can make a decision that reflects the desires of our residents. If you have any comments on this proposal, please e-mail me at tim.seery@troutdaleoregon.gov.

Other wait for the formal public outreach and feedback system on this subject within the next month.

Spring is a great time to get outside and enjoy your City parks. Please remember to practice the recommended six feet of physical distancing. And don’t forget that all playgrounds are still closed, so imagine Station, are off-limits until further notice. I’m looking forward to hearing from you.

Ready to Play Pickleball?

Out in the Parks with Tim Seery
Trenton History: Setting the Record Straight

In this new series, we explore the stories of our local history, correcting misinformation and highlighting the contributions of all. This month, we focus on the Black History Month celebration in Trenton.

It's Black History Month, and we are joined by Trenton's historian, Dr. John Johnson, to discuss the history of Trenton's celebration.

Dr. Johnson: "The first Black History Month celebration in Trenton was in 1981. It was organized by the Trenton Historical Society, and it marked the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Since then, Trenton has continued to celebrate Black History Month with a variety of events, including a parade, community meals, and a ceremony honoring local black history.

But the story of Trenton's Black History Month celebration is not just about the events. It's also about the people who have contributed to making Trenton a better place. From activists to educators, from artists to politicians, these individuals have left their mark on our community.

So as we celebrate Black History Month in Trenton, let's remember the contributions of our black community, and let's continue to work towards a more inclusive future.

Host: Thank you, Dr. Johnson. That was a great insight into the history of Trenton's Black History Month celebration. If you're interested in learning more about local history, be sure to check out our website for the full story.

Next week, we will be featuring a special segment on the history of Trenton's architecture. Stay tuned!