Transitions | New Police Chief Takes the Reins

Thanks Chief Gullberg. Welcome Chief Bevens.

It is with heartfelt thanks that I write my last Chief’s Corner. I am being reasigned within the Sheriff’s Office, and it is my pleasure to introduce you to your new Chief of Police, Captain Steve Bevens. He has assumed operational command of the Sheriff’s Office Patrol Division and has been named Chief of Police for the City of Troutdale. Steve began his law enforcement career in 1996 as a Reserve Deputy for the Washington County Sheriff’s Office. He was then hired in 1998 as a Police Officer with the City of Fairview, and was there until he transferred to the City of Troutdale in 2000. Steve was promoted to Sergeant in 2002, and has worked in Patrol Services, Detectives, Training and Administration. Following the 2016 merger of the Troutdale Police Department and Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office, Steve was assigned to lead the Homeless Outreach Programs and Engagement (H.O.P.E.) Team and the Sheriff’s Office School Resource Officers, and he managed all special events for the Sheriff's Office.

Steve was then promoted to Lieutenant in 2017 and Captain in 2020. As a Lieutenant, Steve managed Patrol operations, the River Patrol Unit and the Training Division. Steve enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf and baseball, coaching softball and restoring vintage arcade games.

Chief Bevens is committed to the highest principles of public safety, and he strongly supports holding police officers accountable while being fully transparent. Steve will strive to always be responsive to the City’s needs, and he is dedicated to the Sheriff’s Office vision to provide exemplary service to all communities that the Sheriff’s Office serves.

As I say goodbye to my Chief’s role, I am filled with great pride as I reflect back on the past year and a half. I hope you feel that I represented you well, and know that I pursued all the best that public safety has to offer a community.”

More Changes under Consideration at Buxton and Historic Columbia River Highway

In an effort to improve traffic flow and reduce traffic queues at the intersection of South Buxton Road and Historic Columbia River Hwy (HCHR), Multnomah County collaborated with the City to evaluate potential short-term traffic control improvements at that intersection, ultimately installing improved striping and a new right turn lane last fall. While not a silver bullet for the chronic lengthy queues and delays on Buxton, these improvements did seem to reduce their severity. However, other potential safety concerns have been observed with this configuration, so the City and County are revisiting the issue.

To improve safety at the intersection, the City and County are considering the institution of an all-way stop control, with the exception of the eastbound right-turn lane that would remain a free right turn. The County staff plans to present this concept and discuss with the Troutdale City Council at a regular Council meeting in September. If you’d like to follow this more closely or offer testimony to the Council, please keep an eye on the Council meeting agendas at https://www.troutdaleoregon.gov/meetings.

YOUR TROUTDALE ELECTION GUIDE

November 3, 2020 General Election

TROUTDALE ITEMS ON THE BALLOT

• Mayor
• City Councilor Positions 2, 4 and 6
• Ballot Measure 26-212 - Amends charter: city councilor candidates run against all councilor candidates.

For more information visit www.troutdaleoregon.gov/executive/page/elections

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR BALLOT

• Mail no later than Thursday, October 29 - NO STAMP NEEDED!
• Multnomah County Libraries - Please use the 24-hour book drop slots to deposit your ballot. Troutdale Library – 2451 SW Cherry Park Road
• Official 24-hour Ballot Drop Box at Gresham Library, 355 NW Miller Ave.
• Visit www.multco.us/dropboxes for additional locations

VISIT WWW.OREGONVOTES.ORG FOR VOTER REGISTRATION SERVICES

• Register to vote
• Update your voter registration
• Check the status of your ballot

UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The City is working with other local cities to create a utility assistance program to help residents impacted by COVID 19. It would be funded with federal CARES monies. Please check our website, www.troutdaleoregon.gov, after September 15* for status of the possible program.

CORRECTION: “Make A Difference Volunteer” article from July/August 2020 Champion (Pg. 2)

Our City Committee recruitment process has been postponed. The City Council will be discussing possible changes to the overall process this fall. Updates to the process and a new recruitment period will be published in The Champion in early 2021.
In June of 2019, a localized landslides occurred along Robins Way Trail on City-owned greenway property south of the Harlow House museum. The “debris fan” engulfs a segment of the trail but thankfully did not progress much further. The City of Troutdale’s primary concerns in its initial response were the safety of the structure downslope, the safety of the roadway above the slope (SE Sandy Avenue), and the safety of trail users. Immediately after the slide occurred, the trail was closed and the City engaged the services of a Geotechnical Engineering specialist to conduct initial assessment and stabilization measures. The nearby structures and the road above were not found to be in danger and the initial stabilization measures appear to have been successful as the slide has not significantly progressed. Following the initial stabilization measures, the City began undertaking efforts to restore the trail. Over the course of last winter and the first part of this summer, engineering plans have been prepared by AKS Engineering and Forestry, and permits acquired, to clean up the slide, restore the trail to a usable condition, and install a trench to capture intermittent rock fall from the slope above as well as improve drainage. Bids for this construction work were opened on July 30th to favorable results, with Elk Mountain Incorporated of Sandy winning the award of the contract. Construction work is expected to be underway in September and is expected to complete in October, after which the trail will be re-opened to the public.

Robins Way Trail Restoration is Commencing

Out in the Parks with Tim Seery

Looks like Pickleball’s a GO!

On August 22nd the Parks Advisory Committee held an outdoor open house to obtain citizen input on bringing Pickleball to Lewellyn Park. We had 69 citizens attend and the community seems very supportive of converting one of the tennis courts. Making this happen sooner rather than later was also a consistent suggestion from attendees. The adding of more recreational opportunities for the community has always been our goal. The popularity of the sport is huge nationally and is growing rapidly in the East County area. This appears to be an excellent and inexpensive opportunity for Troutdale to bring Pickleball to our community. Other options are currently being explored following the same concept of converting old and mostly unused tennis courts into Pickleball facilities. We’ll keep you posted. Until next time, keep your social distance, wear your mask, and get out there and enjoy your City parks.

Recollecting and Solid Waste Rate Schedule Review

Waste Management (WM) has requested a solid waste rate review and analysis to determine if any adjustments to solid waste and recycling collection fees are warranted. This analysis is currently in progress. The Troutdale City Council will review proposed rate adjustments (if any) at a regular City Council meeting in September or October.

Watch for that on upcoming council agendas at https://www.troutdaleoregon.gov/meetings if you’d like to monitor this issue or provide testimony during the Council process.

Build a home inventory – Take video or photos of each room in your home, paying close attention to walls, drawers, closets, and storage areas. Recalling your personal property is a daunting task following a disaster. A home inventory eases the process. It’s a good idea to begin preparing your ‘Home Inventory’. What’s that? September is National Preparedness Month, and it begins with Home Inventory Week. To recognize this often overlooked part of disaster preparation, the Oregon Division of Financial Regulation encourages all Oregonians to do two simple tasks that will save time, money, and stress when disaster strikes:

- Take video or photos of each room in your home, paying close attention to walls, drawers, closets, and storage areas. Recalling your personal property is a daunting task following a disaster. A home inventory eases the process. It’s a good idea to begin preparing your ‘Home Inventory’. What’s that? September is National Preparedness Month, and it begins with Home Inventory Week. To recognize this often overlooked part of disaster preparation, the Oregon Division of Financial Regulation encourages all Oregonians to do two simple tasks that will save time, money, and stress when disaster strikes:

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- Take time to discuss your insurance coverage – Take time to discuss your insurance policies or replacement. In severe situations, immediate replacement may be required.

Sanitary Sewer Pretreatment Ordinance Update

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has advised the City of updates that are needed to the City’s sanitary sewer pretreatment ordinances. Organic waste pretreatment requirements apply primarily to commercial and industrial sewer discharges. The City of Troutdale City Council will review proposed updates to Troutdale’s Municipal Code, Chapter 12.07, on September 8, 2020.

If that topic interests you, look for the September 8th council agenda at https://www.troutdaleoregon.gov/meetings.

We’ve all heard about ‘The Big One’, the giant earthquake that we’re told will swallow up, whole, the Pacific Northwest. And now, it seems we might get up close and personal with an asteroid sometime between now and election day. Sheesh!

While both these natural disasters would cause catastrophic damage, it’s more likely we won’t face either calamity in our lifetimes. While both these natural disasters would cause catastrophic damage, it’s more likely we won’t face either calamity in our lifetimes. Such an event, if it ever happens, will cause catastrophic damage.

But this might be a good time to begin preparing your ‘Home Inventory’. What’s that? September is National Preparedness Month, and it begins with Home Inventory Week. To recognize this often overlooked part of disaster preparation, the Oregon Division of Financial Regulation encourages all Oregonians to do two simple tasks that will save time, money, and stress when disaster strikes:

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- Take time to discuss your insurance coverage – Take time to discuss your insurance policies or replacement. In severe situations, immediate replacement may be required.
In July, Governor Kate Brown announced that for schools to be allowed to reopen to in-person instruction, the County where the school district is located must meet required COVID-19 case rate metrics. As of August 14th, Multnomah County had not met those metrics. Therefore, Reynolds School District has announced that it will begin the 2020-2021 school year in a Comprehensive Distance Learning model.

The official start date for the school year has been delayed giving teachers and staff additional time to prepare for Comprehensive Distance Learning. The first day of school will be Tuesday, September 15, 2020. Each school within the District is currently working on an operational blueprint for a Hybrid Learning model for when Multnomah County meets the State and County metrics, which would allow the schools to open to in-person learning. For more information visit the Reynolds School District website at: www.reynolds.k12.or.us.

COVID-19 UPDATE - City Services Update

We’re open and at your service! Here’s a quick recap of our operating hours in key departments:

City Services:
- All City buildings are open
- Maintain physical distancing, masks are required
- At present, a maximum of two visitors are allowed inside City buildings at any one time

The following departments are open to the public during these hours:
- City Hall - 8 a.m.-Noon and 1-5 p.m. M-F
- Community Development - 7:30-Noon and 12-4:30 M-Th 7:30-Noon and 12-2:30 on Fridays
- Public Works - 8-Noon and 12:30-4 p.m. M-F

City Parks:
- All city parks are currently open
- Maintain physical distancing, masks are required
- Picnic shelters are open, basketball and tennis courts are closed
- NOTE: Imagination Station and other City play structures are not regularly sanitized. If you allow your children to play there, you do so at your own risk.

Disc Golf Flies into Troutdale

Looking for a fun new recreational opportunity? Coming this fall, the City of Troutdale, along with the West Columbia Gorge Rotary Club and dozens of local volunteers, will be setting up The Confluence Pop-Up Disc Golf Course, located in the City’s urban renewal area just east of the Outlet Mall. This 12-hole layout promises to showcase a rededevlopment property and beautiful views across the Sandy River. Come enjoy a day out with friends and family in a socially distant manner while learning about future development opportunities on the site. When you’re done, be sure to drop by our local businesses and restaurants in downtown Troutdale!

This course is a temporary layout until development occurs on the Confluence site, but the City and volunteers will work to consider a long-term home for a disc golf course in the coming year or two, as part of the City’s update to the Parks Master Plan. Be sure to follow the City’s social media pages for updates on the course opening, volunteer opportunities, playing leagues, and more!

Reynolds School District Fall reopening information

In July, Governor Kate Brown announced that for schools to be allowed to reopen to in-person instruction, the County where the school district is located must meet required COVID-19 case rate metrics. As of August 14th, Multnomah County had not met those metrics. Therefore, Reynolds School District has announced that it will begin the 2020-2021 school year in a Comprehensive Distance Learning model.

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An early rendering by Troutdale artist Chad Caswell honors AMR’s dedicated lifeguards.

The Kiwanis Club of the Columbia River Gorge has commissioned Troutdale artist Chad Caswell to design a bronze life-size sculpture of an ethnically diverse male and female lifeguard watching over the Sandy River Bridge. It is anticipated the monument will be completed within two years.

To date, the Kiwanis Club has raised approximately $80,000 through donations and grants. Please join, along with AMR, the City of Troutdale, Chad Caswell and local business owners, in raising $7,000 more to make this monument a reality. You can donate at GoFundMe.com/TroutdaleWaterSafetyMonument, or directly to the Kiwanis Club at Post Office Box 152, Troutdale, Oregon 97060.

The Kiwanis Club of the Columbia River Gorge is a non-profit organization that has been helping and serving children and adults in our East County Community for many years.

**CALENDAR**

**SEPTEMBER**

4 (Cancelled) First Friday Art Walk, 5-9 p.m., Downtown Historic Columbia River Highway, 503-491-8407

7 Labor Day, CITY HALL OFFICES CLOSED
For Police/Fire emergency - call 9-1-1, For Water/Sewer emergency - 503-251-4163

15 First Day of School (distance learning), Reynolds School District (see article Page 3)

29 (Cancelled) McMenamins and Troutdale Historical Society History Pub

30 2020 Census due, complete yours today! (see article Page 3)

**OCTOBER**

2 (Cancelled) First Friday Art Walk, 5-9 p.m., Downtown, Historic Columbia River Highway, 503-491-8407

27 (Cancelled) McMenamins and Troutdale Historical Society History Pub

31 It’s Halloween! Will there be trick-or-treating in the Historic Downtown and the Gorge Premium Outlet Mall? Check the city’s Facebook page and our website at www.troutdaleoregon.gov. Sponsored by the businesses in the Historic Downtown.

**EVENT CANCELLATIONS**

These 2020 events have been canceled. Please check our Facebook page and website for any updates:

- The popular Troutdale History Pubs, presented by Troutdale Historical Society and McMenamins, have been postponed indefinitely.
- Fall Festival of the Arts, scheduled for September 2020, has been canceled. The Cascadia Art Association, a group of local artists, is planning for 2021 (see article above).
- Troutdale Cruise-In will be back, motors running and better than ever, in 2021!
- First Fridays, held on the first Friday of each month, have been suspended indefinitely. Check The Columbia River Gallery website at: https://www.columbiarivergallery.com/first-friday-for-updates.
- How about the Historic Downtown Trick-or-Treat Event on October 31? This Halloween event is sponsored by the downtown business community and is a big favorite of many Troutdale youngsters - and their parents too! Check our Facebook page and the City’s website for updates as it gets closer to Halloween. The Gorge Premium Outlets also features a trick-or-treat event on Halloween, and we’ll keep you posted on that one as well.

For the latest news and information, check out our website at: www.troutdaleoregon.gov.

**INTRODUCING CASCADIA ART ASSOCIATION**

During the COVID shutdown, local artists were busy organizing a new non-profit organization called Cascadia Art Association (CAA). CAA's mission is to promote the performing, literary, and visual arts in our region. CAA's dream is to enrich our communities with concerts, dances, live performances, film, poetry, literature, color, shapes, images, and all things to capture our imagination. CAA is launching by promoting and participating in some existing projects:

- **“Arts Destination”:** CAA will be working with local city governments and other organizations to make our area an Arts Destination.
- **Fall Festival of the Arts:** CAA is the new promoter of the Fall Festival of the Arts in Troutdale. Although the event was canceled in 2020, work has begun for the Festival, scheduled September 18-19, 2021.
- **Community Enhancement Project (CEP):** CAA hopes to develop a Public Art Master Plan for Troutdale. This will better enable Troutdale to diversify their public arts to include performing, literary, and visual art installations and community programs.
- **Community Art Trout Project:** In continuing support for Cracked Pots Reuse Art Show, CAA will continue with the “Paint the Trout” and “Best Dressed Trout Contest”.
- **Community Art Walks** and events: CAA hopes to support and participate in local area art walks and events.
- **Troutdale Art and History Tour Guide:** The next phase of this guide will be to expand the map to include the entire Confluence Project from Fairview Grade School through Wood Village to Edgefield.

CAA is just beginning. Fall of 2020 will be its first membership drive. As membership builds, a small gallery will be available to member artists at CAA’s office in the Troutdale Art Center. Eventually CAA would like to sponsor community art classes, art events, and conduct art tours.

If you’re interested in getting involved with Cascadia Art Association, email us at cascadiaartassoc@gmail.com.

**City Meetings**

City Council Regular Meetings
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 7 P.M., September 8, September 22
October 13, October 27
View Council meetings live on Comcast Channel 35 or Frontier Channel 38 at 7:00 a.m. rebroadcasts are Fridays at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 9 p.m.

Town Center Committee
Police Facility Kellogg Room
NOTE: Please check our website for meeting dates in September and October.

Planning Commission
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 7 P.M., September 9, October 14

Citizens Advisory Committee
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 7 P.M., September 2, October 7

Historic Landmarks Commission
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 7 P.M., September 8, October 22

Urban Renewal Agency
Police Facility Kellogg Room - 7 P.M., Sept. 15, (if needed), Oct. 20 (if needed)

For meeting agendas, Council packets and audio tapes of Council meetings at: www.towncentertroutdale.com.

**City Offices**

City Hall Main Number
503-665-5175
Building Permit
503-674-7229
Building/Parks Rentals
503-674-7297
Business Licensing
503-665-5175
Cable Enforcement
503-491-4009
Fire Department (Gresham)
503-618-2355
Mayor & Council
503-674-7258
Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office (MCOS)
503-988-7300
MCSO Business Office
503-988-7300
MCSO Records (press your Police Records)
503-988-7300
Municipal Court
503-665-5175
Police & Fire
503-674-7271
Non-Emergency Dispatch
503-674-7229
Planning/Zoning
503-674-7229
Public Works (Wastewater)
503-666-8377
Public Works (Water & Streets)
503-674-3300
Recreation Program
503-674-7206
Water/Sewer - Billing Questions
503-674-7232
Water/Sewer - Open/Close Acct.
503-674-7225