

Mayor's corner

Happy Holidays! I hope everyone enjoyed that most American of holidays, Thanksgiving. And as we look forward to the New Year, I greet everyone with best wishes for the holiday season.

One of the Council's three goals for 2005 is to improve Hwy. 99W including identifying specific projects to alleviate congestion on 99W. The city has received a Federal Transportation and Growth Management grant to work in partnership with ODOT to fund a corridor study of Hwy. 99W. The study will look at options the city and ODOT can undertake in the future to help relieve the congestion on this important regional highway. One imperative to achieve a satisfactory solution is for ODOT to hear from citizens that regularly travel Hwy. 99W. I encourage Tigard residents with ideas to share them with our ODOT Region 1 Manager Matt Garrett, and Community Affairs Manager Steven Harry. Send your comments to the Community Affairs Representative Lili Gordon. Email her at lili.d.gordon@odot.state.or.us or write her at 123 N.W. Flanders St., Portland 97209-4037, and address your comments to Mr. Garrett or Mr. Harry. The city would like to hear from you too. Visit the web site, write to the City Engineer, Gus Duenas, or call the city at 503-639-4171.



Craig E. Dirksen, Mayor

More Parks and Open Space in the Works

Address Growth - City Council Goal #3



The Tigard Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), a citizen group charged with advocating for park and recreational opportunities in Tigard, has been working on the City Council's goal to identify and acquire more parks and open space. The city allocated about \$2 million dollars for the purchase of park and open space property in its 2005-2006 budget.



Initially, Tigard citizens, the PRAB and city staff identified 47 park and open space properties for consideration. In September of this year, an evaluation process was developed and property owners were contacted to assess their interest in selling their property for park or open space use. Ultimately, 29 properties were evaluated by PRAB members and city staff. Evaluation criteria included site size, usability, ease of public access, vulnerability to development, location to unserved populations, and habitat protection.

The list of park and open space properties was approved by PRAB and presented to the City Council in November. The Council is currently considering the PRAB's recommendations. Once Council finalizes the list, efforts to purchase the properties will get underway. The sensitive nature of property negotiations dictates that the list of properties under consideration remain confidential.

For a complete list of the evaluation criteria, or more information, please contact Dan Plaza, Parks and Facilities Manager, at 503-718-2590 or daniel@tigard-or.gov.

Attention Parents - No Fluoridated Water

Decreasing water demand in winter allows Tigard to reduce the amount of water it purchases from wholesale water providers. This year Tigard has decided to switch off its supply from the City of Beaverton, the ONLY wholesaler providing fluoridated water to the Tigard Water Service Area. Therefore, Tigard Water Service Area residents are currently NOT receiving fluoridated water.

As spring approaches and water demand begins to rise, Tigard expects it will purchase fluoridated water from Beaverton. Tigard's Water Division will inform customers of the change back to fluoridated water once the schedule is set for 2006.

If you have any questions and/or concerns please contact Sally Mills, Water Quality Program Coordinator, at 503-718-2604 or sally@tigard-gov.us.



It's Your Tigard - Get Involved!

Board, committee and task force meetings in December are below. Agendas are available at www.tigard-or.gov or contact the person noted under each meeting.

Library Board

Library Conference Room

Thursday, December 8 at 7 p.m.

Connie Martin at 503-718-2512

Downtown Task Force

Town Hall

Thursday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Denver Igarta at 503-718-2429

Planning Commission

Town Hall

Monday, December 5 & 19 at 7 p.m.

Dick Bewersdorff at 503-718-2432

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Tigard Water Bldg. Auditorium

Monday, December 12 at 7 p.m.

Daniel Plaza at 503-718-2590

Tree Board

Library Conference Room

Monday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Matt Stine at 503-718-2589

City Council

Town Hall

Tuesdays, December 6, 13 & 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Cathy Wheatley at 503-718-2410

Committee for Citizen Involvement

Town Hall

Thursday, December 15 at 7 p.m.

Duane Roberts at 503-718-2444

CPO 4B - C.E Tigard Elem.

Thursday, December 1 at 7 p.m.

Patt Opdyke at 503-725-2117

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) FY 2006-07

The formulation process for the FY 2006-07 CIP will begin with a public meeting at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at Tigard City Hall. This meeting is your opportunity to provide input on proposed projects or submit suggestions for additional projects.

The CIP includes improvements to city streets, storm drainage, sanitary sewer, water, parks and other city facilities. For the complete CIP formulation process, milestone and tentative schedules, please visit the City webpage at www.tigard-or.gov.

Holiday Help from the Library

Feeling stressed during the holidays? The library can help. From cookbooks brimming with thousands of delicious recipes to a wide-ranging DVD and video collection, we can help ease the pressure on your holiday "To Do" list.

Do you have a houseful of restless family members home for the holidays? Send them to the library to pick up recent movies or classic films. Movies check out for a week; most can be renewed for up to two more weeks.

Want to settle a family debate over where Grandpa Ted was born? Take advantage of the library's new Ancestry Library Edition database, generously provided by the Friends of the Tigard Library. This online genealogy information resource is composed of more than 4,000 databases, including census, vital statistics, church, court and immigration records.

As you plan for the holidays, consider the Tigard Public Library your industrious elf here to ease your holiday headaches.

Volunteers Take Time for Tigard

Volunteer Peer Court Coordinator Sought

Help local youth get back on the right track by supervising court-mandated community service hours at the city. Committed volunteers, 21 years of age and older, are being recruited to work with teenagers at the library and in parks and greenways. Volunteers will schedule and facilitate teens' mandated hours.

Previous experience with this special population is desirable. Evening and some weekend hours are required. Criminal background checks will be completed and training is provided. A minimum one year commitment is requested.

For more information on this unique and rewarding opportunity, contact Trish Stormont, Library Volunteer Coordinator, at 503-718-2516 or at trish@tigard-or.gov.

Community Volunteer Salute

Hats off to the 104 Make A Difference Day volunteers who participated in the October 15 Dairy Dell Restoration Project and Shelving Party at the Tigard library. Thanks for your terrific contributions to Tigard!

For more information about local volunteer opportunities contact Bob Roth, Volunteer Program Development Specialist, at 503-718-2402 or bob@tigard-or.gov.



FAST FACTS

about the

Tigard City Center Urban Renewal Plan

The City of Tigard currently is considering an urban renewal plan for the downtown area. It is important that you as a citizen or property owner be informed.

What is the purpose of the City Center Urban Renewal Plan?

The purpose of the City Center Urban Renewal Plan is to provide improvements in the downtown area so that it will be economically healthy while maintaining its “uniquely Tigard” character. A downtown that is developed to its full potential provides a greater selection of goods and services, provides greenspaces and public open spaces, jobs, housing opportunities, and a stronger tax base. The intended purpose of the urban renewal plan is to make Tigard’s downtown such an area.

Establishment of an Urban Renewal Plan will provide a funding mechanism for the redevelopment of downtown Tigard. In addition, it will provide for consistency in standards of development.

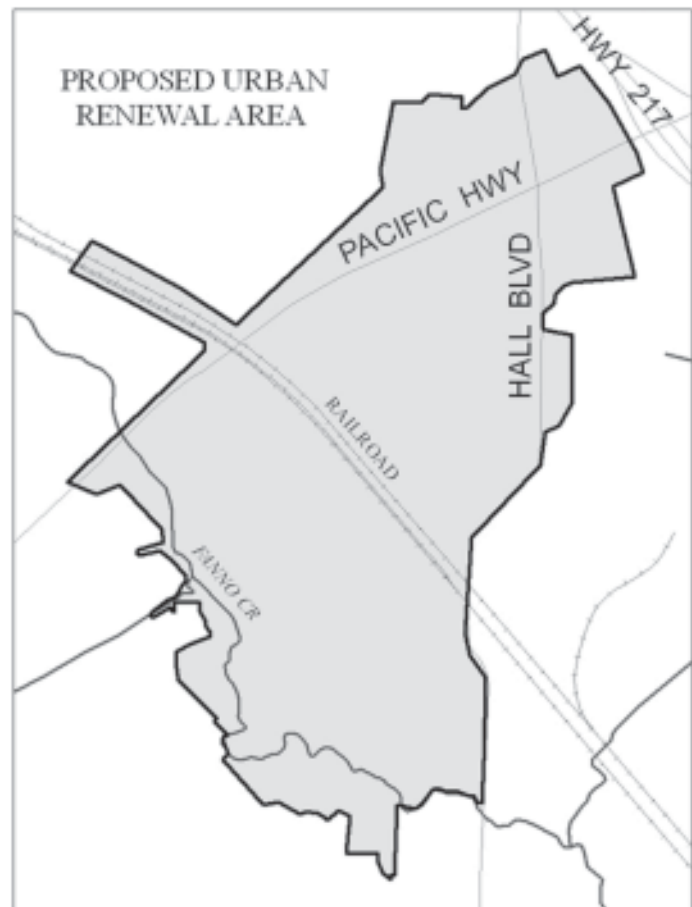
What does urban renewal look like?

The City is currently developing an urban renewal district and plan for Tigard’s historic Main Street area and surrounding neighborhoods, with the intent of proposing a “tax increment” financing measure to the community’s voters in May 2006. You will be hearing more about the plan and ballot measure in the coming weeks.

Want to know what urban renewal looks like? Just take a look at two of our closest neighbors — Sherwood and Tualatin. The Tualatin Commons, that community’s downtown, is an example of urban renewal. And Sherwood’s Old Town District is part of a larger urban renewal area that also includes commercial and industrial property nearer to Six Corners. Many improvements in Old Town are a direct result of urban renewal.

In Portland many “signature” spaces such as the Waterfront Park, RiverPlace and Pioneer Courthouse Square are a direct outcome of urban renewal. And Hillsboro’s Orenco Station is yet another development that is part of an urban renewal district.

Looking for more information? Call or visit the city halls in these communities – most also have information available on their websites. And stay posted to Tigard’s website and newsletter for frequent tidbits of information on our local urban renewal plan.



How long will the urban renewal district and tax increment financing last?

The urban renewal district is proposed to last 20 years.

How will the improvements in the urban renewal plan be paid for?

Urban renewal districts use a financing method known as “tax increment financing.” Under tax increment financing, if the value of a property increases, the property taxes on the increased value go to the urban renewal district to be used on urban renewal plan projects. Urban renewal projects may be financed by bonds, and any debts incurred are repaid from the tax increment financing proceeds. Other funding sources, such as grants, may pay for some projects.

Will this mean that there is less money for schools, police & fire, or streets and parks?

Property taxes based on the existing value of properties will still be paid as before – only the taxes on the increase in value will be used for urban renewal. In many cases, the increase in value will be the result of the urban renewal, so the increase in value and property tax revenues would not have occurred without urban renewal. There is a possibility that the City, the school district and other taxing districts in the short term will receive less revenue than they would have otherwise as a result of the use of tax increment financing, but their revenue from properties in the area will not be reduced from current levels.

When the urban renewal plan is completed and paid for, all the property tax revenues will go to the existing taxing districts. Because the value of the properties in the area is expected to increase because of urban renewal, in the long run it is anticipated that urban renewal will result in more property tax revenues for the City and districts that provide schools, police and fire, parks, and other public facilities and services.

Will my property taxes increase in order to pay for the cost of the improvements contemplated by this plan?

No. Basic property tax rates are fixed and will not change. The financing proposed for the plan does not include local option levies or assessments but instead plans for use of tax increment proceeds, use of funds generated by existing taxes at current tax rates, and grants.

Isn't it true that with Urban Renewal in place property owners can be forced to sell or modify their property?

The Plan does not propose any forced sale of property. Whether or not urban renewal is in place, the City has the power to condemn property for public use. However, the plan does not propose that the City use its condemnation power in connection with the urban renewal plan. The plan does not require any property owners to modify their property, and the City does not have the authority to require property owners to modify their property, except to abate nuisances.

Where can I get more information?

- The *Tigard City Center Urban Renewal Plan*, along with other urban renewal information, is available on the City of Tigard webpage: www.tigard-or.gov/ur.
- Copies of the Plan also are available for viewing in the Tigard Public Library, located at 13500 SW Hall Boulevard. Inquire at the second floor reference desk.
- A copy of the Plan may be obtained by writing to or visiting the Planning Division (address below) or by calling 503-718-2409.

Questions? Contact the Urban Renewal email or voice hotlines:

DURH@tigard-or.gov and 503-718-2409.

Planning Division, City of Tigard

13125 SW Hall Boulevard

Tigard, OR 97223





Shelf Life

News from the Tigard Library

Library events calendar

Dec. 1-31		8 th Annual Mitten Tree - Puett Rm
Dec. 1	4:30-6:30 p.m.	Holiday Card Workshop for Teens (Grades 6-12, Reg. req'd) – Puett Rm
Dec. 1	6:30-8 p.m.	Computer Class: Word Processing
Dec. 3	10:30 a.m.-Noon	Computer Class: Basic Computer Skills
Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	1-3 p.m.	Tigard Chess Group (ages 8 and up) – Puett Rm
Dec. 5, 12	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Storytime Adventures (ages 0-6) – Puett Rm
Dec. 6	7-8 p.m.	Dragon Theater Puppets (all ages) – Community Rm
Dec. 6, 13	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Storytime Adventures (ages 0-6) – Puett Rm
Dec. 7, 14	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Storytime Adventures (ages 0-6) – Puett Rm
Dec. 7, 14	6-7:30 p.m.	Dogs and Tales (Reg. req'd, beginning readers thru grade 5) – Puett Rm
Dec. 8	6:30-8 p.m.	Computer Class: Internet for Beginners
Dec. 15	5:30-8 p.m.	Teen Movie Night (grades 6-12) – Puett Rm
Dec. 15	6:30-8 p.m.	Computer Class: Introduction to Windows
Dec. 15	7-7:30 p.m.	Spanish Storytime – Children's Rm
Dec. 22	6:30-8 p.m.	Computer Class: Popular Uses of the Web
Dec. 25		Library Closed for Christmas Holiday

All library programs are free. For more information about programs, visit www.tigard-or.gov/library/. Some library programs require registration. To register, please call 503-684-6537.

Did you miss out on buying a brick?

You have another chance, but act quickly!

Tigard Library Foundation's Bricks for Books campaign ends December 31.

Order forms available online at www.tigard-or.gov or at the library.

For more information contact Jackie at 503-620-4829.

Holiday Hours

The library will be open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2. The library will be closed on Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1.

Winter Wonderland Story Time Adventures & 8th Annual Mitten Tree

Tigard Public Library invites the whole family to join us at our regular story times during the first half of December to enjoy wonderful winter stories, make fun crafts to take home, and help decorate our 8th Annual Mitten Tree.

The Mitten Tree will be in the Puett Room, ready to be decorated with donations of scarves, hats and mittens to be given to the Good Neighbor Center, which offers assistance to the homeless in Washington County.

The Mitten Tree is provided by the Friends of the Tigard Public Library.



Holiday Card-Making Workshop

Thursday, December 1

Get in the holiday spirit with this creative card-making workshop. Make one-of-a-kind personal holiday cards for your friends and family. This is a free workshop, and all materials will be provided. This workshop is for young adults in grades 6-12. Pre-registration is required.



Super Tuesday: Dragon Theater Puppets

Tuesday, December 6

Dragon Theater Puppets presents The Wacky Adventures of Lewis & Clark! Learn, laugh and languish at the duo's mishaps and discoveries. All Super Tuesday programs are made possible by the Ready to Read grant.

Dogs and Tales with Miss Lillie

Wednesday, December 7 and 14

Could your child use a helping paw with reading? Reading aloud to a dog creates a relaxed, non-judgmental environment that helps children develop their reading skills and build confidence. Registration is required.

Teen Movie Night - The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

**Thursday, December 15
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**



Bring your friends to the library and enjoy a movie and popcorn. For more information visit www.tigard-or.gov/library/teens/ or call 503-684-6537. This program is for teens grades 6-12.

Hora de Cuentos para la Familia (Spanish Story Time)

Jueve, 15 de diciembre

Se presentarán cuentos, canciones y rimas para niños de todas las edades y sus familias.

Computer Classes

Free classes are geared for beginners, however, some classes have prerequisites. Registration is required.

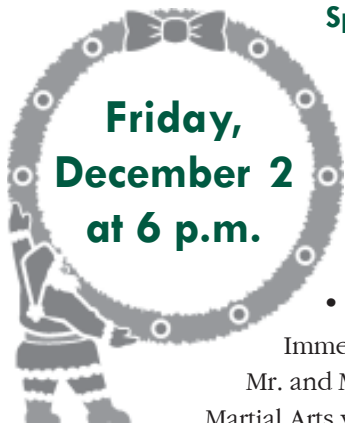


City of Tigard
13125 SW Hall Blvd.
Tigard, OR 97223

PRESORTED STANDARD
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Sixth Annual Tree Lighting Festivities



Special events include:

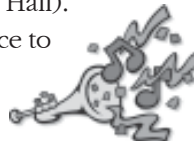
- Hayrides (originating near Tigard Fitness) will take you through “Old Town” Tigard beginning at 6 p.m.
- Santa Claus will arrive at 7 p.m.
- Watch as a thousand lights come to life.
- Choirs will sing holiday songs.
- Surprises for young and old alike.

Immediately following the lighting of the huge sequoia, Mr. and Mrs. Claus will work their way down to Tigard Martial Arts where the whole family can enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies. Pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be available for \$5.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you at the celebration!

Holiday Concert

The Tualatin Valley Community Band, under direction of Steve Heuser, will present their free annual Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 11 at 3 p.m.** at the Tigard Public Library (overflow parking is available at City Hall). In addition to music, there will be an opportunity for the audience to sing along. The concert is scheduled to last about 45 minutes. Hope to see – and hear – you there.



CAP walk schedule

The schedule for CAP walks in December are as follows:

- December 7 - Area 42
- December 14 - Area 34
- December 21 - Area 11

View the report to citizens for any of these areas at www.tigard-or.gov. No web access? Call Liz Newton at 503-718-2412.

Tigard City Council meetings air

Live Video Stream Available:

www.tigard-or.gov, click on **City Council Meeting Webcast**.

Live on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Replays every Sunday - 12 p.m., Monday - 7 a.m., Thursday - 2:30 a.m. and 11 p.m., Friday - 7:30 p.m., and Saturday - 4 p.m. All programs air on Channel 28.