



CITYSCAPE

Tigard's Official Newsletter

March 2006

www.tigard-or.gov

Volume XXIV No. 3

Mayor's corner

The City of Tigard has seen a huge transition in the past two decades, going from a small town of 14,000 in 1980 to 45,000 today. This has created a profound change in the quality of life in our community. With careful planning we have preserved our existing, traditional low-density neighborhoods while still meeting regional land use planning goals, but despite our best efforts the rapid growth of our area has impacted the quality of life enjoyed by those who have lived here 20 years or more. Increased housing needs and lack of additional land has led to development on smaller lots and properties previously considered too difficult to develop. This has led to growing concern about the impact these developments have on an ever-more fragile natural environment and rapid loss of open space we had taken for granted at a time not long ago when there were still cows and horses living among us. At the same time land prices have skyrocketed. Limited local budgets have prevented the city from preserving significant portions of what open space is left, leaving Tigard today with about eight acres of parks per thousand residents, instead of the 11 acres desired. We need to support the concept of the urban growth boundary and the prevention of urban sprawl to preserve rural areas and agricultural land. But it is my belief that some regional planning goals have led to unforeseen and undesirable results and need to be reviewed to respond to what's actually transpired. Metro is in the process of giving our regional planning goals a "Big Look." Hopefully the Look will lead to necessary policy changes.

Craig E. Dirksen, Mayor

Tigard City Council Goals – 2006



The Tigard City Council approved these goals for 2006 at their January 24, 2006 Council meeting:

Continuation of 2005 Tigard City Council Goals

- Revise City of Tigard Comprehensive Plan
 - Complete draft by year end
- Implement Downtown Plan
 - Implement catalyst projects including:
- Improvements to Burnham Street
- Identify and purchase land for a Downtown public gathering place
 - Work to assure passage of the Urban Renewal Plan Ballot measure
 - Identify and make changes to the Tigard Development Code needed to implement the Downtown Plan (e.g., zoning overlays, design standards)
- Improve 99W Corridor
 - Complete Transportation Growth Management (TGM) Corridor Study
 - Continue Greenburg Road intersection project
 - Continue Hall Boulevard intersection project

Other Important Goals for 2006

- Improve Communication and Relationship with Citizens
 - Implement the new neighborhood program throughout the City
 - Conduct a city-wide scientific survey/report card on City services
 - Connect Council with students in schools
- Consider Opportunities for Major Greenspaces Purchases
 - Purchase first-refusal options
 - Explore School District property exchange
- Clarify City's Position on the Provision of Urban Services to Unincorporated Areas and in the Best the Interests of the Citizens of Tigard
- Secure Long-Range Water Source(s)
- Stabilize Financial Picture
 - Review Financial Strategy Task Force recommendations
 - Take appropriate action to control costs

Look for feature articles on each of these goals in future issues of Cityscape. Quarterly updates are also posted on the city's web site at www.tigard-or.gov.



It's Your Tigard - Get Involved!

Be a part of the decision making process and learn more about programs. Agendas are available at www.tigard-or.gov under the Events Calendar link. No web access? Contact the person noted under each board or committee.

City Council

Town Hall

6:30 p.m. - 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays

Let your voice be heard – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. - an opportunity to speak to Council for two minutes on any item not on the agenda. Cathy Wheatley, City Recorder, 503-718-2410.

Planning Commission

Town Hall

7 p.m. - 1st and 3rd Mondays

A nine member citizen committee that conducts public hearings on land use issues and development applications. Dick Bewersdorff, Planning Manager, 503-718-2432.

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Tigard Water Bldg. Auditorium

7 p.m. - 2nd Monday

A seven member citizen board that advises the Council on park and recreation policies, facilities, programs and budgets. Daniel Plaza, Parks & Facilities Division Manager, 503-718-2590.

Intergovernmental Water Board

Tigard Water Bldg. Auditorium

5:30 p.m. - 2nd Wednesday

A five member board, established through an agreement between Tigard, Durham, King City and the Tigard Water District, which makes recommendations on water-related issues. Greer Gaston, Confidential Executive Assistant, 503-718-2595.



Library Board

Library Conference Room

7 p.m. - 2nd Thursday

A seven member citizen board that advises the Council regarding library policies, budget, facilities and other needs. Connie Martin, Senior Administrative Specialist, 503-718-2512.

Committee for Citizen Involvement

7 p.m. - 3rd Thursday

A newly expanded committee that reviews and evaluates public involvement and communication plans primarily for city land use and development programs. Duane Roberts, Planner, 503-718-2444.

Tree Board

Library Conference Room

6:30 p.m. - 2nd Monday

The Tree Board's mission is to develop and administer a comprehensive program for the management, maintenance, removal, replacement and protection of trees on public property. Matt Stine, City Forester, 503-718-2589.

CPO 4B - C.F. Tigard Elementary

7 p.m. - 1st Thursday

CPO 4M - Metzger Park Hall

7 p.m. - 4th Wednesday

Membership is open to all residents and property owners within the CPO 4B or CPO 4M boundaries. Map and agendas are available at the Washington County Citizens Participation Organization link on the city's web site. Contact Patt Opdyke, 503-725-2117.

Planning Commission Recruiting To Fill Voting Member and Alternate Vacancies

The City of Tigard Planning Commission is recruiting to fill one Commissioner and one alternate position. The Planning Commission generally meets at 7:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at Tigard City Hall. The Planning Commission alternate attends and contributes during regularly scheduled meetings but does not participate in voting.

Individuals interested in being considered for the Planning Commission vacancies need to fill out a Citizen Committee Interest application and return it to City Hall by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 20. CCI applications are available on line at tigard-or.gov or at the City Hall lobby, 13125 SW Hall Blvd. For more information about these vacancies and Planning Commission activities, contact Dick Bewersdorff at 503-718-2432 or dick@tigard-or.gov.

Tigard City Council meetings air

Live on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

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



Streetscape Enhancement in Downtown

Steps are being made in the effort to enhance the image of downtown streets as city staff and the citizen Streetscape Working Group with support of a consultant design team continue work on a Downtown Streetscape Design Plan.

The Streetscape Working Group initiated the process of defining design themes for downtown streets by classifying the streets by type (based on their unique function and features) and identifying desired design characteristics appropriate to each type of street. These distinct qualities will serve as the general principles used to shape design details for specific streets. As part of this streetscape project, the group will also develop designs for downtown gateways, public spaces and railroad crossings.

Contact Denver Igarta, Associate Planner, at 503-718-2429 or denver@tigard-or.gov for more information or for specific dates, times and locations of public events. Please visit the project web site at www.tigard-or.gov/downtown/streetscape.

Library Accepts Debit and Credit Cards

In response to public requests, the Tigard Library can now accept debit and credit cards for certain payments. Fines, lost book charges and computer print-outs can be paid by Visa or MasterCard. The Library is unable to give cash back and cannot accept cards for Friends of the Library book sales.



City Affordable Housing Program

Tenth Anniversary of Low Income Housing Tax Exemption

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the City of Tigard's Nonprofit Corporation Low Income Housing Exemption. The original and still operative rationale for the exemption is that property taxes add to the cost of providing low income housing and are passed on to tenants in the form of higher rents. As annually certified to the city, the tax exemption allows the owners of targeted low-income housing to reduce rents. To qualify for the exemption, in addition to the city process, the non-profit housing provider must make separate application to overlapping jurisdictions that represent a minimum of 51% of the taxes levied on the property in question. Currently, three Tigard-area projects receive the exemption.

The argument related to why the exemption is equitable to local taxpayers is research suggesting that stable, working families, in housing with rents they can afford, and where educational and crime prevention programs are operated, lower costs for other tax supported community functions, such as schools and police. According to Susan Stark Haydon, Tigard-Tualatin School District Community Relations Director, "the tax exempt housing projects [in Tigard] provide great support for our students, through their homework help, summer programs, and connections they make with our schools."



During the ten years since the enactment of tax exemption, Tigard has put into place other important measures intended to support the provision of affordable housing in the community. In 1998, the city changed the Community Development Code to allow adjustments to parking requirements for projects serving special resident populations, including affordable housing projects. The rationale for the affordable housing adjustment was a local study showing that low-income households typically own fewer cars and use transit more than the general population. A year later, Tigard implemented a Residential Property Maintenance Code intended to insure continued safe and sanitary housing within the community. In 2000, the city established the Enhanced Safety Program (ESP), a three-phase program designed to reduce crime and increase the livability of rental properties. In 2002, Council established a budget set-aside to offset fees and charges imposed on affordable housing development and rehabilitation. The current year fund amount is \$10,000.

In addition to the five measures just highlighted, the city continues to look for grant opportunities to fund needed public improvements serving low income neighborhoods and housing projects. During the period 1995-2005, the city applied for and received a combined \$850,000 in competitive grant funds to improve roads, sidewalks, and storm drainage serving low income housing projects and neighborhoods.

The Tigard tax exemption and other city initiatives are part of a community-wide strategy to encourage affordable housing. The strategy reflects the city's commitment to maintaining a variety of housing choices, including housing affordable to community residents at the lower end of the economic spectrum.



Shelf



Life

News from the Tigard Library

Library events calendar

March 1	11 a.m.-Noon	Stepping Back: The First Claims – Houghton Rm
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	6-7:30 p.m.	Dogs & Tales (Reg. req'd, new readers-Grade 5) – Puett Rm
March 2		Read Across America Day (all ages)– Puett Rm
March 2	6:30-8 p.m.	Computer Class: Surfing the Web for Fun
March 4	10 a.m.-Noon	Computer Class: Basic Computer Skills
March 4	12:30 p.m.	Computer Class: Intro to Windows OS
March 4, 11, 18, 25	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	AARP Tax Help (Appt req'd) – Conf. Rm
March 4, 11, 18, 25	1-3 p.m.	Chess Group (ages 8 and up) – Puett Rm
March 7	7-8 p.m.	Super Tuesday: Musical Journey through the Ages (all ages) – Comm. Rm
March 9	4:30-5:30 p.m.	Teen Library Council (Grades 6-12)– Puett Rm
March 9	6:30-8 p.m.	Computer Class: Intro to MS Word
March 11	10 a.m.-Noon	Open Computer Lab
March 13, 20, 27	10:30-11:15 a.m.	Storytime Adventures (0-6 years)– Puett Rm
March 14, 21, 28	10:30-11:15 a.m.	Storytime Adventures (0-6 years)– Puett Rm
March 15	2:30-4:30 p.m.	Build a Resume Workshop (Reg. req'd) – Comm. Rm
March 15, 22, 29	10:30-11:15 a.m.	Storytime Adventures (0-6 years)– Puett Rm
March 16	5:30-8 p.m.	Teen Movie Night (Grades 6-12 only) – Comm. Rm
March 16	6:30-8 p.m.	Computer Class: Email for Beginners
March 16	7-7:30 p.m.	Spanish Storytime (all ages) – Puett Rm
March 18	10:30 a.m.- Noon	Computer Class: Internet for Beginners
March 22	7 p.m.	Book Discussion Group – Houghton Rm
March 23	4:30-5:30 p.m.	YA Book- Discussion Group – Puett Rm
March 23	6:30-8 p.m.	Computer Class: How to do Research on the Web
March 25	10 a.m.-Noon	Open Computer Lab
March 28	7-7:30 p.m.	Pajama Storytime (all ages)– Puett Rm

All library programs are free. For more information about programs, visit our web site at www.ci.tigard.or.us/library.

Some library programs require registration. To register, please call 503-684-6537.

You're cordially invited to display your art at the library!

The Tigard Public Library welcomes exhibits and displays. Exhibits and displays in the library offer a means for public expression by individuals and groups in the community as well as enrich the library by allowing it to serve in a community forum role. Visit www.tigard-or.gov/library/programs_events/art_display if you are interested in display spaces at the Tigard Public Library.

For additional information or questions, contact Ann-Marie Anderson at 503-684-6537 or annmarie@tigard-or.gov.



Stepping Back: A Look at Local History The First Claims

March 1, 11 a.m. to Noon

Discover the first pioneers to live in this area and why they invited the Tigards to settle here.



Read Across America Day

March 2, all day

Join kids across the country in celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday!



Stop by the Children's Room for games, crafts, treats and stories throughout the day.

Super Tuesdays: Musical Journey through the Ages

March 7, 7 to 8 p.m.

Musicians Laila and Yohannes Murphy will take participants on an interactive, toe-tapping adventure from medieval times all the way through the jazz era. Made possible by The Ready to Read Grant fund.



Build a Resume Workshop

March 15, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Learn how to target your resume to specific jobs using different formats, and how to show your skills in a way that makes your resume stand out. Attendees who wish to update or create a resume will have access to the library computer lab in the second part of the seminar. This is the first of a series of three workshops on job searching topics. Please call 503-684-6537 to register.



Dogs & Tales

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

New readers – Grade 5

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 builds confidence. Our visiting dog and owner teams are volunteers certified in pet-assisted therapy. To register call 503-684-6537 and ask for the Children’s reference desk. Registration is required.

Upcoming Young Adult Book Discussion Group Meetings

Puett Room 4: 30 - 5:30 p.m.

Here are the upcoming books we will be reading and talking about:

- March 23 - Lost Years of Merlin by T.A. Barron
- April 13 - Stuck in Neutral by Terry Trueman
- May 25 - Burger Wuss by M.T. Anderson



Teen Movie Night

March 16, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Community Room

Bring your friends to the library, and enjoy a movie and popcorn. The March movie will be *Howl’s Moving Castle*, which is based on the fantasy novel written by Diana Wynne Jones. This program is for teens in grades 6-12 only.

Hora de Cuentos para la Familia

16 de marzo, 7 a 7:30 p.m.

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

Spanish Story Time

March 16, 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Stories, songs and rhymes in Spanish for families with children of all ages.

AARP Tax Help

Saturdays through April 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteers from the AARP Tax Help Program will offer hourly sessions to assist low income and/or elderly citizens. Please bring last year’s tax returns and have your records organized. Call 503-684-6537 to set up an appointment.

Volunteers Take Time for Tigard

Support Tigard’s Parks and Natural Areas - VOLUNTEER!

Tigard has several outdoor volunteer opportunities available in 2006. Families, friends, and community organizations are invited to participate.

Community Tree Planting Challenge – The goal is to plant 1000 trees and shrubs along Hiteon Creek in Englewood Park. See the Tree for All article for details.

SOLV IT (Earth Day 2006) – Come to Dairy Dell Creek on Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to plant 500 native trees and shrubs.

Down by the Riverside – Meet at Cook Park for planting, weeding, cleanup, and repair activities on Saturday, May 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Derry Dell Creek Native Area Maintenance — Come out to this September event to remove non-native vegetation, conduct weeding activities, and reinforce mulch rings. Date and time to be announced later.

Washington County Clean and Green - Install native trees and shrubs along a 300 foot section of Derry Dell Creek upstream of 115th Avenue in October. Date and time to be announced later.

For more information about these events or other volunteer opportunities please contact Carla Staedter, Volunteer Coordinator, at 503-718-2788 or carla@tigard-or.gov.

Tree for All

- Community Stream Planting Challenge

March 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hiteon Creek in Englewood Park

Join the fun as hundreds of volunteers plant thousands of trees and shrubs along local creeks and wetlands on Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Two million trees will be planted in 20 years within the Tualatin River Watershed as part of the Healthy Streams Plan. Streams lined with native vegetation provide cleaner, cooler water, better flood management, and fish and wildlife habitat. It’s good for the water and fish, and it’s good for people and our community, too!

Tree for All is a partnership of the Cities within the Tualatin River Watershed, Clean Water Services, SOLV, Friends of Trees and volunteers like you!

SOLV is coordinating volunteers. To find the site nearest you, contact Monica at 503-844-9571 ext. 317 or monica@solv.org, or click on “to volunteer” at www.solv.org.





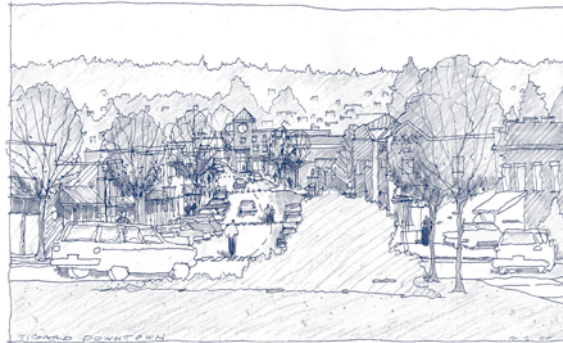
Downtown Implementation Strategy

Implementation of the Downtown Plan is moving forward with Council approval of the Tigard Downtown Improvement Plan (TDIP) on September 27. The Downtown Improvement Plan envisions an “Urban Village” with an active Main Street, public plazas and park space where people can gather for events, and a mix of development including new housing.

In response, Planning staff is developing a Downtown Implementation Strategy as a roadmap to carrying out the Downtown Improvement Plan. Once completed, it will help guide the City’s efforts, prioritize Capital Improvement Projects, and create a positive investment environment in the Central Business District.

On December 13, the Council gave its approval to the Urban Renewal Plan for the City Center and referred the Urban Renewal Plan to the voters. If the voters approve the Plan, Tax Increment Financing can be used to finance projects in the urban renewal area. If the Ballot Measure passes, increased tax revenues from new development would be used to fund public improvements in the urban renewal area.

This year, staff has made a more deliberate effort to identify just how public improvements can contribute to stimulating new development in the downtown area. As part of the city’s budget process for the next fiscal year, staff will be presenting the Strategy to the Center City Advisory Committee



(CCAC) on January 26 and February 23, and the City Council on February 21.

If you would like more information, please contact Phil Nachbar, Senior Planner at 503-718-2557 or phil@tigard-or.gov.

Keep Fire Hydrants & Water Meters Clear

The city asks all residents to ensure that there is adequate access to fire hydrants and water meters located on their property. In the event of a fire, it is crucial that emergency responders are able to identify and access fire hydrants. Easy access to your water meter enables city staff to perform repairs, provide routine maintenance, and read meters in a quick and efficient manner.

Many hydrants and water meters throughout the community are obscured or are difficult to get to because of over-grown vegetation, fencing, landscape walls, and other obstacles. A minimum clearance of three-feet is required around fire hydrants to allow fire personnel to connect hoses and operate hydrant valves. A minimum clearance of two-feet is required around water meter boxes and there must be a clear, direct path from the street to the meter.



The responsibility of maintaining the areas near hydrants and water meters is that of the property owner, so please check to see that your water meter and neighborhood fire hydrant are accessible to your service providers. For more information, contact Sam Morrison, Water Construction Supervisor, at 503-718-2600 or samm@tigard-or.gov.

Park Reservations

Interested in having an event in the park this summer? Park shelters can be reserved from March 27 through October 11, and reservations are accepted up to one-year in advance. Shelters can be reserved online at www.tigard-or.gov/community/parks/online_park_reservations.asp, or by calling the parks reservation desk at 503-639-4171, ext. 1799. Sports field reservations are only accepted through the parks reservation desk. Payment is required at the time you place your reservation. For more information, visit the city’s web site or contact the parks reservation desk.



“Anything can be made into a work of art by a child”

Have you ever wondered what to do with all those loose parts you find in the house after Spring Cleaning? Well, Tigard Public Library’s Youth Services department WANTS THEM!

Yes folks it’s true, we use these items through out the year in our children’s programming. So if you’re looking for a home for your old ribbons, buttons, pinecones, baby food jars with lids, baskets, polished rocks, small boxes shells, or other items, please give Terri a call at 503-684-6537, ext. 2523.





Household Water Leaks

Undetected water leaks can be costly. If you suspect you may have a leak, take note of the following suggestions to help identify the problem:

- Test your toilet for leaks by dropping a little food coloring in the tank. Wait about 10 minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.
- Watch to make sure your toilet flapper closes properly after flushing.
- Inspect faucets and showerheads. If you notice any dripping, inspect faucet and showerhead washers for wear. Replace any washers that are worn or damaged. A little drip can waste many gallons each day.
- Check your water heater. If you discover a leak, your water heater's pressure valve may be stuck. This valve is most often found near the top of the tank, and is usually a large brass fitting threaded to the tank. If the valve is not working properly, water will be dripping down the side of the tank.
- Search for moist spots around inside and outside plumbing.

For more information on water conservation, contact Corianne Hart, Water Conservation Program Coordinator, at 503-718-2599 or corianne@tigard-or.gov.



Irrigation Systems and Water Quality

Although irrigation systems make watering lawns and gardens more energy, cost and time efficient, they provide potential connections in which contaminants such as animal waste, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides can be siphoned, or backflow, into the drinking water supply.

The reversal of water flow in the water system, when negative pressure occurs within the distribution main lines, is called backflow. Backflow can occur during water line flushing, fire fighting, or breaks in water mains. Without a proper backflow prevention device, water can be siphoned into the water distribution system, potentially polluting or contaminating the water supply.

To protect water quality, the City of Tigard requires all irrigation systems be equipped with an approved backflow prevention assembly. The device must be tested when installed, if moved or repaired, or on an annual basis. Irrigation systems not protected by an approved assembly present a potential health hazard to your household, neighbors and community.

Remember everyone uses water, whether it's for drinking, cooking, cleaning or bathing and it is everyone's responsibility to help protect and ensure the safety and quality of the drinking water we use.

For more information on backflow prevention, visit the city's web site at www.tigard-or.gov/city_hall/departments/water/cross_connection.asp, or contact Hung Nguyen, Backflow Prevention Coordinator, at 503-718-2603 or hung@tigard-or.gov.

Capital Improvement Program Update for Fiscal Year 2006-07

The public comment period in the formulation of the Fiscal Year 2006-07 CIP (Capital Improvement Program) ended on Friday, January 27. The annual CIP includes improvements to city streets, storm drainage, sanitary sewer, water, parks and other city facilities. The draft project list for FY 2006-07 includes a multitude of projects with strong emphasis on improvements to the Tigard downtown area, identification of feasible solutions to traffic congestion on Highway 99W, continuation of an extensive street maintenance program, and purchase of land for open space and parks.

Two public meetings were conducted during the comment period to obtain citizen input on the draft project list. The Planning Commission will have an opportunity for comment at its meeting on March 6. City Council discussion and input is scheduled for the Council workshop meeting on March 21.

Citizens will have further opportunities for comment in the process leading to adoption of the CIP projects for next fiscal year. The Planning Commission is scheduled to conduct a public hearing on Monday, May 15. City Council will likewise conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, June 13 as part of the CIP adoption process. If approved, the FY 2006-07 Capital Improvement Program becomes effective July 1, 2006.

For the complete CIP formulation process, milestones and tentative schedules, please visit www.tigard-or.gov or contact Vannie Nguyen, Engineering Manager, at 503-718-2460 or vannie@tigard-or.gov.



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It Happens Only Once A Year!

The Tigard Police Department operates a seven week Citizen's Police Academy once a year. The Department is presently recruiting interested persons who want to learn about their police department for the upcoming academy beginning April 26, 2006.

The academy is conducted on seven consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Tigard City Hall, 13125 SW Hall Blvd.

The purpose of the academy is to create better understanding and communication between citizens and police through education. The intent is not to produce citizens trained in law enforcement, but to help citizens better understand their city's police department. When the community knows and understands the limitations and abilities of law enforcement, the police can then better serve the community.

The academy subject matter covers a wide range of law enforcement topics such as investigations, patrol, training, budget, community policing, gangs, narcotics and firearms. The classes are conducted by members of the Tigard Police Department. A graduation will conclude the academy's seventh week

on June 7. To date, 250 community members have participated in this popular program.

Academy graduates leave with increased knowledge and enthusiasm to share the newly learned knowledge with their family, friends and neighbors. Further, some Citizens Police Academy graduates pursue volunteer efforts that closely match their interests. Other graduates may expand on their interests in law enforcement.

If you are interested and able to commit to attending most, if not all of the sessions, you are encouraged to apply. A criminal history background check will be conducted to determine eligibility. Apply early as enrollment is limited to 20 participants. Application deadline is April 7.

You can find an application online by visiting our website http://www.tigard-or.gov/police/community_policing/police_academy.asp.

Completed applications can be returned in person to the Tigard Police Department, faxed to 503-718-2645 or mailed. For more information, please call 503-718-2561 during normal business hours.