



City of Tigard Press Release

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A Third Year Taking it to the Streets ... with Ice Cream

For the third year in a row, Tigard residents joined City of Tigard staff for a café on the corner event series in neighborhoods around the city.

The neighborhood events many participants call “ice cream socials” are one of Tigard’s most popular, weekly summer activities. City staff bring an ice cream cart and a mobile, pop-up café directly to neighborhoods on summer days in July and August. Residents enjoy ice cream and interact with city staff and their neighbors.

“The City of Tigard’s vision to build a more walkable, healthy and connected community has promoted creative engagement,” said Kenny Asher, Community Development Director. “It’s remarkable how barriers are broken down when neighbors talk to their neighbors. We have a chance to listen to local concerns on traffic, safety, parks and making Tigard an easier place to navigate by walking.”

This summer, the ice cream entourage visited eight neighborhoods. Welcoming signs were added several days before each event, and residents in walking distance received mailed invitations. Staff participants include representatives from every department—police officers, librarians, engineers and planners, public works and parks employees.

Between 30 and 70 residents participated in each gathering. After each visit, written comments by residents are shared with city staff, who follow up on specific questions and concerns. Residents also learned about parks and recreation programs, the city’s strategic plan and upcoming local elections issues. Among the most popular items shared in 2016 was the city’s new walking map that promotes the city’s commitment to become a more walkable community.

“It’s hard not to build good relations over ice cream and conversations,” said Asher. “Given the positive feedback we’ve received, we’ll continue this Tigard tradition next summer.”

The last café on your corner/summer ice cream visit in Tigard is scheduled for 5 p.m. this Tuesday, in the Summer Lake neighborhood at Mill View Court.

For more details go to: www.tigard-or.gov/community/community_events.php.

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