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www.thedalles.org



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

On November 2nd, people from communities all over the Gorge gathered at The Dalles Public Library to remember departed loved ones, enjoy the magic of the Latino culture, and celebrate the Day of the Dead.

Young and old enjoyed the music, food, and cultural traditions that make this holiday such a special commemoration of family. The event at the library was possibly the first Día de los Muertos ever organized in the Gorge and could not have happened without the efforts of all of the community partners including The Dalles Public Library, Columbia Gorge Community College, the Hood River Latino Network, and especially not without the hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication of the amazing group of teens from the Juntos organization at The Dalles High School.



We're all grateful for what will hopefully become an annual tradition at The Dalles Library.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY

The group of 13 graduates participated in 7 evenings of presentations, tours, and discussions with department heads and staff across all departments of The City of The Dalles. The goals of the Local Government Academy are:



- To improve transparency and knowledge of City operations and services throughout the community.
- To deepen community understanding of how local government works.
- To identify opportunities for the community to participate in decision-making processes within city government.

From left to right: Stacey Roberts, Sarah Mello, Miguel Aguilar, Rita Aguilar, John Brady, Anne Brady, Jann Oldenburg, Mayor Richard Mays, Amy Scholze, Jordan Clymer, Maria Maldonado, and Nicholas Carlstrom.
(not pictured): Liliana Lachino and Nicole Cowart.

"I learned so much about our City. At every presentation I was impressed by the high quality of city leadership and personnel. This experience has given me the knowledge and confidence to seek out roles to contribute to our community"
—Sarah Mello

Welcome New Employees

Abby Jara started in October as our new Executive Assistant to the City Manager. Abigail comes to us from One Community Health where she worked as a Welcome Team Manager.



Kirsten Wells started with us in August as the new Library Tech II. She has her undergrad in history and museum studies.



Frank Glover is our new Associate Planner, in Community Development, as of September. He comes to us from Marion County. Frank has a Master's in City & Regional Planning as well as bachelors in American studies.



Amie Ell was the Executive Assistant and promoted to City Clerk, as of October.

Ann Moorhead is our RARE, working with Community Development Dept. RARE is Resource Assistance for Rural Environment through the University of Oregon.



Sarah Fuge is the new Water Treatment Certified Operator at Wicks. Sarah previously worked for J.A.E. Oregon as a Wastewater Process Tech III in Tualatin.

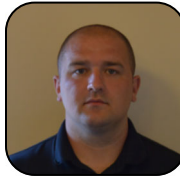


Richard Brown is our new Police officer who comes to us from Vancouver, where he most recently worked as a Railroad Special Agent.



Kellen Mathisen is a new Police Officer who came from Lake Oswego Police Dept. He also holds a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice.

Jacob VanVelsor is our new Safety Officer. Most recently he worked for Amazon in Gresham as a Health and Safety Specialist. Jacob is a current member of the U.S. Navy Reserves and Active Navy Veteran.



Ambrielle Feil is the Library Page at the Library as of December. She comes from Chenoweth Elementary where she was a teacher for over 2 years.



Betsy Domsic is the new Paralegal in our Legal Department. Betsy has worked for a local law firm for over four years as a paralegal. Prior to that, she was a Legal Asst for over four years at a different firm.



David Collins was promoted to IT Director as of October. He was the IT Manager for the last year and will be improving city systems to ensure we are in the best position possible.

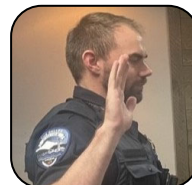
Jon Kleeman is the new Library Page at the Library as of October. John recently worked at the State Department as an English Language Specialist.



Jacob Buell is working at Public Works in Wastewater Collection. Jacob comes from Hood River Garbage where he has been a driver for close to two years.



Jess Keeler is another new employee who will be working at Public Works, Wastewater Collection. Jess comes to us from Mountain Services where he has been a driver and equipment operator for the last two years.



Joseph Green was hired in July as a Police Officer. Joseph comes to us from Inter-Con Security. He is also a Team Leader and Combat Engineer with the Oregon Army National Guard with over 6 years of service.

Brayden Anderson was hired in September as the new Equipment Operator in the Street Division. Brayden comes to us from American Eagle Protective Services. He's also a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran.





JOIN OUR TEAM AT THE CITY OF THE DALLES!

Current Job Listings:

- ◆ Certified Mechanic
- ◆ Police Officer
- ◆ Senior Planner

To view the full job descriptions and apply, go to:

<https://thedalles.applicantpro.com/jobs/>



Northwest Accreditation Alliance Award of Compliance for the Dalles Police Department

The Dalles Police Department recently achieved accredited status from the Northwest Accreditation Alliance. This accomplishment took a great effort from the Police Department and demonstrates TDPD's commitment to excellence in 21st Century Community Policing. The effort included a full revision and modernization of the Department's Policy and Procedures manual as well as the property and evidence manual. Hundreds of documents were provided to the accreditation assessors to prove compliance with the highest standards in law enforcement.

The city of The Dalles Police Department is a full service law enforcement agency. The Dalles is the county seat of Wasco County Oregon. The Department has 26 sworn officers Captain, five Patrol Sergeants, one Detectives, and 14 Patrol non-sworn positions within the professional support staff a part animal control officer, and a full-officer. Half of the police officer Department due to turno- the Department include 24/7, 365 and detectives' response, special traffic safety enforcement, police and water resource security, school safety, and evidence and property management. The Department also supports crisis intervention, community drug take back, and a chaplain.



City of The Dalles Police which includes the Chief and Detective Sergeant, three Officers. There are four department including two time evidence technician, an time codes enforcement positions are new to the ver. Programs supported by patrol response, major crimes emergency response team, reserves, city watershed patrol

The Dalles Police Department is the first accredited agency in the Columbia gorge region. To maintain this status TDPD will undergo reassessment every three years. Chief Worthy said, "I am so proud of the efforts of my team at TDPD and I hope that the citizens of The Dalles and our visitors see this as a testament to our commitment to excellence in public service".



THE DALLES-WASCO COUNTY LIBRARY

UP COMING EVENTS For more and current events happening at the Library visit their website at:
<https://www.wascocountylibrary.com/events>

Teen Writer's Club

Are you an aspiring writer or just love books in general? Writers and book lovers of the Teen variety can join us to discuss their personal projects or just talk about what they've been reading. Starting January 2nd, 2024. Meets the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of each month at 4:00pm.

Magic the Gathering

Do you play Magic the Gathering? Join other fans! Meets weekly on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. starting January 4th, 2024.

Coffee and Coloring

Starting January 5th, 2024, drop in for a relaxing start to your day. Have some coffee, snacks, and coloring the morning away. Coffee and Coloring occurs the first Friday of each month from 12:00pm - 1:30pm. For adults only.

Teens Art Attack

Just because I can, join Jeannie in the teen room, on January 5th, 2024 for some neurogenic art using multimedia techniques. Snacks will be present as well.

First Saturday Event

Usually, the first Saturday of the month brings you a performer led program of interest to all ages. However, because January 6th will be the last Saturday that Oregon's Dino Story exhibit (an interactive exhibit from the Museum of Natural and Cultural History) will be here, we want you to come and explore with your family. Each child going through the exhibit on this day will receive a grab bag that will include some sort of dinosaur related craft, as well as other goodies; while supplies last. Event starts at 11am.

Tumi Tales: Read with a Dog

Starting on January 8th, 2024, this month only, come read to Tumi the labradoodle! One-on-one reading helps kids gain confidence. This program is open to all kids from beginning readers to those looking to practice with a patient, furry listener. Tumi, our therapy dog, comes every Monday from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. Spots are limited, so register in advance to reserve a ten-minute session. Kids can bring their own books or pick a book from the library's collection. Walk-in readers are welcome, but a spot is not guaranteed. Registration for this event will close on January 29, 2024 at 4:30pm. Ages: 5 to 11. Only a few spots left.

Adult Writers Group

Starting January 2nd, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Writers and book lovers can join as a group on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Whodunnit Mystery Book Club

Starting on January 4th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Hang out with other mystery lovers as we talk about our favorite books, movies, and more! Books are available at the front desk. Meets the first Thursday of every month.

Fun Fridays

Starting January 5th, 2024, series of fun activities for elementary school aged children. Occurs every Friday, 3:00 - 4:30. Each week will be something different; arts, crafts, STEM, games, and more. Snacks will be available for participants

Adult Junk Journaling-Fill your Journal

Starting on January 6th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m., first Saturday of each month, the hardest part about junk journaling and art journaling is getting started and deciding what to add. In these gatherings we will get over the hump of what to put IN the journal. We will supply stamps, stickers, prints, papers, ribbons, tape, glue, pens, pencils, paints, rubs, stencils, and anything else you can think of.

Adventure Readers book club

Adventure Readers book club meets at 3:00 on the second Wednesday of each month. This book club is for those ready to read easier chapter books on their own. Each month we will read a different book, one full of adventure or danger, then get together to talk about the book. We'll start the meeting with a snack, and afterwards, if there is still time, we might have a craft project to work on. At the end of the meeting, you will be given the book for the next month.

Registration for this event will close on January 10, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

COLUMBIA GORGE REGIONAL AIRPORT SOUTH APRON AND TAXIWAY PROJECT

Columbia Gorge Regional Airport is a very busy place this fall. We received our FAA grant and 4 Oregon Dept of Aviation grants. At the conclusion of these projects we will have 5 new taxiways and the available space to build 6 more rows of hangars. We will also have a new fuel apron and above ground 100LL self-serve fuel system and a new 100kw generator tied into the fuel and lighting systems to keep everything going in the event of a catastrophic event. A good



portion of the work has been completed this fall and will resume in the spring when we have the ability to pave and finish work. It has been a great year at the airport with lots of successful projects and flying.



BEAUTIFICATION & TREE COMMITTEE TREE GRANT PROGRAM

The City of The Dalles Beautification and Tree Committee recently completed its first residential tree grant program, awarding 25 trees to members of the community who applied for the grants. The tree varieties provided were October Glory Maple, Exclamation! London Plane Tree, Autumn Blaze Maple, and Washington Hawthorn. The trees are 8-10 feet tall now and will grow to a mature height of 25' to 50', depending on the species.

The purpose of the project was to help residents beautify and improve their property with trees. Trees not only enhance our homes' beauty and value, but they provide essential shade as summers get hotter, cooling our yards and saving energy. Trees improve soil, air, and water quality and provide habitat for wildlife.



The Beautification and Tree Committee hopes to make this residential tree grant program an annual event, and plans to expand on the project with the help of grants from the state and other sources. 2024 grant applications will be available.

Healthy Trees for a Beautiful City

Trees in the city provide many benefits. According to the Oregon Department of Forestry, trees lower levels of noise and dust, reduce temperature, provide shade and increase property value. But sometimes, trees near streets and sidewalks can grow into too much of a good thing and create a safety hazard.

Trees in The Dalles are cared for by citizens, not City staff, except in the Downtown Area. It is the owner's or occupant's responsibility to reduce the hazard when a tree on their property or on the right-of-way next to their property blocks public walkways and streets.

This year the City is asking citizens to make a special effort to prevent damage to street trees. Pruning low hanging branches before a collision breaks them is healthier for trees. Tree trimming also prevents damage to tall vehicles like recreational vehicles, garbage trucks and school buses.

Plan Proper Pruning for Safe Streets

Proper pruning or trimming is important for the health of your trees and shrubs. The best time to plan your late-winter pruning strategy is while branches are bare.

The Arbor Day Foundation website provides tree trimming guidance. "Pruning during dormancy is the most common practice. It results in a vigorous burst of new growth in the spring and should be used if that is the desired effect. It is usually best to wait until the coldest part of winter has passed."

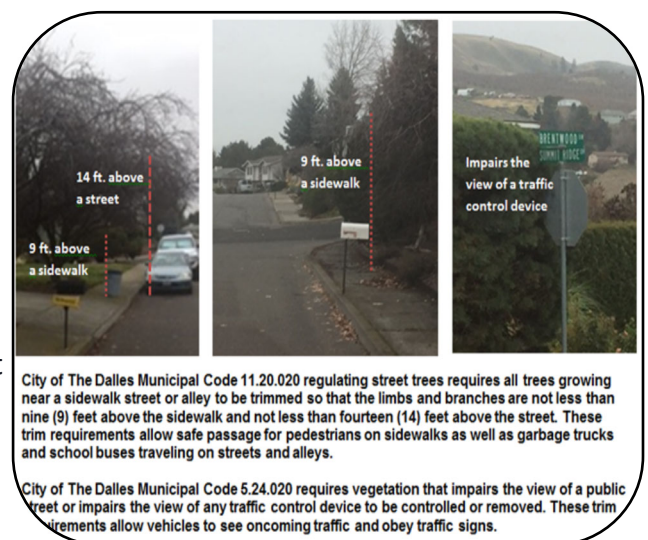
If you want to slow or dwarf the growth of trees and shrubs, prune in mid-summer.

The Arbor Day Foundation website has a tree care video library to show you pruning basics.

Other resources can be found on the internet or by consulting professionals.

For more information about trimming trees for traffic safety visit the City website thedalles.org/transportation or contact the Public Works Department at (541) 296-5401.

Arbor Day Foundation. (2023, November 22). *Tree Care Tips & Techniques*. Retrieved from Arbor Day Foundation: <https://www.arborday.org/trees/tips/>



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MERCURY!

What is so bad about Mercury?

Mercury is a naturally occurring element. But it is highly toxic, resists breaking down in the environment, and accumulates in the food chain. Mercury can permanently affect fetal and child development and can damage the brain, kidneys, and lungs.

What are major sources of mercury pollution?

Mercury is released through coal-burning energy production, some industrial processes, abandoned mines, garbage incineration, improper disposal, and accidental spills. Rain carries it from the air to watersheds where it can accumulate in the food chain, affecting certain types of fish.

How does mercury get into my body?

People are most commonly exposed to mercury by eating mercury contaminated fish. People who may become or are pregnant, and children are most susceptible to mercury poisoning. Susceptible people should be cautious of eating more than one fish meal from any source in a week. Certain kinds of large ocean fish should not be eaten at all, as well as some freshwater fish. See advisories and consumption guidelines for fish harvested in Oregon waters in the **RESOURCES** section.

Other routes of exposure are from breakage of mercury-containing devices such as mercury thermometers or fluorescent tubes.

Other products that may contain mercury:

- Coin and button cell batteries
- Blood pressure cuffs
- Fluorescent light tubes
- Art supplies
- Old paint (pre-1990)
- Chemistry sets
- Thermostats
- Tilt switches (silent light switches)
- Pesticides
- Contact lens solution with “thiomersal”
- Barometers
- Antiseptic solution with “thiomersal” or “merbromin” (such as mercurichrome)

How can I help?

- Substitute mercury-containing products with mercury-free products.
- Dispose of mercury-containing products at a household hazardous waste collection event or facility.
- Practice energy efficiency to help reduce demand for coal-fired energy.

RESOURCES:

Household hazardous waste disposal in Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties: Go to www.tricountyrecycle.com to view the 2024 disposal event schedule

Hazardous Waste Collection Events

GET RID OF UNWANTED DANGEROUS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

A lot of materials in our homes and businesses are hazardous. Don't throw them in the garbage.

*Bring them to one of our **FREE EVENTS** or ask us about 'return-to-retail' options!*

**Oil & Latex Paint • Yard & Garden Products • Household Cleaners & Chemicals • Automotive Fluids
Hair Dye • Old Gas & Kerosene • Pool & Spa Chemicals • Hobby Solvents & Glues • Propane Bottles & Tanks
All Batteries • Ballasts, Fluorescent Tubes & CFL Bulbs • Thermostats & Thermometers Fire Extinguishers**

PLUS! E-Waste, Cell Phones, Unwanted Medicines

Pre-Registration is REQUIRED for the Hood River and The Dalles Collection Events!

Fish advisories and consumption guidelines: Oregon Health Authority, 877-290-6767

<https://ordeq.org/oha-fish>

Who to contact if you spill mercury: Don't attempt to clean it up by yourself. Call the Oregon Emergency Response System, 800-452-0311

Who to contact about accidental inhalation, ingestion or skin/eye exposure to mercury: Call Oregon Poison Center 800-222-1222

Learn more: <https://ordeq.org/mercury>

Be a Leak Seeker

The City owns the lines up to the meter but after the meter is private property. The City does not determine the location of a leak, fix a leak, or troubleshoot problems on private property. We recommend if you suspect a problem you start investigating it right away. If you would like the meter to be shut off please contact the Utility Billing Department at (541) 506-2031, if after hours, and it is an emergency please call (541) 980-7703 for the on-call service person.

Identify the source of a leak

- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.)
- Look for dripping sink and bathtub faucets and showerheads. Worn-out washers typically cause faucet and showerhead leaks.
- Check under and around sinks for wet spots, a musty smell or bowed cabinetry.
- Be alert to wall or ceiling discoloration, bubbling paint or bulging wallpaper.
- Look and listen for running or dripping water on refrigerators with ice/water dispensers, humidifiers, clothes washers, dishwashers, and water heaters.

All of the above are signs of a leak, but keep in mind that not all water leaks are plumbing leaks. The water could also be coming from a leak in the roof or around a window. Either way, leaks should be addressed promptly to reduce the risk of water damage.

Water meters in The Dalles are equipped with special meter reading equipment. Please do not open your water meter to look for leaks. To avoid damage to your meter, call a serviceperson if you need help with a meter test on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (541) 296-5401. A leak detection meter test will take about a half hour. An adult resident must be present during a meter test appointment.

Request for Leak Adjustment

The City does offer an adjustment to the bill for qualifying leaks. The City will consider adjusting the customer's highest bill for up to half of the excess usage for that month's bill due to a water leak that occurs between the City water meter and the line to the customer's home. The general process is as follows:

- Notify the City of any leak that has been discovered as soon as possible.
- Repair the leak within 5 working days from the time of discovery. You may ask for an extension based on extenuating circumstances.
- Submit the completed Leak Adjustment Form at thedalles.org/leakadjustmentform, with proof of repair within 30 days.
- A 2nd leak within a (12) twelve-month period will only be considered if it is unrelated to the first. The customer must provide the Utility Billing Department documentation noting the difference between the 1st and the 2nd.
- The Utility Billing Staff will contact the Customer once the review is completed.

Do you have questions about conserving water? Visit The Dalles Public Works Water Distribution webpage the www.thedalles.org/waterdistribution.



CITY OF THE DALLES Employee Holiday Party

Employee Holiday Party

City of The Dalles had their annual Holiday Party at the National Neon Sign Museum and it was a great turnout! Lilo's BBQ catered, there was a delicious soup and chili contest, an employee competition for a "Farewell Sign," and service pins for our wonderful employees for their years of service at the city. The turnout exceeded our expectations, and the joyous atmosphere was appreciable. It was heartening to see so many of our team members come together to celebrate the season and share festive cheer. The lively energy and camaraderie truly made this holiday gathering unforgettable. A big thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the merriment and to the amazing JDI Team who put all of this together! Making it a memorable occasion for us all.



The Gift of Giving

The City employees also participated in a new tradition "The Gift of Giving," and it was truly a success! We ventured into local businesses with 'Angel Trees,' securing over 40 tags for our employees to participate! It's inspiring to witness the collective effort to make a positive impact. Thank you city employees, the spirit of giving was truly heartwarming.





WINTER CITY HALL CLOSURES

January 15th, 2024
February 19th, 2024



City of The Dalles Meeting Dates and Locations:

We encourage community members to attend meetings. All meetings are available to view live-streamed by clicking on the appropriate links on the City website. Updates and cancellations can be found on the City's website at www.thedalles.org/agendas

City Council: Council Chamber 5:30pm meets second and fourth Monday of each month, with the exception of holidays. *Generally does not meet in August.*

Planning Commission: Council Chamber 5:30pm first and third Thursday.

Urban Renewal Agency: Council Chamber 5:30pm third Tuesday of each month as needed.

Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Board: Airport 7am third Friday of each month.

Library Board: Location varies 4pm on the third Tuesday.

Historic Landmarks Commission: Council Chamber 4pm fourth Wednesday.

Urban Renewal Budget: Council Chamber generally in April.

Beautification & Tree Committee: City Hall Council Chamber 4:00p.m. first and third Monday.

Museum Commission: Joint commission with Wasco County at The Harding House the second Tuesday at 6pm.

City Budget Committee: Council Chamber as needed and generally the first week of May.

Contact Information: Email or call anytime, we are happy to answer your questions or concerns

City Staff:

City Manager: Matthew Klebes	mklebes@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-296-5481 ext. 1118
City Attorney: Jonathan Kara	kara@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-296-5481 ext. 1150
City Clerk: Amie Ell	amell@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-296-5481 ext. 1119
District Librarian: Jeff Wavrunek	jwavrunek@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-296-5481 ext. 3000
Finance Director: Angie Wilson	awilson@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-296-5481 ext. 1113
HR Director: Daniel Hunter	dhunter@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-296-5481 ext. 4448
Police Chief: Tom Worthy	tworthy@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-298-8023
Public Works Director: Dave Anderson	danderson@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-296-5481 ext. 2008
Community Development Director: Joshua Chandler	jchandler@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-296-5481 ext. 1121

Elected Officials:

Mayor: Rich Mays	rmays@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-769-0858
Councilor Position #1: Timothy McGlothlin	tmcglathlin@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-980-4051
Councilor Position #2: Darcy Long	dlong@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-980-7184
Councilor Position #3: Scott Randall	srandall@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-965-3195
Councilor Position #4: Dan Richardson	drichardson@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-238-2883
Councilor Position #5: Rod Runyon	rrunyon@ci.the-dalles.or.us	541-993-6413