



FREE

Cedar Mill News

Volume 23, Issue 1

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January 2025

97229 mailbox thieves caught

A reader alerted us to the theft of the master key for all cluster mailboxes in the 97229 zip code. Apparently, a carrier was held up and the key was stolen in early December. Mailboxes were found opened and mail was taken beginning around December 9. There was no damage to the boxes so the assumption is that they were opened with a key. Some readers reported seeing a white Subaru on their security camera recordings. Neighbors from several Cedar Mill and Bethany neighborhoods reported their boxes had been opened, in posts on the [Cedar Mill News page on Facebook](#).



Neighbors found the doors open and items missing in mid-December

On December 23, Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) announced they had apprehended the thieves. On December 19, a United States Postal Service (USPS) carrier reported observing two individuals stealing mail and packages along their delivery route near the 13300 block of NW Dellatorre St. The suspects were seen driving a white Subaru Crosstrek that matched the descriptions neighbors had reported.

Responding deputies located and stopped the Crosstrek. During the stop, deputies found a significant amount of mail and large parcels in the

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Recycling News

Recycle your holiday greenery

What to do with the tree once the holidays are over? Several scout troops are conducting fundraisers for tree and greenery recycling. Or you can follow the instructions for Walker Garbage pickup. If you have room on your property, another solution is to put the tree behind a bush somewhere and wait until summer when all the needles will have fallen off to become compost. Then you can either trim off the branches and use the trunk as a pole or cut it up and place it in yard debris.

Troop 728

Saturday, January 4, and Sundays January 5 and 12, 9 am-noon, Terra Linda Elementary School, suggested donation \$20

If you received one of our flyers (the white envelope with red writing) then we will be picking trees

up in your neighborhood on these dates. Please have your tree (wreath, or greenery) at the curb by 9 am on the date of your choice, with the envelope attached and visible from the street. If it isn't out by 9 am when we start collecting, it might be missed during our first route. We will make another round by 11 am, so no need to let us know until after noon.

There is no need to call or email to "schedule" a pick up. If you received our envelope, then we will have trucks in your area on those dates. If you misplaced the envelope, you can make one by writing 728 on any homemade donation envelope placed in a waterproof bag. Don't forget to make sure the envelope is visible!

If you did not receive an envelope, we might not be picking up in your area. But don't worry, we will be accepting drop offs at Terra

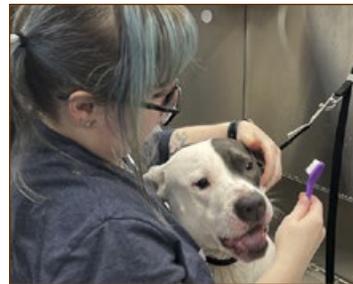
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New Businesses

Scenthound—a new model for dog care and grooming

Monday-Friday 8 am-6 pm,
Saturday-Sunday 9 am-5 pm, 13611
NW Cornell (west end of the Sunset
Mall)

Scenthound, a national franchise, states its mission is "to provide routine hygiene and wellness care so dogs live longer, happier lives." They offer a subscription model to encourage dog owners to come in for monthly services to keep dogs clean and healthy. The Basic Hygiene Package includes a double bath, ear cleaning, nail clip, and teeth brushing, for \$39/month. Add-on services such as shedding treatments, haircuts, and



Scenthound provides pro bono service to this Beaverton Police therapy dog

nail grinding are extra. The website explains, "Not all dogs need traditional grooming, but all dogs need routine hygiene. This realization is why we created Scenthound!"

Walk-in visits are available at non-member rates, but for a limited time you can get an introductory visit for \$39. All sizes and breeds are the same price for the basic service.

The name comes from the priorities for service: Skin, Coat, Ears, Nails, and Teeth (SCENT). In addition to the grooming, each dog gets a six-point wellness check at each visit including a weigh-in. Notes on condition and behavior are shared through an app.

Owner Betsy Bingham was so impressed with the concept and support offered by the Scenthound parent company that she decided to open several locations in Oregon, with the first one in the Cedar Mill Safeway shopping center. Three



more locations will open in 2025.

The company helped her use demographic analysis to find a good location, and provided real estate, design, and contractor help to get the shop ready. For example, a location near existing shopping allows dog owners to drop off their pet for services while running errands.

Drop in, call 503-376-1110, or [visit the website](#) to learn more and sign up for services for your furry family member.

Area Manager Farrah Thomson and Owner Betsy Bingham

EVEN Hotel opening soon

11784 NW Cedar Falls Drive

The hotel project in the Timberland area at Barnes and 118th was approved by Beaverton in 2019. Construction began in 2020 but stalled and then eventually was sold to IHG Hotels & Resorts. Construction is nearly done, and they hope to open by the end of January. The



hotel will be managed by [MKM Hotels](#), and will be one of [IHG's "EVEN" branded locations](#) that emphasizes a fitness lifestyle.

Nine of the rooms will have a Peloton bike, and the athletic center on the ground floor will have a variety of equipment. There is a

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Like [Like us on Facebook for timely updates](#)

Cedar Mill Business Roundup

Do you have news or events or know of something that you would like to see covered in the Cedar Mill News? Please write to Virginia Bruce at info@cedarmillnews.com

CMBA January Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 12-1 pm, The Ackerly at Timberland, 11795 NW Cedar Falls Drive

Get a jump start on your New Year's Resolutions for your business by joining the Cedar Mill Business Association! We meet monthly for education and networking, and we encourage new prospective members to join us for two free meetings, and lunch is provided!

Promotion on smart thermostats

Upgrade your home's energy efficiency this winter with a new



smart thermostat. Energy Trust of Oregon is excited to offer end-of-year savings on the latest devices, like the Google Nest smart thermostat. Use promo code SMART24 to unlock additional savings and get a new smart thermostat for as low as \$19.99 with FREE shipping.

Benefits of a smart thermostat: saves money on your energy bill; maintains consistent temperatures; lets you adjust settings using your smart device.

Enjoy winter at home with greater comfort by using promo code SMART24. Offer ends on January 13. [Learn more and shop here.](#)

From Mocktails to Zero-Proof Brews and Wines, Market of Choice Leads the Way

If you're taking on the Dry January challenge in 2025, you aren't alone. The sober curious movement has a lot of momentum, particularly with the younger generation. According to NIQ, a global market research organization, one year ago 47% of Gen Z (21+) said they'd never had an alcoholic drink.

Whether you're going alcohol-free for a month or a lifetime, there are more choices than ever on store shelves. Try a functional beverage



infused with CBD for a relaxing evening or mix up a mocktail with zero-proof bitters and spirits for a festive gathering.

At Market of Choice, non-alcoholic options are more than a trend—they're a long-term commitment. From zero-proof spirits to alcohol-free wines and beers, Market of Choice has supported this growing category for years.

If you're thinking about trying out Dry January now or non-alcoholic options at any time, talk to the Beer & Wine department specialist at your local Cedar Hills Market of Choice where there is a wide selection of non-alcoholic wines, beers, ready-to-drink mocktails, and zero-proof spirits to help you stay on track.

It's never been easier—or tastier—to go dry. Here's a simple zero-proof cocktail recipe featuring Ghia's signature bitter aperitivo and Casamara Club's Alta Italian style botanical soda.

Ingredients

3 oz Ghia Non-Alcoholic

Apéritif

1.5 oz Casamara Club Alta

.5 oz simple syrup (homemade 1:1 sugar/water)

Steps

Measure all ingredients into a shaker over ice and shake aggressively. Strain into Coupe glass or standard martini glass. Garnish with Rosemary sprig and thin lemon slice.

Cheers to a more mindful way of drinking and a healthier 2025!

Transform yourself inside and out

Monday, January 13-March 9, Orangetheory Fitness, 11800 NW Cedar Falls Dr., Ste. 108

Orangetheory Fitness invites members and anyone new to their Transformation Challenge, an 8-week course that promotes successful results. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers in the event. For more information or to sign up for the event, contact the studio at 503-427-1915. Special offers available until January 13.

A blueprint to make 2025 your best financial year ever

A new year is often a chance for a fresh start. That's what makes it a great time to decide to get your finances in order so that you can find stability and independence. Whether you are drowning in debt or have dreams of homeownership, you can lay the foundation for financial freedom by following some simple steps. Use this 2025 financial blueprint to make the next 12 months your best ones yet.

Set big goals

To make 2025 a financial success, you need to set big goals. Write down the top five things that you want to achieve by the end of the year. Maybe you hope to have at least \$10,000 in savings or pay down a credit card. Whatever it is, write it down and then set achievable milestones along the way. For instance, if you hope to save \$10,000 by the end of the year that means you would need to save a little over \$830 each month. If you haven't had a significant change in income or haven't been able to save this much before now, you will need to reevaluate how you spend your money and where you can pull from

to put it in savings.

Set small goals

Small financial goals can be something like setting up bills on autopay so that you never miss a payment. You may also want to consider finding ways to save money such as cutting unused subscriptions. Setting smaller goals can help you stay on track since you feel the reward sooner than with the larger ones.

Start with a clear-cut, manageable budget

Once you have a firm idea of your financial goals for the new year, write out a comprehensive budget so that you'll be able to make room for those goals.

Stash away savings

If you are debt free or close to it, the next thing you should focus on is building your savings. Ideally, you have a rainy-day stash of cash that is easily accessible in case of an emergency. With a set game-plan and personal discipline, you can make 2025 a great financial success for your future.

Sunset Credit Union is a full-service, not-for-profit financial institution serving anyone who lives, works, or attends school in Washington County. Visit the [Sunset Credit Union website](#) or stop by their office at 1100 NW Murray Blvd to learn more.

January Real Estate update

By Jan Dempsey, Realtor, Windermere Realty Group

I wanted to share some key insights into the Portland Metro housing market, along with some context on what these trends mean historically and what we can expect heading into 2025. Throughout the US, sales of previously occupied homes rose in November to their fastest pace since March with home buyers encouraged by a wider selection of properties on the market, even as mortgage rates mostly bounced around 6.75% throughout the year. Existing home sales rose 4.8% in November, from October, which was 6.1% year over year, representing the biggest year-over-year gain since June 2021. The latest home sales topped the 4.1 million pace economists were expecting, according to FactSet. With lower inventory, home prices increased

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CPO News

Joint CPO 1 & 7 Resource Fair and Social

Monday, January 13, 7-8:30 pm, in person at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 15505 NW Springville Rd.

This month CPO7 is hosting a Resource Fair instead of holding a regular meeting. There will be no formal presentations and no Zoom option. Instead, we invite the CPO 1 & 7 community to meet in person with neighbors and with representatives of a variety of local organizations and agencies, including our regular service provider agencies, while enjoying light refreshments in an informal setting. We will look back on our 2024 events and activities and will brainstorm with members about future topics for 2025.

We encourage neighbors to participate in person if possible; however, we know that may not work for everyone. There will be an online version of any CPO7 presentations from the evening included with the meeting minutes on the CPO 7 page. Members can send in questions or share comments in advance by emailing cpo7leaders@gmail.com. Contact information and links to information about resource fair participants will also be made available to anyone unable to attend in person.

Viva Village Events

Viva Village is a Beaverton-area grassroots organization of members and volunteers who focus on enhancing and expanding the ways we can age well. We provide connections, programs, volunteer services, and referrals so members can lead engaged, healthy lives. For more information visit the Viva Village website. Please RSVP for all events by contacting vivavillageor@gmail.com or 503-746-5082. Links for zoom meetings will be sent to those who RSVP. Members-only events are listed on the website and in the web version of The News.

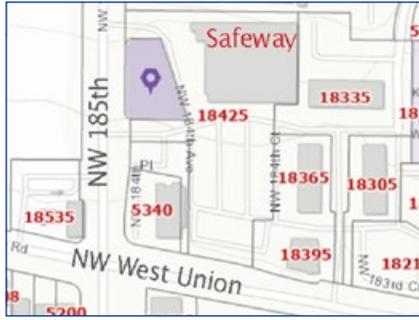
Age Café

Friday, January 3, 11 am-12 pm, Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW 5th

Small-group conversations exploring topics of interest to older adults. Interesting new topics each session. Co-hosted by Viva Village, Beaverton Committee on Aging (BCOA), Beaverton City Library, and Washington County Disability, Aging and Veterans Services (DAVS). Registration for the Zoom link is available a month ahead on the library's website

Development Applications

The proposed Alpenglow 6-lot subdivision development that held a neighborhood meeting in November is now under review by LUT, with comments due by January 6. You can comment here by selecting application number L2400317.



Neighborhood Meeting

Proposed multi-tenant commercial space

Monday, January 13, 6 pm, Bethany Library Annex, 4888 NW Bethany Boulevard.

The site is 0.46 acres in the

Neighborhood Commercial (NC) District and is located on tax lot #1N119BC11100, on a vacant spot in the Safeway (formerly Albertsons) center at 185th and West Union, possibly for a 5,000-sq-ft Professional Office/Medical Urgent Care clinic. Contact Mercedes Serra, 3J Consulting, at 503-946-9365, ext. 211 or mercedes.serra@3j-consulting.com.

Holiday tree lighting party

Hundreds of neighbors attended our third Annual Tree Lighting on December 7! The weather held for the entire celebration—chilly and clear. The 15-foot tree was installed in the small plaza between two buildings of the Milltownner Shopping Center next to Insomnia Coffee and was generously sponsored by Bales Findley Property Management, provided by and installed by Cornell Farms, and decorated by Chris Mattocks, his family and friends.



The choirs of Tumwater Middle School, directed by Robbie Boles, and Sunset High School, directed by Christopher Rust, sang holiday melodies while the crowd ate cookies, drank cider and hot chocolate.

Those attending donated coats to

the Beaverton School District's Kid's Closet and raised funds for their Feed My Body—Feed My Brain programs.

Without the help of our more than generous sponsors we would not have been able to have held the event. Our sponsors were: Cedar Mill Library, Cedar Mill News, Cornell Farm, Insomnia, Pet Barn, Safeway, Sunset Athletic and 77 Athletic Clubs, Sunset Credit Union, Timmco Insurance, Wildwood Tap House, Windermere Real Estate. We are greatly appreciative of our Cedar Mill Community Club volunteers, without

whose help this event wouldn't have been possible: Nancy Elder, Jan Dempsey, Lane Hegrenes, Carl Nelson, Mark Richardson, and Janet Vanoni. Thank you so very much!

or check the Viva Village calendar for registration link.

Online Viva Village 101

January 11, 10-11:30 am, online on Zoom

An informational session for prospective members, volunteers, or anyone interested in Viva Village. Register on our website or contact the office for the Zoom link.

Viva Village Forum—Healthy Aging and Top Tips for Brain Health

Monday, January 20, 2-3:30 pm, United Methodist Church, Wesley Room, 12555 SW 4th St., free

Are you concerned about your or a loved one's memory? Join us as Dr. Kevin Duff, Ph.D., Clinical Neuropsychologist at OHSU's Layton Aging & Alzheimer's Disease Center and a Professor of Neurology, discusses: 1) how aging affects the brain and ways to preserve cognitive health, 2) differences between age-related forgetfulness and Alzheimer's, and 3) opportunities to participate in Alzheimer's research. Refreshments served. RSVP recommended. Register on our website calendar or contact the Viva Village office. Refreshments served.

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Arts & Entertainment

Melodies of McKinney-Vento

Friday, January 31, 6:30 pm,
Mountainside High School
Auditorium, 12500 SW 175th,
Beaverton

The second annual Music for a



Cause benefit concert will feature local young musicians, including Sunset High School student Seojin Ha who created Melodies of McKinney-Vento last year. Seojin is also one of the Cedar Mill News editors.

He says, "Even though the COVID-19 era has come to an end, we are still seeing people impacted by the consequences of the pandemic. Many families are experiencing housing challenges due to increased costs and less stable job opportunities. Along with the parents searching for reliable income, the children in the family are constantly missing school due to the housing instability. I have witnessed many of my friends struggling to keep up with schoolwork when they fail to attend classes. People have worked hard to improve this situation in many ways, but these challenging situations continue to exist."

A [GoFundMe page](#) has been set up to receive donations. Proceeds from the event will support the Beaverton School District [McKinney-Vento Program](#) that helps students experiencing housing instability. The program protects the educational rights of students who lack a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence. This school year, the program has served 1,371 children who are experiencing housing insecurity. BSD has one of the highest densities of homeless students in all of Oregon

BSO is looking for young talented musicians!

Application Deadline: January 31, 2025. [Apply Today!](#)

The Beaverton Symphony Orchestra's Travis Hatton Young Artists Competition is an exciting opportunity for talented musicians between the ages 13-20 who call Washington County home.

Designed to discover and nurture the next generation of classical music stars by offering them a

platform to shine, winners receive a scholarship and the opportunity to perform as soloists with the Beaverton Symphony in two different venues in May, 2025.

This competition is for dedicated, accomplished music students.

It's a springboard to your musical future, helping to elevate your performance portfolio and open new opportunities for growth!

Applicants will go through a formal audition process (see [Complete Guidelines](#) for the online application), and finalists will compete in an inspiring Spring Recital on March 9, 2025. From this recital, three exceptional musicians will be chosen to rehearse with the orchestra and perform in a public concert.

BSO presents: Sibelius Second Symphony and more

Friday, January 24, 7 pm, and Sunday, January 26, 3 pm, Village Church, 330 SW Murray Blvd. Pre-Concert Talk is 30 minutes prior to the concert. [Find ticket information here.](#)

Join the Beaverton Symphony Orchestra and Conductor Dr. Pierre-Alain Chevalier in the music of Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 in D major, op. 43—a masterpiece that reflects the light and beauty of Finland's landscapes. Its soaring melodies evoke moments of quiet reflection and powerful grandeur. The program also includes: Saint-Saëns: "Bacchanale" from Samson and Delilah; and Delius: "The Walk to the Paradise Garden" from "A Village Romeo and Juliet."

Village Gallery of Arts January News

Visit the [VGA website](#) for more classes and events!

ArtChat

Sunday, January 12, 3-5 pm, show runs January 7-February 2

Come hear our featured artists tell about their art and see the new show.

Community Arts Program for all

Aaron Summers presents: How to Start Your Art Business Online

Monday, January 13, 6:30-8:30 pm, free, please RSVP to Sharon at dunhamsw@frontier.com

If you have ever thought about reaching a broader audience with

your art perhaps this is the time to start. Aaron Summers will share his professional knowledge on this topic. Please join us for your next adventure through the limitless world of business on the internet. The presentation is open to all. We hope to see you there. Light refreshments will be served.

Gallery Leadership Opportunity!

Could you engage and help keep the Gallery operating with zest and enthusiasm for a year or two? Or do you know someone who would be a good candidate? Please give it some thought. Two candidates are needed: Second Vice President and a Recording Secretary. For answers to questions about what these roles entail, please contact Jean Yarger, Membership Secretary, jean.yarger@gmail.com. Your response will be greatly appreciated!

All Ages art classes

Clay Sunday Open Studio

Sunday, January 5, 1-3 pm, max 12 students, \$20/hr, \$10 supply fee, VGA Instructional Team

Come and get your hands dirty! Clay and all supplies provided. Ongoing drop-in ceramics workshop. Experiment with techniques and try a variety of tools. Instructor available for questions and assistance in this no-pressure environment.

Children's Classes

Thursdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30, 3:45-5:15 pm, ages 7-11, max 8 students, \$70, VGA Instructional Team

Join an exciting class learning a variety of art forms! A team of rotating instructors provides a chance to explore a variety of media and approaches while building artistic concepts and skills. All supplies included. Featured Projects: Bubble-wrap Flowers, Watercolor-in-the-Round, Buildings and the Moon, and more!

Adult Classes

ZOOM Class: Acrylic Hydrangeas with Jean Anderson

Wednesday, January 8, 9 am-12 pm, max 8 students, beginner-intermediate, \$40

Have you wanted to try acrylics but been afraid? This is your perfect jumping off spot. I teach techniques, not how to paint just one painting. My goal is for you to be able to repeat the painting



with your own variations. This is a simple process to capture the beauty of hydrangeas in acrylic. Drawing isn't important, anyone can manage these shapes. This is an interactive Zoom class and you can ask questions as we go along.

Pen and Watercolor (or Acrylic) with Jean Anderson

Zoom class, Thursday, January 16, 6-9 pm, max 8 students, beginner to intermediate, ages 16-adult, \$40

In-person class, Saturday, February 1, 9 am-12 pm, max 8 students, beginner to intermediate, ages 16-adult, \$40

Pen and watercolor (or acrylic if you prefer) is fun and enjoyable. I teach techniques, not how to paint just one painting. My goal is for you to be able to repeat the painting with your own variations. Drawing skills really aren't necessary, I will teach you a work around.

Intermediate Watercolor Painting with Susan Pfahl

Thursdays, January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 7-9:30 pm, max 8 students, \$120 members, \$140 non-members

Watercolor for those who have completed a beginning level class or have equivalent experience. Each class we will work on building skill sets to improve our painting abilities, then paint using these skills. Masterpieces are unlikely,



but skills will increase. Returning students are welcome to repeat this course. New projects, topics, and techniques will be presented in each subsequent series of this class.

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Nature & Garden News

Join the Cedar Mill Garden Club

Third Wednesday of the month, 10 am-12 pm, contact organizer for location, first meeting free, \$20 annual dues after

The Cedar Mill Garden Club is a small group of friendly people who love gardening. Come join us for gardening discussions, outings to local gardens and nurseries, luncheons, lectures and more! Anyone with an interest in gardening is welcome.

Come learn with us or share your expertise. Member of District, State & National Federation of Garden Clubs. If you are interested, please contact Club President Cathy Ramsey at 503-866-4222 or through email at cathyramsey308@gmail.com.

Treekeepers of Washington County programs

We work to protect and advocate for trees in urban unincorporated Washington County. Don't miss our upcoming events! All of them are free. [Visit the Treekeepers website](#) to learn more.

Hyland Woods Tree Walk

Sunday, January 26, 1-3 pm, exact location after registration, [registration form](#), free

Join us as we walk through the Hyland Woods Natural Area, a



quiet 30-acre forested park near the intersection of SW Murray Blvd. and SW Hart Road. We will discuss how to identify trees in winter and notice the changes the plants are already making as they prepare for spring. We'll walk a one-mile loop on soft-surface trails that wind through a mature Douglas fir forest and an Oregon ash swale. We will also see alder, big-leaf maples, madrone, and an understory that includes beaked hazelnut, snowberries and ferns.

Join Our On-call Ivy Crew

October through March, [registration form](#), free

English ivy hangs on through winter at a time trees are particularly vulnerable, as the invasive vines keep

growing while trees are dormant. The excess weight can increase risks for trees during winter storms. Help us save trees by removing ivy and other invasive plants that threaten them. Weather makes it hard to schedule events, so please sign up and we'll notify you when there is a good weather window so we can schedule an ivy pulling event. And if you know of a location where trees are suffering from ivy, you can notify us on this [Ivy Hotline form](#).

Start the New Year right—safeguard your part of our urban forest

Whether the trees in your care are in your yard, in a public space, or in pots on your balcony we welcome you to sign our Treekeepers Pledge to protect trees! There are four steps: do your best to keep your trees, use best practices for tree care, hire a trusted arborist to help make the best decisions for your trees, and spread the word about the many benefits of trees.

One way to inspire others to care about trees is by displaying one of our beautiful new [Tree-Friendly Habitat signs](#). This durable 10" x 10" sign is designed for outdoor use. Join our growing group of tree protectors! You can learn more about the program at the [Tree-Friendly Habitat website](#) or visit the [pledge page](#) to sign it.

WCMGA events

There are ample opportunities to advance your gardening knowledge and skills right here in Washington County. OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers and the Washington County Master Gardener Association (WCMGA) offer a lineup of classes, lectures and family friendly events year round. All events and details can be found on the [WCMGA events calendar](#).

Mason Bees 101

Saturday, January 25, 10 am-12 pm, PCC Rock Creek Campus, Building 4 (Room 103 and 104), 17705 NW Springville Rd., Portland, no registration required, free

We invite you to this free public class that addresses the identification and natural history of the mason bee. The class will be led by Ron Spondal, OSU Extension MG Volunteer. Attendees will gain a solid understanding of the characteristics and activities of mason bees and why they are one of the earliest and best pollinators in our area. Please visit the [event page](#) for more information.

Blueberry Care

Saturday, February 8, 10 am-12 pm, PCC Rock Creek Bldg 7, room 105, 17705 NW Springville, Free, registration not required

Blueberries are easy and fun to grow. Join the OSU Extension Washington County Master Gardeners (WCMGA) for this in-person class to learn about planting, fertilizing, plant selection, and care for blueberries, including pruning techniques.



Bring your own hand pruners and garden gloves for some hands-on opportunity to prune. [Learn more here.](#) Class will start indoors followed by a short walk outdoors to the PCC Rock Creek Learning Garden. Dress accordingly.

Soil: what is it and how it works

Tuesday, January 7, 7-8 pm, Zoom, free, pre-registration required

Join us and Oregon State University Soil Science Instructor James Cassidy for a free webinar. It's ALL about soil! You will learn more than you ever thought possible from this webinar—the reason you are alive, what nutrients are, how soil stores water and nutrients—just to name a few. Please visit the [event page](#) for registration.



Young Birder's Guide

The Young Birder's Guide to Oregon is now live on Apple Books! Written, photographed, and published by Kate Ancheta, a student in the Beaverton School District, this guide features our local Commonwealth Lake Park and several other favorite nearby wildlife attractions. This guide will teach you how to interpret field guides, use binoculars, and to accurately and thoroughly describe birds and their behaviors. Visit [Apple Books](#) to see more.

Houseplant swap

Sunday, January 19, 4-5 pm, Cornell Farm, 8212 SW Barnes Rd., free

Cornell Farm's Winter Houseplant Swap is coming! Join us for an afternoon of plants and community. Whether you're making room for new additions from the holidays or sharing the bounty of your propagations, bring your extra houseplants and take home a brand new addition to your urban jungle. Everyone is welcome to this free event, so bring a friend! [Learn more and check out our other Houseplant Month workshops](#) coming up in January.



Home orchard classes

The Home Orchard Education Center (HOEC) offers a [variety of workshops](#) for fruit growers in January and February. From grapes and kiwis to apples and pears, the programs are scheduled to happen right when it's time to perform the tasks. [Sign up to receive their newsletter](#) for future offerings.

Conservation internships available

[West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District](#) is [hiring two interns](#) for our April-October season. The positions are Field Conservation Intern and GIS & Field Conservation intern. Interns will get mentorship and training from experienced professionals, hands-on field experience, opportunities to learn more about natural resource conservation, and a chance to contribute to projects in diverse environments.

Pay is \$20.38/hour, for approximately 20 hours per week. Applicants must be 18+ at the time of the internship. Deadline to apply is January 13, 5 pm. [Learn more and apply here.](#) Please email hirings@wmwcd.org with questions.

Free COVID Tests

You can now order another pack of free Covid-19 tests from the federal government. Each household is eligible to receive four at-home test kits. Shipping is free. [Learn more and order here.](#)

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Second Edition Resale

1050 NW Saltzman Road
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Support the Sunset High Marching Band & Auxiliary

Bottle/Can Drive

Saturday, January 10, 10 am - 1 pm
Sunset Church, 14986 NW Cornell
Please drop off any redeemable non-crushed cans, and plastic and glass bottles

Connect with our members for fun and networking!

Cedar Mill BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Join us at our next meeting—second Tuesday of each month at noon—learn more on our website!
cedarmillbiz.com

CELEBRATE WINTER WITH US!

Open House & Happy Hour

Wednesday, January 22nd | 11:00 am–2:00 pm
(Happy Hour 2:00–3:00 pm)

Join us for a delightful afternoon at The Ackerly at Timberland! Tour our open house, then unwind and mingle at our Happy Hour, featuring light drinks and appetizers. While you're here, learn about our **Winter With Us** special and discover how you can enjoy a stress-free winter with chef-prepared meals, a cozy apartment, and warm, welcoming faces all around.

We can't wait to welcome you and show you why **The Ackerly at Timberland** is the perfect place to start the new year and make this winter truly memorable.

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503-822-7819 | TheAckerlyAtTimberland.com



New businesses, continued from page 1 restaurant and a small bar also on the ground floor.

Guests can use the business center and small meeting room on the ground floor, and the meeting room will be available for outside events.

US Chef Store now open on Cornell

Monday-Saturday 6 am-6 pm, Sunday 8 am-5 pm, 16305 NW Cornell

While this national chain is primarily aimed at restaurants, there is plenty for the home chef to explore.



A huge assortment of tortillas!

There's the usual range of fresh and packaged grocery items, mostly in larger quantities, along with a selection of chef-quality cooking equipment, and packaging, serving, and cleaning supplies in the large warehouse-style store.

Most of the fresh meat consists of large cuts for the restaurant market, ready to be broken down into serv-



ing pieces. Some produce is also only available in big packages, but some fruits and vegetables are in quantities appropriate for home kitchens.

Ethnic cuisine products, including canned and packaged Asian and Central American foods and condiments, can be found throughout the store, including some items not widely available in most regular grocery stores.

Frozen ready-to-serve dishes may have you wondering whether your favorite restaurant serves them!

The store opened mid-December. If you love to cook, it's worth checking out. Learn more at [the store website](#), where you can sign up for a newsletter with promotions and specials.

Mailboxes, continued from page 1 vehicle, none of which belonged to the occupants.

The USPS's Postal Inspector has been notified and is taking possession of the stolen mail to further the investigation. The seized mail is currently being processed to identify and notify the victims. It's unclear from the WCSO report whether the key was original or a copy.

The occupants of the vehicle, identified as 24-year-old Brandon Rummerfield of Portland and 31-year-old Michael Fischer of Battle Ground, were taken into custody and have been booked into the Washington County Jail on several charges. The investigation is ongoing, and many victims have not yet been notified. Additional charges may be forthcoming.

From our reader: "I had the chance to talk to our USPS postal delivery worker as she was out delivering mail and encountering the problem. She said that it has become a big problem in the area where postal workers are being attacked for their master keys, also known as "arrow keys." She also said that arrow keys are not just capable of opening large cluster boxes within a zip code, they are also capable of opening the big blue boxes in the same zip code.

"She requested that I share that information with anyone that might impact. Since no damage was done to the boxes, postal workers are still mandated to deliver the mail. I looked into the problem online briefly and saw that this has been a problem over many years in other big cities.

"The word from our HOA is that the USPS will eventually rekey the boxes, but if they have to rekey an entire zip code that could take quite a long time. "Our postal worker's recommendations were to pick up mail as soon as possible if you have any incoming mail. Do not leave anything overnight. Drop off mail at a brick & mortar USPS drop-off whenever possible."

WCSO Deputy David Huey notes, "I connected with our property crimes detectives and was told that USPS is the primary investigator for these crimes. Our team will support their efforts and respond to any calls about suspicious or criminal behaviors. If your network sees suspicious activity or something feels off, please encourage them to call non-emergency dispatch (503-629-0111) or 911 when appropriate (if the crime is in progress, for example)."

Everyone should sign up for "Informed Delivery" on the USPS website: usps.com/manage/informed-delivery.htm. You'll get photos of at least some of your mail in the morning, and a notification



Recovered mail from the Washington County Sheriff's press release

when your mail has been delivered. USPS also has a "Mail Theft" page with advice and procedures for reporting suspected theft.

Washington County seeks volunteer advisors to DAVS

Info session Thursday, January 16, 9-11 am, Washington County Disability, Aging and Veteran Services (DAVS), 5240 NE Elam Young Pkwy, Suite 300

Washington County is recruiting people age 60+ to join the [Aging and Veteran Services Advisory Council](#). Members advocate for system level changes, provide advice to DAVS regarding policies and programs, and connect with the broader community to understand the issues and priorities of DAVS focus populations.

Members must be residents of Washington County, or people who work with or otherwise serve older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans in Washington County. Attend the Information Session on January 16 either in person or through the [Virtual Option](#).

Ask WCSO: Winter Safety Guide

Be safe and be seen: Whether walking, riding, or rolling, make yourself visible with reflective gear, bright colors, and/or lights; Be extra cautious when driving in poor visibility conditions;

Stay warm and safe: Check winter weather alerts that could impact you and keep a winter emergency kit stocked and ready; Stay hydrated—dehydration can cause fatigue, dizziness, and confusion; Check in with vulnerable family, friends, and neighbors; Keep your communication lines open in case of an emergency. Ensure your phone is charged.

Call us if you need us! Emergencies: 911, Non-emergencies: 503-629-0111. Visit our [Winter Safety blog](#) for more information. Ask WCSO is produced by the Washington County Sheriff's Office.



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Parks News

Sign-Up for THPRD Text Alerts

Want the latest on THPRD operations during inclement weather? Sign-up for THPRD's text alerts. Sign-up now by texting "join" to 833-340-0174.

THPRD Preschool Virtual Open House

Wednesday, January 29, 5:30-6:15 pm, [check back here for how to attend](#)



Learn about our nine-month preschool programs for the next school year. Registration opens on February 6th for new enrollment. Please visit our [Preschool webpage](#) to learn more about the programs.

Women-Only Swim Collaborations

Beaverton Swim Center is continuing collaboration with Cool Islam and the Arabic House to provide six events throughout winter.

Youth Basketball League

Grades 5-8 and [high school basketball leagues](#) will begin games in January. This will be the first season that our THPRD leagues will be a part of the Jr. NBA League. Teams will get Trailblazer themed jerseys, along with coaching clinics and opening day tip off events.

Adult Basketball League

Our [adult basketball league](#) will tip off in January with four different skill divisions. All games are held weeknights at the Athletic Center.

Boardwalks at Tualatin Hills Nature Park

The Oak Trail and the Old Wagon Trail were damaged by vandalism and falling trees. Staff are in the process of repairs.

Planting Underway

Staff have started to install hundreds of native trees and shrubs across the district as part of our annual winter planting cycle.

Replacement of Willow Creek Greenway Boardwalk

Construction of the boardwalk is expected to begin in June and anticipated to be completed in October 2025. The site will remain closed

until the new boardwalk is finished.

Volunteer for Cedar Hills Park community garden work

Saturday, January 25, 9-11:30 am, 2300 SW Cedar Hills Blvd., [register on the event page](#)

Help us spruce up the Community Garden at Cedar Hills Park! Volunteers will help weed and mulch, as needed. Please bring a reusable water bottle to drink from throughout the day. Tools and gloves will be provided. No gardening experience necessary.

Volunteer for community garden work at HM Terpening Rec Complex

Saturday, January 25, 9-11:30 am, 50 NW 158th Avenue, [register on the event page](#)

Help us spruce up the Community Garden at HM Terpening Rec Complex! Volunteers will help weed and mulch, as needed. Please bring a reusable water bottle to drink throughout the day. Tools and gloves will be provided. No gardening experience necessary.

Winter Nature Trivia Night

Friday, January 31, 7-9 pm, 15655 SW Millikan Way, ages 21+, \$30, registration available

The Tualatin Hill Nature Center is offering a trivia night to test your knowledge of wildlife, ecosystems, and seasonal phenomena. Refreshments (including beer and cider), and plenty of interactive questions await. Please [register on the THPRD website](#).

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Orenco Winter Village skating rink open

Saturday, November 30 to Sunday, January 12, public skate on Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 am-8 pm, Jerry Willey Plaza at Orenco Station, 943 NE Orenco Station Loop, Hillsboro, \$19 general admission/\$16 for 10 and under/ free for 3 and under/\$5 Bobby skate aid rental

Find holiday cheer at this outdoor ice-skating rink. Winter Village is a beloved Hillsboro holiday event that is back for the first time since the pandemic. Bring your friends and family to a skate session or rent the rink for your private event. Check out special theme Fridays. Private rentals are available on Tuesdays. Winter Village will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1. Visit the [event page](#) for information about parking, themes, prices and for planning your visit.

Library News

Cedar Mill and Bethany Community Libraries (CMBCL) invite you to find event calendars, storytime schedules and more on CMBCL's website. Abbreviations: CML is Cedar Mill Library, 1080 NW Saltzman Rd.; BLA is Bethany Library Annex, 4888 NW Bethany Blvd, Suite K-2; BL is [Bethany Library](#), 15325 NW Central Drive, Suite J-8.

Find event calendars, storytime schedules and more at [Library CedarMill.org](#). To learn more and register for these events, visit the [Event Calendar page](#) and select the date for the event you're interested in. For more information, call (503) 644-0043, visit the website, or email askuscml@wccls.org. All Ages

Lunar New Year Craft

Saturday, January 25, 10:30 am-12 pm, CML, all ages

Join us as we welcome in the year of the snake! Participants can create paper lanterns, do paper cutting, and color snake-themed coloring sheets.

Kids

OBOB Battle Royale (grades 3-5)

Friday, January 3, 1-2 pm and 2:30-3:30 pm, CML, grades 3-5
Saturday, January 4, 1-2 pm and 2:30-3:30 pm, BLA grades 3-5

Compete individually or as a team to test your OBOB (Oregon Battle of the Books) knowledge! For grades 3-5. This event is being held four times, but please attend only one session. Adults and siblings will not be allowed in the room due to space limitations, although an adult must remain in the building for children under 10.

Storytimes: Learn more at library.cedarmill.org/storytime.

Find more fun for kids at library.cedarmill.org/events/kids.

Teens & Tweens

High School Hangout: Post Finals Bliss

Wednesday, January 22, 12:30-2:30 pm, CML, Ages 11-18, Registration Required

De-stress from Finals Week at our chill teen hangout event. We'll have pizza, snacks, board games and Super Smash battles along with coloring and relaxing music. There will even be some chances to win *Insomnia* gift cards and other prizes. Only for high school-aged students.

Visit library.cedarmill.org/teens to find more activities and resources for teens and tweens.

Adults

Change.org Workshop

Tuesday, January 7, 12-1:30 pm, CML, Adults

Curious about online petitions? Interested in starting one of your own? Join us to learn about the world's most popular online petition platform: change.org. Add your voice to the hundreds of thousands of petitions circulating every day to support causes that are important to you. In this workshop, we'll browse petitions, sign up for a change.org account, and learn how to start a petition of your own.

The Science of Meditation

Wednesday, January 15, 6-7:30 pm, CML, Adults

Join Weishan Xia for a look at the science behind meditation and an introduction to common meditation techniques. Weishan will then guide the audience through each technique. There will be time for questions at the end.



Immigration Visas: What you need to know

Thursday, January 23, 6:30-7:30 pm, BLA Adults

Getting immigrant visas for yourself or your family can be a complicated process. Join Danielle Perez as she breaks down different types of immigrant visas and the processes to obtain them. There will be time for Q&A at the end. [Registration is required](#). There are 45 spots available.

Monthly Groups for Adults

Writers' Mill

Sunday, January 19, 1-3 pm, Hybrid CML & Zoom, Adults & Teens 16+

Award-winning essayist and local author, Erika Giles, will be the speaker at the first Writers' Mill meeting of 2025. Her memoir, *Becoming Hungarian*, came out in 2024. It's described as "a fascinating story of resilience and discovery that will inspire anyone who has struggled with their identity and tried to come to terms with the past," and Erika is sure to have much to tell any aspiring writers among us. Ask the librarians for more details, and check out our website at portlandwritersmill.org.

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Business News, continued from page 2
on an annual basis for the 17th consecutive month. Despite the increase in November and October, home sales are still running below last year's pace, to a nearly 30-year low, the lowest home sales since 1995. A shortage of homes for sale has helped prop up prices, which as of November were up 50% nationally since 2019.

Mortgage rates bounced up and down in 2024 after the average rate on a 30-year home loan reached a 23-year high of nearly 8% in October 2023, but not nearly enough to make a difference for many would-be homebuyers. The average rate eased to a two-year low just above 6% in September following [the Federal Reserve's decision to cut its main interest rate](#) for the first time in more than four years. But it has mostly risen since then. It was 6.6% in December, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac. Home

sales that closed in November likely reflect contracts signed in September and October, when mortgage rates were more attractive.

The outlook for mortgage rates remains cloudy. Many economists predict that the average rate on a 30-year mortgage will ease this year, but [generally hold considerably above 6%](#). Limited inventory, helps drive prices higher. Which is why I predict that if the interest rates hover close to 6.5%, our Spring 2025 market will see multiple offers and a wild ride similar to 2022.

With almost 40 years as a realtor, I have vast experience helping buyers and sellers with volatile markets. It would be my pleasure to meet with you, to learn your plans, and to help you navigate this transitional period. This is a very complicated real estate market; I would love to help you understand it. Contact me at jdempsey@windermere.com or call 503.706.6358.

Get trees and plant trees

There are two ways to participate in this [Friends of Trees](#) effort: you can [purchase a tree](#) for your space, and you can [join the volunteer event](#) to plant trees in our area.

Cedar Mill and Cedar Hills lost countless trees during the January 2024 storm. If you're looking to plant trees in your space in the new year, your timing couldn't be better. Friends of Trees has over 100 different tree varieties to choose from for your

trees in the area.

Portland and Beaverton have lost valuable tree canopy in recent years due to growth, among other reasons. Trees are a big piece of our livability, health, and vitality and help moderate the impacts of climate change in our community. Trees clean the air, reduce noise up to 50%, keep our watershed clean and healthy, reduce energy costs by shading our homes, and



street or yard—from native species to fruit trees—and they can even help if you have questions on where to plant your tree. Trees are just \$35 and can be [purchased on the Friends of Trees website](#). Be sure to secure your tree choice by January 27.

Friends of Trees is partnering with Clean Water Services to plant trees in Cedar Mill and Cedar Hills on February 15. This is their third annual volunteer tree planting event in the neighborhood. The event will be hosted at St. Andrew Lutheran Church (12405 SW Butner Rd.) from 9 am-1 pm on February 15. Volunteers meet at the church where Friends of Trees will provide gloves, tools, and planting guidance, as well as light breakfast snacks and coffee/tea/hot chocolate. Then teams will go out to plant

create wildlife habitat.

Trees in yards and along the streets also help boost home values. According to local Realtor Jan Dempsey, "Landscaping can add significant value to a home, increasing its resale value by 10–20% on average. Real Estate experts say that smart landscaping design can provide a return on investment of 200–400%." Questions? Reach out to jillianm@friendsoftrees.org

Five Oaks Museum temporarily closed

Five Oaks Museum, 17677 NW Springville Rd.

Due to financial hardship, the museum is closed and all services and programs are suspended. [Learn more on the website.](#)

Tree Recycling, continued from page 1
Linda Elementary school until noon on those dates.

For your tax-deductible donation—\$20 suggested for average tree—you may put cash or a check



payable to “Troop 728” in the envelope and attach it to the tree. You may also pay via PayPal or Zelle to trees@troop728.com. If you choose the PayPal option, to maximize your donation to the troop, please use “send Money to Friends & Family”

Recycling News

SHS Recycling Drive

Saturday, January 10, 10 am-2 pm, Sunset High School, 13840 NW Cornell Rd

Recycle your Styrofoam and electronics at our drive led by Sunset High School’s Climate Change Club, in partnership with Green Century Recycling! We accept: Rigid styrofoam that breaks when it’s bent; Packing peanuts (no starch); EPS Grade B styrofoam egg cartons and cups; Electronics such as computers, phones, video games, tablets, etc.

For more information on what is accepted, [please visit our website](#). Please drop off styrofoam that is clean, dry, and free of tape, labels and residue. Donations are greatly appreciated and crucial for continuing this service, as we do incur a fee to recycle these items. Thank you for helping us make our community more sustainable! For questions, email us at shsclimatechangeclub@gmail.com

Styrofoam ban in 2025

Polystyrene foam cups, containers and packaging will be [banned in Oregon](#) starting January 1, 2025. Contact the Green Business Leaders team for help switching to reusable options. This change can help reduce waste and save money!

Business recycling requirements

Businesses, schools, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations are [required to recycle](#) the following:

Paper and cardboard; Metal cans and containers; Plastic bottles and round containers; Glass bottles and jars.

and please write your Transaction ID on the envelope and still attach it to the tree. The envelope is the indicator that your tree is meant for Troop 728.

For more information about joining our girls troop 5728, or boys troop 728, please visit www.troop728.com. Thank you for your support of Scouting! Happy Holidays!

Troop 208

Saturday & Sunday, January 4-5, 9 am-3 pm, Stoller Middle School parking lot, 14141 NW Laidlaw

Please remove all ornaments and tinsel, no flocked trees or wreaths. Suggested donation \$20.

Girl Scout Troop #40259

Wednesday, January 1, Saturday, January 4, Sunday, January 5, 9 am-4 pm, Trader Joe’s parking lot, 7215 SW Garden Home, \$12 per item

Have recycling questions? We can help you identify recyclable items you have and disposal options. Check out our [Business Recycling Guide](#) and [What to Recycle and Where search tool](#). Call us today at 503-846-3

State approves new recycling rules to reduce packaging pollution, make producers pay for waste

Starting this summer, Oregonians across the state will have a standardized list of what can and cannot be recycled statewide, and owners and managers of apartment complexes and multi-unit housing will need to provide recycling for residents. The [Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act](#) will go into effect July 1, 2025, making it easier for Oregonians to recycle. It will establish new packaging fees for companies selling products in Oregon, based on the weight and recyclability of the material. [Read more here](#).

All about plastic recycling

Recycling plastic is important because it can be reused to make other plastic products. Recycling plastic reduces the need for new plastic, saves energy, and lowers harmful emissions contributing to climate change. After the plastic is collected for recycling, it’s sorted, cleaned, shredded, melted and turned into small pellets. These pellets are then used to make new plastic products.

Our troop is doing tree/wreath/swag recycling. They are a small troop hoping to earn money to go to Spain during Spring Break 2026!

Scout Troop 5618/618

Saturday January 4, Sunday January 5, 12 am-4 pm, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 14175 NW Cornell, suggested donation \$20/ tree, \$10 wreath or swag

Drop off your holiday greenery. They are also collecting redeemable cans and bottles.

From Walker Garbage: Can I recycle my Christmas tree along with my yard debris?

Please cut up your tree so it all fits inside your yard debris cart with the top closed. Any tree parts left beside the bin will be charged as extra material.

All trees will be picked up as yard debris during yard debris

Reminder: When you put plastic items in the recycling bin, remember that it’s the shape that matters. The numbers and symbols tell us what kind of plastic it is. They do not indicate whether it can go in the recycling bin.

Accepted plastic packaging in the mixed recycling bin: Please rinse all containers.

Plastic bottles, jugs, and jars: Six ounces or larger, any container with a threaded neck (for a screw-on lid) or neck narrower than the base. This includes milk jugs, peanut butter jars, personal care, and cleaning



product bottles (shampoo, laundry soap, sani-wipes, etc.).

Round plastic containers: Six ounces or larger, typically for salsa, margarine, cottage cheese, hummus, etc. (no drink cups).

Planting and nursery pots: Larger than four inches in diameter and made of rigid plastic (not crinkly or flexible plastic). Remove dirt.

Buckets: Five gallons or smaller. Handles are okay to leave on.

View the Recycling Guide and learn more on the [Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling website](http://www.washingtoncounty.org/solid-waste-recycling).

weeks. Trees need to be placed next to your containers, out at the curb (or wherever they are normally placed for pick up). Only artificial/flocked trees will be picked up as garbage and will be charged as an extra unit of garbage at: \$6.25 in Washington County, \$5.00 in Portland and \$4.85 in Beaverton.

All trees need to be 6 ft. and under. If your tree is over 6 ft., it must be cut down into smaller sections. Trees (6 ft. and under) set out without a yard debris cart will be picked up at no charge. Additional sections will be charged as an extra unit of yard debris at: \$3.00 in Washington County, \$3.75 in Portland and \$3.45 in Beaverton. Trees (6 ft. and under) set out in addition to a full yard debris cart will be charged at: \$5.00 each in Washington County and Portland and \$3.00 each in Beaverton.

TVF&R is Recruiting Volunteers

Interested in donating your time and serving your community as a Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue volunteer? Applications will be accepted from January 9-February 10.

TVF&R offers two ways you can choose to serve your community. **Incident Support Volunteer:** These volunteers bring rehabilitation units to major incidents to provide TVF&R firefighters with assistance with breathing apparatus, medical monitoring, and other support in a non-firefighter capacity. They also participate in public education and attend monthly drills; **Auxiliary Volunteer:** These volunteers play an active role in TVF&R’s public education program and attend community events. Auxiliary volunteers are non-emergency response volunteers. They may work once or twice a week or even a few times each year, depending on their area of interest and commitment. They can also help restore and maintain TVF&R’s fleet of antique apparatus.

Volunteer Interest Open Houses

Saturday, January 18, 10 am-2 pm, TVF&R’s South Operating Center garage located behind Station 56, 8445 SW Elligsen Road in Wilsonville

Saturday, January 25, 10 am-2 pm, Station 72, 11646 NW Skyline Boulevard in unincorporated Washington County off Cornelius Pass Road

For more information about TVF&R’s volunteer program or to apply to become a volunteer, visit www.tvfr.com/471/Volunteer-Program.

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