Mayor’s Corner

It seems like everybody is getting involved in the city’s CERT program! My wife Jackie recently completed the training and received her certification. For those of you who haven’t heard of it, Tigard’s CERT program (Citizen Emergency Response Team) is an 8-week training course which prepares citizens to respond to natural or man-made disasters.

In a time of need, CERT volunteers are trained to help their family, their neighbors and the city, especially during the first 72 hours when fire and medical first responders may be unable to meet demands for response.

CERT graduates are assets to the community. Their training includes basic search and rescue, first aid, emergency communications, logistics, and many other skills vital to navigating through an emergency. Whether they’re rescuing trapped citizens, organizing search teams and neighborhood safety measures or gathering and communicating street and neighborhood status to emergency agencies, CERT members are prepared to perform!

To date, more than 170 Tigard residents have received CERT certification. If you’re looking for a way to give back to your community, maybe becoming a CERT member is right for you! Contact Emergency Services Coordinator Mike Lueck at MikeL@tigard-or.gov or 503-718-2593.

Craig E. Dirksen, Mayor

Water Billing Changes Go Into Effect January 1

Monthly Billing
This month the city switches to monthly utility billing. It replaces the bi-monthly billing cycle and provides water users with a more timely accounting of water consumption. With monthly billing, customers can adjust their water use to avoid higher water bills.

New Water Rates: Fixed and Variable
Your bill will include two water charges: a fixed customer charge and a variable water usage charge. The fixed charge is the price that all customers pay, regardless of how much water they use. The fixed charge is $15.78 for a typical single family residential customer. The variable water usage charge is added to the fixed customer charge and is tiered depending upon the volume of water used.

Residential Customer Tiers
Residential water usage is measured in hundreds of cubic feet (CCF). One CCF equals 748 gallons.

Tier 1: The first six CCF of water is billed at $2.04 per CCF. Water use greater than six CCF is billed at the next tier.

Tier 2: Over six to 15 CCF of water is billed at $2.98 per CCF.

Tier 3: Over 15 CCF of water is billed at $3.41 per CCF.

Customers with larger sized meters pay a higher fixed customer charge based on an increasing scale. Larger meters also have higher water rate thresholds according to size. Tiered water rates are used for residential, multi-family and commercial customers. Industrial and irrigation customers are billed at a uniform water rate.

Customers located in higher elevations are billed monthly for a booster pump charge to pay for additional costs of energy and pump capacity necessary for providing water to these locations. A typical single-family residential customer located in a higher elevation will be billed an additional $4.08 per month. Booster pump charges are proportional to meter size.

Want to figure out your new water rate? Try the online rate calculator at www.tigard-or.gov/water.

If you have questions regarding your city utility bill, contact Utility Billing at 503-718-2460. If you have questions regarding water rate increases related to the Lake Oswego•Tigard Water Partnership, contact John Goodrich in Public Works at 503-718-2433.
The Mayor and two City Councilors will be sworn in at the January 11, 2011 Council meeting, the first meeting of the new year. The Mayor and two newly elected Councilors will serve terms from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2014. Meet the Mayor and City Council members who will represent you beginning this month:

**Mayor Craig Dirksen**
- A member of City Council since 2000 and a Tigard volunteer for ten years prior to council service.
- Occupation: Engineer—Industrial Designer
- A driving force for interagency cooperation and citizen involvement, Mayor Dirksen represents Tigard and Washington County on Metro's Joint Policy Advisory Commission on Transportation and the Washington County Coordinating Committee. He also serves on two policy committees for the League of Oregon Cities and recently gained an appointment from Governor Kulongoski to the statewide Road User Fee Task Force.
- Mayor Dirksen and Jackie, his wife of 38 years, have devoted years of service to the Tigard Soccer Club while raising three sons in Tigard.

**Councilor Gretchen Buehner**
- A member of the City Council since 2009 and an active volunteer since 1991.
- Occupation: Owner of Marland Henderson Construction—light commercial/residential handicap general contracting
- Enthusiastic about connecting with residents, Councilor Henderson is the city’s representative to the Metropolitan Area Communications Commission and serves as Council liaison to the Tree Board and Park and Recreation Advisory Board. He is a member and past chair of the Washington County Behavioral Health Council, past member of the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility Advisory Board, Oregon National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and Oregon Partners in Crisis.
- He and wife Marilyn make their home in Tigard.

**Councilor Marland Henderson**
- A member of the City Council since 2009 and an active volunteer since 1991.
- Occupation: Owner of Marland Henderson Construction—light commercial/residential handicap general contracting
- Enthusiastic about connecting with residents, Councilor Henderson is the city’s representative to the Metropolitan Area Communications Commission and serves as Council liaison to the Tree Board and Park and Recreation Advisory Board. He is a member and past chair of the Washington County Behavioral Health Council, past member of the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility Advisory Board, Oregon National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and Oregon Partners in Crisis.
- He and wife Marilyn make their home in Tigard.

**Councilor Nick Wilson**
- A member of Council since 2003 and long-time volunteer before his election to Council.
- Occupation: Founding partner of Atlas Landscape Architecture—site planning and urban design firm
- Clear-sighted with an eye to the nuance of complex system plans, Councilor Wilson represents Tigard on the Regional Water Providers Consortium, the Tualatin Basin Natural Resource Coordinating Committee and serves as Council liaison to the Planning Commission—to which he gave seven years of service, six as Chair. He participated on the following task forces: Tigard Transportation System Plan Update, Development Code Update, Washington Square Regional Center and the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Task Force.
- He and wife Suni, have three children and have lived in Tigard since 1990.

**Councilor Marc Woodard**
- The newest member of Council, elected November 2, 2010, Councilor Woodard has been involved in community functions, organizations and businesses for many years.
- Occupation: Online site creator, author and writer for Mirror Athlete—health and fitness business
- In a military career spanning 21 years, he served in the Air Force as a Non Commissioned Officer in Charge and Medical Service Corps officer. Councilor Woodard’s civilian careers included Corporate Fire Life Safety Manager, Computerized Maintenance Management System program manager, Fitness Center Manager and Fitness and Health Consultant.
- A lifetime Tigard resident, he and wife Elizabeth, have two daughters.
Any way you look at it, growth will come to Tigard over the next 20 years. Now we have an opportunity to decide what this growth will look like and how Tigard will fare in the future.

One way to accommodate growth is through high capacity transit (HCT). Metro has identified the SW Corridor, connecting Portland to Tigard and Sherwood as the next priority expansion line for the regional HCT system. In Tigard, planning for HCT means creating a shared vision for growth around future transit stops, while limiting impacts to existing residential areas.

The Tigard HCT Land Use Plan will develop land use concepts for vibrant neighborhoods centered around HCT stations. Different types of station communities—focusing on a variety of performance benchmarks like jobs-to-housing ratio, people per acre, dwelling units per acre, total businesses per acre, building height, parking ratios and land use mix. Each of these communities will be shaped largely by local residents, businesses, and property owners who get involved.

While the number and location of HCT stations is unknown at this time, the HCT Land Use plan will identify six to ten potential locations where a station community could be applied, forming the foundation for future planning efforts related to HCT service. Community participation ensures that future transit improvements support the community’s vision for future growth and development in Tigard.

For information on how to get involved contact Marissa Daniels at 503-718-2428 or marissa@tigard-or.gov.

Financial Assistance is Available for Water Bills

With water rates increasing significantly over the next few years, the city is partnering with St. Vincent de Paul to implement a financial assistance program for emergency situations.

Citizens who demonstrate a financial need may receive assistance with the water portion of their bill up to three times a year. This assistance is available to individuals and families within the Tigard Water Service Area. It is not available to multi-family, commercial or industrial businesses.

Customers who are eligible for financial assistance on their water bill will need to be able to pay the other portions of their utility bill, if any. This would include sewer, stormwater and street maintenance fees that may be billed on the same bill. Eligibility will be determined by St. Vincent de Paul using the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) income criteria for utility assistance.

Why Partner with St. Vincent de Paul?

The agency is already providing a similar service using HUD funds. The agency has an office located in Tigard which will administer the funds for the city.

The city’s initial contribution is approximately $15,000 for water bill assistance between January and June 2011. The city anticipates future contributions to be one-half of one percent of budgeted water revenues each year for this assistance. The funds will be available on a “first-come, first-served” basis until all funding is depleted.

For More Information

To learn more about this program, please contact Assistant Finance Director Debbie Smith-Wagar at 503-718-2493 or debbie@tigard-or.gov.
RULES of the ROAD:  DRIVING SAFELY AS WE AGE

By 2030, more than 70 million Americans, or one in five, will be over the age of 65. Many older citizens will continue to depend on their own cars for basic mobility, especially in areas that are underserved by public transportation. In one study, barely half the surveyed communities offered “dial-a-ride” or other door-to-door services.

Older drivers will need to maintain their driving skills in the face of a gradual physical decline that may include:

- **Impaired vision,** making it more difficult to see signs, lane lines, highway dividers, bicyclists and pedestrians. Annual eye exams are essential, and many older drivers wisely drive only during daylight hours. It’s important to keep windshields, mirrors and headlights clean. Larger signs would help:

  - **Impaired hearing,** making it harder to detect sirens from approaching emergency vehicles. Drivers should limit passenger and cell phone conversations and background noise from the radio.

  - **Arthritis and other conditions,** making it harder for drivers to take such routine precautions as turning their heads to check for other vehicles before changing lanes. Regular exercise, under medical supervision, may help older drivers maintain flexibility and alertness.

  - **Disorientation from sensory overload,** leaving many drivers feeling overwhelmed by heavy traffic. This danger may be reduced by staying on familiar routes and avoiding rush hours.

Many older drivers voluntarily surrender their license when they realize that their driving skills have declined. Others simply don’t recognize their growing physical limitations and overlook problems until they’re involved in a crash or start receiving traffic citations. For them, the best alternative is for family members to get involved and persuade them to stop driving. (Oregon DMV will exchange a driver’s license for an ID card at no cost.)

As a last resort, Oregon DMV’s “At-Risk Driver” program can intervene, resulting in a medical determination of a driver’s abilities.

**By Judge Michael J. O’Brien**

**Tigard Municipal Court**

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**Code of Conduct Adopted for City Council and Board Members**

In November, the City Council adopted a Code of Conduct to further the public’s confidence in the integrity of Tigard’s local government and its effective and fair operation. They also adopted a Code of Conduct for all city board, commission and committee members, noting that these guidelines are just as important to the public process as other rules and procedures.

The Council said that the individual attitudes, words, conduct and actions of Council and city-appointed board members should demonstrate, support and reflect the qualities and characteristics of Tigard as “A Place to Call Home.”

Find copies of both Codes of Conduct (Resolution Nos. 10-60 and 10-61), on the city’s website by viewing the Council meeting agenda for November 9, 2010 at www.tigard-or.gov/council. Need help? Contact City Recorder Cathy Wheatley at 503-718-2410 or cathy@tigard-or.gov.

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**It Only Happens Once a Year**

It’s time for the Citizen’s Police Academy, an eight-week course hosted by the Tigard Police Department. The academy is open to residents interested in learning about their police department and begins April 6, meeting on Wednesdays between 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at City Hall (13125 SW Hall Blvd.). A graduation ceremony marks the end of the academy on June 1, 2011.

The academy is designed to give residents a better understanding of law enforcement operations and strengthen communication between citizens and Tigard police. The intent is not to produce citizens trained in law enforcement, but to demonstrate the abilities and limitations of police, and show you how the department works.

The Citizen’s Police Academy takes you behind the scenes for a hands-on learning experience. All classes are conducted by members of the Tigard Police Department and subject matter covers a wide-range of topics: investigation, patrol, training, budget, the traffic unit, community policing, gangs, narcotics and firearms.

Interested applicants must be able to commit to attending most, if not all eight sessions. A criminal history background check will be conducted to determine eligibility.

Apply early! Enrollment is limited to 25 participants. Applications are available online at www.tigard-or.gov/police or by calling Jim Wolf at 503-718-2561.
Neighborhood Network News

Neighborhood Network Open House!

Make 2011 the year you get to know your neighborhood! Stop by the library community room on Saturday, February 5, 2011 anytime between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to check out your Neighborhood Network Program.

This year’s event focuses on Neighborhood Network Steering Committees. Let us show you how the city can help you connect with your neighbors to organize fun neighborhood events, beautification/clean-up projects and more. The city has set aside funding that is just waiting for input from your neighborhood steering committee.

If you haven’t logged onto your neighborhood website yet, stop by the open house. We will have each of the 13 neighborhood websites displayed for your review. Staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have, or just to give you a tour! Thanks to some fantastic work by volunteer web administrators in each neighborhood, each website is as unique and special as the neighborhood it represents.

We’ll provide the refreshments, the staff and the resources—all we need is you!

Social Service/Community Event Funding Available

Are you a member of an organization that provides services to Tigard residents? Do you know of a community event in need of funding? Each fiscal year Tigard sets aside one half of one percent of the operating budget to fund social services and community events. This year, the city will provide over $260,000 in grants to eligible organizations. In past years, the city has helped to fund the Balloon Festival, Tigard dog parks and services by LifeWorks and Luke Dorf.

Organizations interested in applying can find an application at www.tigard-or.gov/finance. Completed applications must be returned to the city finance office no later than Friday, February 11, 2011.

During the annual budget process a subcommittee of the Budget Committee meets to review Social Service requests while Community Event requests are reviewed by the City Council. Once the budget is adopted in June, organizations will receive notification whether they received funding.

If you have any questions or wish to request a packet, contact Liz Lutz at lizbeth@tigard-or.gov or 503-718-2487.

Park Reservations

Interested in having an event in the park? The city has six park shelters and eight sports fields available for rent.

Shelters in Cook and Summerlake Park can be reserved from April 4–September 30. Most shelters are equipped with picnic tables, barbeque grills, electricity and water. Restrooms are usually located nearby. The largest shelter can accommodate up to 250 people.

Make Reservations Beginning January 3

Shelters can be booked online or by phone. Receive a $5 discount by reserving your shelter online at www.tigard-or.gov/parks.

Sports fields can only be booked by phone; online reservations are not available.

Park & Sports Field Access

Due to the possibility of winter flooding, the lower section of Cook Park, just beyond the restroom/concession stand, is closed to vehicular traffic. This area will re-open February 28. Baseball and soccer fields, also closed for winter, will re-open on February 28 and April 16 respectively.

For more information or to make a reservation, call the parks reservation line at 503-718-2641.

Photo Credit Correction!

Although there are many talented photographers in our city, no one can be in two places at once! The 2011 calendar cover shows Greg Patton on his bike—a photo taken by his wife Barb Patton, not Greg.

DIDN’T SEE THE CALENDAR? We have them available at City Hall, Library, Police Records window or by calling Joanne at 503-718-2476.
Improving Tigard’s Livability—Capital Improvement Projects

Where We Are

Between September 1 and October 31, 2010, a public comment period was opened for citizens to nominate capital improvement projects (CIP). Thanks to your suggestions, new and existing infrastructure improvements throughout the city will be reviewed.

In late December, a CIP Team consisting of directors and staff from Public Works, Community Development and Finance began evaluating and prioritizing projects submitted for the FY 2011–16 program. They obtained projects from three sources: the existing CIP, master plans, and Tigard residents. The following street system projects are under consideration at this time:

- Walnut Street “Complete Street” from 116th to Tiedeman
- North Dakota Street Bridge Replacement
- Tigard Street Bridge Replacement
- Pacific Highway/Gaarde Street/McDonald Street Intersection Improvements

Thanks to the voter-approved Parks Bond Measure, the citizen-led Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is currently evaluating multiple parks system projects.

Not all capital projects are funded due to limited budgets. Instead, the city allocates money to projects that are considered high priority or have available grant funding. Typically, the further out projects are scheduled beyond the current year, the less likely that immediate funding will be available for construction.

What Happens Next?

Later this month, a draft of the FY 2011–16 CIP will be posted on the city’s website. Staff from the CIP Team will attend the Neighborhood Network Open House (February 5, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tigard Library) to answer questions, explain the process to-date and collect your feedback.

In mid-April 2011, residents have another opportunity to provide input at the Budget Committee hearings (held during two to three consecutive Mondays.)

Once the proposed budget is approved by the Budget Committee, it goes to the City Council for final adoption. This is the final opportunity for public input on the following fiscal year’s CIP.

We encourage you to tell us if you feel a project needs to be considered. Capital improvement projects are defined as any public facility project that improves or adds value to Tigard’s infrastructure; costs $50,000 or more; and has a useful life or extends the useful life of a facility for five years or more.

If you have any questions or comments contact Carissa Collins, Sr. Management Analyst at 503-718-2643 or carissa@tigard-or.gov.

City Council Sets Tigard’s Legislative Agenda

The 2011 Oregon Legislature will meet in early February and adjourn by mid-July for the first time. Under new rules established by the passage of Ballot Measure 71, limited annual sessions were created.

Lawmakers will meet again in 2012 (and in subsequent even-numbered years) for a maximum of 35 days. Those mini-sessions will allow the Legislature to reassess the state’s budget with more up-to-date numbers for the second half of each biennium and, if necessary, draft laws to address pressing concerns.

For the 2011 Oregon Legislative Session, the Tigard City Council has identified the following legislative priorities:

- Maintain the current State Shared Revenue formulas allowing cities to fund essential community needs like public safety, economic development and parks. Tigard receives close to $3 million a year in State Shared Revenue.
- Amend the Transportation Planning Rule (TPR) encouraging development served by transit, bicycling, and walking. So far, TPR implementation has limited the city’s ability to effectively plan for future growth in ways that will achieve Metro’s objectives and the city’s aspirations for downtown, a high capacity transit corridor, and the Tigard Triangle.
- Address telecommunication preemptions limiting cities from reacting to the decrease in revenue caused by the shift from landline telephones to wireless technology.
- Amend Removal/Fill Permit statutes exempting cities from expending significant public funds to acquire properties as a condition prior to submitting an application for a removal fill permit, without knowing whether a permit will even be granted for those locations.

City officials communicated the legislative priorities to Rep. Doherty and Sen. Burdick. During the session, city staff will track bills addressing these Council priorities and other bills with the potential to impact city services. Monthly meetings with our state delegation will provide an opportunity to remind them of these priorities.
Friends in Need

The Friends of the Tigard Library are looking for some muscle. They are recruiting volunteers to help pack and store books for the bi-annual book sale. Volunteers would sort and pack books by genre and transport the boxes to the Friends storage unit. This volunteer position requires the ability to bend and lift boxes weighing up to 40 pounds.

Proceeds from the sale of these books are used to sponsor library programs and help enrich the library’s collection of books and other materials. Since the Friends began in the 1970s, they have contributed more than $250,000 to the Tigard Library. If you’re a book lover with a strong back, contact Kathy Sleeger at ksleeger@frontier.com.

Fun Facilitators Needed at the Library!

A pool of volunteer program assistants is forming to help with library events. Festivities range from children’s book parties to music and games. Duties include assisting with set-up, lending a hand with activities and snacks, counting participants and generally supporting staff. Most programs are on weekends and volunteers are asked to be available for about three hours. Volunteers may sign up for one event or all events. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Trish Stormont at trish@tigard-or.gov or 503-718-2516 if you’d like to learn more.

Cooking with Asian Flair
Saturday, January 29, 1–2 p.m.
Community Room

Learn the culinary skills of healthy, tasty and simple Asian cooking with food specialist Hye Kim. She will discuss choosing ingredients and demonstrate how to slice and marinate. Sample a marinated beef, vegetable and noodle dish called job chae.

Sponsored by Friends of the Tigard Library

MLK Day of Service
Monday, January 17, 2–5 p.m.

“Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve…”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. by helping out at the library! Volunteers are invited to assist with sorting, shelving and shifting materials. Families are welcome. On-the-job training will be provided. Cake and appreciation will be served at break time!

Registration is limited to 30 participants. To volunteer, contact Volunteer Coordinator Trish Stormont at 503-718-2516 or trish@tigard-or.gov and tell her you’ll be there, ready to serve.

Finesse Your Facebook Privacy
Wednesday, January 19, 7:30–8:45 p.m.
Technology Room

Do you enjoy communicating with your friends on Facebook®, but worry that your online presence might be seen by more people than you’d like? Join us for an informative, hands-on lesson in making the best selections to protect your privacy.

Tigard Library Requests the Pleasure of Your Opinion

Sharpen your pencil. The library’s annual patron survey launches at the end of January. Fill out the survey at the library, get a copy in the February Cityscape, or go online in February and complete the survey.
**Council Goals... Coming Soon**

On December 30, the City Council conducted their annual goal setting meeting in the community room at TVF&R Fire Station #50. The 2011 Council Goals will be adopted at a January Council meeting and displayed in Town Hall and on the city’s website.

**First Council Meeting of the Year**  
**Tuesday, January 11 @ 6:30 p.m.**

- State of the City Address
  - Mayor Dirksen will deliver his annual address to the Council and Tigard residents. Highlights include a summary of 2010 achievements and direction for 2011.

- Swearing-in Ceremony:
  - Mayor Craig Dirksen | Councilor Gretchen Buehner | Councilor Marc Woodard

- Welcome Reception:
  - Join us as we welcome Tigard’s newly elected Mayor and City Councilors. Stop by Town Hall on Tuesday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. for a cup of coffee, a piece of cake and an opportunity to meet the City Council.

**Park Bond Measure Pays Off**

On November 2, Tigard voters approved a $17 million parks bond. Most of the bond proceeds will be used to buy park land and open space. Here’s what we’ve accomplished to date:

**Summer Creek:** Also known as the “Fowler property,” this property has been at the top of the city’s park acquisition “wish list” for several years. Bordering Fowler Middle School to the south, Tiedeman Avenue to the east, and Tigard Street to the north, the 43-acre property is a mix of mature forests, wetlands and open space. The city purchased the Summer Creek property in December. The majority of the property will remain a natural area, but there may be limited opportunities for park amenities. Possible amenities include a ball field, interpretive shelter and restrooms. Interested in the Summer Creek park planning process? Watch Cityscape for meeting announcements involving neighbors, interested citizens and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

Later this spring the city plans to expand the Summer Creek property with the purchase of three additional parcels, (totaling about five acres), adjacent to the Summer Creek property. Together, these parcels will make up Tigard’s second largest park.

**Sunrise:** City Council authorized the purchase of a 20-acre parcel known as the Sunrise property. Located in Tigard on the north side of Bull Mountain, the property, comprised of open fields and wooded slopes, is near the future Westside Trail and Tigard’s Cach Park Natural Area. Prior to the Council’s action, the property was slated for development. The property purchase will be completed in the spring of 2011.

**Potso Dog Park:** Potso Dog Park is located on property leased by the city. The property, located on Wall Street just off Hunziker Street, is currently for sale. The Trust for Public Land, working in conjunction with the city, has obtained an option to purchase the property. The City Council will consider this purchase in early 2011.

**Want to Learn More?** The citizen-led Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) will evaluate more potential park properties. The Board will make recommendations this spring for purchases later in the year. The PRAB meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at 8777 SW Burnham Street and citizen input is welcomed. For more information contact Parks and Facilities Manager Steve Martin at 503-718-2583 or steve@tigard-or.gov.

**City Hall Holiday Closures:**  
Friday, December 31 and Monday, January 17

**Regular Council Meetings:** Tuesday, January 11, 18, 25 @ 6:30 p.m., Tigard Town Hall (13125 SW Hall Blvd.)

All meetings are open to the public. Council agendas are available online at www.tigard-or.gov/council or contact Cathy Wheatley at 503-718-2410 or cathy@tigard-or.gov.