



Tree City USA—Establishing Community Roots

It's official! The City of Donald has once again earned recognition as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. The recognition is for tree-related efforts performed by the community in 2021. Donald residents should take pride in living in a community that makes the planting and care of trees a priority. By planting trees, Donald is showing its commitment to effective urban forest management and a healthier, more sustainable environment.

The City is very excited to share this accomplishment with the more than 3,600 Tree City USA communities. The award will be part of the upcoming Arbor Day celebration in April along with other events and activities. Our Tree City USA recognition materials will be displayed throughout the City soon serving as a reminder of what a great place our community is to "grow."

DONALD MONTHLY RECORD

MARCH 2022



City Hall Update



It has been a busy first few months of the new year here at City Hall so I would like to provide a quick snapshot of what has been happening.

First and foremost, we have experienced the resignation of three City Councilors over the course of three months. This occurrence has caused City staff and the remaining City Council to pivot and adjust some priorities. In addition, there are three vacant Planning Commission positions and five vacant Budget Committee positions for which are being recruited. It is our hope that these positions can be filled prior to the upcoming Budget Committee meeting in May and if you have any interest in serving, I would encourage you to apply. Applications can be accessed at www.donaldoregon.gov or by visiting City Hall.

Highlights from City Council actions last month include the City Council calling for an election and referring a local option levy to the voters in Donald for the May ballot for permanent policing services. More information on this local option levy is available in the Woodburn Independent (Feb 16 and 23), the City's website, and a separate article in this newsletter. Secondly, the Council approved a Resolution amending Donald's System Development Charges (SDC's) by an increase of 7.3% as per the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index (ERI). The Council also voted on the selection of Community Member of the Year (Councilor Gerry Waller) and Community Member of the Month (former Councilor Troy Hellickson). We wholeheartedly congratulate these two on this recognition and thank them for their contributions to our community. Last but certainly not least, the City Council appointed its newest Council Member, Amy Nicholls to serve the remaining term of a vacant council seat that expires in December of 2024. Welcome Councilor Nicholls!

On the staff level, we are working hard to acquire infrastructure funding for water well construction and wastewater facilities expansion. We have recently received \$1 million for construction of a drinking water well through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In addition, we are working closely with Business Oregon, the State's Economic Development Department, to access other sources of funding for these projects. On an economic development front, steps are being taken to elevate our tourism assets by partnering with the North Marion County Tourism Collaborative. Currently, we are working together on a mobile kiosk program that will highlight tourism assets throughout all of North Marion County and it is an exciting opportunity to tell Donald's story.

To sum things up, good things are being accomplished by your city leadership and staff. Stay tuned as there is a lot more to come. Our website is continuously being updated with new and pertinent information and checking it out from time to time is a great way to stay up to date. Our next City Council meeting is a Work Session on March 7th where we will be talking about spending priorities and ARPA funding restrictions. The link to the meeting is on our website and I hope to (virtually) see you there.

Water/Sewer Dates

Three-Month Calendar

Public Meetings

March 2022

- March 15th: Water & Sewer Bills Due
- March 16th: Red Tags Delivered at 10am
- March 21st: Late Fees Applied to Delinquent Accts. 8am
- March 21st: Shut Offs for Delinquent Accts. 10am

April 2022

- April 15th: Water & Sewer Bills Due
- April 18th: Red Tags Delivered at 10am
- April 20th: Shut Offs for Delinquent Accts. 10am
- April 21st: Late Fees Applied to Delinquent Accts. 8am

May 2022

- May 15th: Water & Sewer Bills Due
- May 16th: Red Tags Delivered 10am
- May 18th: Shut Offs for Delinquent Accts. 10am
- May 23: Late Fees Applied to Delinquent Accounts 8am

(Council & Commission Meetings start at 6:45 p.m.)

- March 7:** City Council Work Session
- March 8:** City Council Meeting
- March 10:** Planning Commission/Tree Board Meeting
- April 4:** City Council Work Session (if needed);
- April 12:** City Council Meeting
- May 2:** City Council Work Session (if needed)
- May 10:** City Council Meeting

Holiday Closures & Other Important Date

- March 13:** Spring Forward
- April 17:** Happy Easter!
- May 30:** Memorial Day—City Offices Closed



City Hall:

City Manager: Eric Underwood
10710 Main Street
P.O. Box 388
Donald, OR 97020
Phone: 503-678-5543
www.DonaldOregon.gov

Public Works:

Director: Alonso Limones
Phone: 503-678-1411
Emergency Pager:
503-301-6479

City Council

(in alphabetical order by last name)

- Rick Olmsted, Mayor
- Katie Gonzalez, Council President
- Mark Buzzard
- Gerry Waller
- Amy Nicholls
- Vacant
- Vacant

Planning Commission

(in alphabetical order by last name)

- Neil Strathdee, Chair
- John Crawford
- Mike Mader
- Nathan Earl
- Vacant
- Vacant
- Vacant

News to Know

By Public Works Director Alonso, Limones

Water is an extremely important resource and it is everyone's responsibility to protect our streams, rivers and lakes. Storm water can carry polluted runoff to the closest body of water. The good news is that your positive actions can do a lot to protect these waters! Here are some easy and inexpensive ways to protect water at home and in the community:

- Dispose of toxic chemicals properly
- Cut down on the use of chemicals
- Keep your vehicles from leaking
- Recycle used motor oil
- Pick up after your pets
- Use phosphate-free detergent and dish cleaner
- Do not pour fat and grease down the drain
- Dispose of medical waste properly
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them off

Please do your part by using best management practices to prevent pollution of our waterways and keep them safe for both people and aquatic life.



From Mayor Olmsted: Projects Springing Up

As we move closer to Spring, road construction affecting Donald and the surrounding area is beginning on two fronts. Phase

1a of the Aurora-Donald Interchange Project is starting. You will see:

1. Lengthening and widening the I-5 northbound off-ramp
2. Realigning Bents Road to align with Bents Court at the existing Ehlen Road.
3. Installing a signal at the new Bents Road intersection with Ehlen Road.

For up-to-date information, please visit the project webpage at: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/projects/pages/project-details.aspx?project=19062>.

In addition, near the Aurora Airport, the OR 551 at Ehlen Road Safety Project is in full swing. You can use the same link shown above, substituting 18664 for 19062 to visit the OR 551 at Ehlen Road Project webpage to stay up to date on any progress. Finally, the first 49 houses of the Harvest Gardens Project are under construction.

Feature: Food Pantry & Mobile Pantry

Donald is working hard to eliminate hunger in its community by collaborating with committed volunteers and partnering agencies. You may start noticing additional food donation services being provided to help our community members in need.

A mini food pantry has been added in front of City Hall with amazing art work and craftsmanship done by dedicated and tireless volunteers. Also, the City will soon be hosting a mobile food pantry through Marion Polk Food Share on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (starting in March) from 3:30—5:30 p.m. at the Donald Community Center. The Pantry will offer a variety of produce and shelf-stable dry goods. No appointment, ID or proof of income is required. More information about this service can be found at marionpolkfoodshare.org and www.donaldoregon.gov. Also, volunteers are needed so please contact Rachel Peterson at (503) 576-3448 or rpeterston@marionpolkfoodshare.org if interested in volunteering.



Gerry Waller—Community Member of the Year



The City Council has selected Gerry Waller for the distinguished award of Community Member of the year for 2021. Gerry is excited yet humbled to receive the recognition from a city and community that she loves so dearly. When asked what she liked most about living in Donald, she says "The small town feel. It's just a nice place to live and easy to get involved to help make things better." Gerry has lived here for over 15 years and remembers when the Community Center was still City Hall. She has been a tireless volunteer in the community over the years and her volunteer activities, along with serving as a City Councilor, have included serving on the Budget Committee, the Planning Commission, and the Donald Beautification Group. She has also donated her artistic talents throughout the City to brighten things up and make Donald a better place. When Mayor Olmsted was asked why Gerry was chosen for this recognition, he said, "Gerry volunteers her time on many fronts to help improve the quality of life for the City of Donald. Her work with the Hometown Park has improved the experience of those who use it. She is very active in the Donald Beautification Group. First, the fire hydrant painting project. Not only did she paint several hydrants, which by the way look wonderful, she dispensed paints and supplies to other people for their fire hydrant painting. Secondly, Gerry painted the new Small Lending Libraries and Food Pantries. They look very inviting. Thirdly, she has designed a project for the corner of Butteville and Main Street, which will help beautify Donald. And, finally, Gerry co-hosts a monthly crafting meeting at the Donald Community Center. All of these efforts and more greatly improve Donald." There doesn't seem to be any stop in Gerry as she continues to serve her community in however she can because there are "still things to accomplish." Among other things, Gerry's goal is to live to be 100 and with all that she's accomplished thus far, there is no doubt that she will accomplish that too. Thank you, Gerry for your amazing contributions to Donald. We are fortunate to have community members like you and this recognition is well deserved!



Police

Please note that at the February 8th City Council meeting, the Council voted to call for an election for the purpose of submitting to the Donald voters the question of authorizing a local option levy for permanent policing services. This election will take place on **May 17, 2022** and the ballot title is as follows:

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF BALLOT TITLE in accordance with ORS 250.275, notice is hereby given that the following ballot title for a measure referred by the Donald City Council has been filed with the City Elections Officer of Donald on February 11, 2022. CAPTION: Authorizes funding of Police Services. QUESTION: Shall the City impose up to \$254,000 each year for five years for police operating purposes beginning in 2023? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent. SUMMARY: The taxes needed total \$1,065,414.44. The taxes will be used to contract with the Marion County Sheriff's office to provide a police officer and equipment to exclusively serve the City of Donald during prescribed hours. It is estimated that the proposed tax will result in a rate of \$2.07 per \$1000.00 of assessed value in the first year. The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate. An elector may file petition for review of this ballot title in the Marion County Circuit Court no later than 5pm on February 23, 2022. For further information, contact City Manager/Elections Officer Eric Underwood at 503-678-5543.

Community Member of the Month nomination forms are available on the City's website or at City Hall.