



City Celebrates Earth Day with Restoration Event at the Willow Place Natural Area on April 20

In celebration of Earth Day, the city is hosting a volunteer restoration activity at the Willow Place Natural Area in the Lake Road neighborhood. Also known as the Pennywood Detention Pond, the Willow Place Natural Area is a 1-acre green space that serves as a stormwater detention facility, while providing valuable habitat and environmental benefits to the community. Volunteers will focus on removing more invasive plant species, such as English ivy and holly, sweet cherry and clematis, to help existing native trees and shrubs thrive. Volunteers will plant out the site after more area has been cleared.

Registration is required for all volunteers. To register online, visit www.milwaukieoregon.gov/sustainability/earthday or register in-person at the event. Volunteers should wear weather-appropriate clothing and shoes for uneven or muddy terrain. Gloves and tools will be provided, but volunteers are welcome to bring their own. Light refreshments are provided and a portable restroom will be on site. The city highly encourages volunteers to carpool to the event to decrease neighborhood traffic. Neighboring streets may see a temporary increase in parked vehicles due to the event. For questions, contact Riley Gill, environmental services coordinator, at gillr@milwaukieoregon.gov.

It's Budget Season

The City of Milwaukie prepares and adopts a biennial budget every two years in alignment with the community's vision, city council's adopted goals and city's values. The Budget Committee will consider the draft proposed budget for the 2025-2026 Biennium on April 27 and May 4. More information about Budget Committee meetings and the budget process can be found at www.milwaukieoregon.gov/finance/budgets.



With Change Comes Opportunity



City Councillor
Adam Khosroabadi

With all the exciting growth & development our beautiful city has experienced, there are moments of bittersweet change along the way. That moment has come in the form of the retirement of our incredible Police Chief Luke Strait and a new position for our amazing City Manager Ann Ober. It's bitter in the sense that we will greatly miss their tireless dedication & service to Milwaukie, and sweet for the lasting impact both of these esteemed individuals have had here and how lucky we were to call them our own. No one can deny that Milwaukie is in a better place because of their leadership.

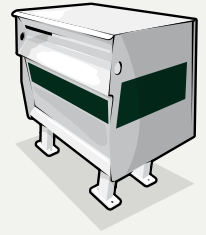
Chief Strait has served the Milwaukie community for 29 years and public safety & Law Enforcement for 30. He's led our department through some of the city's most challenging times, including the COVID-19 Pandemic and a national reckoning with racial injustice in policing. Chief Strait not only led the initiative of DEI in policing, but put it to action and turned the Milwaukie Police Department into a regional, if not national, model on how a community's values can and should be shared with those dedicated to serving and protecting them. His dedication and sacrifice to service is second to none and his genuine care for people is reflected in each one of our selfless Officers. I know I'm not alone in saying Chief Strait will truly be missed.

City Manager Ann Ober has dedicated herself to our city for more than seven years and has been the definition of steady leadership throughout her time. Like Chief Strait, City Manager Ober was the engine that kept Milwaukie going during the pandemic and provided countless aid and resources to Milwaukie businesses and residents. Ann literally helped keep the lights on and the doors open for so many families in a time of great uncertainty. She's held countless listening sessions and provided many opportunities for Milwaukians to engage in their local government. Ann also ensured our underserved community members had a safe space to voice their concerns and be heard. We will no doubt miss her inspiring work as she embarks on a new journey as the new assistant county administrator for Washington County. They're getting one of the great ones.

With all change comes new opportunity, opportunity for others to bring their unique qualities to the position and continue leading Milwaukie towards the city's vision. I want to congratulate our new Police Chief Ryan Burdick for earning this position and look forward to working with him. Chief Burdick has served Milwaukie for over 20 years, I have no doubt that we are in excellent hands. I'd like to thank Chief Strait and City Manager Ober for all they've done and congratulate them on their incredible accomplishments! We will miss you! You will always have a home in Milwaukie and hold a special place in our hearts!

City Council Special Election Candidate

As of the filing window deadline, Will Anderson has qualified to be on the May 21 special election ballot. The last day to register to vote in the May election is April 30 and the Clackamas County elections office will begin mailing out ballots around May 1. There are three ballot boxes within Milwaukie city limits: city hall (10501 SE Main St.), public safety building (3200 SE Harrison St.) and Clackamas Community College Harmony Campus (7738 SE Harmony Rd.). For more information, visit www.milwaukieoregon.gov/cityrecorder.



The 2024 annual recruitment for the city's boards and committees ended on April 1. Thanks to everyone who applied to volunteer! Eligible applicants will be contacted this month for interviews. For questions or more information, contact the city recorder's office at ocr@milwaukieoregon.gov or 503.786.7502.

JOIN THE TEAM!



Check out job opportunities with the City of Milwaukie by scanning the QR code or visiting milwaukieoregon.gov/jobs.

Police Chief Luke Strait Retires on April 5



Luke Strait

Police Chief Luke Strait will retire on April 5 after nearly 30 years of service to the city. Rising from patrol officer to chief, his tenure was marked by significant achievements in community engagement, policy reform and transparency to include, implementing body worn cameras and fair and impartial bias training. He also

fostered community partnerships, hired a behavioral health specialist to support vulnerable populations, and spearheaded interagency missions against human trafficking, theft and traffic safety. The Milwaukie Police Department is grateful for his contributions and legacy relationships. His work for the community has enduring appreciation and will not be forgotten. Thank you, Chief Strait!

Following an extensive recruitment process, Milwaukie Police Captain Ryan Burdick will succeed Chief Strait beginning April 9. Captain Burdick brings a wealth of experience from his service in the U.S. Army and National Guard, coupled with his education in accounting and training with the Southern Police Institute. His appointment ensures continuity in leadership and a commitment to serving the community effectively with engagement, collaboration and transparency. For more information, visit www.milwaukieoregon.gov/police.

Ann Ober Steps Down as City Manager for Role With Washington County



Ann Ober

Ann Ober, who has served as city manager for the past seven and a half years, has submitted her resignation to Milwaukie City Council to take on a new endeavor as an assistant county administrator with Washington County. Her last day with the City of Milwaukie is April 8. During her tenure, Ober played a vital role in a number of significant projects for Milwaukie, including the improvements to the south downtown area, pedestrian and bicyclist safety infrastructure enhancements,

construction of the new library building, and purchase of the new city hall building along with the sale of the historic city hall building, to name a few. Through the years, she also facilitated a change in focus for city council members and city staff onto equity, climate resilience, housing and other key community issues, and helped the city weather the COVID-19 pandemic.

Once city council has permanently filled its five positions, they will work with a recruiting agency to begin the search for the next city manager. In the meantime, they have appointed Emma Sagor, the current assistant city manager, as the interim city manager during the transition.

For more information, visit www.milwaukieoregon.gov. For questions about the city manager position, contact Emma Sagor at sagore@milwaukieoregon.gov or 503-786-7573.

Volunteer in Your Neighborhood – NDA Elections in May



Milwaukie has seven Neighborhood District Associations (NDAs) that meet regularly to hold important discussions, carry out community building projects and host events. If you live, own property or a business, or represent a nonprofit in one of them, you are a member! Participation is free and funding is provided to accomplish neighborhood goals. The success of each NDA is determined by many factors, but one of the most important is its ability to elect a dynamic, diverse and welcoming leadership team. To do so, NDAs hold elections each May for the positions of chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, land use committee members and Public Safety Advisory Committee representative.

If you are interested in serving as a neighborhood leader, attend the NDA meeting in May. If one of these positions isn't of interest, there are still a variety of ways to get involved. If you have a passion for a specific topic, such as communication, art, parks, transportation, etc., let them know about that too! There are a variety of ways to get involved and that includes simply participating in the meetings.

For more information about NDAs, including how funding is spent, when each NDA meets or which NDA you live in, visit the "Neighborhoods" tab at www.milwaukieoregon.gov. For questions, contact Jason Wachs, community engagement coordinator, at wachs@milwaukieoregon.gov or 503.786.7568.

Pilot Program Provides Pathway to Free E-Bike Ownership



Exciting news for Milwaukie residents! A yearlong pilot program called Ride2Own is now accepting applications, offering a unique opportunity to own an e-bike for free. This innovative initiative aims to promote sustainable transportation and make e-bikes more accessible.

Ride2Own is seeking up to 25 people from Milwaukie who are interested and committed to embracing e-biking. Participants in the program will not only receive a free e-bike, but also benefit from additional perks, such as bicycle mentorship, free safety gear essentials, maintenance and tune-ups. Furthermore, participants will gain membership to the Street Trust and have opportunities to attend free community biking events.

This pilot program is specifically designed for individuals who may not already have easy access or comfortability with e-biking. People of color, women and those from low-income households are strongly encouraged to apply.

Participants are required to ride their e-bikes throughout the full year of the program. While there isn't a minimum riding requirement, active usage of the e-bike is expected. Additionally, participants will need to track their bike rides using a smartphone app, complete four interviews with program staff, and attend four bike education workshops.

For those interested in applying and learning more about the program, including income caps and eligibility criteria, please visit the program's website at ride2own.org. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to join the e-bike revolution and enhance commuting experiences, while contributing to a greener, healthier community.

Washington Street Area Improvement Project



Construction improvements begin this month on portions of 27th Avenue, 32nd Avenue, 35th Avenue, Madison Street, Edison Street and Washington Street. This capital improvements project will repair existing utility pipes, improve stormwater management and repave Washington Street, 27th Avenue, and Edison Street. As part of the Safe Access for Everyone (SAFE) program, this project also includes building new sidewalks and accessible ramps, and updating crosswalks to provide safer routes to school. Construction will take about a year to complete. During this time, expect traffic delays and detours. To stay up-to-date about construction and related impacts, sign up for email updates by contacting milwaukiesafe@milwaukieoregon.gov and note the Washington Street Area Improvements Project, or visit www.milwaukieoregon.gov/engineering/washington-street-area-improvements.

Help Needed for Plant and Book Sales



The Friends of the Ledding Library annual plant sale is May 11, 12 and 18, and they are in need of plant and pot donations, along with help potting the plants. Anyone interested in making a donation or volunteering their time, please contact Christina Brow at leddingfriends.plantsale@gmail.com.

The Friends of the Ledding Library are also looking for volunteers to help with Sunday book sales, which run from May through October. To volunteer, please contact Donna Fuller at dfuller503@gmail.com.

Author Talks in April



On **Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m.**, join Portland author Tove Danovich for a discussion of her book *Under the Henfluence: Inside the World of Backyard Chickens and the People Who Love Them*. In her book, culture reporter Danovich explores the lives of these quirky, mysterious birds who stole her heart the moment her first box of chicks arrived at the

post office. Danovich is a journalist and a finalist for the Oregon Book Awards. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Backyard Poultry Magazine* and many others.



On **Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m.**, join author Andrew Leland for a discussion of his book *The Country of the Blind: A Memoir at the End of Sight*. Attendees meet the author midway through his life with retinitis pigmentosa, a

condition that ushers those who live with it from sightedness to blindness over years, even decades. Leland embarks on a sweeping exploration of the state of being that awaits him—not only the physical experience of blindness but also its language, politics and customs—all of which everyone has much to learn from. Leland's writing has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *McSweeney's Quarterly* and *The San Francisco Chronicle*, among other outlets.

These author talks are made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Ledding Library.

ADULT PROGRAMS

at the Ledding Library

Poetry Spring Reading & Open Mic

Wednesday • April 3, 6-7:30 PM

The Milwaukie Poetry Series and Ledding Library celebrate National Poetry Month with a spring poetry reading and open mic event. Featured readers will read for about 40 minutes, followed by an open mic session. To sign up, contact Tom Hogan at tomhogan2@comcast.net

April Poetry Reading: Donna Henderson

Wednesday • April 13, 6 PM

MORE INFO

milwaukieoregon.gov/library

Kid & Teen Activities in April at the Library

Spanish Story & Play Time

Saturday • April 6, 10:30 AM

Story and play time with Adventures in Spanish. All ages. Hora de cuentos en español para los niños de todas las edades. Sábado, 6 de abril a las 10:30. ¡Gratis!

LEGO Club

Saturday • April 6, 2 PM

Build with LEGO expert Molly, who will provide a create challenge, along with tips and tricks. Ages 5 and older. Capacity is limited to the first 50 attendees.

Baby Sign Language

Thursday • April 11, 10:30 AM

A baby sign language play and sing class with Christina Schabow. Ages infant to 18 months. Sponsored by the Friends of the Ledding Library.

Family Movie Matinee

Sunday • April 14, 3:30-5:30 PM

Enjoy a screening of *Wonka* (PG). Light snacks provided.

All Together Now

This is an intergenerational program for people of all ages to create and play together.

Puzzle Madness!

Monday • April 15, 3-5 PM

Puzzles in all different sizes for just the right challenge!

Coloring Fun

Monday • April 29, 3-5 PM

Color sheets, both big and small, plus markers, pencils and crayons!

Teen Room Gaming Nights

Mondays & Tuesdays • 5:30-7:30 PM

Get your game on with Xbox X and PS5 consoles.

Weekly Library Storytimes

Join the library for weekly stories, songs & rhymes!



Mon & Tue
10:30 AM

All-Ages Storytime

Thursdays
10:30 AM

Baby Storytime
(0-18 months)

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

HISTORIC MILWAUKIE

The Historic Milwaukie neighborhood is waking up to spring! The Earth Day event is **Saturday, April 20**. Volunteers will meet at 9:45 a.m. in the parking lot across from the historic city hall building. Focus areas for this year's event include native plantings, the pollinator pathway program, composting education, and downtown clean-up! Tools and planting supplies are provided, but bring gloves, if available. All ages are welcome!

On **Monday, April 8 at 5:15 p.m.**, interested community members will meet at city hall, 10501 SE Main St., for a tour of Henley Place, a large apartment complex under construction on Main Street next to Pietro's Pizza.

The neighborhood is looking forward to the Milwaukie Farmer's Market returning on Sundays from May through October. There is also an ongoing exploration of a year-round neighborhood grocery downtown that would feature produce and animal products from local farmers. The New Seasons in Milwaukie Marketplace on Hwy 224 opened at the end of last month bringing another grocery option to the area.

Please attend monthly meetings in-person at city hall or online for up-to-date information and discussion about this evolving neighborhood. Parking is available in the lot across from city hall.

NEXT MEETING MON, APR 8 • 6:30 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
SECRETARY: Debbie Liptan • debbieliptan@mac.com

HECTOR CAMPBELL

NEXT MEETING WED, MAY 8 • 6 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
CHAIR: Corinn DeTorres • campellneighbors@gmail.com

LEWELLING

On **April 27 at 10 a.m.**, the Lewelling Neighborhood District Association (NDA) will host the semi-annual neighborhood clean-up event. Volunteers will meet at Ball-Michel Park (9781 SE Stanley Ave.) and the neighborhood will provide tools, coffee and donuts. All are welcome!

The Lewelling NDA is also excitedly watching the progress for the Safe Routes to Schools grant application centered around Seth Lewelling Elementary. Come join the monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month to keep up-to-date with this exciting process!

NEXT MEETING WED, APR 10 • 6:30 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
CHAIR: Camden McKone • lewellingndachair@gmail.com

ISLAND STATION

Attention all nature enthusiasts and community members! Milwaukie invites you to participate in the Island Station neighborhood's conservation efforts on Elk Rock Island. The city has granted a permit for volunteers to aid in restoring native habitats, preserving its natural area designation. Work parties are held the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon through June 2024 and open to everyone. Each event will target specific areas for habitat care. Volunteers should bring hand tools, such as clippers, loppers, trowels or hand digging tools, and dress appropriately for the weather with sturdy shoes or boots. Long sleeves and pants are recommended for protection against scratches and poison ivy.

Neighbors are encouraged to attend monthly meetings at the Two Sisters Play Café on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Check www.milwaukieoregon.gov for last-minute changes and online meeting access. The neighborhood covers access to the play area for young children, and food and drinks are available for purchase. Milwaukie is bustling with activity and initiatives, and the neighborhood encourages everyone to get involved. Come learn about ongoing changes in the city and share ideas for making Island Station the best it can be.

NEXT MEETING WED, APR 17 • 6:30 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
CHAIR: Charles Bird • charlesbird@juno.com

LINWOOD

Elections for leadership positions in the Linwood Neighborhood District Association are during the May 9 meeting. Please consider helping with this neighbor volunteer-run crew! The positions require a 1-year commitment, but are not too difficult or time consuming. They also provide a chance to learn more about how Milwaukie's government works with some wonderful folks. For those looking to get involved in other ways, come help with the Linwood neighborhood's block party planning group. Last year's event was a great time for all and even included a bouncy house for kids. On **Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m.**, neighborhood volunteers will host an Adopt-A-Road clean-up. Those interested in helping should meet at the front of Linwood/Sojourner Elementary School, 11909 SE Linwood Ave. Drinks, food, vests, litter grabbers, gloves and buckets are provided.

For more information about the Linwood neighborhood, contact linwoodnda@gmail.com.

NEXT MEETING THU, APR 11 • 7 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
CHAIR: Elizabeth Start • linwoodnda@gmail.com

LAKE ROAD

On **Sunday, April 21 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.**, volunteers will meet at Century Park to clean up the park area and nearby blocks. Coffee, snacks and good company are provided, along with supplies. Bowman-Brae Park is closed to the public since construction has started.

Elections for neighborhood officers is May 8 and is a good way to get involved and interact with the city. If there are safety concerns regarding any and all modes of transportation that the city should address, please email Christine Giatti at lakeroadndapsac@gmail.com.

Has anyone noticed litter blowing around on garbage day? Don't be shy! Put it in the nearest garbage container or take it home. Chickweed is blooming with tiny white flowers. They can be easily pulled out from damp soil before they go to seed. If one waits too long, the seeds can actually grow into 16-foot weeds. Healthy soil and well-tended lawns and plants, along with mulch, can prevent some weeds from germinating. Be competitive with neighbors to have a beautiful yard!

NEXT MEETING WED, APR 10 • 6:30 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
CHAIR: Debby Patten • lakeroadndachair@gmail.com

ARDENWALD-JOHNSON CREEK

The monthly Tideman-Johnson Park work party is **Saturday, April 6 at 9 a.m.** Come plant trees, pick up litter, and remove invasive weeds to establish and enhance wildlife habitat.

Also, please join the neighborhood in cleaning up Minthorn Springs on **Saturday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m.** Work includes trail maintenance, invasive weed removal, litter pick-up, and native plantings, depending on the area's needs this month. Full details and sign-up link can be found at www.wetlandsconservancy.org/upcoming-events.

As always, all neighbors are welcome to attend meetings on the fourth Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Milwaukie Café (who also provides the snacks) and through Zoom. New committee and board positions are elected in May, so now is a great time to get involved!

NEXT MEETING MON, APR 22 • 6:30 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
CHAIR: Chris Holle-Bailey • chrisinardenwald@gmail.com

The Luelling Nursery

Of the countless businesses in Milwaukie's history, few remain as impactful as Henderson and Seth Luelling's nursery. The Luelling family members were Quakers and staunch abolitionists. In 1847, Henderson Luelling packed up his family and traveled the Oregon Trail with his "traveling nursery." Henderson traveled with about 700 grafted trees. He built wooden boxes that were affixed to uncommonly large wagons and filled them with a mixture of earth and charcoal. About 400-500 grafts and several hundred seeds survived the trail, and those plants were some of the original non-native species to be introduced and planted in Oregon soil en masse. Grafted plants weighed less, took up less space, required less water on the lengthy journey than fully mature plants, and expedited the process of growing and selling fruit from seeds after arriving in Oregon.

Eventually, Seth traveled to join the nursery in Milwaukie, which had already begun supplying the Oregon territory with fruit trees, and began experimenting with them. Seth propagated the first Black Republican cherry, and Ah Bing, a Chinese orchard foreman, propagated the first Bing cherry. Some propagated tree varieties remain in Milwaukie. In fact, a scion of the Dosh Yellow Bellflower apple tree, believed to be the oldest living grafted fruit variety tree in the west, lives on the Milwaukie Museum property today.



CITY OF MILWAUKIE
 10501 SE Main Street
 Milwaukie, OR 97222
 Jordan Imlah, editor
 503.786.7503 • imlahj@milwaukieoregon.gov

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City Recorder's Office 503.786.7515
Police Non-Emergency 503.786.7500

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CITY EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Little Comics Bookgroup (LED) - 10 AM - 8 PM Citizens Utility Advisory Board - 5:30 PM Teen Game Night (LED) - 5:30 PM	City Council Work Session - 4 PM Teen Game Night (LED) - 5:30 PM City Council Regular Session - 6 PM	Spring Poetry Reading & Open Mic (LED) - 6-7:30 PM	Daylight Book Group (LED) - 11 AM Book Buddies (LED) - 4 PM		Tideman-Johnson Work Party - 9:30 AM Spanish Storytime (LED) - 10:30 AM LEGO Club (LED) - 2 PM
	Library Board (LED) - 5:30 PM Teen Game Night (LED) - 5:30 PM Historic Milwaukie NDA - 6:30 PM	City Council Study Session - 5:15 PM Teen Game Night (LED) - 5:30 PM Planning Commission - 6:30 PM	Poetry Reading: Donna Henderson (LED) - 6 PM Lewelling NDA - 6:30 PM Lake Road NDA - 6:30 PM	Baby Sign Language Class (LED) - 10:30 AM ORCA Book Group (LED) - 5:30 PM Linwood NDA - 7 PM		Minthorn Wetland Volunteer Event - 9:30 AM
Family Movie Matinee: Wonka (LED) - 3:30 PM	All Together Now: Puzzle Madness (LED) - 3 PM Teen Game Night (LED) - 5:30 PM	City Council Work Session - 4 PM Teen Advisory Board - 5 PM Teen Game Night (LED) - 5:30 PM City Council Regular Session - 6 PM	Island Station NDA - 6:30 PM	Ledding Book Club (LED) - 6:30 PM		Earth Day (Willow Place Natural Area) - 9 AM - 12:30 PM Elk Rock Island Restoration - 9:30 AM Downtown Planting/Clean-Up - 9:45 AM
Author Talk: Tove Danovich (LED) - 2 PM	Teen Game Night (LED) - 5:30 PM Ardenwald-Johnson Creek NDA - 6:30 PM	Teen Game Night (LED) - 5 PM Planning Commission - 6:30 PM	Arts Committee - 6 PM		City Manager Open Door (MCH) - 9-10 AM	Prescription Drug Drop-Off & Document Shredding (PSB) - 10 AM Budget Committee (MCH) - 10 AM Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Club (LED) - 3:30 PM
Author Talk: Andrew Leland (LED) - 2 PM Teen Game Day (LED) - 2 PM	All Together Now: Coloring Fun (LED) - 3 PM Teen Game Night (LED) - 5:30 PM	Teen Game Night (LED) - 5:30 PM				

STAY UP-TO-DATE!
 see the full calendar at milwaukieoregon.gov/calendar

CH - City Hall, 10501 SE Main St.
PSB - Public Safety Bldg., 3200 SE Harrison St.
JCB - Johnson Creek Bldg., 6101 SE Johnson Creek Blvd.

LED - Ledding Library, 10660 SE 21st Ave.
MCC - Milwaukie Community Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.