Office of the City Recorder

The story of the city and people of Milwaukie begins long before the first European Americans settled in the area in 1847. The "Dogwood City of the West" was first inhabited by the people of the Clackamas tribes, who arrived thousands of years before there was an organized Clackamas County or Oregon Territory. Sadly, the saga of those first peoples was largely lost when the tribe was assimilated into the other tribes of the Grand Ronde. Most of the history passed to us details life in the area since the arrival of European and American explorers and pioneers. For public reference, some of the key points in our city's history are noted below.

1805		Despite missing the Columbia River's largest tributary, the Willamette River, on both westward and eastward journeys, famed explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were able to estimate the population of the Clackamas people to be around 1,800.
1806	April 23	Lot Whitcomb, pioneer founder of Milwaukie, is born in Rutland, Vermont.
1811		William Henry and Alfred Seton journeyed by bateau boat up the Willamette River as far as the Falls. They were likely the first white men seen in the region that would become Clackamas County.
1815		Alexander Ross and party made a treaty with Native Americans living in the Willamette Valley, permitting white men to be in the area; it is not clear which tribe(s) made this treaty as there were at least 16 tribes known to reside in the valley.
1829		The ship <i>Owyhee</i> sailed up the Willamette River, the first ocean-going ship to do so, and anchored at the Clackamas Rapids. After attempts to trade went bad, members of the local tribe cut the <i>Owyhee</i> 's anchor rope, but the ship sailed away too late for the sake of the Clackamas people. Aboard the ship were sailors ailing from a fever (malaria) which the native people of the Willamette Valley quickly caught. In 1829, nine out of ten of the Clackamas people died from the cold sick. By 1851, only 88 members of this tribe were left. Lewis and Clark had estimated their number at 1,800 in 1805.
1830		Beginning this year and peaking in 1833, epidemics decimated the Native American tribes of the Lower Columbia River, Klamath Lakes, and the Willamette Valley. Epidemics of measles, cold sick, the ague, malaria, and smallpox followed travelers along the river trade routes.
1841		This year is designated as the opening of the Oregon Trail as an emigrant road.
1843		Clackamas County is created by the Provisional Government of Oregon: "District Number 3, to be called the Clackamas District comprehending all the territory not included in the other three districts." Bounded by Champoeg District on the south and by the Willamette River on the west, Clackamas stretched east to the crest of the Rocky Mountains and north to the international border at 54° 40' with Russian Alaska.
1845		Andrew Fellows, the first white man to establish residence where Milwaukie now stands, built a cabin on the banks of the Willamette River near what is now the foot of Jefferson Street.
1847		Lot Whitcomb leaves Illinois and brings his family west along the Oregon Trail, at first living in the cabin built, and abandoned, by Andrew Fellows in 1845.
		The Luelling family arrived on the Oregon Trail with a stock of seedling fruit trees. Settling near Milwaukie, Seth Luelling became a renowned orchardist. The Lambert, Bing, Royal Anne, and Black Republican cherry varieties were all born in the area.
1848		Orrin Kellogg settled near Lot Whitcomb in Milwaukie. He later platted the city of Oswego.
1849		Lot Whitcomb, William Torrance and Joseph Kellogg, founded the town of Milwaukie on Whitcomb's land claim. They built a saw mill and assembled a schooner to produce and transport lumber to California.
	November 30	A one-room school house is built on the site of today's Portland Waldorf School.

1850		With 500 inhabitants, a post office opens in Milwaukie with Lot Whitcomb as the postmaster.
		William Meek builds the Milwaukie Milling Co. sawmill at the mouth of Johnson Creek.
		St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is founded.
		Pioneer Cemetery was founded.
	November 21	Whitcomb's newspaper the <i>Western Star</i> runs its first issue. Months later, in the dark of night, Whitcomb's employees John Waterman and William Carter, moved it to Portland and renamed it <i>The Oregon Weekly Times</i> .
	November 30	A year after opening Milwaukie's first school, Hector Campbell represents Clackamas County at the first session of the Oregon Territorial Legislature held at Oregon City.
	December 25	Men brought from California by Whitcomb began to build the first steamship manufactured in Oregon. The sidewheel steamer <i>Lot Whitcomb</i> was launched amid a huge celebration at Milwaukie on Christmas Day, 1850. The festivities turned tragic when a canon, fired in celebration from aboard another schooner, exploded and killed that ship's captain. The <i>Whitcomb</i> worked as a tug between Milwaukie and Astoria.
1851	February 14	By Congressional Appointment, Milwaukie became a "Port of Delivery" encouraging the fledgling though short-lived shipbuilding industry on Milwaukie Bay.
	December 10	The first Anglican (Episcopal) service in Clackamas County is held at Milwaukie.
1853		Benjamin Brown built and began operating the Standard Flour Mill at Milwaukie; the mill's Red Cross brand produced 100 barrels per day.
1854		The second steamship built in Milwaukie, the first stern-wheeler in Oregon, the <i>Jennie Clark</i> , was launched on Milwaukie Bay.
1855		The first Episcopal Church opens in Milwaukie.
	November	By treaty, the 88 remaining members of the Clackamas tribe ceded all their lands (including Milwaukie) for an annuity of \$2,500 for ten years. Clackamas men who signed the treaty were allowed to occupy their traditional homes during the remainder of their lifetimes but their children retained no land rights. The treaty, written by Oregon Superintendent of Indian Affairs Anson Dart, was never ratified by Congress.
1856		Oregon voters turned down a proposal to make Oregon a state. Politics surrounding the "slavery question" complicated Oregon's statehood in the US Congress and provoked debate in the Territory. Baptist preacher Hezekiah and son Cary Johnson organized the new Republican (anti-slavery) party in Oregon City. A new cherry variety developed in Milwaukie was dubbed the Black Republican in the party's honor. <i>The Argus</i> newspaper, which had succeeded the <i>Spectator</i> in Oregon City, was staunchly Republican. Portland's <i>Oregonian</i> remained Whig until the late 1850's while the <i>Statesman</i> (which moved from Oregon City to Salem when the government did) supported the Democrats.
		The Veranda Hotel opens in Milwaukie and quickly became a center of community activity.
		A second classroom is added to the first Milwaukie school building.
1857	March 31	Lot Whitcomb dies at Milwaukie.
1858		Seth Luelling founds the Oregon Horticultural Society.
		Seth Luelling, famed orchardist, introduced Italian prune trees to Oregon. The prunes grown at the Luelling farm (now Waverly Country Club) sparked a successful industry that thrived.
1861		The Spencer Hill (Episcopal) Church added a girls' boarding school at Milwaukie.

1863		After 5 years of construction a macadam road was constructed along the route of Macadam Avenue from Portland to Milwaukie on the west bank of the Willamette River.
1864		A Catholic mission opened to serve settlers in the Milwaukie area.
		Philip Streib, Milwaukie's 2 nd Mayor, was born in Germany. He immigrated to the United States and arrived in Portland around 1882 where he served as a brew master before purchasing the Hotel Metropolis in downtown Portland. In 1900 he sold the hotel and purchased 32 acres of the Seth Lewelling Land Claim; in 1904 he move onto his land in Milwaukie and began to develop part of it for housing while also raising grapes and apples. He became Milwaukie's second Mayor in 1909.
1868		The great Oregon railroad race began, a winner take all (right of way, land rights, and franchise) competition pitted Portland against East Portland in a race to construct a railroad between Canemah and the Portland stockyards. In Oregon's miniature version of the transcontinental railroad race, the west-siders' Portland Transportation Company raced with the east-siders' Oregon Central Railroad Company. Ben Holladay threw \$1 million behind the east-side's Central Railroad. Holladay, a premier Oregon entrepreneur, sold his assets to invest in the railroad scheme and organized a work force of Chinese emigrants from Portland and San Francisco. Railroad ties came from Holladay's mill in Milwaukie.
1869		Pioneer Cemetery was deeded as a public cemetery.
	December 24	Oregon's railroad race ended with the eastside's Oregon Central beating the westside's Portland Transportation Company by two days. The route went 20 miles south from Portland's Brooklyn stockyards to Canemah. By the time the eastsiders had extended the rails south to New Era, the company's capital was gone and they sold to a German concern. Portland Central, however, had won the lucrative land grants awarded to the winner of the race.
1870		A new steam-powered ferry was launched by Chester (or Florian?) Harlow between Milwaukie (at the foot of Jefferson Street) and the south end of Macadam Avenue in Portland.
	June 24	In North Platt, Nebraska, the namesake of Milwaukie's library, Florence Olsen is born. A graduate of the University of Oregon, Florence would be a teacher and then one of Oregon's first female lawyers until she married fellow attorney Herman Ledding.
1874		Irene Chamberlain Whitcomb, wife of Milwaukie founder Lot Whitcomb, passes away. One reason the Whitcombs emigrated to Oregon was for a better climate for Irene's failing health, but despite this concern she outlived her husband by 17 years.
1876		Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church (Faith Evangelical Church) was founded.
1878		A new cherry variety, the Bing, was developed at the Luelling Farm. Its namesake was the six-foot-tall Chinese nursery foreman at the farm, Bing Ah.
1882		P. J. Henneman & Son fruit growers are founded on Washington Street.
1888		An orphaned Herbert Hoover moves to Oregon to live with his relatives, the Minthorns. The future president's uncle, Dr. Henry John Minthorn, owned farmland near Milwaukie where young Hoover often visited. In 1931 President Hoover donated \$50 to Milwaukie Covenant Church; the church had a stained glass window installed depicting a dove and an olive branch in Hoover's honor.
1889		The Milwaukie library was founded, probably by Alfred Lewelling as a circulating library, housed in the law office of Thomas Lakin, Justice of the Peace, on the corner of Main and Washington Streets. The office burned down a few months later.

The German Methodist Church is built at 24th and Washington; it was torn down in the 1980s.

1890		Milwaukie's Seth Luelling and William S. U'Ren lead Oregon's Populism movement, calling for referendum and recall, a direct primary, a single tax, and the popular election of US Senators.
1891	May 15	The East Side Railway Company is incorporated, which operates the Interurban railway system until it is reorganized into the Portland City & Oregon Railway Company in 1901.
1892		Ardenwald Community-Congregation Church is founded on 32 nd ; it will later be known as First Congregational Church and then the Kairos-Milwaukie United Church of Christ.
	July 27	For \$175.00 the Berkemeier family granted to the East Side Railway Company a right-of-way for the Trolley Trail to cross their land south of Kellogg Lake in the Island Station area.
1893		A second school building is built, with two-stories.
	February 16	At 2:00 p.m. the first Interurban Electric Trolley Car left Portland and arrived at Oregon City at 2:30 p.m. The interurban railway, operated by the East Side Railway Company, was one of the first such electric trolley car systems to operate in the United States and ran from Sellwood to Oregon City for 65 years.
1895		The Milwaukie School is built on site of current City Hall; it is torn down in 1935.
1898		The Oregon State Legislature annexed two parcels of Multnomah County's Sellwood neighborhood into Clackamas County.
1901	February 1	The Portland City & Oregon Railway Company (PC&O) is incorporated and begins operating the East Side Railway Company's Interurban Line; in 1902 PC&O would be reorganized into the Oregon Water Power Railway (OWPR). In subsequent reorganizations the Interurban Line's operating company would change names to Portland Railway, Light and Power Company (1906), Portland Electric Power Company (1924), and Portland Transit Company (1946).
	July 8	The Standard Mill building on Milwaukie's riverfront collapses.
	October 21	Concerned citizens gathered at Milwaukie City Hall to organize the Milwaukie Improvement Association to fight the PC&O's move to relocate the Interurban Trolley car barn to Sellwood. The name of the group was changed at its second meeting to the Milwaukie Board of Trade. The subcommittee assigned to meet with railroad officials was quickly able to report that the PC&O had no immediate plans to move the car barns from Milwaukie.
1902	February 4	By a vote of 17 to 12 the Oregon State Senate voted to postpone consideration of a bill that would have required toilets on electric interurban trolley cars, the type of commuter trains that ran through Milwaukie at the time.
	June 28	The Oregon Water Power and Railway Company (OWPR) incorporated and took ownership of the Interurban railway system replacing PC&O. The OWPR operates the Interurban Line until replaced by the Portland Railway, Light and Power Company (PRL&P) in 1907.
1903	February 4	Milwaukie is incorporated by the Oregon State Legislative Assembly and elections for the first <u>Mayor</u> and City Council are held soon after.
	June 2	The first Milwaukie City Council Meeting is held in a rented hall on the corner of Main Street and Jefferson Street.
	June 6	The City Council adopts Ordinance No. 1, regulating the storage of gunpowder, dynamite and all other explosives within the limits of Milwaukie.
1904		The City Council issues a franchise to build water storage tanks, lay water mains and provide water for the city.

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Office	of the	City	Record	ei

1905	February 11	The Oregon State Senate adopts <u>Senate Bill 58</u> incorporating the Town of Milwaukie, two years after the State House of Representatives passed and the Governor signed an act of incorporation for Milwaukie.
		A natural spring is discovered that would create Crystal Lake, a park that featured a playground, bowling alley, ball field with grand stands, a swimming complex and dance hall. The number of visitors reached as many as 15,000 on certain Sundays. Crystal Lake Park opened in 1908 and closed in 1936. Today the Crystal Lake apartments stand on this site.
1906		The Milwaukie Volunteer Fire Department is established.
		The first street lights were installed, followed by sidewalks, paved streets, telephone service, natural gas and residential electricity.
	May 19	The Milwaukie Bee newspaper begins, but soon moves to Sellwood and changes names.
	June 29	The Portland Railway, Light and Power Company (PRL&P) is incorporated and began to operate 28 electric streetcars serving most parts of the Portland metro area. In 1924 its name was changed the Portland Electric Power Company (PEPCO).
1907		The Binn Bros. celery farm is founded by Gus Binn, Sr. at 37 th and Railroad Ave.
1908		Captain James Shaw begins the Milwaukie Record newspaper which runs until 1911.
		W. E. Thresher starts the <i>News</i> newspaper, a daily until 1910 when it becomes the semiweekly <i>Milwaukie Press</i> .
		Milwaukie's first City Hall is built on the southeast corner of Harrison Street at 21st Avenue; it later moved to the corner of 21st Avenue and Jackson Street.
		Four rooms are added to the Milwaukie School building.
1909		The City's second mayor, Philip Streib, founds the first Milwaukie-based bank, First State Bank.
		Wichita Ave Evangelical United Brethren Church is founded on Wichita Ave.
		The first Wichita School building is constructed on King Rd.
	January 12	The City Council adopts the first Resolution, R1-1909, expressing the city's appreciation for the first Mayor of Milwaukie, William Shindler who leaves office that year.
1910		The City Council appoints a committee to establish a library room.
1912		S. A. Thomas begins the <i>Milwaukie Appeal</i> newspaper, but is wiped out by fire that same year.
	November 13	The City Council adopts Ordinance 81 establishing the first speed limit at 15 miles per hour for all "vehicle, automobile, automobile truck or other motor vehicle."
1913		The first Ardenwald school house is built.
1915	February 26	The City Council adopts Ordinance 125 making it illegal to "expectorate or spit on the floor of any public hall, building, or office, or upon the sidewalk" with a maximum fine of \$20 or ten days imprisonment. Ordinance 125 would be repealed by Ordinance 1016 in 1964.
1916		The North Clackamas News, predecessor of the Clackamas Review begins publishing.
		The library book collection is turned over to the new grammar school, while an Oregon State Library traveling library station hosts the collection until moved to Perry's Pharmacy.
		Milwaukie Elementary School is built.
1917		The Milwaukie Police Department is formed as a municipal department with Sam Riley as the first chief. Prior to the MPD, Milwaukie had been served by several town marshals.

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1918	April 5	In response to concern about the impact of public dances on the public health of Milwaukie, the City Council adopts Ordinance 161 "regulating public dance halls and dances" and setting out in detail how to become licensed and operate any public dance. Ordinance 161 was amended in the following decades before being repealed by Ordinance 1070 in 1965.
1924		Ardenwald Elementary School opens on 36 th Ave.
	December 3	Edith Hazen is the first woman elected to the City Council.
1925		Milwaukie Union High School is built; it is dedicated September 3, 1926.
1926		During the winter Fred H. Cockell constructs a chick hatchery on Lake Road.
1930		The Oregon Koyasan Shinnon Temple and School is built and operated by Frank Watanabe at 42 nd and Railroad. After World War II the building became a church.
	July 7	The Portland Traction Company (PTC) was incorporated to operate the Interurban Lines in the City of Portland. In 1945 it would be acquired by the Portland Transit Company.
1934		The library moves to Council Chambers in City Hall. Dorothy M. Winters becomes the first librarian in 1935 and the first library board was appointed in 1936.
1935		Gene and Rosa Leitz purchase greenhouses on Lake Road and open Milwaukie Floral.
1936		Crystal Lake Amusement Park, north of downtown Milwaukie, closes permanently.
		The Milwaukie Historical Society is founded.
	November 19	Milwaukie Junior High School is built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), it featured a pool.
1937	May 22	A marker on the corner of McLoughlin Boulevard and Jefferson Street is dedicated to the memory of Father Peter John DeSmet, Jesuit missionary and peace maker among the Native Americans in the Clackamas area in the 19 th century.
1938		Milwaukie's population is around 1,800.
		Milwaukie Union High School's grandstand and athletic fields are built.
	June 4	The cornerstone of today's City Hall is laid.
	July 7	City Hall is dedicated by a weekend-long celebration featuring parades, a dance, baseball and volleyball games, a vesper service and "competitive races".
	August 4	City Hall is occupied by the fire and police departments, municipal court and library as well as the City Council and administration.
1939	August 24	The Oregon State Highway Commission pays the heirs of Richard Scott \$468.50 for a right-of-way to build a super highway (McLoughlin Blvd) through the area around Johnson Creek, north of downtown.
1940		Milwaukie Church of Christ, now Milwaukie Christian Church, is founded.
1941		Wichita Elementary School opens on Kind Rd.; it is the second school building on this site.
	May 1	The City of Milwaukie, Clackamas County Housing Authority, and the U.S. Housing Administration enter into an agreement to construct low-cost housing north of downtown on McLoughlin Blvd. Some houses would later be moved to 32nd Avenue, the original site is now in the industrial area.
1945	July	Louis D. Kelsey is named Milwaukie's first City Manager following a change to the City Charter in 1944 which brings the Council-Manager form of government to the city.

City of Millwaukie
Office of the City Recorder

1946		Crystal Lake Church, now the Orthodox Church of the Annunciation is founded. The original building was located at the Crystal Lake Amusement Park and was later moved to Rusk Road.
		A Seventh Day Adventist Church is founded on Harrison Street, but would relocate to Lake Road. The building on Harrison Street would be home to several other ministries.
	January 11	Portland Transit Company is formed and purchases the entire Interurban railway system for \$1,000,000 from PTC and Portland Electric Power Company (PEPCO).
	February	Milwaukie Lutheran Church opens on Harrison Street. The original building was later used by Milwaukie High School after the church moved to its current location on Lake Road.
1947	January 13	The City Council adopts Ordinance 492 "regulating the operation of what is known as history question games and other games of like nature" and providing a fine of \$200 or 100 days in the county jail for failing to obtain a license from the Office of the City Recorder. In April that same year Ordinance 495 would amend Ordinance 492, specifying that the annual registration fee shall be \$150. Both Ordinances 492 and 495 would be repealed with adoption of Ordinance 1070 in 1965.
		The 100 th anniversary of the settling of Milwaukie is celebrated.
		The Milwaukie police department purchases its first patrol car, a Chevy sedan.
1950		Milwaukie's population hits 5,253.
		International Harvester Company purchases seven acres on the east side of McLoughlin Boulevard where Kellogg Park Federal Housing formerly stood.
1951	March 18	Milwaukie Presbyterian Church is founded on Lake Road.
	May 17	Milwaukie First Baptist (GracePointe) Church is founded on 42 nd Avenue.
	June 11	On the recommendation of the Milwaukie Sportsman's Club and the Oregon State Police, the City Council adopts Resolution 5-1951, setting aside the parts of Johnson Creek as a "fish preserve during the summer months of 1951" for "juveniles under the age of fourteen years."
1952		The Friends of the Milwaukie Library is founded.
		A group of Clackamas County residents interested in fighting the abandonment of sections of the Interurban railway system is organized under the name "Transit Savers". Despite years of protest by Transit Savers and an order from the Oregon Public Utilities Commission to maintain service, the PTC halted all Interurban service in January 1958.
	April 28	The City Council adopts Resolution 6-1952, that "in the event the City of Portland adopts Daylight Saving Time" then the Mayor of Milwaukie is authorized "to make Daylight Saving Time the official time of the City of Milwaukie."
1953	April 13	The City Council adopts Ordinance 579 "requiring a license from all persons engaged in the business of revealing or attempting to reveal the future events in another's life" and setting a maximum fine of \$500 or 30 days in prison for failure to obtain a license from the City Council.
		St. John the Baptist School, a Catholic grade school, opens on 25 th Ave.
		Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church is founded on Stanley Ave., it moves to Happy Valley in 1994.
	December 31	Milwaukie Police Sgt. James Worrell is overcome by carbon monoxide gas and passes away while sitting in his police cruiser in front of City Hall. To-date Worrell is the only police officer lost in-the-line-of-duty in Milwaukie.
1954	March 22	Milwaukie welcomes home the Milwaukie High School boys' state basketball champions.
1955	June	Former President Harry and First Lady Bess Truman visit the North Clackamas area.

Office	of the	City	Recorder

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1956		Hector Campbell Elementary School opens on 47 th Avenue.
	February	Assistant Fire Chief Warren Nott drowns while saving a father and son who had fallen through the ice on Kellogg Lake; Nott was the only member of the Milwaukie Fire Department (MFD) lost in the line of duty. The MFD was merged with Clackamas Fire District No.1 in 1996.
1958		Linwood Church of Christ is opened on Linwood Ave.
	January	Interurban street car service operated by the Portland Transit Company abruptly ends service after 65 years running through Milwaukie, carrying commuters from Portland to Oregon City.
1959		US Senator and presidential candidate John F. Kennedy visits State Senator Monroe Sweetland at the offices of the Milwaukie Review.
1960		Milwaukie's population hits 9,099.
1961	January 21	Florence Ledding, widow of City Councilor Herman Ledding and step-daughter of pioneer Seth Lewelling, bequeaths her home and property on 21 st Avenue to the City for use as a library.
		St. Paul's United Methodist Church is founded.
	June	The original St. John Episcopal Church building is floated down the Willamette River from Milwaukie to its present home near Oaks Park in Portland.
1962		The Portland Traction Company sold the Interurban railway system to the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads for \$3,895,000.
	July 9	Noting that the "oldest and largest Dogwood Tree in the world" was in the City of Milwaukie, the City Council adopts Resolution 25-1962, officially adopting the Dogwood as the city flower and "Dogwood City of the West" as the city pseudonym (nickname).
	October	The Columbus Day storm blows down Milwaukie High School's grandstands.
1963		The Milwaukie High School gym burns down.
		Seth Lewelling Elementary School opens on Logus Road.
	August	Wilbur D. Rowe Middle School opens on Lake Road.
1965		The Mayor and City Council debate a "residential expressway" (the Milwaukie Expressway) while approving the first million dollar budget which is referred to the voters and rejected twice before winning final approval at the ballot box. During the budget battle Mayor George Haley and a Councilor resigns.
1968		The remaining sections of the Interurban railway system between Golf Junction (Waverly Country Club) and Oregon City is abandoned by the PTC. US Senator and presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy visits on a whistle stop tour.
		Dwyer Memorial Hospital opens; in 1986 it becomes Providence Milwaukie Hospital.
		Linwood Elementary School opens on Linwood Avenue.
1971		The North Clackamas School District opens the Kiesz-Suchsland Administration on Lake Road.
		The Milwaukie High School auditorium is built.
		With passage of House Bill 1700 the State of Oregon took the first steps to transform the abandoned Interurban trolley tracks into the State's first pedestrian-bike path.
1972		McLoughlin Blvd is decommissioned as US 99 and becomes a state highway, Oregon 99E.

Office of the City Recorder

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1973	January 20	The Milwaukie High School band marches in the Inauguration Parade in Washington, DC.
	January 22	The City Council adopts Resolution 2-1973, "Requring Men to Grow Bears and Women to Wear Pantaloons or Long Skirts" in promotion of <u>Festival Daze</u> .
1974		A report instigated by the City of Portland and issued by the Oregon Public Utilities Commission suggests the possibility of using the abandoned Interurban trolley tracks as a Portland to Lake Oswego, Oregon City, and eastern Multnomah County commuter rail line.
1975	June 7	The Milwaukie Museum moves to its present location at 3737 SE Adams St.
1979		Harvest Christian Center is opened on 52 nd Avenue.
1980		'Cityhood' – the unification of most North Clackamas communities into what would have been one of Oregon's largest cities – is publically debated, but despite initial petitioner enthusiasm and success the effort fails.
1980		The Milwaukie Center opens at North Clackamas Park.
1981		Joy Burgess is elected the first woman Mayor.
1983		The Dwelling Place is founded, a Christian church located in a building on Roswell Street, it was once also known as Ardenwald Church of the Nazarene.
1990	November 17	The Portland Traction Company runs its electric cars down the Springwater Line from Portland through North Clackamas County to Boring for the last time.
1992		The North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) is created, through intergovernmental agreement the City transfers its parks staff to the new agency which is charged with maintaining City-owned parks.
1994	March	The City's Public Safety Building, housing the Police and Fire departments, is dedicated.
1995		Northridge Community Church moves to its Milwaukie location on Harrison Street and shares the building with Bridge City Community Church.
1996		The Milwaukie Fire Department (MFD) is consolidated into Clackamas Fire District No. 1.
1998		The Milwaukie Center's Sara Hite Rose Garden opens at North Clackamas Park.
2002		Milwaukie Middle School is closed and sold to the Portland Waldorf School.
	January	Metro purchases the abandoned Interurban trolley trail from the Union Pacific Railroad for \$250,000, with the intention of transforming it into a six-mile bike and pedestrian path.
2003		The City celebrates its 100 th anniversary as incorporated City.
		The Ukrainian Bible Church Pathway to God was founded on Stanley Avenue.
2005		Milwaukie Academy of Arts, a charter school, opens at Milwaukie High School.
2007		Wichita Elementary School closes, becomes Center for Family and Community.
2010		City Recorder Pat DuVal is appointed to serve as Interim City Manager, becoming the City's first woman chief administrative officer.
2012		Construction begins on the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail project.
2013	September 6	A Diamond Jubilee celebration is held in honor of City Hall's 75 th year of service to the City of Milwaukie. Local dignitaries and Congressman Kurt Schrader are in attendance.
2015	May 1	As Phase II work is finished, the City celebrates the grand opening of Riverfront Park.
	September 12	The arrival of the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Line, known as the Orange Line, is celebrated with day-long activities to welcome the return of commuter rail to the area.