With the help and partnership from the City of Portland’s PDX CARES program, the City of Wood Village is proud to announce a new COVID Relief program. This new program will provide general cash assistance (in the form of a gift card) to households in need. Unlike our Utility Assistance program’s open application period, this new assistance program is a one-time relief effort. The application period for the gift card program is open now and ends November 30th with the payments made in December. Relief payments will be based on the total number of applications, the specified need, and direct impacts from COVID. Our goal is to serve those most in need first, with the general approach to help as many people as possible. Whether you live in an apartment, manufactured home, single-family home, or duplex, as long as you live in Wood Village and have been impacted by COVID you are eligible to apply. We encourage those who need help to apply, and don’t forget about our Utility Assistance program which is still available. Apply today on our website at woodvillageor.gov/covid-relief-program or stop by City Hall.

Need help paying for your water/sewer bill, electric, gas, or garbage bill? We can help. Those that have been impacted by COVID are eligible to apply to our Utility Assistance program. Thanks to the City Council updating and revising the program, it will now pay the full balance on utility bills. Even if you used the program before, but are still experiencing financial hardship, you can apply again! This program is open to all households and businesses in Wood Village. If you’re behind on your utility bills, don’t delay and apply today. Applications can be found on our website at woodvillageor.gov/wood-village-utility-assistance and at City Hall.
Wood Village Public Engagement Survey

We are asking for your help and giving you a chance to win a $25 gift card!

Wood Village is reviewing its process for public engagement. Public engagement is how communities and their governments share ideas and work together to craft solutions for the future. It is the process of collecting feedback to inform decisions about the City. Public engagement occurs in many ways, such as at public meetings, by completing surveys like this, and at events such as the annual City Easter Egg Hunt. When residents teach their City about what their life is like as a resident, the City is better able to solve complex issues and to prioritize community values!

Your responses to this survey will help Staff improve how the City reaches the community in public engagement efforts and uses feedback to make decisions. Responses to this survey will be published to the Wood Village website in December 2020.

To complete the survey, please

- Scan this QR code with your smart phone’s camera app:
- Visit our website at woodvillageor.gov/public-engagement-survey
- Call or stop by City Hall

At the end of the survey, you will be given the chance to enter a drawing for one of ten $25 gift cards. Winners may choose between either Walmart or Fred Meyer. This drawing will take place once the survey has closed and all responses have been collected. Winners will be announced in December 2020.

The survey will close on November 30th, 2020.

If you have questions about this survey or other Wood Village public engagement efforts, please contact: Hannah Anderson at HannahA@WoodVillageOR.gov.
Emeline Nguyen joined the City of Wood Village on August 25th as our new Assistant to the City Manager. She was born in Pasadena and raised in Huntington Beach, CA. Inspired by her father’s philanthropic work and teachings of Buddhist philosophy growing up, Emeline always knew that whatever path she chose, her career would lead her to belong to something larger than herself.

After obtaining her Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from the University of California Irvine, she pursued her Master’s Degree in Social Work with an emphasis on Community, Organization and Business Innovation from the University of Southern California, and here is where she fell in love with policy and local governance. Before coming to Oregon, Emeline spent four years working for the City of Los Angeles’ Council District Eight in various roles. During this time, she worked on implementing community programs, managed the department’s finance, oversaw the District Office’s Internship Program, and served as the liaison for the Councilman between the community and City Departments.

Emeline has a deep passion for public service that draws upon the lessons learned from social work and public administration background. Her ability to empathize and look at critical issues through a different lens allows her to bring impactful solutions that she looks forward to sharing with the communities of Wood Village. Emeline is a proud Rotarian and spends her time volunteering during her free time. Aside from outdoor activities, she enjoys reflecting and taking a moment to appreciate the simple things in life, as her late father always says, “The world is a beautiful place.” Emeline is beyond excited to start a new chapter in her life and serve the community with the utmost sincerity and respect.

Robert Coley joined the Public Works Team on September 29th filling the open Utility Worker I position. Robert was born in Stockton, California, and his work history includes being a Corps Member for the California Conservation Corps in South Lake Tahoe. He then relocated to Enterprise, Oregon, taking a seasonal job for the Wallowa- Whitman National Forest in its Road Maintenance Department. After that, he moved back to Stockton and took a seasonal position with the City of Stockton where he was a Facilities Maintenance Worker responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of city owned buildings and properties. In March of 2019, he moved to the Portland area, finding a job with great people at Rose City Awning and Flag. He installed their products for a year and a half, until he found this opportunity with the City of Wood Village.

Robert has lived in Troutdale for over a year now and has gotten to know the area quite well. He spends most of his free time fishing on the Sandy and Columbia Rivers, and he also enjoys taking his canoe out to the many lakes and reservoirs throughout the cascades. Robert has said that he feels, “Oregon is truly a gem and I am glad to have a part in keeping this community a clean, safe, and enjoyable place to call home”. If you see Robert out and about, please wave and say “Hi”.
Utility Billing Changes

The utility bill you receive on February 1st for water, wastewater, storm water, and streets will include a cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 2%. This increase begins January 1, 2021 and applies to residential, senior, multi-family, business, etc.

In a normal year, both the water and wastewater rates would have increased by 2%. This year the implementation of the COLA changed. This year, the City Council chose to keep the water fee the same (0% increase) and increase wastewater by 3.1%. This will ensure funding for upcoming sewer capital costs.

Wastewater fees for a typical single-family residence will increase by $1.70 and street fees for a typical single-family residence will increase by $0.22. Complete information on commercial and multi-family rates will be posted on the City’s website (woodvillageor.gov) before January. Please call City Hall at 503-667-6211 if you have any questions about your utility bill.

Wood Village has always had wonderful community partners to help make our City truly wonderful. Even in these uncertain and worrisome times, our community partners continue to come through to help those most in need. The Wood Village Walmart has been a supporter of the City and its community events for many years. Usually, Walmart is one of the primary sponsors of our annual Easter Egg Hunt event. This year, Walmart is supporting our first ever Turkey Drive event with a $2,000 grant. The Wood Village Fred Meyer is also stepping up to help with the Turkey Drive. Fred Meyer has been the food and beverage sponsor of the Nite Out and Tree Lighting events and this year will also be helping with the Turkey Drive with a $500 grant and assistance getting the turkeys for the food boxes. With these generous donations, we are able to put together a program to help feed Wood Village families most in need this Thanksgiving season. We want to thank Walmart, Fred Meyer, its managers, and all the store employees for their continued help and support not just for this event, but for all their services and support to the community.
COVID-19 didn’t stop us from putting another Pumpkin Fest event; drive-thru style! We ordered and distributed 300 pumpkins from Al’s Garden. In addition to the pumpkins, families were able to get a bag filled with Charlie’s Produce fresh gala apples, a free smoothie card from Jamba Juice, pumpkin carving tools, and craft kits assembled by PlayEast! East County Recreation. It wasn’t the Pumpkin Fest we’ve been used to, but it was great being able to host an event again.

We want to thank our community sponsors for continuing to step up and support not just this event, but our wonderful community. We hope to be back and bigger than ever next year! Until then, stay safe Wood Village.

Atkins Dame, Inc.

**CITY RECEIVES CAFR AWARD!**

The City of Wood Village published the FY 2018-19 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) in December 2019 after an independent auditor reviewed the City’s financial statements. The CAFR is a yearly publication that details the financial position and activities of the City. The Wood Village City Council is committed to ensuring accurate and timely financial reporting as well as encouraging fiscal transparency. For the past seventeen years, this report has been submitted to and awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This program judges the CAFR by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program for governments, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate the City’s financial story. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Applying for and receiving the award demonstrates the commitment of the City Councilors and staff to responsible financial management of tax and fee revenues.
WEBSITE UPDATE

We are happy to incorporate a new all-in-one media page called LinkTree. What is a Linktree, might you ask? Linktree is a landing page that allows us to incorporate all our content in one place. We understand that there are many webpages and social media accounts to keep track of hence to why we added this service to our page. Our content can include our social media pages, resources, and opportunities we’d like to share with the community. This is also a simpler way for us to stay connected without the stress of navigating through different webpages. Be sure to check out our link at linktr.ee/WoodVillageOR. Also, don’t forget to stay connected with us and use #WoodVillageOR on your social media shoutouts!

FLASH ALERTS

It doesn’t have to be hard to keep up on emergency information from the City. While we have our website and social media options, Flash Alerts will notify you if there is an emergency in Wood Village. No need to check email or various websites for emergency information, instead set your Flash Alert notifications to send you a text. It’s very easy to set up and use, and best of all it’s free! Sign up today at flashalert.net/news.html?id=3108. You can also sign up for County wide alerts via email, text or phone at publicalerts.org.

ANNUAL LEAF DROP REMINDER

To assist our residents, the City is providing a leaf drop area in the main parking area just north of the play area at Donald L. Robertson City Park located at 24300 NE Halsey until December 31st. Please assist us and only drop off leaves and small branches—NO TRASH! Adding trash ends up costing you and the City extra money to sort and dispose of the trash. Leaves should be left loose in the designated area and take all transport containers with you. If you have any questions, please call 503-489-6859.

TREE LIGHTING

On October 13th, Council passed a motion for the 10th Annual Tree Lighting event. Unfortunately, we won’t be having large gatherings this year, but we are looking forward to bringing the magical experience to you virtually. Thanks to the Wood Village Town Center owners, CIRE Equity, the tree will be available to see in-person starting November 21st till January 4th. Be sure to check out the Tree Lighting event on our website and Facebook on December 5th at 6:00pm. We look forward to celebrating the countdown with you!

GRAFFITI FREE ZONE

We have experienced an increase in graffiti these past couple of months. The graffiti appeared to be random acts of vandalism, and not part of any organized tagging or gang activity. Even though we are mostly a graffiti free City, these kinds of incidents highlight the importance of keeping areas clean, well-lit, and free of graffiti. Most graffiti is removed the same day. To report graffiti online use the form located at woodvillageor.gov There is an option to attach an image of the graffiti. Since the website is mobile friendly, you can report graffiti on the go. As always, we have graffiti removal kits for use at no cost. Thank you for your help making the City a graffiti free community!
While the specific development and land use codes continue to be drafted for the Main Streets on Halsey effort, the workgroup heard a presentation on what can help create future new development opportunities while still helping those that call Wood Village home right now. Those improvements can be called streetscape projects. This is more than just planting some trees or other landscaping. This is about the full aesthetic of the roadway along with its safety and functionality. Mid-block pedestrian crossings have been on the County’s improvement list for years, but the County lacks the funds needed for these facilities. Costing over $75,000 each, they do not come cheaply. That’s where Urban Renewal can help. The City’s Urban Renewal agency gets its funding from the increased value of new development in specific areas. One of those areas is Halsey, and a lot of new development is going on along Halsey.

The City applied for an Oregon Department of Transportation grant to fund two out of the four of these crossings along Halsey. One will be near 240th and Halsey, and the other will be somewhere near the Wood Village Burrito Shop/Best Western. We should know if the grant will be awarded by the time you read this, but even if we do not receive the grant, the City’s Urban Renewal agency may be able to help. There had been funds set aside to underground the electrical utilities along Halsey, but that project cost has increased over time. The Urban Renewal Board has directed that safety improvements to Halsey be researched while staff continues to find ways to underground the remaining electrical utilities. Staff has already secured an agreement with the County to design and maintain the mid-block crossings, and now we are looking at completing the full buildout of these facilities along Halsey. If the grant is successful, the crossings could be installed by mid-summer of 2021. We’ll keep you all posted on this effort!

The other project that is gaining a lot of momentum for the Main Streets on Halsey project and Urban Renewal is deploying free Wi-Fi along Halsey. Through the use of what is called a Smart Bench, it may be possible to create a small, free public Wi-Fi system along Halsey. These benches would not only provide a place to sit and wait for a bus or to enjoy a meal from an area restaurant or food cart, but they would also provide a place to charge a cell phone or small device. Best of all, its powered with solar. Imagine, you’re enjoying a meal at the park, charging your cell phone while enjoying free Wi-Fi to do some work. It may start to happen within the next year or so. The plan is to start the network at the new City Hall facility and grow it from there. Even the City of Fairview is interested in this idea as it can help close the digital divide, which is quite large in our region. You can read more about that in our Public Broadband recap article.

Even though none of these projects will be built tomorrow, work is being done now to help make them a reality. It’s a great example of what can happen when two great initiatives like Main Streets on Halsey and Urban Renewal come together to create something truly wonderful.
MUNICIPAL BROADBAND

It’s been some time since we’ve posted an update on the County-wide municipal broadband study and initiative. The study has been completed, and you may have already heard about its $1 billion price estimate. It’s important to remember that cost is not for Wood Village, but for the entire County which includes some rural areas that are not currently served by any provider. Some may ask why we participated in this study when the City is already served by two providers. The answer is because while the City is well served by high-speed internet access, not everyone can afford that access. Our lower income, minority, and elderly residents often cannot afford broadband service, which makes things like telework, distance learning, or telemedicine impossible.

How do we close this digital divide without spending a billion dollars? The answer, at least in the short-term may lay in targeted free public Wi-Fi. Our former City Hall site used to have a small, free public Wi-Fi network that was often used by people waiting for the bus. When we moved, that service went away. We’re planning on bringing it back at the new City Hall and creating a system to help cover most of the park frontage including the parking lot, plaza, playground, and areas beyond. From there, the plan is to expand the system along Halsey through the use of Smart Benches, and over time work with area partners to create a larger free public Wi-Fi system. We know this solution will not deliver fiber-like capacity, but as a targeted broadband approach it could provide a lifeline reaching across the digital divide to facilitate distance learning for students, job searches, access to government services, and healthcare professionals for our most vulnerable and in need residents. Wi-Fi in the park will not be added until the new City Hall is complete this coming summer, and hopefully the system will be expanded from there before too long. You can read the full report on the County’s website, as well as learn about all the County’s programs and services here: multco.us.

238th DRIVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Construction of improvements on NE 238th Drive between NE Arata Road and NE Oregon Street in Wood Village is anticipated to begin next spring. The road currently has no bike lanes and just a narrow sidewalk on one side. It is also difficult for trucks to navigate the curve. The project will make it easier to navigate the curve and improve access for pedestrians and bicyclists. Additional project information is available at multco.us/238th.
The West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce is still very active with weekly virtual meetings, as well as some limited in-person events and activities. The Chamber hosts a weekly virtual Coffee Chat via ZOOM each Wednesday morning from 8:00 am to 8:45 am to promote networking and learning. This is a great opportunity to share your business, be a featured speaker, or make a special announcement to Chamber members.

The Chamber also has a couple of in-person events planned, and for more details and information visit their website at westcolumbiagorgechamber.com. Masks and physical distancing are a must. Interested in joining the Chamber as a business member or want to join one of the weekly Coffee Chats? Call Marcia at 503-669-7473 and she will help you with all your membership questions.
City of Wood Village

VIRTUAL TREE LIGHTING

December 5, 2020
Online at WoodVillageOR.gov
6:00pm

TREE LIGHTING  ENTERTAINMENT

HOLIDAY MESSAGES

WOOD VILLAGE TOWN CENTER

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833.934.0912
COVID RELIEF PROGRAM
UTILITY ASSISTANCE
EVENT UPDATES

THE VILLAGE NEWS ◆ NOVEMBER 2020

Wood Village City Hall
Water & Sewer  503-667-6211  Emergency  911
Building Permits  503-667-6211  Sheriff Non-Emergency  503-823-3333
Other Services:
Waste Management  503-249-8078  Abandoned Vehicles  503-823-3333
Frontier  800-921-8101  Animal Control  503-248-3066
PGE  503-228-6322  DEQ Burning Info  503-618-3083
Power outages  503-464-7777  Commissioner Stegmann  503-988-5213
Streetlight outages  503-736-5710  Reynolds School District  503-661-7200
NW Natural  503-226-4212  Gresham Fire Dept  503-618-2355
211 Info  211info.org  211  East Metro Mediation  503-618-3247

City of Wood Village Contacts:
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Council President Patricia Smith  PatriciaS@WoodVillageOR.gov
Councilor Bruce Nissen  BruceN@WoodVillageOR.gov
Councilor John Miner  JohnM@WoodVillageOR.gov
Councilor Brian Loy  BrianL@WoodVillageOR.gov

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  Nov 12th  6:00 PM
  Dec 8th  6:00 PM

Mayor T. Scott Harden ◆ President Patricia Smith ◆ Bruce Nissen ◆ John Miner ◆ Brian Loy