



City Council Makes Special Statement to the Milwaukie Community

During the Feb. 4, 2025 regular session, City Council read the following statement to the Milwaukie community:

"Residents of Milwaukie, we come before you today as a united City Council to address the alarming first steps taken by the federal administration. In just the past week, executive orders and directives have been issued that will have lasting consequences on our democracy, our communities, and the values we hold dear. These actions—many of which take direct aim at immigrants, environmental protections, diversity, and even birthright citizenship—are not just policy shifts. They are direct challenges to the fundamental rights and freedoms that define us as Americans.

From immigration and health care to climate action and LGBTQ+ rights, we are seeing sweeping changes that will hurt our community. Orders have been signed to eliminate federal diversity programs, redefine gender protections, increase restrictions on asylum seekers, and open new lands to oil drilling—many of which will be met with legal challenges, but not before they create uncertainty, fear, and harm. We know that these decisions are unsettling, particularly for those who have already felt vulnerable in recent years.

We want our community to hear this from us, loud and clear: **Milwaukie will not be swayed by chaos or fear. We see you, we support you, and we will continue to stand up for justice, inclusion and dignity for all.** We will not allow divisive federal policies to undo the progress we have made locally, nor will we allow them to erode the strength of our community.

continued on page 3



Balancing Growth and Livability



Mayor Lisa Batey

Your City Council spent more than a dozen hours of quality time together with key staff in our recent retreat. City Manager Emma Sagor did a superb job facilitating the discussion, which led us to the adoption of our council goals for 2025-2027. The three goals are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, but I really want to thank everyone who participated in the retreat for their thoughtful engagement.

Before goalsetting, City Council received input from community members through an open house, an Engage Milwaukie exercise, and the community survey conducted in fall 2023. One thing caught my eye in the community survey. When asked about their satisfaction with the way the City performs a range of basic functions, the area of least satisfaction was in “managing development.”

That phrase may mean different things to different people, but I have heard comments about growth in Milwaukie being too rapid. In 2016, after a couple of decades of very little growth and a couple of years of exploding housing prices, the city conducted a housing needs analysis, which found Milwaukie had 9,270 housing units.

By the end of 2026, ten years after the study, we will have added at least 1,400 housing units—a 15% increase in ten years. More than 1,000 of those units are apartments, about 300 of which qualify as affordable housing. We also added more than 300 units consisting of a mix of detached single-household homes, middle housing and accessory dwelling units. We have more than 500 additional apartment and middle housing units approved for construction, and a handful of remaining large lots likely to get developed over the next decade.

This growth definitely played a role in getting New Seasons and pFriem Brewing coming to town. And providing more alternatives to detached single-household homes is important to providing younger families and others with access to a home in Milwaukie. I believe that there is a balance to be struck between measured growth, business vitality, and livability in Milwaukie neighborhoods. I hope that we can create more affordable housing and more home ownership opportunities in the coming years – developers are creating plenty of market rate rental housing without incentives from the city.

But there are voices in town that would like to ramp up the rate of growth, such as lining King Road with 5-story buildings, akin to SE Division in Portland. Our twolane roads are not built to carry that level of traffic, King Road already backs up during rush hour. Other east-west routes, such as Johnson Creek Boulevard and Railroad Avenue, are also heavily used. That kind of density would almost certainly result in even more dissatisfaction with how the city manages development. Moreover, our planners have other projects that are way overdue for attention, most notably our 40-year-old historic property inventory.

We're on a good path – let's not rush toward a density overload, which can't be undone.

Hillside Park Construction Update



Over the last several months, Related Northwest, the Housing Authority of Clackamas County, and Walsh Construction have made significant progress at Hillside Park. As anyone walking or driving by will notice, there is a lot of work happening onsite. In addition to completing the majority of the utility work, the framing for the first building is nearly complete, including the installation of the roof structure. Framing is also underway on the second building, and work for the third and final building will begin later this month.

Other upcoming construction activities for March, April and May include:

- Mechanical, electrical and plumbing installation for the first building
- Window installation for first building
- Complete framing and rough-in for mechanical, electrical and plumbing in the second building
- Complete foundation-related work and begin framing on third building

For more information, visit www.clackamas.us/housingauthority/hillside/masterplan.html.

City Council Ushers in Spring With New Goals

Last month, City Council voted unanimously to adopt new goals that will guide their work for the next three years. The goals were selected following more than a month of community engagement, including an online survey on Engage Milwaukie and an in-person town hall in January. On Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, City Council attended a 2-day retreat where they considered the public input, as well as additional community data, while deliberating which goals to select. The goals for 2025-2027 are:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Support Milwaukie's business districts and invest in neighborhood hubs

PARKS AND GREENSPACE: Deliver Milwaukie Bay Park and expand equitable access to green space, including the future restored Kellogg Creek Natural Area

AFFORDABILITY: Identify opportunities to provide utility relief and support more income-restricted housing development in Milwaukie

Each month, City Council will dedicate a work session to a different goal, with each goal discussed once each quarter. The first round of quarterly discussions at City Hall are on: **April 1 at 4 p.m.** – Economic Development; **May 6 at 4 p.m.** – Parks and Greenspace; **June 3 at 4 p.m.** – Affordability

For more information about how to watch these discussions, visit www.milwaukieoregon.gov/meetings. At these meetings, City Council will refine the action plans they started developing at the retreat to ensure the city makes progress in these areas by 2027. They will also select performance measures for each goal. To take a sneak peek at the action plans, check out the drafts at www.milwaukieoregon.gov/citycouncil/goals.

As City Council focuses on these goals, they are still committed to advancing the values of equity and inclusion, as well as climate action and resilience—city programs that were set up and institutionalized under previous City Council goals. Tune in to the City Council work session on March 4 to hear an update about what's next for those programs.



The application and interview process for the city's official boards and committees is open. This is a chance to make an impact in the community and participate in the city's work! From the Arts Committee to the Tree Board, there are many interest areas, projects and programs to get involved with through these volunteer boards and committees. Applications are accepted until **April 1**. Interviews are held in April and May, and appointments to open positions are made by City Council in June.

To apply, complete the online form at onboard.milwaukieoregon.gov. For questions or more information, email the city recorder's officer at ocr@milwaukieoregon.gov or call 503.786.7502.

The city is updating its Transportation System Plan! Get the latest updates at engage.milwaukieoregon.gov.

City Council Makes Special Statement *(continued)*

Local government is where real change happens, and it is our responsibility to make Milwaukie a place of fairness and opportunity. While we cannot stop these orders from being issued it is the policy of the City of Milwaukie and Oregon State Law that employees and police officers are prohibited from participating directly or indirectly in immigration related enforcement. Tonight, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting the rights of our residents and ensuring that Milwaukie remains a welcoming and safe city for all people—regardless of their background, immigration status, gender, race, or beliefs.

Now is the time to stand strong together. We encourage all residents to stay engaged, support your neighbors, and hold those in power accountable. We will continue to work toward a better future for Milwaukie—one built on unity, compassion, and resilience. No executive order will change our core values, and no act of division will shake our commitment to this community.

This is our home. These are our values. And together, we will stand firm in the face of uncertainty, ensuring that Milwaukie remains a place of hope, opportunity, and strength."

Ardenwald North Improvements Project



As part of the city’s Capital Improvement Plan, construction for the Ardenwald north improvements project started last month and is expected to continue through October 2025. This project will replace some existing sidewalk and accessibility ramps in the neighborhood, repave streets, replace select sanitary sewer pipes and water mainlines, and build and replace storm drains along with their connecting lateral pipes.

Those living within the project area were sent an informational mailer in January. For more information and project updates, visit www.milwaukieoregon.gov/engineering/ardenwald-north-improvements. For questions or comments, email milwaukiesafe@milwaukieoregon.gov.

Downtown Curb and Stormwater Improvements



The downtown curbs and storm improvement project started construction last month. This project will replace a section of sidewalk on the west side of Main Street, between Monroe and Jefferson Streets, which is currently being uplifted by tree roots, as well as stormwater utilities to increase capacity and provide services for years into the future.

Road closures will be in place at separate times during construction beginning with Jefferson Street, followed by Main Street and then Monroe Street. During the road closures, access to nearby businesses will be maintained with significant signage.

This project is expected to finish in May 2025. For more information, visit, www.milwaukieoregon.gov/engineering/downtown-storm-and-sidewalk. For questions or concerns, contact Hector Gomez-Barrios, project manager, at gomez@milwaukieoregon.gov or 503.786.7550.

ADULT PROGRAMS

at the Ledding Library

Bilingual Poetry Reading

Wednesday, March 5 • 6 PM

In partnership with the Iraqi Society of Oregon and Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here!, the Milwaukie Poetry Committee is hosting a bilingual poetry reading in Arabic and English in the library community room.

Repair Fair

Saturday, March 15 • 10 AM - 1 PM

A free community event that brings volunteers with fixing skills and people with broken items together. To confirm an item for repair, email sustainability@clackamas.us.

On the Rocky Road: Stories of Exiles and Itinerants in Irish Legends and Lore

Sunday, March 23 • 3:30 PM

From wandering peddlers and itinerate scholars, to religious outcasts and famine exiles, storyteller William Kennedy Hornyak twines poems, songs, history and myth together in honor of the resilient and well-traveled Irish spirit and soul. For mature audiences ages 14 and older.

Poetry Discussion with Daniel Biespiel

Sunday, March 30 • 3-5 PM

Local poet David Biespiel leads a poetry discussion on the America poet Stanley Plumly, who was the director of University of Maryland, College Park's creative writing program. He is the author of numerous collections of poetry and was called one of the most English of American poets. No registration required. For more information, contact Tom Hogan at tomhogan2@comcast.net.

MORE INFO milwaukieoregon.gov/library

Container Gardening With Maggie Stuckey



Want to grow your own healthy food, but have little or no suitable outdoor garden space? You might be surprised to discover how much can be produced in a container kitchen garden.

On **Saturday, March 29 at 2 p.m.**, award-winning writer Maggie Stuckey, author of *The Bountiful Container* and *The Container Victory Garden*, will explain all the how-to's of edible container gardening, including choosing the best plants, the basics of good design, and tips about soil, watering, fertilizing, harvesting and more in the library community room.

To demonstrate how easy it is, Stuckey will plant an actual container garden, explaining the principles and answering questions as she goes along. The best part—all attendees are entered into a drawing to take home the finished garden!

Clackamas County Braver Angels

On **Saturday, March 22 from 3 to 5 p.m.**, the Clackamas County Braver Angels host a community conversation at the library. These gatherings value respect, humility, honesty and responsibility. The goal is not to change people's views about issues, but change views about each other. Volunteers hope these conversations help overcome divisions in Clackamas County (rural/urban, liberal/conservative, red/blue) to build a stronger community.

Braver Angels is a national movement staffed by volunteers at the local level. The driving mission of this movement is to bring people together to bridge the partisan divide while strengthening the democratic republic. It envisions an America with a respectful embrace of political disagreements, where civic friendship flourishes and competing perspectives strengthen everyone. For more information, contact Michael Balter, ambassador, at mbalter@braverangels.org.

Kid & Teen Activities in March at the Library

Spanish Story & Play Time

Saturday, March 8 • 10:30 AM

Spanish story and play time with *Adventures in Spanish*. All ages. Hora de cuentos en Español para los niños de todas las edades. Sábado, 8 de marzo a las 10:30. ¡Gratis!

Spring Break Scavenger Hunt

March 22–30, all day

Find 10 hidden pictures in the library for a prize. Stop by the children's desk to get started.

Art Lab: All Together Now

Tuesday, March 25 • 2–4 PM

Make a laminated bookmark for yourself or to give as a gift. All ages welcome, grownups too! Drop-in.

Helpful Hungry Bats

Thursday, March 27 • 2 PM

Hands-on activities to learn about bats with Rick Reynolds from Clackamas County Vector Control and U.S. Fish & Wildlife. All ages.



Spring Break Teen Lock-In

Friday • March 28, 6:30–9 PM

Teens take over the library! Join the library after hours for games, crafts, a scavenger hunt and more. Pizza provided. Open to those in grades 6–12. Check in is from 6:30 to 7 p.m., pick-up is from 8:45 to 9 p.m.

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)

Plants and Volunteers Needed

The Friends of the Ledding Library are looking for volunteers and donations of plants—perennials, annuals, shrubs, vegetable starts, hanging baskets and trees—for their annual plant sale on May 10, 11 and 17 at Milwaukie Floral and Garden, 3306 SE Lake Road. For more information, contact Chris Brow at leddingfriends.plantsale@gmail.com or visit leddingfriends.org. The Friends are also recruiting volunteers for their Sunday book sales beginning the first weekend in May. Anyone interested in volunteering should email leddingfriends.info@gmail.com.

◆◆ NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS ◆◆

HISTORIC MILWAUKIE

On **Saturday, March 8 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.**, the city will host the long-awaited Scott Park grand opening celebration. The updated park is beautiful and family-friendly. The Historic Milwaukie Neighborhood District Association (NDA) will have a table at the event with neighborhood information and Milwaukie-themed temporary tattoos. Be sure to stop by!

This year's annual Earth Day Main Street clean-up event is the morning of **Saturday, April 26**. The NDA will participate as part of a larger event coordinated by the city to celebrate Milwaukie's designation as a Bee City USA. As part of the event, the neighborhood will continue its tradition of maintaining and expanding the Pollinator Pathway in downtown Milwaukie with even more opportunities to add to the beauty. Stay tuned for more information. To learn more about how to get involved, contact Debbie Liptan at debbieliptan@mac.com.



NEXT MEETING MON, APR 14 • 6:30 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
CO-CHAIR: Debbie Liptan • debbieliptan@mac.com

LEWELLING

The Lewelling Neighborhood District Association (NDA) is looking forward to its Adopt-A-Road clean-up event on **Saturday, April 19**. Volunteers will meet at Ball-Michel Park (9781 SE Stanley Ave.) at 10 a.m. The NDA will provide donuts, coffee and clean-up supplies to help beautify the neighborhood. The neighborhood would love to see everyone there!

NEXT MEETING WED, MAR 12 • 6:30 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
CHAIR: Camden McKone • lewellingndachair@gmail.com

LINWOOD

Hello, 2025! Thanks those who baked and attended the holiday cookie exchange in December. What wonderful treats! Thanks as well to Champ Pizza for providing delicious pizzas. Be sure to look in the Clackamas Buy Local for discount coupons to Champs and other good spots. The January NDA meeting featured several updates—thanks to Mayor Lisa Batey for attending the last two meetings! Clackamas Fire reported that Oregon sent 75 firefighters, including four from Milwaukie, to fight the devastating L.A. area fires happening as of this writing. Thanks for stepping up to help! Everyone is welcome to attend neighborhood meetings in-person or through Zoom. Contact linwoodnda@gmail.com for more information, or to receive updates, reminders and zoom links. Meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Methodist Church on Linwood Avenue.

Save the date and start gathering unwanted or unused belongings for the Linwood neighborhood yard sale on June 7, the weekend before bulky waste pick-up. More details to come.

NEXT MEETING THU, MAR 13 • 7 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
CHAIR: Laura Kirk • linwoodnda@gmail.com

HECTOR CAMPBELL

NEXT MEETING WED, MAR 12 • 6 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
CHAIR: Corinn DeTorres • campellneighbors@gmail.com

LAKE ROAD

NEXT MEETING WED, MAR 12 • 6:30 PM
LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV
CO-CHAIR: Debby Patten • lakeroadndachair@gmail.com

ISLAND STATION

Finally, winter is losing its grip on the land, and flowers are showing signs of hope for a great year. The neighborhood is in good shape—thanks to all of you!

Everyone has a responsibility to care for the public land between properties and the sidewalks and streets. Consider planting native plants friendly to pollinators. The neighborhood is working to participate in the Pollinator Pathways program. The neighborhood will cover some of the costs, and the Rotary Club of Milwaukie will help with funding, as well as volunteers to assist with planting. Anyone interested in caring for a site should come to the next neighborhood meeting to discuss the program.

Unhoused people have been observed in Island Station. Police and public works staff have teamed up help them find support programs, relocate and clean up any debris left behind. If you see a camp pop up, please report it using the police non-emergency number at 503.786.7500.

Island Station meets on the third Wednesday of the month at Two Sisters Play Café. Come meet neighbors while sampling their amazing food and drinks—having tea there is an exceptional experience.

NEXT MEETING WED, MAR 19 • 6:30 PM

LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV

CHAIR: Charles Bird • charlesbird@juno.com

ARDENWALD-JOHNSON CREEK

Come to the grand opening of the new Balfour Park (3103 SE Balfour St.) on **Saturday, March 8 from noon to 2 p.m.**, featuring food, music, games and lots of fun. Check out the Ardenwald neighborhood table for information about getting involved or to purchase cool neighborhood-themed items to support fundraising efforts.

Ardenwald Elementary School is celebrating its centennial this year and wants to hear stories from alumni. Please send stories and pictures to ardenwaldpto@gmail.com.

Other events in March:

March 8, 9:30 a.m. to noon

Minthorn Wetlands Clean-Up

March 15, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Land Tending at Errol Heights Park

For more information, visit www.ardenwald.org.

NEXT MEETING MON, MAR 24 • 6:30 PM

LOCATION: MILWAUKIEOREGON.GOV

CHAIR: Chris Holle-Bailey • chrisardenwald@gmail.com



Celebrate the Grand Opening of Balfour, Bowman-Brae and Scott Parks on March 8

The community is invited to celebrate the official grand openings of Balfour, Bowman-Brae and Scott Parks on March 8 from noon to 3:30 p.m. Each park will feature family-friendly entertainment and free refreshments!

Balfour Park, 3103 SE Balfour St.

Noon to 2 PM

Bowman-Brae Park, 4225 SE Bowman St.

12:30 to 2:30 PM

Scott Park, 4225 SE Bowman St.

1:30 to 3:30 PM

For more information, visit www.milwaukieoregon.gov



CITY OF MILWAUKIE

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City Recorder's Office	503.786.7515
Police Non-Emergency	503.786.7500

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CITY EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Johnson Creek Watershed Planting - 8:45 AM Habitat Enhancement at Tideman Johnson Park - 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM LEGO Club (LED) - 2 PM 1
2	3	City Council Work Session - 4 PM City Council Regular Session - 6:30 PM Redevelopment Commission - 8 PM 4	Bilingual Poetry Reading: Al-Mutannabi Street Starts Here (LED) - 6 PM 5	Daylight Book Group (LED) - 11 AM Read to the Dog (LED) - 3:30 PM Book Buddies (LED) - 4 PM 6		Minthorn Springs Restoration - 9:30 AM Spanish Storytime (LED) - 10:30 AM Balfour, Bowman-Brae & Scott Parks Opening - Noon - 3:30 PM 8
9	Library Board (LED) - 5:30 PM 10	City Council Study Session - 5:15 PM Planning Commission - 6:30 PM 11	Hector Campbell Neighborhood - 6 PM Lake Road Neighborhood - 6:30 PM Lewelling Neighborhood - 6:30 PM 12	Read to the Dog (LED) - 3:30 PM ORCA Book Group (LED) - 4:30 PM Linwood Neighborhood - 7 PM 13		Elk Rock Island Restoration - 9:30 AM - Noon Repair Fair (LED) - 10 AM - 1 PM 15
16	17	City Council Work Session - 4 PM Teen Advisory Board (LED) - 5 PM City Council Regular Session - 6:30 PM 18	Island Station Neighborhood - 6:30 PM 19	Read to the Dog (LED) - 3:30 PM Equity Steering Committee (CH) - 6 PM 20		Clackamas County Braver Angels (LED) - 3 PM 22
23 Spring Storytelling with William Hornyak (LED) - 3:30 PM	24 Ardenwald-Johnson Creek Neighborhood - 6:30 PM	Art Lab: All Together Now (LED) - 2-4 PM Planning Commission - 6:30 PM 25	Parks & Recreation Board - 5:30 PM Arts Committee - 6 PM 26	Helpful Hungry Bats (LED) - 2 PM Public Safety Advisory Committee - 6 PM Ledding Book Club (LED) - 6 PM 27	City Manager Open Door (CH) - 9-10 AM Teen Lock-In (LED) - 6:30 PM 28	Container Gardening with Maggie Stuckey (LED) - 2 PM 29
Poetry Reading: David Biespiel (LED) - 3 PM 30	31	25	26	27	28	29

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.