



TOLEDO

City News

February 2024

Mayor's Message

Last month was quite the experience for many of us here in Toledo and all around Lincoln County. Freezing Rain, Snow, sub-freezing temperatures and wind put many members in our community in dire straits. Natural Disasters like these can truly show what a community is made of. True to form, our citizens and our City shone like a beacon in the darkest of times. Our neighbors came together over several days to help each other and keep hope alive as city departments, Police, Fire, Public works and Admin worked to return normalcy to our community.



Fire Chief Larry Robeson, Police Chief Mike Pace and all of their officers, crew and Dispatchers worked seamlessly to help ensure the safety of all those in our area. Public Works Director Brian Lorimor and his crew worked very long hours to keep the roads clear and our water and wastewater systems online and functioning flawlessly. City Manager



Doug Wiggins and City Recorder Lisa Figueroa worked to keep our citizens informed and to coordinate efforts with the County. Many of our fellow neighbors reached out to myself and other councilors to see if there was anything they could do. We were able to direct their efforts to help those in need.

The City was able to coordinate with Abundant Life and Center and St. John's Episcopal Church to provide warming shelters. Volunteers stepped out of the comfort of their own homes to help make these shelters welcoming places in a time of bitter cold.

These are just a few of the great things our community did in our neighbor's time of need. Their selfless contributions are a big part of what makes Toledo the best place to live, grow and thrive! I am so proud of our community!

WELL DONE TOLEDO!

♥ Operation Valentine ♥ Special Delivery Project

Want to help make Valentine's Day extra special for some senior citizens in Toledo?

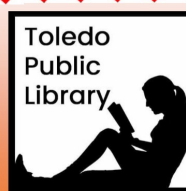
You are invited to stop by the library February 1st—9th to create a handmade Valentine that will be shared with a Toledo community Meals-On-Wheels client.

All valentines will be delivered to our Meals-On-Wheels homebound seniors.



Toledo Public Library
173 N.W. 7th Street
Toledo, OR 97391
541-336-3132

<https://www.cityoftoledo.org/library>



Olalla Reservoir Re-opened to the Public

Toledo, Oregon – Georgia-Pacific (GP) has re-opened Olalla Reservoir to the public as of Monday, December 18, 2023. GP closed the Reservoir earlier this year due to safety concerns about declining water levels.

Although the reservoir was created to provide water necessary for production at the Toledo mill, Georgia-Pacific allows the public to use it for daytime recreation. Visitors use the site at their own risk and must comply with posted rules, including no hunting, littering or gas-powered boat motors.



The “Winter Average” Rate Calculation for Your Sewer Charge

The Winter Average is a method of stabilizing your sewer rate by calculating your average sewer usage for the next 12 months. This is done by taking your water usage during the winter months of January, February, March, and April, and calculating your average consumption.

Example of Winter Average Calculation	
January Water Consumption Billed	4,000
February Water Consumption Billed	3,000
March Water Consumption Billed	5,000
April Water Consumption Billed	3,000
Total Water Consumption (4 months)	15,000
Average Used for Sewer Charge Calculation	3,750

What are the benefits of using this method?

Consumers can help control their sewer charge by conserving their water use during the months of January – April.

The fewer gallons of water you use during these months the lower your Winter Average will be.

A fixed sewer usage that doesn’t fluctuate with the highs and lows of water usage throughout the year helps to stabilize customer utility bills.

Summer activities such as watering the lawn, power washing the house, or washing the car, no longer impact your sewer usage.

City staff are always happy to discuss the Winter Average calculation with you! Please contact City Hall if you have any questions.

Free Smoke Alarm Installation Program

Is your home equipped with a WORKING smoke alarm?

If not, or you are uncertain, you are in luck.

Your Toledo firefighters can come to your house to inspect your existing smoke alarms, replace non-functioning alarms and/or install smoke alarms in areas lacking.

This is a free program.

Winter is a time when we see an increase in house fires due to heating devices, wood stoves and chimneys. You can increase your chances of safely escaping a house fire by the presence of working smoke alarms.



The American Red Cross provides the fire department with the smoke alarms. We receive specialized training regarding placement and installation and we are required to do the installation.

If you are interested in this **free program**, please contact Captain Greg Musil by email at greg.musil@cityoftoledo.org or by phone at 541-336-3311, Ext. 5202.

Visit the City of Toledo’s Webpage to Pay Bills, Manage Autopay, and More!

Online bill pay can be a safe and easy way to pay your bills. Did you know you can pay your City of Toledo water bill online with a one-time payment, or by creating an online account? With online bill pay you also can set up recurring or automatic payments with your checking account, or by credit or debit card, so your bills are never late. Visit cityoftoledo.org and select “Make a Payment” to get started.

A message from Toledo Public Works:



Did you know?

While The City of Toledo appreciates street light issues being reported by our citizens, Central Lincoln PUD manages these street lights and is ultimately the one who will perform repairs.

If you see a street lamp that is not working correctly, you can gather the information on the pole, call the Central Lincoln PUD Customer Care line at 1(877) 265-3211 and report the issue.



From the Toledo Police Department:

Internet Safety Tips for Kids



Online Safety for Kids

The internet is a wonderful tool that can allow your kids to do research for school reports, communicate with friends, family, and teachers online, and play interactive online games. However, children and young adults are also subjected to cyberbullying, inappropriate content, online predators, and cyber extortion.

Here are some basic guidelines to share with your kids:

- * Follow the family rules, and those set by the Internet service provider.
- * Never post or trade personal pictures.
- * Never reveal personal information, such as address, phone number, or school name or location.
- * Use only a screen name and don't share passwords (other than with parents).
- * Never agree to get together in person with anyone met online without parent approval and/or supervision.
- * Never respond to a threatening email, message, post, or text.
- * Always tell a parent or other trusted adult about any communication or conversation that was scary or hurtful.
- * Basic guidelines for parents:
 - * Spend time online together to teach your kids appropriate online behavior.
 - * Keep the computer in a common area where you can watch and monitor its use, not in individual bedrooms.
 - * Monitor any time spent on smartphones or tablets.
 - * Bookmark kids' favorite sites for easy access.
 - * Check your credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar account charges.
 - * Find out what, if any, online protection is offered by your child's school, after-school center, friends' homes, or any place where kids could use a computer without your supervision.
 - * Take your child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.



For more information and training go to: <https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home>

IMPORTANT UPCOMING COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Council will begin discussions on whether to ask the voters for a bond to replace Ammon's tank. The Fire Department Bond ends on June 30, 2024 and Council is looking to replace the bond with this ask. As of now, the City Council will be discussing this at its first meeting in February and looking at issuing a resolution to send the bond question to the May primary election. Stay tuned and watch the website and Facebook for more information.

Toledo City Council January highlights



The Toledo City Council is excited for 2024, they addressed various topics crucial for the city's development and well-being. One significant discussion involved a request from the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners to ban fireworks sales within the city. After careful consideration, the Council opted against the ban for several reasons, including concerns about the inability to prevent illegal fireworks from other states, the impact on local nonprofit organizations relying on fireworks sales for funds, and the impracticality of enforcement.

Additionally, the Council took important actions on various fronts:

- Approved the creation of a Fire Health and Safety officer position within the Fire Department, emphasizing the importance of safety and health matters across all city departments.
- Engaged in discussions with DA Davidson regarding a potential General Obligation bond ballot measure in the May primary election. The bond aims to secure funding for replacing the Ammons Reservoir tank, replacing the expiring bond.
- Established an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Greater Toledo Pool & Recreation District for planning a recreation center on A Street, where the current pool is situated.
- Adopted a livability code, setting minimum property maintenance and livability standards for all premises. This ordinance's discussions began in November 2023.
- Passed a resolution in support of the Lincoln County Homeless Strategic Plan, recognizing the pressing need for housing in Toledo and the entire Lincoln County

Looking ahead to February, the Council is gearing up for:

- State of the City address
- Exploring the possibility of updating the Toledo City Charter, seeking citizen volunteers for a limited duration to participate in the process.
- Discussing the submission of a ballot measure to voters regarding a General Obligation bond.

The Toledo City Council is optimistic about the future and remains committed to addressing key issues for the betterment of the community.



The Council typically meets at 6:00 p.m. on the first, third and fourth Wednesdays of the month. You can sign up to receive e-mail notifications, including a link to the meeting details via the city website. Beginning in 2024, videos of the City Council meetings are now available on the City's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@cityoftoledooregon9726>.



BUDGET COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Budget Committee serves as an advisory committee to the City Council and meets annually between late April and early June to review the proposed City budget for the next fiscal year. You can learn more about the committee and how to apply at <https://www.cityoftoledo.org/bc>

Toledo City Council Contact Information:

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Toledo City Hall Information:

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Toledo, OR 97391

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www.cityoftoledo.org

Non - Emergent / After Hours

Call Out: 541-336-5555