



APRIL 2023

TOLEDO City News

FROM MAYOR ROD CROSS

As I write this, our country is deeply divided. We have calls for protest from one political faction, and calls to celebrate by another. I do not care about what side any of us are on. My concern is, and has always been, about this town and our nation as a whole.

Many of you have heard me speak of my travels: "From Turkey to Thailand" is my phrase. I have seen many cultures and many political variations. I have always come to the same conclusion: I live in the best country on Planet Earth.

Am I biased? Yes. Here is my assessment: While America has many warts and some very dirty history, *so does every other country and culture*. There is no other place in our world that is not touched by the ills of man. Here, in the "Great American Experiment", as I like to call it, we have ground rules that are supposed to grant individuals the right to be that individual.

I have always believed that our founders got a lot more right, than they got wrong. Were there horrendous errors? Yes. Compromise can do that. We have made many errors, but we have tried to correct them, although not always successfully.

The issue today is that we have devolved into a mad grasp for power by any means. Our political, social and industrial leaders have decided that all that matters is power. Lying, cheating, disregard of law, and most importantly, the willingness to throw anyone who disagrees under the bus, has given our society an "Us versus Them" mentality.

We have lost sight of the "United" States. We have traded compromising on policies in order to reflect a diverse nation to "scorched earth", wherein it is a zero-sum game of all or nothing. One can compromise on policy without compromising on principles. The key is to know which is which.

We have traded individual liberty for group think and group identification. We no longer think of the individual as their own person, but in terms of what group they belong to. This needs to end. It needs to end on all levels, if our country is to survive and thrive over the next generations.

I love Toledo. My goal has been, and will always continue to be, to see this great town work together to prosper and benefit our families and neighbors. Let's continue to work together to reach this goal!



Honoring Toledo's many dedicated volunteers

In honor of National Volunteer Month, we want to express our deepest gratitude to both the local government volunteers and citizen volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to making our community a better place.

Your selfless service is truly invaluable and we are so grateful for all that you do. Thank you for embodying the spirit of kindness and generosity, and for inspiring us all to give back in our own ways.

Volunteers impact our community every day at the library, fire department, police department, Planning Commission, Budget Committee, City Council and local organizations such as the Toledo Food Pantry, Rotary, Meals on Wheels, the Toledo Community boathouses, and so many other dedicated groups.

Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we are proud to have you as a part of our community.

FROM POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL PACE

April is Emergency Communications Month

It has been an extremely difficult year for our telecommunicators. Due to situations beyond our control, staffing has been very tight and it is not uncommon for the Toledo Police Department Dispatchers to be each working 20-30 hours of overtime a week. They are driven to work this hard to ensure that our community, our citizens, and their fellow first responders receive the quality service that they need. We did reach out to Salem Dispatch (WVCC) and Lincoln City Dispatch for assistance, but they both said they were unable to help us, due to their own staffing levels.

Please show your extra appreciation for our TPD dispatchers during the month of April, and especially during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (April 9-15). Send them a card, an email, post something on our Facebook, or whatever you feel is appropriate. Dispatchers Cassie, Wendy, Katie, Molly, and Kayla are some of the most dedicated, hard-working people I know, and I am very proud to work alongside them. They are the calm voice in the chaotic storm; they are the lifeline for police officers and firefighters; and they are the thin yellow line. They are the glue that keeps everything together.

I think you all would agree that we have a very special team of Emergency Telecommunicators/911 Dispatchers.

How is my sewer charge calculated?

Your sewer charge is calculated each year in May, based on an average of the treated City water you are billed for during the months of January – April each year. This calculation method is referred to as a “Winter Average” and is used for non-industrial users of the City’s sewer system. This charge will remain in effect for the remaining months of the year until the average is calculated again. If there is no history for an account, the monthly average shall be established by the City Manager based on the history of similar users (typically by number of people in the household). City staff can explain the Winter Average calculation with you, so please call City Hall.

Example of Winter Average Calculation	
January Water Consumption Billed	4000
February Water Consumption Billed	3000
March Water Consumption Billed	5000
April Water Consumption Billed	3000
Total Water Consumption (4 months)	15000
Average Used for Sewer Charge Calculation	3750

H-2-O: “HELP TO OTHERS”

City of Toledo asks for donations to support residents in need of assistance with water bill payments. Your donation is voluntary and will assist those who have made a good faith effort to pay their bill. Please call [541-336-2247](tel:541-336-2247) for more information on how the program works.

Public input needed for Comp Plan

The current City Comprehensive Plan, "The 2020 Vision for Toledo", was adopted on April 4, 2001, and needs to be updated to incorporate the current vision and goals for the City of Toledo. As the community's blueprint for the future, the comprehensive plan is the City's leading policy document on growth, development and public investment over the next 20 years. Community participation in this effort is essential to ensure the updated comprehensive plan reflects the needs of the community. The plan is a long-range planning document that every Oregon city and county adopts, and then updates periodically. It helps manage expected population and employment growth.

The City of Toledo wants your input!

Land Use Plan and Zoning Map
City of Toledo, Oregon - Printed May 12, 2022



Be a part of the plan

5pm
April 26,
2023
City Hall

The comprehensive plan is the community's blueprint for the next 20 years.

- City staff will be on hand to answer questions
- Interactive map opportunities

Cycle Oregon grant awarded to City of Toledo to pay for buying and installing bicycle racks

The City of Toledo recently received \$6,225 in the form of a grant from Cycle Oregon Fund of Oregon Community Foundation. The grant allows for the installation of several bicycle racks throughout the city. The plan is to install bicycle racks at the following locations: the Port of Toledo, Toledo Public Library, Main Street, the bus stop

and the skate park; and, if any funds are left over, a self-maintenance fix-it station.

FROM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR BILL ZUSPAN

The City suffered a huge weather event, with 35-45 trees damaged and fallen, in areas that required immediate attention. We felt fortunate to have escaped with only 36 hours of overtime total for crew members. I received several calls and e-mails from residents, police dispatch and CLPUD, thanking the City crew for helping residents that were stuck, or in potentially dangerous situations.

Such events really pull a community together and expose the strength, or lack thereof, of relationships between entities. We are fortunate to have such flexible contractors to help out with just a phone call. Howry Excavating was in the shop well before daylight with a front-end loader, asking where we needed him the most. Table Mountain Construction offered equipment and services, using tree-grappling equipment to remove trees from the "S" curves to get traffic moving again. Kip Everett of Oregon Coast Tree Company helped remove and cut trees that had fallen onto two homes.



Toledo Oregon History Center
GRAND
RE-OPENING



320 N. Main Street
Ph:(541) 336-1203

Join Experienced Foragers
Abigail DeYoung of Northwestcotours.com
and Wallace Kaufman author of
Coming Out of the Woods:
The Solitary Life of a Maverick Naturalist
as they lead participants in learning and practicing
the craft of foraging
Presented by Toledo Public Library
May 6 & 12 and August 13 & 19
Registration required at 541-336-3132 seats are limited

**ADVENTURE
BEGINS**



ART TOLEDO

Phantom Galleries
are filling up this
Spring

Artist Taylor Bennett-
Weins
Setting up her
artwork!

Come
and see her work
at
#355 N. Main Street



Volunteers needed! How to serve and give back to your community

The City of Toledo has several committee openings available and is seeking Toledo residents/citizens to consider volunteering. There are three openings currently on the Budget Committee; one opening on the City Council; and one on the Contribution Committee. If you have thought about giving back to the Toledo community, but have not been sure how to go about it, consider applying for one of these positions.

The City Council is the governing body of the City of Toledo, and they meet three times a month: the first, third and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The Council governs the ordinances of the City through the Toledo Municipal Code. Council members serve four- year terms, but the current vacancy is for a partial term that expires in December 2024.

If you cannot commit to the number of meetings council membership requires, consider one of the following two committees:

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. To serve on the Budget Committee, you must be a voter and live within the Toledo city limits.

The Contribution Committee meets no more than twice a year, also as an advisory committee to the City Council. They review funding requests from local organizations who serve Toledo's community and make grant recommendations to the City Council.

Volunteering is such a benefit to the community! You can learn more about each of the committees and City Council on the city website at www.cityoftoledo.org. If you have questions about any of the positions or responsibilities, please contact the City Recorder at 541-336-2247, extension 2060.



CITY OF TOLEDO

541-336-2247

www.cityoftoledo.org

PO Box 220

(206 N. Main)

Toledo OR 97391

**Judy M. Richter,
City Manager**

Toledo Council and City Hall Contact Information

Toledo Council meetings are held the first, third and fourth Wednesday at 6 pm, in-person at City Hall council chambers, 206 N. Main St., and available via Zoom. Mayor and Council members may be reached at these email addresses:

Mayor Rod Cross
rod.cross@cityoftoledo.org

VACANT

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