



TOLEDO City News

FROM MAYOR ROD CROSS

Homelessness is a very hot topic in the news today. “How did we get here?”, “Why are there so many homeless?” and “What can be done?” are but a few of the questions that swirl around this topic.

Myself, along with 24 other mayors from around the state came together last year to form the Mayors’ Taskforce on Homelessness. Our goal was to try to find a way that all cities in Oregon could tackle this issue, from the ground up, not the top down.

What we were able to unanimously craft was a request to the State Legislature and Governor to fund a direct-to-cities package that would allow cities to tackle the needs in their jurisdictions, to help stem the ever-increasing tide of homelessness in our state.

Our plan would allow for cities to meet needs that include public sanitation facilities (restrooms and showers; advance low-income and “affordable housing” projects; allow for funding of county-wide support services (such as Grace Wins Haven and Lincoln County Mental Health Services); abatement (removal and disposal) of abandoned vehicles; build transitional housing; and help to operate Navigation Centers where folks can get the support they need.

I know some will ask “Why does this matter to us? We don’t have a problem in Toledo.” I would counter with the following: We do have a problem. It is just not as visible as in many other cities. At least 35 per cent of our residents are in the classification known as “Rent Stress”. They have to spend well over 33 per cent of their monthly income on housing. Most of those rent-stressed residents are just one emergency away from being homeless themselves. Toledo-area schools have a more than 22 per cent rate of student homelessness. Look around. There are more than a few folks living in travel trailers and RVs in our area.

Cities can best use these funds because we are the “boots on the ground”, so to speak. Our employees and neighbors encounter and work with the homeless every day. We understand the needs here, that currently require folks to go to Newport or the valley, just to get basic services.

How can you help? Set aside a few minutes to send a short email to our Oregon legislators: Rep. David Gomberg (Rep.DavidGomberg@oregonlegislature.gov) and Sen. Dick Anderson (Sen.DickAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov). Let them know that you support the OMA Taskforce Proposal. Volunteer with local service groups like Grace Wins Haven and Toledo Food Share. Reach out and help a family in need. Remember: We are Toledo. We come together and work together to make our city the best that it can be. That’s what we do.



WE ARE HERE TO SERVE...

Please be kind to your city employees and tell them thanks for a job well done. Everyone is short-staffed these days and the City of Toledo is no exception, including police, fire, City Hall, library and public works. They show up and give 100%. Some employees not only cover their own position, but also take on additional tasks and assignments. The City has had some major events this past month and each department has given their all.

Your words of kindness go a long way.

FROM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR BILL ZUSPAN

Each month, the City compares water production to “unaccounted-for” water usage, which allows a utility to account for 85% or more of its water production, through metering and system maintenance records. Toledo accounted for almost 90 per cent of its water, with only a 10.65 % unaccounted-for water loss. This is within the parameters for an “excellent” status, under the guidelines. Recently, some Oregon cities have suffered as much as a 38-44% unaccounted-for loss of treated water.

JANUARY 2023

Gallons produced by WTP	17,040,826
Billable Consumed Water	13,542,916
NON-Billable Consumed Water	1,459,000
Fire Department Usage	143,000
Public Works Usage	77,310
TOTAL Accounted-For Gallons	<u>15,222,226</u>
Difference of 10.65%	1,818,600

H-2-O: “HELP TO OTHERS”

City of Toledo asks for donations to help 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 City Hall at [541-336-2247](tel:541-336-2247) for more info.

On a different note, be watching for new playground equipment scheduled to be installed at Memorial Park, the first part of March. The structure and playground section of the Park will be closed while installation takes place.



Public Meeting March 23 on Drinking Water Protection Plan

The City of Toledo will be hosting a public meeting on Thursday, **March 23 from 12-1pm at the Toledo Fire Station Training Room**, 285 NE Burgess Road. This meeting is a chance for community members to learn about and provide input on the City’s draft Drinking Water Protection Plan.

A pizza lunch will be provided for in-person attendees. Remote participation is also available via Zoom. The Zoom link for those who wish to attend remotely will be posted on the City’s website shortly before the event at: <https://www.cityoftoledo.org/planning/page/drinking-water-protection-plan-public-meeting>.

The draft Drinking Water Protection Plan is also available for your review at this webpage.

At the March 23 meeting, we will be discussing and seeking comment on elements of the draft Drinking Water Protection Plan, including:

- Potential threats to our drinking water sources
- Strategies to address these risks and keep our source watersheds healthy
- Plans for addressing water shortages
- Proposed implementation action plan

Drinking water in Toledo comes from the Mill Creek watershed and the Siletz River. With grant funding from the Oregon Health Authority, the City has assembled a Drinking Water Protection Plan Team consisting of community members and technical experts to develop a plan to protect the water supply we all depend on.

If you cannot attend the meeting, you will be able to view a recording and provide feedback. To read the draft plan and view the recording, please visit the City’s website at www.cityoftoledo.org . For more information, please contact Suzanne de Szoeki at sdeszoeki@gsiws.com or 541-257-9006.

Toledo Public Library

SPRING BREAK EVENTS

Tuesday, March 28th 1:00PM-2:00PM

Lego Day!

Wednesday, March 29th 10:30AM-11:30AM

Petting Zoo Storytime!

Thursday, March 30th 1:00PM-2:00PM

Paint Party!

Friday, March 31st 1:00PM-3:00PM

Movie Day: Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile!

173 N.W. 7th Street
Toledo, OR 97391

541-336-3132
cityoftoledo.org/library

Registration required - call today to reserve your space!



JUNK JOURNALS

Calling all
creative
Teens and
Tweens!

WHEN: SATURDAY,
MARCH 25TH 1PM

WHERE: TOLEDO PUBLIC LIBRARY
173 N.W. 7TH ST, TOLEDO, OR

Call to Register

541-336-3132

Co-hosted by Toledo Public Library
and
Rootbound Arts and Crafts Store



ART TOLEDO



March 2023

New Phantom Gallery

Artists (on Main Street)

Be a vendor at Art, Oysters
and Brews this Summer!

(Early-bird special ends March 23rd)

Want to join the Art Toledo Committee or
volunteer? We would love to have you!!

Contact us at: ARTToledo.com

TOLEDO PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFERS MANY SERVICES:

Public Internet Access/Wi-Fi

Word processing computers

COVID 19 Test Kits available

TumbleBooks - eBooks for eKids!

Book Bundles for Kids!

Free and open source software help

The Operating System Petting Zoo

Oregon Coast STEM Hub resources

STORY TIME WED AT 10:30am

TOLEDO PUBLIC LIBRARY

173 NW 7TH ST., TOLEDO

Phone: 541-336-3132

Open TUES-SAT 10a-5p

Council seat and budget committee seats open for application now

City of Toledo has one Council seat open and three seats on the Budget Committee open. These represent an opportunity for residents of the city to serve their community by volunteering their time and experience to work together towards City goals. There is an immediate need to fill all four seats, not just to round out the required number of Council members, but budget season is right around the corner for the City. The budget must be created, reviewed and approved before the end of June.

City Council: The governing body that oversees the City's rules, the Council is comprised of six Council members and the Mayor. The Council meets two to three times a month (1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday) to consider city business. Each term is four years and there is currently one vacancy, which will expire in January 2025.

Budget Committee: An advisory committee to the City Council, which includes the Council. It is comprised of an equal number of citizens and City Council members. The Committee typically meets annually in the spring in April and May to review the City's budget and make a recommendation to the City Council. Members of the committee must reside within the City limits and be qualified electors. Each term is for three years.

Citizen volunteers play an important role in city government by serving on boards, commissions and other committees. Visit the website at <https://www.cityoftoledo.org/bc> to apply. You may contact the City Recorder for more information 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

CITY OF TOLEDO IS HIRING - See details on our website at www.cityoftoledo.org/jobs

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

Betty Kamikawa
betty.kamikawa@cityoftoledo.org

Wade Carey
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Jackie Kauffman
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