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## Rex Burkholder's August 2006 newsletter

**This monthly newsletter includes a message from Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder and some of the latest events and programs brought to you by Metro.**

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Rex Burkholder represents District 5, which includes Northwest Portland, North Portland, Northeast Portland, downtown Portland, a portion of Southwest Portland and a portion of Southeast Portland.

### A message from Rex Burkholder

It was hard to believe, but on the hottest day of the year a group of Metro Councilors and staff went to Arlington, just east of The Dalles, to take a look at where our trash goes ([www.wmnorthwest.com/landfill/landfillcities/columbia.html](http://www.wmnorthwest.com/landfill/landfillcities/columbia.html)). If it wasn't so far away, it is a visit everyone should make. Maybe because we have such a good system for recycling, yard waste pickup and garbage collection, we forget that EVERYTHING we don't recycle ends up being buried in the ground.

Every year we collectively send 1.2 MILLION tons of stuff to be buried in Gilliam County. 1.2 Million tons. That's a lot of stuff—about one ton for every man, woman and child in the Metro region. It was pretty impressive seeing first-hand the giant holes in the ground, the compactors with tires taller than me, the hundreds of containers (filled with Seattle's garbage, our garbage travels there in tractor-trailers), all under the big, very hot Eastern Oregon sky. All served to remind me that there is no such place as "away" and that recycling more and throwing less away is something we all need to do. Metro is a great source of information about recycling: call (503) 234-3000 or go to [www.RecycleAtHome.org](http://www.RecycleAtHome.org).

### Together our efforts won't go to waste

Metro area residents do a remarkable job of recycling. Our recovery rate of 59 percent is one of the highest in the country. The Metro Council's goal of 64 percent by 2009 is attainable, but to help,

Metro has recently launched a new public education campaign to remind residents about proper recycling guidelines. Every day in our region, an estimated 20 tons of recyclables have to be sent to the landfill because they are contaminated, especially with glass and plastic bags. Glass can be placed at the curb, but it must be kept separate from other materials. When glass gets mixed in with other materials such as paper, it breaks, and causes problems for the recycling facilities that sort the material. Labor costs go up, equipment breaks down, and tons of otherwise recyclable materials—now contaminated with broken glass—have to be sent to the landfill.

Starting this summer, all area residents are asked to not put glass recycling in their regular recycling bins, but instead put it in a separate rigid container (a bucket, box, crate, etc.) and place it beside their regular curbside bins. Residents who write "glass only" on the pail help to show their neighbors how to recycle glass properly. Plastic bags are recyclable at grocery stores and recycling depots around the area, but they should not be put in the curbside recycling bins. They tangle up recycling equipment and cause it to break down, resulting in costly equipment repairs and delays. Plastic bottles are still welcome in curbside bins—just no bags.

"Many people assume that the recycling process is the same for all items," said Metro Council President David Bragdon. "We want residents to understand that the recycling process is different for different materials, and that is especially true for glass and plastic." By separating recyclables properly, residents' efforts will not go to waste.

For more information on recycling and any of Metro's waste-reduction programs, go to [www.RecycleAtHome.org](http://www.RecycleAtHome.org) or call Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000.

## **A New Look at Regional Choices**

Our region is admired the world over for its approach to planning for the future. A decade ago, we adopted a groundbreaking plan, the [2040 Growth Concept Plan](#), to define what we want to be. But now, with our region expecting to grow by about a million more people in the next 25 years, we need to create stronger investment strategies that will actually fulfill the vision and make it a reality. To do this, the Metro Council launched its "[New Look at Regional Choices](#)" project, to find ways to implement our long-range vision. On June 23, the Metro Council hosted a New Look Regional Forum to introduce the project to nearly 300 citizens, elected officials, business leaders, planners, and environmental advocates. In order to understand the impact of one million more people, attendees were reminded of the many changes in the region during the last time the region grew by that much—between 1968 and 2006: I-5 was new and never filled to capacity, TriMet did not exist, the suburbs were much smaller and large farms separated outlying cities. Participants were then challenged to make hard choices about building a great region that lives up to the vision. Look for results of that work in future newsletters.

## **Unwind at Twilight Tuesdays**

Summer offers a variety of outdoor activities for residents of our region, and one of them is watching other residents—meaning our abundant wildlife. Twilight Tuesday at [Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area](#) with Metro Naturalist James Davis offers a relaxing walk, a way to unwind after work and the opportunity to easily view animals native to our region.

Dusk is one of the best times to see wildlife, and is about the only time you can see most mammals such as beaver, muskrat, otter, raccoon, deer and bats. Birds also are more active than during the hot days.

Take advantage of the long summer days and join one of the walks, which take place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. August 8 and 22. All ages are welcome, but participants must be able to be quiet, sneaky and patient. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of Metro's. Payment of \$5 per adult is required in advance; children are free. Call (503) 797-1715 to register and for more information.

## **Streetcar extension to the eastside will advance for further study**

On July 20, after hearing public testimony and further discussion and deliberations, the Metro Council approved a Locally Preferred Alternative for the Eastside Transit Alternatives Analysis. The alternative would extend streetcar from 10<sup>th</sup> and Lovejoy on the Westside across the Broadway Bridge and south along the MLK/Grand Avenue couplet. The preference is to create a full loop back to the Westside near RiverPlace but the first construction phase will go to NE Oregon Street in the Lloyd District.

This follows an expression of support from the public with the strongest support for the locally preferred alternative came from those in the Lloyd District and Central Eastside. Community members look forward to a new transit option and the bike and pedestrian improvements that are expected to accompany it.

Metro Council approval follows a unanimous recommendation by the community-based Project Advisory Committee and unanimous approval from the Portland Streetcar Board of Directors, TriMet, Multnomah County and the Portland City Council. In addition, the City of Portland Planning Commission and Portland Development Commission offered support for the project.

The next steps in this process include an environmental review and development of a funding strategy.

## **Events of note in District 5**

**8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 5**

**Arbor Lodge Park work party**

*Come to Arbor Lodge Park in North Portland to join in a new effort to replace the use of pesticides in parks by weeding. Snacks, gloves and tools will be provided. Meet at North Bryant Street and Greeley Avenue. For more information, call Curtis at (503) 255-2399.*

**10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 12**

**Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery tour**

*Embark on a unique history lesson while enjoying the beauty and tranquility of Metro's Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery in Southeast Portland. The tour highlights Portland's founders, early pioneers and nationally-recognized figures, as well as interesting headstones and monuments. Explore 30 acres of mature trees and a very special rose garden. Suitable for all ages. Meet at the main entrance at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. Advance registration is not required. A suggested donation of \$10 goes to headstone restoration and educational programs. For more information, call (503) 775-6278.*

**Noon Saturday, Aug. 12**

**Smith and Bybee Wetlands paddle trip**

*Traveling by canoe or kayak is the best way to explore Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area in North Portland. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. The new water control structure is helping to restore the natural area to a seasonal wetland. The changes are great for wildlife but they make paddle conditions difficult to predict. The trip leader will contact participants if it is necessary to cancel the trip. Advance registration required; call Dale Svart at (503) 285-3084 or send e-mail to [tdsvart@earthlink.net](mailto:tdsvart@earthlink.net).*

**10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19**

**Stone cleaning and rubbing workshop, Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery**

*Join Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery for some real hands-on experience cleaning selected monuments in the cool morning air. Discover the proper methodology for cleaning and caring for headstones to ensure their safety and longevity. Learn about the world of headstone symbology and monument art, as well as materials and techniques for making rubbings. Suitable for all ages. Meet at the main entrance at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. Advance registration required. For more information, call (503) 775-6278.*

**8 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 20**

**Kelley Point Park bird walk**

*Enjoy the flora and fauna of Kelley Point Park and learn about wild bird identification and bird behavior on a nature walk with Backyard Bird Shop. Suitable for adults and older children. To carpool, meet at the Vancouver Backyard Bird Shop. Advance registration required; call (360) 253-5771.*

**Saturday, Aug. 26**

**Ancient forest mystery**

**Call for meeting time, location and directions**

*Join Ric Balfour on a guided hike through a protected grove of old growth found just beyond the northern boundary of Forest Park. Along the way, we will look for clues revealing the age of the grove and the human history intimately bound to this patch of old growth. Wear good walking or hiking shoes and bring a water bottle.*

*Suitable for adults and kids age 10 and older. Advance registration is required; call (503) 223-5449 or send e-mail to [stephen@friendsofforestpark.org](mailto:stephen@friendsofforestpark.org).*

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## **About Metro**

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area. A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the [Oregon Zoo](#), which contributes to conservation and education, and the [Oregon Convention Center](#), which benefits the region's economy.

## **Your Metro representatives**

Metro Council President David Bragdon

Metro Councilors  
Rod Park, District 1  
Brian Newman, District 2  
Carl Hosticka, District 3  
Susan McLain, District 4  
Rex Burkholder, District 5  
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor Alexis Dow, CPA

For more information, call the Metro Council at (503) 797-1540, fax (503) 797-1793 or send e-mail to [metro council@metro-region.org](mailto:metro council@metro-region.org). The hearing impaired can call TDD (503) 797-1804.

## Related Metro links »

- [Meetings, work sessions, agendas and guidelines](#)  
The Metro Council meets at 2 p.m. Tuesdays for work sessions, and at 2 p.m. Thursdays for meetings, in the council chamber at Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland. See Metro's online calendar for details.
- [Council actions](#)  
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