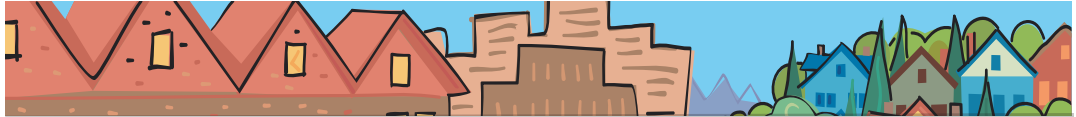


# Rex Burkholder

## METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 NEWS



**METRO**

PEOPLE PLACES  
OPEN SPACES

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.



### Happy New Year!

The end of a year and the beginning of a new one are always good times to think about where we've been and where we are going. I want to let you know about my goals and concerns for the coming year but first I want to recognize the sad fact that two people who made a difference in my life and our community died this winter.

I met Carl Flipper when I first ran for Metro. Carl was the head of the Humboldt Target Area project at the time. Among other efforts, he spearheaded the rejuvenation of N. Killingsworth, working both physically and collaboratively with the Jefferson High School community, PCC Cascade and merchants along the street to tear down barriers and create a streetscape that matched his vision of a place where everyone was welcome and excited to be part of. Carl brought me into his work and community in a way that I can only characterize as gentlemanly, perhaps reflecting his upbringing in New Orleans. (For more info go to: <http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/1165373732128730.xml&coll=7>.)

Ali Al-Salman and I met on a soccer field where we both tried to recall our youth and forget politics for a while. Ali gave his time and his gentle spirit to promoting cycling as a way to create a humane and accepting community. He was always concerned about social justice and willing to help others although he and his family struggled each day to escape the troubles of his home country, Iraq, and to make it in America. In a way, Ali was our conscience, reminding us in our play and our privilege that there was still work to be done to make the world a just and safe place for everyone. (For more info go to: <http://bikeportland.org/2007/01/03/community-remembers-ali-al-salman>.)

Polar bears, Oregon pinot noir and skiing on Mt. Hood. What an odd combination, no? But all are threatened by global warming and may be good "indicator species" for the much broader changes that rising temperatures will bring to society and the Earth. I hope that 2007 will be the year when Global Warming stops being seen as a partisan or side issue. Serving on the Governor's Climate Change Integration Group (CCIG) for the past two years has been eye-opening (<http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/GBLWRM/CCIG.shtml>). It isn't just wine and skiing that will be affected: already there are widespread effects apparent in our forests, our weather patterns and the rainfall we depend upon for summer irrigation. This month, the CCIG will deliver its report to the Governor, calling on the state to adopt strong goals for reducing carbon dioxide emissions and to take steps to cope with changes already coming our way. One of my primary goals this year is to integrate what we learned into both the Region's long range land use and transportation plans (30% of Oregon's carbon dioxide comes from cars and trucks). (To learn more about Metro's work go to: <http://www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?articleid=18823>.)

Looking South to Salem: In order to achieve better—that is more efficient, affordable and equitable growth—we need to make changes in state law. Over the last 30 years since the Oregon land use planning system was put into law, many changes large and small have

*continued*

## Happy New Year

*continued from page 1*

been made to benefit one interest or another. After major urban growth boundary expansions in 2002 and 2004, we learned a lot about how well the law works, or not. Metro will be working with our regional representatives in Salem to fix these problems.

Latest census data shows a jump in people earning below poverty wages. Coupled with rising house prices this means more families are struggling to find a place to live they can afford. At my urging, Metro became a member of the Oregon Housing Alliance (<http://www.oregonhousingalliance.org>) and will be working with that group to raise \$100 Million in new funds for low-income housing and to remove barriers to more affordable housing.

Finally, I will be down in Salem for a renewal of the successful Connect Oregon program (<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/CO/index.shtml>) that directed significant state funds to transit and multi-modal freight improvements for the first time.

Ongoing Fun. This year will include setting a future course for the Oregon Zoo, bringing the Regional Transportation Plan policies and investment strategy in line with energy and fiscal realities, using proceeds from last fall's successful bond measure to buy natural areas to protect for our children and their children (thanks, voters!), exploring ways to increase recycling and reduce waste as well as deciding whether to build a 600 room Convention Center Hotel that could double the business, jobs, and economic impact of the Oregon Convention Center. It should be a great year! Keep in touch.

— *Rex Burkholder*

## Metro Council updates Regional Transportation Plan

Among its many roles, the Metro Council is elected to set the region's transportation policy. In doing so, it is Council's top priority to invest your limited public dollars where they can produce the best return through an efficient, reliable and safe transportation system for this region's businesses and residents.

Metro does this through the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a report that is updated every four years with prioritized programs and projects. The RTP also allows the region to compete for state and federal funding to invest in transportation projects and maintenance.

Shortly after the new year, Metro will identify how much the public is willing to invest, then strategically prioritize and balance capital projects with ongoing operations and maintenance needs.

Because money is limited, the Council hopes to pursue transportation investments that take advantage of existing - or encourage new - urbanized areas with efficient housing and commercial development, and provide people with more choices for how to get around. This discourages sprawl that requires vastly more expensive transportation needs.

The Metro Council will develop the RTP along with the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), a 17-member committee of elected officials and representatives of agencies involved in transportation. The final RTP will be adopted jointly by JPACT and the Metro Council in early 2008, and then must be approved by the federal government.

For more information on the RTP, visit [www.metro-region.org/rtp](http://www.metro-region.org/rtp).

## Public scoping meeting on the Portland Streetcar Loop project

Come to a public scoping meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 29 and provide your input on the next phase of study, an environmental assessment, for the Portland Streetcar Loop. The meeting will be held in room 270 at Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave.

In the summer of 2006, Metro approved an extension of the existing streetcar line from downtown Portland to the Eastside, crossing the Broadway Bridge and running along Grand Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Metro's action followed recommendations from project partners: TriMet, the city of Portland, Multnomah County, the Oregon Department of Transportation and Portland Streetcar Inc. However, as federal funding, in addition to local revenues, are proposed, an environmental assessment must be completed.

At this meeting, the public is invited to comment on the statement that defines the purpose and need for the Portland Streetcar Loop project. In addition, participants will be asked to suggest issues that need to be addressed in this phase of study, an environmental assessment. Public suggestions, along with those from federal, state, regional and local agencies will shape the environmental factors that are studied and reported. A draft report will be shared for public comment in several months.

For more information on the Portland Streetcar Loop project go to: <http://www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?ArticleID=13800>.

## 600 attend I-5 to 99W Connector open houses

More than 600 people recently attended one of three I-5 to Highway 99W Connector project open houses. Metro, Washington County and the Oregon Department of Transportation are leading the project in cooperation with the cities of Sherwood, Wilsonville and Tualatin; Clackamas County; and the Federal Highway Administration.

Each meeting included a PowerPoint presentation and displays about the connector process, schedule, physical and environmental constraints, cultural resources, existing traffic and year 2030 baseline traffic. Information from the open houses may be seen at the project web site located at [www.i5to99w.org](http://www.i5to99w.org). For a copy of the PowerPoint, please call (503) 595-9915 or send e-mail to [info@i5to99w.org](mailto:info@i5to99w.org).

At the open houses, participants shared their ideas regarding possible solutions to the transportation challenges in the project area. Ideas gathered from the Stakeholder Working Group (comprised of citizens) and the Executive Management Team (senior project staff) were displayed and the public's comments about these ideas were also solicited.

Next steps will include review of the many citizen maps and comments as well as creation of a summary report. The complete list of alternatives will be reduced -during a public process - to a workable number that should represent a reasonable range of transportation choices. Additional public participation opportunities will be provided before the number of alternatives is reduced.

## Second round of Nature in Neighborhoods grants closing Jan. 18

The pre-application phase for grants through the second round of Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods program is coming to a close. Interested citizen groups, businesses, nonprofit organizations, school groups, neighborhoods, government agencies and service organizations must submit their applications by January 18.

Projects must be within the jurisdictional boundary of Metro and focused on watershed restoration and community building through hands-on restoration, education and outreach.

Applicants are required to provide a level of match depending on the amount of their request. To obtain a copy of the pre-application, go to [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org) and click on the Nature in Neighborhood logo. Interested parties can also contact Janelle Geddes at [geddesj@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:geddesj@metro.dst.or.us) or at (503) 797-1550.

## Oregon Zoo Foundation grant program supports local and worldwide conservation efforts

Through its Future for Wildlife grant program (<http://www.oregonzoo.org/Conservation/ffw.htm>), the Oregon Zoo Foundation has recently awarded nearly \$40,000 to 14 conservation efforts around the world. The program helps protect threatened and endangered species and their habitats by funding field conservation work that directly contributes to their survival. The foundation awards grants twice annually.

Local programs include supporting the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly population, which has declined significantly due to loss of its native grassland habitat. The zoo raises them in its conservation lab and is funding studies to determine the best time to release developing larvae to the wild.

The zoo also is involved in studying western pond turtles' aquatic and nesting habitats, as recent surveys suggest that the survival rate of eggs and hatchlings may not be enough to maintain the fragile population.

Another local program supported by the foundation is development of non-lethal management techniques to prevent conflicts between people and cougars. According to 2001 statistics, almost 2,100 cougars are killed each year.

The foundation will also continue its support of an AmeriCorps volunteer whose main responsibility is to conduct and coordinate fieldwork on endangered and threatened species in the area of Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Glenwood, Washington and the Columbia River Gorge.

In other areas around the world, foundation funds support a number of projects to protect endangered species:

- Borneo – orangutans
- Nepal – several endangered species, including the Indian one-horned rhinoceros and Bengal tiger in Royal Chitwan National Park
- Guatemala – scarlet macaws
- Peru – Humboldt penguins
- Uruguay – maned wolves
- General areas of South and Central America – giant anteaters
- Atlantic rainforest of South America – endangered parrot species
- Brazil – tapirs
- Zimbabwe – cheetahs, leopards and striped hyenas

The Future for Wildlife Conservation Fund receives support from the ZooParent program, Dine and Discover, donations and other sources.

For more information on the Future for Wildlife grant program go to: <http://www.oregonzoo.org/Conservation/ffw.htm>.

## Events of note in District 5

For a complete list of events, check out our online calendar, <http://calendar.metro-region.org>.

**9 a.m.-12 noon Saturday, Jan. 6**

### 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 Megan at (503) 423-7549.

**10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6**

### Winter birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

It's a waterfowl wonderland in the Portland area with thousands of ducks, geese and even swans spending the winter here. On a good day, you can see a dozen different species of waterfowl and other water birds such as grebes, gulls, coots, cormorants and herons. This is also the best time of year to see bald eagles and other birds of prey. Bundle up and meet naturalist James Davis at the natural area parking lot on Marine Drive. Binoculars will be available to borrow. Suitable for adults and teens. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715.

**7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11**

### Waterfowl identification class

Tens of thousands of ducks, geese and swans spend the winter in our local wetlands. By the end of January all hunting is over and it's the best time of the year for observing waterfowl and learning how to identify these easy-to-see, beautiful birds. Metro naturalist James Davis will simplify identification techniques for what can seem like an overwhelming variety of species. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$10 required in advance; call (503) 797-1715.

**10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20**

### Winter birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

It's a waterfowl wonderland in the Portland area with thousands of ducks, geese and even swans spending the winter here. On a good day, you can see a dozen different species of waterfowl and other water birds such as grebes, gulls, coots, cormorants and herons. This is also the

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**12 noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20**

### 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 [dsvart@earthlink.net](mailto:dsvart@earthlink.net).

**9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22**

### Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium

The 5th annual symposium hosted by the Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium at Portland State University will bring the Portland-Vancouver community together to network and exchange information about urban ecology and conservation. Come to learn, share and be inspired.

\$30 (\$15 for students). Registration will be accepted on the day of the event, but early registration is encouraged. Fees include lunch for those who register by Jan. 5. For more information or to register, visit [www.esr.pdx.edu/uerc](http://www.esr.pdx.edu/uerc) or call Jennifer Thompson at (503) 231-6179.

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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

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