

# Kathryn Harrington

## METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 NEWS



**METRO**

PEOPLE PLACES  
OPEN SPACES

**Kathryn Harrington  
represents  
District 4, which  
includes Northern  
Washington  
County, Cornelius,  
Hillsboro, Forest  
Grove, Northwest  
Beaverton, Aloha,  
Rock Creek, Bonny  
Slope, Bethany,  
Raleigh Hills, West  
Slope, Cedar Mill  
and Cedar Hills.**



### Oregon Zoo challenges for 2008

Did you know that Metro, your regional government, is responsible for the Oregon Zoo? It is, and that gives me, as a Metro Councilor, the pleasure and responsibility to ensure that the elephants, bears, butterflies and other creatures in our care enjoy a high quality of life. We also work to ensure that the zoo continues to deliver a stellar visitor experience as well as award-winning educational, cultural and conservation programs.

Because I see the zoo's budget and help tackle issues concerning the zoo's finances, I know this great resource isn't free. Buildings, caretakers, veterinary services, animal food and visitor amenities cost dearly, but we want to make sure entrance and program fees fit family incomes so that you and the children of our region can enjoy this asset. As a result, the zoo is partly subsidized by Metro property taxes.

While our zoo is successful in so many ways, its needs, particularly financial needs, will soon outweigh available resources. In 2007, the buildings were reviewed, and some need replacement. An improved veterinary hospital and quarantine facility are needed. The elephants would benefit from expanded outdoor facilities. There is tremendous demand to expand the conservation and education programs. These are a few of the major challenges facing the zoo staff, the Oregon Zoo Foundation and the Metro Council.

In 2007, the Oregon Zoo was enjoyed by a record number of visitors – more than 1.5 million! I know from personal experience that adults and children throughout my Metro district, from Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro, Beaverton and parts in between, support the zoo with their admission fees. They also attend zoo events, summer concerts and lectures, and send their kids to classes and camps. Washington County residents make up a large portion of the 44,000 households with zoo memberships. They also make up a significant portion of the zoo's large volunteer corps. And the zoo isn't just for kids! Each summer, the zoo hosts a summer concert series. Lecture programs are also available for all ages to learn more about wildlife species and conservation efforts around the world.

The excellent Oregon Zoo staff, led by Director Tony Vecchio, along with the tremendous Oregon Zoo Foundation, are working to offer even more exciting new programs and exhibits in the future. This summer, the zoo will be overtaken by a blockbuster exhibit of robotic dinosaurs, and a new exhibit for the orangutans is under construction. Also under construction is the highly anticipated Predators of the Serengeti exhibit, featuring lions, cheetahs and African wild dogs, scheduled to open in summer 2009.

In addition to supporting the zoo by continuing to visit and attend its events and programs, I hope you will join me in supporting efforts to meet the zoo's financial challenges. Learn more on the Metro website, [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org) and at [www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org).

– Kathryn Harrington

## Dinosaurs roar back to life at Oregon Zoo

A tyrannosaurus rex and other fearsome creatures will soon be joining the animals at the Oregon Zoo. More than a dozen animatronic dinosaurs that roar, snarl and move with lifelike ferocity will be part of the zoo's new dinosaur exhibit, scheduled to run May 17 to Sept. 1.

Guests will encounter 13 different species of dinosaurs as they walk through a lifelike exhibit. Dinosaurs range from the 90-foot-tall brachiosaurus to the two-foot-tall compsognathus. Each dinosaur is built on a steel frame and covered with intricately painted foam-rubber skin. State-of-the-art electronics and air pistons power their grasping claws and gnashing teeth, making them remarkably believable. Visitors will travel a dino-lined pathway and learn what these giants ate, how they cared for their young, what their relationships to other animals were like and possible reasons they became extinct. Additional information is available at [www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org) or by calling 503-226-1561.

## Metro Councilors help "Fork it Over!"

In a state rich in natural resources, the dichotomy of rising hunger rates and increased waste entering our regional transfer stations seems improbable. However, of all trash deposited in the Metro region each year, 180,000 tons (approximately 14 percent of total trash) is usable food.

"Fork it Over!" is Metro's umbrella food donation program to reduce hunger and waste in the Portland metropolitan area by working with businesses and individuals to collect food before it hits the trash can and get it to people in need. Fresh Alliance is an Oregon Food Bank (OFB) program that works with grocery chains to recover meat and dairy products that otherwise would be thrown away. Since 1996, Metro has disbursed approximately \$700,000 in grants to the OFB and Fresh Alliance program. The grants have supplied freezer and refrigerated trucks and other resources involved in food reuse packaging and transport.

Metro Councilors and senior staff were able to see firsthand how these grants have helped alleviate regional hunger. On Jan. 3, councilors and staff volunteered at the OFB, where they sorted and repackaged more than 4,400 pounds of frozen meat for distribution to food reuse agencies throughout the region and state.

For more information about Metro's Fork it Over! program, please visit [www.forkitover.org](http://www.forkitover.org) or call 503-797-1647.



## Integrating Habitats design competition awards Feb. 26

In February, a group of prestigious professionals in the architecture and design industries will gather to judge an innovative competition focusing on maintaining or enhancing our region's exceptional natural landscape. Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods program launched "Integrating Habitats. A Design Competition." as a way to develop innovative, visionary building designs with nature in mind.

Winners will be announced at an award event Tuesday, Feb. 26 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park, Portland. The event, which is open to the public, will also serve as the kick-off for the People's Choice category, an online voting system open to the public. For more information, visit [www.metro-region.org/integratinghabitats](http://www.metro-region.org/integratinghabitats), call 503-797-1764 or e-mail [harlanc@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:harlanc@metro.dst.or.us).

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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.

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