

Councilor Burkholder is continually updating his contact list, so you may be receiving this newsletter for the first time. If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter or wish to be taken off this list, please contact Kathryn Sofich at kathryn.sofich@oregonmetro.gov. [Requires that your e-mail be set to HTML view.]



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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.

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1. A message from Rex Burkholder

'Tis the season - to recycle! The holiday season can generate a lot of waste – from giving gifts to buying decorations. I encourage you to find ways to reduce your waste and recycle the waste you cannot avoid. You can reduce the trash associated with the holidays in a number of ways:

- purchase gifts with little or no packaging;
- buy recycled-content gift-wrap;
- avoid foil or plastic-coated paper;

- take someone to a play, concert or the zoo;
- give gifts that benefit the environment; and
- teach someone a skill you possess — knitting, woodworking or music.

Many of these tips will also help you reduce the amount of money you spend on gifts as well. Once the holidays have passed you can recycle your Christmas tree. The City of Portland offers curbside tree recycling collection. For specific instructions, call your local solid waste and recycling office, your garbage hauler, or Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000. The hearing-impaired can call TDD (503) 797-1804.

You can find more [tips and guides for sustainable gifts](#) in the Sustainable Living and Waste Reduction section of our website. Also, don't forget the many families and individuals who are in need this holiday season. I encourage you to think about volunteering or donating to the [Oregon Food Bank](#).

Lastly, the Metro Council will be holding our inauguration at the Oregon Zoo on January 8th from 4-6pm. You are invited to attend and witness me being sworn in for my third term, along with Councilor Carl Hosticka, Councilor Carlotta Collette, and Councilor Robert Liberty. Hope to see you there.

I wish you and your family a safe and festive holiday season.

- Rex Burkholder

2. High Capacity Transit System Plan enters screening phase – District 5

Feedback from residents, businesses, community organizations and elected officials identified 192 potential connections in approximately 55 corridors around the region. Suggestions were requested as part of the update to the Regional High Capacity Transit System Plan. Metro is currently working to screen and evaluate viable corridors for the next phase of public review and input.

The system plan will prioritize high capacity transit investments in new corridors and changes to existing corridors over the next 30 years. The system plan tells Metro where the best locations are for major rail and bus transit capital investments based on evaluation criteria derived from the Regional Transportation Plan. The results will be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan, the Portland metropolitan area's blueprint for a multi-modal transportation system.

During July through November, more than 50 stakeholders were interviewed, more than 150 people attended public workshops and more than 200 people were informed about the project and offered suggestions at farmers markets and other public events. More than 200 people participated in an interactive questionnaire on Metro's web site from Aug. 12 to Oct. 1, 2008. District 5 was represented by online survey respondents; participants at the East Portland workshop, Willamette Riverfest and the Portland Farmers' Market; and interviews with the Alliance of Portland Neighborhood Business Associations, the

Columbia Corridor Association, Freightliner, UPS Air, Portland Community College, Portland Public Schools and Elders in Action.

The screening process will assess potential corridors based on existing and future potential ridership, corridor availability and cost, environmental impacts, equity considerations, connectivity to the current system, congestion reduction, and support for regional 2040 land-use designations, among other measures. It is estimated that 10 to 20 viable corridors will pass the screening criteria and be evaluated at a more detailed level.

In spring 2009, Metro will share evaluation results with the public and begin discussing tradeoffs, choices and priorities. An interactive web survey and other public outreach events will happen at this time.

To learn more about the system plan or to sign up for project updates, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/goingplaces.

3. Drive Less. Save More. Video Challenge

Do you have a passion for promoting decreased driving in the Metro region? November marked the launch of the Drive Less Video Challenge, where the objective is simple: create a 25 second video that motivates people to drive less. The top video will run as a television commercial, plus the grand prize winner will receive an Apple iMac and Final Cut Pro Studio 2 or \$3,000 cash.

Oregon and southwest Washington residents can compete in two categories: a general category (ages 18 and up) and a youth category (ages 17 and younger). Individuals and groups can enter. The video submission deadline is January 30, 2009, after which a panel of judges will pick the top five videos in each category. Selected videos will be scored for message effectiveness, representation of the Drive Less/Save More Campaign, creativity and innovation and video quality. The general public will get to weigh in, too, by voting online in March 2009 for the video that motivates them best to drive less.

The grand prize winner will be determined by combining judges' scores with public votes. The top three winners of the People's Choice Award for both the general and youth categories will be determined by public votes received. Prizes will also be awarded to the winners of the competition's People's Choice Award.

Metro teamed up with ten other sponsors to help make the challenge possible. For a complete list of prizes, sponsors, and contest details visit <http://www.drivelessavemore.com/> or send an e-mail to contact@drivelessavemore.com to get challenge notices.

4. Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight Committee findings

Voters across the nation and here at home have consistently showed their support for land conservation. In November 2006 voters approved Metro's \$227.4 million bond measure to protect natural areas, safeguard water quality and ensure that citizens have access to

nature close to where they live. This November, voters in Washington County built on that region-wide effort by approving the Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District's \$100 million bond measure to protect local natural areas, water resources and trail projects in the Beaverton area. Even in the midst of an economic crisis, voters across the country approved ballot measures providing more than \$8.4 billion in new funding for land conservation. With funds from the 2006 vote, Metro has protected more than 800 acres of land in 12 different areas from Hillsboro to Gresham and Wilsonville to Northwest Portland – and more land will be protected over the next several years.

Recently, a citizen oversight committee reviewed Metro's progress implementing the 2006 Natural Areas Program and concluded that "Metro is conducting the Natural Areas Program in a way that is accountable and transparent." The committee report stated that Metro has been successful in purchasing targeted acquisitions and that administrative costs are well under national benchmarks.

Find out more about these protected natural areas by visiting www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas or come see them yourself by participating in a special "sneak preview" tour hosted by Metro and local elected officials. To get on the invitation list send email to naturalareas@oregonmetro.gov or call 503-797-1545.

Additional information includes:

*More Green Spaces Equal Better Health for All
<http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/009016.html>

A recent study offers hard evidence of something many of us have known for a long time: access to nature improves our health.

*A clear view: A report to the community from the Natural Areas Program Performance Oversight Committee
http://www.oregonmetro.gov/files/about/oversight_committee_report_2008.pdf

5. When the animals go to bed, the lights come out to play: the 21st annual ZooLights festival kicks off

The Zoo lights are back with more than a million bright bulbs illuminating the zoo for the 21st annual ZooLights festival, beginning Nov. 29 at 5 p.m. This family tradition, presented by the Boeing Company, features life-size animal silhouettes and moving light sculptures on display throughout the zoo. Families can expect to see their old favorites as well as some new surprises - including unicorns, dinosaurs and an animated, roaring lion in honor of the upcoming Predators of the Serengeti exhibit, scheduled to open in 2009.

Other new displays include dinosaurs, a baby elephant and a California condor chick, which are only a few of the new features this year. The most impressive is that many of the lights are made of LED's, which use about a tenth of the power of normal iridescent bulbs.

Music fans can enjoy the highly animated light silhouette of Mick Jaguar, who performs near the picnic area with his all-star animal band, including: Packy Pachyderm tickling the ivories, Richard Lion playing guitar, Gerri Giraffe on bass, Billy Bear on trumpet, Orville Orangutan on drums and Willy Wildebeest on sax. The Ostrich Sisters add backing vocals. Live music will resound throughout the zoo as well, with more than 100 schools, churches, professional groups and local dance troupes performing holiday musical selections.

Popular costumed characters and elves will greet zoo visitors and pose for pictures. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is one of the many popular guests for kids. Some of the zoo's animals will also be visible, including mountain goats, elephants, primates, and approachable sheep and goats.

To see a preview of the light display, visit www.oregonzoo.org/Events/ZooLights/preview.htm

6. Metro Hires First Sustainability Coordinator

In November, Metro took another step in the direction of sustainability - hiring its first Sustainability Coordinator, Molly Chidsey. Chidsey says she has “an innate passion for sustainable communities and equal access to environmental benefits for everyone.”

Chidsey comes to Metro from Multnomah County’s Sustainability Program, where she led efforts to prevent waste, increase recycling, reduce toxics, and make purchases more sustainable. She has led development of several projects, including a waste prevention & recycling plan for county facilities, a toxics reduction strategy in partnership with the City of Portland, and a city-county sustainable procurement strategy.

Chidsey will plan and implement projects and programs to help Metro reach its goal of being a model sustainable operation. She will also coordinate Metro’s efforts to reach five main sustainability goals adopted by the Metro Council in 2003. Those goals – to be met by 2025 – include: zero net increase in carbon emissions; zero discharge of persistent, bio-accumulative toxins; zero waste disposed and incinerated; 50 percent reduction in water consumption; and zero net loss of biodiversity and productive healthy habitat for forests and riparian areas.

Metro’s sustainability programs date back more than 20 years. The agency’s charter approved by regional voters in 1992, states that Metro’s primary service is “planning and policy making to preserve and enhance the quality of life and the environment for themselves and for future generations.” The Metro Council adopted language this year to define sustainability as “using, developing and protecting resources in a manner that enables people to meet current needs and provides that future generations can also meet future needs, from the joint perspective of environmental economic and community objectives.”

Her work will build on the efforts of Metro's volunteer Environmental Action Team (ENACT), which has coordinated environmental efforts at Metro operations and includes representatives from five Metro facilities.

7. Events of Note in the District

Columbia Slough stewardship Saturday

Saturday, December 13

9 a.m. to noon

Work to improve habitat within the Columbia Slough watershed. Help with a variety of activities, including invasive species removal, native tree planting, trail maintenance and canoe-based trash cleanups. Refreshments, gloves and tools are provided. For more information, call Jesse at 503-281-1132.

Eastbank Esplanade to Oaks Bottom walk

Wednesday, December 17

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Join urban naturalist Mike Houck for a 4-mile walk on the Eastbank Esplanade to the north meadow and wetlands at 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. This is a one-way walk along the Springwater on the Willamette trail with a return via TriMet bus. Registration and cost is free. Advance registration required; visit www.audubonportland.org or call 503-292-6855 ext. 116.

Holiday paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

Saturday, December 27

Noon to 4 p.m.

Explore this 2,000-acre wetland from the water. Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. The trip leader will contact participants if it is necessary to cancel the trip due to low water levels. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Advance registration required; call Dale Svart at 503-285-3084.

Urban ethnobotany explorations

Sunday, December 28

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Explore a new part of Portland each month by foot, bike or boat and learn the stories of the plants that surround you everyday. Native species, weeds and horticultural plants combine to create amazing plant diversity in the city. Learn identification skills as well as how many of these plants can be used for food, medicine, fiber, tools and more. Suitable for adults and teens 14 and older. Cost is \$40. Advance registration required; call 503-253-5898.

8. Councilor Rex Burkholder's Contact Information

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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

Carlotta Collette, District 2

Carl Hosticka, District 3

Kathryn Harrington, District 4

Rex Burkholder, District 5

Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor Suzanne Flynn

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

