

Carl Hosticka

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 NEWS | March 2009

Carl Hosticka represents District 3, which includes portions of Washington and Clackamas counties and the cities of Beaverton, Durham, King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville.



Metro's recycling hotline: over two million served

The Metro Recycling Information hotline reached a major milestone when it answered its two millionth call on Saturday, February 28th. The popular recycling and disposal information clearinghouse has been part of the regional government since 1981. Fielding such questions as "how can I recycle 300,000 defective shopping bags" and "what can I do with 2.5 tons of outdated astrology books," the hotline operates six days per week with a staff of six specialists who answer questions from residents and businesses about recycling, garbage disposal, household hazardous waste, natural gardening and reuse options for unwanted materials.

In this increasingly automated era, callers are frequently surprised to hear a person answer the phone. According to customer-service surveys, callers value the quick, helpful answers they get from talking with people at Metro's recycling information hotline.

The hotline has grown from an operation whose only resource was a map marked with recycling depots to a GIS database-driven service with hundreds of recycling, reuse and disposal referrals as well as several hundred topic files. In its first year of operation, the hotline answered just over 9000 calls. In 2008 more than 104,000 calls were answered.

The recycling information referral database can also be viewed through Metro's website. This additional way of providing information captured another audience: businesses that want to recycle. About 90 percent of hotline calls are residential, but 88 percent of web visitors in 2008 were from businesses.

Metro Recycling Information, at 503-234-3000, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Find a Recycler web page address is www.oregonmetro.gov/findrecycler.

Metro Council meetings online

Metro Council meetings can now be viewed in streaming video on the TVCTV website (our cable provider for Washington County):

<http://www.tvctv.org/content/media/govtstreams.asp>

Each Metro Council meeting that is taped by our cable providers will be able to be viewed on this website. (There may be a delay of usually no more than a day when TVCTV does not provide the filming crew. We alternate weekly between TVCTV and PCM.) This is not yet a service provided by our other cable provider, Portland Community Media.

Metro Council advances 15 priority areas for possible transit investments

The Metro Council voted February 12th to approve further evaluation of 15 transportation corridors for future investments in light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit or rapid streetcar. The corridors are spread throughout the region and will be part of Metro's Regional High Capacity Transit System Plan. The Plan is a 30-year approach to prioritizing investments in new transportation corridors as well as changes to existing corridors, and is being developed as a component of the federally mandated Regional Transportation Plan.

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The 15 areas were narrowed from a broad list of 55 proposed corridors, which Metro developed with region-wide engagement from residents, businesses, community organizations and local elected leaders. The corridors selected for further evaluation best fit the criteria of expected ridership, cost, environmental constraints, social equity, transit connectivity, traffic congestion and regional 2040 Growth Concept land uses. Funding and specific modes have not yet been designated for any particular corridor.

The Council also adopted a set of criteria to prioritize the 15 selected corridors. These criteria are based on community, environment, economic and deliverability measures.

To learn more about the plan, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/goingplaces.

Metro employees make the plunge for Special Olympics

What reason would seemingly functional people put on silly costumes and jump into the Columbia River in February? It can only be one thing - the annual Polar Plunge! A special event co-sponsored by Metro, the Polar Bear Plunge is a unique opportunity for individuals, organizations and local businesses to support Special Olympics Oregon athletes by jumping, walking or slowly crawling into the icy Columbia River.

The plunge took place at Metro's M. James Gleason Boat Ramp and Broughton Beach. It was estimated that as many as a thousand participants took the plunge including Metro's own employee team, the "I C Rangers." Lead by Metro parks property stewardship director Mike Brown, the team hoped to raise \$1000 for the Special Olympics by dipping into the frigid waters. "I C Rangers" team members include Scott Paskill, Annie West, Mike Carpinella, Howard Rasmussen, Jim Caudell, Ryan Hixson, Resa Allen and Kendra Carrillo.

Oregon Zoo receives three condors with colorful pasts

Three California condors — a would-be homewrecker, the survivor of a shotgun blast to the face, and a bitter old maid — will make a fresh start in the Northwest, looking to find love in the Oregon Zoo's condor program.

Despite these birds' soap-opera pasts, the zoo recently welcomed them to its facility at the Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation,

where the notorious trio will augment an already successful program for breeding the endangered condor. The birds arrived from the Los Angeles Zoo.

Kojjati, a female condor from California, had been involved in several love triangles while in the wild and was always dumped for the other female. The drama that inevitably ensues in these situations endangers the eggs and young chicks — the primary reason Kojjati was taken out of the wild.

Timocho was taken out of the wild a few years ago after reports that she had possibly sustained an injury while in a national wildlife refuge. Upon her capture, it was discovered that Timocho had been shot in the face by a shotgun. Pellets from the blast had damaged one of her eyes and her tongue, and fractured bones in and around her mouth.

Although her situation appeared bleak, Timocho was taken to the Los Angeles Zoo and nursed back to health. She was hand-fed at first, but now is able to eat standard food without assistance.

The third condor acquired by the zoo is Elewese, a relatively old bird who has lived most of her life in captivity. St. Michael is uncertain whether they will try to pair her with a male, but says Elewese has embraced her matronly role and is content serving as a mentor to the other young condors in the program.

The zoo's condor recovery efforts take place at the Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation, located in Clackamas County on Metro-owned open space. The remoteness of the facility minimizes the exposure of young condors to people, increasing the chances for captive-hatched birds to survive and breed in the wild.

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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