

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

Summertime is a great time to get out into your neighborhood and explore. And there is no better way than to jump on your bike, strap on some skates or take a stroll. Portland is so beautiful this time of year (makes up for the long, gray winters, kinda) and it's really worth your while to do an evening or weekend outing.

To help you along, the City of Portland is sponsoring two more [Sunday Parkways](#), where certain streets are closed to traffic, car traffic, that is, and open for you to move around some of Portland's best neighborhoods on bike, foot, stroller or skates. The next Sunday Parkway is in Northeast Portland on July 19 from 9am-4pm. Click [here](#) to look at where the route will be. This route will be a 6.6-mile two-way route showcasing portions of the Vernon, Concordia, Cully, Alameda, Sabin, and Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhoods. The route will also feature the Ainsworth parkway, Alameda bluff and will cross the Alberta, Beaumont and 42 Avenue business districts.

On August 16th, Southeast Portland is featured, including Mt. Tabor Park, a great place to look out over the city or gaze at Mt. Hood. Click [here](#) to take a look at the route. This route will be a 9-mile two-way route featuring two loops. A 5-mile relatively flat loop through portions of the Buckman, Kerns, Laurelhurst, Richmond, Sunnyside neighborhoods. A second, more challenging, 4-mile Mt Tabor loop will be optional to summit the only volcano in the City limits. The route will also cross the SE Hawthorne, Division and Belmont business areas.

Sunday Parkways is also a great event to volunteer for, either in the neighborhood parks where there is music, info booths and activities, or on the route, helping to direct traffic by being an Intersection Superhero. To find out more about volunteering check out their [website](#), or contact Janis McDonald at Janis.McDonald@pdxtrans.org or call 503-823-5358.

Hope to see you there!!

-Rex Burkholder

2. Metro Council budgets for design and construction of Blue Lake Nature and Golf Learning Center

The Metro Council has budgeted \$10.6 million to complete design, engineering and construction of an environmentally-focused nature and golf learning center at Blue Lake Regional Park in Fairview, Oregon. The master plan includes a nine-hole family golf course, a six-hole pitch and putt course, a pre-engineered golf and operations building, and a covered driving range. Plans also include replacement of the aging Lake House Events Center, restoration of an existing wetland and other improvements to Blue Lake Park.

The Nature and Golf Learning Center will be built in a sustainable manner and will be designed to protect and improve water quality, wildlife and native habitat. The center will offer educational programs, and the golf courses will provide individuals of all ages and golf abilities the opportunity to learn and play on a fun, challenging and unique course. Designers have located holes to respect the environment and the Native American history in the area, and have routed the course to take advantage of river, lake and wetland views as well as contribute to their protection.

Located in an 85-acre undeveloped Metro parcel on the east side of Blue Lake Road, the golf course will use minimal water and no harmful chemicals. Because no direct streams feed into the 64-acre Blue Lake, the land-locked body of water suffers from algae growth and other factors that contribute to lowered water quality, which has been mitigated somewhat by the introduction of solar-powered water circulators through a partnership between Metro and the Blue Lake Improvement Association. As a further improvement to water quality, Metro hopes to employ a system in which the golf course is watered from the lake and fresh water is pumped into the lake, helping to create a more natural circulation of water.

The anticipated opening for the facility is summer 2012. The contract for design and construction was awarded to Waterleaf/Design Works of Portland.

Blue Lake Regional Park is located 20 minutes east of downtown Portland and is open from 8 a.m. to legal sunset every day except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Metro, the regional government that serves 1.4 million people in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area, provides planning and other services that protect the nature and livability of our region.

3. Waste Management of Oregon opens recycling center near Hillsboro

Waste Management of Oregon christened an expansive and ultra-green recycling center that will dramatically increase recycling and reduce landfill waste across Washington County. The recycling center will accept construction and demolition castoffs that, in the past, have ended up in landfills. It will collect, sort and reclaim these materials – concrete, asphalt, wood, and metals – for use in new ways.

The new facility is a \$10 million investment for Waste Management. The project involved 100 construction jobs and has resulted in 20 permanent jobs. The new facility is at 3205 SE Minter Bridge Road near Hillsboro, where Waste Management also operates a landfill and manages more than 100 acres of certified wildlife habitat and wetlands. The landfill is permitted to accept primarily construction and demolition debris. It does not accept household garbage or hazardous waste.

4. High Capacity Transit System Plan nears completion

The High Capacity Transit System Plan will go before the Metro Council on July 9 for a vote on the corridor tiers and framework for the system expansion policy. The tiers and policy will then be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan, which will be available for public comment this summer before finalization in the fall.

The tiers designate the studied corridors into near-term, next phase, developing and regional vision priorities. The tiered approach allows Metro and local partners a framework in which to work in order to better prepare areas around the potential lines to be supportive of high capacity transit, ensuring continued success in our regional investments. During the summer, the RTP will set the system expansion policy targets and processes for corridors to advance to a higher priority tier.

For more information about the High Capacity Transit System Plan, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/goingplaces.

5. Events of note throughout the region

Old-time bluegrass tunes

Friday, July 10

8:30pm-9:30pm

Join the GTE String Band with Greg Stone on guitar, Tony Rocci on mandolin and guitar and Eileen Rocci on upright bass for a bluegrass hootenanny with fun sing-a-long songs for the kid in all of us. Campfire programs are held in the outdoor forest amphitheater across from the

campground. They are a great way to spend the evening when camping at Oxbow, but no need to camp to enjoy them. Wrap up a lazy afternoon along the river or a picnic dinner by sitting around the campfire. Although the park closes at sunset, those who attend the campfire program and want to leave afterward are let out at the gate by the rangers. Park in the designated area near the boat ramp. Programs are free with a \$5 per vehicle entry fee to the park. No registration required. For more information, call 503-797-1850. *Hosted by Metro*

Great Slough Clean Up

Saturday, July 11

9am-noon

Enjoy getting muddy for the good of the local waterway? Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council for the third annual Great Slough Clean Up and help haul a decade's worth of trash out of Whitaker Slough. Meet at 7040 NE 47th Ave. Bring a canoe or kayak or schedule a rental by calling 503-281-1132. *Hosted by Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

4T hike – trail, tram, trolley and train

Wednesday, July 15

5:30pm-8:30pm

Join Don Baack, project manager for the 4T signage project and chair of SW Trails for the ultimate Portland excursion that begins with a 3.95-mile hike up the Marquam Trail to the city's highest point, Council Crest. Pass through the campus of OHSU and ride free down the Portland Aerial Tram to the developing South Waterfront District. Elevated terrain. Meet at the Washington Park MAX station at 4001 SW Canyon Road. Bring MAX pass or \$2.30 for ticket. Free. Registration not required. For more information, call 503-813-7574. *Sponsored by Metro and Kaiser Permanente*

Sunday Parkways: Northeast Portland

Sunday, July 19

noon-4pm

Sunday Parkways offer a chance for people to get out and enjoy walking, biking, rolling, running or skating on traffic-free streets! The 7- to 8-mile routes along city streets connect local parks that host music, food and fun activities like yoga, juggling, stilt walking or hula hooping. Experience Portland from a new perspective, meet your neighbors and enjoy all kinds of entertainment along the way. Intersections are staffed by volunteers allowing residents to get to and from their driveways, with larger streets supervised by police and certified flaggers. For more information, visit www.portlandonline.com/transportation. If you are interested in volunteering, call 503-823-5358. *Hosted by City of Portland Bureau of Transportation, Kaiser Permanente and Metro*

15th annual Columbia Slough Regatta

Sunday, July 26

9am-1pm

Join the largest one-day paddle in Oregon and canoe in search of eagles, otters and turtles. Launch into the safe, slack water of the Columbia Slough from the former St. Johns Landfill site at 9363 N. Columbia Blvd. Bring a boat or schedule a complimentary 45-minute rental by visiting www.columbiaslough.org. Suggested donation, \$7. Wheelchair accessible by arrangement. *Hosted by Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

For a full list of events, please check the [Metro Calendar](#)

6. Councilor Rex Burkholder's Contact Information

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Web www.metro-region.org/

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.