



Your Council in Action

Reported By Dan O'Dell
City Manager

The following article is comprised of council actions taken at Damascus City Council meetings and work sessions during mid October through mid November 2011.

- Decision on Working Land Use Map:** Finalization of the comprehensive plan involves several projects that require a land use designation map as a starting point. The Council directed staff to start with the rejected comprehensive plan map and propose a simplified map. The staff produced two simplified maps and on October 27, 2011 the Council made its decision. The map is called the "Working Land Use Map". The term "working" was used to indicate that refinements will be made as the city proceeds through the completion of the Comprehensive Plan. The first review of the Working Land Use Map will occur over the next two months as the Damascus Planning Commission and the Damascus City Council hear from citizens about land use designations.

- Kaiser Grant:** The Council approved the acceptance of the Kaiser Access to Healthy Foods Grant. The city will receive \$100,000 over a 3-year period. Components of this work will include: an assessment report, a community engagement and outreach program and the adoption of a Damascus Healthy Food Plan. Draft policies directed at ensuring Damascus residents have access to healthy foods will be developed for the Council's consideration.

- Guidelines for Community Ecology Grants:** The Council reviewed and provided direction to the staff on a draft Community Ecology grant program. When finalized this program will provide seed money to community groups for them to tackle a project aimed at bettering the community. The city staff will now make revisions to the program and bring it back to the Council for consideration.

- Comcast Presentation:** The Council heard a presentation from Comcast, one of the city's cable franchise companies, about their program called Internet Essentials. This program will be available

to certain households with children who receive free lunches through the National School Lunch Program. Eligible families will receive internet services at a reduced price and a low-cost computer. Visit InternetEssentials.com/partner to find out details of the program.

- Land Purchase for Parks and Open Space:** The Council is in the negotiations stage of purchasing property for park and open space use. Funding is from Metro's Parks and Open Space grant. A sub-committee of the City Council met with the full Council in executive session to discuss offers and counter offers on a specific property. It is anticipated that a decision on the chosen property will be made before the end of the year.

- Meals on Wheels:** The Council heard a presentation on the Meals on Wheels program as it relates to meals provided to senior citizens in Damascus. The Council is deliberating on the city's involvement.

Briefly...

Holiday Open House: December 12th, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

The city will be hosting its annual Holiday Open House on Monday, December 12th from 5:30-7:30 PM at City Hall (more on page 4).

Park Planning Begins - Open House: January 7th, 11:00 Am - 1:00 pm

Public invited to help design the park property along Anderegg Parkway. Join us at Sunnyside Community Church: 16444 SE Highway 212, from 11:00 AM -1:00 PM, January 7, 2012. (more on page 4).

Next Town Hall: Saturday January 14th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Mark your calendar and plan to join us! The next Town Hall will be at Hillside Community Church, 23225 SE Borges Road (more on page 3).

City News Comments Welcome

If you have comments or suggestions about your city news content or distribution, please contact Tammie Milkes, city news editor at Damascus City Hall, tmilkes@damascusoregon.gov / 503-658-8545.

Mayor's Monthly

A Brief History of the Initiative and Referendum Process in America

Greetings fellow citizens of Damascus

As one of your elected representatives I felt it good to do a brief study on the history of the initiative process in America. The recent scientific survey that was done

showed you are a very involved community and you are informed regarding the issues we face here, which proves you are well able to provide input into our future.



any change to the one document; the constitution. However, James Madison said it best in Federalist 49 when he stated: "as the people are the only legitimate fountain of power, and it is from them that the constitutional charter, under which the several branches of government got their power." Even with the advent of legislative referendum the people began to realize in the late 1800's that they had no direct ability to reign in an out of touch government.

In the 1890's and 1900's saw the establishment of the *Populist and Progressive* movements. Both were based on the people's dissatisfaction with government and it's ability to deal effectively in addressing the problems of the day. The supporters of both of these movements had become especially outraged that moneyed special interest groups controlled government and that the people had no ability to break this control. They soon proposed a comprehensive platform of political reforms that included woman's suffrage, secret ballots, direct election of US senators and the initiative process. The cornerstone

of their reform package was the establishment of the initiative process for they knew that without it many of the reforms they wanted - that were being blocked, would not be possible. *Their support for the process was based on a theory of trusting the individual and not as a method of destroying representative government - but to enhance it.*

The Populists/Progressive efforts soon began to pay off. In 1897, Nebraska became the first state to allow cities to place initiatives and referendums on their charters. In 1898 South Dakota became the first state to adopt a statewide initiative and referendum process. Utah followed in 1900. *In 1902 Oregon voters approved their initiative and referendum process by a convincing 11 to 1 margin.* Other states soon followed.

I trust and welcome your input and direction as we plan our city together. You can call me at 503.312.3450 or email me at sspinnett@damascusoregon.gov.

Steve Spinnett
Mayor

Initiative and referendum (I&R) has existed in some form in this country since the 1600's. Citizens placed ordinances and other issues on the agenda for discussion then a vote of the people was taken utilizing town meetings. These town meetings established a precedent which lead to the referendum process - a process in which citizens were entrusted with ratifying laws and amendments proposed by their elected officials.

Thomas Jefferson was the first of our founding fathers to propose legislative referendum when he advocated it for the 1775 Virginia state constitution. His strong support for establishing the process was based on his belief that the people are sovereign and should be the ones to agree to and approve

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Council and Mayor's articles are written from the perspective of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the entire council.

Our Role as Community Leaders: Part II

By Dr. Marlo Dean
Damascus City Councilor



As a city council, I believe it is our job to present a positive vision for the future of this community – and then set to work together to do things – not because they are easy, but because they are right. I recently read comments by New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, which reflected on actions taken by leaders going back as early as the 19th century. He said, “Today, it is impossible to imagine New York City without the infrastructure that was built 100 years ago by a generation that looked forward and understood their obligation to their children.” He went on, “Now, it is our turn — to think ambitiously, act boldly, and invest wisely.”

Think ambitiously, act boldly and invest wisely. That too is my hope for this council. My comments so far have focused heavily on the leadership role city council can play within our community. While the city council has a leadership role to play, we will only be as successful as the community around us. Remaining connected with the citizens we serve will be critical throughout our term. We work for all of you.

An elected official can choose to be merely a voice box to repeat what individuals say to us. To be truly effective in our role and to best represent all of our citizens, we need to do more than that. We need to be community leaders. As community leaders, I am hopeful that we will find a balanced approach to achieving our collective, positive vision. This may not be easy, but it will be extremely rewarding, because the community will benefit from our efforts. This is why we are here and it is within our grasp. Together we can build an even better community.

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Continued from the November City News...

Land Use Laws: How They Affect Damascus

By Diana Helm
Damascus City Council President



Last month I wrote about State Land Use laws and how they affect Damascus. It must be reiterated that these are State of Oregon Land Use laws, not Metro Land Use laws. These laws cannot be changed at the local level – if you feel they are unfair or cumbersome, I encourage you to talk to your State Representative and see how to go about getting the laws changed. In the meantime, we have to abide by these laws.

Now I want to address where we stand right now. Citizens ask me daily: Why isn't there progress? What am I getting for my taxpayer dollars? When is the plan going to be completed so our land values go up? When will the plan be done so we can bring jobs to Damascus?

To all of these questions my answer is this: It's up to you – our citizens. Until there is a Comprehensive Plan in place, we are stuck. That may be good news to many of you who hope growth never happens in Damascus. But *we* are still required to complete a Comprehensive Plan and submit it to the State. However, *you* are not required to do anything once the plan is completed. If you choose to leave your

land exactly as it is, that is your choice.

Council is in the process of making changes to the rejected Comprehensive Plan Map and Policies. The next plan that you will see, what I believe we should call the Damascus 100 Year Plan, must do the following:

- ✓ Immediately increase property values (this will happen when the plan is acknowledged by the State)
- ✓ Support a robust infrastructure for businesses to create jobs
- ✓ Encourage flexibility by allowing stream setback variations from 100-200'
- ✓ Reflect the environmental sensibilities of our citizens
- ✓ Respect the rights of property owners to do nothing if they wish

I ask for you, our citizens, to support us in order for your city to accomplish the above stated goals and stop unnecessary expenses due to unnecessary delays. We became a city to protect what is important to us and create a plan that works for us, rather than to replicate what other cities have done. Your council has worked hard to balance the values of our citizens. We've worked extremely hard to be fair and respectful of your land.

Now it's up to you to help us move forward.

Volunteering in Your Community

By Mary Wescott
Damascus City Councilor



I often get asked why I volunteer. Here are some of the questions I'm often asked and my reasons for volunteering.

Why is volunteering important to you?

I think volunteering helps bring a community together. My father was a volunteer firefighter when I was growing up; he served as an example to me of giving back to the community. My father-in-law, Dee Wescott—Damascus's first mayor—and my husband, Karl, both volunteered for many years with the local fire district. I wanted to give back to my community as well, so I became one of the charter members of the local Kiwanis club and I currently also serve as a member of the Damascus City Council.

How do you think volunteering helps our community?

The people who staff volunteer organizations work tirelessly and give many hundreds of hours to help protect and serve the community. For example, we have a volunteer fire department, a Kiwanis club (which is a service organization), a Boy Scout troop, the Damascus

Civic Club, the Damascus City Council, and many churches—all of which consist of unpaid volunteer workers.

In the case of the fire department, volunteer labor saves thousands of tax dollars every year; they have the community food baskets at Christmas time to help the less fortunate, and young adults learn the ins and outs of fire service from experienced men and women. The Kiwanis club serves the children of the community. They help the Damascus Civic Club put on the Day in Damascus festival; they sponsor K-Kids and Builders' clubs in the local grade- and middle schools. Kiwanis helps support Doernbecher Children's Cancer Program and they do the highway clean up. We have a Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop, where the adult leaders put in countless hours of training so that they can teach the boys the basics of camping, hiking, and cooking.

What advice do you have for others who would like to start volunteering?

I volunteer because it makes me feel good that I'm giving back to the community, it gives me a sense of self worth, and it's an example to my son. There are many ways to volunteer within our community; I've mentioned just a few, but there are many more, such as 4H, soccer, and little league. Find one that fits your needs and lifestyle. Give it a try! What have you got to lose?

Meetings Held on “Working Land Use Map”

By Erika Palmer
Senior Planner



On November 22, 2011 the Damascus Planning Commission began public meetings to hear public comments, discuss and make a recommendation to the City Council on a “Working Land Use Map.” The Working Land Use Map will show the basic land uses necessary to facilitate the

future planning processes for public facilities and transportation. This is *NOT* a final Comprehensive Plan Map, but only a working land use designation map.

The Damascus City Council is scheduled to review the Planning Commission's recommendation at their City Council meeting on January 17, 2012 at 7:00pm at City Hall. The City Council will also hear public comments on the proposed recommendation at this public meeting. This meeting may be continued to additional dates if necessary, in

order to provide ample time for anyone who wishes to comment. Please call City Hall or check the city website to verify meeting dates and times. The public will continue to have an opportunity to submit comments on the “Working Land Use Map” even after acceptance by the City Council.

For additional information or if you have questions, please contact Erika Palmer, Senior Planner: epalmer@damascusoregon.gov / 503-658-8545.

Kaiser Permanente Gives City of Damascus "Healthy Food Access" Grant

By Elise Scolnick
AICP, CSBA, Senior Planner

We hear the news about childhood obesity, growing instances of diabetes, heart disease, strokes, cancer and other issues related to unhealthy diets and lifestyles. Can eating healthier foods be a preventative measure to keep these illnesses at bay? What are the food access and security needs in the Damascus/Boring area? Can public policies help build healthy communities?

To address these questions, the City of Damascus recently received a generous three-year, \$100,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente for a Healthy Food Access project entitled "Edible Community: Healthy Damascus Food Plan". The City of Damascus is among a group of nine organizations whose work is funded by Kaiser Permanente to improve the total health of our Northwest communities through "upstream" preventive efforts. The purpose of the City of Damascus' grant is to identify challenges and opportunities to improving the community food system, provide a venue for community-building, collaboration, coordination and support around healthy foods and communities, and ensure that the local food system is protected and enhanced through:

- developing a plan to identify and close gaps in access to healthy foods in the Damascus/Boring communities;
- collecting data, analyzing food-related resources;
- identifying food and active living policies and goals; and,
- developing and adopting policies for food and farm planning to enhance community food access and security.

Phase One (November 2011-August 2012): A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will meet approximately three times during the next several months to review and refine a project work plan, review existing data and identify gaps, select assessment tools and help create surveys and train residents to conduct assessments.

Other activities during this phase will be conducted by staff and/or contractors including a Healthy Eating Active Living scan of existing policies and practices and key stakeholder interviews. Two community workshops will be held during Phase One.

Phase Two (September 2012-August 2013): This encompasses developing a community engagement/outreach plan and program. A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be formed to plan and conduct two or three community outreach events around healthy foods.

Phase Three (September 2013-August 2014): The TAG will reconvene for guidance on developing the final "Healthy Damascus Food Plan" (HDFP) elements. This will involve two or three TAG meetings and one or two community forums. Upon plan completion there will be a formal adoption process before the City Council.

If interested in participating on the Technical Advisory Group, Community Advisory Committee, or as a volunteer, contact Elise Scolnick: (503) 658-8545 / escolnick@damascusoregon.gov.

Volunteers Needed for Budget Committee

By Dan O'Dell
City Manager

The Damascus City Council seeks volunteers to serve on the city's budget committee. The budget committee is responsible to review, amend and approve the proposed budget submitted by the city's budget officer. Typically the budget committee completes its work in two or three evening meetings. The approved budget is then forwarded to the city council for adoption.

The budget committee consists of the city council members and an equal number of "at-large" citizens. The at-large positions are appointed by the city council. You must be eligible to vote in a Damascus election in order to be eligible to serve on the budget committee.

Terms for budget committee positions 5, 6 and 7 expire on March 1, 2012. Appointees will be appointed to a three-year term. The city council will make its appointments to the budget committee at its February 21, 2012 meeting. The application deadline is February 1, 2012. Applications are available at City Hall or on the city website. Please contact Dan O'Dell if you have questions: 503-658-8545 / dodell@damascusoregon.gov.

**JOIN US FOR A TOWN HALL MEETING
WITH YOUR DAMASCUS CITY
COUNCIL**

**Saturday, January 14th, 2012
1:00-3:00 p.m.
At Hillview Community Church
23225 SE Borges Rd.**

**Help to start the New Year off right. Your city
councillors want to hear from you. Share your
most pressing issues and questions
concerning your city. Join in a casual,
facilitated conversation, where you and your
neighbors set the agenda.**

**Hosted by the Committee for Citizen Involvement /
City of Damascus**

(REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED)

Contact Your City Council Members

- | | |
|---|--|
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Police Statistics

October 2011

During October, 55 reports were taken. 7.3% were written by the graveyard shift, 49.1% by the dayshift units and 43.6% were written by the swing shift units.

Type of report	October 2011	October 2010	2010 Average
Accident	4	4	7.0
Theft	2	11	6.9
Criminal Mischief	3	1	2.5
Burglary	0	6	3.8
Stolen Vehicle	0	1	1.5
Identity Theft	0	0	1.5
Assault	0	3	1.1
Drug Crimes	1	0	1.8
Miscellaneous	45	40	47.8
Report Totals	55	66	73.9

Shift Totals	October 2011	October 2010	2010 Average
Graveyard:	4 7.3%	4 6.1%	4.0 5.4%
Day Shift	27 49.1%	35 53.0%	42.3 57.2%
Swing Shift	24 43.6%	27 40.9%	27.7 37.4%

December 2011 Event Calendar

Meeting / Event	DEC	Time	Venue
Coffee with the Mayor	5	7:30 AM	2
City Council Meeting	5	7:00 PM	1
*Planning Com. Public Input Meeting (tentative)	6	6:30 PM	1
Coffee with a Councilor	7	7:30 AM	2
Development Code TST	7	4:00 PM	1
Committee for Citizen Involvement Meeting	7	6:30 PM	1
*Planning Com. Public Input Meeting (tentative)	8	6:30 PM	1
Good Morning Damascus	9	7:30 AM	4
Holiday Celebration Open House	12	5:30-7:30 PM	1
Ice Cream with a Councilor	13	2:00 PM	3
*Planning Com. Public Input Meeting (tentative)	13	6:30 PM	1
*Planning Com. Public Input Meeting (tentative)	14	6:30 PM	1
*Planning Com. Public Input Meeting (tentative)	15	6:30 PM	1
City Council Meeting	19	7:00 PM	1
Development Code Topic Specific Team Meeting	21	4:00 PM	1
Committee for Citizen Involvement	21	6:30 PM	1
City Council Work Session	22	6:30 PM	1
Christmas Holidays Observed	26	Closed	1
Council Work Session	29	6:30 PM	1

- Damascus City Hall
19920 SE Hwy 212..... Venue 1
- Hawaiian Beanz Coffee Co.
19880 SE Highway 212..... Venue 2
- Dairy Queen
20205 SE Highway 212..... Venue 3
- Damascus Middle School
14151 SE 242nd Avenue..... Venue 4

*Tentatively scheduled Planning Commission meetings are only held if needed, in order to continue hearing public comment from the previous meeting due to time elapse.





Parks News

Parks and Open Space Questionnaire: There's Still Time!

By Carrie Brennecke
Associate Planner

The City of Damascus is in the process of developing a Parks and Open Space Master Plan, which is a required element of the Comprehensive Plan. This policy document will guide the development of the parks and recreation facilities in Damascus for the next 20 years.

Damascus would like your input on the community's needs, priorities, and preferences for various types of parks and recreation facilities. If you haven't done so already, please complete the Parks and Open Space Questionnaire, available in last month's issue of City News, at City Hall or on the city website. Questionnaires can be returned to City Hall by mail or in person during business hours or during any city meeting or event. A few minutes of your time will help shape the future parks and open spaces in Damascus. Look forward to more opportunities to provide your input at public open houses winter/spring 2012. Thank you for your participation.

Help Design a Park in the Trillium Neighborhood!

By Carrie Brennecke
Associate Planner

The City of Damascus is excited to announce the first of two public neighborhood park design meetings being held to gather input from the community as we create a park concept plan for developing the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation Division (NCPRD) park property in the Trillium Neighborhood. Let us know what you'd like to see in this neighborhood park during this family friendly event. The city will be providing a BBQ lunch, hosted by the Committee for Citizen Involvement. Please let us know if you plan to attend by January 5th, to help us be better prepared. However, drop-ins are welcome.

Date of Meeting: January 7, 2012
Time: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Place: Sunnyside Community Church, 16444 S.E. Highway 212, Damascus
Contact Carrie Brennecke, Associate Planner for more information or to RSVP: 503- 658-8545 / cbrennecke@damascusoregon.gov.

Holiday Open House

December 12, 2011
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Invite your friends and neighbors and join us in celebrating this holiday season at Damascus City Hall 19920 SE Hwy 212. Enjoy some holiday treats while visiting with Santa, City Council and staff members. Pick up winter safety tips while you check out the festively decorated historical fire engine or fill a child's request by placing an un-wrapped gift under the Giving Tree - donated by Damascus U-Cut.

Photos with Santa

Historic Fire-Engine

Refreshments

Holiday Giving Tree

Candy Canes

Music / Carolers

Holiday Safety Fair

Connect With Your City

The city offers many ways to know what is going on in your community, get answers to your questions and voice your opinion.

Offices: Located in the Bi-Mart shopping complex at 19920 SE Highway 212, city offices are open from 8:00 AM -5:00 PM weekdays. The city contracts with Clackamas County Sheriff's Office to maintain a presence of Damascus deputies. The city maintains an information center on city, county and regional projects, activities and services. The city also has an annex located on Damascus Lane.

Departments/Staffing: The city staff has expertise in Community Development, Planning and Geographic Information Services (GIS), Public Works, Public Involvement, Municipal Court, Code Compliance, Financial and Administrative services and Emergency Management.

Website: Visit the website at www.damascusoregon.gov for up to date information on meeting agendas and reports, events, maps, frequently asked questions and answers, historical documents, city newsletters and links to important community and safety information. Through the homepage you may sign-up to receive automated email notifications of City Council, Planning Commission and other committee meetings, e-news, and job postings. You may also click on the "Let Us Know" icon to send an opinion or to request resolution for a concern.

City Council Meetings: The Damascus City Council meets at 7:00 PM the first and third Monday of each month at City Hall. The **Planning Commission** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM and the **Committee for Citizen Involvement** meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 PM. All meetings are open to the public and time is set aside for public comment. City Council meetings are recorded and broadcast on Willamette Falls Television (Comcast channel 23; Clear Creek channel 18; Frontier channel 25). The playback schedule is:

Thursday Council Meetings 10:00 am and 7:30 pm	Sunday Council Meetings 8:30 am and 5:00 pm
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Damascus City News: The city's news is distributed as a stand alone newspaper to Damascus residences, businesses and post office boxes on a monthly basis. Back issues are available at City Hall and on the city website. If you do not live in the city but would like to receive the city news, contact Tammie Milkes at 503-658-8545.

City News is produced and paid for by the City of Damascus. News articles written by citizens, committee members, planning commissioners, city councilors or the mayor do not necessarily reflect the views of the city, but are welcomed opinions of the individual writer.

