



# NEWSLETTER

STRENGTH IN UNITY

Second Quarter 2023

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



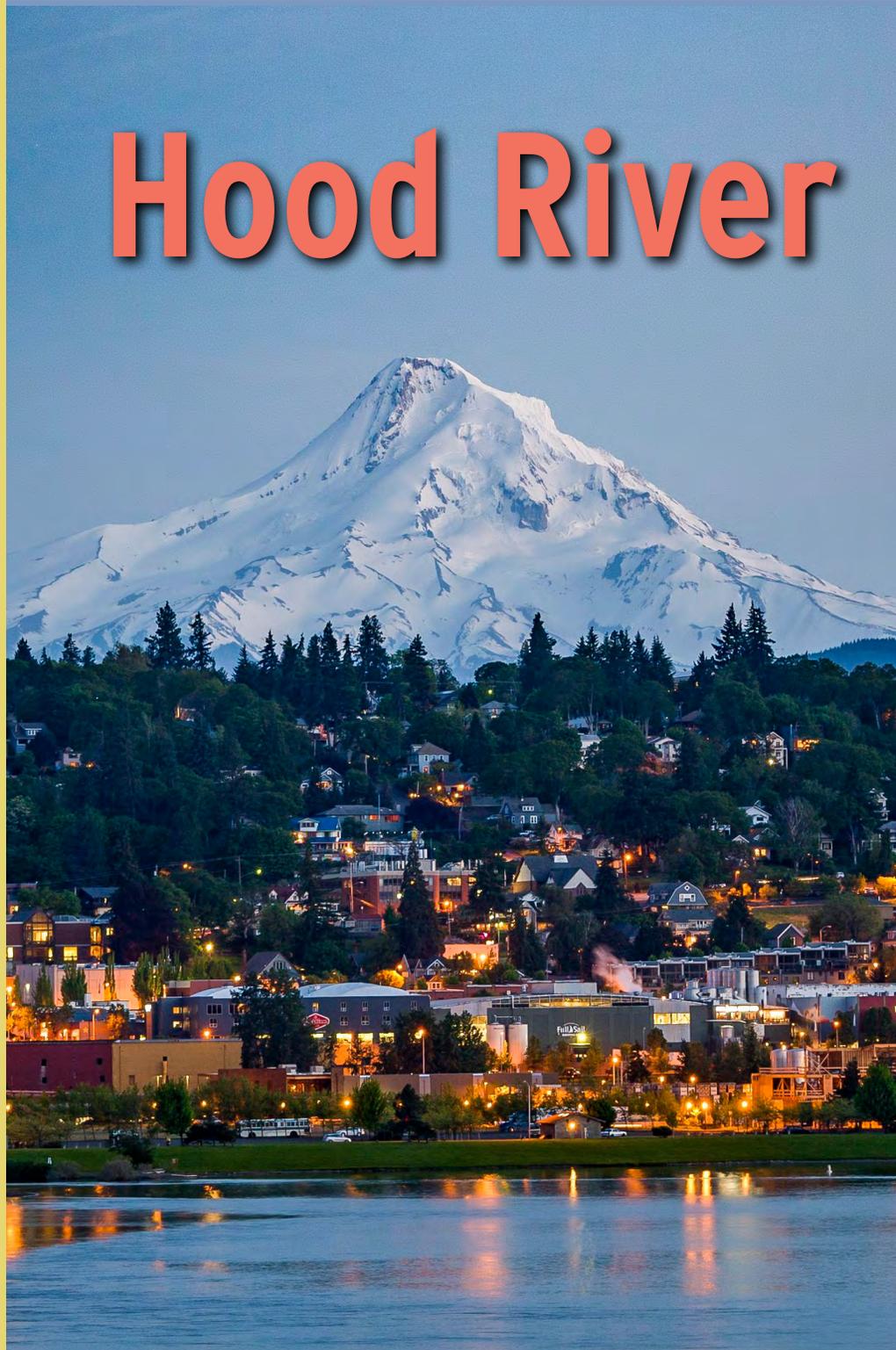
It has been a very busy first half of the year especially around the OMA's homelessness proposal and all of the advocacy work we have been doing with the governor and the state

legislature. I tip my hat to each mayor who has spent countless hours testifying and meeting with your state legislators to share your city's stories about how the homelessness crisis needs to be a top priority of the legislative agenda. Addressing homelessness and the multi-faceted issues in our state is 'a marathon, not a sprint'. So, stay tuned and keep those running shoes laced up!

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# Hood River

# CITY SPOTLIGHT:

## HOOD RIVER

*By Paul Blackburn, Hood River Mayor*

### History

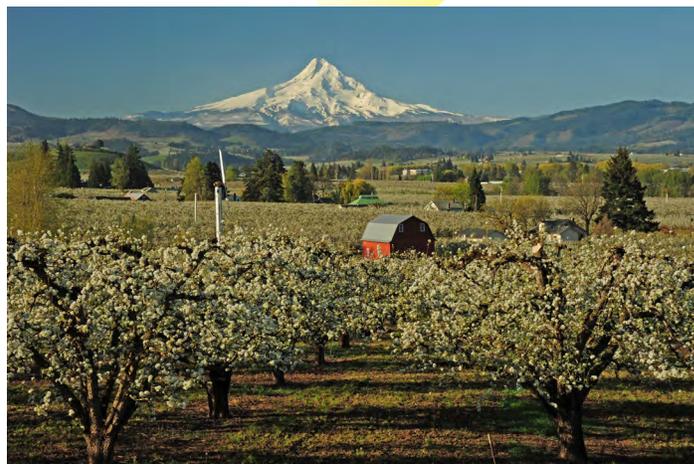
The City of Hood River is located along the banks of the Columbia and Hood Rivers, and sits approximated 60 miles east of Portland, and 35 miles north of Mount Hood. Historically, the area has been a gathering place for indigenous peoples for trade, fishing, and huckleberry and other first foods gathering. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, as well as other tribes have long inhabited and protected these lands and continue to protect their fishing and treaty rights in the area.

When the Lewis and Clark expedition passed through on October 29, 1805, they found a camp site called “Waucoma,” or “place of big trees.” The camp was located near what became known as the Dog River and its confluence with the Columbia River. Later, Mrs. Nathaniel (Mary) Coe, a well-known pioneer resident of the valley, objected to the name Dog River and succeeded in changing the name to Hood River. The name Hood River appears on a map as early as 1856.

The town was first platted in 1881, and the City was incorporated on February 15, 1895. Originally a part of Wasco County, Hood River County gained its political separation on June 23, 1908, and its boundaries have remained unchanged to the present time. The City of Hood River became the county seat when Hood River County formed.

Apple orchards flourished in this rich valley from 1890 to 1920, and Hood River became famous for its apples. In 1919 many apple trees were struck by a killing freeze. Farmers replaced the apple trees with pear trees, and now Hood River County leads the world in Anjou Pear production. Beyond pear and apple orchards, Hood River boasts a strong and diverse agricultural industry.

Japanese immigrants also came to orchard in the Hood River Valley, and many became successful farmers, businesspeople and artists. Before WWII, 462 Japanese Americans lived in the Hood River valley. Unfortunately, this history is darkened by the injustices they faced during the Japanese internment era, and the racism, prejudice, and financial setbacks they faced upon returning home. Many families lost their farms or sold them below value. Minoru Yasui, a resident of Hood River, rose to become a prominent figure in the fight for Japanese American rights in the United States.



Migrants from Latin American have also played a key role in the culture of the valley. The agricultural industry has drawn migrant farmworkers, and according to the 2019 census, approximately 31.9% of county residents identify as of Hispanic origin. This influence on the valley and city is evident in the number of Hispanic-owned businesses, including cuisine, retail, and services. The City has been working to deepen its relationship with its Latino/a/x residents, and has committed to providing bilingual communications, deepening engagement, and supporting community programs and events that honor our diverse history and demographic makeup.

### Community

The City of Hood River has seen vibrant community growth over recent decades, with a current population just over 8,000. Hood River County, which includes over 25,000 residents, includes the cities of Hood River and Cascade Locks, and communities of Odell, Parkdale and Pine Grove. A popular tourist destination, the City expands with influxes of visitors seasonally. Hood River is rich in history and scenic beauty, and is commonly recognized for its arts, culture, cuisine, viticulture and craft beverage scene, and world-class outdoor recreation.

The City is comprised of four main neighborhoods: Downtown, the central cultural hub with both a vibrant business corridor as well as residential areas; the Heights, another business corridor and residential neighborhood; the Westside, which is primarily residential with some commercial areas as well, and holds the majority of

developable land in the City; and the Waterfront, a commercial and light-industrial area with popular breweries and restaurants along a waterfront park and path.

While Hood River boasts a high-quality of life, with a strong School District with five Elementary Schools, two Middle Schools and one High School, as well as the Columbia Gorge Community College, ample parks and trails, a hospital with a broad array of services, the community is not without its struggles as well. Most notably, the high cost and low inventory of housing, particularly workforce housing, has resulted in the displacement of many residents, a high percentage of cost-burdened households, and businesses struggling to recruit workers. Addressing the housing issue in Hood River has been a top initiative for the City.

**Development**

The City has successfully utilized Urban Renewal Districts to revitalize The City. The Hood River Waterfront is a major success story, with an off-street pathway following the Columbia River, where frequent walkers, joggers, scooters, and cyclists can safely enjoy a riverfront view. A beach area brings families together to swim in the waters and watch the kiteboarders and windsurfers enjoy the world-class water recreation. The Waterfront also resulted in local economic development with an increase in family wage jobs.

The City has also utilized Urban Renewal to preserve the Historic Downtown area and improve its safety and infrastructure, and is currently refining plans for The Heights Streetscapes, which will improve the ease and safety of transportation through the area with improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

With the upcoming Westside Urban Renewal District, the City plans on utilizing funds to provide needed infrastructure for three primary areas: transportation, parks and trails, and housing.



*Hood River Hops Fest*



**Business**

Our area’s economy is traditionally made up of agriculture, high-tech, professional, healthcare and sports recreation industries. The Columbia Gorge bi-state region is an economic microcosm with many businesses employing people from various parts of the Gorge. Though Hood River is considered “a small town,” it’s proximity to Portland and Seattle allows connections to technology industry hubs. Strong winds in Hood River also offer testing grounds for the wind-sport manufacturing and other related industries.

*continued on page 4*

## City Spotlight *(continued from page 3)*

More recently, Hood River has made its mark in the food and beverage scene as home to an industry-leading vegan food producer, multiple successful brewery labels and numerous award-winning Columbia Gorge wines. Hood River's food and beverage scene continues to grow and impact the economy and tourism in positive ways.

Boasting rich volcanic soils and the natural irrigation system courtesy of Mount Hood, Hood River County's high value farmland not only leads the country in Anjou Pear production, it also produces cherries, apples, vineyards from numerous small family farms. The Hood River Farmer's Market carries a broad array of local produce and agricultural products, as well features local artists and musicians. Many visitors enjoy touring the vineyards throughout the valley or buying produce direct from farmstands.

### Recreation

Hood River is perhaps most famous for its outdoor recreation. The Columbia Gorge has often been described as an "outdoor playground," and the City of Hood River lies in the heart of it. Whether you visit for extreme outdoor sports, or a leisurely getaway – Hood River has a bit of everything. Within the surrounding area you'll find some of the Oregon's highest mountain peaks to ski, snowboard, hike, bike or climb. Watersports are popular on nearby rivers, including world-class windsurfing and kiteboarding on the Columbia River on the north edge of town, plus stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking and canoeing.

Just to the east of the City lies a popular paved trail, accessible for walkers and rollers of all abilities. The Historic Highway follows the Columbia River east about 4.5 miles to the neighboring town of Mosier. The growing popularity of e-bikes has made this a great ride for families to take in the scenic views, and if you're lucky, you can catch Bald Eagles and Falcons soaring above.

### Entertainment

Hood River hosts several major events from the Spring through Fall months, celebrating the rich agriculture, and food and beverage production from the Hood River Valley and surrounding areas. These include the Hood River Hops Fest, Hood River Harvest Fest, and the Hood River Cider Fest. These events bring tourists from around the region and beyond.

In addition to these larger events, the summer months are also a time for family-centered gatherings for residents.



During the month of August, Families in the Park draws thousands of people who enjoy the free music concerts in the lawn of Jackson Park. The chamber of commerce recently revitalized First Fridays after a pause during the pandemic.

Throughout the year, the downtown area hosts the major holiday events, such as a Holiday Tree Lighting and Hood River Safe Halloween, where the streets are closed, and children can safely enjoy the celebration (and copious amounts of candy!).

We look forward to hosting you all at the upcoming OMA Conference, or whenever you come to visit and enjoy all that Hood River has to offer. We are excited to meet with leaders throughout the state, and to work together to better serve our residents throughout Oregon. Don't forget to squeeze in some fun during your stay!

**SAVE THE DATE**

**OMA Fall Workshop &  
Business Meeting  
October 12, 2023  
The Graduate Hotel, Eugene**



## 2023 OMA Summer Conference – Registration to Open Mid-June

The 2023 OMA Summer Conference will be taking place at the Best Western PLUS Hood River Inn August 10-12. The Conference Planning Committee and the city of Hood River are planning three days of content pertinent to mayors and will include sessions related to houselessness, local tours, legislative updates, city revenue streams, expanding broadband a much more! You will receive an email letting you know when registration opens.

### Lodging Accommodations

Reservations are not included in the cost of conference registration and must be made separately from the registration system. Reservation may be made at the host

resort, Best Western Plus Hood River Inn, by calling 1-800-828-7873 and requesting rooms for the Oregon Mayors Association 2023 Summer Conference. All reservations must be made by July 15 to secure a room on the OMA 2023 Summer Conference block.

### Silent Auction

This year the 17th Annual Silent Auction will be held on Friday, August 11. Mayors are asked to bring a basket that represents their city and/or region. Mayors and guests will bid on the baskets with all proceeds going to fund scholarships for mayors to attend next year's conference. Last year 45 mayors contributed baskets for the silent auction and raised \$6,350!

### President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

Well, summer is in the air and that means the OMA's Summer Conference is just around the corner. As many of you are aware, our annual summer conference is being held in the beautiful city of Hood River, August 10-12. I have lived in Oregon for almost 30 years and Hood River is one of my favorite spots, so I am especially excited for this trip. I am also excited to share that The Dalles will host a downtown tour for all of us to enjoy as well.

We have seen some amazing turnouts from our mayor trainings from across the state and we hope these trainings have encouraged you to stay engaged with the OMA. For the last couple of years, we have been trying to build on the successes from previous conferences. The OMA Conference Planning Committee listened to your feedback from past conferences and they have lined up informative sessions and networking time so you can (re-)connect with your fellow mayors from across the state. We know you have busy schedules and we want this conference to add value to your

role as a mayor. We want to deliver helpful and informative information to make your job easier while providing a fun and relaxed weekend.

The last year has been a whirlwind especially with all the work we have done around homelessness. I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with many of you on this issue. I, for one, am looking forward to the Summer Conference so we can further those friendships and bonds with each other. Being a mayor is a hard job, but I am constantly rendered speechless when I see some of you tackle this job with grace and humility.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

All the best,

Mayor Teri

# OMA Homelessness Funding Proposal

*By Teri Lenahan, North Plains Mayor and 2023 OMA President*



Since the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) announced the homelessness funding proposal last fall, mayors and the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) have had two meetings with the governor and countless meetings with the governor's staff. We thank the governor for her commitment to address homelessness and housing

since taking office. However, we also recognize that finding common ground between the OMA proposal and her plan has been met with a few challenges.

Oregon mayors have shared their stories with state legislators and identified the overwhelming needs in each of their cities. The OMA proposal was not funded as we had hoped for, however, it brought an incredible awareness to the statewide homelessness problem. The OMA took a bold stance; we took a seat at the table and engaged in conversations with state leaders to find statewide solutions to address this humanitarian crisis.

While the OMA has not retreated from the proposal, we have seen some benefits from relationship building that has produced a few results. The Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) is meeting regularly with

the LOC and asking cities to inform funding decisions for the emergency funding for the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care. Mayors from Medford, Beaverton and Bend joined forces to lobby key state legislators and brought greater awareness of city roles and needs.

The Governor's office has asked mayors and LOC to support her end of session budget messaging which would allocate \$150M to sustain ongoing shelter operations so as not to lose ground on previous investments. This includes a minimum proposal for \$10.5M in direct funding for cities. The governor understands cities will be asking for more funding.

Not only has the OMA proposal brought awareness to Salem about the needs in our cities, it brought many Oregon mayors together, who have never met each other, to speak with a common voice and a unified message on the homelessness crisis. We are grateful for the strong media coverage throughout the state. Mayors continue to be on the frontline of this problem and every week we see the news headlines and hear the stories, both negative and positive. Thank you to those mayors who continue to advocate for our proposal. We have just begun to scratch the surface, and together we will find solutions to address homelessness in a caring and humane way.

## Save the Date!



# 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 12-14, 2023 | Graduate Eugene

**Registration opens July 13 at [www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org)**





## The Importance of Advocating for the Expansion of TLT

*By Susan Wahlke, Lincoln City Mayor*

**A**s a city of 10,000 full-time residents on the Oregon coast, Lincoln City must provide services to at least four times that many people during busy weekends. Our tax pay-

ers have to pay the costs to provide safe streets, potable water, sewage treatment, law enforcement, medical care, fire protection, emergency preparedness awareness, and many other public services to themselves AND our thousands of visitors. That is the reason for our lodging tax. If we had more flexibility in the way we spend our lodging tax, we could improve upon the continuity and level of these services year-round, along with upgrading our infrastructure to accommodate the visitor-generated demands.

The voters of Lincoln City passed a 2½% lodging tax increase last November, which will go into effect on July 1, with the State-imposed restrictions in place. Under current State law, 70% of this tax increase must be spent on tourism promotion or tourism-related facilities. We need to be able to spend more than 30% of this money to provide the services our visitors need and expect.

Reducing the 70% requirement to 50% to spend on tourism promotion or tourism-related facilities, would allow cities to use 50% of lodging tax to spend on projects to improve our infrastructure and provide public safety services, which benefit our visitors as well as our residents. Additionally, utilizing lodging tax to improve and upgrade our public amenities (i.e., public restrooms and beach accesses), ensures these facilities remain available and safe for tourists to use and to help sustain our tourism industry.

Lincoln City is not the only city in the State that must provide infrastructure and critical services for many times our population. We all deserve the ability to use our lodging tax dollars as we need them.

Lincoln City is fortunate that our initial 8% lodging tax was defined in our City Charter prior to the state's mandated distribution. We have more flexibility with that

portion of our lodging tax revenue than most other cities. Lodging tax is Lincoln City's largest revenue stream. Our finance director predicts that the City's share of lodging tax during the 2023-24 fiscal year will total \$13.5 million. Over \$5 million of that total must be spent on tourism promotion or tourism-related facilities. Do we really need to spend \$5 million annually to convince people to come to the Oregon coast? A portion of this funding could be more effectively utilized to support and sustain tourism levels.

As many cities are experiencing, our infrastructure is being pushed to its limits. We need to ensure that our water treatment distribution and sewer treatment collection systems have the capacity to provide services for peak demands generated by tourists. Our visitors expect clean water to drink and the ability to flush their toilets when they are here. It makes sense to me that cities should be able to use lodging tax dollars to ensure there is no disruption to these and other critical services during times of peak demand.

Most visitors want to walk on the beach. Our twenty-seven (27) beach access facilities require ongoing repairs and improvements. It makes sense that we should be able to use lodging tax dollars to provide accessible and safe passage to access to the beach.

Visitors to Lincoln City want to have access to public restrooms. Our twenty-five (25) public restrooms require ongoing repairs and improvements. It makes sense that we should be able to use lodging tax dollars to maintain clean, safe public restrooms.

Short-term rentals reduce our housing capacity for service workers. We could continue to provide incentives to developers to provide much needed housing, if we had more flexibility in how we spend our lodging tax revenue.

We need to convince our state legislators that cities need more flexibility in how lodging tax revenue is spent. This is about allowing cities to make decisions about how their funds can be best utilized within their communities.

# Division in Local Politics is Nothing New

*By Rod Cross, Toledo Mayor*

**D**ivision in local politics is nothing new. Whether it has been over support for the Revolution in 1770's Boston or a dispute over where to site the newest housing or industrial project, it can either tear a community apart or make it stronger in the long run.

We are facing division and strife all across our state, and it has not been located solely in our Legislature or our major metro areas. At times, it may very well seem to us that people are dividing over issues simply because they can.

This has led to everything from protests and riots to entire swaths of our state wishing to join a neighboring one.

Mayors are and have always been in a unique position to affect this division. Generally speaking, mayors are elected by an entire city, and thus are tasked with representing all citizens. We need to ask ourselves, "What benefits all our citizens, not just in the short-term, but in the long run." Not just in the next two-year election cycle, but 10-20 years down the road.

How do we balance the needs, wants and desires of all of our citizens?

We, as mayors, need to have a 30,000 foot view coupled with a one to one action plan.

Do we have a vision for our city? Have we communicated that to our neighbors?

I know that the vast majority of us are unpaid, and most are working another job to pay the bills. But it is vital for us to take the time to communicate to all members of our city that vision. That's why this job is a true labor of love for most mayors. We love our City! We wouldn't be in this position if we didn't. The hours are long (24/7 365), the pay sucks (!), and the power that you actually wield is minimal. Or is it?

The power of the Mayor is the ability to unite a city in your vision. We talk to people. We get to know them. We address their concerns and we try to fix bad situations. We do have the ability to set the tone for local government.

Local government can function in many different ways, but I would suggest that a government that is proactive, responsive, and willing to listen is one that can be successful in limiting division.

Work with staff and stakeholders to build a strategic long-range plan. Respond to all complaints and compliments. Take time to sit down and truly listen to understand the issue from their point of view.

For this strategy to work, you must build that throughout your departments. Citizen complaints are an opportunity to reach out and solve issues of which we may not otherwise be aware. Work to build trust with your staff. Have their backs. Help them to see your vision, and you might be amazed at how smoothly operations can go. Build a team that works together with each other and the citizenry.

Unity in your city starts with its government. If they are divided amongst themselves, it will spread to your community like a wildfire. Get to know your Department Heads. Learn their strengths and weaknesses. Then spend time with your City Manager/Administrator/Recorder to help those folks reach their full potential.

Remember, you are the Mayor, the unifying force within your community. Use your bully pulpit to the advantage of your city.



*LOC's Women's Caucus supports Oregon women to seek, attain, and succeed in municipal government positions as mayors and city councilors or commissioners.*

*JOIN US*



<https://www.orcities.org/about/who-we-are/loc-womens-caucus>



## Making Communities Livable for All Ages

By AARP Oregon

We are a rapidly aging society, and for the first time in history, older adults are projected to outnumber children by 2034. As one of the fastest-aging states in the West, the question for cities of all sizes throughout Oregon is how to advance goals and policies that support aging well and help people of all ages thrive and participate in their communities.

The **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities** consists of villages, towns, cities and counties throughout the United States, including 12 in Oregon. The network is expanding rapidly as additional communities make the commitment to become age-friendly. AARP Oregon collaborates with cities to help people live easily and comfortably in their homes and communities, and it encourages older residents to take an active role and have their voices heard.

Age-friendly communities aim to create an environment where older adults can age in place, maintain their independence, and have access to the necessary supports and services to meet their changing needs. These communities benefit people of all ages, as they promote inclusivity, social cohesion, and improved quality of life for everyone. The Eight Domains of Livability are improvements that influence the health and quality of life of older adults. They include:

- **Outdoor spaces and buildings:** Availability of safe and accessible recreational facilities. Designing public spaces, parks, and buildings to be accessible, safe, and comfortable for people of all ages, with features such as benches, pedestrian-friendly walkways, and well-maintained sidewalks.
- **Transportation:** Safe and affordable modes of private and public transit. Providing accessible and affordable transportation options, including public transit, para-transit services, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, to help older adults remain connected to their community and access essential services.
- **Housing:** Range of housing options for older residents, availability of affordable and adaptable housing, the ability to age in place and home-modification programs that accommodate the needs of older adults, including features like grab bars, ramps, and wider doorways.
- **Social participation:** Access for older adults to leisure and cultural activities, and opportunities for social and civic engagement with both peers and younger people through community centers, recreational programs, volunteer opportunities, and intergenerational activities.
- **Respect and social inclusion:** Programs to promote ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as multigenerational interaction and dialogue. Fostering a culture that respects and values the diversity and contributions of older adults, and addresses ageism and age-related discrimination.
- **Civic participation and employment:** Paid work and volunteer activities for older adults, and opportunities to engage in the creation of policies relevant to their lives. Promoting opportunities for older adults to actively participate in community decision-making, volunteer work, and employment, recognizing their skills, knowledge, and contributions.
- **Communication and information:** Access to technology that helps older people connect with their community, friends and family. Enhancing access to information and communication channels that are inclusive of older adults, including easily understandable signage, clear instructions, and technology training programs.
- **Community support and health services:** Ensuring access to a range of healthcare services, including preventive care, geriatric care, and home-based care, as well as social services that support the specific needs of older adults and programs that promote wellness and active aging.

**People of all ages benefit from the adoption of policies and programs that build an age-friendly lens into planning** that makes neighborhoods walkable, features transportation options, enables access to key services, provides opportunities to participate in community activities, and supports housing that's affordable and adaptable. AARP Oregon supports cities state-wide in implementing age-friendly projects through annual Community Challenge Grants and in exploring an age-friendly designation through the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. For more information, write to [ORAARP@aarp.org](mailto:ORAARP@aarp.org).

# OMA “If I Were Mayor...” Student Contest Winners Have Been Selected!

The Oregon Mayors Association’s “If I Were Mayor...” Student Contest Committee has selected winners for the 2022-23 contest year. This contest provides an opportunity for students in grades four through 12, including those who are home-schooled, to share their creative ideas about what they would do as mayor of their city. There were many outstanding entries again this year, but a few rose to the top with their thoughtful approaches and ideas.

Prizes this year are \$500 for first place, \$300 for second, and \$100 for third.

The first-place winners and their families will be invited to attend the OMA Summer Conference in Hood River, where the OMA president will present them with their awards. Awards for the second and third place winners will be presented in the winner’s home city by their respective mayors.

The OMA congratulates the following students for their submissions, and thanks their mayors and cities for participating in this annual contest:

## Elementary Category – Posters

1st Place: Albany: **Noah Gabriel D. Salazar**, Grade 5, Timber Ridge School

2nd Place: Happy Valley: **Adriana Draskovic**, Grade 5, Happy Valley Elementary School

3rd Place: Hillsboro: **Maria Cecilia Gonzalez Solano**, Grade 4, Witch Hazel Elementary School

## Middle School Category – Essay

1st Place: Lake Oswego: **Sophia Lu**, Grade 8, Lake Oswego Junior High School

2nd Place: McMinnville: **Saylor Sager**, Grade 6, Duniway Middle School

3rd Place: St. Helens: **Brooke Van Arsdall**, Grade 7, St. Helens Middle School



Lake Oswego Mayor Joe Buck had the honor of announcing the city’s Student Contest award winners during a recent city council meeting. Pictured left to right:

Wyatt Carlson, Sophia Lu, Clara Watson, Council President Rachel Verdick, Elise Irving, Mayor Joe Buck, Emma Irving, Navya Jha, Lucia Kovac and Megan Rim

## High School Category – Digital Presentations

1st Place: Cottage Grove: **Kassidy Poetzl**, Grade 12, Bridge Charter Academy

2nd Place: Albany: **Jacella Williams**, Grade 11, West Albany High School

3rd Place: Redmond: **Evonna West**, Grade 11, Ridgeview High School

## Congratulations to the winners!

All the students who made it to the state level did a fantastic job with their presentations, many of which will be on display at the OMA Summer Conference. The winning entries are currently displayed on the [OMA webpage](#).

For questions about the contest, please contact Angela Speier at [aspeier@orcities.org](mailto:aspeier@orcities.org).

## Mayor Rich Mays Receives 2022 Outstanding Man of the Year



Congratulations to Mayor Rich Mays, The Dalles and OMA Board Member for being recognized as the 2022 Outstanding Man of the Year at the 2023 Annual Distinguished Citizens Banquet hosted by The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce. In his award letter, Mayor Mays is described as being

instrumental in bringing awareness to the art community and recognizing community members for their efforts to

beautify The Dalles. He helped bring the NW Mural Fest to the city and executed the event superbly. The applicant describes Mayor Mays as having a positive attitude that is evident when approaching any situation, issue, or project. He focuses on doing what he can to improve the community from supporting fundraisers, recognizing small businesses, to sharing his love and appreciation of art, and working hard to improve the water situation in The Dalles. Since moving to The Dalles he wanted to be engaged, help, volunteer, and be a part of the community. He did not wait to be asked but instead asked, “what do you need and how can I help.” Way to go Mayor Mays, for a well deserved recognition!

### 2023 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
August 10-12	OMA Summer Conference	Hood River
August 13	OMA Board Meeting	Hood River
October 11	OMA Board Meeting	Eugene
October 12	OMA Fall Workshop	Eugene
October 12-14	LOC Annual Conference	Eugene
December 5	OMA Board Meeting	North Plains



**Nominate an Exceptional Oregon Volunteer Age 50+ for the AARP Andrus Award for Community Service**

The AARP Oregon Andrus Award for Community Service is AARP's most prestigious and visible state volunteer award! It recognizes individuals who are sharing their experience and skills to enrich their communities in ways that reflect AARP's purpose, vision, and commitment to volunteer service, and that inspire others to volunteer.

Do you know an outstanding 50+ volunteer? Nominate the 2023 AARP Oregon Andrus Community Service award-winner and you and your nominee could each receive \$1000 for the qualifying non-profit of your choice!

Nominations for this year's award will be accepted through July 15, 2023 at [aarp.org/AndrusAward](http://aarp.org/AndrusAward).



 /AARPOregon  
 @AARPOR

# Summer Festivals Across Oregon

## ALBANY

### Through the Garden Gate Tour – June 17

The event is sponsored by the OSU Linn County Master Gardener Association and will feature several unique gardens around Albany. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased in person at the Albany Visitor Association, 110 3rd Ave SE, at Urban Ag Supply, 456 2nd Ave SW, or Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Center at 350 Hickory St. NW. For information and online ticket purchase, visit the OSU website at [extension.oregonstate.edu](http://extension.oregonstate.edu). The event takes place on June 17, 10am-4pm.



### Albany Pride Fest – June 24

Included in the activities will be rally, march, live performances, music, several booths, food, and other activities. The festival will be held in downtown Albany in front of the Linn County Courthouse from 9:30am-4:30pm, Saturday, June 24. For more information, see the Facebook events page for AlbanyORPride.

### River Rhythms – Thursdays, July - August

Live concerts, food vendors, and fun in Timber-Linn Memorial Park on Thursday nights at 7pm in July and August. Lined up so far are Debbie Gibson on July 20, Home Free on August 3, Foghat on August 10. July 27 is TBA. The event is free, but a \$1 donation per person is appreciated. Visit their website, [www.riverrhythms.org](http://www.riverrhythms.org), for all the information.

### Summer Sounds – Mondays, July 10-31

Live concerts, food vendors, and fun in Timber-Linn Memorial Park on Monday nights at 7pm in July. The line-up includes Eagle Eyes, an Eagles tribute band, on July 10,

Huckleberry Road on July 17, Birch Pereira & Gin Joints on July 24, and Ms. Vee on July 31. The event is free, but a \$1 donation per person is appreciated. Visit their website, [albanysummersounds.org](http://albanysummersounds.org), for all the information.

### Linn County Fair – July 13-15

Get ready for three days of fun with concerts, Family-Land adventures, carnival fun, 4H/FFA shows and displays, and lots of vendors. Concerts include Clint Black on Thursday, Smash Mouth on Friday, and Granger Smith on Saturday. All concerts start at 8:30 pm. The Fair will be open July 13-15. Hours vary. See the Linn County Fair Website, [linncountyfair.com](http://linncountyfair.com), for all the details.

### Northwest Art & Air Festival – August 25-27

An event that has taken place for over 20 years, Art & Air has so much to offer. There are hot air balloons, art vendors, food vendors, a car show, concerts, family zone with activities for the kids and a beer and wine garden for the grown-ups. Get there early at 6:45am to watch the balloons lift off, or if you aren't a morning person, come Friday evening for Night Glow and watch the brilliantly-colored balloons tower over the crowd, lighting up the night sky. Both of the balloon lift-off events are weather permitting. The festival takes place August 25-27 at Timber-Linn Memorial Park in Albany. The event is free, but parking will be \$10. Find out more at [nwartandair.org](http://nwartandair.org).



### Albany Historic Interior Home Tour – July 29

Take a leisurely stroll through some of Albany's most interesting historic homes and gardens on Saturday, July 29, 11am-5pm. Visit [albanyvisitors.com](http://albanyvisitors.com), or find the event page on Facebook at Albany Historic Interior Home Tour.



**Carousel Carnival – August 19**

Step right up for the annual Carnival celebrating the 6th anniversary of the Carousel! There will be old-fashioned carnival games, crazy characters, face painting, balloon art and more! This is fun for the whole family, so come celebrate the Albany Carousel! The event takes place on August 19. More information will follow on their website at [albanycarousel.com](http://albanycarousel.com).



**Antiques in the Streets and Classic Car Show – September 9**

Shop for amazing treasures from over 50 street vendors and at the Albany Antique Mall sidewalk sale. Then, tour over 100 amazing cars. When you get hungry, have lunch at one of downtown Albany’s fabulous restaurants or go organic and visit the Albany Farmers’ Market, all within walking distance of each other! All proceeds from this event benefit a local non-profit. More information will follow at [albanyantiquemall.com](http://albanyantiquemall.com).

**AURORA**



**Summer Concert Series – Wednesdays, July 12 - August 12**

Join us for our 2023 Summer Concert Series in the Aurora City Park. Concerts are on Wednesday evenings, beginning July 12 and are free to attend. These concerts are a fun way to begin the countdown to the 34th Annual Aurora Colony Days on Saturday, August 12. Many activities for the entire family including a parade, free activities at the museum and so much more. Full details at [www.auroracolonydays.com](http://www.auroracolonydays.com).

**BANKS**

**78th Annual Banks BBQ, Truck and Tractor Pull – August 17-19**

Sponsored by the Sunset Park Association, a private non-profit park in Banks, Oregon. For more than 70 years, the small town of Banks has been inviting the public for a weekend full of good ol’ country fun! The 78th Annual Banks BBQ, Truck & Tractor Pull kicks off Friday evening with a Poker Tournament and Beer Garden.

The big fun begins on Saturday, with a pancake breakfast, car show, and truck & tractor pull. On Sunday there’s a parade, some famous BBQ, kid’s activities, the combine destruction derby, and a lot more. For more information, please visit <http://bankssunsetpark.com/#bbq>, call 503-324-9488, or email [infosunsetpark@gmail.com](mailto:infosunsetpark@gmail.com).

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## BEAVERTON



### Beaverton Night Market – July 22 & August 12

An evening of cultural sharing through food, arts, crafts, and performances. Last year, nearly 15,000 people attended each market with more than 60 vendors sharing their cultural wares and foods along with performances highlighting cultures across the globe. Now in its ninth year, the Beaverton Night Market exists to create a vibrant, intercultural space reminiscent of night markets internationally.

For more information, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov/nightmarket](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov/nightmarket).

### City of Beaverton & Partner Events

Beaverton offers many family-friendly events and activities to bring our residents together to build a stronger community. Learn more: [www.BeavertonOregon.gov/events](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov/events).

## COBURG



### Wednesdays in Coburg – July 12 - August 30

Concerts in the Park and Coburg Market

## COOS BAY

### Oregon Coast Music Festival – July 15-29

The Oregon Coast Music Association features a variety of live music and several performance venues throughout the community. More information on all of the concerts can be found at [oregoncoastmusic.org](http://oregoncoastmusic.org).



### Blackberry Arts Festival – August 27-28

The Blackberry Arts Festival is a juried art and craft festival that has been happening consecutively for 37 years. It was started to highlight the works of local artists and crafters during the annual harvest of the blackberry. It features an impressive array of metalwork, jewelry, quilts, candles, hand-painted clothing, wine, carved wood, and much more available for purchase. The festival also includes food vendors. It is not hard to find food and craft featuring the blackberry. Information can also be found at [www.blackberryartsfestival.com](http://www.blackberryartsfestival.com).



### Bay Area Fun Festival – September 17-18

The Bay Area Fun Festival has three major events that happen to celebrate the end of summer fun. The event draws thousands from all over the Pacific Northwest to

shop a Vendor Faire, enjoy festival foods and have family fun watching a themed parade. Over a thousand athletes come to run Steve Prefontaine’s training route during the Prefontaine Memorial 10K. The event also features one of the largest classic car cruises on the coast: Cruz the Coos. For more information, visit the Coos Bay Downtown Association’s website: [coosbaydowntown.org](http://coosbaydowntown.org)

**GARIBALDI**



**Garibaldi Days – July 21-23**

The festival includes a free concert, parade, fireworks show, vendors, classic car show, Waterball tug of war, kids activities, and silent auction.

**JEFFERSON**



**Heroes’ Day – June 24**

Announcing Jefferson’s newest festival – activities include a parade, pancake feed, local vendors, food trucks, car cruise-in, games and more.

**Concerts at the Conser – Tuesdays, August - September**

Jefferson’s Landmark Advisory Commission hosts weekly concerts every Tuesday at the Historic Conser House on Main Street.

**LAKE OSWEGO**



**Festival of the Arts – June 23-25**

The Festival is a non-profit free event championing the diversity of artistic talent since its inception in 1963! This year’s featured exhibit, “Art of the Album and Concert” invites the public to view the work of three of the top poster artists in the world; Emek, Gary Houston, and Tim Oakley. Look for thousands of pieces of art within incredible exhibits, live music, and food at Lakewood Center and George Rogers Park. Shuttles will be available. For more information, visit [www.lakewood-center.org/festival-of-the-arts](http://www.lakewood-center.org/festival-of-the-arts).

**LINCOLN CITY**



**Summer Kite Festival – June 24-25**

The festival showcases professional kite flyers from all over to show their incredible talents. There are teams, duos and solo performances as well as demonstrations on the large kite field. With a food truck owned by local Siletz Tribal Members and kids activities put on by local charities, there’s something for everyone to enjoy! Learn more at [www.oregoncoast.org/events/annual/summer-kite-festival](http://www.oregoncoast.org/events/annual/summer-kite-festival).

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## MALIN

### Independence Day – July 4

Activities include a parade, car show, raffle and swap meet.

## McMINNVILLE

### McMinnville Farmers Market – Thursdays: May 11-October 12

2nd & Cows

### Taste of Mac – June 10

Downtown McMinnville

### Dine Out(Side) – June 23-October 1

3rd Street-Downtown McMinnville

### International Pinot Noir Festival – July 28-30

Linfield University

### McMinnville Music Festival – August 18-20

3rd Street-Downtown McMinnville

### Recycled Arts Festival – August 19

2nd and Cows

### Cruising McMinnville – August 26

Downtown

### Walnut City Music Festival – September 2-3

Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum

### Brews, Bands and Bites – September 8-10

Oregon Mutual Parking Lot

### Oregon International Air Show – September 29-October 1

Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum

## OAKRIDGE

### The Bus Fair – June 23-25

With 20-30 school bus conversions ranging in all sizes, art and food vendors, beer garden and live music, The Bus Fair is a unique event unlike anything you've probably seen. [oakridgechamber.com/event/the-bus-fair](http://oakridgechamber.com/event/the-bus-fair)

### Keg and Cask Festival – August 12

15th Annual Oakridge Keg & Cask Festival is a family-friendly event whose primary goal is to raise money for the non-profit Oakridge Food Box.

## ROCKAWAY BEACH



### Independence Day – July 4

The 4th of July is the biggest event of the year in Rockaway Beach, starting with an energetic parade cheered on by big crowds of locals and visitors. Fire trucks, classic cars, boats, floats, marching groups, costumed walkers, and music keep spectators clapping and waving. In the afternoon, crowds walk to Phyllis Baker city park to watch the Weiner Dog races, and chance to see how fast Dachshunds can run. The evening closes with aaaahhhh-inspiring fireworks at the beach, or snag a ringside seat from the open car on the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad.

### Rockaway Beach Art & Craft Festival – August 4-6

Enjoy great music, exquisite hand-made arts and crafts, and delicious foods at the Wayside. Come hungry, bring a camera, and be ready to have some fun.

### Rockaway Beach Kite Festival – September 15-17

Sponsored by the American Kite Fliers Association, the festival hosts professional and amateur kite fliers displaying their kites and skills.

### Rockaway Beach Artisan Farmers Market – Thursdays, June 1-September 26

Join us at the Wayside on Thursdays for the 1st Annual Rockaway Beach Artisan Farmers Market from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. It will a shopping extravaganza.

**ROGUE RIVER**



**National Rooster Crow Event – June 23-25**

The Rogue River Kiwanis and the Rooster Crow Committee with the assistance of the City of Rogue River is hosting the 70th Annual National Rooster Crowing Contest. Beginning with dinner Friday evening at the Rogue River Community Center, followed by live entertainment at the Woodville Museum Gazebo. Saturday morning starts with the Parade at 10 a.m. (One of the best small town parades in the nation!) then the Cal-Ore Hydroplane Boat Qualifications, the Human Crow (which is judged by the audience) is at 2 p.m. followed by the Rooster Crowing Contest at 2:30. The Old Time Fiddlers will be providing live entertainment after the Contest. Sunday morning starts with Church in the Park officiated by Pastor Coale from Cowboy Church, the Cal-Ore Hydroplane Boat Racers will hold their official races, and the Rooster Crow Car Show with up to 100 pre-1975 vintage cars and pickups will be displayed along Pine St in downtown Rogue River from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Live entertainment, craft and food vendors will be on First St. and the Umpqua Bank parking lot both Saturday and Sunday. For more information, contact Carol Weir at City Hall 541-582-4401 or email her at [cweir@cityofrogueriver.org](mailto:cweir@cityofrogueriver.org).

**SEASIDE**



**Muscle & Chrome Car Show – June 17**

Seaside Muscle & Chrome Car Show is open to all cars and trucks from 1978 or older. From 8 am to 4 pm, enjoy viewing these cars at the Show And Shine on Broadway in downtown Seaside. There will be awards and live music.

**First Saturday Art Walk – July 1 & August 5**

Seaside’s First Saturday Art Walk is a free event that takes place at various galleries in the Historic Gilbert District.

**Fireworks on the Beach – July 4**

Seaside hosts one of the largest 4th of July Fireworks shows on the West Coast in a picturesque setting on the beach near the famed Turnaround.



**Seaside Beach Volleyball – August 10-13**

With more than 190 courts and 1,800+ teams, don’t miss the 41st Seaside Beach Volleyball Tournament for adrenaline-fueled fun on the sand.

**Hood To Coast Finish Line – August 26**

The Hood to Coast Relay is almost 200 miles long, stretching from Mt. Hood to the finish line on the beach in Seaside.

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## STAYTON

### 4th of July Celebration – July 4

The City of Stayton will be celebrating Independence Day this year with a full day of events including the Stayton Grand Parade, Event Grounds, and 50th Annual Fireworks Display organized by the Stayton Lions Club and sponsored by local businesses and community members. The day starts off with a breakfast by the Stayton High School Senior Parents and a Fun Run organized by the local Boy Scouts. Complete details of the day's events can be found at [www.Stayton4thOfJuly.com](http://www.Stayton4thOfJuly.com).

### Santiam SummerFest – July 29

SummerFest began in 1996 as an old-fashioned street fair and continues to draw over 100 unique vendors annually, including artisans and crafters, farmers, community resources, local businesses, retailers and service providers. The event includes a Family Fun Zone, with variety of games, experiences, and kid-friendly activities. The “Big Boys Toys” exhibit, which launched in 2022, showcases vendors and equipment from local industries like agriculture, construction, forestry, outdoor recreation, and emergency services. As always, there will be a full day of live entertainment on the main stage, located along with the beer garden and various food vendors, in the city parking lot on the corner of Florence and 3rd.



### Downtown Stayton Farmers Market – Wednesdays, June 21 - August 23

[www.facebook.com/StaytonFarmersMarket](http://www.facebook.com/StaytonFarmersMarket)

## SUTHERLIN

### Umpqua Woofstock Festival – June 17

Festivities include a parade, costume contest, beauty contest, bobbing for weenies, doggie dash, frisbee toss, water bowl relay race, educational features, photo booth and more. [www.facebook.com/UmpquaWoofstock](http://www.facebook.com/UmpquaWoofstock)



### Sutherlin Throwdown – July 14-16

Pacific Northwest BBQ Association sanctioned BBQ competition featuring up to 40 teams battling for \$10,000. Southern Oregon Cornhole sponsored competition with up to 120 teams competing for \$5,000 in prize money. Brewfest with up to 20 breweries from around the state and to top it all off, a concert in the park featuring Jessie Leigh. [sutherlinthrowdown.org](http://sutherlinthrowdown.org)

### Music Off Central Concerts – Thursdays, July 13 - August 17

<https://musicoffcentral.org/lineup>

### Blackberry Festival – August 18-20

The 35th Annual Blackberry Festival features a classic car and motorcycle show, golf tournament, blackberry and chili cooking contests, food and craft booths, pet pie eating contest, mud volleyball, BMX races and more. [www.blackberry-festival.com](http://www.blackberry-festival.com)

### 23rd Annual Rotary Golf Tournament – August 19

Hosted by Oak Hills Golf Club, all proceeds benefit Sutherlin & Oakland School Districts, Scholarship Funds, and other Rotary Community Projects.

## TIGARD

### Pride Parade and Celebration – June 10

Durham Road/Tigard High School



### Juneteenth Celebration – June 17

Cook Park

**Tigard Balloon Festival – June 23-25**

Cook Park

**Farmers Market – Sundays, June - October**

Universal Plaza

**WINSTON**



**Walk on the Wildside with Wine – July 1**

A wine tasting event featuring local wineries, a safari wine bus drive through Wild Life Safari, Virtual Sip & Paint in the park & a raffle with over \$5,000 in prizes happening. Full details available at [wanderwinston.com](http://wanderwinston.com).



**Oktoberfest – September 23**

A veteran suicide prevention fundraiser featuring live music, an Oktoberfest tournament with cash prizes, Bingo, wiener dog races, and a brew off. Event details available at [wanderwinston.com](http://wanderwinston.com).

**WOODBURN**



**Taste of Woodburn – June 17-18**

The city of Woodburn invites all Oregonians to enjoy a family-friendly weekend of live entertainment, vendors and lots of great cultural food at the 2023 Taste of Woodburn in the heart of downtown. More information at [www.woodburn-or.gov/community-services/page/taste-woodburn-0](http://www.woodburn-or.gov/community-services/page/taste-woodburn-0)

**Music in the Park – Tuesdays, July 11 - August 15**

Music genres range from pop and rock to country and blues, plus food vendors, crafts and games.



**Fiesta Mexicana – August 18-20**

The Woodburn Fiesta Mexicana will be celebrating its 59th annual event this August! Founded in 1964 as a celebration to mark the end of the harvest, the Fiesta Mexicana was recognized in 2017 as an Oregon Heritage Tradition. The event features vendors, lucha libre wrestling, music and dance performances, car show, parade, soccer tournament and pickleball tournament. More details at: [www.woodburn-or.gov/community-services/page/woodburn-fiesta-mexicana](http://www.woodburn-or.gov/community-services/page/woodburn-fiesta-mexicana)



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