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A Bi-Monthly Newsletter from the City of Stayton

March / April 2020

The WORD ON THE STREET

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Stayton Seeks Support of Library, Parks, and Pool

The City of Stayton is seeking a five year local option tax of \$0.70 per \$1,000 of assessed value for continued operating support of the City's library, parks, and pool programs beginning in Fiscal Year 2021-22. The proposed tax will take the place of the existing four year local option tax passed in 2016, which ends Fiscal Year 2020-21. The levy is necessary to maintain current levels of service, operations, and assist with capital improvements for the Stayton Public Library, Stayton Family Memorial Pool, and local parks and trails.

Due to the property tax limitations imposed by statewide Measures 47 and 50 in the mid-90s, the City cannot increase its established permanent tax rate, even if a majority of citizens wish to do so. Accordingly, the City must rely on voted local option tax levies to augment its operating budget.

Stayton's first local option tax for the support of the library, pool, and parks was passed by voters in November 1998. Subsequent local option tax measures were passed in May 2002, May 2004, May 2008, May 2012, and May 2016.

Over the five year life of the proposed levy, approximately 45% would go toward maintaining the current level of operating support for the Stayton Public Library. Approximately 45% would go toward maintaining the current level of operating support for the Stayton Family Memorial Pool. Approximately 10% would go to maintenance and upkeep of City Parks and Trails.

According to the Marion County Assessor, the median Assessed Value for a home in Stayton is \$178,395. At a tax rate of \$0.70 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the average homeowner would see an estimated monthly fee of \$10. The proposed rate will raise approximately \$2,260,879 over the five years; an allowance has been made for uncollected taxes.

Please exercise your right to vote on May 19, 2020.



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Census 2020—Let's Make Stayton Count

Beginning in mid-March, households in Stayton will receive a mailing from the U.S. Census Bureau asking them to participate in Census 2020. For the first time in history, the census will primarily be conducted online. However, every household will still have the option of responding by phone or mail. Each household will be asked to provide information about the people who reside in that household “most of the time” as of April 1, 2020, the official Census Day.



The U.S. Constitution mandates a head count of every person residing in the United States be done every 10 years. This includes people of all abilities, sexual orientation, ages, races, ethnic groups, gender identities, citizens and non-citizens. The data collected during the census is used for congressional reapportionment and to determine the distribution of federal and state dollars.

The amount of state shared revenue, such as fuel and liquor taxes that Stayton receives from the State of Oregon depends on the City's population. Additionally, accurate census data is critical for crafting of equitable and informed public policy and effective community planning across sectors. In order for the State of Oregon and the City of Stayton to receive its fair share of funding and congressional representation, we need every single person that lives in our state to be counted.

Individual responses to the census forms are kept strictly confidential and data is released only in aggregate form. There will not be questions regarding citizenship, as was in the news a few months ago. If your household does not have access to a computer in order to respond, there are computers available at the Stayton Public Library. You will also have the opportunity to respond by mail or phone.

Let's make Stayton count and have everyone in our community counted on Census Day!

Volunteers Sought for Stayton's Food Bank Garden Plot

The Public Works office is seeking a volunteer coordinator and volunteers to help with planting, weeding, and watering of the Stayton Community Food Bank plot during the growing season. Interested volunteers should contact Public Works at (503) 769-2919.

Summer Reading Art Contest—Call for Artists

The Stayton Public Library is announcing a call for artwork for the 2020 Summer Reading Program. Submitted artwork should be inspired by the Summer Reading Theme, “Imagine Your Story,” which highlights fairytales, mythology, and fantasy.

Any artists that live, attend school, or work in Stayton or its surrounding communities can submit a design. There will be three categories based on the artist's age: Kids, Teens, and Adults. The winner in each category will have their artwork featured on the Stayton Public Library's Summer Reading materials both in print and online, and win a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Art can be submitted online at www.staytonlibrary.org or in person at the Stayton Public Library, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Winners will be announced in May.

Reminder to Pet Owners—Clean Up After Your Pet

The Stayton Municipal Code 6.04.220 states, “The owner of every animal shall be responsible for the removal of any solid waste deposited by the owner's animal on public walks or within any public right-of-way, or in a park or other public place, or on private property not owned by the animal's owner.” Failure to pick-up after your pet can result in a citation and fine. All City parks have waste disposal bags for your convenience.

City Meeting Calendar

City Council

7:00 p.m. at the Community Center
March 2 and 16 / April 6 and 20

Planning Commission

7:00 p.m. at the Community Center
March 30 / April 27

Parks & Recreation Board

6:00 p.m. at the Stayton Public Library
March 3 / April 7

Library Board

6:00 p.m. at the Stayton Public Library
March 18 / April 15

Commissioner's Breakfast

7:30 a.m. at the Covered Bridge Café
March 10 / April 14

Library Calendar

Motion Mondays — Mondays at 10:15 a.m.
Toddler Storytime — Tuesdays at 10:10 a.m.
Preschool Storytime — Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.
BabyTime! — Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

Read Across America on Dr. Seuss' Birthday Monday, March 2 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Join us in celebrating a nation of diverse readers and honoring Dr. Seuss with fun stories and activities to encourage a life-long love of reading.

The Roaring Twenties

Spring Break Reading Challenge March 21 to March 28

Pick up a challenge sheet at the Library during Spring Break and complete the items on it. Then return it to the Library for prizes! Raffle winners will be announced at Pajama Storytime on Monday, March 30th.

DIY Craftshop: Button & Ribbon Bookmarks Thursday, March 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Make your own bookmarks using ribbons, charms, and buttons. Event is free, supplies are provided. Open to ages 12 to adult. Register at the Library.

Teen Un-Book Club

Wednesday, March 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Come hang out, eat snacks, and have an informal chat about books. Open to teens in grades 6—12.

Teen Art Lab — Geometric Wall Art

Thursday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m.

We'll be painting a color block piece of art for your walls! Teens grades 6—12. Registration required.

Free Tax Help from AARP

Saturday's thru April 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Receive tax help from an AARP Tax Aide.
Walk-in appointments only.

Book Discussion:

“Auntie Poldi and the Sicilian Lions”

Wednesday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m.

Join our monthly book discussion for adults.

Speaker—Kimberly Jensen

Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Kimberly Jensen, Professor of History and Gender Studies at Western Oregon University, will be speaking on diverse women in the Oregon suffrage movement. E.G. Siegmund Meeting Room.