

WORD ON THE STREET

City of Stayton's Monthly Newsletter



Drawdown Paused for 2025

Army Corps Responds to Local Concerns, Will Hold Off on Major Water Level Changes Until 2026 Plan

We have some welcome news to share: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has confirmed there will not be a deep drawdown at Detroit Lake this fall, as was previously under consideration.



Over the past year, Stayton city officials have been in regular contact with the USACE regarding proposed changes to dam operations in the Willamette Valley. One significant proposal involved lowering water levels at Detroit Lake—known as a “deep drawdown”—to support fish migration. However, concerns were raised about the impacts this could have on local water systems and recreational use.

USACE Officials Visit Stayton

In a recent visit to Stayton, Colonel Caswell and other USACE representatives met with the Mayor, City Council, and City staff. They toured Stayton's water treatment facilities and listened to local concerns about how deep drawdowns could affect water supply, quality, and community safety.

Drawdown Canceled for 2025

Following these conversations and other ongoing evaluations, USACE has confirmed that no deep drawdown will take place in 2025. This decision reflects both community feedback and a shift in how future dam operations will be managed.

What's Next?

USACE is currently finalizing a two-part approach for managing the region's dams:

- **Step One – 2025:** A temporary operations plan will be in place to support fish passage while maintaining water quality.
- **Step Two – 2026 and Beyond:** A comprehensive, long-term plan is expected to be released in 2026. This plan may include additional changes—such as the potential end of power generation at some facilities—as required by recent federal legislation (Water Resources Development Act of 2024).

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Stayton Police Earns Top Recognition for Policy Excellence

Lexipol Connect Gold Status Reflects Commitment to Training, Transparency, and Community Safety

The Stayton Police Department is proud to announce that we have been awarded Gold-level recognition through the Lexipol Connect program—the highest honor available. This distinction highlights our department's strong commitment to effective policy management and ongoing training.



Lexipol is the nation's leading provider of policy and training solutions for public safety agencies. Their Connect program evaluates departments on five critical metrics related to policy implementation, review, and officer training. Earning Gold status reflects our consistent efforts to uphold the highest standards in each of these areas.

At the heart of this achievement is our belief that clear, current, and actively followed policies are essential for both officer preparedness and community safety. Our team works hard to ensure that policies are not just written but also understood, reviewed regularly, and integrated into daily operations.

We are honored to receive this recognition and remain committed to serving Stayton with transparency, professionalism, and care.

Third-Graders Make a Splash This Spring

Nearly 300 Local Students Dive into Water Safety Training

This spring, the Stayton Family Memorial Pool is thrilled to offer swim lessons to 287 third-graders from local schools, up from 200 in 2024.



Thanks to the generous funding from the Kiwanis Club, students from St. Mary, Mari-Lynn, Sublimity, Cloverdale, Santiam, and Stayton Elementary will have the opportunity to learn water safety and improve their swimming skills.

Instructors are excited to see the program grow, and the increase in student participation brings a new level of enthusiasm for helping each child succeed.

For more news and updates, visit our website at www.staytonoregon.gov



facebook.com/CityofStayton



instagram.com/cityofstayton



nextdoor.com/pages/city-of-stayton

City Meeting Calendar for May

City Council

- May 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- May 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Budget Committee

- May 12 at 6:00 p.m.
- May 13 at 6:00 p.m.
- May 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Library Board

- May 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

- May 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Board

- May 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Arts Commission

- May 22 at 6:00 p.m.



To learn more visit our [website](#) or watch live on [YouTube](#).

Drawdown Continued...

In Summary

While the deep drawdown was originally planned for Fall 2025, USACE will hold off for now, opting instead to gather more information before making long-term decisions.

Stay Informed

We'll continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. For more details, visit:

https://www.staytonoregon.gov/page/resources_drawdown

Thanks for staying engaged and supporting efforts to protect our local water resources!

Commissions Seek to Fill Vacancies

Make a Difference in Our Community

The City of Stayton is looking for passionate individuals to serve on the Public Arts Commission and Planning Commission! This is a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference in our community.



Public Arts Commission: Help bring art to life in Stayton! Work on art projects, exhibitions, and public installations that will inspire and enhance our city's cultural landscape.

Planning Commission: Interested in urban development? Join the team that helps shape Stayton's future growth, reviewing land-use policies, zoning regulations, and development plans.

Visit our website for more information:

www.staytonoregon.gov/page/gov_boards_commissions

Spring Into Yard Care

Helpful Reminders for Yard Care and City Code Compliance

With warmer weather on the way, it's a great time to give your yard a little extra attention. As a friendly reminder, Stayton's Municipal Code (SMC) requires that tree branches be trimmed to 10 feet above streets and 8 feet above sidewalks to keep public pathways safe and accessible.

Also, grass and weeds must be kept under 10 inches high. Letting them grow beyond that can be considered a violation under SMC 8.04.130, which prohibits noxious vegetation. This includes overgrown weeds or grass, poison oak or ivy, blackberries extending into public areas, and any plants that pose safety, fire, or traffic hazards – like blocking views at intersections or risking falling branches.

Regular yard maintenance helps keep our neighborhoods beautiful and safe for everyone. If you have questions or need clarification, feel free to reach out to the Community and Economic Development Department at (503) 769-2998.



Thanks for doing your part to keep Stayton looking great!

Save Money & Go Paperless

Stayton residents can save up to \$24 annually

Residents can earn \$1/month for paperless billing and another \$1/month for enrolling in auto-pay. Sign up today by visiting www.xpressbillpay.com or learn more on our website at www.staytonoregon.gov/page/finance_online_forms.

Need help? Stop by Stayton City Hall for assistance!



Stayton Public Library - May Events

Family Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Come explore the world of early literacy through songs and rhythms, stories and rhymes. All ages welcome.



Toddler Time: Stay & Play

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Explore the world of early learning and literacy together with your infant or toddler, through different activities and stations for play. Older siblings welcome.

Kid's Craft Fair

Saturday, May 10 at 11:00 a.m.

Join us for a craft fair vendor experience for young entrepreneurs, and browse their handmade crafts and creations for purchase!

Build It! LEGOS

May 13 to May 16 at 3:30 p.m.

Release your inner Builder! What can YOU build with LEGOS?

It's Story-Palooza

Tuesday, May 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Instead of our regular storytime, join us for a celebration of stories and storytelling with activities for all ages.

DIY Craftshop: Spring Box Magnets

Thursday, March 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a crafty evening and create a miniature Spring-themed magnet. Supplies will be provided.

Book Club Discussion

Thursday, May 28 at 4:00 p.m.

We will be reading and discussing *The Cartographers* by Peng Shepherd. Join us for tea, treats, and book talk.

