

City of Westfir Newsletter

October 2023



City Hall Hours: Mon Wed Fri 9am – 2pm

*City Council meetings are the first Monday of the month at 5:30pm.
Meetings are held at City Hall and also via audio/video teleconference.*

CITY DIRECTORY

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Mayor:

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Councilors:

- ◆ Katherine Bishop
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- ◆ Deretta Huey
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- ◆ Edward Johnstone
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Traffic Alert

The Old Barnard Bridge will be closed for repairs.

October 2–9, repairs on the Old Barnard Bridge will begin. Expect both single-lane and complete bridge closures from 7am–7pm.

A detour utilizing Highway 58 and Westfir-Oakridge Road will be in effect for the duration of complete bridge closures.

The Bridge Lighting Festival Is Back!

After a three-year absence, the Festival is back! City Councilor Deretta Huey has stepped up to organize the event with Viki Burns, the former Bridge Lighting Festival planner.



Volunteer Barb Desser has done a beautiful job repainting the wood cutout decorations for the festival.

As always, volunteers are needed to decorate and hang lights, and also to stuff gift bags for the kids, among other tasks. Contact Councilor Huey at 541-782-4335 if you would like to help or have ideas to share.

Outdoor Burning Season Delayed

The fall outdoor burning season will open on Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023, in Lane County. The season, originally set to start Oct. 1, was delayed due to continued fire risk, despite recent rainfall.

Burn permits will be available from the City as soon as the season opens, and prices remain unchanged at \$6.00, or \$3.00 for seniors.



It's Fall Cleanup Season!

The dumpster has arrived at City Hall.

It's available through October 11, or until the second bin is full.

Please don't dump banned items, including mattresses, roofing, tires, electronics, paint, appliances, batteries, and propane tanks.

Electronics are accepted for free at the Oakridge transfer station.

For woody debris and plant material, please call City Hall for options.





October Is Fire Prevention Month in Oregon

Be Fire Safe in the Kitchen

Cooking is the leading cause of preventable home fires. Knowing and participating in safe cooking practices in the kitchen is important for everyone.

Stay alert

- ◆ To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol, or have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy.
- ◆ Watch what you heat!
- ◆ The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ◆ Stay in the kitchen when frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. Turn off the burner if you leave the kitchen for any reason.
- ◆ If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay inside your home. Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

Keep things that can catch fire away from heat sources

- ◇ Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, curtains—away from your stovetop.
- ◇ Keep the stovetop, burners, and oven clean.
- ◇ Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.

Pro Tip:

STAND BY YOUR PAN!

Keep an eye on what you're cooking. **Don't** leave cooking unattended.



Ways to Be a Good Septic Tank Owner (and help protect our watershed)

- ◆ Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional or according to your state/local health department's recommendations.
- ◆ Have your septic tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years.
- ◆ Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain.
- ◆ Discard non-degradable products in the trash (e.g., floss, disposable wipes, cat litter) instead of flushing them.
- ◆ Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainfield and tank.
- ◆ Repair leaks and use water-efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system.
- ◆ Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains.
- ◆ Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds and biodegradable.
- ◆ Prevent system freezing during cold weather by inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (e.g., the inspection pipe and soil treatment area).