

DONALD MONTHLY RECORD



Article By Cammi Hungate,
Planning Commission Chair

Hello and Happy New Year! It is amazing to me how fast the year goes and how many things we have to keep us busy. In 2018, Donald will be filled with many meetings to decide how we want our town to look. There is a team to work on the Urban Growth Boundary Study, as well as a Donald Beautification team. In December 2017, Councilors and Commissioners met to create an action plan for future City Code changes. Some items that will be addressed in this action plan are walkability of the town, downtown design standards and sidewalks. This month, we are going to be goalsetting and mapping out the priorities for 2018. We value your feedback on how you think the City should look. Please come to all the public meetings to talk about the things you care most about. Make it your resolution to be involved in the health and wellbeing of this City.

Mayor	Term
Rick Olmsted	2018
Councilors:	
Jan Olsen, President	2020
Fred Hartley	2018
Abby Hungate	2018
Katie Gonzalez	2018
Ellen Clemmons	2020
Brad Oxenford	2020

Make New Year’s Resolutions to Support Your City

Join the City’s Flash Alerts email list to get notifications & read the Community Boards: To join Flash Alerts go to ☒ www.flashalertnewswire.net and find the City’s account. Also the City has a public notice email list you can join by visiting the City’s website at www.donaldoregon.gov and in the top right corner enter your email address. We use these venues to send out notifications about hazards, emergencies, closures, event reminders and other City business items. This is a valuable way for the City’s staff to communicate information immediately to the public since we don’t have a newspaper. In addition, in an emergency, a notice will be posted on the community boards at the small park, City Hall and Community Center in the top left corner on red paper.

Volunteer or Engage: There are lots of ways for people to help out the City, whether you have lots of time or ☒ hardly any. Here is a short list: attend a City Council meeting or Planning Commission, join the Downtown Donald Beautification Group, pick up litter when you see it, pick up your dog’s waste, conserve water, join the Budget Committee, attend Game Night/Rock Painting and attend City events throughout the year. Of course you can volunteer for the Donald Hazelnut Festival: take on a leadership role or just help for a few hours the day of the event. Check out their website www.donaldhazelnutfestival.com or call 503-902-5047.

Regularly check the City’s website: Staff keeps the website current with all kinds of info! Here are just a few ☒ components of the website: water/sewer fee schedule for future years, public meeting agendas and audio recordings, email addresses for city councilors and planning commissioners, notices for land-use changes, event posters, details on the potential urban growth boundary expansion project, nomination for Citizen of the Month (and see past winners), view City budgets and audit reports, print the scavenger hunt or submit a feedback form (these are read at Council meetings). It would be good to check once a month.

Use the Donald Community Center: The Donald Community Center needs donations to keep it afloat. The Center’s expenses are about \$50 a month in the summer and \$120 in the winter. The BEST way to support the DCC is for you to reserve it for your event. The deposit is \$1/person. It holds up to 31 people and can be reserved any day of the year. The space is free but we ask for at least part of your deposit be donated.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, January 17th, the American Red Cross bloodmobile will be at the Community Center from 1 to 6 pm. By participating in this blood drive, you are actively making a difference in your community, allowing patients to receive cancer treatments, surgery, and in some cases, the gift of life. You may sign up anytime at City Hall or, beginning December 7th sign up using the online appointment scheduling at www.redcrossblood.org. For eligibility questions, please call 1-866-236-3276. Please, give the gift that keeps on giving.

Game Night & Rock Painting

So much fun is being had at the monthly Game Night that Councilors Katie Gonzalez and Council President Jan Olsen will continue the event into 2018! Come on down to the Community Center and play a game, chat with a neighbor or paint a rock. They are looking for board game donations.



Understanding the Workings of Our Septic System

When water runs down the drain in your home, what happens next? The water leaves your home in a pipe, that is connected to the septic tank located under the metal lid, in the ground on your property. The solids and liquids in the septic tanks are processed differently. When the liquids in the septic tank reach the float it triggers the pump to turn on and push the liquids out into the City's sewer main line. This is a series of underground pipes that run all the way to the Sewer Treatment Plan on Donald Road. Those pipes feed into the "lagoons" also called settling ponds. The ponds are connected and work in tandem. The first lagoon has the highest concentration and then as the sewer travels to the third pond, the concentration is significantly reduced. In the springtime the sewer ponds are pumped into a pump house where it is treated with chlorine and then irrigated onto the fields. The fields are leased by a local farmer who grew clover last year. This entire system is permitted and inspected by the DEQ. Public Works is required to have both water and wastewater certifications as well as continued education credits.



As a citizen, your responsibility is to call the City's emergency pager number when the control box alarm sounds. This indicates that there is a problem such as the wires getting wrapped up in the septic tank, the float failing to operate correctly, an electrical mishap, or air getting trapped in the discharge side of the pump. Occasionally weather causes problems with the septic tanks. Hot temperatures can cause methane gas to build up inside, needing to be released. Even too much rain in a 24 hour period can cause the alarm to sound because rainwater can infiltrate the septic tank by going under the lid and this can overwhelm the float. It is important to call Public Works immediately to prevent an overflow of sewer on your property.

The pager number is 503-301-6479 and with your bill this month is a magnet for you to help keep this number handy, please tell your whole family the importance of calling the number. You can also use this number to report water or street issues in the City too. Please leave your name, address, phone number and a short description of the problem and we will get back to you soon.

But wait... what happens to the solids? They stay in the septic tank, settling to the bottom where they wait to be pumped out. Residential septic tanks are pumped every five years. If you are curious to see when your tank will be pumped next, check out the City's website under the Water/Sewer tab to see the Septic Tank Zone Map. Please, never remove the tank's metal lid. The Public Works staff routinely performs maintenance and inspection on the septic tanks and parts. This system is paid for solely by your monthly sewer fee of \$32.89. The City also collects an additional \$2.25 monthly from the customers for parts or upgrades that will be needed in the future for the sewer system.

Budget Committee

The Council will review the calendar for the City budgeting process at their January meeting. There are 2 openings on the Budget Committee and applications are available for pick up at City Hall or online at www.donaldoregon.gov. The deadline to have applications submitted is March 7th. Each year, the Committee has an optional training and one business meeting. Terms are three years long. You would enjoy serving on this Committee if you like analyzing your own budget and/or are interested in helping the City to prioritize spending; including tax dollars and water/sewer revenues. You will



learn in the class all the laws that regulate public funds, for example: money collected to pay a water bill can only be spent on the water system and the same for sewer revenues.

City Hall:

City Manager: Heidi Bell
10710 Main Street
P.O. Box 388
Donald, OR 97020-0388
Phone: 503-678-5543

City Hall Hours:
Mon. - Thurs. = 8am to 4pm
Fridays = 8am to Noon

Public Works:

Director: Alonso Limones
Phone: 503-678-1411

**Water/Sewer Emergency
Pager: 503-301-6479**

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Notification Email List
on City Website:
www.donaldoregon.gov**

Planning Commissioners

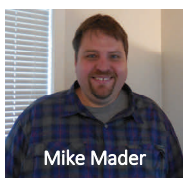
The City Council confirmed the recommendation from the Planning Commission for three people to serve as Planning Commissioners (3-year terms).



Donald Saxton was reappointed as was Mike Mader. New to the group is Diane Webster-Warren. The Planning Commission meets on the 4th Thursday of the



month, as needed. They are the gatekeepers of the Development Code and serve as the Tree Board.



City Calendar for January 2018

Mon 1: City Offices Closed: Happy New Year!
Thurs 4: Technical Advisory Committee, 2-4pm (UGB Study)
Tue 9: City Council Meeting, 6:45pm
Thurs 11: Planning Commission Meeting, 6:45pm
Mon15: Water and Sewer Bills Due
Mon 15: City Offices Closed: MLK Day
Tue 16: Red Tags Delivered at 10am
Tue 16: Downtown Beautification Meeting, 6:30pm
Wed 17: Blood Drive at Donald Community Center, 1-6pm
Thurs 18: Shut Off Water Meters for Non-Payment
Thurs 18: Game Night/Rock Painting, Community Center: 6pm
Mon 22: Five Dollar Late Fees Applied: 8am
Mon 29: Street Sweeper, please move your cars off streets