

May 2026

Mayor Newsletter



Greetings Millwood Neighbors,

Coffee with the Mayor

Back by suggestion, I will host this month's 'Coffee with the Mayor' at both 8:00 and 10:30 am on April 13th (the day after City Council Meeting). Donuts, coffee, tea, and cocoa will be served!

The First Neighborhood Block Party

To honor first responders, the military, and caregiving professionals, we will be hosting a Pizza Appreciation Party right outside City Hall, in the parking lot between the Firehouse and city parking lot. The Hutton Hope leaders, SCOPE, and the City of Millwood will be passing out free pizza slices and desserts. All are welcomed! If you just want to swing by on your walk, we would love to see you! We also want to extend a special invitation to all first responders, the military, and caregiving professionals to share how much we appreciate you.

Please join us on Friday, May 15th, 4:00-6:30 pm

City of Millwood & Main Street Program Community Clean Up Day

On June 14th (mark your calendars), we will host a Day of Service: Community Clean-Up Day! This is part of our America 250 celebration. On this day, everyone is encouraged to improve the curb appeal of Main Street and our neighborhoods. Early afternoon on June 14th Day of Service: Community Clean-Up Day, the Hutton HOPE leaders will bring their Pizza Oven to the city park area for a neighborhood pizza party!

At the citizens' request, we will also roll out our new process for residents to engage with Public Works when they want to clean up in the park, the interurban trail, or other public spaces. To alert Public Works about a project you would like to volunteer for, please email your suggested project to publicworks@millwoodwa.us

If the project is one that the city can approve, you will be emailed a liability waiver. This pilot project is the result of citizen requests for guidance on "If I want to make xxx improvement to a public space, how do I go about that?" Among the requests we have received, this project could include mowing a public area, cleaning up public areas by the river, or planting along the trail. I am always so blown away when engaged citizens reach out and propose projects to help improve our city. All these projects, though, have downstream implications, especially when the shoreline is involved. We want to protect all parties.

Water and Sewer Rate Changes

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to me about the changes to water and sewer rates. This will be an ongoing conversation among Millwood citizens over the next few years as the costs of both systems rise at rates we haven't seen before. To start the conversation, I will devote the entire back page of next month's newsletter to a simple explainer of the current rate changes. I will share a bit about the challenges I anticipate, then provide a brief update on the conversations the council, citizens, and I are having to position us for the future. This will be just one installment of an ongoing conversation. Sometime in the fall, we also hope to host public forums about "Our Future. Our Water."

Yours in community,

Shawna

Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony

Last week, for Arbor Day, we planted a beautiful Ornamental Dogwood that our resident horticulturist, Sam Bachman, saved from a nursery. There was a nice ceremony, complete with an Arbor Day Proclamation.



New City Appointees

Last month, I made five commission/board appointments, and council approved. Please welcome the following neighbors to city leadership:

Planning Commission

Karina Chernioglo (6-year term)

Historic Preservation

Anne Alsin (through 10/26, plan to reappoint at that time)

Beautification & Tree Board

Nick Berger (4 years)

Cody Rollins (4 years)

Bob McMurdo (4 years)

Thank you all for your civic engagement and leadership!

Historic Preservation Month

May is Historic Preservation Month and Millwood is commemorating the occasion in many ways. Homes over 100 years old are being provided with specially designed window decals. Three new Millwood Trail historic signs are being finalized, signs to recognize Millwood's National Register Historic District are being investigated, and a survey of other cultural and historic resources is being planned by the Millwood Historic Preservation Council. Help us celebrate our community's unique historic past!

