



## Parks and Recreation Report | November 2025

Happy Holidays Wilsonville!

It's hard to believe, but this will be my last City Manager's Report. In fact, it has been a month of many lasts for me here in Wilsonville as I have accepted the Parks and Recreation Director position in Post Falls, Idaho. I will be wrapping up my time here on December 5 and starting up there in mid-December. It is bittersweet as I am both excited for this new opportunity and saddened as my time here comes to a close. I've met so many wonderful people and had so many great experiences to remember Wilsonville by.

It's fitting that we just wrapped up the Thanksgiving Holiday because I am feeling a tremendous amount of gratitude for my time here in Wilsonville. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. From top to bottom this has been the best organization I have ever been with (and it's not even close). From a fully supportive community and Council to outstanding city leadership and an amazing Parks and Rec team this has truly been a highlight of my professional career. I will always cherish the relationships I have made and the lessons I have learned.

During this time of transition, the Parks and Recreation team is in good hands as we have welcomed Steve Rymer as Interim Parks and Recreation Director. Steve retired in February 2025 and has over 30 years of public sector leadership with extensive experience in general management, developing high-performing teams, organizational effectiveness, financial management, and strategic planning, among others.

Steve has served as City Manager/Administrator in Morgan Hill, California, Rochester, Minnesota, and Tigard, Oregon. Steve started his career in Parks and Recreation and served as the Director for Morgan Hill and New Brighton, Minnesota prior to moving into city management. In addition to serving as our Interim Director, Steve is a consultant with MRG assisting local governments in Oregon and California. You can learn more about his background here ( <https://solutions-mrg.com/steve-rymer/>). Steve holds a Master of Arts in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Park, and Leisure Studies.

Welcome to the City, Steve!

~Kris Ammerman

## Recreation Updates

### Toy Drive and Senior Stockings

The Holiday Toy Drive and Senior Stocking program is in full swing. The community response has been great with loads of toys finding their way to the Center, as well as many items for the Senior Stocking program. Community members have until December 8 to bring items to the Community Center. The toys are donated to the Wilsonville Family Empowerment Center and Clackamas County Compassion in Action Toy and Joy Makers, while the stockings are delivered to home delivered meal clients. Donations are being collected at the Community Center through December 8.



### Letters to Winter Wonderland

The letters to Winter Wonderland program kicked off on December 1. Letters will be accepted through December 23 at the Parks and Rec Admin Building. Participants can choose to receive a reply letter from several Winter Wonderland characters including Santa, Peggy the Penguin, Peter the Polar Bear and the Gingerbread Man. Letters turned in with a return address by December 17 will receive a reply letter back from Winter Wonderland.

### Winter/Spring 2025 Activity Guide & Registration

The Winter/Spring 2025 Activity Guide, which spans the months of January through April, was completed in November and sent to print. Events in this guide include the Wilsonville Daddy Daughter Dance, WERK Day, The Community Egg Hunt, Lunar New Year, and more! Registration opens for classes and programs on Monday, December 1.



### Kitakata Student Visit—Sister City Exchange December 6-14

Fourteen student and two chaperones from our sister city of Kitakata, Japan will be visiting Wilsonville December 6—14. All members of the delegation are staying with local host families. During their visit, the group will spend a day at Meridian Creek Middle School, Wilsonville High School, and partake in activities like bowling at Bullwinkle's, gingerbread making with community seniors and more! A welcome dinner will be held on December 7 at McMenamins, and a farewell dinner will be held on December 13 at the Wilsonville Community Center.

## Recreation by the Numbers:

**November Meals Served:** 2,277 (1,428 home delivered, 849 in-person lunch)

**New Classes Offered:** 21 programs with a total of 95 class sessions and 201 participants

**Facility Rentals:** 10

**Community Center Drop-In Programs:** November provided 51 drop in program opportunities serving 640 community members



## Veterans Day

On November 11, in partnership with the Korean War Veterans Association-Oregon Trail Chapter, the City helped to host a Veterans Day event at The Oregon Korean War Memorial in Town Center Park. Mayor O'Neil offered a welcome to the crowd and he and Councilor Shevlin represented the City of Wilsonville placing a Memorial wreath to pay their respects.



## Community Center

### Shelf Stable Meals

In November, three shelf stable meals were put together by the Center's nutrition staff and sent out to home delivered meal clients. The meals which included hearty soups, snack bars, tuna/crackers and more are an important part of the home delivered meal program. In the event of weather that does not allow the Center's volunteer drivers to reach homebound seniors, these meals ensure their nutritional needs can be met for three meals.

Additionally in November, a special Thanksgiving themed meal was held at the Community Center and drew in 85 attendees. Guest were treated to traditional Thanksgiving fare with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables and everyone's favorite....pie!

## Board Highlights

### Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission (ACHC)

At the November meeting the ACHC discussed exploring a Utility Box Public Art Program and finalized plans for the online silent auction of some of the heart sculptures from the heARTs of Wilsonville: Many Cultures, One Heart Project.

### Parks and Rec Advisory Board

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board did not meet in November.

### Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board

At the November Sister City Advisory Board meeting, board members finalized details for the anticipated December student visit. The board is looking forward to welcoming them December 6-14.



## Upcoming Events

- December 1, 8 am | Winter/Spring Registration Opens— [WilsonvilleParksandRec.com/Register](https://WilsonvilleParksandRec.com/Register)
- December 4, 5pm | Community Tree Lighting, Town Center Park
- December 6-14 | Kitakata Student Visit
- February 20, 7-9 pm | Wilsonville Daddy Daughter Dance—Neon Night, Wilsonville Community Center
- April 4, 10am | Wilsonville Community Egg Hunt, Wilsonville Memorial Park

## Parks Team Updates

The team was busy installing holiday lights in Town Center Park, along with a slate of other tasks!



The team's favorite seasonal task also filled the majority of their days.....cleaning up leaves! Some of these leaves made it to the Community Garden to be used as mulch as gardeners prep their plots for winter.



Other large projects include progress on Frog Pond Park and the Memorial Park Playground equipment being order.