



**City of Aberdeen**  
WASHINGTON

# Matters

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2025

Lake Aberdeen



## Upcoming Local Events

### January 2025

- Jan. 1 5-on-5 Basketball Begins
- Jan. 1 Women's Volleyball Signups
- Jan. 1 City Hall Closed
- Jan. 3 Cards, Coffee & Conversation (Library)
- Jan. 4 Saturday Crafternoon (Library)
- Jan. 6 Adult & Teen Lego Club (Library)
- Jan. 8 City Council Meeting (GHC)
- Jan. 10 Legislative Reception (GHC)
- Jan. 15 South Indian Cooking Class (GHC)
- Jan. 16 Bishop Center Jazz Festival
- Jan. 18 PageTurners Book Club (Library)
- Jan. 22 City Council Meeting (GHC)
- Jan. 26 From Bean to Brew (GHC)
- Jan. 30 City Council Meeting (GHC)
- Jan. 30 Shorebird Festival Poster Contest Drawing Workshop (Library)

### February 2025

- Feb. 1 Saturday Crafternoon (Library)
- Feb. 3 Adult & Teen LEGO Club (Library)
- Feb. 8-Mar. 2 These Shining Lives (Driftwood Theatre)
- Feb. 12 City Council Meeting
- Feb. 19 Teen Hangout (Library)
- Feb. 26 City Council Meeting

### March 2025

- Mar. 1-2 These Shining Lives (Driftwood Theatre)
- Mar. 12 City Council Meeting
- Mar. 7-16 Groundhog Day the Musical (Bishop)
- Mar. 17 St. Patrick's Day Event (Downtown)
- Mar. 26 City Council Meeting

Aberdeen City Council meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the City of Aberdeen's website at [www.aberdeenwa.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.aberdeenwa.gov/AgendaCenter).

## Mayor's Message

### A New Year is Like a Blank Book

Happy New Year, Aberdeen! I hope that your new year is filled with hope, prosperity and good health. I'm thankful for the productive year we had in 2024. As we usher in the New Year, I'm reminded of the excitement and possibilities that a new year brings.



Mayor Douglas Orr

Some of us start a new exercise routine or diet; others may quit a bad habit; and some wish for a better situation in life. In 2025, I wish for our City to keep building upon the positive future our community holds. I read somewhere that a new year is like a blank book: it has 12 chapters and 365 pages.

Aberdeen, I invite you to join me in writing the best story possible for our City in 2025. Let's make our story one of dreaming big, creating changes, being persistent, being consistent and getting involved.

We all have an opportunity to write in this book. This year, I'd like some help writing our City's story for 2025. Our past stories have been written, and there are new ones to be told. Our future is promising and bright, and it takes all of us to contribute. So, will you join me in writing *The Story of Aberdeen*?

# Keeping Winter Driving Safe Around the City

By Trace Christensen, Engineering Technician

As the temperature in Grays Harbor begins to drop, the snow and ice are expected to fall as well! For the City of Aberdeen, snow and ice control is needed to keep the travelers safe during winter weather. Here's a rundown of what city crews plan to do to maintain roadways during a snow or ice event.

**When snow or ice is predicted**, an anti-icing agent known as "Salt-Brine" is applied to designated locations, including hills and bridges, to keep snow and ice from accumulating or bonding to the pavement. This mixture is applied to roadways before the onset icing or storm, which helps ensure that any ice or snow that falls doesn't stick to the roads.

**When snow begins to fall**, our public works team reports to work and prepares equipment for plowing operations. If heavy or prolonged snow is predicted, crews switch to 24-hour operations.

**When snow begins to accumulate**, plows and/or sand trucks are deployed and first address priority roadways such as access to and from emergency facilities. Next we clear, secondary priority routes like schools bus routes or roadways with hills. Local access and residential roads follow the secondary priority route. Typically, our team will not be able to get to every street in the city during an event, so it is best to get to main roadways as soon as possible.

**After the snow is gone**, if sand is applied, the street sweeper is sent out to collect sand that was applied. Similar to the plowing routes, the initial focus is on the main roadways and the work will continue until all sand has been removed.



## Join the Utility Rate Advisory Committee

The City of Aberdeen City is seeking members for the newly created Utility Rate Advisory Committee (URAC). The URAC is an advisory committee formed to provide community members an avenue to share their opinions and perspectives, study issues, and develop recommendations and provide advice to the City Council from a community perspective.

The URAC will specifically provide recommendations to the Aberdeen City Council on matters related to the city's utility and EMS rates. Selected members will:

- Review existing utility rate structures;

- Consult with, make recommendations and advise the City Council on matters related to establishing utility rates based on levels of service and revenues; and
- Promote public knowledge and understanding of the City's utility and EMS programs.

The URAC *will not*, however, provide administrative advice on policy issues, direct staff or city operations, or set rates.

Ideal members will have some general understanding of basic accounting principles, but no required. People with accounting, financial, banking or

business backgrounds are highly encouraged to apply.

If you are interested in joining the URAC, please email a letter of interest to Deputy City Clerk Becca Weiss at [rweiss@aberdeenwa.gov](mailto:rweiss@aberdeenwa.gov) or by mail at 200 E. Market Street, Aberdeen, WA 98520.

For more information about the URAC, please contact City Administrator Ruth Clemens at [rclemens@aberdeenwa.gov](mailto:rclemens@aberdeenwa.gov) or by phone at (360) 537-3233.

# Audon Allen Selected as First Student Council Rep

The Aberdeen City Council has selected Audon Allen as the City's first Student Council Representative. Audon is a Aberdeen resident and student at Harbor Learning Center. As the Student Representative, Audon will attend scheduled workshops and regular council meetings twice a month to provide insight and feedback from a young person's perspective. Although he won't be able to cast a vote on any motions before the Council, he will collaborate with other council members to develop and support initiatives that benefit the community; serve as a

liaison between Aberdeen High School students and the City Council; as well as observe how city government functions.

The City worked with the Aberdeen School District to recruit interested students. The student council representative will follow and comply the same provisions of the City Council, but will be excluded from executive sessions. "We are excited to have Audon as part of the Council," said Mayor Douglas Orr. "It's important to give our young people a voice and to understand their

perspective on the way we run our City." Audon was sworn in on December 11, 2024 and his first meeting will be on January 8, 2025.



Audon Allen swears in at the Dec. 11 City Council meeting.

## Rental Program Improves the Quality of Life for Some

By Lindy Dansare, Property Maintenance Inspector

Did you know that all residential rental properties in Aberdeen require a rental license? In 2017, the City adopted a Rental Registration and Inspection Program. From single family housed to large apartment complexes, this program requires owners to register all rental housing units city limits.

After tenants and neighbors from around the community expressed concerns over neglected rental properties, the City Council decided to take a firmer approach to cleaning up derelict parcels by creating the program.

Since 2017, the City has been dedicated to educating property owners, managers, and renters about housing codes and their responsibilities.

Also included in the program are property inspections that identify common safety hazards. Examples of hazards include inadequate smoke detectors; emergency egress concerns; lack of hot water or heat; as well as smaller issues and concerns that could turn into big problems if left unaddressed. These inspections can save lives, increase the quality of life for renters, and decrease maintenance and repair cost.

Inspections are performed either by the City's Property Maintenance Inspector who is certified by the International Code Council, or by an approved inspector at the request of the property owner.

The Rental Registration and Inspection Program helps improve



and maintain the quality of Aberdeen's rental housing over time. The program benefits Aberdeen residents by ensuring that all rental properties, meet the minimum health and safety standards which preserves neighborhoods and quality of life. Please visit the Property Maintenance webpage [www.aberdeenwa.gov](http://www.aberdeenwa.gov) for more information.

# APD Wishes You a Happy New Year

As we close out 2024, we would like to thank the Aberdeen community for your continued support of the Aberdeen Police Department. It is both an honor and privilege to serve such an incredible community. In 2024, our officers faced a record increase in call volume, along with several vacancies within our department. Despite those challenges, our dedicated department remained committed to providing the high level of public service you deserve. We are proud of the hard work and resilience

exhibited by our employees. In 2025, as we work to fill officer vacancies, we will continue to be a proactive police department that works with

our community in achieving our mission to provide problem-solving partnerships. We look forward to another year of serving you.



## What to Do During a Power Outage

Power outages can happen unexpectedly and pose significant risks, so it's important to take safety precautions during such events. Here are key measures to ensure safety during power outages:

- **Use Flashlights, Not Candles:**

During a power outage, use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns to avoid the fire hazard associated with candles. Keep spare batteries.

- **Avoid Opening Refrigerators and Freezers:**

To preserve food, avoid opening refrigerators and freezers unnecessarily. Food can stay cold for several hours if the doors remain closed, reducing the risk of spoilage.

- **Unplug Electrical Appliances:**

To protect appliances from power surges when the electricity returns, unplug sensitive items such as computers, televisions, and microwaves. This also helps to avoid electrical shocks.

- **Be Mindful of Carbon Monoxide:**

Never use a gas stove, oven, or generator indoors during a power outage. These can emit carbon monoxide, a colorless and odorless gas that can be deadly. Check your carbon monoxide detectors regularly to ensure they will work when needed.

- **Check Backup Generators:**

If you have a generator, ensure it is installed and maintained properly. Always operate it outside the home in a well-ventilated area to

avoid carbon monoxide buildup.

- **Stay Informed:** Keep a battery-powered radio or a fully charged phone to stay informed about the outage's status. Many areas have emergency services that provide updates on the situation.

- **Prepare an Emergency Kit:** Have an emergency kit ready, including water, non-perishable food, medications, a first aid kit, and other essentials for extended outages.

- **Other Tips to Consider:**

- Know your medical needs.
- Conserve water.
- Keep a light on so you know when power is restored.

### City of Aberdeen Mission:

The mission of the City of Aberdeen is to serve with transparency and integrity; provide dependable services and public safety; to honor our history and be stewards of our natural and cultural resources.

### City of Aberdeen Elected Officials

#### Mayor Douglas Orr

Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6
Melvin Taylor	David Gakin	Liz Ellis	Stanley Sidor	Joshua Francy	David Lawrence
Kacey Morrison	John Maki	Scott Prato	Deb Hodgkin	Debi Pieraccini	Sydney Swor