



TILLAMOOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Paul Fournier - Mary Faith Bell - Erin Skaar

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 9:00 AM

Join In Person:

County Courthouse, Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room 106, 201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook

Join Virtually:

tillamookcounty.gov/bocc/page/meetings-agendas-minutes or 1-971-254-3149, ID: 866 914 607#

Additional viewing options are available at tctvonline.com. Closed captioning and translation options are available for recorded videos at www.youtube.com/@tillamookcounty1434.

More detailed [meeting instructions](#) are available at tillamookcounty.gov/bocc/page/meetings-agendas-minutes. Call 503-842-1814 or send an email to helpdesk@tillamookcounty.gov regarding any meeting technical issues.

MEETING - 2026-05-13 BOCC MEETING AUDIO.MP4

CALL TO ORDER – May 13, 2026 9:00 a.m.

1. [Welcome & Request to Sign Guest List](#)
00:36
2. [Pledge of Allegiance](#)
00:40
3. [Public Comment](#): Public Comments Received Via Email Entered into the Public Meeting Record.
01:06
4. [Non-Agenda Items](#): There were none.
01:09

LEGISLATIVE - ADMINISTRATIVE

5. [Consideration of United States Geological Survey Joint Funding Agreement #26YFJFA021 with the United States Department of the Interior for Water Resource Investigations/Randy Thorpe, Director, Emergency Management](#)
01:16

A motion was made by Commissioner Skaar and seconded by Vice-Chair Bell. The motion passed with three aye votes. The Board signed the agreement.

6. [Consideration of a Contract for Goods with Tillamook Motor Company Inc. for the Department of Community Development 2026 Ford Ranger Truck Vehicle Purchase/Chris Corlies, Assistant Building Official, Department of Community Development](#)
04:40

A motion was made by Commissioner Skaar and seconded by Vice-Chair Bell. The motion passed with three aye votes. The Board signed the contract for goods.

7. Consideration of Boating Facility Grant Intergovernmental Agreement No. 2526-15 with the Oregon State Marine Board for the Netarts Landing Project Planning Services/Dan Keyes, Director, Parks Department
07:30

A motion was made by Commissioner Skaar and seconded by Vice-Chair Bell. The motion passed with three aye votes. The Chair signed the agreement.

8. Consideration of a Prevailing Wage Rate Contract for Construction with Bayview Asphalt Inc. for the Twin Rocks Paving Project/Brian Olle, Engineering Project Manager, Public Works
11:33

A motion was made by Commissioner Skaar and seconded by Vice-Chair Bell. The motion passed with three aye votes. The Board signed the contract.

9. Consideration of an Order in the Matter of a Notice of Intent to Award a Contract for Goods for the Library Bookmobile Project/Don Allegier, Library Director
13:24

A motion was made by Commissioner Skaar and seconded by Vice-Chair Bell. The motion passed with three aye votes. The Board signed Order #26-024.

10. Consideration of a Prevailing Wage Rate Contract for Construction with Convergent LLC for the Courthouse Interior Door and Card Reader Installation Project/Kevin Jolly, Facilities Supervisor
18:54

A motion was made by Commissioner Skaar and seconded by Vice-Chair Bell. The motion passed with three aye votes. The Board signed the contract.

11. Consideration of an Order in the Matter of Adopting the Tillamook County General Fund Reserve Policy/Debra Jacob, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer
21:35

A motion was made by Commissioner Skaar and seconded by Vice-Chair Bell. The motion passed with three aye votes. The Board signed Order #26-023.

UNSCHEDULED: Consideration of a Letter of Support to Secretary Scott Turner, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Regarding the Future of Homelessness Resources/Commissioner Erin Skaar
35:04

A motion was made by Commissioner Skaar and seconded by Vice-Chair Bell. The motion passed with three aye votes. The Board signed the letter.

Chair Fournier recessed the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Chair Fournier reconvened the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

12. **9:45 a.m.**
First Public Hearing: Concerning Adopting the Tillamook County Fireworks Ordinance and Declaring an Emergency/Sheriff Joshua Brown, Sheriff's Office
40:22

40:22 Staff Report/Sheriff Josh Brown

56:21 Open Public Hearing

57:18 Should not be an emergency declaration/April Bailey

1:00:54 Close Public Hearing

13. Board Concerns

1:01:03

Election next week, take ballot in due to short deadline/Commissioner Mary Faith Bell

OTHER MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1:01:48

A budget meeting of the Tillamook County Budget Committee will be held on **Wednesday, May 13, 2026** at **1:00 p.m.** The budget meeting will be held in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room 106 in the Tillamook County Courthouse, 201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook. The teleconference number is 1-971-254-3149, Conference ID: 866 914 607#.

There is **NO** Board Briefing scheduled for **Wednesday, May 13, 2026** or **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**.

The Commissioners will participate in a Tillamook Estuaries Partnership Southern Flow Corridor tour on **Thursday, May 14, 2026** at **1:00 p.m.**

The Commissioners will attend an executive session on **Monday, May 18, 2026** at **10:00 a.m.** pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i), to conduct a performance evaluation. The executive session will be held in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room 106 in the Tillamook County Courthouse, 201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook. The executive session is not open to the public.

The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council teleconference will be held **Monday, May 18, 2026** at **12:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room 106 in the Tillamook County Courthouse, 201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook. The teleconference number is 1-971-254-3149, Conference ID: 155 858 952#.

Memorial Day is an observed holiday for the County and the Oregon State Circuit Courts. All County Offices in the Tillamook County Courthouse and the Tillamook County Library, administrative offices in the Jail and Justice Facility, Public Works Department, Department of Community Development, Surveyor's Office, Health and Human Services Department and clinics, and the State Circuit Court, will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, May 25, 2026**.

The Board of Commissioners will hold a second Public Hearing to consider and adopt the Tillamook County Fireworks Ordinance and declare an emergency. The second Public Hearing will be held on **Thursday, May 28, 2026**, at **6:00 p.m.** at the Tillamook County Main Library, 1716 Third Street, Tillamook, Oregon 97141; Teleconference number: 971-254-3149, ID: 866 914 607#. Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available on the Tillamook County web site at <https://www.tillamookcounty.gov/ordinances>. Paper copies are available in the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners' Office. Interested persons can obtain more information by contacting the County Commissioners' office at (503) 842-3403. Those intending to provide public comment shall appear in-person or virtually and testify, or email submissions to publiccomments@tillamookcounty.gov. To provide public comments virtually, please register by sending an email to publiccomments@tillamookcounty.gov by 12:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the hearing. All interested persons are welcome to submit written testimony to the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners' Office, 201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook, Oregon 97141.

Chair Fournier recessed the meeting at 10:10 a.m. to go into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h).

Chair Fournier reconvened the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

ADJOURN – 11:32 a.m.



Tillamook County Board of Commissioners

201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook, OR 97141
Phone: 503-842-3403

Paul Fournier, Chair
Mary Faith Bell, Vice-Chair
Erin D. Skaar, Commissioner

May 13, 2026

Secretary Scott Turner
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D.C.

Dear HUD Leadership,

On behalf of local governments, Continuums of Care (CoCs), nonprofit housing and service providers, Tribal partners, and other community stakeholders across Oregon, we thank you for taking the time to visit with Oregon practitioners. We implore you to continue engaging in a thoughtful dialogue with experts and local leaders regarding the future of federal homelessness resources.

Across the state, we have seen the impact of using tailored strategies that meet the needs of the communities they serve – helping families and individuals get back on their feet and moving toward self-sufficiency. For instance, in the Oregon Community Continuum of Care, serving 26 Counties and made up of nearly 450 organizations, partners increased shelter beds by creating 441 emergency shelter beds and rehoused 1,666 households experiencing homelessness between 2023 and 2025. This accomplishment was possible by partnering state resources with federal infrastructure and on-the-ground expertise. We've even seen some communities in rural Oregon, such as Yamhill County, reach functional zero homelessness for key populations like families with children. Yamhill also registered a 23% reduction in overall homelessness year over year from 2025 to 2026 – proof that local expertise combined with state and federal support can bring real, tangible results.

As partners delivering homelessness and housing services across a geographically and economically diverse state, we write to lay out some key principles for your adoption as you consider changes to the CoC program.

Guiding Principles for Any Future Changes

Reflecting on Oregon's collective experience and the candid discussion during your visit, we offer several principles that we believe are essential to preserve and strengthen:

- 1. Local control—truly at the local level.**

Oregon's homelessness response systems succeed when communities can design, prioritize, and implement strategies based on their on-the-ground knowledge and

experience. We urge HUD to maintain and reinforce **local decision-making authority**, rather than shifting federal priorities into local allocation structures in ways that override community strategies. Giving communities local control of spending will **boost accountability** and tailor solutions for homelessness, rather than relying on uniform federal mandates. Local control means that CoCs can decide on the project type mix that works for their community, make allocation decisions most suited to the region, and design program models without federal intrusion. At the end of the day, **decisions about local streets should be made by the people who walk them.**

2. **No federally imposed caps on spending.**

We **strongly discourage** the use of federally imposed minimums or maximums for specific project types within CoC allocations. Proposals that cap permanent housing investments or divert resources away from effective housing models would destabilize systems that rely on continuity and predictability. Communities must retain the ability to prioritize housing when and where it is most needed. Access to affordable housing is essential and it is vital that we maintain flexibility to ensure units remain affordable for those who need them most. Rental assistance is a key component of this effort and plays a central role in making the CoC program effective. **Rural Oregon, in particular, could suffer serious consequences** if spending requirements change too quickly without a transition period. Implementing federally mandated spending caps on the ground would require time to take effect. For instance, siting new transitional housing units takes time to build out and secure the necessary services – any requirements to enact new strategies must build sufficient transition time over the coming years to allow communities to adapt.

3. **Avoid prescriptive philosophical requirements.**

Oregon providers have successfully served thousands of homeless residents in the past few years while also coordinating with behavioral health, substance use treatment, peer support, and other critical services. Across the state, **we are providing the full continuum of services** to those in need through locally validated strategies. Innovation is at the heart of this program – let communities experiment with the best ways to serve their population and prove the impact through their outcomes. Communities need to retain the discretion to align program models with evidence-based practices, state law, and local needs.

Moving Forward

We deeply value the CoC Program's history of partnership, stability, and innovation. Oregon partners are prepared to collaborate with HUD on program updates. We support programs that prioritize integrity, oversight, accountability, and results. We respectfully ask that any future changes continue to:

- Strengthen, not weaken, the ability of CoCs to deliver **the full spectrum of services needed** for ending homelessness

- Preserve **local decision-making** about program models and funding priorities.
- Protect stable, **predictable funding** that allows providers to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Thank you again for your engagement with Oregon communities. We welcome further dialogue as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON



Paul Fournier, Chair



Mary Faith Bell, Vice-Chair



Erin D. Skaar, Commissioner

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

PLEASE PRINT

There were no sign-ins

(Please use reverse if necessary)

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
TILLAMOOK COUNTY FIREWORKS
ORDINANCE

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 – 9:45 A.M.

Guest Sign-in

Name

Contact Information

Robert Larson

April Bailey

(Please use reverse if necessary)

From: Leann Bennett
To: Public Comments
Subject: EXTERNAL: proposed emergency fireworks ordinance
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 11:46:42 AM

[You don't often get email from leannrbennett@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Good
day,
May 4th, 2026

Please add my comment to your records regarding the proposed emergency Fireworks ordinance.

I am strongly in support of this ban.

1. The risks in an extreme drought year are too great to allow unchecked fireworks.
2. I have seen rogue fireworks nearly land on my composite flammable roof from nearby neighbors. All it takes is a shift in wind and our village could be toast.
3. Also my dog is extremely agitated and the noise on the 4th goes on well past midnight disturbing my sleep.
4. Disturbs the natural flora and fauna in our neighborhood including the protected rocks.
5. The debris from the fireworks gets washed into the ocean and pollutes our sea life.

After seeing the fire at short beach the dangers are just too risky. We do need teeth in this ordinance and patrol please.

There are other alternatives such as lasers. These make a much better light show and celebration.

Thank you,
Leann Bennett
[REDACTED]
Oceanside, OR

[REDACTED]

Debra Garland

From: Kevin And Kathy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 7:45 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: EXTERNAL: Fireworks

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To whom it may concern,

Fireworks are considered by many tourists to be a beach activity that represents summer fun. I wonder how these same people would feel if the fireworks were exploded in their neighborhoods. I don't think fireworks can be controlled until the sale of fireworks is stopped.

Please consider a fireworks ban.

Sincerely,

Kathy Burke
Cape Meares

From: [Connie Cloyed](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: fireworks ordinance
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 1:17:57 PM

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I was pleased to read that Tillamook County is passing an ordinance to restrict firework use in the county. I find fireworks a dangerous and invasive form of celebration completely unnecessary to the expression of gratitude for freedom.

It is not private, it does not have oversight and folks who like them tend to set them off late into the night interrupting our coastal peace.

I live out here because it is quiet and dark at night. Public fireworks shows have set hours, safety oversight and can be a fun community gathering and celebration. Individual fireworks are an unnecessary and unwanted extravagance. Thank you.

"The environment we create will determine what prevails. In other words, what we nurture and encourage wins." -- Jane Goodall

Connie Lorene Cloyed
Netarts, Oregon

From: [Frantz Coe](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Fireworks Ordinance
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 9:49:53 AM

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Dear Tillamook Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to urge your adoption of the proposed Tillamook County Fireworks Ordinance.

Every fourth of July, Neahkahnie beach and First street become a war zone of celebration. There is a complete disregard for safety and personal property.

The majority of the participants are renters from out of town having a great time blowing up stuff on the beach. Sadly the respect for the community that lives here is not on display. The fire potential is high and mostly disregarded, especially when fireworks on First street are lit off in front of the houses.

I hope the fireworks ordinance is adopted by the county and enforcement is a priority around the days of July fourth.

thank you,

Frantz Coe

[REDACTED]

Neahkahnie Beach [REDACTED]

From: [Michael Cook](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Cc: admin@nkncac.org; Linda
Subject: EXTERNAL: Supporting Proposed County Fireworks Ordinance
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 8:36:08 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

As full time residents of NeahKahNie and just a block up from the beach with it's strong winds and density of holiday visitors, we feel particularly at risk of potential wildfire from fireworks. We urge you to move forward with the proposed ordinance.

Given the complexities of enforcement, public awareness, jurisdictional coordination, we urge the County to provide essential budget and protocols to be successful. A countywide blanket of consistent signage across all jurisdictions, with a single non-emergency reporting number posted come to mind. The attached sign covering all of Barview Jetty Park seemed like a good start, one we could imagine along and leading to NeahKahNie beach.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mike and Linda Cook


Nehalem/Neahkahie

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Please adopt Tillamook County Fireworks Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 9:59:58 AM

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Dear Tillamook Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to urge your adoption of the proposed Tillamook County Fireworks Ordinance.

Every fourth of July Neahkahnie beach is overrun with out-of-area visitors who put on a semi-professional fireworks display without any regard for the safety of the homes in the neighborhood.

As residents we are all on high alert fearing a dry evening and a westerly breeze that would carry the embers onto our homes. Luck has been the only thing that has saved our neighborhood from a fire catastrophe.

Adoption of this ordinance is urgently needed. Enforcement is crucial.

I recognize and appreciate the limitations of the Tillamook County Sheriff's department with regard to manpower. A limited number of officers can't be everywhere at once. But once adopted, if the ordinance could be vigorously enforced at Neahkahnie Beach for at least the first year or two it would send a strong message that would resonate.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steve Duncan

[REDACTED]

Neahkahnie Beach, [REDACTED]

From: [Brenda Freshman](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Support for adopting the Tillamook County Fireworks Ordinance
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026 9:25:55 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[Letter to Till County Comm. Support fireworks ordinance.docx](#)

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To: Tillamook County Board of Commissioners

Re: Support for adopting the Tillamook County Fireworks Ordinance

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

I write in strong support of the proposed **Tillamook County Fireworks Ordinance**, which establishes clear limits on the possession, sale, and use of consumer fireworks while preserving the ability to permit professional public displays under state law. These provisions are grounded in well-established wildfire science, public safety data, and consistent practice across Oregon counties facing heightened fire risk.

Consumer fireworks are a documented source of human-caused wildfire ignitions, particularly during summer conditions when dry fuels and coastal winds allow fires to spread rapidly. Oregon State University Extension and the Northwest Fire Science Consortium emphasize that **preventing avoidable ignition sources is one of the most effective wildfire mitigation strategies available to local governments**, especially in the wildland-urban interface. The proposed prohibition on possession and use in Section 6(A) directly addresses this risk by removing a discretionary activity that provides minimal community benefit compared to the potential for catastrophic harm. [\[extension....nstate.edu\]](#), [\[nwfirescience.org\]](#)

Other Oregon counties have adopted similar approaches. **Deschutes County**, for instance, has prohibited fireworks during seasonal fire restrictions on county-owned and unprotected lands for more than a decade as a core wildfire prevention measure, citing consistent success in reducing human-caused fire starts. Fireworks prohibitions are also common across jurisdictions during high-risk periods, including coastal and western Oregon counties, aligning local ordinances with statewide fire prevention norms. [\[deschutescounty.gov\]](#), [\[cascadebusnews.com\]](#) [\[klcc.org\]](#)

Section 6(B), requiring a valid retail permit for any consumer fireworks sales, reinforces accountability and compliance with ORS 480.127. This is particularly important given the documented link between retail access and injury rates. National Consumer Product Safety Commission data show that **thousands of people are treated in emergency departments each year for fireworks-related injuries**, with bystanders and children frequently affected. Oregon Health Authority injury surveillance underscores the burden these injuries place on rural emergency services, which already face staffing and resource constraints during peak summer months. [\[cpsc.gov\]](#) [\[oregon.gov\]](#)

The enforcement and confiscation authorities outlined in Sections 6(D) and (E) are essential to the ordinance's effectiveness. Fire science and emergency management research consistently finds that **clear enforcement authority and the ability to immediately remove hazardous materials are critical to deterrence and rapid risk reduction**, particularly during red-flag or

high-risk conditions. [\[kezi.com\]](https://www.kezi.com)

Finally, Section 6(C)'s exemption for permitted public displays appropriately balances community celebration with public safety by limiting fireworks use to professionally managed events under existing state oversight.

For these reasons, I urge the Board of Commissioners to adopt the proposed Tillamook County Fireworks ordinance, demonstrating a commitment to wildfire prevention, injury reduction, and responsible governance.

Respectfully,

Brenda Freshman

Neskowin resident & homeowner and Tillamook County farm land, housing and small forest owner.

References

- 1. Oregon State University Extension Service.**
Fire Program – Wildfire Prevention and Community Risk Reduction.
OSU Extension provides science-based guidance emphasizing prevention of human-caused ignitions, including fireworks, as a core wildfire mitigation strategy in Oregon.
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/forests/fire>
- 2. Northwest Fire Science Consortium.**
Barros, A., Shlisky Hunt, A., Davis, E. J., & Shults, P. (2025). *Wildfire Risk Products: A Technical Comparative Review for Pacific Northwest Professionals.*
This synthesis highlights the importance of reducing discretionary human ignition sources during high-risk fire periods.
https://www.nwfirescience.org/sites/default/files/publications/Risk%20Synthesis_LR.pdf
- 3. Deschutes County, Oregon.**
County Sets Fire Restrictions for County-Owned and Unprotected Lands. (April 29, 2026).
Describes long-standing seasonal fire restrictions, including fireworks prohibitions, adopted to prevent human-caused wildfires.
<https://www.deschutescounty.gov/m/newsflash/Home/Detail/254>
- 4. Cascade Business News.**
Fire Restrictions on County-Owned Property to Begin June 1. (May 27, 2025).
Summarizes Deschutes County's annual fire restrictions, explicitly prohibiting fireworks during fire season.
<https://cascadebusnews.com/fire-restrictions-on-county-owned-property-to-begin-june-1/>
- 5. Oregon Public Broadcasting / KLCC.**
Anthony, T. (July 1, 2025). *What Fireworks Are Legal, and Where They Are Banned or Restricted in Western Oregon.*
Reviews fireworks restrictions imposed by counties, cities, and public land agencies across Oregon.
<https://www.klcc.org/crime-law-justice/2025-07-01/what-fireworks-are-legal-and-where-they-are-banned-or-restricted-in-western-oregon>
- 6. Oregon Health Authority (OHA).**
Injury and Violence Prevention Program – Injury Data Dashboards.
Provides injury surveillance data used to understand fireworks-related injuries and their impact on emergency services.
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DiseasesConditions/InjuryFatalityData/Pages/index.aspx>

7. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Hwang, A., & Pledger, D. (2024). *2023 Fireworks Annual Report*.

National data on fireworks-related deaths and emergency-department-treated injuries, widely cited by public safety agencies.

<https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2023-Fireworks-Annual-Report.pdf>

8. KEZI News / Oregon Department of Forestry.

Oregon Faces Significant Wildfire Risk by Summer, Officials Say. (Updated May 5, 2026).

Reports on statewide fire danger forecasts and reinforces the importance of limiting ignition sources such as fireworks.

https://www.kezi.com/news/local/oregon-faces-significant-wildfire-risk-by-summer-officials-say/article_e3ce4fcb-963e-4241-9b4b-d06a7822be97.html

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Please ban fireworks
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 4:13:09 PM

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I strongly support the proposed ban on fireworks in unincorporated areas of the County, and I urge the Commissioners to ensure that adequate law enforcement personnel are provided to ensure compliance.

Last July my house was partially set on fire by fireworks. They are dangerous!

Thank you.

Ken Jones

Neahkahnie

From: [Candice & Gregory Miller](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Cc: [Candice and Gregory Miller](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Proposed Tillamook County Fireworks Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 12:21:16 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support of the proposed Tillamook County Fireworks Ordinance.

There has been an increasing and disturbing use of aerial fireworks, M-80s etc. in Neskowin. This has been accelerated by the fact that Lincoln City has implemented a citywide prohibition on personal fireworks on all public and private property, beaches, streets and parks. Subsequently, there are more people heading to Neskowin to shoot off illegal fireworks on our beaches.

My husband and I live on the South Beach end and have noticed an increased use of fireworks in July and throughout the year. This is particularly disturbing during the July 4th holiday when people mix fireworks with all day alcohol consumption. Not a safe nor pleasant environment. The noise and pollution that this causes is not only bad for people, pets and wildlife, sensitive to loud explosions, but it also negatively impacts the beaches and ocean. We walk the beach daily after the 4th and pick up a ridiculous amount of trash and debris caused by these fireworks and the people who set them off. Most of this garbage is thrown into fire pits, covered with sand and pulled out into the ocean during higher tides.

(See attached photo)

The other aspect of allowing people to use fireworks is that this can happen ANY time of the year. For example:

- One year on a September weekday someone decided to light them up at 1:30am in the morning
- Two days after July 4th, a family was setting aerals off at 4:00pm in the afternoon.
- One March evening, aerals were set off at 10:00pm.
- In late August, minors were drinking beer and setting them off at 11:00pm.
- March 1, 2026 someone was setting off M-80s on the south end of the beach and on the north end you could hear gunfire.

Additionally, fireworks going off during the year and not just the July 4th week, is that people who own pets or are sensitive to explosions can't effectively plan when to leave or not be here. We realize that OPRD has a limited budget but enforcement during the July 4th week could curtail the unsanctioned/un-permitted activity.

I also believe that there should be more restrictions regarding permitted fireworks. Please consider adding/amending the following to this ordinance:

- Increasing the fines: presumptive fine of \$165 to \$300 and maximum fine to \$1000
- A curfew of 9pm to 11pm for permitted fireworks displays
- Mandatory clean up of fireworks debris
- An all year fireworks ban **except** for approved permits for July 4th

Thank you,

Candice Miller
Newkowin, Oregon



From: [Gregory Miller](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Ban Fireworks
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 9:54:10 AM

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To the Tiillamook Commissioners,

As we approach the summer months and particularly the 4th of July here in Neskowin and South Beach where we live, the community will be bracing itself for another season of illegal fireworks on our beach. Where these illegal fireworks turn our community into an annual war zone, this year being the 250th celebration of independence, there will no doubt be an unprecedented amount of gross behavior fueled by alcohol consumption and thousands of dollars spent on illegal fireworks.

The increased use of illegal fireworks here in Neskowin and particularly South Beach over the years is in a large part due to Lincoln City's ban on the fireworks in 2022. Where vacationers in the past would purchase and fire off fireworks, illegally, on the Lincoln City beach, now they travel up to Neskowin and South Beach. Since there is no enforcement from beach rangers or law enforcement, vacationers can come here and freely create unchecked illegal activity at the expense of wildlife, pets, veterans and the community of those of us that live here full time.

In addition there is the issue of garbage left behind. For the eleven years we have lived in South Beach it has been our responsibility, not he vacationers, to spend days after the 4th onwards with garbage bags and buckets cleaning the beach of all manner of fireworks. Spent cardboard and fiberglass cartridges coated with potassium nitrate, charcoal and sulfur residue, ceramic fireworks stoppers, fireworks cartons, beer cans and bottles. All of which, if not taken off the beach would be washed out to the ocean.

This illegal activity often starts days before the 4th of July and can extend to the end of November as vacationers, who have no regard for the environment , the law or the community, feel it is necessary and their right to enhance their enjoyment of the beach by shooting off every last dollar of fireworks they have purchased. Not to mention that their uninvited illegal display often continues on till well after midnight. This behavior has become an epidemic and we, in our community, have no recourse other than putting up with it or as we do, leave for days.

This behavior has become more than a nuisance. It has evolved into a saturation of bad behavior that dominates Neskowin and South Beach and no doubt the whole of the coast during the summer months.

The county must mandate the preservation of our nature resources, take the responsibility to not only protect the natural environment, but to also protect the beach community that is being subjected to unreasonable, illegal and dangerous behavior that occurs on the beaches and communities.

I applaud the county for proposing this ordinance. However, in addition to passing this ordinance there must be a plan to enforce it. In the past my wife and I have worked with OPRD posting signs prohibiting fireworks. The vacationers steal the signs and or burn them in their fires. So if there is not a concrete system in place to patrol the beaches here in Neskowin and South Beach, this ordinance, although well intended, will do nothing to curb this illegal and all around abusive behavior.

Kind regards,

Gregory G. Miller
South Beach, Neskowin

(This is a compilation of just one fire pit of firework debris left by one vacationer over the 4th last year. If we had not pick up this toxic debris it would have been washed out to the ocean).



<https://www.gregorygmillerphotography.com/index>

From: [Martha Richards](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Proposed Emergency Fireworks Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 6:22:45 PM

You don't often get email from martha@easystreet.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am in favor of banning fireworks in Oceanside.

I own the house at [REDACTED] in Oceanside and every year during the evenings around the 4th of July, fireworks launched from the beach are visible and audible from my living room. Many years, there are also smaller (but still LOUD) fireworks being lit on nearby streets.

I have spent many of those evenings in a back bedroom comforting my quivering dog. She is not alone in being afraid of the loud booms and crackles and whistles that the fireworks make — in addition to pets, combat veterans and wildlife also often find the noise very stressful. While my dog is afraid of the sounds, I am afraid of the fire danger. Our climate, even at the coast, is becoming hotter and drier so the risk of an errant firework starting a major fire is becoming more and more likely.

I have also spent a number of July 5th mornings on the beach, helping to pick up the fireworks detritus left behind by revelers. I often wonder how much of this toxic waste we miss because it landed in the ocean or was taken by the tides overnight.

Many communities in Oregon and across the United States have already banned fireworks because of the fire hazard, environmental damage, and general scariness to sensitive individuals. Please, for the safety of our community, ban fireworks.

Thank you ,
Martha Richards

From: [Amy Stang](#)
To: [Public Comments; admin@nkncac.org](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Re: Comments on Fireworks ban
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 1:19:03 PM

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Additionally, I would point out that an \$85 fine for use/possession/sale of banned fireworks does not seem prohibitive. Consideration of the dangers and harm caused by these acts, the fines should be commensurate with the level of harm and long term and significant impact of the action. Thank you.

On Wed, May 6, 2026 at 10:35 AM Amy Stang [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you for allowing public comment on the proposed Tillamook County Fireworks Ordinance and to declare an emergency. In addition to the negative impact of fireworks to the people of Tillamook County I have included the known data regarding the significant harm also caused to our environment, wildlife, and domestic animals. These impacts pose threats that clearly support the need for the ban and emergency declaration. See details below.

Environmental Impacts of Fireworks

Air & Water Pollution

Fireworks release heavy metals (barium, strontium, lead, copper) and fine particulate matter into the air. These chemicals fall back to earth and contaminate soil and water sources. Studies have shown spikes in PM2.5 levels of up to 1,000% on major fireworks nights.

Soil & Water Contamination

Perchlorate — the main oxidizer in fireworks — leaches into groundwater and disrupts thyroid function in humans and animals. Unburned debris also physically litters ecosystems, including lakes and rivers.

Wildlife Disruption

- Birds are severely affected — many collide with buildings or each other during panicked nighttime flight, and nesting birds may abandon eggs or chicks.
- Marine animals can ingest debris or be harmed by chemicals entering waterways.
- Smoke and fallout affect insects, including already-stressed pollinator populations.

Impact on Domestic Animals

- Dogs and cats experience extreme stress responses — trembling, hiding, running away, destructive behavior, and in some cases cardiac events. July 4th is consistently the highest

day for lost pets in the US.

- Horses can injure themselves badly fleeing in panic, breaking through fences or falling.
- Small pets (rabbits, birds, guinea pigs) are particularly fragile — the shock can literally cause fatal heart attacks.

Impact on Wildlife

- Chronic stress from repeated exposure disrupts feeding, migration, and reproduction cycles.
- Noise pollution disorients echolocating bats and disrupts communication in birds and marine mammals.
- Light pollution from fireworks confuses nocturnal animals and disrupts natural behaviors tied to darkness.
- Studies in Europe found that birds in affected areas showed population-level behavioral changes for days after major displays.

Fireworks & Bees

This is a particularly concerning area, since bees are already under significant global stress.

Noise & Vibration

Bees are highly sensitive to vibration — they actually use it to communicate (the “waggle dance”). Loud percussive blasts disrupt hive communication and can trigger a defensive swarming response, which exhausts the colony and can cause bees to abandon the hive entirely.

Light Disruption

Bees rely on light cycles to regulate their internal clocks. The sudden flashes of bright light at night confuse this system, disrupting sleep patterns and next-day foraging behavior. A bee that forages poorly means less pollination and less food brought back to the hive.

Chemical Fallout

The heavy metals and particulate matter that settle after fireworks land directly on flowers, leaves, and water sources — the exact things bees feed on. Ingesting contaminated pollen or nectar can impair bee navigation, immune function, and reproduction, similar to the effects seen with pesticides.

Smoke

Interestingly, beekeepers use smoke deliberately to calm bees — but the dense, acrid smoke from fireworks is very different from controlled beekeeping smoke. It can trigger a mass defensive response rather than a calming one, and prolonged smoke exposure stresses the colony.

The Bigger Picture

Since bees are already threatened by pesticides, habitat loss, and disease, fireworks represent an additional compounding stressor on already vulnerable populations — particularly for wild/solitary bees that don't have a managed hive to recover in.

It's one more reason why displays near wildflower meadows, parks, or agricultural areas are especially problematic.

Amy Stang



From: [Steve Stewart](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Neskowin fireworks ban
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 12:54:19 PM

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I would like to express my overwhelming support for the proposed Neskowin fireworks ban. The message needs sending loud and clear there is absolutely NO place for this activity in Neskowin or any other municipality on the Coast. The reasons are myriad including noise, air quality, fire, personal injury, pet terror, clean up, and the irresponsible behavior invariably accompanying the perpetrators to list a few. Enough!

S.R. StewartMD


Neskowin,OR 97149

Sent from my iPad