



# Neighborhood News Richmond

## Annual Friends of Trees Planting

by Ryan Durocher

This year's neighborhood tree planting will be held Saturday, December 3rd. To get a street or yard tree for your Richmond home or business sign up at [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org) by Halloween (October 31st). The planting is a fun community event powered by volunteers and neighbors like you. Each year over 100 neighbors gather for a morning of tree planting, community building, food, and fun. See a video clip from a previous planting at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3apjJXS3Hqc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3apjJXS3Hqc).

Funding provided by the City of Portland means all trees, both street and yard trees, are available for only \$35. This modest cost includes a site inspection and city permit (for street trees only), tree (about 1.5-1" caliper, 8-14' tall), hole digging, planting, mulch, stakes, and follow-up monitoring. Additional discounts are available

for homeowners with financial need. New this year, Friends of Trees is offering large native yard trees (such as bigleaf maple and Western hemlock) for free in an effort to boost native canopy. The Friends of Trees website has information to help you choose the right tree for your space and Tree Richmond volunteers are available to offer advice and assistance. For more information about ordering trees or volunteering, contact Jim Lodwick at (503) 351-2722 or [richmond@plantitportland.org](mailto:richmond@plantitportland.org).

Consider the benefits of trees. They cool us in summer, clean the air, produce oxygen, soak up carbon dioxide, and reduce polluting stormwater runoff. They also muffle urban noise, slow traffic, and are just plain beautiful. These benefits pay financial dividends too—reducing energy demand and significantly raising property values.

It takes a community

effort to steward our urban forest and we hope that you'll get involved. If you are a fellow tree-lover and have energy and skills to contribute, contact us to find out how you can help. Contact us at [tree\\_richmond@gmail.com](mailto:tree_richmond@gmail.com) or (503) 351-2722, sign up for our email list to learn about upcoming tree-related events, and check out [www.sites.google.com/site/tree\\_richmond](http://www.sites.google.com/site/tree_richmond) for helpful links and resources. Together, we can make Richmond's future green(er).

## Amend Tree Code to Save Big Trees

by Ryan Durocher

Title 11, the City's tree code, went in effect on January 1, 2015. The new code was the result of years of planning (the Citywide Tree Project) and was intended to strengthen preservation of existing trees while streamlining and centralizing tree regulations which were previously spread over multiple chapters of city code. While Title 11 was

successful in extending preservation regulations to previously unregulated private property trees in non-development situations and improving the programmatic administration of tree permitting, the language of the code inadvertently made it easier, or at least less expensive, to remove trees in certain development situations.

With rising real estate values and increasing population, existing mature trees are increasingly being removed to make way for new housing units, upsetting nearby residents that value mature trees for shade, air quality, wildlife habitat, neighborhood character, and other environmental benefits. This fact was dramatically demonstrated by two controversial proposed tree removals associated with residential infill development last summer. One site was in Richmond at SE Clinton and SE 41st Ave

and the other was the infamous Eastmoreland Redwoods. Both cases sparked neighborhood protests, tree sitters, and social media campaigns to save the trees.

On April 13, 2016, City Council adopted a set of amendments to Chapter 11.50 to strengthen regulations for preservation of large trees on private property in development situations. Prior to the amendments, the maximum mitigation fee was \$1200 per tree. The amendments increase that to \$2,400 per tree for trees 20-36 inches in diameter and \$300 per inch of diameter for trees larger than 36 inches. The amendments also require 45 days public notice prior to removal of trees larger than 36 inches. The notice must be posted on site and sent to the neighborhood association. These amendments were intended to address a perceived emergency and an obvious, specific shortcoming in the code. The amendments have a sunset date of December 31, 2019 and do not apply to street trees, trees on public property, or tree removal in non-development situations; the city will initiate a

process in the future to consider additional amendments to Title 11.

See [www.portland.oregon.gov/trees](http://www.portland.oregon.gov/trees) or call (503) 823-TREE (8733) for more information about Portland's tree code and tree permits and see [www.portland.oregon.gov/bds/article/573196](http://www.portland.oregon.gov/bds/article/573196) for a summary of the 2016 amendments.

### Richmond Trees

*by Jim Lodwick*

Check this out! What is Richmond's biggest street tree? Answer: populus, better known as Cottonwood. The wobbly leaf tree has a twinkling appearance in a breeze. And where do you find them in Richmond? Two spots come to mind. In the 2013 Urban Forestry Street Tree Inventory, two specimens at 2606 SE 43rd Street took the prize as Richmond's largest trees measured by DBH (diameter at breast height). Two more at 1931 SE 50th Street came in a close second. Besides having formidable girth, these Cottonwoods are known for their seeds which are surrounded by tufts of long, soft, white hairs that catch the wind and litter the neighborhood with, well, cotton... or so it appears.

What's the most

unusual tree in Richmond? Well, it might be the Japanese Raisin Tree (*Hovenia dulcis*) at 2612 SE 48th Street. A member of the buckthorn family, this Asian native is known for its edible fleshy fruit stalks (rachis), which is a type of accessory fruit. It has been used in traditional Japanese, Chinese, and Korean medicines to treat fever, parasitic infection, as a laxative, a treatment of liver diseases, and as a hangover treatment. It is considered one of the most pervasive invaders in Brazilian subtropical forests. The unusually smooth, angled (almost TinkerToy like) rachis were still clearly visible as of this writing in early October.

### Farewell, Richmond

*by Cyd Manro*

It has been an honor to serve on the board of one of the nation's most desirable and beautiful neighborhoods this past seven years. Alas, my landlord has sold his home, and the new landlord is charging more than double the current rent. This is the reality of the realty market. I can no longer afford you, but I will certainly miss you, Richmond. You will always have a warm place in my heart.

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