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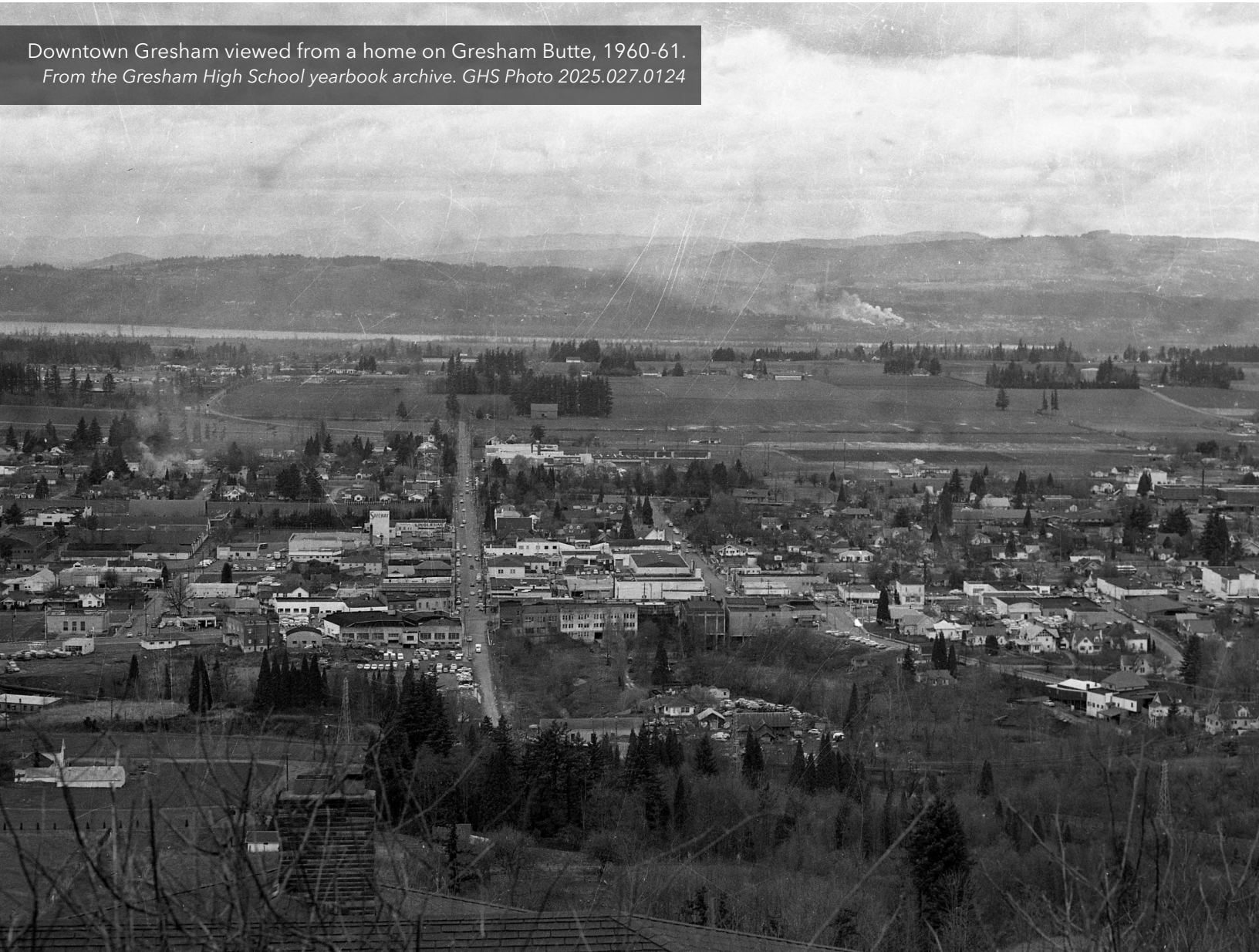
QUARTERLY OF THE GRESHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2026



410 N Main Ave ♦ PO Box 65 ♦ Gresham, OR 97030 ♦ (503) 661-0347 ♦ info@greshamhistorical.org

Downtown Gresham viewed from a home on Gresham Butte, 1960-61.
From the Gresham High School yearbook archive. GHS Photo 2025.027.0124



See pg. 6-7



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AT THE MUSEUM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 26, 5-6pm

History Talk: Coming to Gresham (An Oral History)

A behind-the-scenes peek at the upcoming season of our podcast. Learn about the arrivals that shaped Gresham, and learn how to share your own story. Free!

Oct. 3-4, 10am-4pm

Indigenous Arts Festival

See pg. 4 for details!

Oct. 18, 12-4pm

History's Birthday Party: Celebrating 50 Years of the Gresham Historical Society

A free afternoon of hands-on activities, events, and a time capsule dedication. See pg. 4.

Oct. 31, 5-6pm

History Talk: Death and Mourning in Early Gresham

As ghouls and monsters roam the streets, we'll learn about Victorian mourning practices, early funeral homes, and grave symbology while enjoying themed refreshments. Come in costume!

Nov. 2-27

Closed for holiday decorating

Nov. 28, 5-6pm

History Talk: Winter Weather in Photos

Learn about some of the dramatic winter weather events in Gresham's history, featuring digitized photos from the museum archives. Plus learn about digital history initiatives at GHS.

Nov. 28-Dec. 19

Christmas at the Museum/Gingerbread Contest

Gingerbread, Santa Claus, themed Christmas trees, and live music, all season long! See pg. 4.

Dec. 20-Jan. 29

Closed for exhibit installation

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

History Week Draws Crowds

In June, we commemorated our 50th anniversary and the America 250 with History Week, a 9-day festival of programming for all ages, presented by Boeing. With multiple events taking place every day, it was a very busy week! Highlights included the City-Wide Scavenger Hunt, which got teams out and about to complete tasks around Gresham; History Trivia Night at Rockwood Market Hall; Historic County Fair Night, a throwback to the Multnomah County Fair featuring games and a history talk;

and Arts & Culture Day, which showcased traditional arts and artisans, drawing around 200 visitors despite a heat wave.

Big thanks to the volunteers, funders, and sponsors who made this special program possible.

History Week will be back in June 2027!

Summer Fundraisers Draw Community Support

We are excited to announce that this year's Picnic for the Past fundraiser has brought in over \$20,000!! Thank you to everyone who showed up, donated, and supported the museum at the event—and thanks especially to Bess Wills and

Bob Avila for hosting, as well as covering ALL of the event costs! Every dollar raised will support the museum's operations and programming.

New Sign Installed

If you've been past the museum lately, you may have noticed the brand-new sign at Main & 4th! The sandblasted cedar sign stands eight feet tall and weighs about 200 pounds. Funded by a grant from Travel Portland and the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce, this sign is intended to boost our visibility from Main Avenue and hopefully reduce the number of visitors who ask, "What is this place?"

This project was a team effort. North Pacific Sign & Design made the sign, and Righteous Metalworks fabricated the support posts. Special thanks to Cassie Rafalski for the design, Andy Anderson for the engineering plan, and Travis Wright and Mike Andrews for the installation. We're lucky to have such a talented, hardworking crew of volunteers.



Todd Kirnan, "Mr. Gresham," with the completed sign



Arts & Culture Fair during History Week

IN MEMORIAM

Dear Members and Friends,

This summer we lost two longtime volunteers, both of whom made a tremendous impact on the museum during their time with us. While we mourn their passing, this is also a time to reflect on the legacies they left behind.

-Silvie Andrews, Executive Director

Rose Marie Noojin passed away on July 28 at age 84. She first joined the Gresham Historical Society board as recording secretary in 2014 but had been involved as a member and donor for 10 years before that. Rose Marie



loved her "little museum" and dedicated her significant work ethic to making it a better place - even scrubbing the kitchen and bathrooms (better than anyone else has, before or since). But the museum was just one of Rose Marie's many causes.

Rose Marie may be best remembered as the operations manager of Sunny Han's Wok & Grill, where she touched the lives of many employees and customers. She brought her considerable administrative skills to her museum board service, serving as both secretary and bookkeeper until her health forced her to step back in 2021. Rose Marie remained active on the collections committee, the group that makes decisions about what historic materials to accept for the collection, until 2024; as a committee member, she helped with a years-long project to assess and repack the three-dimensional object collection stored in the museum's basement. Her tenacity kept the project moving despite many setbacks, including staff changes and the Pandemic.

Rose Marie's endless kindness and support for the disadvantaged defined her life and relationships. She approached a challenge with humility, grit, and humor, never backing down. As her niece, Derenda Schubert, suggested in her eulogy of Rose Marie, we can honor her memory by carrying that kindness with us and offering it to the others in our lives.

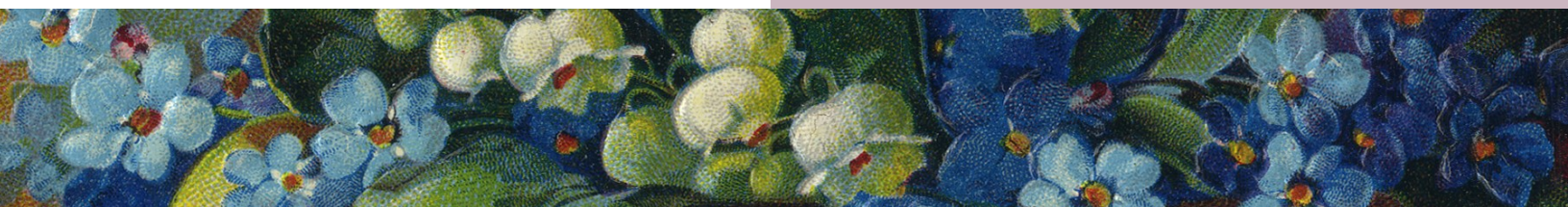
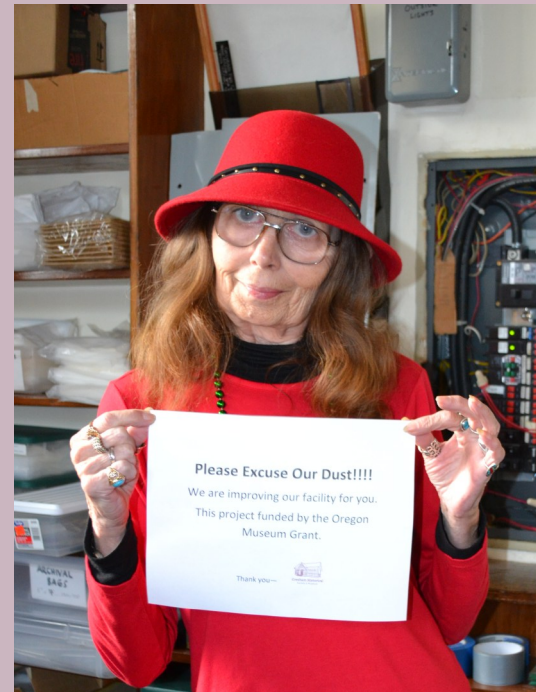
Nannette Taylor joined the volunteer team in 2018 after retiring from a career in nonprofit arts administration. Since then, through fire, plague, and other various institutional upheavals, Nannette has been the single most reliable volunteer on staff. Her last shift was less than two weeks before her death.

If you've come to the museum on a Thursday, you may have met Nannette - and you would remember if you had. Her hat collection was legendary and reportedly included one hat for every day of the year. In addition to her sense of style, Nannette had a distinctive but subtle sense of humor that never failed to surprise and delight her fellow volunteers. Every Thursday afternoon, she was at the desk by the side entrance, scanning documents and greeting everyone who entered and left.

The documents Nannette scanned became part of a massive searchable archive that we use on a daily basis. Her work has significantly expanded our research capabilities, saving countless hours and helping innumerable researchers, as well as digitally preserving many thousands of documents.

Over her eight years as a volunteer, Nannette helped in many other ways. She signed up to staff almost every event, and she also headed a research project on Gresham's historic churches. She approached every task with her signature focus and attention to detail.

Every Thursday at 11:45, I would ask Nannette how she was doing, and with her typical dry humor she would say, "I'm here." I wish she still was.



AT THE MUSEUM



INDIGENOUS ARTS FESTIVAL

Gresham History Museum 410 N Main Ave.
OCT. 3&4 10-4PM

Use the QR code to find the full event schedule:



The Indigenous Arts Festival is coming up!

At this free event, check out live music, dancers, presenters, hands-on activities, and 50 Indigenous art and food vendors! Scan the QR code or [click this link](#) for updates, photos, and more information about the speakers and performers.



SCHEDULE

Friday Oct. 2nd

5pm Artist talk with Linda Lopez Higgins
"Fishing Nch'i Wana (Big River)"

6pm Artist talk with Jonni Ketcher
"Exploring Our Indigeneity, Online and Offline"

Saturday, Oct. 3rd and Sunday Oct. 4th

11am Piko Eha performance (Saturday only)

12-2pm Turquoise Pride drum group and dancers

10-4pm Indigenous artisan vendors

This festival is supported by the Oregon Cultural Trust through the Multnomah County Cultural Coalition.



Thank you to Picture This Production Services for audio visual support and Spinellas.

OCTOBER 18—COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

October 18 | 12-4pm | Gresham Historical Society

Join us for an afternoon of activities celebrating 50 years of community history! On October 18, 1976, a group of local leaders gathered with the goal of preserving and sharing local history so that it would always be there for everyone to learn from. Today, we carry their legacy forward, together.

1-4pm: Games, info tables, story gathering booth, and refreshments

2pm: Time Capsule dedication

3pm: Trivia contest

What is the time capsule? It's a moment in history, preserved for the next 50 years in a safe spot inside the museum. We'll open it on our 100th birthday—October 18, 2076. Want to submit an item? Use the QR code or [click this link to access the online form](#).



Time Capsule
Submission Form



HISTORY'S BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1976 GRESHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2026



Now Open!

7th Annual
GINGER BREAD
Contest

CHRISTMAS at the MUSEUM

GINGERBREAD REGISTRATION OPEN!

Now's your chance! Register for the 7th annual Gingerbread Contest, following the theme "Christmas Stories." This year's contest includes the usual Professional and Non-Professional divisions, with a subcategory of "Budding Bakers" for participants who are 12 or younger.

Gingerbread houses will be on display during **Christmas at the Museum** (Nov. 28-Dec. 19) with awards announced on December 19. The winners in all divisions will receive cash prizes!

Visit greshamhistorical.org/Christmas-at-the-museum for more info.



[Register online](#)

*Pardon our dust! We'll be closed Nov. 2-27 for decorating. We'll reopen with regular hours starting Saturday, November 28 for **Christmas at the Museum!***

RESEARCH FILES

OUTLOOKing

Volunteer **Mike Andrews** spends hours each week sifting through bound volumes of the Gresham Outlook, which we received from the Outlook's closed print shop in 2024. While looking for damaged or missing pages, he also finds forgotten and unusual stories from Gresham's past. He shares a few of them in this recurring section.

You've Come a Long Way, Baby...

As Gresham Historical Society celebrates its 50th anniversary, it's amazing to look at how far it's come since its first anniversary in 1977. That year Jim Chase, the Society's first president reminisced on how the fledgling organization got its start. In a December 29, 1977 *Gresham Outlook* feature, he said "Mayor (Al) Myer appointed me chairman of the bicentennial committee. I started learning about Gresham history. From that came my desire to start a museum and cultural center."

The start was a bit rocky. "'We were all green when we started,' Jim acknowledged. 'We didn't know the first thing about starting a museum.'" But local businesses donated \$2,000 which was matched by \$2,000 in federal funds. They received assistance from the Oregon Historical Society, and Mt. Hood Community College offered up a room that became the first Gresham History Museum. Word got around, and soon contributions began rolling in. "We have to accept anything to get started," Jim said. Among the first items to appear in the museum at MHCC were photographs of Gresham's unpaved streets from the early 1900s, a teapot that survived the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, a 1913 typewriter, and a 1913 Edison phonograph. To house the incoming donations, the museum board was already looking for a new, more permanent museum location. Options included the old city hall on Powell Boulevard and the public works building in Main City Park, neither of which worked out.

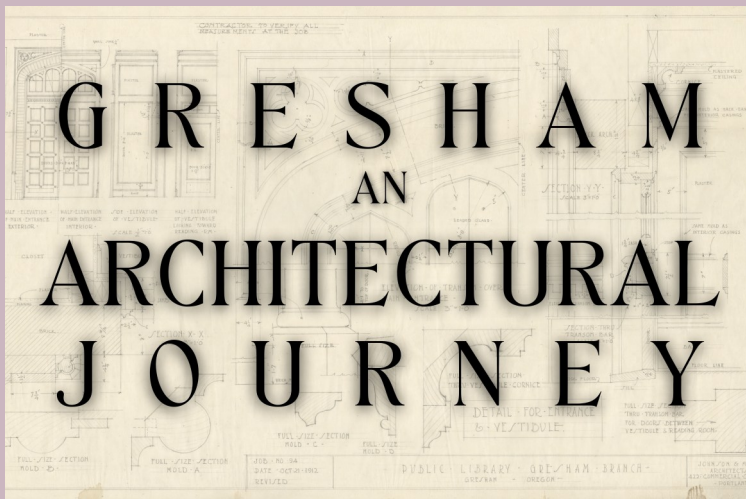


Jim Chase adjusts an exhibit in GHS's temporary quarters at MHCC. Outlook, 12/29/1977

The article finishes with a quote by Chase: "We're trying to build something the people of Gresham can go into and say, 'I'm a part of this.'" It's a statement that still rings loud today.

CURRENT EXHIBITS—CLOSING NOV. 2, 2026

See them now before they're gone! We're celebrating 50 years with **History and Memory**, a spotlight on how we got to be where we are today (and some of the most interesting objects we've collected along the way). **Gresham: An Architectural Journey** is a photo essay featuring some beautiful images by Josh Kulla, showcasing local historic buildings.



History & Memory

50 Years of Preservation at the
Gresham Historical Society



HISTORY FEATURE

GREYHOUNDS IN GRESHAM 50 YEARS OF THE MULTNOMAH KENNEL CLUB

By Anne Endicott

For more than 50 years, it could be said that East Multnomah County had, indeed, gone to the dogs.

Next to the neon rotating gyroscope on top of Zim's 12-Mile Corner, the most notable landmark in Gresham was once the four-story grandstand at Multnomah Greyhound Park in Wood Village. Remember "Rusty's Ready?" Or teaching your teen to drive in the massive parking lot off 223rd and Glisan?

Local greyhound racing was born in 1933 at the former Multnomah Stadium (now Providence Park) in Portland. Racing was overseen and organized by the Multnomah Kennel Club (MKC), the premiere and locally-owned association of greyhound breeders.



1942 MKC program for races at Multnomah Stadium

But in 1956, MKC learned their lease with Multnomah Stadium wouldn't be renewed, since the facility was to become home to the Portland Beavers baseball team. Greyhounds became part of the racing lineup for one season at Portland Meadows, from Aug. 13 to Oct. 17, 1956.

Suspecting they may be without a greyhound track again, MKC purchased a 90-acre site in Wood Village with intentions to build a dog racing track and stadium. Early plans included a

four-story grandstand, with an "eventual" occupancy of 18,000-19,000 fans, parking facilities for 4,000 cars, and 1,684 box seats which would be sold for 25 cents a night or \$12.50 for a season pass, including parking. In 1957, the newly dedicated Fairview Park in Wood Village became the permanent home for greyhound racing.

More than 250 local residents staffed the facility seasonally. And for a lot of teens, walking the dogs down the track prior to each race, and collecting them after the race, was their first venture into gainful employment.

In 1978, the track was renamed Murray Kemp Greyhound Park in honor of the kennel club's founder and longtime president. Murray and Lorine Kemp were regular fixtures at races for many years. It became Multnomah Greyhound Park in 1991.

Racing season ran 130 days, from May through early October, frequently garnering \$1 million in daily betting. The track reached its peak attendance in 1987, when more than 611,000 walked through the ground-level turnstiles. Multnomah Kennel Club declared greyhound racing to be "the number one spectator sport in the state." The park had a capacity of 18,760 people, but only a little over 6,000 seats were ever installed.

Most fans preferred the energy and excitement of crowding onto the paved cement slope between the grandstand and track along with hundreds of other racing enthusiasts. It wasn't unusual for 10,000 people to pack the park on race nights or weekend matinees. A banquet area on the third floor of the grandstand offered a birds-eye view of the track, as well as a buffet dinner for fans.

13 races took place during the evenings and weekend matinees, each lasting 30 seconds, with greyhounds chasing a mechanical stuffed rabbit named Rusty. Who doesn't remember those infamous words right before the gates dropped to release the dogs – "Rusty's ready!"

*In 1987, more than
611,000 walked
through the turnstiles.*



Audience at Multnomah Greyhound Park, c. 1990.

GHS Photo 2011.004.0012

HISTORY FEATURE

But times were changing. Attendance at the track began to decline in the early 1990s. The Oregon Lottery opened in 1992, and within four years, six tribal casinos had popped up across the state. By 2002, betting totals at

MGP fell to \$11 million, less than half of what the stadium took in just seven years earlier.

Track owners Magna

Entertainment informed MGP in

December 2004 that they would

not be renewing the kennel club's lease. Rusty, and the dogs, ran for the

last time on Christmas Eve 2004.

A year later, two Lake Oswego businessmen proposed a \$490 million casino and entertainment complex on the vacant property. Oregon law prohibits gaming facilities on non-tribal land, so the would-be developers asked voters to approve their proposal in 2010. It was soundly defeated by 68 percent. The pair made a second attempt in November 2012, with two ballot measures that would allow for a casino on non-tribal land. Again, voters said "no way."

The property sat vacant and neglected until October 2015, when the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde announced their intentions to purchase the abandoned facility for \$11.2 million. Once ownership was finalized in December 2015, public speculation ran wild with the possibility of a casino ending up on the site. While no firm plans for development were made public, the landmark glass grandstand was demolished in June 2016.

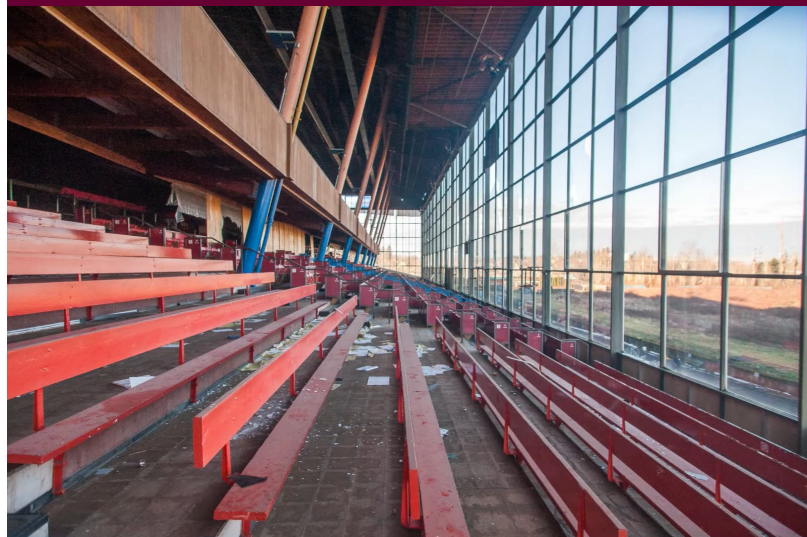
In 2018, the tribe announced it would not be developing the 31 acres once home to the race track and offered the property for sale for \$17.9 million. The city of Wood Village purchased 4.69 acres in early 2020 for use as a public park, open space, and wetlands preservation.

Today, little evidence remains of what was once a thriving racing venue. Sale and/or development of either the city's public park or the remainder of the acreage is unknown.



The derelict stadium before and during demolition, 2016.

Images courtesy of [Gresham Outlook](#).



Finish line photo showing a historic moment in which dogs 1 through 9 finished the race in order of their race numbers.

GHS Photo 2022.011.0001, donated by Eellitta Stone, whose mother Doris Young worked at the track as a nurse.

VOLUNTEER FEATURE

Editor's note: This space usually features a "get-to-know-you" section, introducing one volunteer and one board member per issue. This time, however, we're reprinting an article that docent **April Avery** wrote for her Franklin High School alumni newsletter. Courtesy of April, please enjoy reading about a day in the life of a docent. -SA

Greetings from Gresham, Oregon where I live, work, and play. On Saturday mornings at ten o'clock, the Gresham History Museum opens, and I begin my three-hour shift as docent. Living in Southeast Portland until I was 20, my idea of Gresham was farms, Multnomah County Fairs, berry picking, and the road to Mt. Hood.

During my volunteer shift at the former Carnegie Library/Gresham History Museum, I may see no one for an hour, or many people all at once. There is no guarantee how many curious souls may show up in any given day. We are not a large museum, and not everyone who lives in Gresham has been inside the doors. Some, however, return, and tell of the time when the building was their town library. Travelers and visitors come in out of curiosity and interest, as I do, when I travel.

While I am on site, I explore, read, and discover. I don't have all the answers, but I generally know how to direct someone if they want to know what I don't know. I welcome the challenge. We have an ongoing Scavenger Hunt; select from "easy" or "challenging," available to any who choose to participate. By finding items, each participant who completes the list may select a small token of appreciation... such as toy animal, sticker, candy cane, sea shell, etc. The kids love it! I love it! One of our main exhibits this season focuses on History and Memories of Gresham. For instance, how is it that people keep memorabilia, and then what happens with family and community artifacts? Step by step, the history of Gresham Historical Society is outlined, with photos, items, and stories.

One person's item may not appeal to you, but your items are definitely important, right? The things we hold onto in our lifetimes - we are consumers, and collectors! And we like to share the stories that are significant. The value of museums, worldwide, attests to this human trait.

The Franklin High School Alumni Association also has the challenge of keeping track of items that are, in good faith, donated to us, in hopes there is purpose and value not just today, but tomorrow as well. We have a different type of storage problem, in that we are not a museum. We have neither space nor workers to protect, organize, and digitize. And, face it, some things are just not worthy of keeping around, if there are dozens of others exactly like it. Meanwhile, volunteers of the FHSAA board do their best to keep track of yearbooks and offer them for donation/sale when the opportunity arises.



April (right) at her Saturday docent shift.

It's a challenge to go through our "things," and decide who will get them, as we become aware of our limited days ahead. I am currently organizing my valuables into a Locations Directory for my family, to help them find documents and items they will need for when I can no longer direct them myself. Something to think about. Blessings on your journey of exploration and discovery.

WHAT'S YOUR "COMING TO GRESHAM" STORY?

We're gathering stories of arrival for the upcoming season of our podcast, *Voices of Gresham*. Whether you arrived here yesterday, or your family has lived here since time immemorial, we want to hear from you! When did you arrive in



Gresham? What brought you here? What do you like about Gresham, and what would you change? Follow the QR code or [click this link](#) to upload a short audio or video recording. Thanks for helping make history!

Join us for the tie-in history talk, "Coming to Gresham: An Oral History of Arrivals," at 5pm on September 26.

COMING TO GRESHAM

An Oral History of Arrivals
SEPTEMBER 26 | 5PM



VOICES of GRESHAM EVENT

PHOTO ESSAY

THE HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF THE FUNERAL INDUSTRY IN GRESHAM

By Elizabeth Hines

This feature highlights the history and evolution of the funeral industry in Gresham, from the early days of at-home embalming and funeral services to the various parlors and homes which later merged into Bateman-Carroll.



Photo of B.W. Emery's Livery and Feed Stables business as seen in 1900. Emery operated a meat market and delivered his products with four teams and wagons to the sawmills in the area. He also ran the first "hearse service" alongside the livery stable, opened in 1892.



This embalming sprayer from the Carroll Funeral Home is currently on display here at the Gresham Historical Society. This was both owned and donated by Lewis and Florence Carroll.



The Carroll Funeral Home in 1958 as it was developed from the original farm building. The funeral home continued operations under William and Anna's son Lewis Carroll (no relation to the author). The building has housed the Gresham Memorial Chapel since 1998.



Early photograph of Carroll Funeral Home, which was then Gates Funeral Home. Purchased in 1916 by Edna and Charles Gates, the property on S. Roberts Street was purchased by William and Anna Carroll in 1930.

Bateman Funeral Chapel merged with Carroll Funeral Home in 1986, becoming Bateman Carroll Funeral Home.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership at the Gresham Historical Society supports the continued preservation and sharing of our local history. Plus it's a great way to stay up-to-date on all of our old news.

Not a member already? You can join on our website, at greshamhistorical.org/membership. Or, fill out the form below and bring it to the museum, or mail it to us at PO Box 65, Gresham, OR 97030. Please make checks payable to *Gresham Historical Society*.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM

Member or Family Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Each membership level includes 10% off museum store purchases, a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, and invitations to members-only events throughout the year.

- ☐ **Individual** \$25 membership for one adult
- ☐ **Dual** \$35 membership for two adults
- ☐ **Family** \$50 benefits for two adults and all family members under 18
- ☐ **Business** \$150 two membership cards for any employee
- ☐ **Business Plus** \$500 two membership cards for any employee and your business logo in the Quarterly of the Gresham Historical Society
- ☐ **Patron** \$1,000

I wish to make an additional donation in the amount of \$ _____

How do you prefer to receive your newsletter? ☐ Email ☐ Print

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment method (circle one): Cash Check (payable to Gresham Historical Society)

Please charge my credit/debit card \$ _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____ CV _____

Signature _____



Teacher Winifred Casterline with an English class at Gresham High School, 1956-57. GHS photo 2025.027.0001

MEMBERSHIP

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE JOINED, RENEWED, OR DONATED SINCE MAY:

Art Abbott & Tinsey Kinnear
Linda Anderson
Cheryl Anderson
Mike & Claudia Andrews
Sheila Bondarowicz
Joanna Ceciliani
Lillian & Ken Claggett
Christina Clay
Janice Corder
Courtyard Fountains Senior Living
Patricia Eby
Anne & John Endicott
Evergreen Memorial Gardens
Dan Fryer
Donna Germundson
Mike & Maureen Giannetti
Gresham Sanitary Service
Gresham Senior Center
Philip Guernsey
Sierra Hake
Scott & Charlotte Harden
Melody Haveluck
Angel & Thea Hayes
Linda Hellweg & Steve Cowlthorp
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Tokola Properties
Bonnie McKee Vaughn & Ron Vaughn
Michele Walker
Mary Jo Warr-King
Bess Wills & Bob Avila
Suyo Ruth Yoda
Ann Zink & Steve Christiansen

Polar King Sign Restoration Fund

Mike & Claudia Andrews in memory of Rose Marie Noojin

Gifts in Memory

Mike & Claudia Andrews for Rose Marie Noojin
Silvie Andrews for Rose Marie Noojin
Silvie Andrews for Nannette Taylor

In-Kind Donations

Minuteman Press Gresham—printing
Debby Brown—Raffle prizes at Picnic for the Past
Greg Holden—Raffle prize at Picnic for the Past
McMenamins Pubs & Breweries—Raffle prize at Picnic for the Past
Perry Loveridge—Costume pieces for Third Thursday photo booth
Andy Anderson—Engineering consultation for new sign

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS PLUS MEMBERS:



Bucket List
TRAVEL TOURS





Gresham Grade School Halloween party, c. 1916-1918. GHS photo 1989.004.0062



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1976 - GRESHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2026

HOURS

Wednesday-Saturday..... 10am-4pm
Sunday..... 12pm-4pm
Monday-Tuesday..... Closed

CONTACT

Web: greshamhistorical.org/contact
Email: info@greshamhistorical.org
Phone: (503) 661-0347

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